

NGAI Legislative Strategy

Executive Summary:

The National Guard Association of Illinois (NGAI) is the professional military organization of the men and women who serve in the Illinois Army and Air National Guard as well as retirees. NGAI has more than 7,000 members and serves as the state representative to the National Guard Association of the United States.

NGAI was founded in the late 1960's and was originally an officer only organization. Today, NGAI is composed of both officers, warrant officers and enlisted personnel from the Illinois National Guard. Additionally, NGAI has a corporate sponsor program that allows companies, businesses and other employers to join the organization.

NGAI is a registered lobbying organization. It is a non-partisan, non-politically affiliated organization dedicated to pursuing positive accomplishments and benefits for our Illinois National Guardsmen. As a professional association, one of NGAI's goals is to foster and perpetuate its membership rolls.

The Association elects a president and board of directors at its annual meeting. Presidents serve one year terms and have come from the officer, warrant officer and enlist ranks of both the Army and Air National Guard.

NGAI has standing committees that are mandated by its constitution. The Association president appoints chairs and members to these committees. One committee is the NGAI Legislative Committee to work with legislators in support of legislation to improve and benefit it's members. NGAI sponsors an insurance program specially designed for military members and their families. This is just one of the many benefits this Association provides for its membership.

One of the first and foremost objectives of NGAI is to develop, foster and monitor legislative programs, bills, actions and initiatives that beneficially impact and affect the Illinois National Guard. This may include force structure, equipment modernization, new missions or benefits for our people.

Mission of NGAI:

The mission of NGAI is to develop, foster and maintain programs that serve the well-being of the more than 13,000 soldiers and airmen of the Illinois National Guard as well as their families.

This mission is accomplished through legislative initiatives both at the national and the state level and operating other initiatives such as the insurance programs specially designed for National Guardsmen and their families.

Purpose of this Plan:

This plan outlines the basic legislative strategy for the National Guard Association of Illinois. First, the customers who NGAI represents are addressed. Next we identify the “stakeholders” or people who share an interest in the goals and objectives of the National Guard Association of Illinois. Stakeholders are those who not only have an interest in the future and well being our National Guardsmen, but individuals who can shape and direct policy for the future. First level of stakeholders is the leadership of the military community. The second level of stakeholders are identified as those who constitute our policy makers and major supporters.

As outlined in its constitution, NGAI is established to work in conjunction and partnership with the Adjutant General of Illinois to advocate for programs and initiatives that meet the needs and further the mission of the Illinois National Guard.

At the same time, the principal purpose of NGAI still remains to serve its membership, the Guardsmen and Retirees of the Illinois National Guard.

This plan outlines the goals and objectives for NGAI with respect to their legislative strategy. This strategy is directed at national and state areas of interest and is committed to an Illinois National Guard that can meet every contingency whether global, national or state. Specific objectives are identified and have achievement dates. Some objectives are continuous and ongoing with respect to Association operations and mission.

Customers (Those Who NGAI Serves)

- Soldiers and Airmen of the Illinois Army & Air National Guard
- Families of National Guardsmen
- National Guard Retirees and their Families

Stakeholders (First Level)

- President, Board of Directors of NGAI
- Executive Vice President
- Legislative Committee
- NGAI Membership
- Adjutant General of Illinois
- Assistant Adjutants General of Illinois
- Joint Force Headquarters
- Brigade & Wing Commanders
- Battalion, ANG Group/Squadron, Company Commanders

Stakeholders & Customers (Second Level)

- President & the National Command Authority
- Governor of Illinois
- National Guard Bureau
- Army and Air Force Active Component Commands
- Illinois Congressional Delegation (Senate & House)
- Illinois General Assembly (State Senate & House)
- Employers of National Guardsmen
- State Agencies
- Citizens of Illinois

Goal 1: Develop a legislative strategic plan that outlines NGAI's objectives and goals.

Objective 1: Appoint a Legislative Committee to develop and assist in the implementation of the legislative strategy. Target Date: 2010

Objective 2: Assess the legislative interests and goals of the Stakeholders. Target Date: 2010

Objective 3: Assess the legislative goals and objectives of the Adjutant General and the senior National Guard Leadership. Target Date: 2010

Objective 4: Develop a written legislative strategy that will be multi-year and include both national and state objectives. Target Date: 2010

Goal 2: Support the national defense legislative initiatives of NGAUS.

Objective 1: Review and analyze NGAUS resolutions and other legislative actions to determine which are in the interest of the Illinois National Guard. Target Date: Continuous

Objective 2: Provide input to NGAUS through the resolution process to insure the Illinois National Guard interests are properly represented. Target Date: Continuous

Goal 3: Provide the Illinois Congressional delegation with recommendations on legislative actions that impact, influence or affect the Illinois National Guard.

