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Maryland Military Department

ANNUAL REPORT



Maryland Military Department
2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE TO THE GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND

Dear Governor Moore,

Year after year the Maryland Military Department demonstrates meaningful touchpoints with their neighbors, reinforcing our ideals: Always Ready, Always There. The 2024 Annual Report is a proud reflection of the achievements and contributions of the Maryland Army National Guard, the Maryland Air National Guard, and the Maryland Defense Force during the past fiscal year.

This year, Soldiers and Airmen of the Maryland National Guard emphasized sharpening warfighting skills and reinforcing our commitment to the nation's defense priorities, even as we keep our commitment to Maryland communities. It can be a challenging balance, but a necessary one given the Department of Defense's investment of trust and funds. We are blessed that Maryland Defense Force volunteers expand our ability to serve the state. And we are proud that our skills, commitment, and reputation for excellence make the forces of the Maryland Military Department a partner of choice in times of need.

We recognize that we are only as good as our people – and they are as good as their training and experience make possible. That's why military deployments are vital investments to enable our Airmen and Soldiers to test their skills, experience unforeseen challenges, and learn from others. This annual report recounts instances of service to Maryland, and operations far from home that make us better, stronger, more resilient, and more effective in all missions.

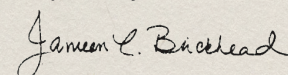
Our practice is to collaborate with partners. I am proud of the mutually beneficial partnerships we build with local and state agencies dedicated to the safety and security of Maryland: first responders, hazmat teams, emergency management, veterans' groups, colleges, and, this year, the Maryland Cyber Security Task Force.

In a similar vein, our national defense mission calls for partner activities ranging from operations with other U.S. forces, interoperability exercises with partner nations' armed forces, and the partnerships we proudly recount in this report -- with Estonia, a NATO member, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, working to meet U.S. and NATO standards. Those decades-long relationships prove the assurance of readiness and reliance we offer Maryland and all partners.

This report notes the significant economic impact of 6,300 jobs and the multiplicative impact of a budget exceeding \$345 million in salaries, contracts, and construction projects. I trust that this report gives equal attention to the value of service to the state, the nation, and to each other.

We are proud to be Maryland's resource for specialized military capabilities, excellence, integrity, and service. We are grateful for your administration's support, which conveys the respect and honor our Maryland National Guard members earn again and again. Together, we reinforce our strength as a reliable force, ready for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Respectfully,



Janeen L. Birckhead
Major General, MDARNG
The Adjutant General Maryland.



WE ARE MARYLAND'S FORCE

People First—Mission Always

MISSION

Serve Maryland & support the nation's warfighting.

VISION

Advance as an organization of excellence, embedded in our communities, and focused on improving security, safety, trust, and support to all citizens --

- Represent the face of Maryland in a workforce that is physically and mentally resilient.
- Recognize and retain top talent.
- Sustain a balance between civilian employment, family life, and military obligations.
- Develop cohesive and fully-capable units that are staffed, trained, and equipped to conduct 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.

VALUES

Our success depends on developing skilled and disciplined Soldiers, Airmen, and civilian teammates recruited from communities across Maryland and united by a commitment to serve.



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Maryland Military Department



Governor Wes Moore
Governor of Maryland
Commander-in-Chief



Major General Janeen Birkhead
The Adjutant General
Commander, Maryland National Guard



Command Sergeant Major David C. Harry
Maryland Senior Enlisted Leader



Joint Staff
International Affairs
Civil Support Team
Counterdrug



MD Military Department
Installations Management
Military Museum
Youth Life-Skills Program
Honor Guard
Health Insurance Reimbursement



MD Army Guard
Military Intelligence
Aviation/Airlift
Logistics
Special Forces
Training
Military Police
Maintenance
Band
Cyber Operations
Engineering
Medical Support
Transportation



MD Air Guard
A-10 Operations
Cyber Operations
Security Forces
Medical Support
Communications
Maintenance
Logistics
Engineering
Intelligence



MD Defense Force
Engineering
Medical Support
Cyber Operations

The Maryland Military Department is a state government organization with three operational components:

Maryland Army National Guard · Maryland Air National Guard · Maryland Defense Force

We protect and assist the citizens of Maryland at a moment's notice while we prepare to fight and win our nation's wars on the ground, in the air, and in the intelligence, information, and cyber domains.

MMD is commanded by the Adjutant General who manages the force and ensures readiness for its assigned missions – responding to the orders of the Governor of Maryland or the orders of the President of the United States as authorized and funded by the U.S. Department of Defense.

The dual mission of the Maryland Military Department is to train, equip and man the Army, Air, and state defense force so they can perform their missions as the primary combat reserve of the Army and Air Force to deter conflict and win if deterrence fails; and to protect the homeland and assist communities in times of natural or human-caused disaster.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The Maryland National Guard has a total annual operating budget of \$345 million, receiving 88% of these funds (\$303M) in three federal appropriations: Military Personnel, Military Operations & Maintenance (O&M) and Military Construction. The remaining 12% of funding (\$42M) is furnished by the State of Maryland to the Maryland Military Department. The Maryland Military Department utilizes cooperative agreements with our federal partners to transform a portion of both MDARNG and MDANG Military O&M funds into state funds. These funds are then utilized to pay for day-to-day operations such as services, utilities and employee payroll at our readiness centers and training sites across the state.

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). This appropriation also provides for Active Guard Reserve (AGR) payroll.

Where the Money Goes

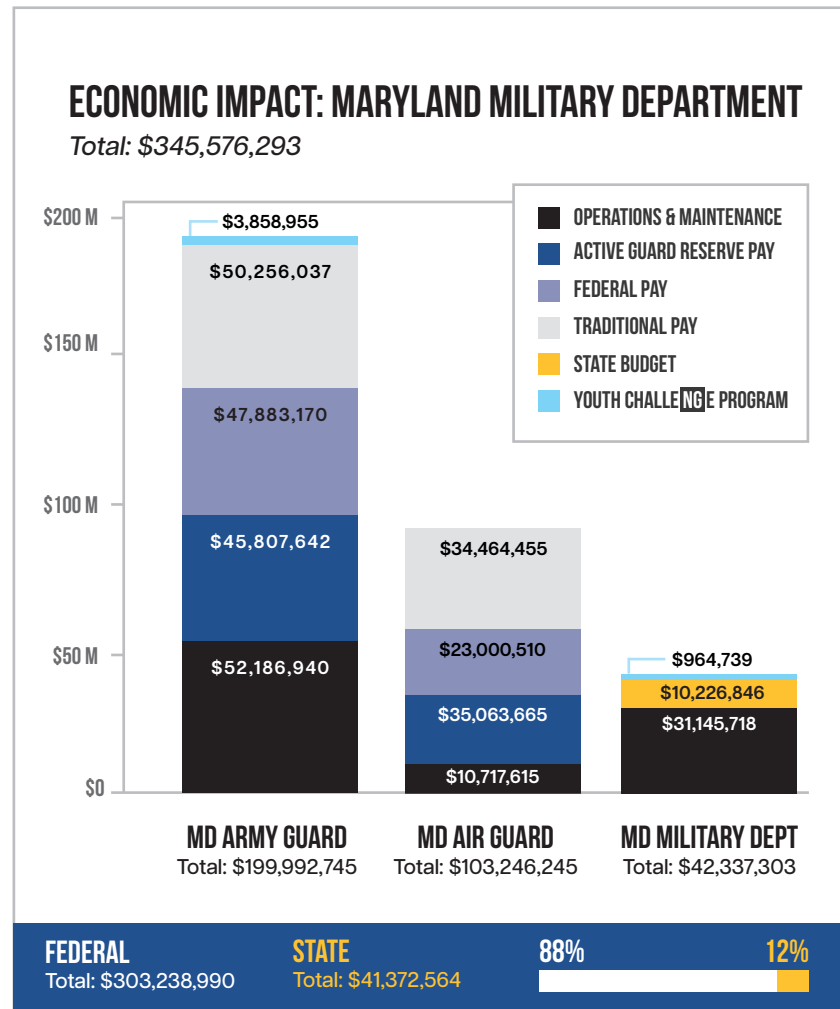
The Maryland National Guard receives funds from the Department of the Army and Department of the Air Force through the National Guard Bureau (NGB), and the State of Maryland. State funds cover the salaries of state regular and contract employees and supports maintenance and repair of department facilities. Additionally, the state provides funds for the Veterans' Honor Guard, tuition assistance for Guard members, and the Freestate ChalleNGe program. Federal support to the Military Department is significant. These expenditures, which have a statewide economic impact, cover pay and allowances, training, supplies, equipment, and construction.

