

National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA) Funding

What is it?

NGREA is procurement funding provided by Congress directly to all reserve components to include the ANG and ARNG in the National Guard. The Congressional intent for NGREA funding is to fill shortfalls in equipment provided by the Service and to help keep the ANG relevant in both overseas and domestic operations. Because it is procurement funding, there can be no development, which drives acquisition of only immediately available, off-the-shelf items and includes non-developmental integration and operational testing before fielding. ANG capability requirements for NGREA are developed, vetted and validated in a bottom-up process at two annual conferences. The Weapons and Tactics Conference addresses needs for the major weapons systems (MWSs) for overseas operations. The Domestic Operations Equipment Requirements Conference (DOER) addresses the needs of the domestic response force using the emergency support functions defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The results are published annually in separate summative books posted on public National Guard web sites.

What has the Air National Guard done?

The ANG uses NGREA to pursue and acquire commercial and government off-the-shelf solutions requiring non-developmental integration to modernize its fleet of MWSs. NGREA funding gives the ANG the ability to obtain the 80% solution for 25% of the cost, which, in turn, allows fast equipping of a greater portion of the fleet. Examples are: C-130/F-16/A-10/HH-60 data links; C-5A defensive systems; night vision goggles and compatible cockpit lighting; advanced targeting pods; A-10/HH-60/F-16 smart color displays; F-16/A-10 ALQ-213, ALR-69 modernization; HH-60 .50 cal door guns; secure, beyond line-of-sight communications; high fidelity simulators.

What continued effort have the Air National Guard planned for the future?

The annual definition of the ANG modernization and domestic response requirements will continue as described in the previous answer. Currently, the ANG is changing the NGREA planning process and execution process to meet the OSD goal of obligating 80% of procurement funds in the first fiscal year of the appropriation. The Secretary of the Air Force is also providing direct assistance to address challenges. NGB/A5 plans to have FY09 and FY10 NGREA obligation rates caught up to the OSD goals in 2Q CY11. The ANG's future requirements are documented in its annual Weapons Systems Modernization Requirements Book for combat systems and the Domestic Operations Equipment Requirements (DOERs) Book for the domestic response force. Both books can be downloaded from the NGB/LL web site at: <http://www.ng.mil/ll/default.aspx>.

Why is this important to the Air National Guard?

NGREA is the life blood of ANG modernization efforts. The Active Component's (AC'S) emphasis is focused on the long term recapitalization as DoD budgets flatten, increasing the importance of NGREA for modernization of legacy ANG aircraft. In addition, the AC has not recognized the unique requirements driven by the ANG's domestic mission—NGREA is the primary means to fulfill these domestic capability shortfalls until domestic operations are fully normalized in the Air Force's planning and budgeting process.