



THE SIGNAL

SIDE-BY-SIDE WE STAND WITH PRIDE

March 2006

Volume 33 Issue 7

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Hello Everyone,

Wow, it is hard to believe it is time for the March *Signal* already. We were really busy preparing for our trip to the Legislative Workshop and appointments on Capitol Hill. For those of you who were not able to attend the workshop, I hope you will pencil it in on your calendar for next year. It is usually around the same time frame. I hope everyone who did attend will share their adventure with others in their state—especially if they had personal visits with their congressional representatives.

When I arrived in DC, I attended the EANGUS Executive Board meeting on Sunday. I have included my report in this issue of *The Signal*—this is mainly to keep the membership informed and up to date of the progress of the Auxiliary.

We had a great time at the workshop; it was well organized by Chairman Rains, and co-chairs Heyliger and Wynn. We were able to meet Frank Yoakum, our new EANGUS Legislative Director as of Feb 01, 2006. We are very excited to have him on board. You will read more about Frank

on page 10. Our guest speakers this year were some new folks that we had not heard from at past workshops. There were many different issues and all relate to the Army and Air National Guard.

The Auxiliary was well represented. I would like to thank all of those members who were in attendance. A special thanks to those auxiliary members who helped with the "Image on the Hill" presentation; Jenny Lainhart, Area II Director, Pam Whisenhunt, President Nebraska Auxiliary, Hope Troy, Area IV Director, Associate member Chuck Benda, Minnesota, and Auxiliary life member EANGUS Director Roger Hagan, Montana. We had a great time with the presentation and it seemed to be well received. Thanks again.

EANGUS President Brown and Vice President Spencer invited me again this year to visit our NGB partners at the Pentagon. We were able to meet with Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, Lt. Gen. Daniel James III, Command Chief Master Sergeant Richard Smith and Command Sergeant Major John Leonard. On Tuesday morning we visited with the President of NGAUS, General Koper. I think this is a good repore for the Auxiliary to work side by side with EANGUS in show of support to our partner organization.

Tuesday afternoon, Jenny Lainhart and I teamed up with one of our first timers from the great state of Virginia and visited every Kentucky and Virginia senator and congressional representative on the Hill. If we could not speak with them personally, we left our business card along with the packet made by the EANGUS staff so that we can do a follow up with them from back home.

On Wednesday, Dian Cline coordinated another Legislative Reception—each year is better than the last. This year we had over 200 in attendance at the Reception. Dian was presented with an Eagle Award for her outstanding dedication, support, and hard work for EANGUS and the Reception.

Receiving the G.V. Sonny Montgomery Eagle Award this year, was The Honorable Lindsey O Graham, US Senate and The Honorable Tom Latham US House of Representatives. The Militia Award was presented to Ms. Meredith M. Beck, Legislative Assistant from the office of Senator Graham and Mr. Jacob Parker, Legislative Assistant from the office of Congressman Latham.

Last but certainly not least, CSM John Gipe introduced Sgt. Hester, a native of Kentucky, the first female to receive a Silver Star for her heroic actions in Iraq.

I also had the privilege of attending the promotion ceremony for Carolyn Ferguson. Carolyn was promoted to SMSGT. She is very deserving of the promotion and I feel blessed to know her personally. Carolyn has been very supportive of the Auxiliary and is always willing to share her expertise on protocol for our conference. When you see her, take time to congratulate her.

By the time the workshop came to a close, I had been asked many times if I would be running for re-election. I have given this great thought and it has been a very hard decision for me because I have been given the most wonderful gift other than my own children, a grand daughter. I want to spend as much time with her as I can and plan to do so. The last one of our sons to leave home has now begun his military career and my husband is looking to be deployed in the near future but I have a few goals of my own to complete as far as the Auxiliary is concerned and I would like to complete them. My decision is YES.

I plan to run for re-election and I hope that you will continue to support me as you have done so graciously for almost two years. It has really gone by quick. As I work toward getting ready for the National Conference, I hope you will give great thought to what role you would like to play in the Auxiliary. Our Nominations Chair has an article in this issue explaining the criteria along with applications for personal and state nominations for positions that will be opened for candidacy in August. Good luck to all of you and thanks for your continued support.

