



The TAGram Jan 2003

*An executive communication from the Chief, National Guard Bureau,
to the Adjutants General of the Several States*

MG Steven Blum Nominated as New Chief, NGB

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced on 6 Jan 03 that the President has nominated Army National Guard MG H. Steven Blum for appointment to the rank of lieutenant general with assignment as the Chief, National Guard Bureau. Blum is currently serving as the Chief of Staff for Headquarters U.S. Northern Command and Headquarters North American Aerospace Defense Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.

TAG Changes

Alabama:

Governor-elect Reily of Alabama has announced the selection of Major General (Ret) Crayton M. Bowen as the next Adjutant General, vice Major General Sumrall. The date of appointment is 20 January 2003. MG (ret) "Mark" Bowen retired from the AL ARNG 22 June 2000. His assignment prior to retirement was Commander, 167th Support Command, ALARNG.

Alaska:

Governor Frank H. Murkowski of Alaska announced the selection of Colonel Craig Campbell to serve as Commissioner and Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Col Campbell currently serves as Vice Commander of the 168th Air Refueling Wing of the Alaska Air National Guard. Campbell will assume his duties as Commissioner and Adjutant General on 13 January 2003. MG Oates retired 13 Jan 03.

District of Columbia:

Brigadier General David F. Wherley, Commander 113th Fighter Wing, is currently serving as the Acting Commanding General of the DC National Guard. MG Freeman retired effective 31 December 2002.

Guam:

The new Governor of Guam announced that effective 31 December 2002 Brigadier General Jerry M. Rivera is no longer the Adjutant General. An announcement of a successor is still pending.

Hawaii:

The Governor of Hawaii, Linda Lingle, has announced the appointment of Brigadier General Robert G.F. Lee, US Army Reserve, as the Adjutant General of the Hawaii National Guard. The appointment was effective 2 January 2003. BG Lee was previously serving as the commander of the 9th Regional Support Command. MG Correa retired 31 Dec 02.

Michigan:

The Governor of Michigan announced that Brigadier General Thomas Cutler will be appointed as Adjutant General, vice Major General Stump who will be retiring. The date of appointment is 1 February 2003. Brig Gen Cutler is currently serving as the Assistant Adjutant General - Air.

Tennessee:

Governor-elect Phil Bredesen announced that Major General Gus L. Hargett will continue serving as Adjutant General of Tennessee.

Wyoming:

Major General Edmond Boenisch, Jr. has announced his retirement as the Adjutant General of Wyoming. His date of retirement is to be determined. Announcement of a successor is pending.

Col Kathy Perry, NGB-GO, (703) 607-3640

Advanced Distribute Learning (ADL) Governance Initiative

The ADL Governance Initiative was briefed at the Distance Learning Advisory Committee (DLAC) conference, held 9-13 Dec 02. Under this initiative, five functional area teams are being established to address the issues and barriers associated with the evolution of ADL within the National Guard. During the conference, DLAC representatives signed up to participate in the functional area teams, thus ensuring state-level involvement in the formulation of solutions to DL challenges. The Governance Initiative will also be briefed to the Information Management Conference (IMC) in January; participation of IMC representatives on the functional area teams will strengthen state participation in the ADL decision-making process and is viewed as essential to the success of the Governance initiative.

Ms. Kathy Pritchett, DTTP PMO Representative, (703) 607-0576

Reserve Component Automation System (RCAS) Update

RCAS Release 6.0, shipped 12 Apr 02, offers significant enhancements in Safety Management and Force Authorization, and access to electronic forms in FormFlow 99, which is the new Army Publishing Agency standard. As of mid Dec, over 60% of ARNG commands had completed or begun installation. Are your units missing out? POC is Ms Sandra Jeckell, PMO RCAS, Phone: 703-676-1195; Email: sandra.jeckell@ngbcio.ngb.army.mil

Security Supplement Version 3.0 and DITSCAP Documentation CDs

Be the first to secure your RCAS baseline with the upcoming Security Supplement Version 3.0 CD, containing the latest security patches and hotfixes. Version 3.0 contains all the updates that were delivered with Version 2.0 plus additional security patches and hotfixes. These updates are required for installation on RCAS baseline machines in order to bring your machines in compliance with Army Computer Emergency Response Team (ACERT) Information Assurance Vulnerability Alerts (IAVA). Also, watch for the RCAS Release 7.0 DITSCAP documentation CD. RCAS recently received its accreditation from the Army Chief Information Officer/G-6 in Nov 02. Make sure you check your mail in mid Jan 03 for these CDs. POC is Ms Angenette Cash, PMORCAS, Phone: 703-676-2627; Email: Angenette.Cash@ngbcio.ngb.army.mil

Ms Ursula Bivens, NGB-CIO, (703) 607-0166

NGB HLS Publications Working Group

A thorough and extensive analysis of the NGB AP Security Mission AAR, State and Territory End of Mission Reports, CNGB Directed Sensing Survey, AP Security CAAT (CALL) Initial Impressions Report, and NGB Emergency Response Workshop participant feedback was conducted 9 - 30 Sep 02. The most common and recurring issue identified during this process was a requirement for updated and relevant NGB HLS policies, procedures, and regulatory guidance. On 30 Oct 02, ACNGB directed NGB-HS to assemble a working group and assume the lead synchronization and coordination role. The primary objectives of the work group are to draft new or update NGB HLS policies, procedures, and regulatory guidance. On 21 Nov 02, NGB HLS Publications Work Group was assembled and conducted their initial meeting. 22 NGB agencies, directorates, and offices participated in the initial meeting and charter development process. Initial priority for the Work Group will be the development and distribution of a NGB HLS Field Reference Guide within the next sixty days. Field Reference Guide will be a State and Territory "user friendly" compendium of the most current NGB HLS and HLS related policies, procedures, and regulations.

