



# THE SOUTHERN DRAWL AREA III

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## ALABAMA HOSTS JOINT 2006 STATE CONFERENCE IN BIRMINGHAM

**T**he National Guard and Enlisted Associations of Alabama and Auxiliaries hosted their 2006 State Conference in Birmingham, AL at the Wynfrey Hotel; 17 – 19 March.

On Friday evening the hosts entertained Early Bird attendees with a “St. Patrick’s Day” theme complete with **leprechauns**, a wonderful buffet, live entertainment and fun.

The Saturday Conference Call to Order was officiated by National Guard Association President Alabama **BG Wendell McLain** and Enlisted Association President of Alabama, **MSGT Gwen Knight**.

The Presidents gave their respective welcome addresses and introductions of special guests. Among the many speakers were Hoover City Council President Pro Tem and **President Cooley** (Officer’s Association of Alabama Auxiliary President) and **Starr Boatright** (Enlisted Association of Alabama Auxiliary President).

**M**embers of the Enlisted Association of Alabama Auxiliary convened to the Dorset Suite for a 9:00 a.m. meeting. The meeting was called to order by President **Starr Boatright**. Invocation was given by Chaplain **Betty Galloway**.

Other meeting attendees included:

**Sara Adams, Ann Ashley, Cindy Chance, Kay Donaldson, Jackye Hargrove, Patsy Kerby, Lorene Paschal, Debbie Ridgeway, Peggy Schmidlkofer, Judy Tomlin, Mylene Thompson, Judy Wood** and special guests **Barbara Rains** and **Dianne Williams** (EANGUS Auxiliary Area III Director).

On the agenda under New Business was nomination/election of officers.

The Leadership of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Alabama Auxiliary is:  
President - **Starr Boatright**; Vice President - **Jackye Hargrove**; Secretary - **Cindy Chance**; Treasurer- **Peggy Schmidlkofer**. The installation ceremony was performed by Chaplain **Betty Galloway** using a “patriotic flair”.

*“At the request of President Boatright, I shared the most recent updates on the 2006 Area III Caucus and the 2006 National Conference slated for Salt Lake City, Utah”.*

The meeting agenda was concluded with the ever present and exciting drawing and winning of door prizes.

The Leadership for the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Alabama is:

President – **CSM Steve Boatwright**; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President –**SFC Larry Chance**; 2nd Vice President–**SGM Stan Thompson**;  
Sec/Treasurer –**SGT Nancy Waller**; Past President–**MSGT Gwendolyn Knight**.

**Congratulations to the Alabama Auxiliary Leadership on their  
new and re-election to office.**

**Congratulations to the Enlisted Association of Alabama Leadership on their  
election to office.**

“Side by Side We Stand With Pride”

## TENNESSEE HOSTS 2006 STATE CONFERENCE IN NASHVILLE



l/r: Kathy Jackson, Dianne Williams, Alice Tubbs  
Denise Davis

(Photos taken at the "Mixer"  
courtesy of Kathy Jackson).



l/r: Ann Story; Don Mapes; Betsy Redmond

The 2006 State Conference for Tennessee was held 24-26 March in Nashville, TN at the Maxwell House Hotel.

The Friday Night "Mixer" was hosted by the Officers Association of the National Guard of Tennessee jointly with the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Tennessee.

The Conference was officially called to order on Saturday morning by President of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Tennessee, **SGM Don Mapes**.

Guest speakers included the Adjutant General of Tennessee, **Major General Gus Hargett, Jr.** In his speech, **General Hargett** highly praised the soldiers and airmen for the job they have done and are still doing.

Auxiliary President, **Ann Story** presented a plaque of appreciation to the Boyd's Bear Restaurant for their \$10,000 donation to the Auxiliary's Soldier's Relief Fund.

At the break, auxiliary members went into their business session. Members in attendance to include President **Story** were: **Ann Ashley, Denise Davis, Teresa Foss, Joan Goodrich, Sara Hassell, Jackye Kyle, Billie Mapes, Andrea McDowell, Martha Robinson, Alice Tubbs, Glenda Vaden, Helen Williams** and guest EANGUS Auxiliary Area III Director **Dianne Williams**. Due to a previous commitment, **Kathy Jackson** was unable to stay for the business meeting.

After the completion of the general agenda items, **Billie Mapes** shared information that she and Enlisted President, **Don** (her spouse) had created a new tool to aid in member recruiting.

