



THE SIGNAL

SIDE-BY-SIDE WE STAND WITH PRIDE

April 2005

Volume 32 Issue 8

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Dear Members

I hope everyone is enjoying their springtime weather. Before long, it will be hot summer time and we will be packing for Orlando, FL. Our Conference in Orlando is starting to come together—we have a Site Visit in May. Have you reserved your hotel room?

If you need a room, you may want to contact Dianne Williams, our Conference Coordinator to see if she has any rooms available.

I have been gathering little things to put in my suitcase so I do not forget them. Things like door prizes, Silent Auction items, pop tabs/toiletries etc.

Remember, it will be hot in Orlando; so the air condition may be a bit too cold in the meetings. We will try our best to please you but bring a sweater or jacket because we may not be able to please everyone.

This month I was honored to be invited to the North Carolina State Conference. I had a great time and came home with some new annual memberships as well as life memberships. We also signed several hundred letters to send to DC in regards to CALL's 05-01 and 05-02 (printed in the March issue of THE SIGNAL) and 05-03 printed in this issue...Please make sure you send letters from

your home state—it is vital that they hear from all of us. Let your local office know about them as well.

This weekend I plan to visit the Indiana State Conference. We do not have an Indiana auxiliary and they are next door to my home state of Kentucky. I hope to raise some interest with them and show them what they are missing by not being a member of this great organization.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for all the cards due to the loss of my grandmother. It was sudden and I really appreciate the support from all of you. These are the things that make us grow—being there for one another. We are one big FAMILY. Also speaking of family, when I arrived home from the North Carolina State Conference, I learned that Jay and I are soon to be grandparents for the first time. I thought I had all the excitement one person could stand until now. We are very excited. This is from our son who was in Iraq and is now home. Many of you know the wonderful feeling of having them home safe. Let's continue to pray for those who are still on their mission and that they will soon be home as well.

The Constitution needs some changes/updates. Nancy McDowell, Chair and committee have submitted written amendment proposals to me. The proposals will be printed in the May issue of THE SIGNAL.

Peggy Leadbetter, our Legislative Chair, is anxiously waiting to receive the number count from your legislative letters and responses for her report as well as for our Legislative Recognition Program. The first CALL's since conference was in the March SIGNAL. Please ask your family and neighbors, even co workers to sign a letter and send to your congressman. This is not limited to just the auxiliary we need all the support we can get. I hope by now you have mailed them to your congressman. If you would like an update you can call the EANGUS office 1-800-234 EANG or check out the website. You will want to look at the auxiliary link and the shopping cart too. Make your purchases today. Tell everyone about our website/shopping cart as the profit goes to the auxiliary. This will keep us from having to increase dues and be able to operate.

The Auxiliary Executive Board Meeting will be held in Orlando, FL at the May Site Visit. We will meet at 3pm on Saturday May 21st. I have heard from almost everyone. Please plan to attend so we can conduct the business that needs to be taken care of prior to the National Conference. This will give you a chance to actually see the hotel and check out the sites available when you return in August. Make sure you turn in your nominations for the awards so that we can have the Board vote on them. Nominations should be sent to Carol Benda or me.

Our Life Time Membership Chair, Sara Hendricks has been working diligently to get our life membership information/records as accurate as possible. She is cross referencing with EANGUS to make sure our spouse life membership is accurate as well. I want to thank Sara for all her hard work and effort as this is a time consuming task. We sometimes do not realize the hours of work that goes into these projects. They are necessary and worthwhile but not always recognized. Thanks to all of you and our Treasurer Sandy Hiltner for keeping our membership records as accurate as possible and sending your membership rosters to you. We depend on you for the information from your states. As you receive new information please update us as soon as possible. This helps keep us on track.

God Bless,
Sheila Bandy





FROM THE DESK OF VICE PRESIDENT BENDA

Greetings fellow Auxiliary members:

I have been to two conferences in Area 5; North Dakota and Iowa. I will be attending South Dakota and Minnesota conferences next. Then off to the Site Visit in Orlando, Florida.

The Area 5 Caucus is at the same time as the Site Visit in Orlando, so I will be unable to attend. "My driver" will be attending the Caucus, so I will get info from him.

Please look at the awards we give out and see if each Area can enter one "Candidate". I know there are many deserving individuals out there!

