

THE official newsletter of the 124th Fighter Wing

BEACON



March 2012 • Idaho Air National Guard • Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho • "First Class or Not at All" • www.thebeaconlive.com

Engineers return from Florida ready to deploy

By Lt. Col. Gary A. Daniel
Public Affairs Officer

Presented with a wartime environment, austere conditions, and numerous combat civil engineering tasks, the 124th Civil Engineer Squadron successfully dealt with all the challenges of their 2012 version of Silver Flag at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., last month.

The exercise was an important warm-up for the squadron, which will send the majority of its personnel to Afghanistan for a six-month deployment this summer.

"Many of us are repeat visitors," said Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Keelin, 124 CES superintendent, "and some experienced their first CE fight."

The seven-day field exercise demanded craftsmanship and expertise from dozens of civil engineer and services disciplines as 52 CES Airmen and 8 more from the 124th Force Support Squadron's services flight demonstrated their ability to operate in a combat zone.

With a majority of first-time Silver Flag participants, the 124 CES water, fuels and maintenance flight garnered accolades from the permanent-party training staff during the post exercise outbrief, just hours before the squadron's return to Gowen Field at the end of February UTA. During the outbrief evaluators declared Idaho's WFM as the best they've observed in the past two years of Silver Flag.

WFM flight focused on the tasks required to create a bare base in a forward operating location (known as bed down) and then sustain a war fighting posture in theater using Basic Expeditionary Airfield Resources.

"It was eye-opening and worth the effort" said Staff Sgt. Johnnie Jarnagin, an entomology specialist from WFM who completed his first Silver Flag.

Alongside the civil engineers, services flight performed



124th Civil Engineer Squadron power production specialists construct a mobile aircraft arresting system during their weeklong Silver Flag exercise in February at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. (Photo courtesy of 124 CES)

[View
slideshow at
thebeaconlive.](#)

food service, lodging, fuel fired equipment, search and recovery operations, and limited recreation opportunities during Silver Flag.

"CE touches every aspect of the peacetime and wartime operations of our wing," said Maj. Ken Williams, deputy base civil engineer. "Less than every four years, they ask us to prove our ability in the forward operating environment," he said.

During Silver Flag, 124 CES personnel had to coordinate their war fighting with civil engineer specialists from active duty units throughout the weeklong exercise—a practice they see whenever members deploy to current forward operating bases.

"We demonstrated combat skills while we repaired damage to runways and taxiways, erected shelters and base facilities and stayed ready to respond to any emergency," said Sergeant Keelin.

The Beacon is the official newsletter of the 124th Fighter Wing, Idaho Air National Guard. It is published monthly by the wing public affairs office. Views expressed may not be those of the U.S. Air Force, Air National Guard, Department of Defense or U.S. government.

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DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

We welcome articles and captioned photos relevant to members of the 124th Fighter Wing.

Submissions must be accurate in fact, and will be edited for clarity and length. Articles will be published as space permits. They are due on Sunday of the UTA prior to the month the article will be published. Submit articles as e-mail attachments on Microsoft Word. Photographs must be non-copyrighted prints or 300 dpi or higher TIF or JPG images. Articles and images can be sent to:

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www.idaho.ang.af.mil

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

[www.facebook.com/
idahonationalguard](http://www.facebook.com/idahonationalguard)



COMMANDER'S CALL

March Madness is here. No, I'm not talking about NCAA basketball and Kentucky taking the honors. For the Idaho Air Guard, this month is our opportunity to refine skills, processes and procedures as we tackle our final ORE in preparation for the April ORI. I am extremely impressed with what we have accomplished in the last four months. Your professionalism is incredible as each one of you has stepped up and accepted personal responsibility to improve self and participated to increase team capabilities. This is exactly what our Air Guard is all about: personal dedication, professionalism, fostering strong teamwork that amplifies energy required to exceed mission. I firmly believe the March ORE will be an exponential improvement over our past performance.

The fiscal 2013 budget, commonly referred to as PB13, has been released and outlines \$487 billion in defense cuts over the next 10 years. We are relieved that Idaho Air Guard missions are preserved with minimal impact. We should receive manpower numbers in early March and we anticipate all states will take some manpower reduction. How this impacts Idaho is not known. Should we be tasked to reduce numbers, this will be implemented over time and should follow a normal attrition plan. Senior leadership at both the state and national levels agree

our number one objective is to take care of people (Airmen and families). Enormous time and energy is dedicated to you and your family. Leadership's second objective is that we will not have a hollow force.

Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, director of the Air National Guard, asks each of us to ensure Airmen remain focused on their jobs. Don't become discouraged, frustrated or angry as that course could lead to distraction, accidents and negatively impact our course. He also asks each of us to remain vigilant of each other – be a Wingman. PB13

announcements will stress some of us out — watch for stress signs, be proactive in engaging stress, encourage open discussion and don't hesitate to ask questions of us or seek assistance. General Wyatt confirms that we are America's greatest treasure and we will remain relevant in tomorrow's national defense picture.

Remember that you are your family's greatest treasure. Take time this month to engage or re-engage with family. Take advantage of Spring Break. Do something fun with your family to unwind and re-charge your batteries as we will need your "A Game" going into April's ORI. Be safe as you work hard and play strong. If you can, enjoy Lent. Take time to reflect on that what fills your thoughts; through reflection and quiet time you may find a source of comfort, encouragement and strength.



By Col. J.R. Compton
124th Fighter Wing Commander

SPECIAL INSERT TO THE BEACON ~ MARCH 2012

EDUCATION

**AN UPDATED
INTERACTIVE
GUIDE
TO YOUR
BENEFITS**

EDUCATION IS WITHIN YOUR REACH

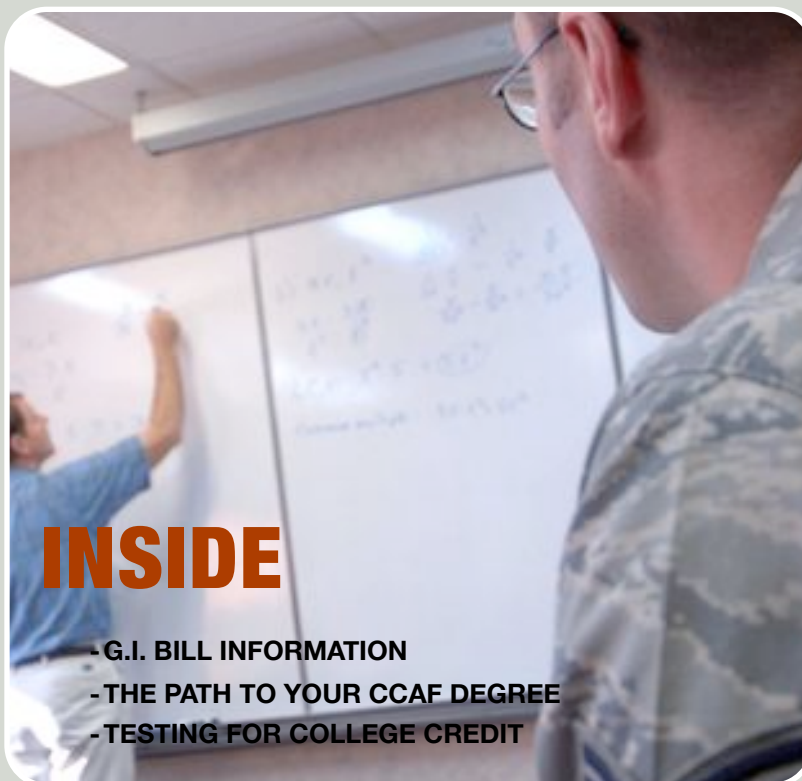
Life is full of changes - WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

some good, some bad, some planned, some unexpected.

One thing that will stay with you through all that life throws at you is an education. Education is priceless, never expires, never goes out of style, and no one can take it from you.

As a member of the Idaho Air National Guard there are many educational resources at your fingertips that your civilian counterparts don't have.

- Your education can be a deciding factor in promotions and employment in the Guard.
- Even you are not ready to pursue an education your family can use some of your benefits
- There is a window of opportunity for many benefits so take advantage of them while you can.
- You may be closer to getting a degree than you think. Many people just need to transfer credits to the Community College of the Air Force in order to earn a degree.



INSIDE

- G.I. BILL INFORMATION
- THE PATH TO YOUR CCAF DEGREE
- TESTING FOR COLLEGE CREDIT

The Lowdown on the G.I. Bill

All members of the Air National Guard with at least a six year commitment, whether you have deployed or not, are eligible for some form G.I. Bill assistance. Your benefits come in the form of tuition reimbursement paid directly to the school

you attend, and, depending on the type of G.I. Bill you are eligible for, allowances for book and housing expenses, as well.

