

EANGMT RESOLUTION 03-02

Pertaining to:

RELATING TO MILITARY PERSONNEL APPROPRIATION CONSOLIDATION

Background:

The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) began an initiative in late December 2002 to consolidate all military pay accounts into the respective services. The initiative combines ten military pay appropriation accounts and transfers them to the four service departments (Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine). The initiative is planned for Congressional action to consolidate as early as Fiscal Year 2004.

The initial effect on the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard is that the Chief, National Guard Bureau, will no longer be the appropriation sponsor for military pay. The expenses of National Guard soldiers and airmen are funded by appropriations for the National Guard. The National Guard Bureau charter, created pursuant to Title 10, United States Code Section 1050, makes the Chief, National Guard Bureau, responsible for the "allocation of federal funds for training the Army and Air National Guard" as well as "planning and administering the budget for the Army National Guard of the United States and the Air National Guard of the United States". If approved, this proposal will require a change to this law as well as Title 10, United States Code Section 1101, as it pertains to the comptroller aspects.

National Guard Bureau has issued a position paper announcing its opposition to the proposal. Several concerns arise. Among them:

It would significantly reduce Congressional oversight of reserve component military personnel appropriations as established by Public Law 90-168.

The proposal does not increase the ability to reallocate resources without major changes to Congressional authority to review and approve funding transfers.

It eliminates all authority for the Chief, National Guard Bureau, to prepare, justify and execute military personnel appropriations for the National Guard as required by current statute.

The proposed timetable will not allow for the massive restructuring of budget, pay and accounting systems that would be required for this change. The costs in terms of manpower and required software changes would be tremendous at a time when all available resources should be focused on the global war on terrorism (GWOT).

Recommendation:

That the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Montana, in General Conference at Helena, Montana, this 25th day of January 2003, urge Congress to disapprove the Defense Secretary's proposal to consolidate DoD MILPERS appropriations at the service department level.