



WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARD
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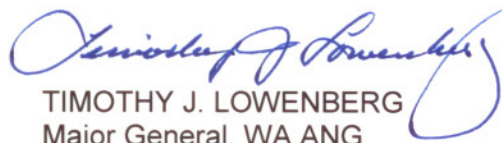
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30 January 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Participation in Professional Organizations

1. It is important that Washington National Guard soldiers and airmen consider joining and actively participating in professional organizations that support the interests of men and women in the uniformed services. These organizations offer a strategic perspective on public policy impacting our profession, deliver critical assistance to our members and families, and provide valuable opportunities for professional growth.
2. Organizations such as the National Guard Association of Washington (NGAW), the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), the Air Force Association (AFA), and the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) are examples of independent associations dedicated to the interests of National Guard and other service and service component members. They promote our military profession and individual professional growth.
3. Some soldiers and airmen may be uncertain about the propriety of belonging to and supporting organizations such as these. Although it is improper for anyone to use their official military position or government resources to endorse or support a specific organization, National Guard members are free, in their individual private capacity, to join and support professional associations or to refrain from doing so. If you have any question about your affiliation with such an association, please contact your Ethics Counselor (Legal Officer) for assistance.
4. Those who elect to join and participate in professional organizations become more informed leaders and more effective supporters of their fellow Guard members. Joining an association enables you to be better informed, to more effectively express your views and to contribute to solutions to the many challenges that confront military men and women. In short, professional organizations work for us - and cannot work without us. Please consider joining one or more of the organizations that support our profession of arms.


TIMOTHY J. LOWENBERG
Major General, WA ANG
The Adjutant General

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