Until next month,

God Bless—Side by Side
Sheila Bandy

From VP Carol Benda—

Hello Auxiliary members:

We have had another snow storm since I last talked to you. And it snowed again on March 16th. Don't you just love our MN weather!

I visited North Dakota's State conference on the 4th and 5th of March. They had a good meeting with some new members taking over their leadership. I hope this will happen to a lot of our states giving others a rest.

I hope you are all getting in those nominations for the Meritorious; Distinguished Service and Spouse of the Year awards. The new deadline to submit nominations is JUNE 1st. The Executive Board will be voting on them at our meeting held at a time during the Site Visit on the 24th of June. This will make it easier for the Awards Chair to get the awards timely for presentation.

I have decided to run again for Vice President. I have enjoyed my last two years as Vice President and if elected I will gladly serve you for two more years.

Keep our troops in your prayers and talk to you next month.

Carol

THE SIGNAL NEWS

Everyone is welcome to send in news/information from around the states each month to be published in *The Signal*. We would love to hear from you.

You may also give the news/information to your Area Directors when you are in contact with them.

The **deadline** to submit news/information for publication in *The Signal* is the **15th** of each month.

Email: thesignalnews@earthlink.net or mail by USPS to: Dianne C Williams 2203 Pinewood Drive Brunswick GA 31520-2743 with a **courtesy copy**: to President Sheila Bandy.

Articles/information received *after* the **15th** of the month *or* that may require more space than is available in one issue will be edited/published in the next issue.

If you change your Internet provider, you will need to send your new email address to thesignalnews@earthlink.net to continue to receive *The Signal* via email.

EANGUS Auxiliary Report
Sheila E Bandy, EANGUS
Auxiliary President



EANGUS Executive Council
Meeting
March 5, 2006

➤ **THE SIGNAL**

➤ **Auxiliary newsletter:**

- *The Signal* is our main source of communication. We distribute to over 300 email addresses a month and mail 60 hard copies each month.
- Editor – Director Williams and President Bandy as Publisher –continue to utilize this publication to reach as many EANGUS and Auxiliary members as we can.

2006 Appointment
Changes

- The awards selection will be made by Mildred Geary, MS and presented at the Auxiliary Luncheon. The Board will decide the award recipients based on the nominations submitted.

➤ **Legislative Report:**

- Peggy Leadbetter, Auxiliary Legislative Chair is doing an excellent job. She has prepared a presentation for the Workshop attendees that will give them a better understanding of the importance of being a member and how it affects our legislative

efforts. We are proud of our legislative efforts and continue to support the rights and benefits of our guard family.

Our Executive Board meeting will be held at the Site Visit in Salt Lake City, Utah on Saturday June 24, 2006; time to be determined.

➤ **2006 Conference:**

- Director Williams – Auxiliary National Conference Coordinator is hard at work to insure we have a productive and successful conference in Utah. I attended the Pre-Site visit last month along with EANGUS President Ed Brown, Vice President Joe Spencer and Conference Coordinator Dee Riggle. Utah has a small but strong auxiliary working as a team with the EANGUS members. We will have a great conference.
- We plan to duplicate the 2006 Conference agenda with the 2005 agenda as the changes are favorable by the majority.
- We plan to have an Auxiliary Luncheon and Awards Program again in 2006 and will be extending an invitation to President Brown, Vice President Spencer, Secretary Knight, Treasurer Emerson, EANGUS Executive Director Mike Cline and Dian and EANGUS Legislative Director Frank Yoakum.

2006 Membership:

We are proud to announce the following states that have joined our Auxiliary.

- Hawaii -New charter
- Massachusetts- Re-Charter
- Maryland- Re-chartered
- West Virginia- Re- Charter
- New York- Re- Charter

This accomplishment was made possible by the teamwork shown through EANGUS and Auxiliary Directors and our Re organizing Membership Chair, Dianne Williams.

We now have 1100 members over last year where we had 1078 in the Auxiliary and have gained 33 new life members for a total of 412 life members.

2006 Goals

We have begun the process of purchasing a Trademark for the EANGUS Auxiliary Logo. We hope to have this final prior to the National Conference.

