

MARYLAND

MILITARY DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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PRIORITIES

Our success depends on developing disciplined Soldiers, Airmen and civilian support from diverse backgrounds who are committed to serve. Our conduct on and off duty will be of the highest caliber – this is combat readiness!

DIVERSITY

An organization that seeks diversity of background, skill sets, and thought. The organization provides our members and employees the ability to expand their military and civilian careers by leveraging existing systems, training, and opportunities while seeking new partnerships and innovative approaches to improve the organization.

DISCIPLINE

An organization that provides well-organized and orderly administration for our members and employees. The Maryland Military Department upholds standards while maintaining dignity and respect. Personnel at all levels will continually evaluate our culture and performance to learn from the past and improve our future.

DEDICATION

An organization committed to providing the best for its members and employees and remaining a part of, and responsive to, the community which we serve. The organization embraces its heritage while encouraging innovative ways of thinking and accomplishing missions.

MISSION

Provide a relevant and capable force that is ready to fight, protect, and prevail against all threats in a multi-domain environment as directed by the President of the United States and the Governor of Maryland. On order, the Maryland National Guard employs and directs trained Maryland National Guard forces in the Joint Operational Area to assist civilian authorities to preserve public safety, save lives, prevent human suffering, mitigate property damage and affect recovery.

VISION

Advance as an organization of excellence, embedded in our communities, and focused on improving security, safety, trust, and support to all citizens. Recruit and invest in a diverse, physically and mentally resilient workforce, while recognizing and retaining top talent. We are committed to sustaining a balance between civilian employment, family life, and military obligations. Provide ready, manned, trained, and equipped units that are cohesive and fully capable to accomplish missions assigned by federal and state authorities. Provide units that can overmatch any threat in a multi-domain environment by maintaining readiness through challenging training events built on realism, rigor, and relevance within a contested environment.



**GOVERNOR
WES MOORE**
Maryland Governor



**MAJOR GENERAL
JANEEN BIRCKHEAD**
The Adjutant General



**COMMAND CHIEF
MASTER SERGEANT
ANTHONY SIMS**
Senior Enlisted Leader

LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR

Dear Governor Moore,

I am pleased to submit the Maryland Military Department's annual report for fiscal year 2023, detailing the many accomplishments and contributions of the Maryland Army National Guard, Maryland Air National Guard and Maryland Defense Force. As always, the Soldiers, Airmen and civilian employees of the Military Department continue to set the standard as they serve our nation, state and local communities.

Over the past year, our members have been active across the country and around the world. Two of our most significant deployments were the Maryland Army National Guard deployment to the Middle East to support Operations Inherent Resolve and Spartan Shield and the Maryland Air National Guard's deployment of personnel and A-10 aircraft to support Exercise Air Defender 2023 in Europe. We also continued to nurture and deepen our relationships with the countries of Estonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina as we celebrated the 30th and 20th anniversaries, respectively, of working with these countries under auspices of the National Guard State Partnership Program – relationships that have gained added significance in the face of Russian military aggression in the region.

At home, we remain poised to help protect lives and property. Of particular note was our response to the 700-acre wildfire in Owings Mills, where the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade flew aerial firefighting missions that helped suppress the blaze. We also continued to support our communities at home through the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy, a program for at-risk youth, and our 32nd Civil Support Team, which helped guard against potential chemical or biological threats at public events across the state.

The Military Department continues to be a reliable contributor to our state's economic growth, as well. In fiscal year 2023, its economic impact totaled \$352 million, providing employment to Maryland citizens and business to Maryland firms. We continued to leverage state resources, bringing in \$331 million federal dollars, which is nearly \$16 federal dollars for each state dollar invested.

We remain the resilient, ready, and reliable force you and the people of Maryland deserve and expect.

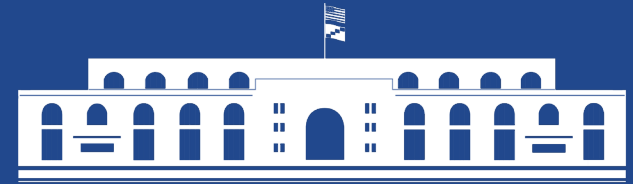
Thank you for your unwavering support. We are gratified to be an organization of which you and all of Maryland can be rightfully proud.

Respectfully,

Janeen L. Birckhead
Major General, MDARNG
The Adjutant General

MARYLAND

MILITARY DEPARTMENT



PURPOSE

The Maryland Military Department's state mission is to provide trained personnel to protect life, property, preserve peace, maintain order and ensure public safety as directed by the governor. The Military Department maintains facilities throughout the state which enable its pillars to prepare, train, and accomplish assigned missions.

OVERVIEW

The Maryland Military Department is a state government organization comprised of three pillars: the Maryland Army National Guard, Maryland Air National Guard and Maryland Defense Force. It is commanded by an adjutant general, who manages and maintains the Guard and ensures readiness for its assigned missions. We are required to submit timely and accurate requests to receive federal reimbursement for state funds expended through cooperative agreements to fund military programs budgeted for more than \$60 million annually. The Maryland Military Department executes the facilities master construction projects with sustainment maintenance while accounting for state property at facilities geographically separated throughout Maryland.



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



MARYLAND GOVERNOR
COMMANDER- IN-CHIEF



THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
COMMANDER



JOINT STAFF
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM
COUNTERDRUG



MD MILITARY DEPARTMENT
INSTALLATIONS MANAGEMENT
MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY
AT-RISK YOUTH PROGRAM



MD ARMY GUARD

- AVIATION/AIRLIFT
- BAND
- CYBER
- ENGINEERING
- MEDICAL SUPPORT
- TRANSPORTATION
- LOGISTICS
- SPECIAL FORCES
- TRAINING
- MILITARY POLICE
- MILITARY INTELLIGENCE
- MAINTENANCE



MD AIR GUARD

- A-10 OPERATIONS
- SECURITY FORCES
- MEDICAL SUPPORT
- CYBER OPERATIONS
- COMMUNICATIONS
- MAINTENANCE
- LOGISTICS
- ENGINEERING



MD DEFENSE FORCE

- ENGINEERING
- MEDICAL SUPPORT
- CYBER OPERATIONS

ECONOMIC IMPACT

THE MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD RECEIVES FEDERAL FUNDS IN THREE BASIC APPROPRIATIONS:

MILITARY PERSONNEL

Includes pay, authorized allowances, uniforms and individual equipment, disability benefits, bonuses and related expenses for personnel in connection with active duty, active duty for training (two-week annual training) and inactive duty training (drill weekends).

