

CPT Cook  
After Action Report  
2008 NGAUS Convention  
Baltimore, MD 20-22 SEP 2008

Business Meetings and General Sessions: These were both interesting and enlightening. There was a “star list” of keynote speakers. It was interesting to hear different perspectives, with a consistent theme. I have nothing of note to recommend regarding sustains or improvements in this category.

Officer Professional Development Sessions: It was evident that this is a priority of the NGAUS. The programming was well planned and executed. The company grade business meeting on Sunday was particularly interesting and enlightening. The caucusing was a positive experience.

Social Functions: This has been the best “mandatory fun” that I’ve had in my 23 year career. Free food and drink along with priceless comradeship and the opportunity to see Ft. McHenry, Orioles Stadium, the Baltimore Sports Museum, along with other sights of the Baltimore inner harbor area. The formal dinner was also well done.

INGOA and Iowa Delegation: Its obvious that the association, the Iowa delegation, and its members value this conference and the inclusion of company grade participants. This is what impressed me the most. BGs, COLs, and other field grade officers taking company grade officers and first time attendees “under their wing” in both the business meetings and social functions. The need and desire to mentor a new “generation” of association members is both obvious and evident.

Summary/Other Observations:

1. The NGAUS convention is the obvious highlight of the year. This truly shows the importance of the INGOA annual business meeting. If more people understood, we would have more attendance at our state business meeting. We need to figure out a way to get the officers of Iowa to get more actively involved in this process.
2. Vendors: This was interesting as well. I did notice that several states had booths marketing their services. There were at least 3 RTIs there. The 185<sup>th</sup> has many solid assets that could be marketed as well. Would it be worth the cost to do so?
3. I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this endeavor. I would be interested in being more involved in INGOA, and in the NGAUS convention, whether it be as a field grade or as a retiree. I would concur that this mentoring opportunity needs to continue being supported and resourced.

Respectfully,

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Chad A. Cook  
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