



NGAI

Awards Program

(as of 6/17/2021)

The National Guard Association Of Indiana (NGAI) Awards Committee will provide the NGAI membership with an effective and efficient process designed to recognize individuals and organizations who, by superior performance, acts of heroism or service of a meritorious nature, make a contribution to the goals of NGAI, to the purpose and effectiveness of the National Guard or to the stability and security of the United States.

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AWARDS

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AWARDS PROGRAM GOALS

- Provide the NGAI Leadership and membership with an effective and efficient process to recognize individuals and organizations for awards through the NGAI, NGAUS, and/or EANGUS Awards programs.
 - Provide NGAI with a efficient process to recognize individuals and organizations for awards through the NGAI Awards Program.
 - Provide TAG and the INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD Leadership with assistance in the processing and the administration of nominations of groups and individuals to be submitted through the NGAUS Awards Program.
 - Provide State Command Sergeant Major and State Chief Master Sergeant with assistance in the processing and the administration of nominations of groups and individuals submitted through the EANGUS Awards Program.

PURPOSE of the NGAI AWARDS PROGRAM

- Recognize individuals and organizations that, by **superior performance**, acts of heroism or service of a meritorious nature, make a contribution to the goals of NGAI, to the purpose and effectiveness of the Indiana National Guard or to the stability and security of the United States.

MISSION STATEMENT

- The NGAI Awards Committee will provide the NGAI membership, TAG and the INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD Leadership, with an effective and efficient process designed to recognize individuals and organizations who, by superior performance, acts of heroism or service of a meritorious nature, make a contribution to the goals of NGAI, NGAUS, and EANGUS to the purpose and effectiveness of the Indiana National Guard or to the stability and security of the United States.

DISCLAIMER

- NGAI Board of Directors reserves the right to adjust the criteria or dates listed in this Awards SOP.

NGAI AWARDS PROCEDURES

- The Board of Directors is responsible for selecting awardees from recommendations made by the Awards Committee.
- The NGAI Staff will maintain awards information (criteria, nominations, and winners) on the NGAI webpage.
- Nominations must be completed based on specific criteria for the awards using nominations format provided (listed in this SOP).
- Call for Awards to all MACOM's via Vice Chiefs ARNG and ANG and the State Command Sergeant Major and Chief Master Sergeant 1 December.
- NGAI Award nominations are due to the NGAI staff not later than 15 February each year.
- NGAI Awards Committee will be review submissions to insure they meet the highest criteria interpretation and have adequate justification to meet/exceed the published award criteria.
- Awards not meeting requirements may be downgraded (if applicable), denied, or (in rare cases) returned to the nominee for correction if the criteria are not met.

- Selection for approval or denial is based on majority vote of the committee (essentially, the chair becomes a tie breaker)
- After NGAI Awards Committee review, all approved NGAI award nominations will be presented to the Board of Directors for a final vote of approval or denial.
- All EANGUS and NGAUS award nominations will go to the Awards Board for final approval and processing.
- The Awards Board will consist of the following:
 - Vice Chief of Staff ARNG
 - Director of Staff ARG
 - State CSM
 - State CMS
 - NGAI Awards Committee Chair
 - NGAI Executive Director

AWARDS CALENDAR

- 1 December- Call for Awards to all MACOM's via Vice Chiefs ARNG and ANG and the State Command Sergeant Major and Chief Master Sergeant.
- 1 February – Units will submit NGAI Award nominations to the NGAI Awards Committee for processing and placing into tracking packets.
- 1 February - Awards Committee meets (by phone or at monthly board meeting) to recommend approval or denial of award nominations to NGAI Awards Board.
- February Board Meeting – NGAI Awards Board approves Awards and staff begins processing for presentation at Annual NGAI Conference.
- 1 April – Complete award packages due

NGAI AWARDS COMMITTEE SELECTION AND DUTIES

- The Awards Committee will consist of four members, a chair (member of the board) and four at-large positions (two ARNG and two ANG) that may or may not be members of the Board of Directors.
- Awards Committee members may be removed or replaced by the President of the Board and/or Board of Directors at any time.
- Selection to the committee should be based on experience, knowledge of the process, and ability to facilitate the calendar.

