

Virginia National Guard Management Group

June 2019 | Issue #8

The Virginia National Guard Management Group: *Who We Are and What We Do*

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Executive Director

The **Virginia National Guard Management Group (VNGMG)** is an organization developed for and dedicated to optimizing the capabilities and functions of the **Virginia National Guard Association (VNGA)**, **Virginia Army and Air National Guard Enlisted Association (VaAANGEA)**, and the **Virginia National Guard Historical Foundation (VNGHF)**. The VNGMG is a board appointed by the Presidents of the constituent member Associations/Foundation charged with coordinating pooling resources for shared functions such as the annual Association conferences enabling larger events at better member prices and combing redundant functions, such as hiring a single Executive Director to support all the member Associations/Foundation.

Additionally, the member organizations are defined by the IRS management regulations as **501(c)19 Veteran Service Organizations**. These organizations are tax exempt, and a corporation could sponsor one and write the cost off as an advertising expense, but an individual cannot donate to a Veterans Service Organization and claim that donation as a charitable deduction on their taxes. The VNGMG is organized as a **501c(3) Charitable Organization** so individuals may make tax exempt deductions to the VNGMG which can use those funds to support the member Associations/Foundation.

Other benefits the VNGMG provides as a coordinating body are shared services such as a new user friendly website that will enhance two-way communication between Association members and their representative leadership. Sharing this cost between the Associations/Foundation makes the member Associations better stewards of the assets held in trust. We invite you to come to our current website which you can find here, <https://www.vngmg.org/>, while we undergo our process to find a better, faster, more capable web solution to meet the needs of the Associations and their members now and in the future.

Supporting Membership, Planning for the Future

In order to move forward as an organization to serve all members, the **Virginia National Guard Management Group (VNGMG)** has established a strategic planning process

based on the membership survey at the 2019 VNG Conference in April. The VNGMG will center all efforts in short, medium, and long term benefits for the current and future membership of our associations.

The conference survey initiated the strategic analysis efforts for the VNGMG and the officers and enlisted associations. We will conduct working groups on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in the near future. The results along with the survey inputs will serve as the start point for further analysis that will include Vision, Priorities, Goals, Mission Objectives; and Short, Mid, and Long Term Tasks and Objectives.

We will also explore enhanced communication avenues with members to tell the VNG “history” and “story.” A standing committee will explore opportunities based on membership input through the associations.

The VNGMG strategic planning process will be an on-going and continuous effort to provide membership benefits and will be based on membership input and review every six months. The process includes a briefing at the Annual Conference that will involve a working group breakout with association Presidents and Representatives for input.

VNGMG is a combined organization that exists to serve the constituent associations and every member. This strategic planning process will be the foundation for our success in the future years. Your input and participation through your association and chain of command will ensure the organization has valid and achievable objectives.

John D. Taylor
MG (VA), Retired
VNGMG Chairman

Enlisted Association

Clifton White
President

Cheyenne Johnson
1st Vice President
(Membership)

Carl Holcomb
2nd Vice President
(Legislative)

Gavin McClung
3rd Vice President
(Financial)

Jay Ellis
Treasurer

Tanya Conrad
Secretary

Henry Motley
Financial Secretary

Arthur Morrill
Sergeant at Arms



PRESIDENTIAL CLIFF NOTES

Thank you to all that attended our Annual Conference at the end of April in Newport News! It was a superb event and enjoyed by all. Plan on next year, as it comes quicker than normal. We had to change the weekend due to some scheduling issues with host hotel, and we are convening on 28 and 29 February 2020, with the Memorial Service on 1 March 2020. We are back at the [DoubleTree by Hilton at the Koger Center](#), Richmond, VA (just off Midlothian Turnpike near Johnston Willis Hospital). We are in planning stages now, but we are looking at the [ThunderBolt Karting](#) event again for Friday night, the

Matt Ritchie
Executive Director

Motorcycle Ride on Friday is planned (cold weather), and instead of golf on an actual course we are exploring TopGolf event for Friday and a more robust Golf event later in 2020. The [Virginia Department of Military Affairs](#) Military Ball will be held on 29 February 2020. Registration for hotel, Ball and conference will begin 1 November 2019 under current plans. More to follow.

We continue to grow our membership's levels, thanks to some support from fellow Executive Council (EC) members getting out and providing briefings to various groups. We are planning to roll out a revamped website very soon, and are signing on for a very powerful mobile App to help us grow our communication capabilities, an App that will allow Conference information in real-time, online marketing via our clothing apparel sales, etc.