Military 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.

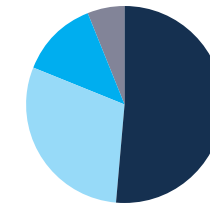
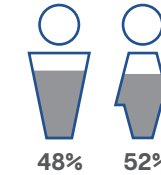
Impact

The federal government provides \$7 for every \$1 furnished by the state, resulting in a 7:1 funding ratio. Operations at our 24 readiness centers and activities across the Maryland National Guard generate substantial economic benefit for the local economy. Our personnel and full-time force live in the communities in which they serve and spend a large portion of their income at local and state businesses, pay taxes and continually provide support for the local and state economy.

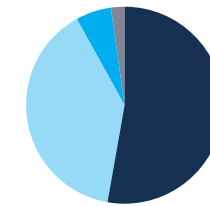
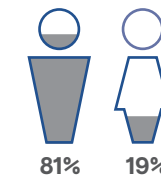


- \$247.7M = 6,452 GAINFULLY EMPLOYED WITH MMD**
- \$4.8M = 121 AT-RISK YOUTH PROGRAM GRADUATES**
- \$523K = 163 (55 AIR/ 108 ARMY) UTILIZED EDUCATION BENEFITS**
- \$530K = 360 GRADUATES WITH CAREER-ENHANCING TRAINING**

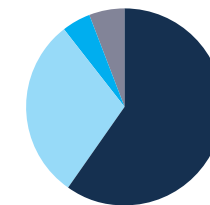
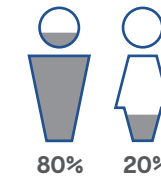
DEMOGRAPHICS



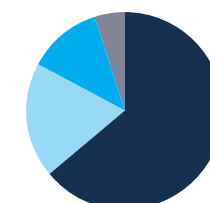
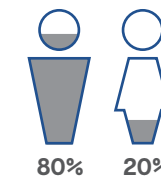
52% Caucasian
30% African American
13% Hispanic and other
6% Asian



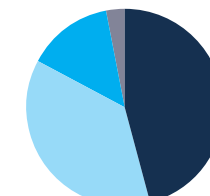
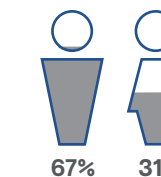
53% Caucasian
39% African American
2% Hispanic and other
6% Asian



64% Caucasian
23% African American
5% Hispanic and other
6% Asian



64% Caucasian
19% African American
12% Hispanic and other
5% Asian



46% Caucasian
37% African American
14% Hispanic and other
3% Asian

■ Caucasian ■ African American
■ Asian ■ Hispanic and Other



DEPARTMENT FOOTPRINT

DEPARTMENT FOOTPRINT



Blum Military Reservation Training Site

The new covered-bleacher area and range control tower, ammunition breakdown building project are complete. The new 80-foot rappel tower project is entering into a new procurement method and is planned to start construction in 2025.



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.



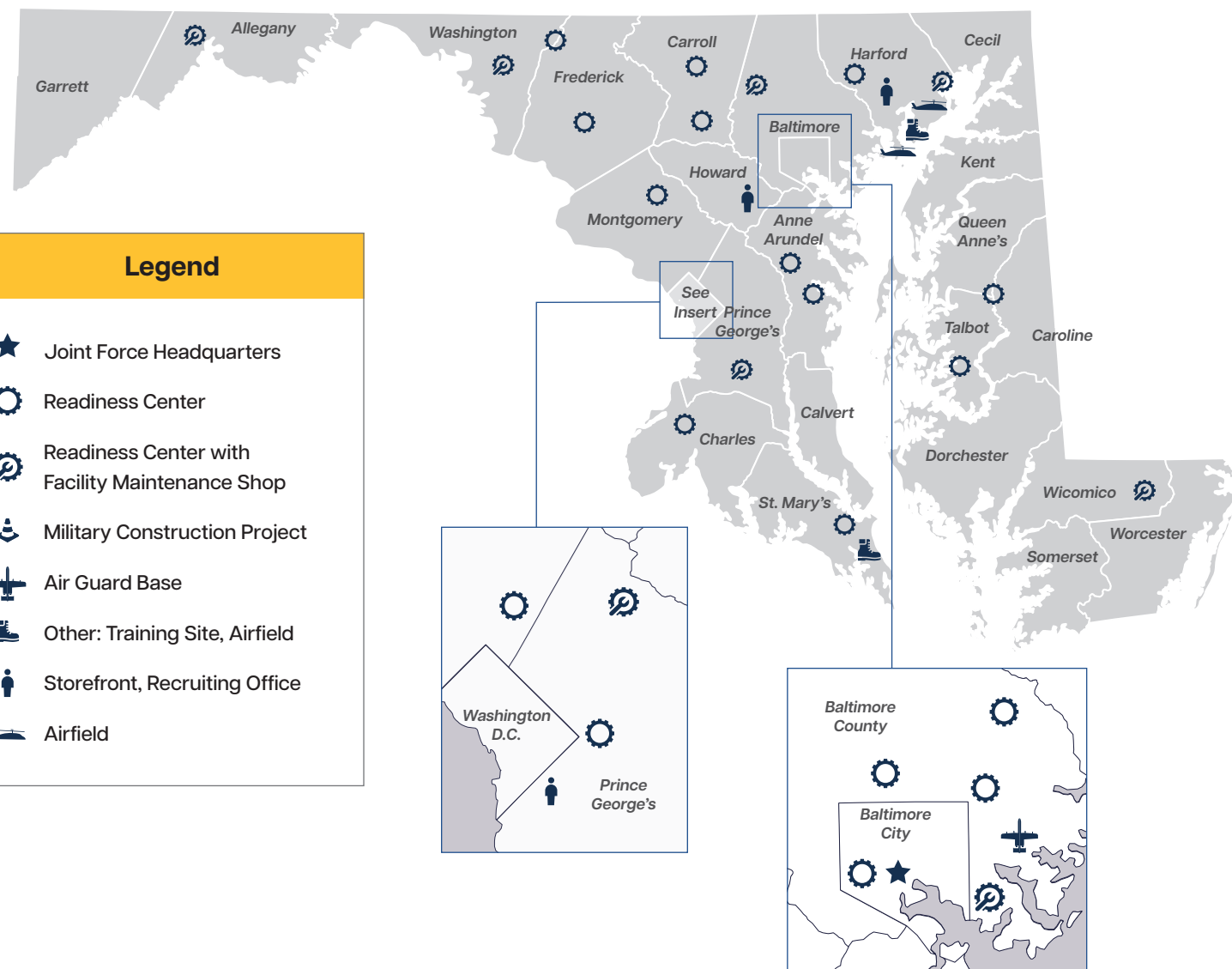
Combined Support Maintenance Shop

The Havre de Grace Combined Support Maintenance Shop project consists of 2 buildings, an allied trades maintenance facility and an automotive maintenance facility. The combined Federal and State funding for this 68,000 SF project is \$44M. Construction completion is projected for late spring 2025.



