

THE SOUTHERN DRAWL

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AREA III

SPECIAL ISSUE

2006

The Pepsi Bottling Group and Save-A-Lot Donate Nearly \$12,000 to Tennessee National Guard Enlisted Association



Sgt. Maj. Don Mapes (left), president of the Tennessee National Guard Enlisted Association, accepts a check for \$11,858 from Bill Crockett, Regional Manager for Save-A-Lot. (Photo: Business Wire).

The Pepsi Bottling Group, Inc. (PBG) and Save-A-Lot teamed up to drive awareness and raise money for the Enlisted Association of the Army and Air National Guard of Tennessee. The two companies presented a check for \$11,858 to the association's Auxiliary on August 12 at the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Toyota Tundra 200 at the Nashville Super Speedway.

Tennessee is home to more National Guard members, both Army and Air, than any other state of its size. Statewide, there are more than 156 units, one in almost every county. These units are manned by proud soldiers and airmen who signed on to help their communities, state and country. The increased use of National Guard units at home and abroad means that Guard men and women are now deployed almost as often as their active-duty counterparts. In some cases, this can create challenges for their families.

"Save-A-Lot has always been a leader when it comes to giving back to the community. The grocer has remarkable annual fundraising goals and The Pepsi Bottling Group is thrilled to partner with Save-A-Lot to continue that tradition.

We're proud of the money we raised to support the Tennessee Army and Air National Guard -- and we're proud of our local troops," said Richard Panner, Vice President and General Manager of PBG's Nashville Market Unit.

"A donation of this size enables us to extend help when needed to families throughout Tennessee," said Mrs. Ann Story, the association's Auxiliary President.

The Pepsi Bottling Group, Inc. (www.pbg.com) is the world's largest manufacturer, seller and distributor of Pepsi-Cola beverages with operations in the U.S., Canada, Greece, Mexico, Russia, Spain and Turkey.

The Save-A-Lot food stores that participated in this donation are owned by Houchens Food Group Inc. The company operates 62 Save-A-Lot stores across the state of Tennessee.

BUSINESS WIRE-Aug. 21, 2006

SIDE BY SIDE WE STAND WITH PRIDE



MEMBERSHIP

Welcome and Thank you letters for EANGUS Auxiliary Annual and Associate members

A revised copy of a letter of Welcome (for new annual and new associate members) and a revised copy of a letter of Thanks (for annual and associate members who renew their membership) has been distributed for reproduction as needed.

State presidents or membership chairs, contact me if you have not received copies.

Membership Cards

Membership cards are distributed upon request (please base your request on the number of your current national annual and national associate membership so that we may maintain a cost-efficient inventory).

Request additional cards as needed.

**Dianne C Williams, Chair
EANGUS Auxiliary Membership Committee**

AREA III Member Recruiting

A recent report distributed by EANGUS Area III Chair Jim Rains, shows an increase of 63 EANGUS members to Area III as of 31 August 2006 .

When your respective state association recruits new members, this is an opportunity for the auxiliary to recruit new members as well.

Remember— send to me: the names and contact information for all new members recruited to your state auxiliary and EANGUS Auxiliary.

Send the recruiting member’s name so that individual state/national auxiliary members may participate in the EANGUS Auxiliary Membership Awards Program.

**EANGUS Schedules
Membership Workshop for 2007**

EANGUS will be conducting a—

**Membership Workshop
ANG Combat Readiness Center
23-25 February 2007
Gulfport, MS**

EANGUS President, Frank Lever has invited auxiliary members to attend the workshop as well.

More information to follow.

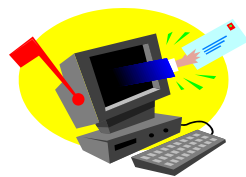
When is your 2007 state conference?

State Presidents—

Please send me your 2007 State Conference dates and information for publication.

Publishing your state conference information as early as possible in *The Southern Drawl* may encourage increased respective state attendance—and would allow members from other states to plan to attend in support your conference.

If there has been a change in your state auxiliary leadership, include that information as well.



SEND News to Share....

Everyone—

You are welcome and encouraged to submit Guard/auxiliary-related, personal announcements and any other points of interest news (to include photos) to share with our Area III membership through this publication.

Please note: Articles submitted for publication are subject to editing for size and content.



Reporting Your State and Individual Legislative Activity

Report your state and individual legislative activity to your State President or Legislative Chair.

The State President or Legislative Chair will make a report of your submissions and send a report to our EANGUS Auxiliary Area III Legislative POC, Barbara Rains.

Barbara submits bi-annual reports to the EANGUS Auxiliary Legislative Chair on Area III activity by state and/or individual for recording and participation in the national Legislative Awards Program.

The Signal on the web

The EANGUS Auxiliary newsletter publication, *The Signal* is now available on the Auxiliary web link under the EANGUS website at www.eangus.org

The link also includes some past issues of *The Signal* as well as other important information to include contact information for EANGUS Auxiliary Executive Board, Committee Chairs and State Presidents.