*"I gave the most recent update on the 2006 Area III Caucus and National Conference."*

As it is for most of our states, this is election year for Tennessee. The leadership is as follows: President – **Ann Story**; Vice President – **Billie Mapes**; Secretary – **Joan Goodrich**; Treasurer – **Alice Tubbs**; Chaplain – **Sara Hassell**. **Martha Robinson** has willingly agreed to continue in the position of Membership Chair. *"I was honored to perform the installation ceremony."*

Election results for The Enlisted Association of Tennessee:

President – **SGM Don Mapes**; Army Vice President - **SSG Shauna Chance**; Air Vice President - **SMGT (RET) Charles Hill**; Secretary - **SSG Shawn Moore**; Treasurer - **SFC Jody Barnes**.

**Congratulations to the Tennessee Auxiliary Leadership on their  
new and re-election to office.**

**Congratulations to the Enlisted Association of Tennessee Leadership on their  
New and re-election to office.**



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES \* INFORMATION

### FY06 Supplemental-Update

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved its version of the FY06 Supplemental on Tuesday, April 4. The Senate bill totals \$106.5 billion for defense, foreign aid and disaster assistance. The full Senate is expected to consider the Appropriations measure upon its return from the two week recess. The legislation bill includes \$15.6 billion for procurement of which \$480 million is targeted for 'up-armored' Humvees and \$400 million for the purchase of Abrams tanks. In addition, the Senate appropriated funding of \$227 million for C-17 cargo planes and funding for the V-22 Osprey program.

Along with wartime funding, money was added as follows: \$648 million for port security; \$2.3 million for flu pandemic protection; and \$4 billion for agriculture assistance.

Upon completion of its bill, the Senate will conference with the House passed version which was approved on March 16, 2006.

The House version totaled \$92.2 billion: \$67.6 billion for military operations, \$4.3 billion for foreign aid and \$19.2 billion for hurricane relief.

The supplemental measure comes at a time when the Pentagon estimates that it is spending almost \$5 billion a month to support operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. DoD indicates that it is set to run out funds at the end of May.

### No More 20-year Retirement?

The Pentagon's Defense Advisory Committee on Military Compensation (DACMC) used its final public hearing on Feb. 28 to announce preliminary recommendations for sweeping changes to the military compensation system.

The DACMC is supporting a complete revamping of the current military retirement system. The committee's view is that the current 20-year "cliff-vested" system is outdated, overly "generous," inflexible, and inequitable (with no retirement eligibility before 20 years and no incentive to serve beyond 30 years).

DACMC's recommended changes (most of which DACMC envisions as applying only to future service entrants) include:

- \* Eliminating the immediate annuity upon retirement and delaying payment until age 60
- \* Providing additional retired pay credit (and basic pay increases) through 40 years of service
- \* Initiating government contributions to a Thrift Savings Plan or 401K-like plan of 5 to 10% of basic pay
- \* Vesting of members between 5 years and 10 years of service
- \* Creating a "gate pay" system to provide lump sum payment incentives at specific points of service
- \* Vesting in retirement health care benefit at completion of 20 years of service
- \* Raising single housing allowances to the "with dependents" rates.

Although the committee's recommended changes wouldn't be imposed on the current force, the DACMC proposes offering current members the option of participating in the new retirement system.

Under Secretary of Defense David Chu has indicated the DACMC's recommendations will be turned over to the Tenth Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (QRMC), which is due to convene shortly. Chu has said he plans to send Congress at least one of the DACMC's recommendations separately - extending the pay table to 40 years of service.

MOAA's perspective is that most of these proposals have been reviewed or recommended by any number of military compensation reform panels over the last 40 years. The practical reality is that proposals to apply civilian-style retirement systems to the military haven't been adopted or haven't worked because military service conditions are so much more severe than civilian working conditions.

The 20-year retirement (and 20-year vesting) system was enacted in the belief that there has to be a significant "carrot" to draw highly capable people to serve for at least two decades under conditions that most Americans want to avoid even for a short time. Conditions like the present high-deployment environment sometimes put that system to a severe test.

Congress previously changed the law in 1986 to reduce 20-year retired pay for new entrants in 1986 (that also was touted as "encouraging longer service"). But the change had to be repealed in 1999 after the Joint Chiefs of Staff complained it was hurting retention.

If today's 10-year servicemembers facing a third Iraq deployment were under the DACMC-proposed system, they would be mulling between (a) separating and taking a significant chunk of their retirement with them or (b) waiting until age 60 to get an annuity if they continued serving. We suspect that situation would generate some ugly retention figures. We'll be very interested to see what the QRMC does with this recommendation.

