

Speech by Major General Mosley to the EANGMT Board Members
10 November 2004, Helena MT
(Transcribed from tape recording)

I just wanted to take a couple minutes of your time and do two things, one of which of course is to thank you. This is not part of your normal job description. This is one of those other duties not as assigned but as critically important to the organization. Associations play an invaluable role in the success of any organization. We would not be either who or where we are, without associations and the effort of large number of people such as yourself who take a term of their life and work in support of the soldiers and the airman of the MT National Guard. And like I told the board member upstairs just a few minutes ago, this is a good time to be a member of the board. This is a good time to be a member of the board because I believe this is a good time for associations to do things for airman and soldiers. Like I tell everyone there are many ways to serve your country, there's none finer than as a member of the United States military. That is recognized currently by a very broad spectrum of the public. They may disagree on where we go and what we do when we're there. But they don't disagree that as long as we are there they are going to support the efforts of those that we put in harms way to do those things. That is recognized broad spectrum.

Associations have an opportunity now in my opinion to do some things that you have not had the opportunity to be as successful in the past and that is to show a greater level of support to the airman and soldiers via a couple of means. One, I believe one of the fundamental duties of the association is to educate the public about what that association is responsible for, what it's members do. The National Guard what it's all about. It's not hard to get press time or media time right now when it has to do with the military. We're very successful and it's pretty easy right now because of what the military's involved in. There's an upcoming legislative session and I believe that associations are about more than an annual meeting, submission of resolutions, and the periodic publishing of a newsletter or a website that tells those particular members that belong what the association does. And you can probably read between the lines that what I'm going to push doesn't come without effort. Hey guess what, that's what you are all about, effort. I believe that our airman and soldiers deserve all the entitlements and all the benefits that this great state can give them, more than they can give them. We should be asking for more. We should be recognizing and rewarding them in every possible way we can think of. And we should be loud and strong and in unison with that message, because I believe the timing is right for people to hear that message. And even if they don't support us all the way the message is not going to turn them off because they believe in the military and what it's doing. They may not just be able to do it to the extent that we want. But if they don't hear the message and no one pushes it, things are fine.

Your membership, is it as great as it could be? Do the individuals that have the ability to belong to the organization, do they feel as individuals that they may be getting as much out of it personally as would justify them to be a member, maybe not. So what am I saying? We've got to give them more. We've got to look at what it is that we can do to support those individual members or potential members.

Here is a unique time in our states history as a National Guard organization. Not since WWII have we ever, either air or army deployed as many airman or soldiers as we have since 2001. What have you as a group done? Let me rephrase that. Have you as a group done as much as you can for those deployed airman or soldiers and/or their families left behind as you could have to demonstrate that association's care about airman and soldiers. And that we are doing things to demonstrate that we care. Something that they conceive, their family members

conceive or be part of, and recognize that hey you know what the association did this particular thing. And whether that's something that supports families when they are left behind or just deploying soldiers getting prepared or coming back and recognition and being there and doing something that is driven to them specifically so they can see that it's an individual thing they're getting back and it's not something at some level that is hard to see an individual return. Or that at least at a State of Montana level every two years we have a legislative session and that it is the association that is driving to get some individual recognition, entitlements, benefits to our enlisted members. Something that as an agency, as an organization because of constraints that some of us are under do not have the ability to do. What do I mean again, for this organization to submit a bill to the legislature to benefit individuals, soldiers and airman must get the approval of the executive branch and it must meet the fiscal and the policy parameters which they impose on us as a result. Guess what? You don't have those. You can speak your peace. You can portray what's important and why. I can support you but I don't necessarily have the prerogative of doing some of the things that you might be able to do but I would be glad to support you in any way that I can during that.

So I ask you to consider just a couple of things. What can we do that individual members of the Montana National Guard be them air or army, will recognize as something this association is doing specifically for them and is in response to this association's specific efforts. Not something such as well we supported the department of military affairs to get this, this and this. Or the department is going out and setting some public event up. What can the association do that gets their name out in front, that gets their name in front of the airman and the soldiers so that it's easy to recognize that this is an association that is doing things for us. And I don't mean to imply that this is something that you don't try to do. I'm just saying that there's an opportunity here. There's a timing, there's an environment of support for the military. We've got deployments going on, there's people that are in need or being stressed and need support. And how and whenever and as ever this association can do something that will support those individuals, the soldiers, the airman. I think you are doing something that is the right thing to do for your membership and your potential membership who would recognize that type of effort.

So again, it's a good time and this is a good group and I think you have an opportunity to consider how you might expand some of the objectives of this organization, some of the activities and events that you believe as an association you ought to try and do and I would only urge that those types of things you think about doing are ones that individual airman and soldiers can recognize that "you know what the enlisted association they did this and you know what, I like that, I'd like to belong to that organization because they're really doing something for me, that I can see as an individual." And again, please don't take it that you're not doing good things. I'm just saying that I think there is an opportunity here and I just suggest that you might consider that and see how you all can take advantage of that that it won't be without the additional requirement of hours expended, corralling volunteers to help but you know what if it is a good cause and people can see that there may be some immediate return and there part of something that they believe in. I think that reinvigorates not only the current membership but sends the right message to the potential. So however and whenever I can help you doing those things that the association does for its membership, you let me know. I'll be glad to try to support you. I'll be glad to participate with you. I'll be glad to do anything and everything that I can because I believe in you and I believe in what you do and I believe that you do make a difference. And that's all any of us want is to do those things for our membership that will make a difference. I guess I just leave you with that message and again I thank you for the opportunity to come in and visit for a little bit....Any questions of me right now, if not just remember the doors open, I'll help you however I can. Thanks everyone.