There are two basic forms of the G.I. Bill. The new Post-9/11 G.I. Bill and the older Montgomery G.I. Bill.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill ([Chapter 33](#)) provides financial support for education, housing and books to individuals with at least 90 days of

aggregate service after Sept. 10, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

The familiar Montgomery G.I. Bill ([Chapter 1606](#)) - Selected Reserve pays a flat rate to cover tuition costs based on a student's rate of pursuit (part time/full time). You have to be

an active member of the Guard in order to receive benefits. [Chapter 1607](#) - Reserve Educational Assistance Program, which provides additional benefit to those who have served in contingency operations, is available to you after your active service ends, as is [Chapter 30](#), which applies to those who served in active duty prior to joining the Guard.

Four year degree not for you?

There are new opportunities available for on-the-job training, non-college degrees, flight training, apprenticeships, and correspondence courses. Learn more at www.gibill.va.gov

Got a question about the G.I. Bill?



This guy knows
the answer.

Phil Wickliff

(208) 577-2298

phil.wickliff@veterans.idaho.gov

Veterans Education Coordinator

- Retired Naval Aviator, '74-'94
- Earned M.A. in Management from Central Michigan University using his G.I. Bill
- Former Director of Financial Aid/Veterans Education Certifying Official, Apollo College
- Conducts training and outreach on veterans education benefits statewide

**WATCH HIS
COMPREHENSIVE
POST-9/11 G.I. BILL
BRIEFING ONLINE
RIGHT NOW:**

TheBeaconLive.com



The Community College of the Air Force serves more than 320,000 airmen worldwide making it the largest community college system in the world.

Master Sgt. Bonnie Davis, former base training manager in Bldg. 400 (Senior Master Sgt. Matt Massengale was recently hired for the position) said that the Air Force is getting more serious about Airmen earning degrees through CCAF. In fact, it may soon be a requirement for promotion.

"There are a lot of people who have degrees and just haven't had their college transcript sent to the CCAF. Others are as few as 6 credits away and could CLEP the required classes," said Davis.

A CCAF degree is a 64 credit Associate degree that you can earn for any Air Force Specialty Code in which you have attained at least a five level. You can receive multiple CCAF degrees if you cross train into a new career field. You are automatically enrolled into the CCAF when you complete basic training so that you can have your basic training and technical

school credits transferred from the CCAF to a college or university.

To see if the CCAF will accept your college credits visit the Civilian Course Conversion Table see instructions below to get CCAF Transcripts.

CCAF 64 Credit Breakdown:

4 Physical Education Credit (Basic Training)

24 Technical Credits (Tech School)

6 Management (Airman Leadership School or CDC)

15 Program Electives

15 General Education (Speech, English, Math, Social Sciences, Humanities)

***Program Electives and Education credits can be fulfilled by CLEP courses**

The most commonly overlooked classes required for a CCAF degree are math and speech, both of which can be completed through CLEP testing. When all CCAF credit requirements are met the education office will nominate you for CCAF graduation. A graduation ceremony is held annually in the fall. The next CCAF graduation will be held during the September UTA. Around 15 airmen each year graduate from the CCAF here.

CCAF: They did it. So can you.



You've got your AFSC. Now get your degree.

Find your AFSC under the CCAF degree list below.
Follow the link by clicking on your AFSC* to see
exactly what you need to complete your degree. *Online reading only

Aviation Operations

[1A0X1](#), [1A1X1](#), [1A2X1](#), [1A6X1](#), [1A7X1](#)

Information Systems Technology

[1A3X1](#), [1C4X1](#)

Air & Space Operations Technology

[1A4X1](#), [1U0X1](#), [1W0X1](#), [1C5X1](#), [1C6X1](#)

Intelligence Studies and Technology

[1A8X1](#), [1NXX](#), [8D000](#), [9L000](#)

Cybersecurity

[1B4X1](#)

Aviation Management

[1C0X2](#), [1C7X1](#)

Air Traffic Operations and Management

[1C1X1](#), [1C2X1](#)

Emergency Management

[1C3X1](#), [3E9X1](#)

Aircrew Safety Systems Technology

[1P0X1](#)

Safety

[1S0X1](#)

Survival Instructor

[1T0X1](#)

Personnel Recovery

[1T2X1](#)