NGB to participate in NORTHCOM Unified Defense Plan 03, from 3 – 13 Feb

NORTHCOM, in an effort to heighten CONUS defensive preparedness, will be conducting United Defense '03 from 3 – 13 Feb 03. Given that any potential Iraqi invasion increases the threat to Homeland Security exponentially, NORTHCOM is taking

this opportunity to validate its plans in support of CENTCOM. The establishment and testing of these baseline Homeland protection plans are crucial and NGB-HS looks forward to participating in this exercise by having two members of its operations section present to provide regarding the National Guard perspective in support realistic training scenarios for this exercise.

Ms Kathi Heaton – NGB-HS, (703) 607-0011

Technician Pay Tools for Recruitment and Retention Problems

Increased minimum hiring rates for National Guard Technicians were approved for certain Aircraft Maintenance Occupations located at the 105th Aircraft Generation Squadron, Stewart Air National Guard Base, New York. This authority equips management to address technician recruitment issues by allowing pay to be set at higher than normal rates. There are other technician pay tools which may be acquired to address serious technician recruitment and retention issues. During the past eighteen months, the NGB Office of Human Resources has been successful in helping state Air National Guard SPACECOM and flying units acquire, on a case by case basis, special pay authorities necessary to improve technician recruitment and retention (e.g., special salary rates, unrestricted rates, and above minimum hiring rates). TAGs experiencing technician recruiting and retention problems should have their HROs contact NGB-HR.

Ms. Paula Shipe, NGB-HRS, (703) 607-5493

Government Travel Card Delinquency Rate on the Rise

As evidenced by heightened media attention, Government Travel Card (GTC) misuse and delinquency are of great concern throughout the government, with particular emphasis placed on the military services. Delinquency in Air National Guard (ANG) member's individually billed GTC accounts (IBAs) is increasing. The ANG GTC program had shown consistent improvement over the past several years. As of the end of June 02 the lowest delinquency rates since program inception were achieved (5.4%). However, that positive trend was abruptly and sharply reversed July through November and the ANG stands at a current total delinquency rate of 8.5% for IBAs, well above the Air Force standard of 4%. It is essential to deployment readiness that we reduce this figure. Pertinent to lowering delinquency rates is promotion of member awareness regarding their military obligation to maintain personal financial integrity.

MSgt Danielle Shepherd, NGB-FM, (703) 607-0838

Who's the Boss?

Under 32 U.S.C. § 709, the employer of each state or territory's military technicians is the state Adjutant General. The legislative history of the Technicians Act,

federal Courts of Appeal, the Merit Systems Protection Board and even prior decisions by the Federal Labor Relations Authority recognizes this fact.

However, the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA), the agency with authority over labor-management relations in the federal sector has recently ordered the CNGB to ensure the TAGs comply with an FLRA ruling. The matter involved having states "...withdraw all placement actions from which non dual status employees were excluded from consideration due to the Release of June 29th 1998, re-announce, and rerun all such placement actions." (NGB v. Association of Civilian Technicians (ACT), 57 FLRA No. 50 (2001). This is an order that CNGB can not execute.

However, the NGB does support that the Adjutants General are bound to follow all applicable Codes of Federal Regulations and NGB regulations governing many aspects of Federal employment such as those affecting federal compensation, benefits, retirements, etc.

The NGB, while continuing to disagree with the FLRA's holding, has informed the states of this order. It will be within the discretion of the FLRA's General Counsel whether to pursue an enforcement action in federal Courts of Appeal against NGB, or any state, if the states refuse to comply.

Mr Patrick Stewart, NGB-HR-LRS, 703-607-1456

Merging of Military Personnel Appropriations

The OSD Comptroller merged the Active, Guard and Reserve Military Personnel Appropriations into one appropriation for each Service in the FY04 President's Budget. The effort was introduced by OSD without the knowledge of OSD Reserve Affairs or any of the Services. We are concerned about the consequences to the National Guard and are actively engaged to seek a reversal of this decision. We will keep you all informed as we learn more.

Col Willard Windsor, ANG-FM, (703) 607-0903

Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) Positions Announced

Alaska and Colorado have released 85 AGR Job Announcements (83 Title 32 and 2 Title 10) in support of the GMD Test Bed program. The Title 10 positions are for the Battalion and Brigade Commanders, O-5 and O-6 respectively. The majority of the Alaska positions are for 15 Air Defense Artillery (ADA) in grades E-4 to O-4 and 43 Military Police in grades E-4 to O-3. Colorado has 17 ADA positions in grades E-5 to O-5. All MP and ADA positions close 3 Mar 03. There are also administrative positions available (i.e. 1SG, PSNCO, supply sergeant) in both states. Most of these positions close 3 Feb 03. The majority of the positions will be activated within 6 weeks of the selection board. During the week 6-10 Jan, the first group of soldiers selected (30 Oct 02) for participation in the Missile Defense program (Extended Active Duty (EAD), report in an Active Duty status to Colorado Springs, Colorado. The EAD soldiers will have to apply for the AGR positions. The announcements have been sent to all state commands

and can also be found on the following web sites:
http://www.arng.army.mil/soldier_resources/title10/T32.asp and <http://www.virtualarmory.com>.

Lawrence J. O'Brien, NGB-MD, (703) 607-2090

Conferences/Meetings/Hearings/Events

ARNG Senior Commanders Conference, 24-26 Jan 03, PEC, Arkansas
AGAUS Mid-Winter Conference, 21-24 Feb 03, Washington DC