

# *North Dakota Roughrider Association*



*Annual Conference 2026*

*19-20 February | Fargo*



# The Grand Lodge Of North Dakota

Welcome To Our Home - Come In And Visit

*North Dakota Masons -  
Good Men Working To Be Better*



## **SUPPORTING YOU, BECAUSE WE ARE YOU**

Since the 1860's, many U.S. Soldiers in North Dakota were Freemasons. They started masonic lodges in Dakota Territory at Fort Burford and Fort Pembina. In 1898, the First Regiment, United States Volunteers of North Dakota embarked for the Philippines. Many of those men were freemasons, who brought the tenants of freemasonry to that country. Lt. Col. Treumann, Major White, Major Fraine, and Lt. Col. Gilbert C. Grafton—whose names we all know—were freemasons there. What they started there, later became a national organization called the National Sojourners.

From Medal of Honor Recipients to Adjutants General, Freemasonry is an integral part of the North Dakota National Guard.

Today, the North Dakota Masonic Foundation is a 501c3 that has supported many charitable organizations. We've supported the North Dakota Military Museum project, Veterans Cemetery in Fargo, Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, George Washington Masonic National Memorial, and many more.

For more information on freemasonry, feel free to go to [beafreemason.org](http://beafreemason.org) or [ndmasons.com](http://ndmasons.com). You can also contact Lt. Daniel Haugen with the Highway Patrol at [dhaugen@nd-masons.com](mailto:dhaugen@nd-masons.com).

**201 14th Ave North Fargo, ND 58102 | (701) 235-8321**

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## **Editor**

Brett R. Nelson  
NGAND Executive Director

# Feature

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# SERVING THE BRAVE

At American Military University (AMU), National Guard members have the flexibility to choose how to use their education benefits. And their families do, too.

## **A UNIVERSITY BUILT FOR YOU**

American Military University (AMU) was founded in 1991 by a Marine Corps officer to provide military personnel with flexible, relevant, and affordable education. AMU's Preferred Military Rate reduces undergraduate and master's-level tuition to just \$250/credit hour. When combined with other forms of financial assistance, such as military TA, zero-out-of-pocket tuition may be possible.\*

## **SUPPORT FOR MILITARY FAMILIES & EXTENDED FAMILIES**

Guardsmen families and extended families can also benefit from a variety of other support services, including our Career Services, MyCAA, and a robust catalog of mental health resources.



**To learn more or  
find a rep visit:  
[amu.apus.edu/rep/](http://amu.apus.edu/rep/)**

\*Zero-out-of-pocket tuition may be possible when the Preferred Military Rate is combined with other forms of financial assistance, such as military TA or federal Pell grants. The Preferred Military Rate supersedes all university grants and special promotions and cannot be combined with other special pricing. Please note that a technology fee applies to master's-level courses.



**NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
P.O. BOX 5511  
BISMARCK, ND 58506-5511**

*The Honorable Kelly Armstrong  
North Dakota Governor  
Brigadier General Mitchell R. Johnson  
The Adjutant General and  
Director of Emergency Services*

7 January 2026

Greetings:

On behalf of the leadership from the North Dakota National Guard Officer and Enlisted Associations, we welcome you to the 2026 Roughrider Conference. Your attendance during this important weekend reflects your dedication to our Soldiers, Airmen, civilian employees, and families. It is events such as this that help us build readiness, recruit the next generation and retain the talent in our formations.

NGAUS and EANGUS both represent the interests of the National Guard at the federal level. Their priorities include the modernization of warfighting equipment, improving benefits for current and future members, and funding to support our efforts to build and maintain readiness. While federal level efforts are important, our state association's efforts are equally important. Priorities established this weekend will inform our legislative agenda for 2027. Past efforts resulted in tax-free military income, new training facilities, increased funding for recruiting and retention programs, and a significant increase in State Active Duty pay. Your voice, your support, is making a difference.

As we have been recently reminded, the balance of power in the world can shift in an instant. With an unwritten future before us, our security depends on our ability to adapt. We must continue to refine future requirements, innovate, modernize, and relentlessly pursue the equipment, funding, and authorities needed to defend our interests, deter adversaries, and, if necessary, destroy them on the battlefield.

Annually, members of our associations gather to discuss these critical issues and unify our voices behind the solutions that advance our priorities. It is equally important to relax, reconnect, and strengthen relationships, both old and new. Thank you for being here and supporting the North Dakota National Guard Officer and Enlisted Associations. Your participation in these events and other professional organizations show, in a tangible way, your commitment to the profession of arms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. R. Johnson".

**MITCHELL R. JOHNSON**  
Brigadier General, ND National Guard  
The Adjutant General



Greetings Soldiers, Airmen, Guests and Friends,

Your attendance and continued commitment to service are the foundation of our efforts at both the state and national levels. I thank our active members, life members, retirees, guests, and partners for their continued support of the National Guard Association of North Dakota.

The National Guard Association of North Dakota exists to serve our officers and their families. Through your involvement, the association provides low-cost State Sponsored Life Insurance, promotes professional development opportunities, awards college scholarships, and advocates for the benefits, resources, and equipment necessary to maintain a strong and ready National Guard. Your engagement directly strengthens our collective voice at both the state and national levels.

We are pleased to host this year's Roughrider Conference in Fargo at Brewhalla. The conference will be held 19–20 February 2026, with a social event on Thursday evening and the main conference on Friday. The Thursday social at Brewhalla offers an opportunity to connect with fellow Guardsmen and our corporate partners in a relaxed environment prior to the start of the conference.

Our keynote speaker this year is Sam Mackey, founder of *Outsider*. Sam brings a candid and engaging perspective on leadership, accountability, and resilience, shaped by real-world experience building a nationally recognized brand. His message challenges conventional thinking and emphasizes ownership, adaptability, and leading with purpose—principles that strongly resonate with those who serve in the National Guard and lead in complex, demanding environments.

