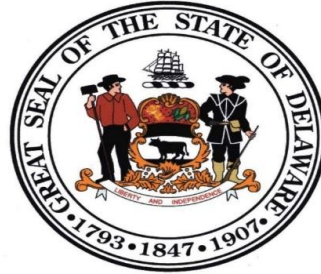


Delaware National Guard Fiscal Year 2027 Bond Bill Hearing April 27, 2026



JAMES A. BENSON
Major General
The Adjutant General, Delaware

1

National Guard Dual Missions *Always Ready, Always There*

State Mission

- The Governor may call individuals or units into state service during emergencies or to assist in special situations
- To provide trained and disciplined forces for domestic emergencies or as otherwise provided by state law

Federal Mission

- President serves as Commander-In-Chief
- Provide properly trained and equipped units for prompt mobilization for war, National emergency or as otherwise needed

2

National Guard Impact

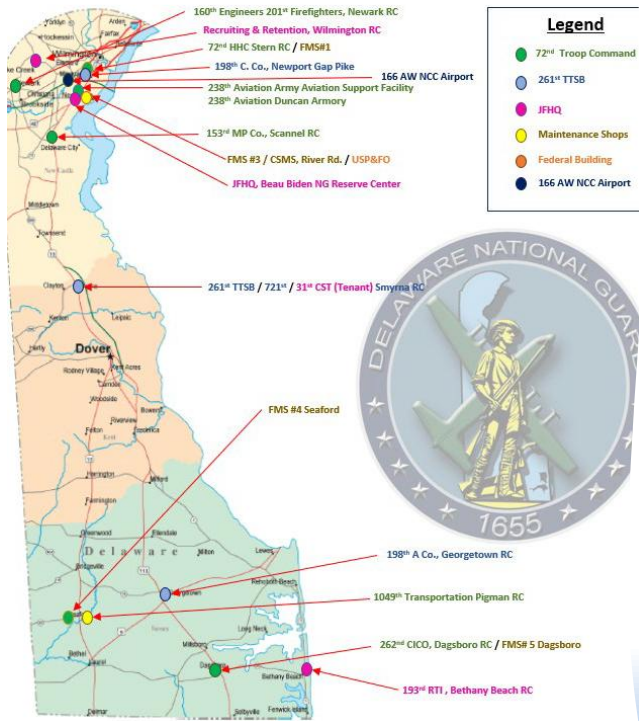
- Economic cornerstone for our State
- Generate millions in annual revenue
- Significant employer
- Key state agency
- Positive impact

3

Army National Guard Readiness Centers as of October 2025

<i>Readiness Center/Location</i>	<i>Construction Completion Date</i>
River Road Training Site Readiness Center	2025
Joseph R. "Beau" Biden National Guard/Reserve Center	2013
Smyrna Readiness Center	2003
Dagsboro Readiness Center	1999
Scannell Readiness Center (Delaware City)	1976
Duncan Readiness Center	1975
198th Regimental Armory (1401 Newport Gap Pike)	1972
Wilmington Readiness Center ¹	1959
Stern Readiness Center	1954
Pigman Readiness Center (Seaford) ²	1950
Georgetown Readiness Center	1939
<i>Total of 11 Readiness Centers of which 10 are state-owned</i>	<i>Average age = 51 years</i>
<i>Total of 7 Oldest Readiness Centers</i>	<i>Average age = 64 years</i>
<i>Note 1 - Acquired from Department of Education in 1979</i>	
<i>Note 2 - Federally-owned - ongoing license from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</i>	

4



Readiness Center Locations

- Wilmington
- New Castle
- Delaware City
- Smyrna
- Georgetown
- Dagsboro

5

National Guard MCI Program

- Support ongoing maintenance, restoration, repair and replacement projects
- Improve safety of facilities; comply with building codes
- Maintain building envelopes; upgrade equipment
- Replace HVAC systems, roofs, sidewalks, parking lots, electrical systems and lighting
- Renovations

6

Federal and State Capital Funds

- Last five years
 - \$139 million in federal
 - \$41 million in state
- Impact
 - Federal match
 - Usage
 - State emergencies
 - State and federal missions
 - Readiness, recruiting and retention

7

FY 2027 Initiatives

- \$2.3 million Minor Capital Budget Request
- \$200 thousand for Maintenance and Restoration
- Minor Capital Improvement Projects
 - Scannell Refurbishment \$800,000
 - Scannell Solar \$750,000
 - Stern Solar \$750,000
- *Total federal share for MCI this year is approx. \$5 million*

8

Ongoing Army and Air Military Construction (MILCON) Projects

Army

- Transient Training Officer Barracks
- Dagsboro Readiness Center Expansion
- Civil Support Team (CST) Expansion
- Biden Microgrid

Air

- Fuel Cell Hangar
- Main Gate Complex

11

River Road Readiness Center

- Four-year project – began in 2022
- Built on federal property – New Castle County
- Total project cost \$27.9 million (\$19.2 million federal / \$8.7 million state match (FY23)
- 46,941 SF (Units-153rd Military Police and new 302nd Field Feeding Team)
- Provide administrative, training, and materiel storage



12

Closing Remarks

- Continued support and state collaboration
- Remain competitive; deliver high quality services
- Maintain current posture; plan for future growth
- Sustain operational readiness and effectiveness
- Proud to serve the Citizens of this Great State and Nation
- *Always Ready, Always There*



13

QUESTIONS?



14