Everyone bring someone new to conferences and our meetings and make them feel at home.
Keep up your prayers for our soldiers abroad and home! Keep those legislation letters coming!

As ever,
Carol Benda
VP of EANGUS Auxiliary

HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS

Everyone—

We still have rooms available from the block reserved for the conference. However, the time is quickly approaching that we must affix a name and credit card number to each room. If you need a room or know someone who does, please contact me. If you have already requested a room from me, I will be contacting you for additional information. All other rooms will be released to the hotel on a day during the Site Visit.

Rosen Centre Hotel
9840 International Drive Orlando, FL 32819
Telephone: 407.996.9840

Plans for conference are very much into production and will be fine-tuned at the Site Visit. More to follow in the May issue of THE SIGNAL.

Dianne C Williams
EANGUS Auxiliary Conference Coordinator

MEMORIAL SERVICE PREPARATION

Once again time is drawing near to our conference; many plans have been made and soon we will be in Orlando conducting business and greeting old and making new friends for a time of enjoyment. We will also be conducting a memorial service to those that are no longer with us.

I am asking each state president to send me the names of deceased members from 2004 August to-date. Receiving this information timely will be a great help to me in my preparation for the Memorial Service.

Thank you,
Kathye Jackson, EANGUS Auxiliary Chaplain
bobc2788@bellsouth.net

AUXILIARY SHOPPING CART

Special interest/consideration is on going in the selection of items to offer on the Shopping Cart site. EANGUS Director/Ways & Means Chair, Tim Wolfe and I are working diligently to make product selections that are both qualitative and affordable for our members. Our goal is to have the site in production prior to conference.

Thanks for your patience; you will be pleased—Dianne.

Family Affairs Corner
By Lucretia Barbee
Family Affairs Chair

Hi, this is a great resource that has recently become available to the Reserve Component; it is great information for your Area & State newsletters!

Get the word out to those who need to know!

1. The Army Surgeon General established the TRICARE Help E-Mail Service (THEMS) in 1999. THEMS provides assistance to TRICARE beneficiaries and others who need services in addition to those available through a face-to-face visit to the TRICARE Service Center (TSC) and the toll free telephone numbers offered by the TRICARE regions. THEMS is especially helpful to beneficiaries living in remote areas in the United States and those deployed to an overseas area.
2. One of the THEMS staff members will answer your question or refer your case to another TRICARE professional at a military hospital, TRICARE contractor, or Lead Agent. Most questions are answered within 1 to 2 business days of receipt of the e-mail. All you need to use our service is an e-mail address through a commercial source, your computer at work, Army Knowledge Online, or any other portal into the Internet. You can reach us by sending an e-mail to TRICARE_Help@Amedd.Army.Mil. The address is not case sensitive. In addition to e-mail responses, THEMS publishes a monthly newsletter with topics of interest to our beneficiary population. Here is a link to all of our newsletters: <http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/thems/them.asp>.
3. Many members of the Reserve Component (RC) are new to TRICARE, and many of our RC family members reside in areas where the normal support associated with a military installation may not be available. THEMS is a valuable resource for the deployed soldier or the family back home.
4. THEMS can also assist you in getting TRICARE CD-ROMs, Soldier Information Cards, and other useful and informative products. Just send an e-mail request to THEMS, indicating the type, quantity, and mailing address to which requested materials should be sent. We are available to help at any time of day from any location on the Globe.
5. Please pass this information to family members, units, and family support groups in your state. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

THEMS Staff
TRICARE Help E-Mail Service
US Army Medical Command
TRICARE_Help@amedd.army.mil

**EANGUS Auxiliary Welcomes New
Members—**

Janice Anders
Faye Ray
Sue Earnhardt
Lillian Pope
Diane Winstead
Mary Robinson

From North Carolina

AREA (DIRECTORS') PAGE – NEWS, CARES/CONCERNS**Area I – NY, RI, MA, NH, CT, ME, VT****Area II – KY, DC, DE, Title 10, MD, NC, OH, VA, PA, WVA**

Janie Fields, a life member from North Carolina passed away in February, 2005. Janie joined as a life member in 1983.

Linda Crawford broke her hip. She is using a cane and doing better. Address: 135 Steven Church Rd; Goldsboro, NC 27530.