In addition to the keynote, the conference will include opportunities for professional discussion, networking, and engagement with NGAND leadership. Jon Eisberg from the National Guard Association of the United States will provide a brief update on national-level advocacy efforts affecting Guardsmen, and the corporate sponsor bingo game will be returning as an interactive way to connect with our valued partners.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our corporate sponsors whose generous support makes this conference possible. Their continued partnership enables NGAND to provide meaningful benefits and opportunities to our members. I encourage you to visit their booths, learn about the services they offer, and personally thank them for their commitment to the National Guard.

As you participate in this year's Roughrider Conference, I encourage you to engage with fellow Guardsmen, ask questions, consider becoming a life member, and take full advantage of this opportunity to strengthen professional relationships that extend well beyond this event.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kris Jacobs', is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Maj Kris Jacobs  
NGAND Chairman



Dear Guests and Members,

On behalf of the North Dakota Enlisted Association, it is my honor to welcome you to Fargo for the 2026 North Dakota State Combined Conference. Thank you for being here and for supporting an organization dedicated to strengthening the lives and careers of our enlisted Soldiers, Airmen, and their Families.

Whether this is your first conference or you've been with us for years, your presence matters. Our association is built on participation of people willing to show up and stand together. Every voice in this room contributes to the direction and strength of our enlisted force.

This past year reminded us just how important that unity is. The federal lapse in funding created uncertainty for many of our members, and the Enlisted Association worked tirelessly at both the state and national levels to ensure Guardsmen received the pay and support they earned. Moments like that highlight why advocacy is not optional, it is essential. When challenges arise, our association must be ready, informed, and engaged so our enlisted community is never left behind.

As we look ahead, our focus remains clear: protecting benefits, strengthening readiness, and ensuring our members and their families have the resources they need to thrive. These efforts depend on a strong and active membership. We need the energy of our junior enlisted, the experience of our senior NCOs, and the wisdom of our retirees. If you are not yet a member, I encourage you to join us. If you are already part of this team, thank you and please help us bring others to our fight.

Throughout this conference, I invite you to connect and collaborate. Together, we can continue building an association that stands ready to support every enlisted member who wears the uniform today and those who will follow tomorrow.

Thank you for your commitment to our enlisted community. I look forward to the conversations and connections that will shape our work in the year ahead. Enjoy your time here at Brewhalla, and let's make this conference one that moves our Association forward.

Respectfully,

CMSgt Shane J. Amundson

NDNGEA President



ESGR was established by the Department of Defense in 1972 as a volunteer agency under the DOD with the vision of “Creating a culture where all American employers support and value the military service of their Guard and Reserve employees.”

**Sherry Adams, ND ESGR State Chair**

**ND ESGR Office: 701-333-2057**



**WILEY X**



# Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States

Executive Officers of EANGUS are elected to two-year terms of office by majority vote of the delegates at the General Conference of the Association.

**President:**

CMSgt Josh Baker

Proud Member Organization of The Military Coalition

**Vice President:**

SFC Mireya Cruz

**Secretary:**

SFC (Ret) Marsha Adams

**Treasurer:**

MSgt Ashley Brodnax

**Past President:**

MSgt (Ret) Daniel Reilly



# North Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2025-2026

**PRESIDENT**

Shane Amundson (Air)

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

Sam Hansen (Army)

**SECRETARY**

Robert Roerich (Army)

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Steven Trautman (Army)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Chuck Votava (Army)

**PAST PRESIDENT**

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**RETIREE DIRECTOR**

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Chuck Kasin (Air)

**EX-OFFICIO**

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CMSgt Levi Heller (State CMD Chief)

CSM Kenneth Kachena (ND State CSM)



Built in America, the UH-72 Lakota Provides **Unmatched Versatility** and **Safety** in Support of Homeland Defense and Border Patrol Missions. **Affordable, Mutli-Role, Always Ready**

Photos courtesy Master Sgt. Michael Leslie

**AIRBUS**

# MBA IS PROUD TO SUPPORT NGAND



Plan for tomorrow with Group Term Life Insurance Coverage under the State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) Program. Comprehensive coverage with no combat or aviation exclusions, easy enrollment, flexible options, continuous coverage even after separation or retirement, plus exclusive benefits. Spouses and dependent children are also covered.

For more information, call us: 800-633-8333



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# North Dakota Guardsmen





### The Roughrider Award – Our Highest Honor

Presented to an individual who has given back to not only their respective association but has put in the time and effort to better both organizations, therefore impacting the lives of Guardsmen, both Officers and Enlisted.

#### Recipients

- 2015 – SGM (Ret) Roger Johnson – Posthumously
- 2016 – MG (Ret) David Sprynczynatyk
- 2017 – Col Christopher Domitrovich
- 2018 – MSG (Ret) Carroll E. Quam
- 2019 – CPT (Ret) Randy Fuss
- 2020 – Maj Gen (Ret) Michael Haugen
- 2021 – SMSgt (Ret) Chuck Kasin
- 2022 – SFC Chuck Votava
- 2023 – MG Alan Dohrmann
- 2024 – CSM Eric Binstock
- 2025 – Lt Col (Ret) Brent Ehrichs – Posthumously

### CSM (Ret) Eric Binstock 2024 Roughrider Award

Enlisting in the North Dakota Army National Guard in 1991, CSM Binstock was initially assigned to the 816th Engineer Support Company in Mott, ND. He served in several leadership positions prior to his promotion to command sergeant major. In



2003, he deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and in 2011, he again deployed for Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2022, CSM Binstock was selected as the next North Dakota state command sergeant major. As the principal policy advisor for all joint-enlisted, CSM Binstock advocated for key initiatives supporting Soldiers and Airmen. He has been a long-time member and supporter of both NDNGEA and NGAND.

