

INGOA AND NGAUS AWARDS PROGRAM

DESK GUIDE



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- I. **Purpose:** The Iowa National Guard Officers Association and NGAUS Awards Program is designed to recognize individuals who, by superior performance, acts of heroism or service of a meritorious nature, contribute to the goals of the Association, to the purpose and effectiveness of the Iowa National Guard or to the stability and security of the United States. Members may also visit the INGOA website for award justification examples, past award recipients, current nomination forms and suspense dates for both INGOA and NGAUS awards.

II. **Awards Program Execution:**

1. Committee on Awards: The INGOA Awards Committee handles coordinating the annual call for nominations, reviewing said nominations (both INGOA and NGAUS – individual awards), and makes final recommendations on selections to the Board of Directors. They are similarly charged with ensuring that the INGOA Awards Program is administered properly and effectively. The committee should consist of both Army and Air Representatives; a single service may represent the committee during a service seat vacancy.

2. Nomination and Selection Procedures:

a. INGOA award solicitations will be emailed out to Area Presidents, Major Subordinate Command (MSC) Commanders, IANG Directorates, and Wing Commanders in coordination with the Chief of Staff – Army and Director of Staff – Air NET the 1st of November and NLT the 15th of November.

b. INGOA award nominations are due to the Awards Committee NLT 15 January.

c. INGOA nominations will be reviewed, verified, and a formal recommendation sent by the Awards Committee to the Board of Directors on or before the monthly INGOA meeting in February each year. The INGOA Board of Directors must approve, by vote, all award recommendations.

d. NGAUS Award nominations are due NLT Jan 15th to the Awards Committee; NGAUS Award open season begins 15 Nov (the preceding year) and closes 15 Feb. NGAUS Award nominations are organized and sent by the INGOA Awards Committee but are vetted and selected by a specific committee at NGAUS.

e. NGAUS nominations will be reviewed, verified, and a formal recommendation sent by the Awards Committee to the Board of Directors on or before the monthly INGOA meeting in Feb each year.

f. The INGOA Board of Directors must approve, by vote, all award recommendations before sending them to NGAUS. They are due by Feb 15th and are announced on/around 1 April.

3. Presentation of Awards: INGOA Awards are presented during the Association's annual business meeting to afford maximum statewide visibility. NGAUS award winners are notified through their state association, and presented at the annual, NGAUS conference during the general business portion of the conference. If not available to attend NGAUS, they will be presented at the next available unit function or the following INGOA conference.

4. Award Standing Stock-level Management:

a. The Awards Committee Chairperson(s) will report to the board the status of awards currently on-hand in the INGOA supply room in order to project which awards will need to be ordered. Due to ordering quantities and price some awards may have to be ordered in bulk to save on cost. The goal is to always have at least one year's supply of awards on hand, three years on hand is ideal.

- Preferred Vendor: APS (Awards Program Services, Inc) POC: Joel Fertig Vice President, 515-270-5881, 10627 Aurora Ave, Des Moines, Iowa 50322. Email: aps5881@aol.com website: www.apsawards.com

III. **INGOA Awards Descriptions:**

1. **Major General Warren G. Lawson Leadership Award:**

(General Lawson INGOA Leadership Award)

a. **Purpose:** Recognize those individuals that demonstrate the ideals and values for which the Iowa National Guard represents. Integrity, professionalism and loyalty are key elements of this award. Individuals must have made sustained contributions of an exceptional and far-reaching magnitude to the United States, the Department of Defense and the Iowa National Guard in a manner worthy of recognition at the State Headquarters level.

b. **Criteria:** Must be a member or retired member of the Iowa National Guard.

c. **Description:** Minuteman on a walnut pedestal with inscription, and color engraved Air National Guard and Army National Guard emblems on brass plate.

d. **Limitation:** Maximum one (1) award per year.

2. **Distinguished Service Award:**

(INGOA Distinguished Service Award)

a. **Purpose:** To recognize an individual who has distinguished himself or herself by exceptionally meritorious service in a position of great responsibility.

b. **Criteria:** May be a member or retired member of the Iowa National Guard or civilian.