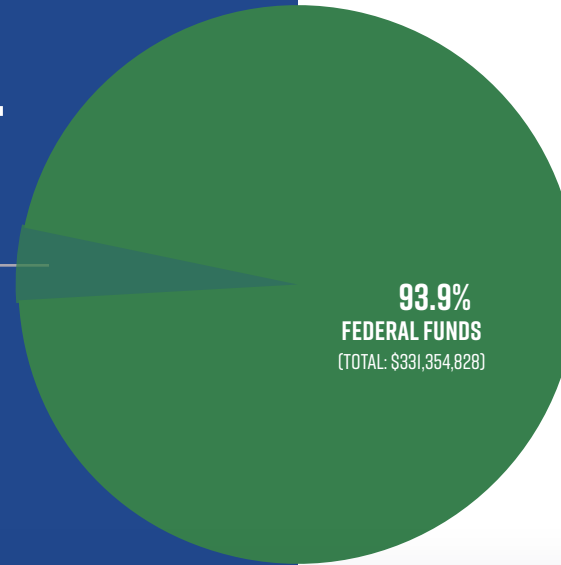
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Includes activities involved in the administration of the National Guard, training of units, procurement of organizational equipment, supplies, repair parts, services, equipment maintenance and activities in connection with military support to civil authorities. This appropriation also includes full-time staff payrolls.

CONSTRUCTION

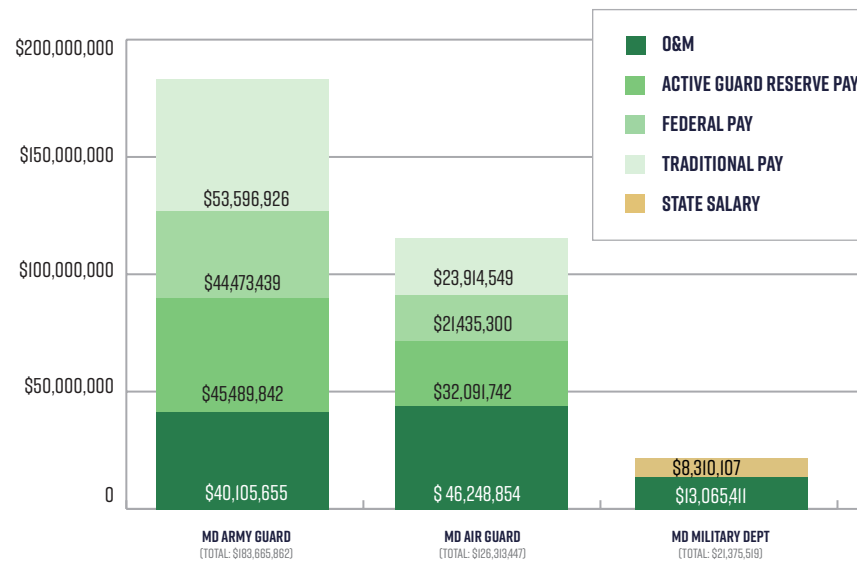
Includes National Guard facility construction, sustainment, restoration modernization, facilities procurement and related items. While providing readiness centers is principally a state responsibility, federal funds are appropriated for construction and upgrade of facilities to support the federal missions of the National Guard.

6.1%
STATE FUNDS
(TOTAL: \$21,375,519)



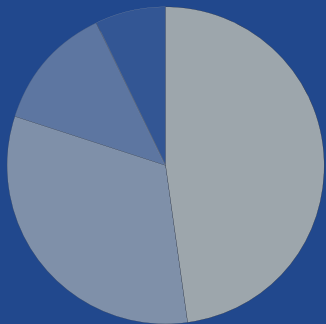
93.9%
FEDERAL FUNDS
(TOTAL: \$331,354,828)