### Lt Col (Ret) Brent Ehrichs, 2025 Roughrider Award

For nearly a decade, Lt Col Brent Ehrichs served as the Executive Director for the National Guard Association of North Dakota prior to turning over his duties in 2012. During his tenure, Lt Col Ehrichs was instrumental in advocating for all North Dakota National Guard Soldiers, Airmen, and Retirees. For his dedication to both the National Guard Association of North Dakota and the National Guard Association of the United States, Brent was awarded the Meritorious Service Award in 2011. Brent passed away May 18, 2023, but will always be remembered for his contributions to both the North Dakota Air National Guard and the National Guard Association of North Dakota.



Lt Col (Ret) Brent Ehrichs presents the Meritorious Service Medal to CMSgt Val Buchholz, his sister, in 2021.



Brent served as a Weapons Systems Officer with *The Happy Hooligans* on F-4 Phantoms during his 33-year career.



# EANGUS

## Who We Are

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) was formally organized in 1972 with the goal of increasing the voice of enlisted persons in the National Guard. As such, EANGUS is a non-profit organization dedicated to the principles of providing an adequate national defense and promoting the status, welfare, and professionalism of the men and women of the Army and Air National Guard by supporting legislation that provides adequate staffing, pay, benefits, entitlements, equipment, and installations for the National Guard.

Beginning with twenty-three states, EANGUS now represents all 50 states, Guam, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia, and has an association comprised of those who serve the National Guard on national tour. With a constituency base of over 414,000 soldiers and airmen, their families, as well as thousands of retired members, and headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, a stone's throw from Washington DC, EANGUS maintains a full-time staff to represent your interests to the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill.

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) has established the EANGUS "We Care For America" Foundation Inc. (WCFA). WCFA provides Scholarships, Awards, Patriotism Awareness, Veterans Against Drugs Program and the National Guard Soldier and Airmen Emergency Relief Fund.



### ***NDNGEA Minuteman of the Year Award – Air*** **SMSgt Sam Dibble | 178th Attack Squadron**



SMSgt Sam Dibble led intelligence for a 120-member USMC task force and presided over the promotion board for 1,076 Airmen. During Texas flood operations, his initiative doubled MQ-9 search time, directly aiding in the recovery of 101 missing persons. A dedicated mentor, he facilitated a leadership course for 60 supervisors and expertly managed a \$905K budget, increasing operational efficiency by 5%. His efforts showcase a profound impact on mission success and personnel development, balanced with active community service as a youth sports coach and school volunteer.

### ***NDNGEA Minuteman of the Year Award – Army*** **SFC Grant Semchenko | NDNG Joint Force Headquarters**



SFC Grant Semchenko is a state-recognized leader in soldier wellness. As a Master Resiliency Trainer, he has instructed thousands in suicide prevention. He earned a Governor's Coin after sharing his personal recovery story with over 3,800 people at a state conference. SFC Semchenko founded a recovery group for Soldiers, volunteers over 100 hours at an animal shelter, and successfully advocated for a new state law recognizing volunteer responders. A recipient of the Governor's Twenty Tab, he also dedicates significant time to training Soldiers in marksmanship, enhancing unit lethality.

# Future Events: Save the Date

## 55th Annual EANGUS Conference

Ocean Center – Daytona Beach, Florida  
July 31 – August 3, 2026



## 6th Annual Roughrider Golf Tournament

Friday, Sept 18, 2026  
Hawktree Golf Course, Bismarck, ND



## Roughrider Conference

February 2026  
Bismarck, ND



## NGAUS Conferences



**148th General Conference**  
Aug 28-31, 2026 in Indianapolis  
Hosted by the Indiana National Guard

**149th General Conference**  
Aug 27-30, 2027 in Salt Lake City  
Hosted by the Utah National Guard

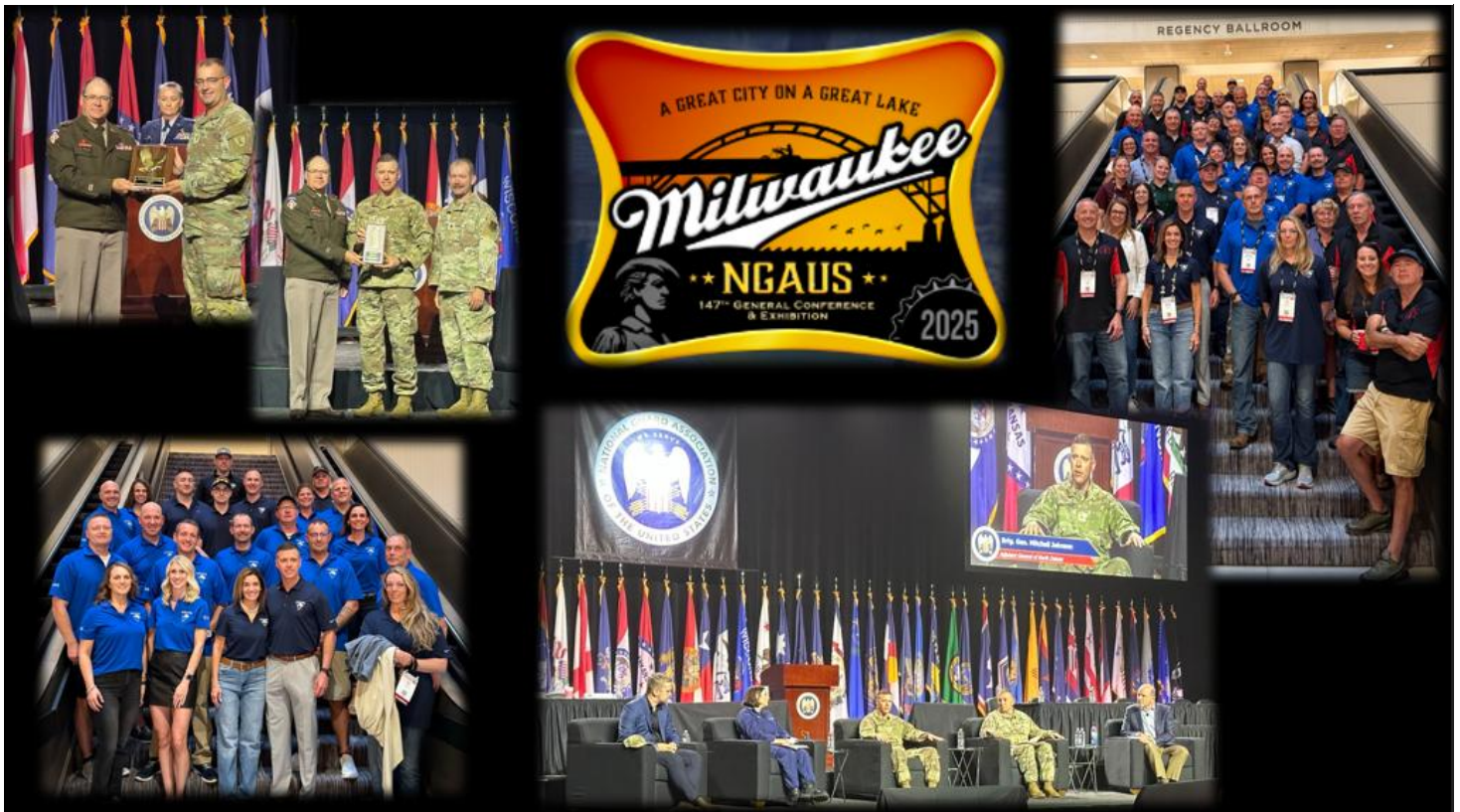
**150th General Conference**  
Aug 23-26, 2028 in San Juan  
Hosted by the Puerto Rico National