GX MAGAZINE

The *GX Magazine* (Guard Experience Magazine) is a free magazine that publishes news of the National Guard, their families, employers and other volunteers.

GX is in its third year of publication.

Soldiers/Airmen may subscribe by visiting the website at

http://www.gxonline.com/subscribe_mag.php



LEGISLATIVE NEWS; BENEFITS

Defense Authorization Bill Ready for Final Action on Hill

A House-Senate conference committee finished work on Friday (Sep 29) on a \$532.8 billion defense authorization bill for fiscal 2007, adding the measure to a line of bills Congress expects to clear before starting its election recess this weekend. HR 5122 includes authorization for \$70 billion in emergency funding for combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and replacement of equipment destroyed there. The fiscal 2007 appropriations bill HR 5631, which the Senate cleared Friday (Sep 29) for President Bush's signature, would provide those funds. The authorization bill also would pave the way for a 2.2 percent pay raise for military personnel that the president sought and the fiscal 2007 defense appropriations bill would fund. The raise takes effect Jan. 1, 2007. The House is expected to take up the conference report on the bill Friday, with Senate action to follow by Saturday. The bill also authorizes numerous programs to help troops and their families, seeking to protect them against everything from roadside bombs to usurious payday loans. For military families, the legislation would reject increases the administration had proposed in enrollment fees and pharmacy copayments for participants in TRICARE network.

Sixth Hearing Conducted by National Guard & Reserve Commission

Top NATO, Joint Force Commanders are scheduled to testify on the future of the National Guard and Reserves in Washington, D.C., October 5, 2007 (Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg @ 0900). General James Jones, Commander of the U.S. European Command and General Lance Smith, Commander of the U.S. Joint Forces Command have been invited to share their views on the priority issues affecting the U.S. military's reserve component. The specific topics to be covered will include: Meeting the challenges of accessing and utilizing reserve component personnel and units at a time of high operational tempo; Enhancing the capabilities of the National Guard & Reserves to meet the needs of the evolving security environment; Improving the integration of reserve and active forces in order to enhance the capabilities and effectiveness of the total force; and using the lessons learned from OEF and OIF on how best to organize, train, and equip reserve component personnel and units.

Reserve Income Replacement Program (RIRP)

Some reservists called up for length or repeated mobilizations could get extra pay under a new DoD program that kicked in last month. A program mandated by Congress as part of the 2006 Defense Authorization Act, took effect August 1 and provides up to \$3,000 per month in extra pay to eligible National Guard and reserve members whose military income is at least \$50 a month less than their civilian wages. The eligibility rules are narrowly written and the program is *not* retroactive. It's statutory authority is due to end Dec 31, 2008. Complete information and eligibility requirements on the RIRP is available online at www.dod.mil/ra, under "Income - Replacement."

GI Bill Payments To Increase October 1st

Monthly GI Bill education benefits will rise 4 percent effective October 1, 2006. An increase that only partially keeps pace with the rising tuition costs. The increase, which will show up first in November payments, sets the maximum GI Bill payment for full-time students @ \$1,075 a month for those with 3 or more years of active-duty service. Reservists who have not been mobilized for more than a year since Sept 11, 2001, will get a maximum of \$309 a month.

More \$22 Drugs Made Available

A panel of beneficiary advisors has concurred with a DOD pharmacy panel's recommendation to move Crestor and Caduet, which lower so-called "bad cholesterol" (LDL), to TRICARE's "third tier" of medications (which carry a \$22 co-pay).

TRICARE will continue to cover 12 other cholesterol-lowering drugs (including the popular Lipitor and Zocor) at the lower \$3 (Generic) or \$9 (brand name) co-pay.

Third-tier drugs can still be obtained at the regular \$9 co-pay if the doctor specifies the drug is medically necessary for the patient (e.g., works better or avoids side effects associated with other drugs) and the "medical necessity" determination is approved by DOD.

Defense Authorization for 2007 (UPDATE)

The Defense Authorization Act for 2007 has passed both houses of Congress and is awaiting the President's signature. The bill provides the Pentagon \$463 billion for FY2007, plus another \$70 billion in supplemental war funding. Per one of our sister associations legislative review, MOAA, there's good news in the bill, including provisions on the following:

TRICARE Fees: Bars the Defense Department from increasing any TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Standard fees, pharmacy co-pays, or TRICARE Reserve Select premiums for FY2007.

National Guard Rotation Brings Group From Border

Sep 29, 2006 05:15 PM EDT

Some members of the Tennessee National Guard troops who have been patrolling the Mexican border are coming home. Guard spokesman Randy Harris said the troops will start coming in on a rotating basis soon.

Nearly 600 guard troops have participated in Operation Jump Start.

The troops from Tennessee have helped to round up about 40 to 50 illegal immigrants.

About 1,000 more Tennessee guardsmen will likely be sent to the border between January and July of next year.

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