ECONOMIC IMPACT: MARYLAND MILITARY DEPARTMENT TOTAL: \$352,730,347



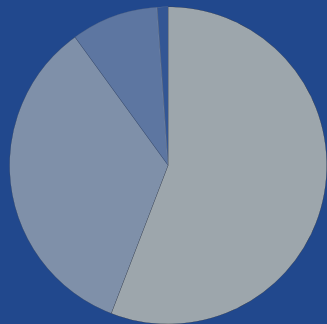
DEMOGRAPHICS


STATE
6.2 MILLION CITIZENS



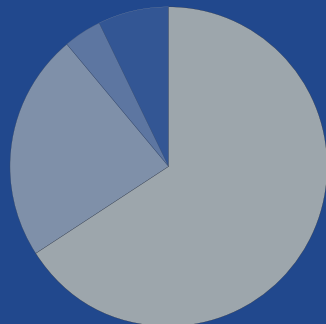
48% CAUCASIAN
32% AFRICAN AMERICAN
13% HISPANIC AND OTHER
7% ASIAN


MD ARMY GUARD
4,774 SOLDIERS



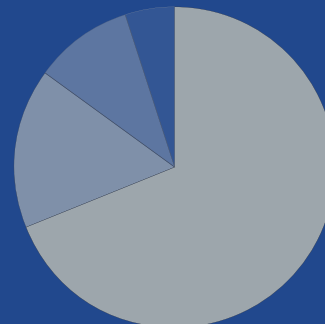
56% CAUCASIAN
34% AFRICAN AMERICAN
9% HISPANIC AND OTHER
1% ASIAN


MD AIR GUARD
1,322 AIRMAN



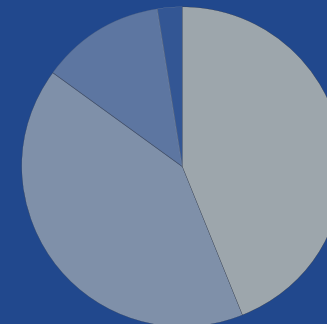
66% CAUCASIAN
23% AFRICAN AMERICAN
4% HISPANIC AND OTHER
7% ASIAN


MD DEFENSE FORCE
191 MEMBERS



69% CAUCASIAN
16% AFRICAN AMERICAN
10% HISPANIC AND OTHER
5% ASIAN


MD MILITARY DEPARTMENT
239 MEMBERS



44% CAUCASIAN
41% AFRICAN AMERICAN
12.5% HISPANIC AND OTHER
2.5% ASIAN

■ CAUCASIAN ■ AFRICAN AMERICAN ■ HISPANIC AND OTHER ■ ASIAN

REAL PROPERTY

BLUM MILITARY RESERVATION TRAINING SITE

Improvements include a new range control tower, ammunition breakdown building, two covered bleacher areas and an 80-foot rappel tower. The estimated cost is \$2.5 million in federal funding.

COMBINED SUPPORT MAINTENANCE SHOP

A contract for this project has been awarded. Located at the readiness center in Havre de Grace, it will cost \$22 million in federal funds and \$10 million in state funds. The state committed a further \$10 million to build four vehicle-maintenance bays and complete the project to full scope.

CAMP FRETTERD MILITARY RESERVATION

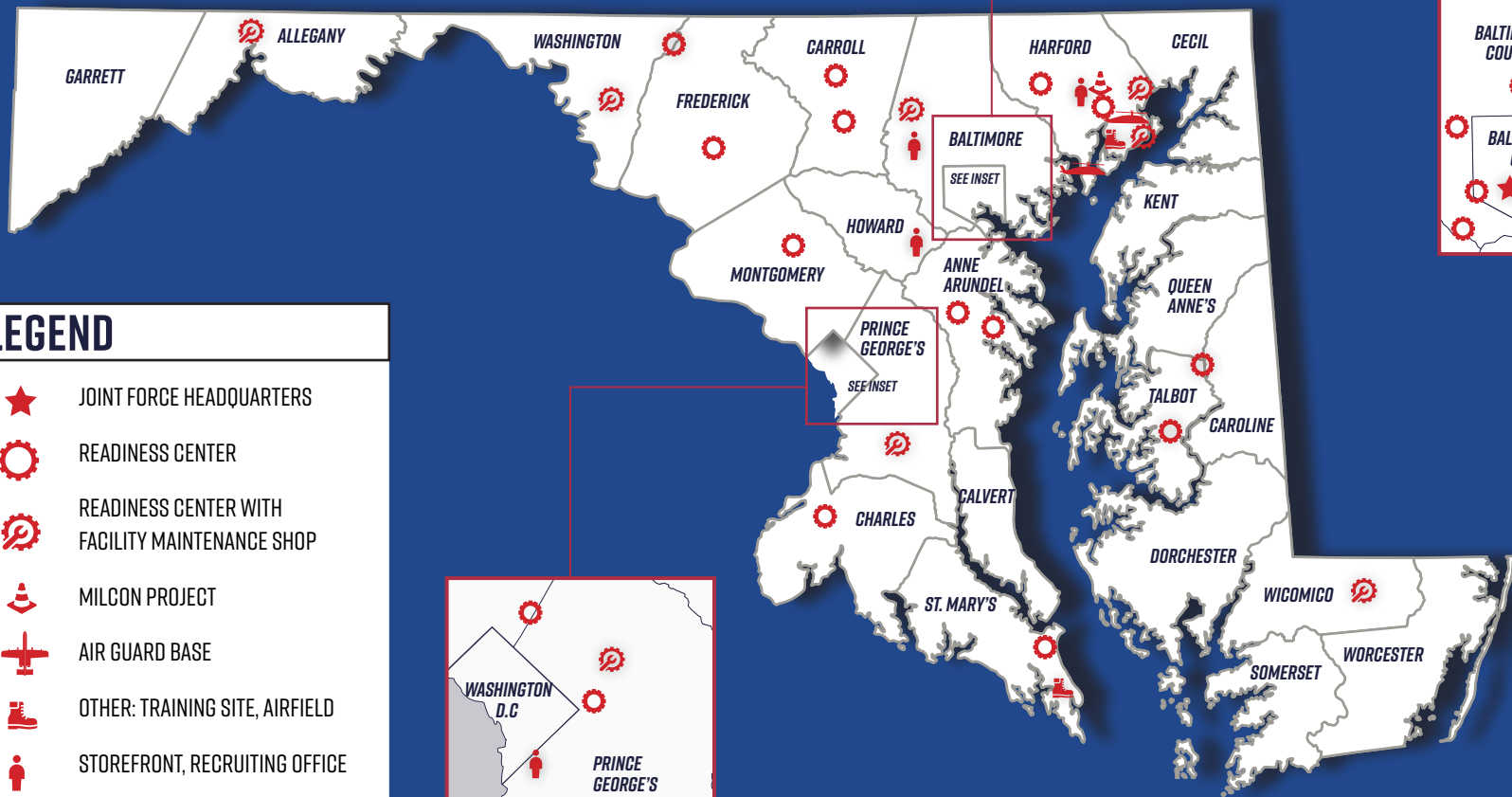
The access gate at Camp Fretterd in Reisterstown will be replaced at a cost of \$3 million, \$2.5 million of which is federally funded. In addition, the grass in-field of Camp Fretterd's running track will be replaced with artificial turf to better support fitness testing. The estimated cost is \$1.8 million in federal funds. Both projects are in the design phase.