# BREWHALLA SECOND FLOOR MEZZANINE



## Team North Dakota represents at the 147<sup>th</sup> NGAUS Conference

The North Dakota delegation had a strong showing at the NGAUS Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from August 22-25, 2025. We look forward to this year's event to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana from 28-31 August 2026 and hope to see you there!



# NDSU

# NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

*Conference  
Agenda*



*Feedback  
Survey*



*Danner*  
- EST. 1932 -





# National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS)

### What is NGAUS?

The National Guard Association of the United States is the Guard's primary advocate in Washington, educating Congress on the roles, capabilities, and requirements of the nation's first military force. The organization fights for priorities and benefits of the organization and its service members.

### Legislative Priorities of NGAUS (FY27)

- Concurrent & proportional fielding of new National Guard equipment simultaneously with the Active Duty Component to ensure we are a deployable, interoperable, lethal total force.
- Zero Cost TRICARE and Dental to Ensure Reserve Component Medical Readiness, and authorize TRICARE Reserve Select Eligibility for federal employees in a military or civilian capacity.
- Expansion of GI Bill benefits for the Guard and Reserve; currently only members on Title 10 orders and Title 32 in response to a national emergency declared by the President qualify. As such, Guard members often serve alongside Active-duty and do not receive the same benefits.

### Digital Life Membership

NGAND (our state association) has voted to offer \$250 rebate for all new NGAUS Digital Life Memberships purchased between 1 January 2026 and 30 June 2026. Members must purchase on the NGAUS website (<https://www.ngaus.org/membership>) and pay the \$500, and then the association will issue the \$250 rebate check.

### State Life Membership

Those with current National NGAUS Life or Digital Life Memberships at the time of purchasing a State Life Membership will receive a \$100 rebate from the original price of \$350 if purchased between 1 January 2026 and 30 June 2026. Can be purchased at: <https://ngand.org/membership/>.

### Membership Rates

Annual Membership Type	National Membership	State Membership
Associate Enlisted or Guard Supporter	\$45/Year	N/A
Company Grade (O1-O3, WO1-CW3)	\$40/Year	\$20/Year
Field Grade (O4-O6, CW4-CW5)	\$80/Year	\$40/Year
Flag Grade (O7-O10)	\$130/Year	\$70/Year
Digital Life Membership	\$500 (-\$250 Rebate; Expires June 30, 2026)	N/A
Life Membership	\$1000 (-\$250 Rebate; Expires June 30, 2026)	\$350 (-\$100 Rebate; for current National Life/Digital Life members; Expires June 30, 2026)

### NGAND Memberships for Officers

State Association

Life Member Price: \$250 (after rebate for current NGAUS life members)

<https://www.ngaus.org/membership>



### NGAUS Memberships for Officers

National Association

Life Member Price: \$250 (after rebate)

<https://ngand.org/membership/>



### 148th NGAUS General Conference

Hosted by the Indiana National Guard in Indianapolis | 28 – 31 August 2026

- The golf tournament on Aug 28 at the [Brickyard Cross Golf Course](#), which includes holes inside the track of the world-famous Indianapolis 500 race.
- Company-grade, field-grade and senior warrant officers will gather at Victory Field for an Indianapolis Indians minor league baseball game.
- The Governor's Reception will conclude the conference at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis and will feature racing and laser-shooting simulators and a drone show over the adjacent canal.



NGAUS 2026 Details

**6th Annual Roughrider Golf Tournament:** Friday, 18 September 2026 at Hawktree Golf Course in Bismarck



# Professional Development Speaker

## Sam Mackey, CEO of Outsider

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Sam Mackey recently retired from the US Navy after 20 years of service in the SEAL Teams. His passion for the outdoors started when he was a young kid, running around the woods in Illinois with his red rider chasing small game and building forts.

During his tenure in the SEAL Teams, Sam used hunting and time outside to relax and escape from the stress and fast pace of life. Watching the woods come to life at sunrise or sunset is the purest form of therapy for the soul.

All of Sam's major life decisions over the last decade were made while spending time outdoors with mentors and friends. Sam wants everyone to experience how the great outdoors has enhanced his life.

Sam met Jay while talking to the Chicago Bears Offense before a home game back in 2011. After the game they started chatting about hunting and never looked back.

Sam has a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership and a master's degree in strategic leadership. Through Outsider's brand and products, Sam hopes to encourage more people to get outside, be bold, and live free.



