



ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Washington, D.C. - The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard (EANGUS) formalized a partnership on August 12, 2019. The official partnership will allow EANGUS and VA to work together to advance and expand access to mental health resources for currently serving and Veterans of the National Guard. "This collaboration will provide access to care for National Guard members and Veterans who might otherwise not qualify for VA services, especially when it comes to those issues that fall under the category of mental health such as suicide counseling and emotional support" said EANGUS Executive Director SGM (Retired) Frank Yoakum.

"VA engaging members of the National Guard is a priority set in the National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "This partnership enhances the access to these resources for current service members and Veterans already connected with VA."

VA and EANGUS have a shared goal to improve Veterans' and Servicemembers' mental health, well-being, and to enhance their access to certain health services. This cooperative relationship will be mutually beneficial as we work together to expand the reach and awareness of suicide prevention, substance use, mental health educational tools, and other web-based resources to current and former members of the National Guard. We will explore opportunities for identifying Veterans who are not enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to increase awareness of VHA enrollment opportunities and to share Veteran-focused resources.

EANGUS works to advance the interests of over a million Soldiers, Airmen, their families, Retirees, and survivors. Reflecting the Spirit of America in over 3,000 communities across the nation, the men and women of the National Guard serve to defend their nation from threats abroad as well as to respond to natural and manmade disasters in their home state.

Veterans who are in crisis or having thoughts of suicide, and those who know a Veteran in crisis, can contact the Veterans Crisis Line for confidential support 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Call 800-273-8255 and press 1, send a text message to 838255 or chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat.

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