- Includes any person who served, or is currently serving, the State of Iowa or the Iowa National Guard in any role.
- The performance must be such as to merit recognition for service, which is clearly exceptional.
- Exceptional performance of assigned duties will not alone justify award.
- The term “position of great responsibility” requires evidence of conspicuously significant achievement. However, justification of this award may accrue by virtue of exceptionally meritorious service in a succession of high positions of great importance.

c. **Description:** U.S. flag flown in front of Joint Force Headquarters-Iowa, presented in a triangle walnut case with inscription, and color Air National Guard and Army National Guard emblems on brass plate.

d. **Limitation:** Maximum one (1) award per year.

3. **CW4 Bruce A Smith Award for Superior Achievement:**

(INGOA Superior Achievement Award)

a. **Purpose:** To recognize an active or retired member of the Iowa National Guard who has demonstrated exceptional achievement in the Iowa National Guard. Achievements within INGOA are not a requirement for this award.

b. **Criteria:** Must be either a current or retired member of the Iowa Army or Iowa Air National Guard. Must either be a Non-Commissioned Officer, Warrant Officer, Commissioned Officer, or Retiree.

- Must be an active or retired member of the either INGOA, EANGUS, or NGAUS
- Must have proven leadership excellence (command time and staff time are not necessarily an indicator of proven leadership excellence).

c. **Description:** Cherrywood Plaque with Eagle Head, looking over Award Recipient and INGOA Emblem.

d. **Limitation:** Maximum one (1) Army and one (1) Air award per year. The INGOA Executive Board has the option of awarding two (2) awards per year (either Air or Army), if either the Army or Air National Guard do not submit a deserving recommendation.

4. **Outstanding Corporate Support Award:**

(INGOA Outstanding Corporate Support Award)

a. **Purpose:** To recognize a corporation, business, organization, company, or other industrial related groups who have made noteworthy contributions to the Iowa

National Guard Officer's Association and demonstrated support to the INGOA over several years of service.

b. **Criteria:** Must be an organization involved with the Iowa National Guard over several years.

c. **Description:** Walnut plaque cut to the shape of the State of Iowa with the INGOA symbol displayed appropriately.

d. **Limitation:** Maximum two (2) awards per year.

5. **Outstanding Support Award:**

(INGOA Outstanding Support Award)

a. **Purpose:** To recognize a member (active or retired) of the Iowa National Guard, family members, individual citizen(s) or group of citizens who have made noteworthy contributions to the Iowa National Guard Officer's Association.

b. **Criteria:** May be a member or retired member of the Iowa National Guard, other active or retired military member, or civilian.

c. **Description:** Walnut plaque cut to the shape of the State of Iowa with the INGOA symbol displayed appropriately.

d. **Limitation:** Maximum five (5) awards per year.

6. **Junior Officer Award:**

(INGOA Company Grade Meritorious Service Award)

a. **Purpose:** To recognize a company grade officer who, while a member of the Iowa National Guard, is distinguished by exceptionally meritorious service who, by unselfish and untiring efforts, renders a distinctive service in furthering the interests of the Iowa National Guard Officer's Association and the Iowa National Guard.

b. **Criteria:** - Army or Air National Guard officers in the grade of Lieutenant or Captain (company grade officer), or CWO or CW2 are eligible.

- Current member of the INGOA and NGAUS.

- Nominee must have been an active member of the Iowa National Guard one-year prior to being considered for the award.

- Must have constructive attendance at annual training and all UTAs.

- Must have proven leadership excellence (command time is not necessarily an indicator of proven leadership excellence).

c. **Description:** Flying Eagle Statue with engraving. The Air National Guard (ANG) award will have a color engraved ANG emblem, and the Army National Guard (ARNG) award will have a color engraved ARNG emblem on the base.

d. **Limitation:** One (1) Army and One (1) Air award per year. Two awards from the same service may be awarded, if no other qualifying nominations are received from the other service. This must be approved by the INGOA Executive Committee.