 **OUTSIDER**

## ABOUT US

Outsider represents the spirit of adventure and resilience.

Rooted in a shared passion for the outdoors and a love for untouched landscapes, Jay and Sam founded Outsider to connect with a community of like-minded enthusiasts, sharing experiences and narratives that celebrate the richness and diversity of the great outdoors.



# EANGUS Membership

## Why should you join today?

Your membership dues help EANGUS lobby for the following benefits for you:

- ◎ **Pay!** We lobby for pay raises to reduce pay equity
- ◎ **Money!** Hazardous duty pay was increased
- ◎ **Benefits!** \$300 per weekend for IDT travel
- ◎ **Education!** New GI Bill with stipends and benefits
- ◎ **Affordability!** Held TRICARE fees at today's level instead of 350% increase
- ◎ **Healthcare!** Extended 5-year VA care eligibility
- ◎ **Retirement!** Retirement points of 130 per year, up from 90
- ◎ **Earlier Retirement!** Deployment time counts for earlier retirement





***NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA  
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**164th Engineer Battalion**

**CPT Christopher Spangler**

**68th Troop Command**

**MAJ Jacob Danduran**

**1-112th AVN**

**LTC Josh Yri**

**131st Military Police Battalion**

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**ND Army National Guard Med Det**

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**119th Operations Group**

**Maj Ryan Bergh / Lt Col Nick Hanson**

**119th Mission Support Group**

**Maj Kris Jacobs**

**119th Medical Group**

**Capt Joe Vetter**

**119th Intel Surveillance & Recon Group**

**Maj Kimbely Nelson / 1st Lt Ben Noah**

**Retired Army Guard Officers**

**CPT (Ret) Randy Fuss**

**Retired Air Guard Officer**

**Maj (Ret) Shaun Carlson**

**Resolutions - Army**

**LTC Stan Brown**

**Resolutions - Air**

**Lt Col Lee Teigen**

**NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PAST CHAIRS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
& PAST CONFERENCE LOCATIONS**

1994-95	Lt Col Terrence Thilmony	Minot
1995-96	LTC Gene Orson	Mandan
1996-97	Lt Col William Ziegler	Bismarck
1997-98	MAJ (Ret) Michael Starr	Grand Forks
1998-99	Lt Col Randall Herman	Minot
1999-00	COL (Ret) Ken Heitkamp	Jamestown
2000-01	Lt Col Scott Rising	Fargo
2001-02	LTC Jill Thomas	Bismarck
2002-03	Lt Col William Hejl	Bismarck
2003-04	COL Myron Lepp	Minot
2004-05	Lt Col Brent Ehrichs	Bismarck
2005-06	COL Robert Kilber	Fargo
2006-07	Col Patrick Martin	Bismarck
2007-08	MAJ Brian Keller	Fargo
2008-09	MAJ Sean Johnson	Bismarck
2009-10	Lt Col Nate Erstad	Fargo
2010-11	MAJ Patrick Flanagan	Bismarck
2011-12	Lt Col Greg McDonald	Fargo
2012-13	MAJ Patrick Flanagan	Bismarck
2013-14	LTC Jim Loegering	Fargo
2014-15	LTC Jim Loegering	Bismarck
2015-16	MAJ Jason McEvers	West Fargo
2016-17	CW2 Joshua Simmers	Bismarck
2017-18	Capt Roy Thomsen	West Fargo
2018-19	MAJ Stan Brown	Bismarck
2019-20	Maj Lee Teigen	West Fargo
2020-21	CPT David Stein	Virtual/Bismarck
2021-22	Capt Brett Nelson	West Fargo
2022-23	LTC Lucas Klettke	Bismarck
2023-24	Maj Nick Hanson	West Fargo
2024-25	CW4 Steve Hoikkala	Bismarck
2025-26	Maj Kris Jacobs	Fargo

# State Sponsored Life Insurance

The State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) program is derived from United States Public Law 93-289, May 1974, Title 37, Section 707 and is offered through the North Dakota National Guard. The program is comprised of a combination of several voluntary group life insurance policies sponsored by the National Guard Association of North Dakota. SSLI is available to all members of the North Dakota National Guard, officer and enlisted. The National Guard Association of North Dakota administers the program under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Military Department.

The NGAND is a member of the Militia Insurance Trust (MIT). The Militia Insurance Trust is comprised of 14 National Guard Associations. Every eligible member of the North Dakota National Guard is covered with \$1,000 SSLI at no cost to the member. This \$1,000 benefit is provided through the Militia Insurance Trust's Guardian Group Term Life Insurance Policy.

## Key Benefits of the SSLI

1. Over \$1,000,000 in coverage available for the North Dakota National Guard's members through a combination of the SSLI policies.
2. Coverage is available for your spouse and children.
3. Rates do not go up just because you separate from the National Guard –you can keep your coverage and premium amount when you separate.
4. Coverage 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
5. No War Exclusion – you are covered in combat.
6. No Aviation Exclusion – aviators are covered.
7. New Recruits are eligible for \$10,000 SSLI coverage under the MIT Guardian Group Term Life Insurance policy at no cost for the first year of service in the North Dakota National Guard. Premiums are paid by your association. Enrollment must occur within 180 days of joining the North Dakota National Guard.

Go to [www.NGSSLI.com](http://www.NGSSLI.com) for more information including eligibility, benefits, rates, exclusions, limitations and renewal provisions. Enrollment form and brochure are also available to download, complete and mail to the Administrator.

**Customer Service** (for more information or to request a brochure): Toll free 1-800-633-8333 or Kim Jenkins at [kjenkins@ngssli.com](mailto:kjenkins@ngssli.com) or Eve Tourtellotte at [eve@ngssli.com](mailto:eve@ngssli.com).

USBA and Militia Guardian Group Term Life Insurance policies are underwritten by New York Life Insurance Company on Policy form GMR. NEW YORK LIFE and the NEW YORK LIFE Box Logo are trademarks of New York Life Insurance Company.