Sylvia Holbrook had surgery recently and is waiting for the results. She was released from the hospital on Monday and was holding her presidential seat on Friday at their state conference with a smile. Address: 2011 Snowbird Lane; Gastonia, NC 28056.

Hazel Holt, Ways & Means Chair is doing great but needs our support. Address: 766 Woodruff Rd; Selma, NC 27576; Telephone: 919.284.3716

Leila (Lil) Ingram could not attend the conference due to the illness of her father— she needs our prayers. Hospice has come to be with her and her father. We all know what it is like to lose a parent; it is never easy. Email: blt431@earthlink.net Address: 216 Cedar Lane Williamston, NC 27892.

Elwanda Garritson and **Jane Semones** (KY) still needs our prayers with health concerns.

Area III – AL, FL, GA, PR, SC, TN, VI

Arlene Poteet has had 3 stints put in; she is doing well and was able to attend TN's State Conference on 19 March.

From **Pat Reed's** daughter (**Carly**)—Momma came through the surgery and is now at home. The cancer was bigger than they thought at first and it looks like she is going to have to do some type of chemotherapy. The doctor sent some nodes to the lab and will know those results when she goes to his office for results. Address: 64 Airline-Goldmine Road; Bowersville, GA 30576; Telephone: 706-376-4530

Email: patriciafreed2323@msn.com – Pat is AEANGGA's VP as well as EANGUS Auxiliary's Sgt-At-Arms.

EANGGGA/AEANGGA (GA Enlisted/Auxiliary) held Conference 2005 on 15-17 April at the Radisson Hotel, Augusta, GA. In spite of massive deployments contributing to low attendance, we had a great conference.

EANGGGA/AEANGGA leadership and all other attendees were honored/privileged to welcome guest speaker, EANGUS President, **Ed Brown** and his wife **Ann**. They are both Life members of our Georgia organizations.

Also in attendance was **Barbara Rains** who shared some important information with our members and brought well wishes from her spouse EANGUS Director **Jim Rains** who was attending the AL Conference.

Our auxiliary is very pleased to announce the recruitment of three (3) new members, member classification change from annual to life membership for three (3) members and to add one (1) **state-only** Life Limited membership.

EANGGGA/AEANGGA will host **EANGUS/EANGUS Auxiliary 2008 Conference** in Savannah, GA.

Dianne C Williams

Area IV – AR, KS, LA, MS, MO, OK, TX

Maggie Bowling Cooke, mother of **Pat Bond** of the MS NCO ASSOC Auxiliary, died on Friday, 11 March 2005 in Metairie, LA. Email: patandleonard@bellsouth.net; Address: 1401 Poinsettia Drive, Metairie, LA 70005.

Doris Hoxie continues to receive the necessary medical care. She and Al are most appreciative for all the concerns, calls, e-mails and above all, the prayers.

Deborah Ward has now had all of the hardware taken out of her arm and is doing much better.

Mary Hayes had a heart attack. She is doing well. Address: 95 Ford Drive, Cabot, AR 72023; Telephone: 501-605-1116. On 24 April, **Deborah Ward** took mom, **Jody** to the Baptist Emergency room. Jody has shingles in her head and forehead. Email: jward1933@aol.com

Hello from Arkansas:

Spring is here, and with it many busy and hectic schedules.

With this printing many State Conferences have been attended and some still to take place. If you have had elections for officers and have new ones, please provide me with names, addresses, state affiliation, and email address. I want to be sure I can contact all of the auxiliary presidents in our Area IV.

I want to again thank all of you for your continuing hard work, dedication and support for our guards-people who are so deserving. Please continue to pray for our troops, families, our wonderful Auxiliary Officers and the entire Auxiliary Family. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance or to "just talk".

Standing Side by Side,
Hope Troy

Area V – IL, IN, IA, MI, MN, NE, ND, SD, WI

From **Pam Whisenhunt**— Legislation: I went to the Legislative Workshop and talked to the Auxiliary about our "contact" program. We have a new chart to help keep track of our contacts that we make. Membership: We sent out a letter to all the spouses of Enlisted Association members in February. Responses good; we will be inviting them to the Area V Caucus. Family Program: We have been invited to be on the list of contacts/briefers for the Family Readiness Center. This will give us the opportunity to speak to families of deployed spouses on what we do and have to offer.

