2025

Maryland National Guard

ANNUAL REPORT



Maryland National Guard

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Message to the Governor

2 We are Maryland's Force

3-4 Organizational Chart

5 Economic Impact

6 Demographics

7 Real Property

8 Department Footprint

9-10 Around the State

11-12 Global Missions

13-14 Maryland Army National Guard

15-16 Maryland Air National Guard

17-18 Maryland Defense Force

19-20 Joint Staff

21-22 Maryland Military Department

23-26 State Partnership Program

27 Counterdrug Program

28 Civil Support Team

29 Honor Guard

30 229th Army Band

31 The Center for Military History

32 Starbase

33 Health Care for Heroes

34 Cyber Initiatives

35 Recruiting

36 Boss Lift

37 I am the Mission

38 Joint Resiliency Directorate

39-40 People First, Mission Always


2025

MESSAGE TO THE GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND

Dear Governor Moore,

The Maryland National Guard continues to demonstrate its value to our state and nation, living out our promise to be Always Ready, Always There. The 2025 Annual Report captures a year of significant transition, achievement, and service across the Maryland Army National Guard, the Maryland Air National Guard, and the Maryland Defense Force.

This year, our formation navigated major mission changes while strengthening our core readiness. The Maryland Air National Guard marked the end of 104 years of flying operations in the state, closing a proud chapter of tactical airpower while accelerating new capabilities in cyber operations. Despite being the only Air National Guard state without a flying mission, our modernized missions expand our relevance to the joint force and underscore Maryland's growing role in our nation's digital and information-security front lines.

Our Soldiers continued to demonstrate excellence at home and abroad. In one of our largest NATO engagements in recent years, Maryland Army National Guard units trained alongside the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina during a multinational exercise in Croatia. This is an example of advancing interoperability, strengthening our partnerships, and reinforcing regional stability. At home, our forces supported domestic operations ranging from storm-response missions to battling wildfires on Aberdeen Proving Ground, once again proving that Marylanders can rely on their Guard in moments of crisis.

This year also included a historic celebration of the U.S. Army's 250th birthday. It was an opportunity to honor the long lineage of service that continues through every Soldier in the Maryland National Guard today. We were so proud to celebrate the historic occasion as you re-enlisted Guard members at State House in Annapolis.

Our ability to serve effectively depends on our people, our training, and the trust placed in us. We remain grateful for the dedication of the Maryland Defense Force, whose volunteer expertise amplifies our reach and strengthens our support to state agencies, first responders, emergency managers, and our communities.

The economic impact of this work continues to be substantial. Supported by an approximate annual budget of $335 million, the Maryland National Guard sustains thousands of jobs, drives regional economic activity, and delivers measurable value through infrastructure investments, contracts, and workforce development.

We remain proud to serve as Maryland's trusted provider of specialized military capabilities who are committed to excellence, integrity, and service. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we stand ready to meet the emerging demands of a changing world while staying anchored in the communities we serve.

Respectfully,

Janeen L. Birckhead

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.



The Maryland National Guard is a 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.

The Maryland National Guard 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 War.

The dual mission of the Maryland National Guard 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.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Maryland National Guard



Governor Wes Moore
Governor of Maryland
Commander-in-Chief



Major General Janeen Birckhead
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
Cyber Operations
Resiliency Directorate

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
Engineering
Medical Support

MD Air Guard
Cyber Operations
Security Forces
Medical Support
Communications
Maintenance
Logistics
Engineering
Intelligence
STEM Education

MD Defense Force
Engineering
Medical Support
Cyber Operations

ECONOMIC IMPACT

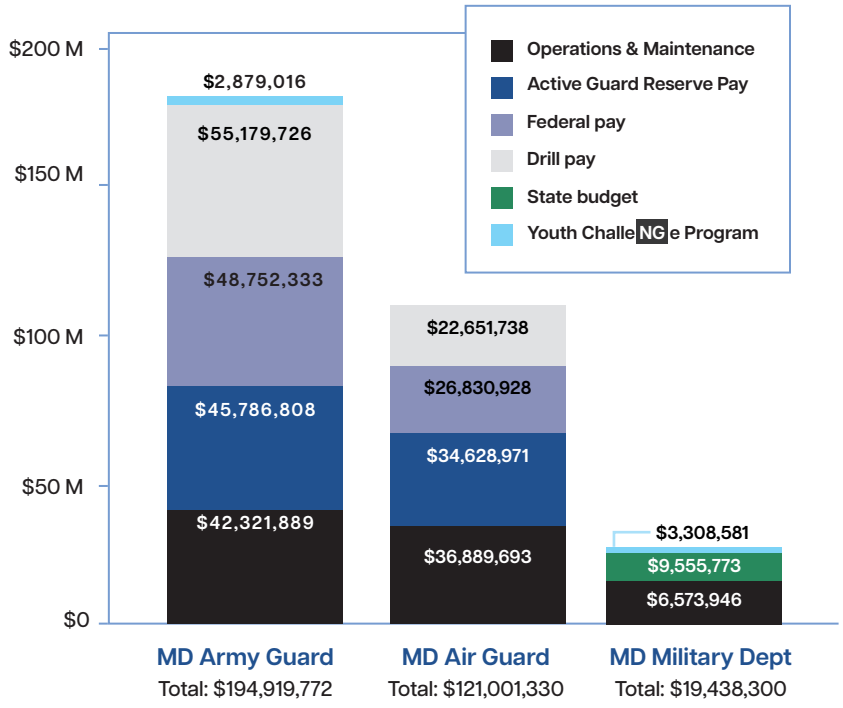
Funding personnel, training and operations

