



Dear TSGA Member,

We are pleased to report that the long discussed and much negotiated merger with the National Guard Association of Texas (NGAT) has been moving forward and is in the final stages of completion. The TSGA has been able to obtain the majority of what we desired including:

- (1) Merger of the Texas State Guard Association into NGAT as the new Texas State Guard component, along with the Army National Guard, Air Force National Guard, and Retired Life Members.
- (2) One full voting director from the State Guard on the NGAT Board of Directors.
- (3) State Guard assignment of 5% of voting delegates at conventions.
- (4) Full inclusion of the State Guard in all future NGAT conventions, events, activities, and meetings. No longer just as an associated organization.
- (5) Management and administration of State Guard based memberships by full time staff at NGAT headquarters in Austin.
- (6) Conversion of all current TSGA annual members to NGAT annual memberships, not associate memberships.
- (7) Conversion of all current TSGA life members to full life NGAT memberships. As the NGAT life membership dues range from \$150 to \$500 depending on rank, becoming a TSGA life member at our set fee of \$150 before the merger is finalized is highly recommended.
- (8) Opportunity to negotiate with the NGAT insurance carrier for discounted rates for State Guard members.
- (9) During annual NGAT membership drives, 25% of all membership dues paid to be donated to the TXSG.
- (10) All discounts plans and offers (travel/hotel/purchases) available as full NGAT members.
- (11) Quarterly newsletters mailed to every member.
- (12) Full recognition of the TXSG as an equal member of the Texas Military Forces in NGAT publications and on the website. TXSG promotions, accomplishments, and awards published in the NGAT newsletter.
- (13) State Guard specific awards (Bowie, Travis, Sequin, and Houston) to be retained and presented at the annual NGAT awards dinner.
- (14) State Guard afforded level-field for all contests available to NGAT members and units.

Our first board member will be an officer nominated by MG Richard Box for a maximum 2 year term, thereafter this position will rotate between enlisted members and commissioned members nominated by the Commanding General TXSG and confirmed at the yearly break-out convention session by the State Guard based membership. Initially, the State Guard director will not be eligible for the NGAT executive committee. We fully expect that our new Director will push for executive committee eligibility as soon as possible.

Of special note is that the Texas State Guard Association Trust will not merge into NGAT. At the yearly break out session, the trustees for the TSGA Trust will be reconfirmed or new trustees voted in. As the TXSGA Trust Fund will be retained in whole by the State Guard members we expect to award scholastic scholarships to deserving members of the TXSG and/or their family members. This will be available only to TXSG members. This fund has been in a low-yield account for years without any growth. To allow the awarding of more and larger scholarships while leaving the "Principal" untouched, the monies will need to be moved into a higher yielding account. As a membership, we could consider having the 25% of dues refunded by NGAT added to the Trust Fund to ensure its growth.

NGAT will be publishing the needed bylaw changes for their organization in their upcoming Winter newsletter. The NGAT membership is expected to vote on the bylaw changes at the 2005 Annual Convention making the merger final. In the meantime we highly encourage you to visit our current website at www.flighttoday.com/TSGA/ for updates and make plans for the 2005 NGAT Convention in Houston, 17-20 March 2005.

Respectfully Submitted,

TXGA Executive Committee