Scholarship Program: We have started up the first part of our scholarship program and are looking at doing a Jr. Scholarship as well.

More Area V News from **Shirley Spitz**—

South Dakota: **Barb Kocer**, President, reports that they are getting ready for their 41st Annual Conference on 21-23 April in Pierre, SD. **Wisconsin:** **Shirley Spitz**, President, reports that they are getting ready for their 25th Annual Conference on 22-24 April in Wisconsin Dells, WI. Plans are underway to increase membership. **Minnesota:** **Karen Vicente**, President, reports that they will be celebrating their 25th anniversary. They are in the process of designing a pin to be given out commemorating their 25th year. **North Dakota:** **Jeri Christiansen** President, reports that their 2005 Conference was held in February. **Iowa:** **Barb Hansen**, President, reports that their conference was in full swing on March 18-20.

Area VI – AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY

Lorraine Miller is recuperating from heart surgery. Email: tootymil@aol.com

Area VII – AK, CA, GM, HI, OR, WA

Dorothy Inglese is busy getting memberships for California.



LEGISLATIVE

THE CALL

05-03

SUBJECT

U.S. Air Force proposed transformation strategy known as Future Total Force (FTF)

BACKGROUND

We remain concerned about the Air Force's proposed FTF plan and its possible force structure implications for both the Air Force and the Air National Guard (ANG). In its current form, the FTF initiative seems to focus on accelerated reductions of current weapon systems located predominately in the ANG, and the relocation of ANG units to active duty bases. This has led to concerns that the FTF plan would negatively impact the ANG's ability to perform its essential homeland defense and overseas missions in the future.

As part of the FTF plan, the Air Force seems to be moving ahead with plans to blend wings of active and Guard units, without appropriate comprehensive manning documents and other legal regulations necessary in moving and blending wings. The Adjutants General (TAGs) of the 54 States and Territories have written a letter to the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) Duncan Hunter (R-CA) to request a full committee hearing on the Air Force's Future Total Force strategy. The TAGS want to help the Air Force shape a strategy and force structure that uses the ANG to its full potential.

In addition to the letter sent by the TAGs, a letter is being sent to both Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) and Congressman Ike Skelton, (D-MO) Ranking Minority Member of HASC from over 40 Congressmen, requesting a hearing to examine these proposals.

RECOMMENDATION

Call, fax or email your Congressman to voice your opinion today! Ask your Congressmen and Congresswomen to request a House Armed Services Committee hearing regarding the Air Force Future Total Force Plan. Attached is a sample letter for your convenience. It may be duplicated and used, however we encourage you to rewrite it in your own words. Just address and sign it. Put your return address at the top. Add you Congressman's name after "The Honorable." After "Dear" put his/her name again. Then sign the bottom of the letter.

Step one: Dial 1-866-877-HILL (4455). This is a toll-free number. Calling it will connect you to the Capitol switchboard where you can ask to be connected to your Congressman's office.

Step two: Tell the individual who answers the phone in the Capitol Hill office that you are a constituent of the Congressman. Give your name, address and phone number. Tell them what the issue is and that you would like to have the Congressman support the issue. Ask that you receive a phone call or letter back concerning your phone call. Ask for the individual's name you talked to and tell them you will follow up the call with a letter or a fax.

Step three: Write or fax a letter to the Congressman at his Capitol Hill or district office. Tell them that you called the office, the date you called and the name of the person you talked to. Remember, ask for a reply.

Step four: Forward a copy of the correspondence you sent to the Capitol Hill office to the congressman's state/local office. Ask them to contact the Capitol Hill office to express your view on the issue. State and local offices are in constant communication with the Capitol Hill offices.

Step five: Send the EANGUS National Office a copy of your correspondence.

Email: eangus@eangus.org

Mail to: EANGUS
3133 Mount Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22305-2640
Fax: (703)519-3849

SAMPLE LETTER

The Honorable
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman:

I am writing to you to ask for your support for holding a hearing on the Air Force's "Future Total Force" (FTF) strategy and its likely implications for the Air National Guard (ANG).

In its present form, FTF will affect the ANG's ability to perform its essential homeland defense and overseas missions in the future. While we are supportive of force modernization, we are concerned that the Air Force is developing long-term force structure plans without input from Congress and the Air National Guard leaders.

