

To: PNGAS Board

From: CPT Christi Cook

Date: 25 March 2024

NGAUS Capitol Hill Summit

I attended the NGAUS Capitol Summit event 18-19MAR24. This event was offered to enhance Officer professional development, and to provide insight on how Air & Army National Guardsmen work parallel with our members of Congress through the legislative process. Various congress members, and current members of our force, provided detailed feedback and fundamentals to understand the importance of our role in this process.

This event inspired and motivated me to continue participating with NGAUS; along with, PNGAS. I was captivated by each speaker, and the dedication each have input throughout their careers. Speaker, former U.S. Representative Geoff Davis for Kentucky's district, provided a very personal look into his background, and stressed the significance of building relationships to ameliorate our foundation. This is essential for our Air and Army Guardsmen to establish, and work cohesively with our members of congress to prioritize our efforts.

For me, the most invigorating part of the event was going to the Hill, and gaining insight on how the bill process flows, and the importance of communication. We were broken into groups of 6, and learned about the current bills in progress, such as, Zero Cost Tricare for Reserve/Guard, Zero Cost Dental, and Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act. Our group was expected to conduct research on our assigned members of Congress, and each bill mentioned. It was imperative for us to establish rapport and provide any personal statements regarding the bills to gain momentum. If the members of Congress and/or their staff was in support, we were to provide updates and a friendly thank you.

Ultimately, the Capitol Hill Summit was a great opportunity me as a junior Officer. It provided me with information that would benefit my Soldiers, and servicemembers' families. I formed terrific relationships in two days with National Guardsmen from all around which relates to starting that foundation. I gained experienced advice, and insightful knowledge that is critical to our future in the Air & Army National Guard. I would recommend the Capitol Summit to interested Junior Officers at any opportunity.

Sincerely,

CPT Christi Cook