MARTIN STATE AIRPORT RUNWAY RENOVATION

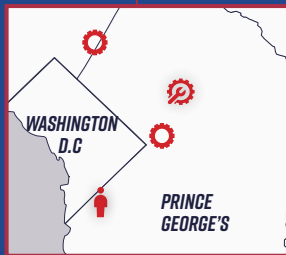
The runway renovation project has executed over \$48 million in funds provided by the Defense Department, Federal Aviation Administration and state of Maryland. Work should be completed by 2026 at a projected final cost of \$185 million to \$210 million.



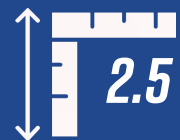
DEPARTMENT FOOTPRINT



LEGEND	
	JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS
	READINESS CENTER
	READINESS CENTER WITH FACILITY MAINTENANCE SHOP
	MILCON PROJECT
	AIR GUARD BASE
	OTHER: TRAINING SITE, AIRFIELD
	STOREFRONT, RECRUITING OFFICE
	AIRFIELD



259
BUILDINGS
(ARMY 203 / AIR 56)



2.5 MILLION SQUARE FEET
OF FACILITY SPACE



3,048
ACRES OF LAND
(ARMY 2,873 / AIR 175)



\$1.2 BILLION DOLLARS
IN PROPERTY VALUE



JOINT STAFF



BRIGADIER GENERAL
AMY P. KREMSER
DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

We serve as the Joint Force Headquarters for Maryland and assist the adjutant general in exercising authority and direction over assigned and attached organizations of the Maryland Military Department in order to accomplish state and federal missions.





The Joint Staff consists of senior staff officers and enlisted members from the Maryland Army National Guard, Maryland Air National Guard and Maryland Defense Force. It also includes a liaison officer from the Armed Forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina and active-duty emergency preparedness liaison officers.

The Joint Staff provides staff support to the adjutant general and direction, oversight and coordination to Maryland National Guard members responding to events within the state, including emergency response forces for natural or man-made disasters, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, critical asset protection, civil disturbances and requests for military forces through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.



This year, the Joint Staff provided staff support during state activations, including the Maryland gubernatorial inauguration, Tropical Storm Ophelia and the 700-acre fire in Owings Mills.

In addition, the Joint Staff continued to oversee and support the Maryland National Guard Honor Guard, the 32nd Civil Support Team, the State Partnership Program, and the Counterdrug team.





MARYLAND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



COLONEL
ANDREW W. COLLINS
ASSISTANT ADJUTANT
GENERAL-ARMY



COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
DAVID C. HARRY
COMMAND SERGEANT
MAJOR-MDARNG

We are an organization of excellence, embedded in our communities and focused on improving security, safety and support to all citizens. We man, equip, train and sustain the force to mobilize when ordered to federal service by the president and provide support to civil authorities during state emergencies as directed by the adjutant general.





The Maryland Army National Guard continued to carry out a full slate of domestic and overseas missions this year. Members of the 58th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade participated in Fulcrum Strike '23, where they conducted multi-discipline and multi-domain intelligence training in support of simulated large-scale combat operations.

The 29th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade supported multiple mobilizations this year as well as flyovers for sporting events, community displays, and training events for the Maryland Helicopter Aquatic Response Team. Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment, completed a 10-month mobilization conducting security and support missions in the National Capital Region with its UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. The 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, deployed approximately 70 Soldiers and seven CH-47F Chinook helicopters to Southwest Asia, where they conducted air assault, air movement, and logistical resupply missions. In April, Maryland UH-60 Black Hawks were called into action for aerial firefighting operations that helped suppress a 700-acre brush fire in Baltimore County.



The 58th Troop Command kept busy supporting operations both stateside and abroad. The 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment, deployed 18 Soldiers to Estonia to train over 2,000 Estonian Defense League members. In response to Tropical Storm Ophelia, 22 Soldiers of the 115th Military Police Battalion were activated to support civil authorities on the Eastern Shore. The 729th Quartermaster Composite Supply Company deployed five Soldiers to the Middle East to repair critical water purification infrastructure. Sadly, the 290th Military Police Company and 244th Engineer Company left our force structure, both units being inactivated in September.

The 70th Regional Training Institute hosted 23 courses throughout the year, graduating a total of 418 Soldiers from six mid-Atlantic states. Staff Sgt. Chase Stewart from the 629th Military Intelligence Battalion and Spc. Adam Merton from the 115th Military Police Battalion represented Maryland in the Region II Best Warrior Competition at Fort Barfoot, Virginia. The Recruiting and Retention Battalion focused its efforts on building stronger relationships with educational institutions and community organizations. Through innovative recruitment strategies and by leveraging technology and social media platforms, the battalion reached its widest audience yet to attract qualified candidates.



MARYLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD



BRIGADIER GENERAL
DREW E. DOUGHERTY

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL-AIR



COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT
SHANE A. PRICE

STATE COMMAND CHIEF- MDANG

We are committed to community while ensuring our aircraft and personnel are ready to support state and federal missions. We are the lead agency for Maryland's Cyber Center of Excellence, developing policy, organization, facility solutions and leadership for Maryland's operations in the cyber domain.





The Maryland Air National Guard engaged in many operations in fiscal year 2023. Over 100 Airmen from the 175th Wing supported the German-led exercise, Air Defender 2023, the largest Air Force deployment exercise since the inception of NATO. In addition to being the exercise lead for logistics and contracting, the wing had six A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft from the 104th Fighter Squadron operating from Estonia and Germany.

The 175th Wing conducted Operation Lucky Strike 2023, a comprehensive exercise aimed at evaluating the wing's capacity to function effectively in a near-peer conflict scenario, while executing critical unit-level tasks.

The 175th Logistics Readiness Squadron and 175th Force Support Squadron traveled to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to collaborate with counterparts in the Hawaii Air National Guard, while the 175th Communication Flight used their annual training to support the Puerto Rico Air National Guard.