7. **OCS Award:**

(INGOA Officer Candidate Meritorious Service Award)

a. **Purpose:** To recognize an Iowa National Guard Officer Candidate who, while a member of the Iowa National Guard and OCS Program, who distinguished themselves by demonstrating exceptional achievement while serving as an Officer Candidate.

b. **Criteria:** - Army Officer Candidate in either phase 2 or 3 of the program.

- Nominee must be an active member of the Iowa National Guard.
- Must have constructive attendance at annual training and all UTAs.
- Must have proven leadership excellence.

c. **Description:** 8” Bronze Eagle Head Statue with the INGOA symbol and NGAUS logo.

d. **Limitation:** One (1) award per year. The award will be presented at the OCS graduation ceremony and the award recipient will also be recognized at the annual business meeting. The award recipient will also receive a stipend for the recognition dinner for themselves and one guest so that they may attend the TAGs recognition dinner; stipend and schedule to be coordinated by the INGOA Secretary.

8. **WOC Award:**

(INGOA Warrant Officer Candidate Meritorious Service Award)

a. **Purpose:** To recognize an Iowa National Guard Warrant Officer Candidate who, while a member of the Iowa National Guard and WOC Program, who distinguished themselves by demonstrating exceptional achievement while serving as a Warrant Officer Candidate.

b. **Criteria:** - Army Warrant Officer Candidate in the final phase of the program.

- Nominee must be an active member of the Iowa National Guard.
- Must have constructive attendance at annual training and all UTAs.
- Must have proven leadership excellence.

c. **Description:** 8” Bronze Eagle Head Statue with the INGOA symbol and NGAUS logo.

d. **Limitation:** One (1) award per year. The award will be presented at the WOC graduation ceremony and the award recipient will also be recognized at the annual business meeting. The award recipient will also receive a stipend for the recognition

dinner for themselves and one guest so that they may attend the TAGs recognition dinner; stipend and schedule to be coordinated by the INGOA Secretary.

9. **ROTC SMP Award:**

(INGOA ROTC SMP Meritorious Service Award)

a. **Purpose:** To recognize an Iowa National Guard SMP Cadet who, while a member of the Iowa National Guard and ROTC Program, who distinguished themselves by demonstrating exceptional achievement while serving as a SMP Cadet.

b. **Criteria:** - Army SMP Cadet in their MS4 year.

- Nominee must be an active member of the Iowa National Guard.

- Must have constructive attendance at annual training and all UTAs.

- Must have proven leadership excellence.

- Must be a SMP Cadet serving in the Iowa National Guard and contracted to commission into the Iowa National Guard.

c. **Description:** 8” Bronze Eagle Head Statue with the INGOA symbol and NGAUS Logo.

d. **Limitation:** One (1) award per year. The award will be presented at the annual business meeting and the award recipient will also receive a stipend for the recognition dinner for themselves and one guest so that they may attend the TAGs recognition dinner; stipend and schedule to be coordinated by the INGOA Secretary.

IV. **NGAUS Awards Descriptions:**

Information on NGAUS awards can be found at: <https://www.ngaus.org/about-ngaus/awards>

1. **Harry S Truman Award for Distinguished Service in Support of National Defense:**

a. **Purpose:** The Harry S Truman Award, authorized by the NGAUS Board of Directors in 1968, is the highest recognition conferred upon an individual by the Association. Recipients have made sustained contributions of exceptional and far-reaching magnitude to the defense and security of the United States in a manner worthy of recognition at the national level.

b. **Criteria, Description, Nomination & Selection:**

Information on this award can be found at: [Harry S. Truman Award | National Guard Association of the United States \(ngaus.org\)](https://www.ngaus.org/about-ngaus/awards/harry-s-truman-award)

2. **Montgomery Medal:**

a. **Purpose:** The Montgomery Medal provides a mechanism to recognize an individual (or organization) that provides outstanding support in the pursuit of the NGAUS objectives.

b. **Criteria, Description, Nomination & Selection:**

Information on this award can be found at: [Montgomery Medal | National Guard Association of the United States \(nga.us.org\)](https://nga.us/montgomery-medal)