Please contact Chairman Hunter or his staffer, Robert Rangel, and ask him to schedule a hearing on the Air Force FTF plan. If you have any questions, please contact me or my representative at the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States at (703) 519-3846 or via email at eangus@eangus.org

Sincerely,

LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES
PEGGY LEADBETTER
Legislative Chair

All guidelines are the same as last year for reporting to the EANGUS Auxiliary Legislative Chair, as stated in the Legislative SOP.

Each Area Director (AD) serving on the Legislative Committee will contact each state in their area and establish a State Legislative Point of Contact (SLPOC). This person can be the state president or their designee. When the AD receives pertinent information concerning legislation, she/he will send information to the SLPOC, whose responsibility is to disperse this information in any way they find most effective in their respective state.

Each SLPOC is to report to the AD serving on the Legislative Committee, as to how many contacts were made during the quarter. The AD will forward to the Legislative Chair the information from each state in their respective area. This information is due when quarterly reports are sent in: Oct. 5, Jan. 5, April 5, and July 5. These dates were not enforced this year, due to the fact that no CALL's were available until just recently.

As stated in the Legislative SOP, send hard copies or e-mail copies to the EANGUS office, EANGUS, 3133 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA, 22305, OR eangus@eangus.org.

There will be more about nominations for the National Legislative Award Program in the next issue of THE SIGNAL. AD's will be receiving nomination information and forms to be used in forwarding information to the Chair.

One item of interest we received from several congressmen's offices in D.C. was that they preferred brief letters or e-mails asking for their support of any of our bills.

REGISTRATION

Date Submitted:

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The Rosen Centre Hotel

Orlando, Florida

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States 2005 Conference

21 –24 August 2005

Registration: CONFERENCE \$80.00 per person prior to 30 July 2005 \$100.00 per person after 30 July 2005		Make check payable to: EANGUS 2005 NO REFUND AFTER 1 AUGUST 2005 Fax #: 904-829-2068	
Number of Persons _____ X \$ _____ = _____ + _____ = _____		State Affiliation: _____	Registration Number: _____
Last Name: _____ Rank: _____		First Name: _____	M.I.: _____
Mailing Address: _____ _____ _____			
City: _____		State: _____	Zip: _____
E-Mail Address: _____			
Telephone: H: _____ W: _____		Emergency Contact: _____ Telephone: _____	
Names of others attending: _____ _____ _____ _____			Relationship: _____ _____ _____ _____
EANGUS Membership Status <input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Life <input type="checkbox"/> Associate <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate		Mode of Travel: <input type="checkbox"/> POV <input type="checkbox"/> Mil Air <input type="checkbox"/> RV <input type="checkbox"/> Com Air	
Is spouse attending Auxiliary Luncheon? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Auxiliary luncheon not included in registration fee (First 300):</i> \$20 until Aug 1, 2005; \$25 after			Banquet Meal Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry <input type="checkbox"/> Beef <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Piccata <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian
Mail to: EANGUS 2005 Conference C/o SGM Gary Wingard PO Box 3446 St. Augustine, FL 32085-3446		Room reservations: The Rosen Centre Hotel 9840 International Drive Orlando, FL 32819 http://www.rosencentre.com 1-800-800-9840 Credit Card # _____ Exp Date ____/____	
Method of Payment: Ck_ Cash_ Visa/MasterCard_ (Add \$1.00 for credit card)			

Publication Title: **THE SIGNAL**

State of frequency: Published monthly (except August).

Authorized organization's name and address: **Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States Auxiliary**

1063 Wilderness Way Shepherdsville, KY

Published monthly by EANGUS Auxiliary

Editors/Publishers: **President Sheila Bandy KY;**

Dianne C Williams GA.

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THE SIGNAL NEWS

Everyone is welcome to send in news/information from around the states each month to be published in **THE SIGNAL**. We would love to hear from you.

You may also give the news/information to your Area Directors when you are in contact with them.

The **deadline** to include news items for publication in this newsletter is the **15th** of each month.

Email: thesignalnews@earthlink.net or mail by USPS to: **Dianne C Williams 2203 Pinewood Drive Brunswick GA 31520-2743** with a **courtesy copy**: to President Bandy.

Articles/information received after the **15th** of the month or that may require more space than is available in one issue will be edited/published in the next issue.



MOTHER'S DAY
08 MAY