Camp Fretterd Military Reservation

The running track in-field project is complete and operational. The access gate at Camp Fretterd in Reisterstown will be replaced at a cost of \$3 million, consisting of \$2.5 million in federal funds and \$500K in State funding. This project is expected to start construction in the spring of 2025.



UPCOMING PROJECTS

White Oak Readiness Center (Renovation & addition)

The White Oak RC is receiving an extensive renovation of the 20,000 SF facility and a 40,000 SF addition, for a total project cost of \$45.5M. This project is currently under design and is competing for Federal FY27 construction funding.

Frederick Readiness Center (Renovation & addition)

The Frederick RC is undergoing a renovation and addition project, adding 3,600 SF to the facility which will provide additional classroom and fitness room spaces. The total project cost is \$12M with \$7M in State funding and \$5M in Federal funds. This project is planned to be complete in 2026.

Glen Burnie Readiness Center (Renovation & addition)

The Glen Burnie RC is undergoing a renovation and addition project adding 4,500 SF to the facility. The design solicitation is planned for early in 2025, with construction beginning late in 2026. Total project cost is \$11.5M, with \$6.5M in State funds and \$5M in Federal funds.



248 BUILDINGS
(ARMY 192 / AIR 56)



2.8 MILLION SQUARE FEET
OF FACILITY SPACE



\$1.4 BILLION
IN PROPERTY VALUE



3,006 ACRES OF LAND
(ARMY 2,831 / AIR 175)

AROUND THE STATE

And More



NOV 2023 Middle River

Guard members' employers experienced Black Hawk helicopter flights during an ESGR Bosslift, gaining insight into their employees' military service. Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve collaborates with partners to help Reserve Component members.



DEC 2023 Reisterstown

70 combat medics and staff of the 104th Medical Company (Area Support) deployed for 12 months. While deployed they provided clinical medicine treatment further preparation and a year of clinical medicine treatment to U.S. European Command, in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve in Powidz, Poland.



DEC 2023 Bowleys Quarters

Firefighters of the Air Guard's 175th Wing teamed with the Baltimore County Fire Department to rescue a 65-year-old man from frigid water near Martin State Air National Guard Base – one of 250 calls for all-hazards help this year..



JAN 2024 Annapolis

Gov. Wes Moore established the Maryland Cybersecurity Task Force to address rising cyber threats. The comprehensive state strategy employs cyber defense experts of Maryland's National Guard, Defense Force, and Department of Emergency Management.



FEB 2024 Downtown Baltimore

The Maryland National Guard supported the Black Engineer of the Year STEM conference, showcasing the extensive opportunities with the U.S. military and National Guard: among the largest STEM employers in the nation.



MARCH 2024 Edgewood

Army Aviators of Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment (CH-47 Chinooks) returned from a year-long deployment to the U.S. Central Command's Area of Responsibility in the Middle East. The tip-of-the-spear unit enhanced combat effectiveness of U.S. and coalition forces in Operations Inherent Resolve and Spartan Shield.



MARCH 2024 Dundalk

The Maryland Army Guard contributed eight Soldiers and two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters for the search and rescue mission after the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge.



MARCH 2024 South Baltimore

The 32nd Civil Support Team trained in its unique responsibility, responding to suspected hazardous material at the CSX railyard to identify the hazard, mitigate potential exposure, test the material, and assist the Baltimore City and County hazmat teams.



APR 2024 Glen Arm

A Maryland Army Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew helped contain a wildland fire in Baltimore County's Loch Raven watershed. Upon a civil request, the helicopter's eight water drops from the Loch Raven Reservoir protected both community and firefighters.

SERVICE — EXPERTISE — EXCELLENCE

Always Ready, Always There



APR 2024 Middle River

The Spark Cell team of the 175th Wing and its leader Capt. Kerry Guy, earned a national award for innovation, including Cyber Winter Studio, a resource forecasting model being assessed for nationwide use – one of the projects attracting more than \$2.9 M outside funds.



MAY 2024 Princess Anne

Maryland Army National Guard began an educational partnership with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, offering firsthand experience and mentorship from seasoned aviation professionals to students of Engineering and Aviation Sciences.



MAY 2024 Aberdeen

The Maryland National Guard's Best Warrior Competition is a multi-day event testing service members' mental and physical endurance. This year's competition included MDNG members and support from Estonian Defense Force members.



JUNE 2024 Havre de Grace

Freestate ChalleNGe Academy cadets graduate from a 22-week residential program that leads to cadets obtaining a G.E.D. While in the residential phase of the program, cadets learn self-discipline, leadership, and responsibility.



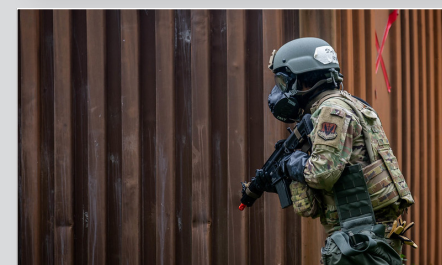
APR-JULY 2024 Linthicum

With few months to prepare, about 300 A-10 pilots, maintainers and staff of the 175th Wing showed skill and experience, deploying to two locations, supporting three CENTCOM operations, logging almost 4,000 combat hours during 900 combat sorties, in 100 days.



JULY 2024 Edgewood

Soldiers from the 1100th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group headed to Kuwait to boost aviation readiness across the U.S. Central Command theater.



SEPT 2024 Glen Arm

Maryland Air Guard's 175th Wing organized and led a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear response exercise with neighbor state partners to simulate response to emergencies, tying convoy operations and weapons skills into CBRN competencies.



SEPT 2024 Laurel

Maryland's Cyber Protection Team, with experts from the Armed Forces of Bosnia- Herzegovina, applied lessons from an earlier Adriatic Regional Security Cyber Cooperation exercise: learning to recognize, break down, and defeat indicators of network attacks.



SEP-OCT 2024 Asheville, NC

A dozen Maryland Army Guard Aircrews provided Hurricane Helene support with Chinook heavy-lift capabilities over more than three weeks: 83 isolated area rescues of people and pets; and deliveries of generators, food, water, medical supplies, and cold-weather clothing.

MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD
GLOBAL MISSIONS

- 01 Inherent Resolve**
3-126th Aviation Regiment
70 Soldiers | Afghanistan
- 02 Southwest Border Mission**
1-224th Aviation Regiment
121 Soldiers | U.S. Southwest Border
- 03 Locked Shields**
175th Cyber Operations Squadron
32 Airmen | Estonia
- 04 Neptune Hawk**
175th Maintenance Group
104th Fighter Squadron
140 Airmen | Nevada
- 05 Combat Hammer**
175th Maintenance Group
104th Fighter Squadron
73 Airmen | Nevada
- 06 Enduring Sentinel**
629th Military Intelligence Battalion
20 Soldiers | Afghanistan
- 07 Allies Refuge**
104th Medical Company Area Support
73 Soldiers | Poland

- 08 Horn of Africa**
110th Information Operations Battalion
10 Soldiers | Djibouti
- 09 Spring Storm 24**
291st Digital Liaison Detachment
1st Battalion, 175th Infantry
41 Soldiers | Estonia
- 10 Chicago Air Show**
104th Fighter Squadron
175th Maintenance Group
8 Airmen | Illinois
- 11 Baltic Rhino**
175th Logistics Readiness Squadron
10 Airmen | Estonia
- 12 Cyber Shield**
Cyber Protection Team 169
25 Soldiers | Virginia
- 13 Logistics Planning**
175th Logistics Readiness Squadron
10 Airmen | Bosnia-Herzegovina

- 14 Swift Response/Defender 24**
175th Cyber Operations Group
36 Airmen | Poland/Estonia
- 15 African Lion**
1st Battalion, 175th Infantry
230 Soldiers | Tunisia, Ghana, Senegal
- 16 Vibrant Response 24**
29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
581st Troop Command
40 Soldiers | Colorado
- 17 Joint Combined Exchange Training**
B Co. 2-20th Special Forces Group
22 Soldiers | Poland/Bulgaria
- 18 Inherent Resolve**
175th Security Forces Squadron
5 Airmen | Qatar
- 19 A-10 Deployment**
175th Wing
352 Airmen | U.A.E/Jordan

BUILDING SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- 20 Estonian Defense Warfighter**
291st Digital Liaison Detachment
9 Soldiers | Estonia
- 21 Cold Weather Training**
175th Civil Engineer Squadron
82 Airmen | North Dakota
- 22 80th Anniversary of D-Day**
29th Infantry Division
1st Battalion, 175th Infantry
10 Soldiers | France
- 23 Rhino Heart**
1st Battalion, 175th Infantry
12 Soldiers | Germany
- 24 Adriatic Regional Security Cyber Cooperation**
Cyber Protection Team 169
5 Soldiers, 1 Airmen | Slovenia
- 25 Arctic Defender**
175th Force Support Squadron
37 Airmen | Alaska

- 26 Exportable Combat Training Capabilities (XCTC)**
58th Troop Command
141 Soldiers | Mississippi
- 27 Guantanamo Bay**
629th Military Intelligence Battalion
5 Soldiers | Cuba
- 28 Inherent Resolve**
1100th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group
20 Soldiers | Iraq
- 29 Annual Training**
175th Force Support Squadron
45 Airmen | Mississippi
- 30 Inherent Resolve**
B Co. 2-20th Special Forces Group
13 Soldiers | USCENTCOM

- 31 Saber Junction 24**
1729th Support Maintenance Company
91 Soldiers | Germany
- 32 Red Flag**
200th Military Police Company
94 Soldiers | Alaska
- 33 Ulchi Freedom 24**
110th Information Operations Battalion
10 Soldiers | South Korea
- 34 Ussisonad 24**
1st Battalion, 175th Infantry
17 Soldiers | Estonia
- 35 Hawgsmoke**
175th Maintenance Group
104th Fighter Squadron
50 Airmen | Georgia
- 36 Enduring Sentinel**
629th Military Intelligence Battalion
10 Soldiers | Afghanistan





MDARNG

MARYLAND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

We are an organization committed to excellence in action and effects. Embedded in our communities, we man, train, and sustain the force to mobilize without delay when needed to support civil authorities during state emergencies at the direction of The Adjutant General. We execute training and deployments to deepen our skills and readiness to mobilize when ordered to federal service by the President.

LEADERSHIP



Brigadier General Andrew W. Collins
Assistant Adjutant General-Army



Command Sergeant Major Patrick M. Metzger
Command Sergeant Major-Army



Activations, deployments, and achievements in fiscal 2024 reflect the pivotal role played by each Army National Guard unit – enhancing individual and unit-level capabilities and building partnerships while supporting domestic and international missions.

The 58th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade applied its cyber defense expertise with our counterparts from Bosnia-Herzegovina when Cyber Protection Team 169 took part in the Adriatic Regional Security Cyber Cooperation Exercise in Slovenia. At home, they put their capabilities to work during Cyber Shield 2024, a validation exercise that honed mission-essential tasks as well as mobilization preparedness.

The successes of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion reflect the reputation of the Maryland Army National Guard for job training and experiences that challenge and reward individual effort. Total enlistments in 2024 peaked at 577, marking an impressive gain of 91 enlistments compared to Fiscal 2023. Field enlistments rose to 404, the highest since 2017. On the retention front, reenlistments improved by 15 percent, with 588 Soldiers reenlisting. Additionally, the MDARNG strengthened its commitment to education by setting up formal agreements to collaborate with Salisbury University and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore by offering experiential and mentorship opportunities to complement their academic work.

The 29th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade completed a range of missions that displayed the Soldiers' agility and readiness, to include firefighting at Loch Raven Reservoir, and search and rescue operations following the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Memorial Bridge. The Maryland Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team deployed to North Carolina for nine days of rescue operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. During 51 sorties, they rescued 103 people and pets. They delivered 263,800 pounds of essential items, from food and water to medical and baby supplies, to the hardest hit areas.



MDARNG RECRUITING



The 58th Troop Command showed its operational reach and international partnerships. In Morocco, Tunisia, Ghana, and Senegal, the unit executed its largest deployment in more than a decade for Operation African Lion 2024. More than 230 Soldiers of the 1-175th Infantry Regiment trained alongside partner forces, conducting live-fire exercises and executing integrated logistics. At home, the unit provided traffic control supporting the NATO 75th Anniversary Summit. They hosted and coordinated the Best Warrior Competition at the state and regional levels.

The 70th Regional Training Institute tailors its training programs to develop critical skills for Maryland Soldiers and attracts students from Active, Reserve, and National Guard units from neighboring states. An accredited Army School, it graduated 350 Soldiers this year from specialized courses, such as the Basic Military Police Course. The institute teaches leadership, officership, ethics, tactical skills, and more during 16 months of Officer Candidate School, preparing students to commission as 2nd lieutenants.





MDANG

MARYLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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

LEADERSHIP



Brigadier General Drew E. Dougherty
Assistant Adjutant
General-Air



Command Chief Master Sergeant Shane A. Price
State Command Chief-Air



An exciting and defining chapter in the history of the Maryland Air National Guard includes notable examples of its critical, in-demand skill sets: fighter operations and cyberspace operations.

The Maryland Air National Guard conducted its first Air Force major command readiness exercise validation, Operation Frosty Strike 2023, showing the 175th Wing's ability to survive and complete mission-essential tasks in a simulated combat environment against a near-peer adversary. The wing generated air power from a main operating base and forward-deployed Agile Combat Employment teams to an austere location. There, they performed integrated combat turns, rearming and refueling the A-10 with the engines running, while responding to various threat scenarios. Successful integration of our fighter operations, cyberspace operations, and mission support functions into this full-scale readiness exercise earned accolades from the Air Combat Command inspectors.

The Wing's lead A-10C package mobilized more than 250 Airmen to execute challenging split-location combat operations across the U.S. Central Command theater. They generated 903 sorties over 3,872 flying hours, with a 78 percent mission-capable rate -- an exceptional performance highlighted by the AFCENT Commander. The 104th Fighter Squadron operated in CENTCOM's 3-week Desert Flag 2024. Hosted by the United Arab Emirates, Desert Flag allowed 12 airframes to execute primary missions, e.g., close-air support, forward air control, and combat search and rescue -- building a cohesive fighting force for the defense of the Arabian Peninsula alongside France, Germany, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, UAE, and the UK.



