

To: PNGAS Board
From: CW2 Paul Hock
Date: 20 March 2024
NGAUS Capitol Hill Summit 2024

I was invited to attend the NGAUS Capitol Summit on March 18th and 19th, 2024. It was a two-day Officer Professional Development event specifically designed for junior and company grade officers like me. The focus of the summit was to give an inside look at how NGAUS approaches members of Congress regarding policies that directly impact our Air and Army National Guard Soldiers.

The summit was jam-packed with informative sessions and engaging activities. We had a full lineup of curriculum that covered everything from understanding what NGAUS is all about to learning how to effectively engage with members of Congress. We even had the opportunity to meet and interact with actual congress members on Capitol Hill! It was truly eye-opening to see firsthand how we can advocate for the priorities and policies that directly affect our fellow Guard members.

During the summit, we had the privilege of hearing from LTG Jon Jensen and Major General Keith MacDonald which provided us with valuable insights, updates on legislative matters, and specific issues facing the Army and Air National Guard. Additionally, we heard from Former Representative Geoff Davis and Former Staff Director for Senate Armed Services Committee about different Congressional perspectives that aided us in forming strategies in approaching members of Congress.

One of the highlights for me, was when I had the chance to apply what I learned by conducting meetings with Representatives Mikie Sherrill from New Jersey and Dutch Ruppersberger from Maryland. Our group discussed important bills such as H.R. 4221 - Healthcare for Our Troops Act, H.R. 4220 - Dental Care for Our Troops Act, and H.R. 7543 - Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act. These bills aim to provide better healthcare options, dental care, and educational assistance to our National Guard and Reserve members.

Overall, this experience was truly an honor and incredibly fulfilling. I am looking forward to attending more events like this in the future. Being able to actively shape the future of the Army and Air National Guard by addressing the challenges we face is something that is becoming a passion for me and I highly recommend to all serving members to be involved as well.

Sincerely,
CW2 Paul Hock