To continue our efforts in bringing an active auxiliary to each of the 7 states and territories not in our Auxiliary, Texas, DC, Title 10, Indiana, Colorado, and Illinois have been showing some interest and we hope to have them join us at our national conference.

The Auxiliary Link to the EANGUS website is up and running. Some purchases have been made. Shipping time has been in question. As with any new project there are some things that need to be worked out but we are hopeful that this will be a great money maker for the Auxiliary. The EANGUS Executive Board has been so supportive in trying to find ways to help the Auxiliary's budget. The proceeds from the Shopping Cart being given to the Auxiliary could prevent us from having to increase dues and help with our operating expenses.

To continue to educate our spouses in regards to the great things the Family Readiness Groups and the Auxiliary can accomplish working together to support the family. The larger the membership, the stronger our voice will be on Capitol Hill.

To build our Side by Side relationship with each state association as it is with EANGUS. Our Auxiliary can do good things for our states if they are given the opportunity. Please do your part and support this great organization not only by membership but by your actions. Actions speak louder than words.

2006 Caucus:

January, I attended the Area 6 & 7 Caucus in Reno, NV.
February I attended Area 4 caucus in Texas. I was given time to speak to both the EANGUS and Auxiliary in regards to membership and support at each caucus.

2006 Auxiliary Elections:

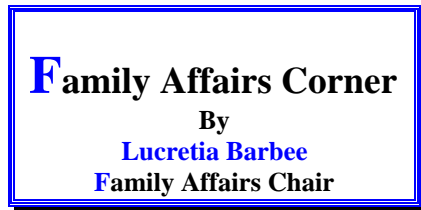
This will be an election year for the Auxiliary and we have several Area Director positions that will need to be filled.

In Closing:

WE the Auxiliary always strive to stand Side by Side and work together with a team building commitment for our two organizations.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila E. Bandy, KY
EANGUS Auxiliary President
Side by Side We Stand With Pride



This is great information.

Guard soldiers offered recruiting bonuses

By Michelle Tan

Times staff writer

National Guard soldiers can earn up to \$2,000 in bonuses for every person they sign up under a recruiting program announced Nov. 28. Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, director of the Army Guard, unveiled the Guard Recruiter Assistant Program when he was in Charleston, W. Va.

The program will start with Iowa, North Dakota, West Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri, and is expected to be available in all U.S. states and territories by the end of fiscal 2006.

Soldiers who want to participate in the program must complete an online training program that qualifies them to recruit others.

A soldier receives \$1,000 if their recruit enlists. They receive another \$1,000 when their recruit arrives for basic training. If the recruit has prior service, the soldier will receive the second \$1,000 after their recruit completes four consecutive drill periods.

The recruiting initiative comes as the active Army and the Guard work to overcome recruiting troubles.

The Guard brought in 50,219 people in fiscal 2005, 80 percent of its goal of 63,002. The active Army recruited 73,373 people, 92 percent of its goal of 80,000.

News from the Nominations Committee

The Committee has included two applications in this issue of *The Signal* to be used by members wishing to hold an office that is now open; a personal application for nomination and state nomination application. We will be electing a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and several Area Directors.

This committee will have copies of the letter needed for anyone who wishes to be nominated from the floor; however we encourage you to have these turned in prior to the conference. You must be a current annual or life member of EANGUS Auxiliary to be eligible.

Please return your applications to the Chair, with all the blanks filled in. This committee would like very much to have a member running for each open position before we arrive in Salt Lake City. We have so many openings this year that we must make every effort to be ready. Along with your completed application/s, please submit a brief biography and a recent picture.

If you have any questions email me at jenny.lainhart@us.army.mil

We have heard from the following incumbent officers wishing to be nominated for the following offices:

Sheila Bandy – President; **Carol Benda** – Vice-President; and **Vivian Taylor** – Vice-President. I will submit their bio's and pictures in next month's *Signal*.

Return to your forms **not later than 01 August 2006** to: Jenny Lainhart, EANGUS Auxiliary Nominations Chair
6007 Denty Place Fort Belvoir, VA 22060



TO: EANGUS Auxiliary Nominating Committee

DATE:

FROM:

SUBJECT: Personal Application for Nominations

I, _____, hereby submit my name for consideration for the position of _____ of the EANGUS Auxiliary.

