

April 26, 2008

MEMORANDUM FROM Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Montana gathered in General Conference at the 36th Annual Convention in Billings, MT.

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution

Resolution Regarding the Recommendations of the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves

Resolution No. 08-03

Concerning: The proposed changes to the missions, duty status reforms, retirement, the AGR program, promotions, medical coverage and many other drastic changes that would adversely affect the National Guard in a negative way.

WHEREAS, in these perilous times the National Guard has clearly demonstrated that without them their Active Component counterparts would have never been able to achieve level of success that we now have experienced on the world wide war on terror; and

WHEREAS, any change in the current duty status could and would hurt the ability to recruit and retain our highly qualified personnel. With weekend drill pay half of its normal amount the Guard would be hard pressed to keep and motivate personnel to train to an acceptable level prior to deployment; and

WHEREAS, with the reduction in retirement points coupled with a 401K style of retirement system, there would be little, if any, motivation to reenlist or even stay until retirement in the National Guard; and

WHEREAS, the AGR system has been a qualified success story for keeping the training standards up but also breaching the gap between the Active Component and the National Guard and the local communities. To replace them with active duty personnel would be a disaster. When the military tempo slows down again and cuts begin these will be among the first positions cut; and

WHEREAS, with the advent of a nationwide promotion system for officers and senior enlisted personnel there will be no guarantee that the best and brightest will rise to the top, plus it would pose a hardship on employers and families of this individual to accept a position in another state not to mention stifle the motivation of personnel within the state to strive to obtain these positions; and

WHEREAS, we have come a long way in providing medical coverage for our Guardsmen and their families under what is now TRS program, a switch to the FEHBP program, while having better coverage, would cost National Guard personnel more money. This coupled with the fact that if the report is adopted the individual would be earning half of what they normally clear; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Montana, gathered here in General Conference on April 26, 2008 in Billings, Montana do request the rejection of the final report from the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves, it is highly flawed and in need of deep revision. While some observations could and should be retained its findings concerning the National Guard would be considered unconstitutional and a violation of states rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Montana Congressional Delegation of the Honorable Representative Dennis Rehberg, the Honorable Senator Max Baucus and the Honorable Senator Jon Tester and to the Area VI Resolution Chairman for submittal to the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States.

CSM Ronda Scott
President
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Montana

Date Approved