The 175th Cyberspace Operations Group mobilized two offensive cyberspace operations squadrons in support of USCYBERCOM's Cyber Fortress 3.0. The training exercise evaluated local, state, and federal response to potential cyberattacks against critical infrastructure by simulating a cyberattack on Virginia water utility companies running on a virtual network. The 276th Cyberspace Operations Squadron augmented the exercise's offensive "red team." Its sister unit, the 275th Cyberspace Operations Squadron, collaborated with Army and Air National Guard members from multiple states and the Virginia Defense Force to function as the defensive "blue team" responsible for detecting simulated activity on the network.

In this busy year, the 175th Cyber Operations Group's Airmen took part in Exercise Keen Edge 2024, supporting the Air Operations Center's command post operations. Their work in the strategy, combat plans, and combat operations divisions contributed to the integration of more than 350 notional non-kinetic effects in support of kinetic operations. About 30 Airmen of the 175th Wing, along with two Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers, 12 Polish service members, and 30 Estonians participated in Baltic Blitz 23, a cybersecurity exercise centered around securing simulated rail transportation systems from cyber-attacks. Baltic Blitz enabled participating nations to train together and share best practices in cyber defense. In doing so, all participants helped strengthen relationships among the three partner nations.



More than 80 members of the 175th Civil Engineer Squadron conducted arctic-environment training at the regional training site in Fargo, North Dakota. Over eight days, they focused on skill-level upgrade training, Ready Airman Training, and other training not available at home station. The 175th was the first Air National Guard unit to employ an X-Hab 3D Concrete printer, demonstrated to Members of Congress and staff of Housing and Urban Development on the National Mall.

175th Wing Airmen contributed its first presidential detail when President Joseph R. Biden landed at Martin State Air National Guard Base before heading to Baltimore with Maryland Gov. Wes Moore to assess the damaged Francis Scott Key Bridge.



MDANG RECRUITING

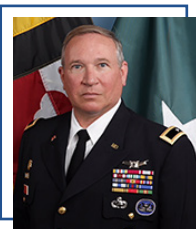


MDDF

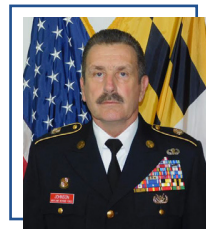
MARYLAND DEFENSE FORCE

We are a volunteer, uniformed component of the Maryland Military Department authorized by Maryland law. We provide professional and technical personnel with specialized skills that augment the Maryland National Guard's state missions and help prepare Guard members for federal mission mobilizations and redeployment.

LEADERSHIP



Brigadier General Gregory J. Juday
Commander-MDDF



Command Sergeant Major Guy L. Johnson Jr.
Senior Enlisted Leader-MDDF



The following captures highlights of the wide range of technical and specialized support the Maryland Defense Force gives to the citizens and the National Guard of Maryland.

The 10th Medical Regiment prepared for its role in public health contingencies through training, education, and exercises in emergency management, healthcare preparation, familiarization with current and emerging pathogens, and behavioral healthcare. Importantly, they coordinated with emergency response and emergency management offices of Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties, building readiness for partnership in response to emergencies. They took part in the Howard County Community Organizations Active in Disasters tabletop exercise and Maryland Hospital Association's Healthcare Preparedness Conference.

The 10th Medical Regiment's Medical Readiness Training Academy provided Basic Life Support training to the Anne Arundel Fish and Game Association, and medical support to 121st Engineer operations. They provided behavioral health support at Beacham Clinic and healthcare support to the Flight Surgeon Office of the Maryland Guard.

The 231st Troop Command enhanced its Emergency Operations capabilities by expanding to four detachments across Maryland and contributing staff to the Joint Staff's liaison officer program. Delta Detachment on the Eastern Shore supported the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in its Smith Island Evacuation Exercise.

The 256th Cyber Defense Unit added staff to the new Maryland Cybersecurity Task Force. The Chaplain Corps embedded its people in Maryland Army National Guard units.

The Defense Force is as good as its people and works to attract and retain skilled personnel – and contribute value to the state. The 27th Battalion integrated recruiting and training to ease the transition from recruit to trained service member. A strengthened social media presence and partnership with the Maryland National Guard will aid recruiting. Support to the Freestate Challenge Academy provides rewards to both the youth and the Troop Command.

The MDDF Band provided musical support for 14 events with the public and the National Guard, performing at graduation ceremonies for Warrant Officers School, Initial Entry Training, and Freestate Challenge Academy, as well as ceremonies like Crownsville Veterans Day and Wreaths Across America. Cavalry Troop A, a band component, provides ceremonial mounted Troopers for military funerals, community cemetery events, and the Takoma Park 4th of July Parade, among others.



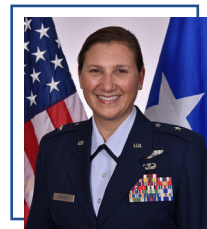
The 121st Engineer Regiment contributed 1,150 volunteer hours to inspect 129 Maryland Guard assets in the annual installation status report program. Its members provided OSHA 10-hour Safety Certification training for 13 Maryland Guard Soldiers and taught the 10th iteration of the University of Maryland's "Infrastructure and Society" course; students complement instruction with fieldwork, completing infrastructure assessments at Maryland National Guard facilities.

MDDF SERVICE PROVIDED A NEARLY \$2 MILLION CONTRIBUTION TO THE STATE



We serve as the Joint Force Headquarters for Maryland and assist the Adjutant General exercise authority and direction over assigned and attached organizations of the Maryland Military Department to conduct state and federal missions.

LEADERSHIP



**Brigadier General
Amy P. Kremser**
Director-Joint Staff



**Colonel
David M. Paolucci**
Chief of Staff-Joint Staff



The Joint Staff gives staff advice to The Adjutant General. It coordinates the Maryland National Guard response to events within the state with emergency response forces for natural or man-made disasters, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, critical asset protection and civil disturbance. The Joint Staff manages requests for military forces through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

The Joint Staff's senior and experienced members enable its strategic responsibilities, staffed with senior officers and enlisted members from Maryland's Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and Defense Force as well as a liaison officer from the Armed Forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina and active-duty emergency preparedness liaison officers.

The Joint Staff provides ongoing oversight and support for the 32nd Civil Support Team, Counterdrug Team, State Partnership Program, and the Honor Guard of the Maryland National Guard. Unique responsibilities this year included support to Hurricane Helene, the Loch Raven wildfire, the governor's inauguration, the new Maryland Cybersecurity Task Force, and aviation support after the Key Bridge collapse.





MMD

MARYLAND MILITARY DEPARTMENT

We are the civilians of the Maryland Military Department who provide essential administrative, logistical, and facility support, enabling the Soldiers and Airmen of the Maryland National Guard to effectively and efficiently accomplish their state and federal missions.

