



THE SOUTHERN DRAWL

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AREA III

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Alabama – Florida – Georgia - South Carolina – Tennessee - Puerto Rico - U S Virgin Islands

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Brothers Senior Airman Jean Audiffred, Master Sgt. Jorge Cantres and Tech. Sgt. Armando Cantres discuss a post-flight check after the aircrew landed and completed a mission. The three are brothers deployed from Muniz Air National Guard, Puerto Rico.

They are one line of many families serving in the Puerto Rico Guard. Jean is a C-130 crew chief, Jorge is a C-130 flight engineer, and Armando is a C-130 engine mechanic. (U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Vince King, Jr.)

Air National Guard: A family affair

by Capt. Vince King Jr.
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs (*partial reprint*)

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan (AFPN) –

It continues to be seen that the Air Force remains to be a family-oriented force and three brothers deployed here can say just that. A family within itself, the Muniz Air National Guard members from Puerto Rico continue to be a self-motivating force with families working with each other to make sure the mission is accomplished in all shapes and forms.

Currently deployed here in support of the war on terrorism, brothers Master Sgt. Jorge Cantres, a flight engineer; Tech. Sgt. Armando Cantres, an engine mechanic; and Senior Airman Jean Audiffred, a crew chief; are a clear example of a military family working together every day.

"The guard is actually family oriented," said Jorge, the oldest brother. "There are cousins, uncles, dads and moms, serving in the same (unit) if not the same Guard."

The Guard, like others in the states, has families working with each other contributing what they can to get the mission accomplished. Natural to them, the brothers said this isn't their first deployment together, but the first to an actual war zone.

"We have deployed several times together with our entire family," said Armando talking about his father, stepmother and other brother in Puerto Rico. "But this deployment is unique because this is our first one to (Afghanistan)." Stemming from a long line of families in the Guard, the brothers saw and learned what they know about the Guard from their grandfather, father and each other.

According to Jorge and Armando, their grandfather, retired Chief Master Sgt. Jorge Cantres, was the first member of their family to join the National Guard and retired as the senior enlisted advisor for the wing. He is currently working in the retiree's office at Muniz ANGB.

Jorge and Armando's father, Col. Jorge Cantres, 156th Airlift Wing commander, worked his way up both sides of the force.

"Being in the Guard is like having an extended family," said Jorge. "To this day there are still people in the Guard that know me from when I was 4 years old."

In fact, all the brothers had similar experiences seeing the various missions of the Guard while growing up.

Side by Side We Stand With Pride

AREA III STATE NEWS/INFORMATION

Alabama and Georgia Update Member Recruiting Incentives—

Alabama

President **Starr Boatright** announced in the October issue of the Alabama Auxiliary newsletter, *The Southern Touch* the distribution of their revised membership form.

Members should send their completed new member form/s with payment to Treasurer **Peggy Schmidlkofer at 706 E Ford Avenue, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661**. The recruiting incentive, **Alabama Auxiliary Pins** may be earned by the meeting following requirements:

Bronze Pin: Recruit 3 new members; **Silver Pin:** Recruit 6 new members and **Gold Pin:** recruit 10 new members.

Georgia

The October issue of *The Georgia Town Cryer* contained information to the revision and update to the Georgia Auxiliary Member Recruiting Program. Membership forms were also provided in the issue. Completed membership forms with payment should be mailed to **AEANGGA Treasurer, Helen Tucker; 977 Underwood Drive; Macon, GA 31210**.

The newest AEANGGA recruiting incentive is a **Gift Card**. Coupons are distributed to members and may be redeemed for their face value in a Gift Card from one of three retail stores (recruiting member's choice) upon meeting the requirements as stated on the coupon.

TENNESSEE

We are pleased to announce that Tennessee Auxiliary President, **Ann Story** has volunteered to serve as EANGUS Auxiliary Family Affairs Chair for 2006-2007.

Ann submitted her first article for publish in the November issue of the EANGUS Auxiliary newsletter, *The Signal*.

Kathy Jackson continues to serve as EANGUS Auxiliary Chaplain.

2007 STATE CONFERENCES and Area III Caucus

Alabama

12-14 April
Huntsville, AL

Florida

9-12 August
Rosen Plaza Hotel
Orlando, Florida

Georgia

20-22 April
Holiday Inn Hotel and
Conference Center
Valdosta, Georgia

South Carolina

23 - 25 March
Sheraton Hotel Myrtle Beach
Convention Center
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Tennessee

23-25 March
Knoxville, Tennessee

Area III Caucus

04-05 May; Baypoint Resort Marriott
Hotel and Convention Center
Panama City Beach, Florida

Hosts—
ENGFL/ENGAF and Auxiliary

(Registration form; page 3).