The Awards Committee duties will include, but are not limited to,

- Perform audit oversight as directed by the Board of Directors (Chair).
- Review and know the Awards SOP.
- Keep in contact with the Awards Chair throughout the year.
- Attend (by phone or in person) the Awards Committee meeting, providing **thoughtful and realistic** review of the award nominations.

NGAI AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR DUTIES

- Be selected and appointed for a specific term by the NGAI Board of Directors.
- Be a member of the Board of Directors.
- Selection is based on past experience, knowledge of the process, and determined ability to facilitate the process.
- Keep abreast of the Awards process throughout the year, and become the Board of Directors representative for awards.
- 1 December – Call for awards nominations and coordinate with JFHQ OPORD.
- Early February, chair the Awards Committee meeting to review any Annual Awards.
- Supervise and be responsible for the entire NGAI Awards process.
- Review final awards as completed by JFHQ.

NGAI AWARDS AFTER ACTION REVIEW PROCESS

- Awards AAR process will be completed to insure adequacy and administrative effectiveness is maintained at the highest levels.
- Awards committee members will submit comments or suggested changes to the Awards Chair for action at the next monthly Board of Directors meeting.

DUTIES OF THE NGAI STAFF

- Collect NGAI Award nominations to be reviewed by the committee.
- Maintain an Awards webpage on www.NGAI.net webpage (posting POC for awards, plus other pertinent information).
- Review NGAI Awards for accuracy and standards (making suggestions to nominators in advance of the committee meeting).
- Purchase awards for presentation at the NGAI General Conference.
- Notify award winners and verify attendance at Annual NGAI Conference.

The FALCON AWARD

NGAI created **The FALCON AWARD** to provide its highest honor and appreciation. The Falcon is the highest award presented by the National Guard Association of Indiana's Board of Directors. This award is presented to the organization, group or individual who has contributed to the overall success of the Association.

Eligibility: Any individual is eligible to receive **The Falcon Award**.

Criteria: An individual must have distinguished him/herself in particularly outstanding service to the United States Government, any of the Armed Forces of the United States, including the Indiana National Guard and NGAI. An individual must have offered **exceptionally outstanding and noteworthy contributions over an extended period of time** to clearly merit the receipt of this award.

Nominations and Selection Procedures: Any member of the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors or The Adjutant General of the Indiana National Guard may nominate an individual to receive this award. More than one award may be given in a calendar year.

Nominations must be received by 31 January.



FALCON AWARD

<u>Awards Received By:</u>	<u>Date</u>
Dennis Hardy	1996
David Lohr	1996
Allison Transmission	1996
Union Federal Savings Bank	1996
Theresa Jelliffe	1996
Ronald L. Runyon	1997
Larry Massey	1998
AM General	1998
Robert Moorhead	1998
Jim Smith	1998
American Legion Post 64	1998
Raytheon	1999
LTG Vernon Webber	1999
COL Robert Clifford	1999
181 st Fighter Wing	2001
David M. Ellington	2001
Rowanna Umbarger	2002
R. Martin Umbarger	2003
Sabrina Young	2004
J. Stewart Goodwin	2005
Shane A. Halbrook	2006
Not awarded in 2007	2007
Charles Dawson	2008
Not awarded in 2009	2009
COL (Retired) Marjorie Courtney	2010
Kurt Layer	2011
John Barnes, Panther Racing	2012
Governor Mitch Daniels	2012
James K Wilson Brig Gen (Ret)	2013
Brig Gen Jeffrey "Doggie" Hauser	2014
Not awarded in 2015	2015
Margaret (Marge) Washburn BG (Ret)	2016
Col Matt Brown	2017
Not awarded in 2018	2018
Mike Sturm	2019
Not awarded	2020
Patriot Products	2021
Not awarded in 2022	2022

The NGAI DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

NGAI created **The DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD** to provide recognition for an individual who, as a civilian or member of the Armed Forces (Active, Guard or Reserve), performed exceptionally outstanding service to the United States, to the Armed Forces of the United States and to NGAI.