The 235th Civil Engineer Flight played a vital role in supporting United States Air Forces in Europe by working on projects to enhance the capabilities of the Estonian air force, while also assisting with their lodging support requirements and evaluating the Ämari Air Base runway to ensure it is ready for fifth-generation fighters.



The 175th Cyberspace Operations Group mobilized 82 Airmen to support cyber operations through the Cyber National Mission Force this year. It also mobilized intelligence and cyber operations Airmen in response to the war in Ukraine. The group participated in cyber exercises from home station, in Mississippi and in Estonia. The 275th Cyberspace Operations Squadron became the first cyber operators in the Air National Guard to certify a cyber protection team on a live network during real-world operations.

An active-shooter exercise ensured the 175th Security Forces Squadron's readiness in case of an actual incident.

The 175th Civil Engineer Squadron completed base improvements including constructing a sidewalk to the base headquarters, installing HVAC systems and installing light fixtures and hand washing stations.

The 175th Maintenance Group supported hot refueling and rearming of A-10s during Exercise Sunshine Rescue, demonstrating agile combat employment.



MARYLAND DEFENSE FORCE



BRIGADIER GENERAL (MDDF)
GREGORY J. JUDAY
COMMANDER-MDDF



COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR (MDDF)
GUY L. JOHNSON JR.
SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER-MDDF

We are a volunteer, uniformed component of the Maryland Military Department authorized by Maryland law. We provide trained and competent personnel with professional and technical skills that augment the Maryland National Guard in its state missions and support members in preparation for federal mission mobilizations and deployment returns.





The Maryland Defense Force continued its tradition of state service during fiscal year 2023. The 10th Medical Regiment partnered with the University of Maryland School of Medicine and the American Legion to provide health screenings for veterans and underserved populations. This year, the Department of Defense granted the regiment a license to train communities in techniques to stop traumatic bleeding as part of its “Stop the Bleed” program. They also provided members of the Baltimore’s Jewish Community Services crisis response team with psychological first aid training.

The 231st Troop Command continued its support of the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy. In addition, the Chaplain Corps provided over 2,000 hours of support to Maryland Army National Guard units. The 27th Training Battalion continued to offer a slate of professional development courses. Their personnel supported the liaison officer program, to the Joint Staff and emergency management training.

The 121st Engineer Regiment inspected 65 Maryland Army National Guard buildings as a part of the annual installation status report program by donating 1,600 volunteer hours. The unit installed a new roof on a Camp Fretterd Military Reservation building and donated 200 hours to the project. The 121st taught the ninth iteration of the “Infrastructure and Society” course at the University of Maryland.

The 256th Cyber Defense Unit taught a “Digital Hygiene and Cyber Awareness” class to parishioners, students and guests at a local church in La Plata. The 256th placed third at the inaugural Cyber Exercise and Competition hosted by the State Guard Association of the United States during the annual conference in Albany, New York.

The Maryland Defense Force Band provided musical support for Maryland’s gubernatorial inauguration, Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, Freestate ChalleNGe Academy and warrant officer graduations, and the MDDF Annual Muster. The MDDF Band also performed with the 229th Army Band during their summer concert series.



**VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS PROVIDED
MORE THAN \$2 MILLION IN VALUE TO THE STATE**

YEAR-IN-REVIEW

FISCAL YEAR 2023

OCT 2022



OCT 22, 2022

The Maryland National Guard hosted a renaming and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Major General Linda L. Singh Readiness Center in Eldersburg, Maryland.

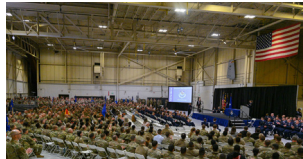
NOV 2022



NOV 4, 2022

The Maryland Army National Guard celebrated the groundbreaking for a new \$35.5 million Combined Support Maintenance Shop facility along with the Maryland Department of General Services at the Havre de Grace Military Reservation.

DEC 2022



DEC 4, 2022

The 175th Wing held its annual Airman Recognition ceremony at Martin State Air National Guard Base. The ceremony recognized the Outstanding Airmen of the Year, Community College of the Air Force graduates, and highlighted the missions that the 175th Wing has successfully completed throughout the year.

JAN 2023



JAN 10, 2023

Members of the 275th Cyberspace Operations Squadron became the first cyber operators in the Air National Guard to certify a Cyber Protection Team using their weapon system on a live base network.

FEB 2023



FEB 6, 2023

Gov. Wes Moore joined Maryland National Guard senior leaders at a deployment ceremony at Weide Airfield for approximately 70 Soldiers from the 29th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade deploying to Southwest Asia to support Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield.

MAR 2023



MARCH 7, 2023

The Maryland Air National Guard conducted a readiness exercise where Airmen simulated a deployed environment at Martin State Air National Guard Base. Operation Lucky Strike 2023 tested the 175th Wing's ability to operate in a near-peer conflict while executing unit-level critical tasks.



OCT 23, 2022

The Maryland Defense Force was awarded the Superior Unit Citation by the State Guard Association of the United States for their support to the Maryland National Guard during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.



NOV 4, 2022

The Maryland Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve partnered with the Maryland Army National Guard to host a Boss Lift event at Aberdeen Proving Ground.



DEC 21, 2022

Gov. Larry Hogan visited members of the 110th Information Operations Battalion and Maryland Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention and watched the 29th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade perform a flyover at the Military Bowl in Annapolis.



JAN 18, 2023

Soldiers and Airmen of the Maryland National Guard provided support for the gubernatorial inauguration of Gov. Wes Moore in Annapolis.



FEB 24, 2023

Senior leaders from the Maryland National Guard Joint Staff and the 175th Wing visited Tallinn to celebrate Estonian Independence Day with military partners.



MARCH 8-12, 2023

The Maryland Army National Guard hosted the Best Warrior Competition, which provided an opportunity to recognize high-performing Soldiers that overcame a variety of physical and mental obstacles.

