

29 October 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR Iowa National Guard Officer Association

SUBJECT: Review of the 129th NGAUS Conference as an officer development attendee

1. I was very honored to attend the 129th NGAUS Conference in both the officer development capacity as well as the Army Resolutions Chair. Both of these positions provided me with an extremely valuable learning experience.
2. I had very high expectation going into the conference and they were all met. I looked forward to meeting other officers outside of my battalion and to begin building relationships that undoubtedly will last for the duration of my career. I was able to learn and network with a range of officers from General Officers to Company Grade Officers. The amount of knowledge and professionalism within this organization reaffirmed my confidence and pride of the National Guard.
3. The quality of the speakers at the conference was also very impressive. It was clear to see by the caliber of speakers, how truly regarded this organization is. This was another aspect of the conference that exceeded my expectations. The speeches that were given during the conference were both engaging and relevant. The topics ranged greatly, but all were either important to the improvement of the National Guard or to our growth as officers. This was a key aspect of the officer professional development.
3. I was extremely eager and honored to be the Army Resolutions Chair. This experience was personally the best of the entire conference. It enabled me to see the entire process through from the INGOA Annual Meeting through the debate and voting process at the national level. I was able to interact with the employees that work for NGAUS and see the work that they do. Also, the chance to interact with the other members of the committee was very valuable.
4. I strongly recommend that this program be continued. I have only a few suggestions and controls that could be added to improve the effectiveness of the program. First, I don't believe that the initial opportunity to apply for the grant reached enough of the junior officers. I think "advertising" this grant would be another way to get the mission of the organization out to newly appointed officers. I believe challenging the company commanders to get their new lieutenants to submit a nomination application for the grant could do this. Second, I believe the officers that are chosen should have to attend a short seminar prior to attending, to inform them of the mission of these organizations and the purpose of the national conference. Perhaps this short seminar could be primarily conducted by the previous year awardees. Third, I think that the awardees should be required to attend the following year's INGOA Annual Business Meeting. I think they should be recognized during the business meeting and maybe their dinner meals could be purchased by the INGOA. This would help them to see the entire process and make them see the additional benefits to being a part of the organization.
5. I feel this past year as a member of the INGOA has been an incredible learning experience and has helped in my development greatly. It was topped off with the trip to Puerto Rico, which helped in completing the total understanding of exactly why the INGOA and NGAUS are so important. Above all the trip to Puerto Rico solidified to me what the INGOA and NGAUS truly is about. It showed me that these organizations are actually a catalyst to improve all aspects of readiness for the Soldiers in the

National Guard. To me serving in these organizations gives me another way to address the changes that need to happen in order to ensure the National Guard is recognized and funded for the outstanding job we do everyday. I believe these organizations are an extremely valuable resource considering the current operating environment and as leaders we must utilize every avenue we have to keep the Guard strong.

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