



*Adopted 02/01/2020 (updated 07/21/2020)*

## **2020 Legislative Agenda**

### **The National Guard Association of Massachusetts (NGAMA)**

#### **Newly Submitted Draft Resolutions from NGAMA**

##### **[DO J 13 F Add MA](#)**

##### **Funding restoration to the National Guard for environmental cleanup. Joint 03/10/2020**

The Army and Air National Guard operate under the control of the federal government, with very few exceptions. Therefore, the NG should have the same access to DERA funding as their active duty counterparts for ALL contaminants for the purposes of investigation, design, remediation and all related peripheral costs. Based upon the Policy put forth by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations and Environment memo dated 28 Nov 2017, the NG was retroactively eliminated from using DERA funds. Since that memo, NDAA FY19 has allocated \$29M for Guard use for at PFOS/PFOA contaminated site remediation, in addition to opening up DERA funded for NG PFOS/PFOA investigation and design. Those two compounds are but two of the contaminants that require remediation when discovered on NG facilities. This policy eliminated Guard use of DERA funds for any legacy or emerging contaminants. If the Guard is no longer allowed DERA funding, they must now use O & M funds for these “must pay bills”. Basically, this would require the National Guard to utilize operational funds normally slated for maintenance and training; dramatically affecting unit mission readiness and lethality of the force.

The resolution above was submitted by the National Guard Association of Massachusetts (NGAMA) for acceptance by the resolutions committee of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) and unanimously approved by all states, districts and territories (collectively known as “The 54”). It was then adopted as a legislative priority for NGAUS lobbying activities with the entire federal delegation.

Similar resolutions have been submitted by NGAMA since 2017, when access to DERA funding was eliminated for the National Guard. 2020 was the first year that it received the visibility it deserved.