MBA's SSLI Level to Age 50 and Better Alternative group life policies are underwritten by Met Life.

## ND SSLI Dedicated Unit Briefer:

Sam Chamberlain  
[schamberlain@ngssli.com](mailto:schamberlain@ngssli.com)  
254-722-8108



# *The Adjutant General*

## BRIGADIER GENERAL MITCHELL R. JOHNSON

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Brig Gen Mitchell R. Johnson is the North Dakota National Guard Adjutant General and Director of the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES) at Bismarck, N.D. The department provides 24/7 emergency communications and resource coordination with more than 50 lead and support agencies, private enterprise, and voluntary organizations to assist local jurisdictions in disaster and emergency response activities. It administers federal disaster recovery program and the Homeland Security Grant Program. NDDDES also manages the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) that serves as a national clearinghouse through which member states may request and provide mutual aid assistance.

Brig Gen Johnson was commissioned in May 1997 through ROTC at Michigan Tech, Houghton, Mich. He was selected for an Air Force Institute of Technology Civilian Institution Program and earned his Master's Degree in 1998. Upon completion of pilot training, General Johnson served in multiple flying assignments in AMC, AETC, and AFSOC during his 12 years on active duty. He has held command at the Wing, Group and Squadron level, and flown tactical aircraft, special

operations attack and remotely piloted aircraft deployments. Prior to his assignment, General Johnson served as the Chief of Staff – Air for Joint Force Headquarters. He is a native of Central Minnesota.

### **EDUCATION**

- 1997 Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Mich.
- 1998 Master of Science, Aerospace Engineering, AFIT Civilian Institution, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 2003 Squadron Officer school, Distinguished Graduate, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 2007 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
- 2016 Air War College, by correspondence

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. June 1997 – June 1998, AFIT Civilian Institution Program, Peterson AFB, Colo.
2. June 1998 – September 1999, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Vance AFB, Okla.
3. September 1999 – January 2002, C-130 Pilot, Chief of Flying Safety, 50 Airlift Squadron, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
4. January 2002 – June 2005, T-37 IP, Flight Commander, Wing SATAF Officer, Vance AFB, Okla.
5. June 2005 – February 2009, AC-130U Aircraft Commander, Chief of Plans, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
6. February 2009 – February 2010, MQ-1 Instructor Pilot, Flight Commander, Hector IAP, Fargo, N.D.
7. February 2010 – November 2011, Operations Officer, 119th Operations Support Squadron, Hector IAP, Fargo, N.D.
8. November 2011 – May 2012, Commander, 177th Airlift Squadron, Hector IAP, Fargo, N.D.
9. May 2012 – October 2014, Commander, 119th Operations Support Squadron, Hector IAP, Fargo, N.D.
10. November 2014 – March 2016, Commander, 178th Reconnaissance Squadron, Hector IAP, Fargo, N.D.
11. March 2016 – August 2018, Commander, 119th Operations Group, Hector IAP, Fargo, N.D.
12. August 2018 – March 2021, Vice Commander, 119th Wing, Hector IAP, Fargo, N.D.
13. March 2021 – January 2024, Commander, 119th Wing, Hector IAP, Fargo, N.D.
14. February 2024 – April 2024, Deputy Chief of Staff, Air, JFHQ, Fargo, N.D.
15. May 2024 – September 2024, Chief of Staff, Air, JFHQ, Fargo, N.D.
16. September 2024 – Present, The Adjutant General, North Dakota, Bismarck, N.D.

# ***NGAND Outstanding Officers of the Year***



## ***Outstanding Company Grade Officer – Air Capt Rebecca Peterson | 176th Intelligence Squadron***

Captain Rebecca Peterson serves in key leadership roles across intelligence, targeting, and readiness functions. She led the squadron's first-ever 33-member mobilization, directing intelligence production across five mission shops and enabling the delivery of more than 1,200 intelligence products supporting four Combatant Commands. While deployed to Shaw Air Force Base, Capt Peterson served as the Air Forces Central Chief of Target Development, leading a 27-member joint team and managing a portfolio exceeding 7,000 target products. She

coordinated short-notice training that created new unit capability and enabled the production of 46 target development products supporting Operation ROUGH RIDER. At home station, she serves as Wing Intelligence Program Manager, ensuring 205 deploying or traveling members receive tailored intelligence briefings. As ISR Group Self-Assessment Program Manager, she mentors Airmen selected for inspection teams and strengthens evaluation readiness. Capt Peterson also mentors flight commanders, leads professional development initiatives, and supports military families through community engagement and fundraising efforts.



## ***Outstanding Field Grade Officer – Air Maj Jordan Wobbema | 178th Attack Squadron***

Major Jordan Wobbema serves as the squadron Director of Operations, overseeing continuous 24/7 MQ-9 remotely piloted aircraft operations. During the year, he led Persistent Attack and Reconnaissance missions delivering more than 4,200 hours of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance across two Combatant Commands, directly supporting the protection of U.S. and allied forces. He directed aircrews conducting over 50 strike missions during Operations POSEIDON ARCHER and ROUGH RIDER and supported freedom of navigation

operations tied to 20 percent of global trade. While deployed to INDOPACOM, Maj Wobbema led a five-member team addressing manning gaps and developing ISR tactics, techniques, and procedures for emerging systems. As the sole USAF RPA representative on a Joint Training Team, he coordinated with partner nations to integrate unmanned systems into joint planning. At the wing level, he helped streamline the pilot accession process, reducing timelines and enabling 21 selections. Maj Wobbema also mentors Airmen and emphasizes team well-being alongside mission execution.