Weather Technology

[1W0X1](#), [1W0X2](#)

Avionic Systems Technology

[2A0X1](#), [2A3X1](#), [2A3X2](#), [2A5X3](#)

Aviation Maintenance Technology

[2A3X3](#), [2A5X1](#), [2A5X2](#), [2A6X1](#), [2A6X3](#), [2A6X4](#), [2A6X5](#), [2A6X6](#)

Aerospace Ground Equipment Technology

[2A6X2](#)

Metals Technology

[2A7X1](#)

Nondestructive Testing Technology

[2A7X2](#)

Aircraft Structural Maintenance Technology

[2A7X3](#), [2A7X5](#)

Logistics

[2F0X1](#), [2G0X1](#), [2S0X1](#), [4A1X1](#)

Electronic Systems Technology

[2M0X1](#), [2P0X1](#), [3D1X2](#), [3D1X3](#), [3D1X5](#), [3D1X6](#), [3D1X7](#)

Missile & Space Systems Maintenance

[2M0X2](#)

Mechanical & Electrical Technology

[2M0X3](#), [3E0X1](#), [3E0X2](#), [3E1X1](#), [3E4X1](#)

Maintenance Production Management

[2RXX](#), [2T3X7](#), [3E6X1](#)

Transportation

[2T0X1](#), [2T1X1](#), [2T2X1](#)

Vehicle Maintenance

[2T3X1](#), [2T3X2](#)

Munitions Systems Technology

[2W0X1](#), [2W2X1](#)

Aircraft Armament Systems Technology

[2W1X1](#)

Information Management

[3D0X1](#), [8M000](#), [8P100](#)

Information Systems Technology

[3D0X2](#), [3D0X3](#), [3D1X1](#), [3D1X4](#),

Computer Science

[3D0X4](#)

Construction Technology

[3E2X1](#), [3E3X1](#), [3E5X1](#)

Entomology

[3E4X3](#)

Fire Science

[3E7X1](#)

Explosive Ordnance Disposal

[3E8X1](#)

Aerospace Historian

[3H0X1](#)

Restaurant, Hotel & Fitness Management

[3M0X1](#), [8A200](#)

Public Affairs

[3N0X1](#), [3N0X2](#),

Multimedia Production Services

[3N0X4](#)

Music

[3N1X1](#), [3N2X1](#)

Criminal Justice

[3P0X1](#), [7S0X1](#)

Human Resource Management

[3S0X1](#), [3S3X1](#), [8F000](#), [8RXX](#)

Social Services

[3S1X1](#), [5R0X1](#), [8C000](#)

Education & Training Management

[3S2X1](#), [8B100](#)

Health Care Management

[4A0X1](#)

Biomedical Equipment Technology

[4A2X1](#)

Bioenvironmental Engineering Technology

[4B0X1](#)

Mental Health Services

[4C0X1](#)

Dietetics & Nutrition

[4D0X1](#)

Public Health Technology

[4E0X1](#)

Cardiopulmonary Laboratory Technology

[4H0X1](#)

Physical Therapist Assistant

[4J0X2](#)

Allied Health Sciences

[4J0X2A](#)

Aerospace Physiology Technology

[4M0X1](#)

Allied Health Sciences

[4N0X1](#)

Surgical Services Technology

[4N1X1](#)

Pharmacy Technology

[4P0X1](#)

Diagnostic Imaging Technology

[4R0X1](#)

Nuclear Medicine Technology

[4R0X1A](#)

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

[4R0X1B](#)

CCAF TRANSCRIPTS

The CCAF will only accept civilian college transcripts directly from civilian institutions. Transcripts must be sent to the following address:

CCAF/DESS

100 South Turner Blvd.
Maxwell AFB, AL 36114-3011

To get a CCAF Transcript,
log on to Air Force Portal at
www.my.af.mil

- Scroll down to Education/ Training/Force Development (under "Top Portal Links" on left side)
- Click on the AFVEC-AF Virtual Ed Center or search for "Virtual Education"
- Under Self Service Options click Application
 - a. My CCAF Progress Report to check your degree progress
 - b. Request CCAF transcript to order a transcript to send to a college or get a personal copy
 - c. CCAF Course Conversion to see if a college course counts for a CCAF Degree

Diagnostic Imaging Technology

[4R0X1C](#)

Medical Laboratory Technology

[4T0X1](#)

Histologic Technology

[4T0X2](#)

Ophthalmic Technician

[4V0X1](#)

Dental Assisting

[4Y0X1](#)

Dental Laboratory Technology

[4Y0X2](#)

Paralegal

[5J0X1](#)

Contracts Management

[6C0X1](#)

Financial Management

[6F0X1](#)

Scientific Analysis Technology

[9S100](#)

CLEP/DSST INFORMATION

Worker smarter, not harder.