Objective 1: Brief and/or visit Illinois Congressional delegation annually. Target Date: 2011)

Objective 2: Sponsor or partner with other organizations to host Congressional breakfast or evening social to brief our delegation. Target Date: 2011

Objective 3: Provide background, support and summary papers on NGAI's position on budget support, new equipment needs, future force structure and missions for the Illinois National Guard. Target Date: Continuous

Objective 4: Provide support for the Illinois National Guard military construction program. Target Date: Continuous

Goal 4: Provide Illinois General Assembly with recommendations on legislative actions that impact, influence or affect the Illinois National Guard.

Objective 1: Work with the Department of Military Affairs and the National Guard to foster a partnership on legislative issues and matters. Target Date: 2010-2011

Objective 2: Brief or annually visit the Illinois General Assembly to insure NGAI initiatives are addressed and current benefits to Illinois National Guardsmen are preserved. Target Date: Continuous

Objective 3: Support efforts to insure the Department of Military Affairs and the Illinois National Guard are adequately funded to meet both their state and federal missions. Target Date: Continuous

Objective 4: Support or assist in the support of Illinois General Assembly breakfasts or social events to brief and highlight the Illinois National Guard. Target Date: Continuous

Goal 5: Establish the NGAI insurance program as a state sponsored insurance so better benefits and support can be provided Illinois National Guardsmen.

Objective 1: Develop a legislative analysis of this initiative including costs and a benefit analysis. Target Date: 2010-2011

Objective 2: Seek bi-partisan legislative sponsors from the Senate and the House to introduce the bill. Target Date: 2011

Objective 3: Monitor and provide support for this legislation both at the committee and entire IGA. Target Date: 2011

Goal 6: Insure that long-time National Guard benefit programs are preserved by monitoring and evaluating legislative actions.

Objective 1: Monitor the funding support and other issues related to the National Guard Grant. Target Date: Continuous

Objective 2: Monitor legislative actions to insure current benefit programs are preserved. Target Date: Continuous

Goal 7: Over next three years work with the Illinois General Assembly to establish programs that will enhance the National Guard's future capabilities.

Objective 1: Seek legislative support to establish a military medal that recognizes soldiers and airmen who are injured in combat, but do not qualify for the Purple Heart.

Target Date: 2011

Objective 2: Secure legislative support that will direct funds received from military license plates above the basic registration fee to the Illinois Military Family Relief Fund.

Target Date: 2011

Objective 3: Seek legislation that will raise the minimum pay for State Active Duty from \$75 to \$150 and provide family medical coverage for State Active Duty in excess of 29 days.

Target Date: 2011/2012

Objective 3: Seek legislative support to insure that funds received from the sale of armories are used for future armory construction in Illinois. Target Date: 2012

Summary:

The goals and objectives outlined in this plan represent the priorities for the National Guard Association of Illinois. This plan is not static or a permanently fixed document but provides a legislative "roadmap" for the NGAI. It is also a "living" document that should be reviewed and updated annually as priorities change.

This plan provides a direction and future for programs that will not only insure the future of the Illinois Army and Air National Guard, but also address the critical benefit needs of our soldiers, airmen, families and retirees. Each of these goals is developed with a commitment of partnership with the Adjutant General of Illinois and the Department of Illinois.

These goals are not exclusive to a specific term of the NGAI board or its offers, but a multi-year strategy for the Association. Many are already in progress and represent the dynamic nature of this strategic plan. At particular periods some goals and objectives may need to be revised to reflect our changing defense and homeland security requirements.

Appendix A (NGAI Officers and Board of Directors)

President	CORY REID email: cory.reid@ang.af.mil
President Elect	Joe Schweickert email: j-s2@comcast.net
Vice President	Jon Boehning email: jonathan.boehning@ang.af.mil
Executive Director	Harold E. (Hal) Keistler email: execdir@ngai.com
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Vice President EANGUS	Don Southerland email: donald.southerland@ang.af.mil
Treasurer	Tim Barnhart email: timothy.barnhart@us.army.mil
Secretary	Kathie Bowman email: twobehome@yahoo.com
Director JFHQ-IL	Steve Foster email: steve.foster@us.army.mil
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Director Peoria ANG	Steve Rice email: steven.rice@ang.af.mil
Director Springfield ANG	Kevin Mulcahy email: kevin.mulcahy@ang.af.mil
Director Retirees	Milt Nichols email: miltb5s@yahoo.com

Appendix B (NGAI Legislative Committee)

Brig Gen (ret) John Sheedy

Chair

MG (ret) Randy Thomas	Member
Brig Gen (ret) Mark Rabin	Member
Brig Gen (ret) Frank Rezac	Member
Brig Gen (ret) Andy Cali	Member
Lt Col Marty Green	Member