## Tricare Prescription Home Delivery Now Easier Using the Internet

Eligible Tricare beneficiaries now can enroll online or through the mail for home delivery of their prescription medications.

Capt. Thomas McGinnis, chief of the Tricare pharmaceutical operations directorate, says once recipients are enrolled, patients can send their prescriptions to the Tricare mail order pharmacy where pharmacists will check the order against the patient's medication profile in the Defense Department's Pharmacy database.

Medications complete with a reorder date are usually delivered to the beneficiary's home within 14 days after the contractor receives the prescription.

The mail-order service is recommended for medications that beneficiaries use for long periods of time. With each request, the prescription is reviewed against the beneficiary's complete medication history before it is dispensed - reducing the likelihood of adverse interactions and duplicate treatments. Pharmacists are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week via a toll free number to answer questions.

For more information, call Express Scripts at 1-866-363-8667

## LOOK-A-LIKE MYPAY WEBSITES

1. AS YOU KNOW, THE AIR FORCE HAS MANDATED USE OF MYPAY FOR RECEIPT OF PAYROLL PRODUCTS (LEAVE AND EARNINGS STATEMENTS, NET PAY ADVICES, ETC.). THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF MEMBERS RECEIVE THEIR INFORMATION VIA MYPAY, RESULTING IN LOWER POSTAL COSTS AND FEWER PEOPLE IN THE FINANCE OFFICE. MYPAY ALSO ALLOWS MEMBERS TO UPDATE CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF THEIR PAY, LIKE FEDERAL WITHHOLDING EXEMPTIONS.
2. WE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ADVISED THAT THERE ARE COPYCAT OR LOOK-A-LIKE WEBSITES BEING DEVELOPED TO MAKE PEOPLE THINK THEY ARE ACCESSING OFFICIAL SITES, INCLUDING THE MYPAY WEBSITE. OUR INFORMATION LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT THESE SITES REQUEST PERSONAL INFORMATION THAT, IF PROVIDED, COULD CAUSE A VARIETY OF PROBLEMS FOR THE MEMBERS. THERE ARE ALSO SITES THAT USE THE WORDS "MYPAY" AS PART OF THEIR WEB ADDRESS. WHILE THEY MAY BE LEGITIMATE BUSINESS CONCERNS, THEY ARE NOT IN ANY WAY AFFILIATED WITH DFAS and MYPAY.
3. FOLLOWING ARE SOME SITES THAT USE "MYPAY" IN THEIR WEB ADDRESS:
  - A. [HTTP://WWW.MYPAY.COM](http://www.mypay.com)
  - B. [HTTP://WWW.MYPAY.SE/INDEXEN.HTML](http://www.mypay.se/indexen.html)
  - C. [HTTP://WWW.MYPAYSOLUTIONS.COM/](http://www.mypaysolutions.com/)
  - D. [HTTP://WWW.MYPAYLOANSERVICES.COM/](http://www.mypayloanservices.com/)
4. PLEASE REMIND THE MEMBERS YOU SERVICE THAT THE OFFICIAL MYPAY WEBSITE IS [HTTPS://MYPAY.DFAS.MIL](https://mypay.dfas.mil). ALSO CAUTION THEM AGAINST MISTAKENLY PROVIDING PERSONAL INFORMATION TO COPYCAT, LOOKALIKES, OR OTHER SITES THAT USE "MYPAY" IN THEIR WEB ADDRESS.
5. THIS MESSAGE WAS COORDINATED WITH AFAFO. BASES CONTACT MAJCOMS FOR ASSISTANCE. MAJCOMS MAY CONTACT DFAS-PMJPA/DE.

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS ENTER WAITING PERIOD

- The Scholarships for Military Children application screening process is under way for thousands of students in the running for \$1,500 scholarships. To know that an application is among those being considered, look for the online application verification reply form that will be available on March 31 at [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org), the Scholarships for Military Children Web site.
- Recipients will be notified by mail and the scholarship Web site will feature a list of recipients shortly after May 1.



## CARES AND CONCERNS

TO:

Bob Murray, TN  
Betty Belew, TN

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## THANK YOU

**My sincere thanks to the great folks  
of**

**Alabama  
and  
Tennessee**

**for my time to share in your 2006 State  
Conferences.**

**The hospitality and camaraderie was  
truly immeasurable.**



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Thanks for your time Area III,

*Dianne*