OCTOBER 2022

SEPTEMBER 2023

APR 2023



APRIL 6, 2023

Maryland Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters conducted aerial firefighting operations to support the successful suppression of the 700-acre brush fire in Baltimore County.

MAY 2023



MAY 12, 2023

Gov. Wes Moore, Lt. Gov. Aruna Miller and other state political leaders signed six bills, including the Healthcare For Heroes Act, in front of an A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft with Maryland Guard members in attendance.

JUN 2023



JUNE 3, 2023

Maj. Gen. Janeen L. Birkhead, the 31st adjutant general for Maryland, accepts command of the Maryland National Guard at the Fifth Regiment Armory.

JUL 2023



JULY 4, 2023

The 229th Maryland Army National Guard Band performed patriotic music during multiple Independence Day parades across Baltimore County, while pilots assigned to the 104th Fighter Squadron conducted multiple A-10 flyovers.

AUG 2023



AUG 1, 2023

Soldiers of the Maryland Army National Guard and Airmen of the 175th Wing provided support for the annual National Night Out, an event that promotes police-community relationships and helps make local neighborhoods safer.

SEP 2023



SEPT 10, 2023

Soldiers and Airmen of the Maryland National Guard unfurled the American flag during the singing of the National Anthem during the Baltimore Raven's first home game. Four Maryland Air National Guard A-10s performed a flyover.



APRIL 7, 2023

Maryland Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Janeen L. Birkhead was unanimously confirmed by the Maryland Senate to be the 31st adjutant general of Maryland and commander of the Maryland National Guard.



MAY 22, 2023

The Maryland Army National Guard participated in Spring Storm 23, an Estonian annual training exercise with nearly 14,000 participants from 11 NATO countries.



JUNE 6-28, 2023

More than 100 Airmen assigned to the 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard, participated in the German-led exercise Air Defender 2023, NATO's largest-ever air force deployment.



JULY 28, 2023

Three senior officers of the Maryland Army National Guard graduated from the U.S. Army War College, with a master's degree in strategic studies. The graduates include Col. Marci Sam, Lt. Col. Brian Zdurowski, and Lt. Col. Adam Zihar.



AUG 28, 2023

Maryland Army National Guard Soldiers participated in the Marksmanship Advisory Council II Regional Match Championship hosted by the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania.



SEPT 11, 2023

Soldiers and Airmen of the Maryland National Guard joined Gov. Wes Moore at Oriole Park at Camden Yards for the annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb.



STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The 30th anniversary of the Maryland National Guard's partnership with Estonia and its 20th anniversary with Bosnia and Herzegovina are significant milestones as the program continues fostering strong international relationships that are mutually beneficial and contribute to global security.

This year's anniversary celebrations were marked by a number of celebrations. Maj. Gen. Janeen L. Birkhead's initial visit as adjutant general of Maryland and her delegation met with key leaders in both countries from military, defense, business, economics, health and education sectors. The Maryland National Guard historian and the SPP Office also worked together to collect stories, interviews and memories from both partnerships to create a book that sums up the 50 combined years of security cooperation. In 1993, the Maryland National Guard was one of the first three states to start a partnership. Three decades later, the relationship with Estonia is stronger than ever.

The German-led Exercise Air Defender 2023, the largest Air Force deployment exercise since NATO was founded, involved more than 100 Airmen from the 175th Wing. They completed an agile combat employment movement in Estonia at a forward-operating location. Twenty Soldiers from the Maryland Army National Guard and two from the Virginia National Guard formed the Fires Task Force to participate in Spring Storm, the largest annual military exercise of the Estonian Defence Force. Their contributions were highlighted by the Estonian Chief of Defence, and they have been asked to return again in 2024 with an even larger Task Force.





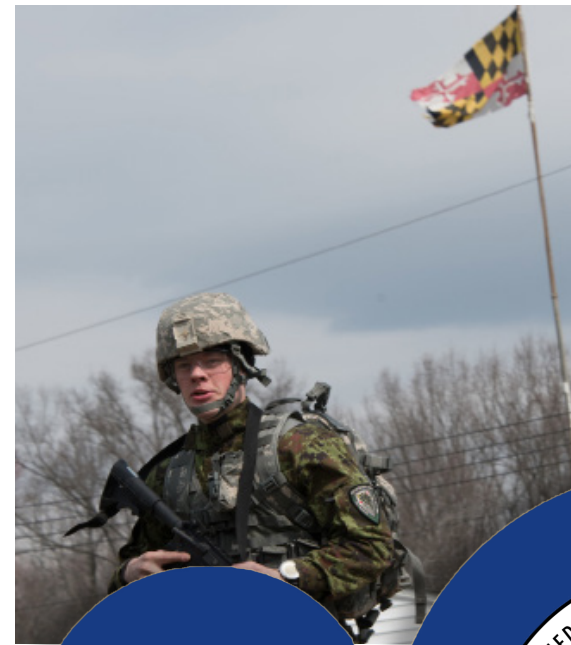
Thirty Airmen from the 175th Cyberspace Operation Group and 30 Estonians participated in Baltic Blitz 23, which was the largest cyber exercise between the partners to date.

Eighteen Soldiers from the Maryland Army National Guard's 175th Infantry Regiment shared their expertise in ambush tactics with more than 2,000 members of the Estonian Defense League.

In Bosnia, a joint team from the Maryland National Guard facilitated a public affairs workshop in Sarajevo for the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina to help familiarize their soldiers with best practices and improve their public affairs capabilities. The Maryland Army National Guard's 169th Cyber Protection Team hosted an event in Laurel intended to develop, train and exercise Bosnian cyber forces in the areas of computer network internal defensive measures and cyber incident response.

DEFENDER 23 did not occur in Bosnia and Herzegovina, unfortunately canceling the Maryland Army National Guard's large plans to support the exercise. Maryland's military police units look forward to the possibility of participating in DEFENDER 25 alongside our partners.