The Federal Government invests $316 Million in the Maryland National Guard: 94 percent of our appropriations. The Departments of the Army and Air Force reflect the priorities of National Defense: pay and allowances, training, supplies, equipment and construction. DoW funds military weapon systems.

State Funds link Maryland National Guard to the values of Maryland. Maryland provides tuition assistance for Guard members and makes capped reimbursements for TRICARE thanks to the Healthcare for Heroes legislation. The state contributes funds for the Honor Guard for veteran's military funerals and the museum of military history as well as state regular and contract salaries, maintenance and repair of facilities.

Military Construction includes National Guard facility construction, sustainment, restoration modernization, procurement, and more. The state leads in providing readiness center with federal funds appropriated for construction and upgrade of facilities.

Economic Impact:
Maryland National Guard
Total: $335,359,403



Federal
Total: $315,921,102

State
Total: $19,438,301

94% 6%

Economic Impact is substantial and statewide.

From payroll to healthcare, construction costs to services at 24 readiness centers and activities, Maryland National Guard expenditures generate multiplying economic benefit across the state. Because our personnel live in the communities they serve, they pay taxes and spend locally, supporting towns and cities, counties and state.

205,480 gallons of water dropped to suppress brush fires at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

178 community events supported including flyovers, static displays, speakers, color guard, band, and more.

26,000 food items and baby essentials delivered to **482** service members + **1,920** family members

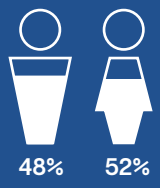
$800K+ total TRICARE Reserve Select and TRICARE Dental reimbursements to Maryland Guard members.

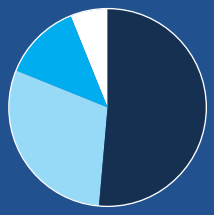
DEMOGRAPHICS



STATE

6.2 million citizens

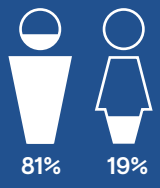


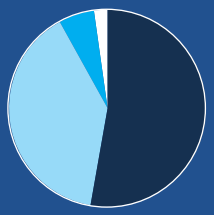


49% Caucasian
30% African American
14% Hispanic and other
7% Asian

MD ARMY GUARD

4,774 Soldiers

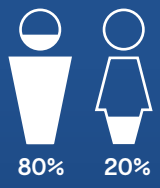




51.6% Caucasian
40.6% African American
1.7% Hispanic and other
6.1% Asian

MD AIR GUARD

1,285 Airmen

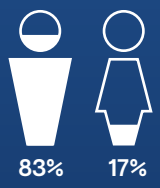


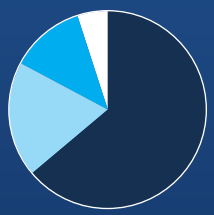


65% Caucasian
24.3% African American
5.3% Hispanic and other
6.4% Asian

MD DEFENSE FORCE

212 Members

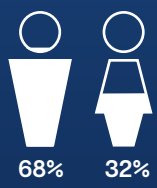


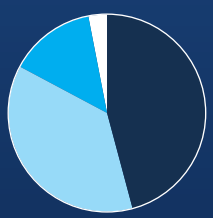


62.2% Caucasian
17% African American
14.2% Hispanic and other
6.6% Asian

MD MILITARY DEPARTMENT

196 Members





41% Caucasian
39.2% African American
17.3% Hispanic and other
2.5% Asian

Caucasian
African American
Asian
Hispanic and Other

REAL PROPERTY



Maryland Lt. Gov. Aruna Miller cuts a ribbon along with Capt. Allison Fleming, conmander of the 175th Security Forces Squadron, Maj. Gen. Janeen L. Birckhead, Brig. Gen Drew E. Dougherty during the opening of a new small arms firing range at Warfield National Air Base.



The Martin State Airport Runway Renovation is forecast for completion in summer of 2027 at a projected final cost of approximately $200 Million: applying funds from DoW, FAA, and the State of Maryland. The Maryland Aviation Authority and the Maryland National Guard secured 48 Million in state and federal funds in FY 25.