Your Executive Council is planning a strategic workshop on 26 July to establish our long-term goals, develop a true vision for where we want to be in 3, 5 and 10 years. This will be followed by our EC meeting on 27 July at the Slaughter Headquarters building ([DSCR](#)), and then a sizable contingency heading to Des Moines, Iowa for [EANGUS 2019 Conference](#), the 48th annual conference from 3-8 AUG 19. During the EANGUS Conference we will learn if Virginia's proposal for hosting 2022 EANGUS Conference in Norfolk will win approval.

There are numerous key leaders of the military and other Veteran Service Organizations scheduled to speak at the conference, and a large Professional Development (PD) program is also planned. If any junior enlisted (E6 and below), Army and Air, are interested in attending, please contact your senior NCO chain for details ASAP. We have limited space for this PD opportunity, for six - eight personnel to attend in a paid status.

--Cliff White
President

Virginia National Guard Association (VNGA)

From the (Outgoing) President's Desk

Greetings from Arifjan, Kuwait! As many of you knew, I was scheduled to deploy with the 1945th CT after the State conference. This will be my last update as your president. It's been a challenging 18 months to say the least. The lessons we've learned and the relationships we've developed have us well prepared to move forward.

The VNGMG contract for Executive Director (ED) duties with the Keeney group ended 31 March. We elected not to pursue another contract with the Keeney for various reasons. LTC (ret.) Matt Ritchie came on as an interim ED shortly after and will become the new VNGA and VNGMG ED next month. LTC Ritchie is a life member of both VNGA and NGAUS. He is one of us and will serve us well. WELCOME ABOARD, SIR!

CPT Adam Provost will officially take the helm on 1 July. However, I'd like to recognize the significant contributions he's made during the transition not just within the president role but also the VNGMG relationship. CPT Provost provided expert counsel and guidance as we evaluated and revamped the MOU with the VNGMG to ensure the VNGA is well supported.

The [Annual NGAUS conference](#) is fast approaching. I'm disappointed I will not be able to attend this year. Colorado is a beautiful state and is sure to be a great time. There're legislative sessions, several social events, OPD for Company Grade, vendors, Task Force sessions and business sessions for all. Registration will be posted and emailed shortly. Registrations must be made through VNGA. The Colorado conference committee has secured nearly every available hotel room in the city. By registering through VNGA you're ensured the negotiated room rate in the same hotel as all your VA friends. Be sure to stop by the VA Hospitality suite in the morning for breakfast. Last year there was homemade French toast with maple syrup.

On a final note, I want to touch on [membership](#). Throughout my term as president I've insisted, we focus our effort on proving our relevancy to members and non-members. We had some significant accomplishments this past year and we fell short on a couple. Please encourage all your fellow officers to join/renew. Talk to them about what the VNGA and NGAUS do for their families, unit and friends. As I write this we are at 29%, 5% below last year. This means that unless we get 84 officers to join by 30 June 2019 we will forfeit the 25% rebate from NGAUS.

It's been a pleasure serving as your president. I'll see you next spring.

[MAJ Nate Seymour](#)

Outgoing VNGA President

From the (Incoming) President's Desk

It is with great excitement that I begin my term as President of the [Virginia National Guard Association \(VNGA\)](#) at our quarterly Executive Council meeting on July 28, 2019. The meeting will be held at 1300 at the new Joint Forces Headquarters, located at [the Defense Supply Center in Richmond \(DSCR\)](#). Anyone who is interested in serving on a committee or just seeing what the Executive Council does is more than welcome to attend.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank MAJ Nate Seymour for all his hard work and tireless dedication to the Association over the past year and half. Not only did he take over as President early when the previous President was unable to fulfill his term, but he served the last several months without the benefit of an Executive Director. Nate was always willing to shoulder the herculean task of keeping the Association running and I can only hope to fill the role half as well.

I'm also excited to welcome aboard LTC (Retired) Matthew Ritchie as the new Executive Director of the VNGA. Having someone with his organizational abilities helping manage the Association's day to day affairs will be an invaluable asset as we move forward in modernizing and re-growing our Association.