## ***Outstanding Warrant Officer – Army***

### **CW2 Eric Blumhagen | 142nd ENGR BN**



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Eric Blumhagen serves as a technical expert and leader within the 142nd Engineer Battalion, providing hands-on support to training, infrastructure, and Soldier development. During the year, he supported weapons maintenance, Sensitive Key Organization inventories, and qualification training, serving as Officer in Charge for unit zero-range operations to ensure safe and accountable execution. CW2 Blumhagen designed and constructed a land navigation course at the Wahpeton Armed Forces Reserve Center and developed a survey stake-reading class that improved junior Soldiers' understanding of grading and surveying fundamentals. He also led multiple construction efforts, including overseeing approximately 2,000 feet of concrete sidewalk placement, improving facility safety and long-term functionality. Outside the military, he serves as a volunteer firefighter, 4-H leader, and youth archery instructor, exemplifying the Citizen-Soldier ethos.

## ***Outstanding Company Grade Officer – Army***

### **CPT Rhea Goulet | 141st MEB**



Captain Rhea Goulet served as the Company Commander of the 3662 Support Maintenance Company while simultaneously supporting large-scale operational planning efforts. She ensured her unit was trained and resourced to execute a diverse set of mission essential tasks while providing critical maintenance capability to the State. As the full-time action officer for Exercise Cyber Shield, CPT Goulet coordinated planning and execution for over 900 participants from 42 states and 15 multinational partners. She executed multiple planning conferences including Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, and Integration (JRSOI) as well as contracting and lodging coordination. Her disciplined planning resulted in cost savings exceeding \$700,000 while responsibly executing more than \$400,000 in exercise funding. She is also a strong advocate for leader development and Soldier wellness, mentoring junior officers and warrant officers and promoting fitness and engagement through Team Red, White, and Blue initiatives.

## ***Outstanding Field Grade Officer – Army***

### **LTC Bradley Hoff | ND Medical Readiness Detachment**



Lieutenant Colonel Bradley Hoff served as the 142nd Engineer Battalion Surgeon during the Southern Border Mission, providing medical leadership across 33 dispersed work sites spanning more than 300 miles. He sustained medical readiness for 420 Soldiers, maintaining readiness rates at or above 90 percent throughout the deployment. LTC Hoff authored Battalion Medical Standard Operating Procedures, established MEDEVAC and CASEVAC plans, and served as the primary medical advisor to the command team. He coordinated a battalion-wide influenza vaccination mission for 121 Soldiers and oversaw sustainment and advanced training for combat medics, including trauma and envenomation response. His medical policies and training programs were later adopted at higher echelons, improving standardization and responsiveness across the formation. In his civilian role, he serves as a rural medical provider, supporting emergency and hospital care while mentoring fellow clinicians.

***NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PAST OFFICERS OF THE YEAR***

	<u><b>AIR GUARD</b></u>	<u><b>ARMY GUARD</b></u>
1993	Lt Col Lawrence Woodbury 1Lt Ronald Solberg	LTC Eugene Lang CPT Kyle Eid
1994	Maj Robert Edlund Capt Scott Rising	CW4 Ralph Metcalf CPT Leslie Norhre
1995	Maj Robert Becklund Capt James Kelly	MAJ Arnold Strebe CPT David D. Isaak
1996	Col Albert Lerberg III 2Lt Tad Schauer	COL Dean Hildebrand CPT Judith Van Voorhis
1997	Lt Col Wesley Belter 1Lt Thomas Beynon	MAJ David Anderson CPT Giselle Wilz
1998	Maj James Maroney 1Lt Darrin Anderson	MAJ Jon Hanson CPT Jeff Nelson
1999	Maj Marshall Kjelvik Capt Bradley Derrig	LTC Robert Kilbur CPT Jackie Huber
2000	Lt Col Joan Bentz 1Lt Gregory McDonald	MAJ Michael Hall CPT Davina French
2001	Lt Col William Hejl 1Lt Craig Borgstrom	MAJ Shawn Ackre CPT Todd Helbling
2002	Maj Stacy Matter Capt Nathan Brenneman	MAJ Lannie Runck CPT Warren Pauling
2003	Lt Col Brent Ehrichs Capt Todd Branden	MAJ David Isaak CPT Brent Naslund
2004	Maj Kent Olson Capt Allen Albright	MAJ Lee Nordin CPT Benjamin Cleghorn
2005	Maj Todd Branden 2Lt Jennifer Silbernagel	MAJ Scott Fontaine CW2 Kathleen Mauch
2006	Lt Col Michael Nelson Capt Kyle Bakken	COL Gordan Leingang CW2 Jay Knopp
2007	Maj Gregory McDonald Capt Teresa McDonough	MAJ David Johnson CW2 Kevin Mehrer
2008	Lt Col John Dougherty Capt Ryan Rastedt	MAJ Robert Fugere CPT Paul Helton
2009	Lt Col John Flowers 1Lt Bobbette Bengs	LTC Bradley Bekkedahl CPT Ann Mutzenberger
2010	Maj Jerrad Krapp Capt Grant Larson	MAJ James Olson CPT Amber Monette
2011	Maj Mitch Johnson 1Lt Robert Davidson	MAJ Russ Wolf CPT Derek Kuntz
2012	Maj Matt Kiser Capt Brad Jernberg	MAJ Mark Topp CPT Matt Voeller
2013	Maj Kyle Ness Capt Nathan Lagred	MAJ Jodee Aubol CPT Lucas Klettke
2014	Maj Chad Vorderbruggen Capt Roy Thomsen	MAJ Robert Bohl CPT Chance Schaffner

