

Company Grade Officer and Enlisted Professional Development Training

The Army National Guard is hosting the 2026 Wisconsin National Guard State Conference at the Central Wisconsin Convention and Expo Center in Rothschild, WI on 24-26 April 2026. This event is co-sponsored by the Wisconsin National Guard Association (WINGA) and the Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association (WNGEA).

Major General Matthew Strub, the Wisconsin National Guard Adjutant General, and Command Sergeant Major (Retired) John Gipe, EANGUS Executive Director will be our invited guest speakers for the Conference. In addition, our State Command Sergeant Major, Christopher Weyer and State Air Command Chief Chad Workman will be addressing the attendees. Many other Wisconsin National Guard leaders will be present to share their expertise on topics to improve and enhance leadership, teamwork, legislative awareness, and mentorship skills. The following is a summary of our professional development speakers and their qualifications.



Major General Matthew Strub is Wisconsin's 32nd Adjutant General. He commands the Wisconsin National Guard and is responsible for Emergency Management. He also serves as Wisconsin's Homeland Security Advisor, chairs the Homeland Security Council, and serves as the senior state official for cyber matters. Major General Strub has given the State of Wisconsin and the Nation more than three decades of faithful service. He holds a master's degree in strategic studies from the US Army War College, a master's degree in quality systems management from the National Graduate School and a Bachelor's degree in geography from the University of Minnesota.



Command Sergeant Major (Ret) John D. Gipe currently serves as the Executive Director of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), where he leads the Association's national operations, legislative initiatives, and corporate engagement strategies on behalf of more than 400,000 enlisted men and women of the National Guard. A native of Kentucky, CSM Gipe's military career spanned more than three decades of distinguished service in the United States Army and the Army National Guard. He served in every Noncommissioned Officer leadership position throughout his career, concluding his service as the ninth Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. Prior to this assignment, CSM Gipe served as the 8th Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard (ARNG) from June 2005 through July 2009. There he served as the principal advisor to the Director of the ARNG regarding Training, Personnel Policy and Family Programs for the 372,800 Soldiers of the Army National Guard and their Families. Following his retirement from military service in 2013, Gipe continued his commitment to the Guard community through his work as President of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kentucky, the Vice-Chair of the KY Committee on Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) and as a member of the Board of Directors of the KY National Guard Memorial.