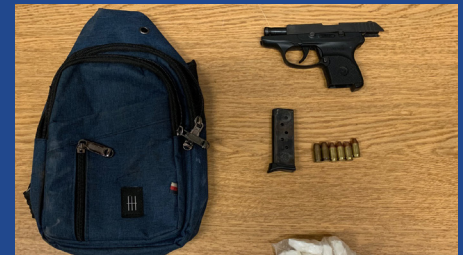
MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD COUNTER DRUG PROGRAM

The Maryland National Guard Counter Drug program (CDP) supports federal, state and local law enforcement organizations in their mission to eliminate illicit drugs in Maryland. The CDP is based in the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore and is comprised of 34 Soldiers and Airmen. For over 34 years the CDP has provided aerial reconnaissance and observation, investigative analysts and drug demand reduction outreach in support of the Governor's drug prevention efforts.

CDP aerial observation and reconnaissance support is comprised of two UH-72 Lakota helicopters, two pilots and two mechanics. Over the last 12 months the program has conducted 89 aerial missions in support of law enforcement agency requests totaling 256 hours. The aircraft are equipped with the most up-to-date technology enabling federal, state and local law enforcement officers to effectively and safely accomplish their mission.

CDP investigative analysts are employed throughout the state and work side-by-side with federal state and local law enforcement partners in fighting the opioid epidemic. The analysts review and collate evidence collected by law enforcement officers, enhancing their ability to successfully prosecute drug traffickers and to quickly accept and pursue additional cases.

The CDP Drug Demand Reduction Outreach Program (DDRDP) supports local community-based organizations in planning and executing events that engage communities and promote illicit drug awareness and use prevention. The DDRDP team supports local community-based organization leaders and enhances their operation efficiency. Currently we are teamed with 10 community-based organizations and planning to expand our operations in the new year.



ASSISTANCE LED TO SEIZURES OF OVER:

773 LBS OF DRUGS

13,763 DRUG PILLS

163 WEAPONS

47 DRUG-RELATED EQUIPMENT

13 VEHICLES

\$2.2M IN CURRENCY

THREE MAIN DRUGS SEIZED:

FENTANYL **41** LBS

COCAINE **100** LBS

MARIJUANA **360** LBS

MORE THAN **\$36M** IN ESTIMATED VALUE OF SEIZURES



THE HONOR GUARD

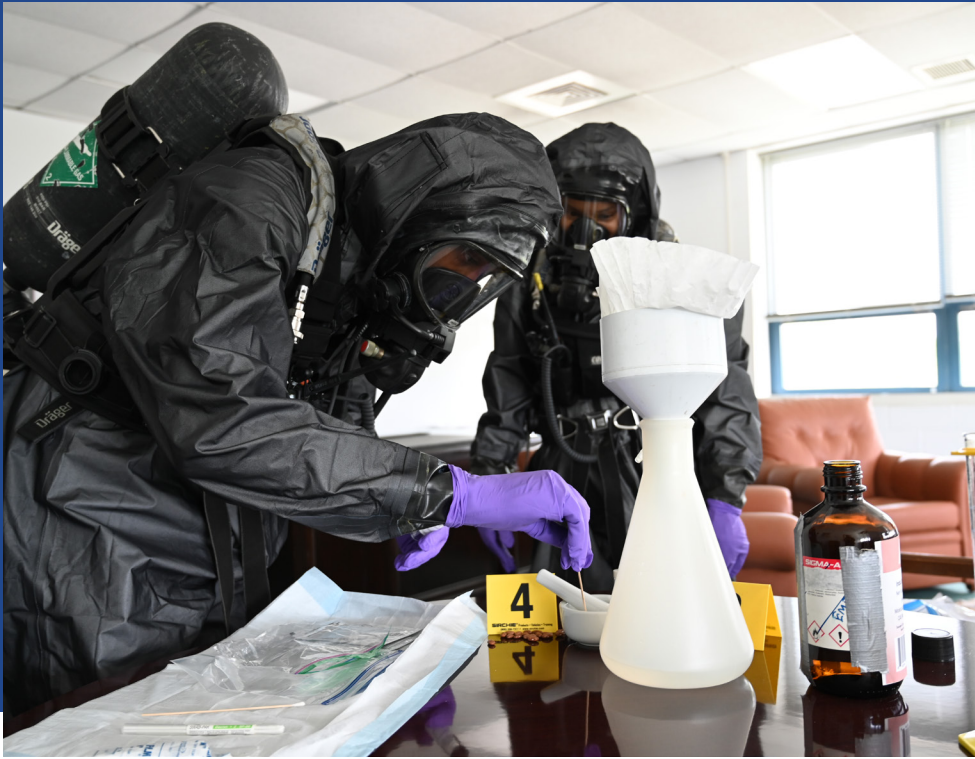
The mission of the Maryland National Guard Honor Guard is to render professional and dignified military funeral honors in accordance with service traditions to all eligible service members, retirees and veterans of the state of Maryland. The Maryland National Guard Honor Guard is a group of dedicated men and women diligent and steadfast in providing “Going Home” services to the families of our veterans. Members of the Honor Guard work a seven-day work week to fulfill the requests of military families throughout the year. The Honor Guard team members are trained to perfection in their duties.

SPECIAL EVENTS COVERED

- Veterans Day Ceremonies and Memorial Day Ceremonies at State Veteran Cemeteries
- Maryland Funeral Directors Annual Convention Conference
- Buglers playing Taps at various locations as part of Wreaths Across America

1,942 FUNERAL MISSIONS PERFORMED DURING STATE FISCAL YEAR 2023





32ND CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM

The Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team is composed of highly skilled Army and Air members of the Maryland National Guard. It supports civil and federal authorities at domestic incident sites by identifying chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive agents and substances, assessing current and projected consequence, advising on response measures and assisting with appropriate requests for state and federal support. The unit assisted civil and federal law enforcement and emergency services from multiple jurisdictions during the Ocean City Air Show, the Maryland gubernatorial inauguration, the University of Maryland at College Park football season and many other public events.

