



What Has **NGAUS** Done for You Lately?

A WHOLE LOT.
But recent victories
are only the latest in
a long list of legislative
accomplishments

2020

Some new benefits and greater eligibility for some existing veterans' programs top NGAUS accomplishments.

The new benefits include paid maternity leave for drill-status women. The intent of the program, which the Pentagon has not yet implemented, is to provide excused absences with pay and retirement points for up to three months of unit training assemblies.

Also included in the fiscal 2021 National Defense Authorization Act is six-months of transitional medical coverage for Guardsmen and their families after Title 32 coronavirus response missions.

Meanwhile, the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvements Act of 2020 credits for the first time service under Title 32 toward Department of Veterans Affairs home loans.

Additional language extends federal employment protections and reemployment rights to Guardsmen who serve at least 14 days of state active duty or who are mobilized to respond to a national emergency or natural disaster.

NGAUS also won some major equipment battles in 2020. One of the most significant is the six C-130J Super Hercules cargo planes for the Air Guard. There are also 43 new or rebuilt UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters along with \$100 million in the Humvee modernization program for the Army Guard.

Finally, a provision in the NDAA adds the National Guard Bureau chief to the list of senior officers able to provide an unfunded priorities list to Congress.

2019

The final required major benefit fix to mobilization authority 12304b tops a strong year of accomplishments.

Congress created the new authority in 2012 to give the services easier access to the National Guard and Reserve for preplanned missions. But it lacked the personnel benefits provided by other authorities, including pre-mobilization and transitional health care and credit toward the GI Bill and early retirement.

Adding the three benefits was a NGAUS priority for four years.

The association also convinces lawmakers to include a provision in the fiscal 2020 NDAA that opens TRICARE Reserve Select in 2030 to Guardsmen and Reservists to dual-status technicians and other full-time federal employees currently prohibited from purchasing TRS.

NGAUS is also instrumental in getting 64 new UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters for the Army National Guard and four new C-130J Super Hercules cargo planes for the Air Guard in fiscal 2020 legislation.

In addition, lawmakers for the sixth consecutive year add \$100 million to the budget to rebuild Humvees. They also provide \$395 million each for the Army and Air Guard in the National Guard Equipment and Reserve Equipment Account.

Unfortunately, the Pentagon later reprograms the Humvee and NGREA funding along with two of the C-130Js from fiscal 2020 appropriations.

2018

NGAUS convinces Congress to add language to the fiscal 2019 NDAA that authorizes the service secretaries to adjust the effective of date promotion for Guard officers who experience undue delays in getting federal recognition of their state promotions.

Another provision requires the Army and the Air Force to report to Congress on how they intend to accelerate federal recognition process. With lawmakers focusing the issue, average Fedrec wait times drop from 293 days in March to 175 days in October.

2017

Bringing the benefits Guardsmen and Reservists receive under 12304b in line with other mobilization authorities tops the NGAUS legislative priorities for the formulation of the fiscal 2018 defense bills.

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, also known as the Forever GI Bill, extends the Post-9/11 GI Bill to 12304b. It also eliminates the expiration date on benefits for anyone who left the military after Jan. 1, 2013.

And the fiscal 2018 NDAA provides predeployment and transitional TRICARE health coverage to those on 12304b orders.

2016

Among the association's victories is a change in the federal definition of veteran to include all Guard and Reserve retirees. The old definition limited veteran status to those who served more than 179 days on federal active duty for other than training.

NGAUS also works with Congress to pass legislation recognizing the remotely piloted aircraft mission as aeronautical under the Federal Aviation Administration definition. The change enables Air Guard RPA units to remain eligible for low- or no-cost leases at civilian airports.