LEADERSHIP



Richard Turcotte
Interim Chief of Staff



Timothy Mullen
Deputy Chief of Staff



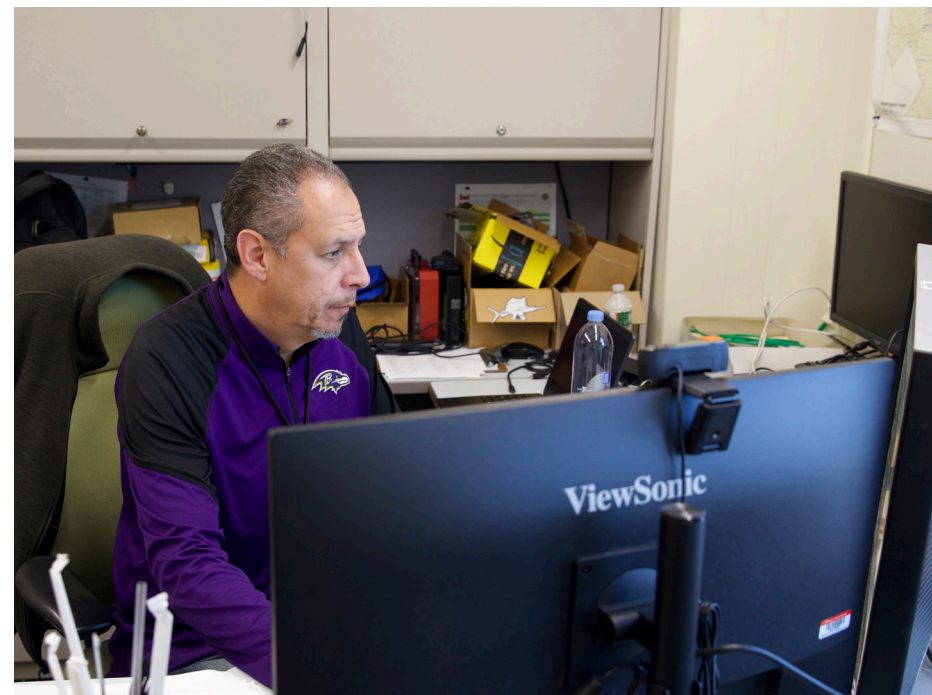
The Maryland Military Department is a state-government organization made up of Maryland's Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and Defense Force, commanded by The Adjutant General. The department headquarters enables the forces to execute the dual-mission set of service to Maryland and support to national security.

The Department's administrative support staff, from finance to procurement, equal opportunity, human resources, and information technology, are committed to support our Soldiers, Airmen, and civilian teammates on staff and in the state defense force.

Health Care for Heroes program, established by the Maryland Legislature in 2023, is a critical benefit for our service members -- ensuring they receive necessary support and care by reimbursing them for the cost of their TRICARE Reserve Select and TRICARE Dental Plan health insurance premiums.

The Military Department maintains Guard facilities across the state and executes the facilities' master construction projects, ensuring that service members have adequate administrative, logistical, and training hubs necessary for units to respond to federal and state missions.

It is responsible for requesting federal reimbursement for state funds expended through cooperative agreements to fund military programs budgeted for more than \$60 million annually. The department provides oversight to four meaningful public programs of the Maryland National Guard's the Honor Guard, Health Care for Heroes, the Maryland Museum of Military History, and the Freestate Challenge Academy, each described elsewhere in this report.





STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

In 2024, the Maryland National Guard proudly celebrated 50 combined years of partnership with Estonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH), milestones that underscore the depth of these international alliances. The Maryland Guard marked 30 years with NATO member Estonia and 20 years with BiH, commemorating this half-century of collaboration in a ceremony at the Maryland governor's residence Nov. 23. This historic event was a testament to the enduring ties between Maryland and its partners and an opportunity to reaffirm the Maryland National Guard's commitment to advancing security and stability across borders.

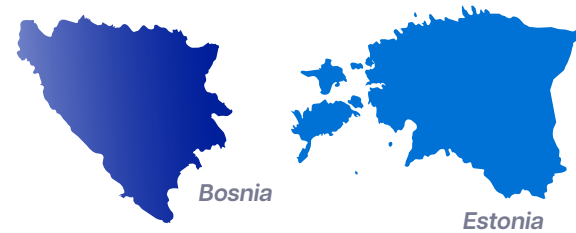
The 50-year celebration of these partnerships reaffirms Maryland's legacy of cooperation, bridging continents and cultures in pursuit of a safer, more stable world. By participating in exercises, cyber defense initiatives, and cultural exchanges, the Maryland Guard is building resilient, mutually beneficial relationships with its partners in Estonia and BiH.



In 77 State Partnership Program events this year, Maryland showed its commitment to fostering defense capabilities, sharing best practices, and building mutual trust. Of these, 44 events were conducted with Estonia, 33 with BiH, and 14 within the United States. Each engagement strengthened relationships, promoted operational readiness, and reinforced the Maryland National Guard role as a reliable partner in international defense initiatives.



Significant 2024 activities included joint participation in major exercises such as Defender Europe 24 and Spring Storm 24, each a valuable platform for interoperability and readiness. During Defender Europe 24, Maryland Soldiers and Airmen delivered critical cyber and joint fires observer capabilities, highlighting expertise and operational flexibility within a multinational context. Spring Storm 24 involved 42 Maryland Soldiers collaborating with Estonian counterparts in live-fire exercises that bolstered both tactical proficiency and multinational cooperation.



In the cyber domain, Maryland's 175th Wing Airmen took part in international cyber exercises like Crossed Swords and Locked Shields. These were crucial opportunities to refine defensive strategies, build resilience, and enhance cyber defense collaboration with Estonian partners. The exercises underscored the Maryland Guard's leadership in robust cyber defense in an increasingly complex digital landscape.



Maryland National Guard engagements with BiH in 2024 were equally impactful. The Guard hosted Joint Terminal Attack Controllers, JTACs, from the Armed Forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina at Warren Grove, where they collaborated to sharpen tactical coordination skills. This demonstration of the Maryland Guard's commitment to support development of BiH's military capabilities and to the enduring ties between the two countries' militaries.

In addition, 15 Non-Commissioned Officers, or NCOs, from Maryland's 175th Infantry Battalion partnered with the Estonian Defense League's Northeastern region. Together, they designed and executed a squad live-fire range to enhance NCO leadership and tactical skills. This initiative strengthened Estonian NCO capabilities and emphasized the importance of leadership development within the Maryland Guard's State Partnership Program framework.



Maryland's 229th Band advanced goodwill and cultural diplomacy. Invited to perform at the U.S. Ambassador's residence in Estonia for the Fourth of July celebration, the band bridged cultural divides through music. And when the band performed for the Estonian Defense League, it further solidified Maryland's connection with its long-standing partner.



44 Estonia

33 Bosnia & Herzegovina

14 Events in the U.S. with both partners





Maryland National Guard **COUNTERDRUG PROGRAM**

The Maryland National Guard Counterdrug Program supports federal, state and local law enforcement organizations in the mission to eliminate illicit drugs in Maryland. The program is based in the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore, with 34 Soldiers and Airmen. For more than 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.

Counterdrug aerial observation and reconnaissance support employs two UH-72 Lakota helicopters, two pilots and two mechanics. In the past year, the Counterdrug Team conducted 45 aerial missions over 155 hours in support of law enforcement agency requests. The aircraft are equipped with the most up-to-date technology enabling law enforcement officers to accomplish missions safely and effectively.

Maryland Guard's Counterdrug 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. Analysts review and collate evidence collected by law enforcement officers, enhancing their ability to successfully prosecute drug traffickers and to quickly accept and pursue added cases.

The Drug Demand Reduction Outreach Program partners with local community-based organizations in events that promote awareness and prevention of illicit drug use. The Outreach Team supports local community-based organization leaders and enhances their operational efficiency. Currently, they are teamed with nine community-based organizations and plan to expand their operations in the new year.