As was discussed at the Annual State Conference in April, the [141st National Guard Association of the United States \(NGAUS\) is fast approaching and will be held August 30 – September 2, 2019 in Denver Colorado](#). NGAUS is a fantastic time to meet fellow Association members from across the country and see the power of our organization in shaping national policy as it affects the Army and Air National Guard. Whether its visiting the row after row of vendors or participating in the various NGAUS Task Forces created to give input on the future force structure of Armor, Aviation, Jet Aircraft or a host of other topics, or just to mingle and network with National Guard members from other states I can't urge you to attend NGAUS strongly enough. A separate email will be coming out with the registration form and instructions for signing up to attend.

Finally, I would like to appeal to you all to help with our efforts to increase membership. Without your continued support and the support of our fellow Guard members who aren't currently members the Association would cease to exist. Please encourage your fellow officers (active and retired) to join/renew their membership. A simple text/email with the following link will make a difference: <https://www.ngaus.org/membership>.

See you all at [NGAUS!](#)

On the Border: The National Guard Mobilizes for War in 1916

This article originally appeared in the March-April 2016 issue of *Army Sustainment* magazine, and is here adapted with the permission of the author. Find the [original full article at this link](#).

Pancho Villa's attack on the United States in March 1916 drew a surprisingly fast military reaction. Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing led a horse-mounted column of Regular Army Soldiers across the U.S. border into Mexico less than a week after the attack. As Pershing plunged deeper and deeper into Mexico, other Regular Army units guarding the 1,200-mile border were forced to leave their positions and follow him southward to secure the supply line.

Mobilizing the Guard

In early May 1916, other Mexican raiders hit the Texas towns of Glen Springs and Boquillas. Because of these attacks, President Woodrow Wilson decided that the only way to maintain security on the border was to activate National Guard units from Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico. He federalized them into national service on May 8. By mid-June, Wilson decided to mobilize an additional 110,000 National Guard Soldiers for border service. This expansion included National Guard units from every state except Nevada, which had no National Guard.

Mobilizing the force was much easier said than done. The National Defense Act of 1916 had been implemented just two weeks earlier, and many of the state adjutant generals had not expected to have to comply with it so soon. The provisions of this act established uniformity in periods of enlistment and conformity with federal regulations for the Regular Army and National Guard. There were, however, many things that the act did not cover, such as an integrated transportation plan. With the fear that a full-scale war with Mexico was just around the corner, each state was left to its own devices to arrange transportation.

States Prepare

In each state, the problems were fairly similar. The smaller states, such as Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Delaware, had an advantage by having fewer troops and all their facilities located fairly close together. For larger states with big populations, such as Michigan, Pennsylvania, and New York, the scope of the problem was obvious.

The first Utah Guardsmen arrived in Nogales, Arizona, just 11 days after the mobilization order was received and were noted for their competence and reliability. They were soon joined by Guardsmen from Idaho, Connecticut, and California. California's governor, Hiram W. Johnson, had likewise jumped on the mobilization process and directed the officers and men of his state's National Guard to assemble at the armories immediately. The entire operation of mustering and transporting the California National Guard to defensive positions on the California-Mexico border was accomplished within two weeks.

Equipment Shortages

One problem common to all of the states was a dramatic shortage of field equipment. The biggest problem was that the Army's depots simply did not have enough equipment to meet the state's demands. There had been problems in the invoice and requisition processes, such as an accidental shipment of materiel to the wrong destination and confusion among unit officers and quartermasters about what equipment was actually on hand for issue. Adding to the field-gear problem was an unusual War Department stipulation that in the event of call-ups, unit commanders were not to requisition needed equipment. Instead, the Army's depots, using lists of the units' projected "war strength," would determine the necessary amount and ship it to the appropriate state mobilization site. Of this practice, Gen. O'Ryan wrote that "it would be difficult for the most cunning mind to devise a scheme better calculated to create confusion, indecision and disorganization at a time of national stress."

An unforeseen byproduct of Pancho Villa's raid was the creation of a well-trained National Guard force just in time for the United States to enter into World War I. The 150,000 Guardsmen that served on the border received more valuable training during their time there than would have been possible in years of normal home-armory training. It also highlighted the growing importance of the National Guard in the U.S. military strategy.

-- Alexander F. Barnes
Virginia National Guard Command Historian

Virginia National Guard Foundation, Inc.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Virginia National Guard Foundation, Inc. is to provide emergency financial assistance in the form of no interest loans or grants to Virginia National Guard service members, employees, and their families in order to enhance their health, safety, well-being, and/or welfare.

