



Speaking for America's Heroes

When National Guard Soldiers and Airmen headed for the COVID-19 front lines last March, NGAUS was their voice in Washington.



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- NGAUS persuaded the White House, the Pentagon and Congress that federal Title 32, section 502(F) would be the best way to employ the Guard. It provided federal pay and benefits while keeping state responses under the control of the governor.
- NGAUS led the effort that convinced the White House to add the critical extra day after the first Title 32 authorization limited orders to increments of 30 days, one day short of qualifying for TRICARE medical coverage and housing payments.
- NGAUS lobbied Congress to give
 Guardsmen six months of transitional health care after demobilization from COVID-19 missions. Guardsmen have long received six months of coverage following overseas deployments, but previously not one day after domestic missions. The provision is in the fiscal 2021 National Defense Authorization Act.
- NGAUS spotlighted plans to end the Title 32 mission in late June 2020 when the need was still great and the first Guardsmen on orders were just shy of the 90-day threshold for early retirement and Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. The attention compelled a nearly two-month extension.
- NGAUS also convinced Congress to extend federal job protections to Guardsmen on State Active Duty or responding to a national emergency or natural disaster and to credit Title 32 service toward VA-backed home loans. Both provisions are now in law. They are intended to aid and reward Guardsmen on COVID-19 duty.