Eligibility: Any individual is eligible to receive the NGAI Distinguished Service Award.

Criteria: An individual must have distinguished him/herself in particularly outstanding service to the United States Government, any of the Armed Forces of the United States, including the Indiana National Guard and NGAI. Outstanding performance of **normal duty alone will not justify the award** of this medal. An individual must have offered **exceptionally outstanding contributions over an extended period of time** to clearly merit the award of this medal.

Nominations and Selection Procedures: Any member of NGAI may nominate an individual to receive this award. More than one award may be given in a calendar year.

Nominations must be received by 31 January.



The NGAI MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

NGAI created **The MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD** to provide recognition for an individual who, as a civilian or member of the Armed Forces (Active, Guard or Reserve), performed exceptionally outstanding service to the United States, to the Armed Forces of the United States or to NGAI.

Eligibility: Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States (Active, Guard or Reserve) or NGAI or any civilian is eligible to receive the Meritorious Service Award.

Criteria: An individual must have accomplished an **outstanding achievement** on behalf of the NGAI. Superior performance by an individual must have been such as to clearly identify them as having **played a key role** in the accomplishment for which the award is to be given. Particular considerations will be given to those individuals who have contributed **outstanding service on a sustained basis**. Personal dedication and self-sacrifice also will be regarded as factors deserving consideration.

Nomination and Selection Procedures: Any member of NGAI may nominate an individual to receive this award. More than one award may be given in a calendar year.

Nominations must be received by 31 January.



The MG ALFRED F. AHNER AWARD FOR HEROISM

NGAI created **The MG ALFRED F. AHNER AWARD FOR HEROISM** to be presented to members of the National Guard who have distinguished themselves by performing acts of heroism that otherwise might not be recognized due to the National Guard's peacetime status.

Eligibility: The nominee must be an active, bona fide member of the National Guard at the time of the act.

Criteria: The individual must have performed an act of **heroism clearly beyond what reasonably might have been expected under the circumstances** and of such a nature that had it not been attempted; no criticism would be justified. The nominee's act of heroism was voluntary. This award frequently will encompass lifesaving acts. It also may be appropriate under circumstances in which extraordinary performance has contributed to the alleviation of public tragedy or to the preservation of public property.

Nomination and Selection Procedures: Any individual having knowledge of an act worthy of the award for **the MG Alfred F. Ahner Award for Heroism** may submit a nomination. It is recommended, however, that nominations be submitted by the nominee's immediate commanding officer, through normal official channels after full investigation and preparation of supporting evidence. More than one award may be given in a calendar year.

Nomination submissions should include: A fully detailed chronological narration of what occurred, utilizing exact times and dates, and full identification of all principles, including witnesses. Clear and complete reporting of facts will more likely achieve the object of the recommendation than flowery generalities.

A proposed citation, one paragraph in length.

A signed statement of at least one, and preferably two, eyewitnesses. Such documents as extracts from official records, sketches, maps, photos and newspaper clippings that help establish the validity of the nomination may be used as supporting evidence. In cases where no eyewitnesses are available, the requirement may be waived if personal heroism is completely self-evident and the award can legitimately be made without question.

A signed statement by the individual nominated, describing the act in detail, also may be regarded as important supportive evidence.

Any heroic act performed by a member of the National Guard is eligible for consideration without regard to his duty status at the time of the event. It can be awarded while on military duty, in state status or while acting in a civilian capacity. **The MG Alfred F. Ahner Award for Heroism** may be awarded posthumously. In such cases, the medal and certificate will be presented to the recipient's next of kin.

Nominations must be received by 31 January.



The NGAI R. MARTIN UMBARGER PRESIDENT'S AWARD

NGAI created The NGAI R. MARTIN UMBARGER PRESIDENT'S AWARD to provide the Association President the option to recognize any individual who, as a civilian or member of the Armed Forces, performed exceptionally outstanding service to the United States, to the Armed Forces of the United States or to NGAI.