**AREA III EANGUS CAUCUS
4 & 5 MAY 2007
Panama City Beach, Florida**

REGISTRATION FORM

Last Name/Rank _____ First Name _____ MI: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____ Attend Auxiliary Meeting: Yes No

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Registration: 1300-1700, Friday, 4 May 2007
0730-0900, Saturday, 5 May 2007

Registration Fee: \$15.00 per person **Number Attending: _____**

Host Hotel: Bay Point Resort Marriot Tel: 1-850-236-6000
4200 Marriott Drive Fax 1-850-236-6150
Panama City Beach, Florida 32408

Rate: \$106.00 (plus tax)

A block of rooms has been reserved for our conference but all
Reservations have to be made NLT 1 April 2007.

Date of arrival: _____ Date of departure: _____

Airports: Panama City/Bay County International Airport

Golf Outing: To Be Determined

If you would like to play golf provide the information below and we will contact you with
the time and place of play on Friday 4 May 2007

Number Playing: _____

Please return this form and check by 1 April 2007 to:

National Guard Associations of Florida (NGAFL)
P.O. Box 3446
St. Augustine, Florida 32085

Fax: 1-800-531-3270
1-904-829-2068

Email: mary.paul@fl.ngb.army.mil

Office: 904-823-0629
Cell: 904-501-0842



LEGISLATIVE NEWS, BENEFITS UPDATES AND MORE

With the 109th Congress almost over, bills for the 109th Congress that were not voted into law must be re-introduced in the 110th Congress.

Appropriations Update ([HR 5631](#))

On September 29, the President signed this bill into law, providing defense funding for Fiscal Year 2007.

Authorization Update ([HR 5122/S 2766](#))

On October 17, the President signed this bill into law, providing authority for defense funding and other provisions for Fiscal Year 2007.

EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY OF SELECTED RESERVE MEMBERS UNDER TRICARE PROGRAM IN THE 2007 NDAA—

Provides coverage under the TRICARE Standard program to all members of the Selected Reserves and their families while in a non-active duty status.

Participants would be required to pay a premium that would be 28 percent of the total amount determined by the Secretary of Defense as being reasonable for the TRICARE coverage. This section does not extend TRICARE eligibility to reservists who were also federal employees entitled to Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan coverage under title 5, United States Code. Further, this section repeals the three tiered cost share TRICARE program for reserves established by the fiscal year 2006 National Defense Authorization Act.

VA COLA Bill

The Veteran's Compensation Cost-of-Living Act of 2006 S.2562 has passed Congress and become public law 109-361. This law requires the Secretary of Veteran's Affairs to increase the compensation rate for veterans with service connected disabilities and the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation rates for survivors of disabled veterans whose deaths were rated to be service connected at the same rate as the Social Security title II benefits. The new rates will become effective on Dec. 1, 2006.

Dedication Weekend for Air Force Memorial

The United States Air Force Memorial was officially dedicated and presented to the nation at an onsite ceremony at 1:30 p.m., on Saturday, October 14, 2006. The new Memorial is located in Arlington, Virginia, directly across from the Pentagon. The general public was cordially invited to view the ceremony from the South Pentagon Parking Lot in conjunction with the Air Force Open House via live simulcast broadcast. During the ceremony, guests at both locations had an aerial review of historic and modern Air Force aircraft, including an appearance by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.

●
E-5s & E-6s - Offered FREE Membership in EANGUS

That's right, "free" one-year memberships are available right now and are sponsored by the United States Automobile Association (USAA) and EANGUS for all newly promoted E-5's and E-6's in the Army and Air National Guard. What are you waiting for? Sign up now before the end of the calendar year!!

USAA Sponsored Membership Form.
For more information, visit the EANGUS website at

www.eangus.org

FOR MY COUNTRY

On Veterans Day 2006, **For My Country: The Ballad of the National Guard** performed by legendary singer Pat Boone was released.

Mr. Boone, debuted the song and video at the 128th NGAUS General Conference last month.

The music video can be ordered at www.formycountry.us. It includes interviews with Guard families and footage from the NGAUS conference.

Free Military Handbooks

Military Handbooks has announced the launch of its new website and the release of its latest seven FREE handbooks for military personnel. (Military Handbooks is a small company owned and operated by former federal employees and veterans. Their offices are located in Alexandria, VA.) These FREE handbooks were written specifically for military members.

To get your own copies of these FREE handbooks, simply go to their new website - www.militaryhandbooks.com. The handbooks include: The 2007 U.S. Military Handbook; 2007 U.S. Military Retired Handbook; 2007 Getting Uncle Sam to Pay For Your College Degree; 2007 After The Military Handbook; 2007 Benefits For Veterans and Dependents Handbook; and the 2007 Veterans Healthcare Benefits Handbook; and the 2007 Military Children's Scholarship Handbook.

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**THANKS FOR YOUR TIME,
AREA III !**