College credit is just a test away.

The College-Level Examination

Program® (CLEP) lets you earn college credit for what you already know by earning qualifying scores on any of 33 introductory-level college subject examinations.

DSST, Formerly DANTES, tests offer college credit exams in 38 additional subjects.

Because these exams are funded by the United States government through the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES), you could save hundreds, even thousands, of dollars toward your degree.

The 90-minute exams are administered at over **1,700 colleges** across the country and on-base testing centers worldwide. Credits are granted for successful scores at **2,900 colleges and universities**.

Free testing at Mountain Home AFB

CLEP and DSST tests can be taken for free at Mountain Home AFB. The first test is free but you better study. If you don't pass you must wait six months to retake the same test and pay \$97 for CLEP tests and \$100 for DSST. You can take

any other test for free and immediately, even if you failed another test.

Call 828-6746 to get all the details and testing schedule.

You need to bring special ID on test day. When you go to take an exam, be sure to bring a current "Common Access Card" and a second form of ID with your signature, such as your driver's license or passport.

You can also call the Base Education and Training Office at 422-5371 for more information.

HELPFUL LINKS

www.getcollegedecredit.com

<http://clep.collegeboard.org/military>

[www.collegeboard.com/
student/testing/clep/
exams.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/clep/exams.html)

[www.petersons.com/airforce/
testprep.html](http://www.petersons.com/airforce/testprep.html)

GOWEN FIELD CLASSES

Boise State's Gowen Field Campus offers core academic classes in all three of the required areas for students to complete an Associates degree. Upper division courses to complete the Bachelor of Applied Science degree are also available. Gowen Field classes are open to military members, their dependents and the general public. Stop by the Boise State office in Building 521 at Gowen Field. or call (208) 824-7017. You can also check it out online: <http://boisestate.edu/extendedstudies/gowenfield/>

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Senior Airman David Anderson, 23, enlisted in the Idaho Air National Guard in 2008. After a half-hearted effort in college, Anderson, a Mountain Home High School graduate, decided he needed some direction.

"I had a great time in college my first time around, I just didn't go to class," he said.

After completing basic training and technical school, and really paying attention to the kind of money on the table for him to attend school, Anderson says he got serious.

He balanced a full-time course load, a job at Bodybuilding.com and a drill schedule to complete his degree in three years.

He got his G.I. Bill (Chapter 1606), plus a kicker and even took advantage of the State Tuition Assistance Program - until it was discontinued.

He is now ready to graduate, has already taken the Air Force Officer Qualification Test, and is pursuing commissioning opportunities. He credits the money he received from the Guard for helping him get through school.

"I guarantee getting that money for school is probably the only reason I am in this position," said Anderson.

Senior Airman
David Anderson

124th Force Support
Squadron

STATS

- Attends Boise State University
- Communications major
- Averages 12-18 credits a semester
- Has been a year-round full-time student since 2009
- Receives \$695 each full month he is in school
- Will graduate in May 2012



CONGRATULATIONS OUTSTANDING AIRMEN OF THE QUARTER

AIRMAN



SRA AMMON M. DADDABBO
124TH AIR SUPPORT OPERATIONS SQUADRON

NCO



SSGT MATTHEW R. SCHEXNAYDER
212TH COMMAND AND CONTROL SQUADRON

SENIOR NCO



MSGT DAVID J. RIEKER
124TH SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON

THEY'RE BUYING

Congratulations to the following newly promoted Airmen!

MSGT Terry L. Gergen, MXS
MSGT Leland J. Patnaude, MXS
TSgt Jacob L. Anderson, 266 RANS
TSgt Zachary A. Shields, LRS
TSgt David W. Thomas, MXS
TSgt Harvey E. Williams, CF

SSgt Adam C. Keller, SFS
SSgt Riley J. Newman, LRS
SSgt Jacob A. Odom, AMXS
SrA Ammon M. Daddabbo, ASOS
SrA Jordan R. Strong, CES
SrA Jacob L. Williams, SFS

Boise State offering scholarships to students going back after a break

Good news for those who wish to go back to school after being away for awhile.