The 175th Wing Small Arms Firing Range opened September 2025 as a modernized training facility. For an investment of $9.2 Million, Airmen safely access 14 lanes, moving-target capabilities, low-light simulation, and digital shot-tracking screens. The 11,560 square-foot facilities is equipped with ballistic containment, HEPA-filtered ventilation, sound attenuation, and target retrieval systems.



The Havre de Grace Combined Support Maintenance Shop will replace a 100-year-old building for maintenance of a 900 vehicle fleet, maintained by 60 full-time staff. The $45 Million construction project, built with federal and state funds, is due for completion in 2026

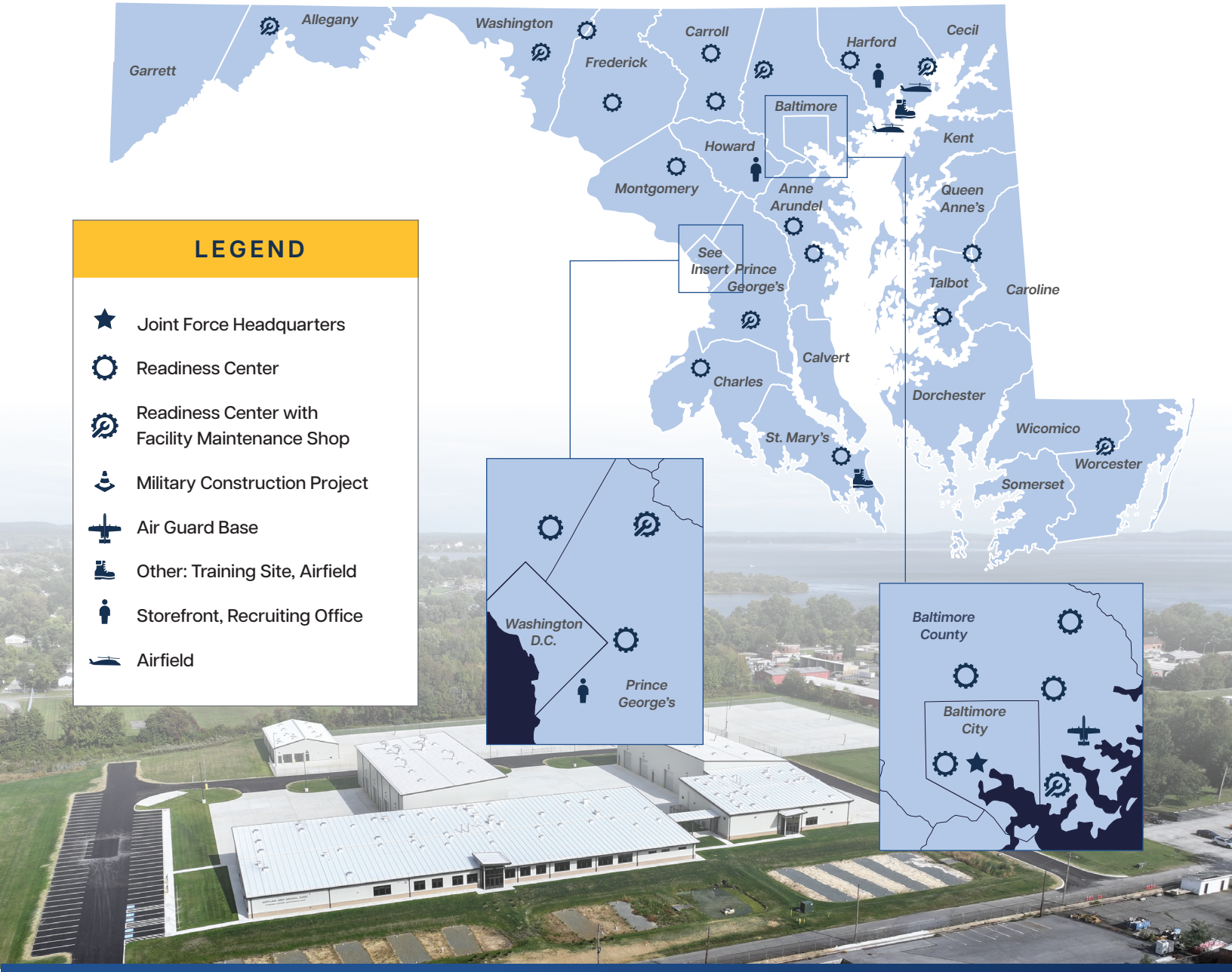


Access Control for the Camp Fretterd Military Reservation will be updated with a replacement Control Point that meets current force protection standards. The $4 Million 2-building project entails $3.5 Million federal funding and $500K in State funding awarded this year – for 2026-2027 construction.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