The 32nd CST participated in 10 full-scale exercises, 26 employment missions, and 18 assistance calls. The unit is comprised of 22 full-time Army and Air Force members from 14 different specialized career fields.



FREESTATE CHALLENGE ACADEMY

The Freestate Challenge Academy is an educational and life-skills program run by the Maryland Military Department and managed through both federal and state governments that offers at-risk youth another opportunity to successfully transition to adulthood through becoming immersed in a residential quasi-military environment for about 22 weeks.

At Freestate, cadets participate in GED preparatory education and have the opportunity to take their GED exam to earn a Maryland high school diploma. The cadets receive training in eight core components: leadership and followership, service to community, job skills, academic excellence, responsible citizenship, life-coping skills, health and hygiene and physical fitness. By the end of the program, most cadets have a job, are enrolling in college or are enlisting in the military. After the 22-week residential program, graduates are actively monitored and mentored for an additional year by case managers.



MARYLAND MILITARY DEPARTMENT CENTER FOR MILITARY HISTORY

The Maryland Military Department Center for Military History includes the Maryland Museum of Military History and Maryland Military Historical Research Center. It preserves information relating to the service of all components and branches of service of the U.S. military and the military heritage of the state and conveys an awareness of the military service of Marylanders and how that service has helped preserve American freedoms. The Center also preserves the history of Maryland's organized militia and National Guard through the collection, maintenance, documentation and presentation of significant events, people and places that represent the military heritage of the State of Maryland. The staff provides research, staff rides, museum tours and educational outreach.

980 ARTIFACTS
CATALOGUED

835 INDIVIDUAL
TOURS

39 GROUP
TOURS

14 MAJOR DONATIONS
RECEIVED



MARYLAND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD BAND

This year, the 229th Army Band successfully executed 45 missions reaching more than 93,000 audience members attending performances and more than 3 million viewers through broadcasts. Highlights included supporting the Maryland gubernatorial inauguration and reception in Annapolis, the adjutant general of Maryland's change of command ceremony at the Fifth Regiment Armory and a mission to Estonia to provide musical support for the 30th anniversary celebration of the State Partnership Program. In addition, the band performed at public concerts across the state, at ceremonies on active duty military installations in Maryland, at Maryland Army National Guard deployment and homecoming ceremonies and at local patriotic observances and parades.

45 TOTAL MISSIONS

AUDIENCE REACHED **93,316** LIVE AUDIENCE

OVER **3** MILLION BROADCAST

PEOPLE FIRST

SOCIAL

PHYSICAL

MENTAL

SPIRITUAL



 **Veterans Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

R3SP
INSPECTOR GENERAL
HEALTH
RESILIENCE
FINANCE
PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLNESS
AFCT
CHAPLAIN CORPS
YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM
JAG

MILITARY ONE SOURCE

MISSION ALWAYS

SERVE **THE HOMELAND**

PROVEN AND PREPARED TO MEET EVERY MISSION WITHIN THE STATE AND OVERSEAS.



SUPPORT **THE WARFIGHT**

PRIMARY COMBAT RESERVE FOCUSED ON LETHALITY TO PROTECT UNITED STATES' VITAL INTERESTS.



ENDURING **PARTNERSHIPS**

ENDURING RELATIONSHIPS CONTRIBUTE TO READINESS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND ENHANCES GLOBAL SECURITY.



DEPLOYING GLOBALLY

MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD ON DUTY ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND AROUND THE WORLD

01 FIRE TRAINING

26 AIRMEN FROM THE 175TH CES
VOLK FIELD, WISCONSIN

02 WEAPONS EVAL

35 AIRMEN FROM THE 104TH FS
HILL AFB, UTAH

03 LOGISTICS TRAINING

138 AIRMEN FROM THE 175TH FSS
JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, HAWAII

04 NEPTUNE HAWK

150 AIRMEN FROM THE 175TH WG
NELLIS AFB, NEVADA

05 SOUTHERN STRIKE

21 AIRMEN FROM THE 175TH COG
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

06 TAMPA SWARM

35 AIRMEN FROM THE 175TH OG
MACDILL AFB, FLORIDA

07 SUNSHINE RESCUE

10 AIRMEN FROM THE 104TH FS
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

08 MOBILIZATION EXERCISE

100 SOLDIERS FROM THE 1297TH CSSB
FORT STEWART, GEORGIA

09 NCR SUPPORT

87 SOLDIERS FROM THE 2ND BN, 224TH AVN REGT
VIRGINIA

10 SPRING STORM 23

20 SOLDIERS FROM THE 291ST DLD
TAPA RANGE, ESTONIA

11 AIR DEFENDER 23

120 AIRMEN FROM THE 175TH WG
AMARI AB, ESTONIA & SCHLESWIG, GERMANY

12 BALTIC BLITZ

33 AIRMEN FROM THE 175TH COG
AMARI AB, ESTONIA

13 CJTF HORN OF AFRICA

7 SOLDIERS FROM THE 110TH IO BN
CAMP LEMONNIER, DJIBOUTI

14 OPERATION SPARTAN SHIELD

5 SOLDIERS FROM THE 729TH QCSG
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS IN SOUTHWEST ASIA

15 ESTONIAN DEFENSE LEAGUE

18 SOLDIERS FROM THE 1ST BN, 175TH INF REGT
RUTJA, ESTONIA

16 FEDERAL CYBER MISSION

88 AIRMEN FROM THE 175TH COG
FORT MEADE, MARYLAND

17 PAO WORKSHOP

3 SOLDIERS FROM THE 29TH MPAD
SARAJEVO, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

18 COMMUNICATION SUPPORT

30 AIRMEN FROM THE 175TH MSG
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

19 OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE

69 SOLDIERS FROM THE 3RD BN, 126TH AVN REGT
10 SOLDIERS FROM THE 169TH CPT
20 SOLDIERS FROM THE 629TH MI BN
KUWAIT & IRAQ