Key Facts:

- **Established in 1984**
- **Independent Private Non-Profit Organization 501c3**
- **All Funds Received are from Donations, Contributions and In Memory of Service Members**
- **Emergency Financial Assistance to Virginia National Guard Service Members, Families and Employees**
- **Active and Listed with Combined Federal Campaign and Combined Virginia Campaign**

Board of Directors

The Foundation's Board of Directors is comprised of 25 members both current and retirees of the Virginia National Guard, with over **800** years of experience supporting Service Members.

Statistics

1. **Average over 20 Emergency Loans and Grants every year**
2. **Emergency Funding is provided within 24 hours**
3. **Hours of Operation are 24/7**
4. **Assist Deployed Service Members and Family**

Message from the President

In 1984 when the Adjutant General of Virginia, Major General John G. Castles formed the Virginia National Guard Foundation Inc., it was to serve as a repository of funds to provide financial assistance for Guard members in their time of need. After 34 years of service the foundation continues to provide emergency financial assistance to Virginia National Guard Service Members, families and employees in assisting with emergency housing, utilities, repairs, and additional cost for families associated with Federal and State deployments.

We cannot endow this great Foundation alone. However with your help, we can

“Secure the Promise” that the late General Castles initiated.

--Major General (Ret) Thomas T. Thompson

Tax Deductible Donations, Contributions and In Memory of Service Members

- Combined Virginia Campaign Code: 8376
- Combined Federal Campaign Code: 46732

Or mail directly to:

Virginia National Guard Foundation, Inc.

Bldg 316 Fort Pickett

Blackstone, VA 23824

Email: vangfinc@gmail.com

Phone: (434) 264-4945

Neither the VNGMG nor its constituent organizations is responsible for the following event, although it is a matter of interest to many of our members.



The Inaugural Virginia Army National Guard Retiree Appreciation Day

Sponsored by the VAA/ANGLA & VDF

Saturday, September 21st, 2019
10am - 2pm
Frank B. Lotts Convention Center
Defense Supply Center Richmond
8000 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Richmond, VA 23297

Come out and renew friendships at the new Headquarters of the Virginia National Guard! Be a part of an event to honor the contributions of those who served both Commonwealth and Country. Enjoy light refreshments and visit our Supporting Partners:
Veteran Affairs - DFAS - Tricare - Department of Motor Vehicles - Bellwood Credit Union - Social Security - Dominion Energy - DLA MWR - VaARNG Transition Assistance - VaARNG Family Assistance - Virginia Defense Force - Staff Judge Advocate - Veterans of Foreign War - Embrace Home Loans & More!

REGISTER NOW!
<https://events.eventzilla.net/e/inaugural-virginia-army-national-guard-retiree-appreciation-day-2138741480>

Proper Military ID Required to Enter the DSCR Installation!



For more info contact:
Brad Saunders, VaARNG RSO at Bradford.p.saunders.cdg@gmail.com or through Facebook at "Virginia Army National Guard Retirement Services Office - RSO"

Retiree Appreciation Day

Date: Saturday, 21 September 2019

Time: 10am to 2pm

Location: Defense Supply Center Richmond (DSCR), Frank Lotts Convention Center.

GPS Address: North Gate Entrance, 6002 Strathmore Road, North Chesterfield 23234

While the event is open to all Military Retirees, to include [Virginia Air Guard](#) personnel, we want to get as many VaARNG Retired Soldiers to renew acquaintances and to strengthen our [Alumni network](#). Visit a host of Supporting Partners, including [Veterans Affairs](#), [DFAS](#), [Tricare \(Humana\)](#), [Social Security Administration](#), [Department of Motor Vehicles](#), [Bellwood Credit Union](#), [Embrace Home Loans](#), [Veterans of Foreign Wars](#), [DLA MWR](#), [VaARNG Family Programs and Transition Assistance](#), [Virginia Defense Force \(VDF\)](#), and [Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association \(VAAANGEA\)](#).

***** Register here! *****

Questions & Answers

The [Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association \(VAAANGEA\)](#) will provide a light lunch.

2020 Annual Conference and DMA Military Ball

Save the Date: 27 Feb - 1 Mar 2020

The VNGMG Annual Conference will take place at the



[DoubleTree Midlothian](#), 27 February - 1 March 2020. The [Virginia Department of Military Affairs](#) will host the Military Ball on Saturday, 29 February 2020 at the same location. Registration information for these and other events coming soon, on the [VNGMG website](#).

[Virginia National Guard Management Group](#)