Boise State has received \$50,000 in scholarships to award to reentry students during the 2012-2013 academic school year, thanks to the generosity of the Bernard Osher Foundation.

Approximately 25 scholarships will be awarded, ranging up to \$1,250 for part-time students and \$2,500 for those going full time.

Get all the information and apply for scholarships online. Go to www.boisestate.edu/extendedstudies/scholarships, or, better yet, if you are reading this online, just click on the URL above.

Look for links to unleash the true power of The Beacon

Since we know that the vast majority of our readers view the PDF version of our beloved newsletter, we are doing some things to make it a more interactive experience for you, our beloved reader. Look for active hyperlinks to web-based content throughout this and future issues. If there is additional content related to a story or photo that space limits us from including in this printed version of the newsletter, we will link you to the related content on *The Beacon Live* using the following link:



You'll need to be a member in order to access the additional content, so go there right now and register if you haven't already.

Publisher's note:

The education supplement was an extraordinary amount of work by two extremely busy 124th Public Affairs staffers. Tech. Sgt. Sarah Pokorney gathered much of the data during the past two UTA periods and throughout the past two months as her civilian career job allowed. Capt. Tony Vincelli has barely caught his breath returning from a 179+ day deployment and immersed himself into making the issue relevant to you, The Beacon (live and print) audience. Please share this information with a friends, family members and co-workers if you believe they could benefit.

Please give us feedback (via e-mail or in the educational supplement comment block on thebeaconlive.com) about what you liked or disliked about the issue. We improve when we can hear your voice.

- Lt. Col. Gary A. Daniel



124th Fighter Wing
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All Military and Retirees
are invited to attend a
Saint Patricks Day
Celebration at the
Gowen Field Activity Center

Stop by for complimentary
Beer
Corned Beef & Cabbage

Saturday March 17
4:30 p.m.

Sponsored by:
Idaho Officers' Association
Idaho Enlisted Association

INGOA President: Protect our future — Join your professional organization

Dear fellow Officers and Guardsmen:

As your new president of the Idaho National Guard Officers' Association, I want to take a moment to address the significance and importance of your local and national professional organizations. It has been said many times before but rings as true today as ever before, in the light of the current fiscal environment, we are facing a critical time regarding the future of the National Guard. Participating as a member of INGOA and the National Guard Association of the United States is your way to ensure your voice and message is heard with regard to the sacrifice and contributions our National Guard members and families make in serving and defending our great country.

These are most certainly historic times in the 134-year history of NGAUS. We have not only seen our Chief of the National Guard Bureau promoted to a four star General, but have also witnessed for the first time in history the placement of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This is one of the biggest legislative victories for the Guard in the last century and was most certainly due in large

part to the combined efforts of our three primary professional organizations: NGAUS, the Adjutants General Association of the United States and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States. What better example do we need to see the power of our membership in our professional organizations in an effort to ensure our voices are heard?

Other examples of NGAUS efforts include secured re-employment rights for Title 32 Guard duty and the expanded ability of healthcare professionals to reach our members who live in rural areas. Current efforts include resolutions for H-60 Mobile Aircrew Restraint System for all ARNG H-60 aircraft and real-time information into the Cockpit upgrades for multiple ANG flying platforms. NGAUS is also thwarting efforts to cut drill pay as a way to reduce the deficit. With your support to the local organization, INGOA, we are able ensure your voice and concerns are heard at the national level and that we as the Idaho National Guard are properly represented in the efforts mentioned above.

Your new executive committee is excited about moving the INGOA forward. New changes are on the way to include a new web site, Facebook page, and an online dues payment option. We are in the middle of our membership drive so please take a moment to consider your participation in the INGOA and NGAUS professional



HIGHLIGHTS:

- **There has never been a more critical time for the National Guard**
- **Professional organizations are driving positive changes and thwarting cuts**
- **Join NGAUS, INGOA and EANGUS to ensure Idaho is represented!**

organizations. Membership POCs include Lt.Col. Miguel Lopez (ARNG) and 1st Lt. Jennifer Davis (ANG). Please feel free to contact me, as well. We appreciate your support and are always interested in your concerns or feedback. Your membership ensures the Idaho National Guard has a strong voice in our future.

- Lt. Col. Jeffery Aebischer