**SUPPORTED IN
 THE SEIZURE OF**

12 **483**

Vehicles Weapons

196 **\$1M**

Drug-related
 pieces of
 equipment in currency

**ILLICIT DRUG SEIZURES
 AMOUNTED OVER**

\$23,609,374

Marijuana
 1,390.1 lbs

Cocaine
 574.14 lbs

Fentanyl
 44.51 lbs



32ND CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM

The 32nd Weapons of Mass Destruction - Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) is a federally-funded unit within the Maryland National Guard, staffed by 22 highly-trained Soldiers and Airmen. Each member serves full-time and has specialized expertise in identifying Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) hazardous materials, complementing their primary military roles. The primary mission of the WMD-CST is to provide critical support to Federal, State, and Local emergency management agencies.

The team assists Incident Commanders with their requests for support, evaluates current and projected consequences of CBRN incidents, recommends appropriate response measures and identifies potential CBRNE substances. In 2024, the 32nd CST executed a robust training and operations agenda, conducting 10 full-scale exercises, 19 employment missions, 20 assistance calls and two confirmed operational support missions.

The team travelled to St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, to partner with a local WMD-CST Team in a joint exercise. This Pharmaceutical Based Agent split-operations exercise was attended by the commander of the U.S. NORTHCOM Joint Task Force-Civil Support, further emphasizing the collaborative efforts of the WMD-CSTs. Additionally, the 32nd WMD-CST partnered with the Baltimore City and county fire departments in a multi-agency chemical agent training exercise alongside CSX Railroad. The year concluded with a Fourth Generation Agent Joint Field Training Exercise, conducted in partnership with the 20th CBRNE Technical Escorts, focusing on convoy operations and the appropriate response to FGA scenarios. The efforts of the Maryland WMD Civil Support Team ensure a high level of preparedness in the face of potential CBRN threats and fosters collaboration among various agencies. Maryland's team ultimately strengthens the emergency response framework in Maryland and across the nation.



51 MISSIONS COMPLETED



HONOR GUARD

The Honor Guard represents the Maryland National Guard during ceremonial functions. They provide professional military funeral honors at the highest level of dignity and pride for veterans in the State of Maryland. The team members are trained to perfection, inspiring memories of reverence and dignity for families of deceased veterans. Each year the honor guard teams support Veterans Day and Memorial Day Ceremonies at the state veterans' cemeteries. The Honor Guard buglers play Taps at multiple locations as part of Wreaths Across America.

Highlights of the year include:

- Support to the Somerset County Explorer Program where the team trained Explorers in drill and ceremony.
- Support to the WWI Centennial Commission and the Doughboy Foundation, honoring Marie Edmee Leroux, a WWI "Hello Girl" telephone operator, with Military Funeral Honors and presentation of the Interment Flag to her granddaughter at Fort Lincoln Cemetery, Brentwood
- Support to the National Guard Bureau Black Engineer of the Year Awards Ceremony at the Baltimore Convention Center.



1,865 FUNERAL MISSIONS PERFORMED DURING STATE FISCAL YEAR 2024



MARYLAND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD BAND

Through every performance, the 229th Army Band embodies the mission of Army Bands: to inspire Soldiers, foster community support, and advance national interests. In Maryland this year, they engaged communities at the Maryland Music Educators' Conference and the Black Engineer of the Year Awards in Baltimore.

The 229th Army Band was a key element in celebrating the Maryland-Estonia partnership, highlighted by their tour of Estonia, where the full band traveled for the first time in 24 years. The tour opened in Pärnu with a joint concert with the Estonian Defense Force Band, marking 30 years of security cooperation. At the U.S. Ambassador's Fourth of July celebration in Tallinn, they joined with Estonia's civilian brass band Popsid for a fun mix of popular music. The rock band played a concert at the Summer Camp Spekter in Pärnu, bringing American hits to an energetic young audience. The tour concluded with a performance celebrating the Estonian Defense Forces Air Force Anniversary at the scenic Keila Lauulväljak.



67 Performances

30,000 Individuals Reached

9,000 Viewers Via Broadcast



Maryland Military Department CENTER FOR MILITARY HISTORY

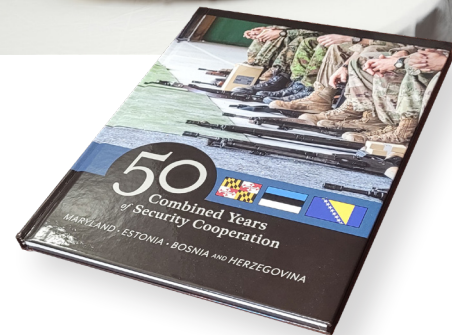
The Maryland Military Department Center for Military History includes the Maryland Museum of Military History and Maryland Military Historical Research Center. The staff offers to the public its research, staff rides, museum tours and educational outreach related to the rich military history of the people of Maryland.

The Center 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. Our shared military legacy conveys awareness of Maryland's contributions to American Freedoms.

Also, the Center safeguards the history of Maryland's organized militia and National Guard by collecting, maintaining, documenting, and presenting materials associated with events, people, and places significant to the state's military history.

In addition to ongoing responsibilities, notable activities this year included:

- Information gathering at all 24 readiness centers to capture history of current and former units, working with active and retired Guardsmen
- Historian deployment to collect information about the 1-224th Aviation Regiment mission at the Southwest Border ... the 1-175th Regiment mission in Tunisia, Ghana, and Senegal... and the 1-175th Regiment honors to their 115th heritage at Normandy's 80th D-Day anniversary
- Publication of the book, "50 Combined Years of Security Cooperation," celebrating the Maryland National Guard's partnerships with Estonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- Professional development classes for members of the Maryland Military Department, various agencies, new recruits, and units that teach the history of the Maryland National Guard.



2,491 Objects Cataloged **1,765** Museum Visitors **31** Hosted Functions **97** Biographies Created

3 Deployed Units **24** Readiness Centers **40** Oral Interviews **18** Staff Rides **12** Historical Outreach Events **61** Research Requests



FREESTATE CHALLENGE ACADEMY

The Freestate Challenge Academy is a state-run educational and life-skills program operated by the Maryland Military Department. It provides selected Maryland youth academic resources, job skills, and life-skills training in preparation for the transition to adulthood through immersion in a residential quasi-military environment over approximately 22 weeks.

At Freestate, cadets engage in GED preparatory education and can take their GED exam to earn a Maryland high school diploma. All receive training in eight core components: leadership and followership, service to the community, job skills, academic excellence, responsible citizenship, life-coping skills, health and hygiene, and physical fitness. By the end of the program, many cadets secure employment, enroll in college, or enlist in the military. After the residential program concludes, graduates continue to receive active monitoring and mentorship from case managers for an additional year.

Cadets in this year's classes explored career and new horizons with career-shadowing opportunities with the Maryland National Guard, participation in the Black Engineer of the Year event and competition with DC-based Challenge Academy cadets in the Battle of the Beltways competition. Two cadets were honored to be selected to attend the Governor's Inauguration Reception. Together, their service contributions add up to 6,260 hours. Recently, a graduate enrolled at Coppin State University, three are participating in the Governor's Service Year Option, six students re-enrolled back in high school, 10 enlisted with the military, 22 found new employment – and all discovered new discipline, accomplishments, and focus on their futures.