I declare that I am a member in good standing with the state auxiliary of _____ and with the EANGUS Auxiliary.

My mailing address is:

My home telephone is:

My Business telephone is:

My e-mail address is:

If elected to the above position of authority, I will serve to the best of my ability.

(Signature of Applicant)

ENDORSED BY: _____ CERTIFIED BY: _____
(State President or Rep.) (Date) (EANGUS Aux. Treasurer or Rep.) (Date)

RECEIVED BY: _____ DATE: _____
(Nominating Committee Rep.)



FROM: _____

SUBJECT: State Nomination Application

to

The state auxiliary of _____ is pleased submit the following person as a nominee for the position of

_____.

The nominee is a member in good standing with the state auxiliary of _____ and with the EANGUS Auxiliary.

The nominee has the following qualifications for consideration for selection as a candidate for the above office:

The nominee's mailing address is:

The nominee's home telephone is: _____

The nominee's business telephone is: _____

The nominee's e-mail address is: _____

If elected to the above position of authority, I will serve to the best of my ability

(signature of nominee)

INDORSED BY: _____ CERTIFIED BY: _____
(state president or rep.) (date) (EANGUS Aux. Treasurer or rep.) (date)

RECEIVED BY: _____ DATE: _____
(Nominating comm. rep)



LEGISLATIVE

Both House and Senate Armed Services Committees appear to have rejected DOD proposals to increased TRICARE enrollment fees for military service retirees under age 65.

House Armed Services Committee (HASC) Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) and Ranking Member Ike Skelton (R-MO) sent a joint letter to the House Budget Committee stating in part that the DOD proposals depend too exclusively on increasing cost shares and believe that no action should be taken in fiscal year 2007 until a full review of additional cost control options is completed.

Senate Armed Services Personnel Committee Chairman, Lindsey Graham (R-SC) held a hearing on the proposed increases this week. During the hearing, Senator Graham stated that he believes that

Congress needs to study the issue and look at improving efficiencies within TRICARE prior to agreeing to any beneficiary increases. At the conclusion of the hearing, Senator Graham stated "There is no way a 115 percent increase in co-pays and enrollment fees in the TRICARE health insurance program is going to happen in the next two years."

The House Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee chaired by Congressman John McHugh (R-NY) will hold a hearing March 29, 2006 on the military health care proposals.

House Passes Emergency Supplemental Bill

On March 16, 2006, the House voted to pass H.R. 4939, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes. The bill provides \$91.9 billion. In addition to providing \$67.6 billion for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the bill (HR 4939) includes \$4.3 billion for foreign aid and \$19.2 billion for hurricane relief.

Senate Budget Action

On March 17, 2006 the Senate approved a \$2.8 trillion budget resolution (SCon Res 83). Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Warner (R-VA) and Ranking Member Carl Levin (R-MI) asked the Budget Committee for additional "headroom" to fix a variety of inequities, from survivor benefits improvements to a reduction in the Reserve retirement age for members of the Guard and Reserve who have been mobilized since 9/11, however the Senate Budget Committee ignored their requests.

During Senate floor consideration however, Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) offered an amendment to restore funding to end the deduction of VA survivor benefits from SBP and implement 30 year paid up SBP coverage as of October 1, 2006. This amendment passed by voice vote.

Senator Conrad Burns (R-MT) offered an amendment to eliminate the proposed \$250 VA enrollment fees and pharmacy copay increases for certain non-disabled veterans who use the VA health system. The amendment passed 100 to 0.

Amendments by Senator John Kerry (D-MA) which would have restored funding to the Defense Health Budget and eliminate the proposed TRICARE fee increases and Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) calling for mandatory funding of VA health care failed along party lines.

The Military Retiree's Health Care Protection Act Introduced

Congressmen Walter Jones (R-NC) and Chet Edwards along with over 40 other Representatives introduced HR 4949 to prevent DOD from increases TRICARE enrollment fees and pharmacy co-payments for under age 65 retirees.