\* Starting in 1993 NGAND began Field Grade and Company Grade Award Categories

***NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PAST OFFICERS OF THE YEAR***

	<u><b>AIR GUARD</b></u>	<u><b>ARMY GUARD</b></u>
2015	Maj Jackie Nord Capt Gregory Goodman	MAJ Daniel Murphy CPT Jay Sheldon CW3 Cody Hertz
2016	Lt Col Ryan Ayers Capt Jeffrey Hovdenes	MAJ Steven Bohl CPT Justin Gall CW3 Galen Roness
2017	Maj Lee Teigen 1st Lt Kali Lettenmaier	LTC Ralph Romans CPT Robert Meland CW3 Jammy Ryckman
2018	Maj Joshua Schochenmaier Capt Daniel Sly	LTC Patrick Flanagan CPT Kalli Swenson CW3 Kiley Kuntz
2019	Maj Robert Davidson Capt Brett Nelson	MAJ Nicolette Daschendorf CPT John Mazur CW3 Arnold Zins
2020	Maj Eric Mattson Capt Ryan Bergh	MAJ Robbie Hertz CPT Annie Gerhardt CW3 Steven Hoikkala
2021	Maj Nick Hanson Capt Tim Soderstrom	MAJ Waylon Tomac CPT Thomas Hansen CW5 Kiel Skager
2022	Lt Col Jeff Hovdenes Capt Jesse Moch	MAJ Lucas Klettke CPT Joseph Terveen W01 Richard Blumler
2023	Maj Dan Sly Capt Cody Chick	MAJ Alan Roehrich CPT Connor Kelley CW2 Michael Mahon
2024	Maj Kimberly Nelson Capt Mitchell Mazaheri	LTC Benjamin Barille CPT Amanda Tang CW3 Lee Renner
2025	Lt Col Gregory Ames Capt Kyle Knutson	MAJ Justin Johnson CPT Nicholas Kindelspire CW2 Brandon Nelson

\* Starting in 2015 NGAND added the Warrant Officer Award Category



# NGAUS

## Meet the Team

### Notable NGAUS Accomplishments:

- Early retirement credit for National Guard and Reserve service members under 12304b orders
- Access to TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) for federal employees who serve in the National Guard beginning in 2030, including dual-status technicians
- 1.3 billion for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA), includes: \$395 million for the Army National Guard; \$395 million for the Air National Guard
- \$1.4 billion for UH-60 Black Hawk “M” model helicopters for the Army- Consistent with FY20 DoD budget, which requested 64 “M” model Black Hawks for the Army National Guard
- \$338 million for 4 C-130J Super Hercules aircraft for the Air National Guard
- \$100 million for the Army National Guard High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) modernization program
- \$75 million for F-16 Viper Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radars for the Air National Guard
- \$972.4 million for Joint Light Tactical Vehicles (JLTVs) for the Army- Consistent with FY20 DoD budget, which requested 512 JLTVs for the Army National Guard
- Continued C-130H modernization, includes funding for engine upgrades and propeller replacements
- \$7 million for the National Guard preventative mental health program

### **MG Francis M. McGinn (Ret.)**

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### **Col. Peter Boone (Ret.)**

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## NGAUS Officers - *Term expires 2026*

### Chairman:

**Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers, Michigan**

### Vice Chair (Army):

**Maj. Gen. Hal Lamberton, Kentucky**

### Vice Chair (Air):

**Maj. Gen. Ondra Berry (Ret.), Nevada**

### Immediate Past Chair:

**Maj. Gen. Janson “Durr” Boyles, Mississippi**

### Secretary:

**Brig. Gen. Bobbi Doorenbos (Ret.), Arkansas**

### Treasurer:

**Brig. Gen. Kenneth Ross (Ret.), Louisiana**

# 148th General Conference & Exhibition

## Indianapolis

The NGAUS General Conference & Exhibition is the Association's annual business meeting. Army and Air National Guard officers from all 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia gather to network, set their legislative agenda and hear from America's civilian and military leaders. Family members, industry representatives and local officials also attend. We hope to see you in Indianapolis!



August 28 - 31, 2026 | Indianapolis, Indiana  
*The National Guard: America's Strength at Home & Abroad*



The National Guard Association of North Dakota received its fifth consecutive 100% Membership Award in August at the NGAUS Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



The 119th Wing received the Maj. Gen. John J. Pesch Safety Trophy in 2025. It is presented annually to two flying units judged to have demonstrated the highest standards of flight safety.

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# ***Roughrider Society Scholarships***

## ***Brigadier General David B. Anderson Memorial Scholarships***



Brigadier General (Ret.) David B. Anderson lived a life defined by service, humility, and an unwavering commitment to people. Over a 34-year military career, he served the North Dakota Army National Guard as commander of the 142nd Engineer Combat Battalion, commander of the North Dakota Army National Guard, and land component commander for the state. He led Soldiers through complex missions, including a yearlong deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, yet never allowed rank to distance him from those he served.

Born and raised on a farm near Oakes, North Dakota, Dave Anderson’s early years shaped the grit, work ethic, and humility that became his hallmark. An engineer by training and an ROTC graduate of North Dakota State University, he balanced practicality with deep compassion—always focused on solving problems while caring for the people behind them.

After retiring from military service in 2014, he continued his mission at the University of Mary, where he built the Military Student Services office into a place of genuine welcome and support. Whether guiding students through benefits, career decisions, or simply offering a cup of coffee and encouragement, he became a trusted mentor to countless Soldiers, Airmen, veterans, and families.

Dave Anderson never sought recognition. He showed leadership by listening, mentoring, and serving—often in the quietest ways. His legacy lives on through the lives he shaped, the service he modeled, and the countless individuals who continue to “pay it forward” because of him. General Anderson served as the Army Retired Director for NGAND up until his passing on May 26, 2025.

- Emma Klein | University of North Dakota | \$1000**
- Kate Cantera | University of North Dakota | \$1000**
- Cody Nuenthel | University of North Dakota | \$1000**
- Emerson Diede | Montana State University | \$1000**
- Alyssa Hertz | North Dakota State University | \$1000**

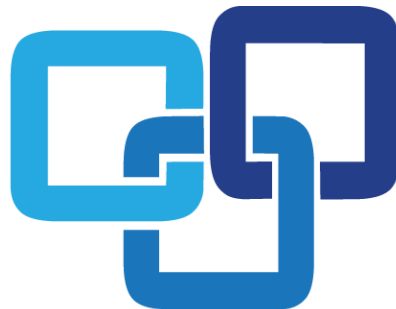


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- **Military Benefit Association**
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# TIME TO GET REAL

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