Eligibility: Any group or individual is eligible to receive the NGAI President's Award.

Criteria: Any group or individual who has performed exceptional service to the United States, to the Armed Forces of the United States or to NGAI.

Nomination and Selection Procedures: This Award is presented solely at the discretion of the President of the NGAI Board of Directors. It requires no further review or approval process by either the Awards Committee or the Board of Directors. More than one award may be given in a calendar year.

Nominations must be received by 31 January.



The NGAI COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD

NGAI created The NGAI COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD to provide recognition for an individual who, as a civilian, performed outstanding service or support to the United States, to the Armed Forces of the United States or to NGAI.

Eligibility: Any group or individual is eligible to receive the NGAI Community Partner Award.

Criteria: Any group or individual who has performed exceptional service to the United States, to the Armed Forces of the United States or to NGAI.

Nomination and Selection Procedures: Any member of NGAI may nominate an individual to receive this award. More than one award may be given in a calendar year.

Nominations must be received by 31 January.



BOARD OF DIRECTOR-RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

An Indiana shaped plaque is given at the end of a Board of Director's end of service either by resignation, not rerunning at the end of a term or if running for reelection and is not elected.

NGAUS AWARDS PROCESS

Nominations for NGAUS Awards must be completed based on specific criteria for the awards using procedures provided in the NGAUS AWARDS page (<http://www.ngaus.org/about-ngaus/ngaus-awards-program>) and clicking on the Awards page link. All award nominations must be submitted through the official chain of command and the NGAI Awards Committee and President.

All NGAUS AWARD nominations must be made by a member of the NGAUS Awards Committee, the NGAUS Board of Directors or an elected officer of NGAUS, any state association President or Adjutants General with the exception of **The Valley Forge Cross for Heroism or Theodore Roosevelt Leadership Awards for Company Grade Officers.**

-Nominations for **The Valley Forge Cross for Heroism** may be made any individual having knowledge of an act worthy of the award for the Valley Forge Cross. It is recommended, however, that nominations be

submitted by the nominee's immediate commanding officer, through normal official channels after full investigation and preparation of supporting evidence.

-Nominations for **The Theodore Roosevelt Leadership Awards for Company Grade Officers** require recommendation endorsements from unit commanders, battalion or wing commanders and state Adjutant General.

It is recommended that all nomination considerations for NGAUS Awards be brought to the attention of the NGAI Awards Committee Chair or committee member.

The NGAI Awards Committee Chair and/or committee members will provide assistance to the NGAI president, TAG/TAG Staff, to any individual who, having knowledge of an act worthy of the award for **The Valley Forge Cross**, wants to nominate that individual, or to any unit, battalion or wing commanders making a nomination for **The Theodore Roosevelt Leadership Awards for Company Grade Officers**.

EANGUS AWARDS PROCESS

Nominations for EANGUS Awards must be completed based on specific criteria for the awards using procedures provided in the **EANGUS WE CARE FOR AMERICA AWARDS PROGRAM SOP** and nomination form, (http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.eangus.org/resource/collection/7D4657DD-3184-40A0-8D20-5C15BBDEEF74/We_Care_WCFA-AWARDS_SOP_Mar_2007.pdf). All award nominations must be submitted through the official chain of command and the NGAI Awards Committee and President.

The NGAI Awards Committee Chair and/or committee members will provide assistance in the EANGUS Awards nomination process.

NGAI Individual Award Nomination Form

Date: _____

Award Nominated to Receive:

Name/Rank/Duty/Title/ Organization or Unit of Assignment of Nominee:

Nominated By:

Years in the National Guard: _____

Justification for Award:

Adjutant General Endorsement: YES _____ NO _____

Proposed Citation:

All information must be forwarded to NGAI by **31 January** if you will be present to receive your award at the Annual Conference. If we do not hear from you, we will presume you will not be in attendance and will not include you in the ceremony.

Mail or email this form to: NGAI 711 N. Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204; or email to info@ngai.net

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