At a press conference announcing the introduction of the bill, Congressman Chet Edwards stated the nation has a moral obligation to keep our promises to those who have kept their promise to defend our nation.

Congress Passes Legislation to Provide Student Loan Relief for Deployed Troops

A provision of S. 1932, the Deficit Reduction Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-171) would defer student-loan payments and the accrual of any interest on student loans for troops deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan. Such protection was routinely provided to mobilized reservists before a 1992 overhaul of federal education law eliminated the mandatory deferral of student loan payments.

EANGUS has been advocating for full refunds of tuition paid by anyone called to military service before they are able to earn the course credits. Refunds are not part of S. 1932, however.

Under the new law student loan payments can be deferred for up to three years for someone who is mobilized during a war, military operation or other emergency. Mobilization in either federal or state status could qualify a service member for deferred payments on loans and interest accrual. While mostly aimed at National Guard and Reserve members, active-duty members temporarily assigned away from their permanent duty station also qualify for the loan deferments. The legislation applies to loans made since July 1, 2001.

CAPITOL HILL NEWS



Lt. General James (left) and Chief Smith (right) with Auxiliary members.



EANGUS President Brown presents Eagle Award to Dian Cline.



L/R: Director Jenny Lainhart; Auxiliary President Sheila Bandy; Silver Star Recipient, SGT. Hester; Mrs. Toni Gipe and CSM John Gipe



President Brown presented the GV Sonny Montgomery Award to U S House Representative, Tom Latham (center).



EANGUS President Brown and Auxiliary President Bandy standing side by side to present Militia Award.



President Brown presented Militia Award to Mr. Jacob Parker.

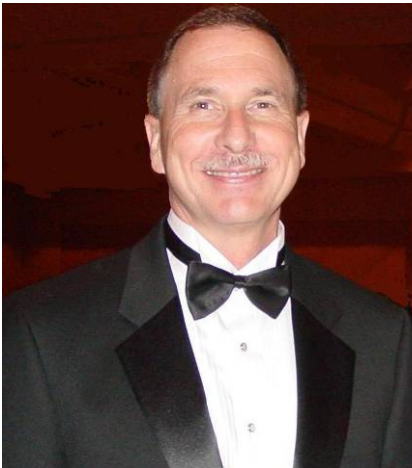


CSM John Leonard and Lt. General Blum joined the Auxiliary for a photo.



EANGUS Director Preston (left) and DC President, SGM Goldsmith present Jenny Lainhart with a token of appreciation for her help to re-organize the DC Auxiliary.

EANGUS Legislative Director



EANGUS Legislative Director Frank Yoakum is a graduate of California Pacific University-Bachelors Degree in Business Administration and Associates Degree-Business Administration, University of Alaska. He is a life member of EANGUS, Wyoming National Guard Association; Air Defense Artillery Association of the Army, Artillery Honorable Order of Saint Barbara and Ordinance Order of Samuel Sharpe.

Frank most recently worked at the National Guard Bureau as a Congressional liaison. Other prestigious positions he has held include: Senior Personnel NCO Army National Guard - Arlington, VA; Senior Liaison NCO US Army Ordinance Center and School –Aberdeen, MD and Manpower Analyst Army National Guard -Arlington, VA.

Frank is a great asset to the EANGUS staff; we all look forward to working with him on National Guard issues on Capitol Hill.

Farewell

Anne Yates is leaving EANGUS as of 30 March after many years of service. Anne has worked in the EANGUS Legislative Affairs for many years. She plans to relocate to Atlanta, GA to start a new career. We are all thankful for her many contributions to our Association.

Welcome

We welcome **CMSgt (Ret) Brenda Bowen** to our EANGUS Staff Team! Brenda started work on Monday, 27 March as the Legislative Assistant to the Director, Legislative Affairs.

AREA (DIRECTORS') PAGE – NEWS, CARES/CONCERNS**Area I NY, RI, MA, NH, CT, ME, VT****Area II – KY, DC, DE, Title 10, MD, NC, OH, VA, PA, W VA**

Cares/concerns to the family of:

Virgil S. "Scotty" VanArsdale of Louisville, KY. Scotty passed away Wednesday, 08 March, 2006. He enlisted in 1948 in the 149th Separate Armored Brigade, Army Kentucky National Guard, retiring as Sgt. Major after 30 years. He was a founding member of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) and served the organization on both a state and national level. He was Historian of EANGUS and Parliamentarian of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kentucky (EANGKY).