3. **Charles Dick Medal of Merit:**

a. **Purpose:** The Charles Dick Medal of Merit was established in 1988 and is designed to recognize the contributions to the National Guard by elected representatives to legislative bodies at the state and national levels.

b. **Criteria, Description, Nomination & Selection:**

Information on this award can be found at: [Charles Dick Medal of Merit | National Guard Association of the United States \(nga.us.org\)](https://nga.us/charles-dick-medal-of-merit)

4. **Patrick Henry Award:**

a. **Purpose:** The Patrick Henry Award is designed to provide recognition to local officials and civic leaders, who in a position of great responsibility distinguished themselves with outstanding and exceptional service to the Armed Forces of the United States, The National Guard or NGAUS.

b. **Criteria, Description, Nomination & Selection:**

Information on this award can be found at: [Patrick Henry Award | National Guard Association of the United States \(nga.us.org\)](https://nga.us/patrick-henry-award)

5. **Distinguished Service Medal:**

a. **Purpose:** The Distinguished Service Medal was conceived to provide recognition for an individual who, as a member of the Armed Forces (Active, Guard or Reserve), performed exceptionally outstanding service to the United States, to the Armed Forces of the United States or to NGAUS.

b. **Criteria, Description, Nomination & Selection:**

Information on this award can be found at: [Distinguished Service Medal | National Guard Association of the United States \(nga.us.org\)](https://nga.us/distinguished-service-medal)

6. **Meritorious Service Award:**

a. **Purpose:** NGAUS created the Meritorious Service Award in 1972 based upon the perceived need for an additional Association award that would specifically recognize

individuals for significant contributions to the United States Government, the Armed Forces of the United States or NGAUS.

b. Criteria, Description, Nomination & Selection:

Information on this award can be found at: [Meritorious Service Award | National Guard Association of the United States \(ngaus.org\)](#)

c. Meritorious Certificate info included in the link above.

7. Valley Forge Cross for Heroism:

a. Purpose: Named for an episode in the nation's early history synonymous with the Militia and exemplifying great courage, the Valley Forge Cross became part of the program in 1973. It is presented to members of the National Guard who have distinguished themselves by performing acts of heroism that otherwise might not be recognized due to National Guard's peacetime status.

b. Criteria, Description, Nomination & Selection:

Information on this award can be found at: [Valley Forge Cross for Heroism | National Guard Association of the United States \(ngaus.org\)](#)

c. Valley Forge Certificate info included in the link above.

8. Garde Nationale Trophy:

a. Purpose: The Garde Nationale Trophy may recognize achievements in medicine, science, art, education, industry, etc. An individual must have distinguished him or herself with a significant accomplishment in their civilian endeavor that generated recognition by their civilian peers and made a significant contribution to their particular field

b. Criteria, Description, Nomination & Selection:

Information on this award can be found at: [Garde Nationale Trophy | National Guard Association of the United States \(ngaus.org\)](#)

9. Theodore Roosevelt Leadership Award for Company Grade Officers:

a. Purpose: This award was established to annually recognize the achievements and dedicated service of Army and Air National Guard junior officers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and professionalism in their services to country and community. This award was first presented in 2006.

b. Criteria, Description, Nomination & Selection:

Information on this award can be found at: [Theodore Roosevelt Leadership Award for Company Grade Officers | National Guard Association of the United States \(ngaus.org\)](#)

10. **Eagle Rising Award for Warrant Officers:**

a. **Purpose:** This award was established to annually recognize the achievements and dedicated service of Army National Guard Warrant Officers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, technical skills, and professionalism in their services to country and community. This is the latest addition to the NGAUS Awards Program. This award was first presented in 2011.

b. **Criteria, Description, Nomination & Selection:**

Information on this award can be found at: [Eagle Rising Award for Warrant Officers | National Guard Association of the United States \(ngaus.org\)](http://www.ngaus.org)

V. **NGAUS Army Unit Awards:**

1. **Units Awards:** Nominations for Army National Guard Unit Awards should be submitted to the National Guard Bureau in accordance with appropriate NGB regulation 672-1, *Trophies and Awards Program for the Army National Guard* ([NGR 672-1](#), Chapter 4, 10, pg. 4-5). The regulations detail the submissions process and the established deadline for submissions. Selections are made by boards established by the Army Directorates of the National Guard Bureau.