122 Graduates **40** Passed GED



22 Employed **2** College **10** Military

6,260 TOTAL COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

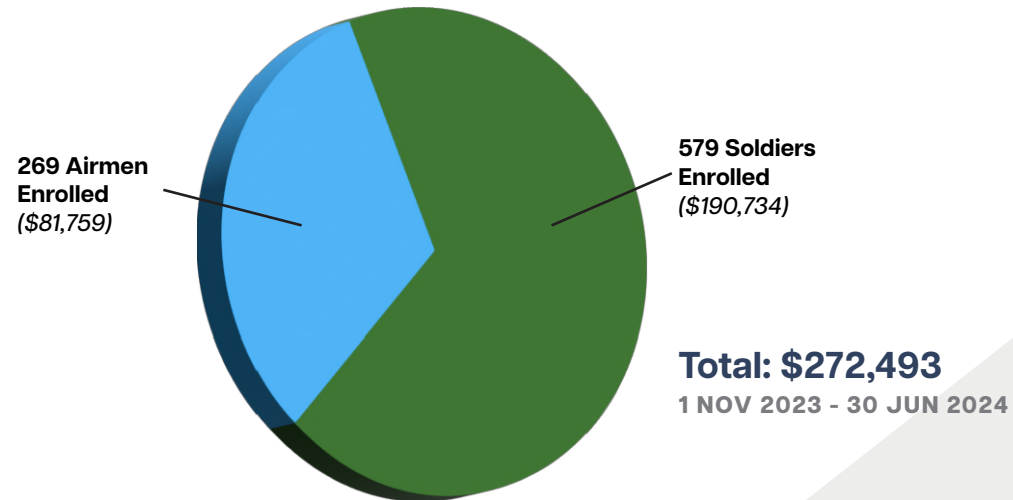
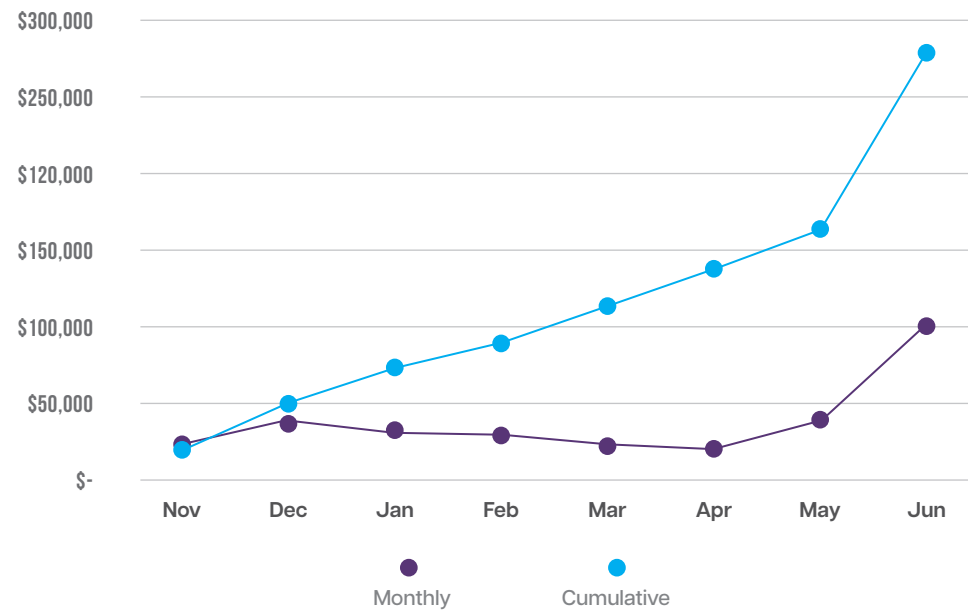


HEALTH CARE FOR HEROES

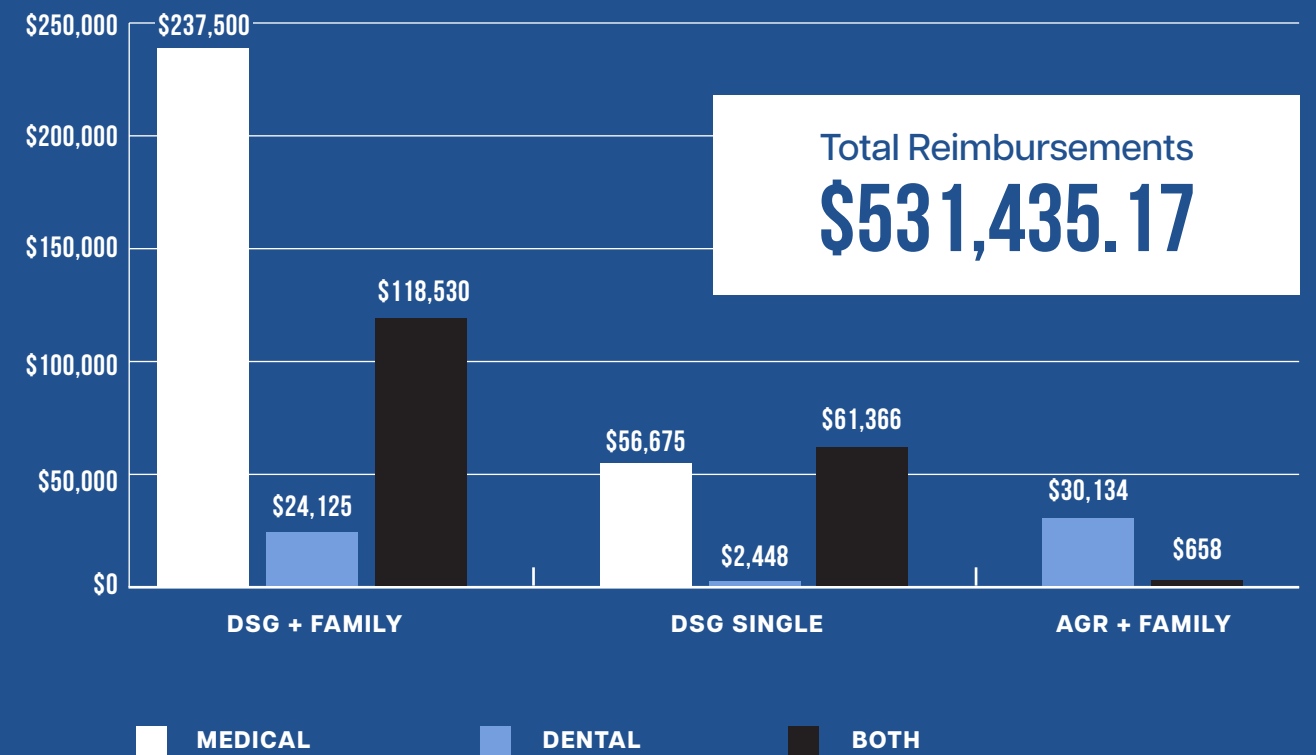
Managed by the Maryland Military Department, the Health Care for Heroes program provides eligible members of the Maryland Army and Air National Guard with a monthly reimbursement towards their TRICARE health and dental premiums. The program became law July 1, 2023. The portal designed to process enrollments and reimbursements became operational on November 1, 2023.

Monthly/Cumulative Reimbursement

1 NOV 2023 - 30 JUN 2024



TRICARE Reserve Select and TRICARE Dental Reimbursements



PEOPLE FIRST

MISSION ALWAYS

Integrated Primary Prevention



yellow ribbon program

family

FINANCE

YOUTH SERVICES

MILITARY ONE SOURCE



SOCIAL

Resilience

PHYSICAL

ACFT



SUICIDE PREVENTION

PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLNESS

MENTAL health



Chaplain Corps

SPIRITUAL



Veterans Crisis Line
DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

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.



I AM THE MISSION

Every member of the Maryland Military Department, regardless of job or position, is essential to mission success. From frontline operations to behind-the-scenes support, the dedication, skills, and teamwork of every Soldier, Airman, employee, and volunteer drive the Guard's ability to serve and protect Maryland and the nation.





Visit Us Online
military.maryland.gov



MARYLAND MILITARY DEPARTMENT

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