EANGUS Executive Director **Mike Cline's** wife, **Dian** has been saddened by the loss of her father. He had a military funeral on 27 March 2006 at 10:00 a.m.—burial followed at Quantico National Cemetery. Dian's father was a WWII Marine Corp Veteran. The family requests that donations be made to the EANGUS Building Fund in lieu of flowers.

Hazel Holt was hospitalized for a surgical procedure. Her family asks for prayers as she recuperates. **Deborah Boisvert-Skeim**, POC for Maryland, DC and Title 10 was recently in the hospital.

From **Jenny Lainhart**—

Area II State Conference dates/locations:

Pennsylvania- 28-29 April 2006; Toftrees Resort, State College, PA.
 Delaware- 29 April 2006; Dover, DE
 Virginia- 28-30 April 2006; Holiday Inn-Tanglewood, Roanoke, VA.
 West Virginia- 28-30 April 2006; Camp Dawson, Kingwood, WV.
 Ohio- 19-20 May 2006; Clarion, Dublin, OH.

Cathy Berry has a new email address: Contact her at cathy.berry@charter.net

Area III – AL, FL, GA, PR, SC, TN, VI

Cares/ concerns to:

Danny Brabham (FL) had a medical procedure on 10 March.

Congrats—

Jackie Dunn was elected president of South Carolina National Guard Association Auxiliary on 11 March at the 2006 State Conference.

Starr Boatright was re-elected President of Alabama Auxiliary on 18 March at the 2006 State Conference.

Ann Story was re-elected as President of Tennessee Auxiliary at their 2006 Conference this past weekend in Nashville.

The next up-coming event in Area III will be the Caucus. Director Brabham and I have drafted the agenda and are working on other plans for the auxiliary meeting.

Dianne Williams

Area IV– AR, KS, LA, MS, MO, OK, TX

Hello from Arkansas, Since my last article, we have had our Area IV Mid-Winter Conference. Texas certainly showed us a “good time”. We had a good meeting and a good time. President **Sheila Bandy** was able to join us.

We have just returned from Legislative Workshop where we had a very informative and fun time. I am so pleased that I was able to visit with so many from different states. Our visits to Capitol Hill were beneficial to all. We missed you Peggy.

Area IV, please send articles to **Misti Heston** to put into our newsletter. Her email address is: mistiH@health.ok.gov She is looking forward to hearing from you and getting our newsletter back into circulation. **Lucretia Barbee**, OK is assisting her for awhile.

Please continue to pray for our troops, our families, and our Auxiliary.

Hope Troy

Area V – IL, IN, IA, MI, MN, NE, ND, SD, WI

Cares/concerns to:

Shirley Spitz had a surgical procedure. **Madeline Hage** has been ill.

Happy Birthday—

Life Member and past Area V Director, **Jean FitzPatrick**, will celebrate her 70th birthday on 02 April 2006. Jean's address is: 815 Hillcrest, Sycamore IL 60178.

Congrats—

Sharon Henderson was re-elected President Iowa Auxiliary and has a new grandson.

Marilyn Freking

Area VI – AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY**Area VII – AK, CA, GM, HI, OR, WA**

Bart and I attended the EANGUS Legislative Workshop in Washington, DC.

We visited California Representatives and dropped off information packets to the following:

Duncan Hunter; Ken Calvert Howard "Buck" McKeon William Thomas Edward Royce Jerry Lewis Mary Bono; Gary Miller; Darrell Issa; Devin Nunes and George Radanovich.

Dorothy Inglese

Publication Title: **THE SIGNAL**

State of frequency: Published monthly (except August).

Authorized organization's name and address: **Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States Auxiliary**

1063 Wilderness Way Shepherdsville, KY

Published monthly by EANGUS Auxiliary

Editors/Publishers: **President Sheila Bandy KY;**

Dianne C Williams GA.

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