2. **Awards:**

a. **NGAUS Trophy, The Pershing Trophy, The National Guard Certificate of Victor:** The National Guard Association Trophy, The Pershing Trophy, and the National Guard (State) Trophy are three separate awards presented within the ARNG for unit excellence in annual qualification firing with assigned individual weapons. These three trophies are awarded respectively at National, Army Area, and State Level. The competition will be based on the highest figure of merit attained by a team in accomplishing its prescribed qualification of assigned individual weapons. The competition coincides with the training year.

b. **Major General Milton A. Reckord Trophy:** This award is presented annually by the NGAUS to the outstanding ARNG battalion or squadron sized unit in each of the seven ARNG Plans, Operations, Readiness and Training Advisory Council (PORTAC) Regions.

b. **Walter T. Kerwin, Jr. Readiness Award:** This award recognizes outstanding Guard and Reserve unit readiness. The Army Guard Kerwin Award winner is the unit determined to have the highest level of readiness in the country.

d. **The Erickson Trophy:** The Erickson Trophy is awarded to the distinguished graduate from each of the States Officer Candidate Schools (OCS).

VI. NGAUS Air Unit Awards:

1. **Unit Awards:** Solicitation for nominations for Air National Guard Unit Awards are announced annually by Awards, Decorations & Memorialization Program Manager (NGB/A1PS) via e-distro through the MPMO, FSS Superintendents and HR professional distros. Further, the solicitation is staffed through the Adjutant General's office in accordance with staffing guidelines/timelines prescribed by the Director of Staff – Air Office. Guidance and final package submittal is via the [NGB/A1PS SharePoint](#) and the [NGB-Level Approved Award Program and Process](#) on myFSS or via directed method in award announcement. The regulations detail the submissions process and the established deadline for submissions. Selections are made by boards established by NGB/A1PS.

2. Awards:

a. **Curtis N. “Rusty” Metcalf Trophy (Airlift and Refueling Units):** Presented to the Airlift or Air Refueling Wing who demonstrates the highest standards of mission accomplishment.

b. **Maj. Gen. John J. Pesch Flight Safety Trophy:** Presented annually to two flying units judged to have demonstrated the highest standards of flight safety.

c. **Spaatz Trophy:** Presented to the overall outstanding flying unit in the Air National Guard. Selection of the winner is based on overall combat readiness to all other Air Guard units.

d. **Distinguished Flying Unit Plaques:** These plaques recognize outstanding Air National Guard Flying Units. Authorized for the five highest rated Air National Guard flying units, after the Spaatz Trophy winner.

e. **Mission Support Trophy:** The Mission Support Trophy is the equivalent of the Spaatz Trophy and is for non-flying units. This award is presented to the overall outstanding non-flying unit in the Air National Guard.

f. **Distinguished Mission Support Plaques:** The Mission Support Plaques are the equivalent of the Distinguished Flying Unit Plaques, recognizing the outstanding Air National Guard units with a mission support role.

g. **William W. Spruance Safety Award:** Recognizes the Air National Guard unit judged to have contributed most significantly to accident prevention in the reporting year. Nominees must make significant and far-reaching contributions to safety; low accident rates and high inspection results are considered.

h. **Winston P. Wilson Trophy:** Presented to the most outstanding ANG unit equipped with jet fighter or reconnaissance aircraft.

VII. **INGOA Awards Nomination Form:**

See attached or use the following [link](#) to submit on the INGOA website.

VIII. **NGAUS Awards Nomination Form:**

See attachment or use the following [link](#) to download a nomination form.

IX. **Awards Program Process Timeline:**

Awards Program Process Time line
V1.3.2025-10-08