- **White Oak Readiness Center**
  (Renovation & Addition)
  Construction planned for FY27
- **Glen Burnie Readiness Center**
  (Renovation & Addition)
  Construction planned for early FY27
- **Frederick Readiness Center**
  (Renovation & Addition)
  Completion planned for 2027
- **Camp Fretterd Readiness Center – Joint Force Headquarters**
  (Renovation & Expansion)
  Construction planned for early 2027

DEPARTMENT FOOTPRINT



LEGEND

- Joint Force Headquarters
- Readiness Center
- Readiness Center with Facility Maintenance Shop
- Military Construction Project
- Air Guard Base
- Other: Training Site, Airfield
- Storefront, Recruiting Office
- Airfield

237 BUILDINGS
(ARMY 191 / AIR 46)

2.8 MILLION SQUARE FEET
OF FACILITY SPACE

$2 BILLION
IN PROPERTY VALUE

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

WORKING FOR MARYLAND

OCT 2024



Middle River – Maryland Air National Guard members of the 175th Cyber Operations Group participate in the Baltic Blitz 24 Exercise in collaboration with Estonian state partners at Martin State Air National Guard Base.

OCT 2024



Easton – Members of the Maryland General Assembly Veterans Caucus visited the Annapolis and Easton Readiness Centers to gain insight on current Maryland Military Department facilities, capabilities, and their mission.

NOV 2024



Church Creek – Maryland Governor Wes Moore and the Maryland National Guard honored Harriet Tubman's military contributions to the United States and Maryland by posthumously commissioning her as a Brigadier General during a ceremony at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park & Visitor Center.

NOV 2024



Edgewood – Maryland Special Operations Forces conducted a Static Line Airborne Operation at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. Personnel executed high-intensity jumps using a Marine Corps C-130 and a Maryland Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook.

FEB 2025



Camp Ripley Training Center, Minnesota –Airmen of the 175th Security Forces Squadron train in 6-day cold weather operations course at Camp Ripley, Minnesota.

FEB 2025



Martinsburg, West Virginia – The 32nd Civil Support Train exercise skills during an annual simulation of rapid deployment of cargo needed to respond to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive events or threats.

MAR 2025



Linthicum Heights – Senior Army National Guard leaders gather for a 2-day Leadership Development and Readiness Workshop, with updates on security challenges and foreign military strategy – and guidance on building resilience with critical resources for Soldiers.

MAR 2025



Edgewood – Soldiers of the 1-244th Aviation Battalion were welcomed home at Weide Army Heliport, Aberdeen Proving Ground, after their 13-month deployment in support of U.S. Northern Command.

JUN 2025



Reisterstown–Soldiers of the Maryland Army National Guard honored the 250th Army Birthday with a 5-mile ruck march, ceremonial cake-cutting, and Soldier reenlistments at Camp Fretterd.

JUN 2025



Laurel – U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Anthony R. Hale, deputy chief of staff for Intelligence, G-2, United States Army, visited with Maryland Army National Guard Soldiers from the 629th Intelligence and Electronic Warfare Battalion during their annual training at the Pvt. Henry Costin Readiness Center.

JUL 2025



The Army National Guard 2025 National Warrior Competition, hosted by Maryland, challenged Soldier-competitors from Maryland and seven regions of the U.S. in a demanding series of physical and mental tests of military expertise, resilience, and warrior ethos demanded of modern military operations.

JUL 2025



Worton – Teenagers of Guard members observe marine animals during a Maryland National Guard Child and Youth Program summer camp at Echo Hill Outdoor School.

SERVICE – EXPERTISE – EXCELLENCE

Always Ready, Always There

DEC 2024



Dundalk – The Maryland Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment commemorated their 250th anniversary with a Pass in Review. The historic ceremony celebrated the regiment's legacy as one of the oldest and most distinguished units in the U.S. Army, tracing its roots back to the Baltimore Independent Cadets of 1774.

DEC 2024



Baltimore – Maryland National Guard A-10C Thunderbolts perform a flyover salute to the people of Maryland, at the NFL Salute to Service during the Baltimore Ravens v Philadelphia Eagles game.

JAN 2025



Fifty Soldiers are activated to state duty for statewide response to the winter storm.

JAN 2025



Washington, D.C. – Approximately 380 members of the Maryland National Guard supported the 60th Presidential Inauguration as part of a large interagency presence.

APR 2025



Bosnia and Herzegovina – Maryland National Guard members joined the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina to conduct a live convoy operation to practice multi-vehicle operations, with injects along the way including tire maintenance and engine repair.

APR 2025



Middle River – The 175th Civil Engineer Squadron developed an Expeditionary 3D Concrete Printer to rapidly build fortified infrastructure that supports warfighters and sustains operations in contested environments.

MAY 2025



Baltimore – A significant reduction in work-related injuries in the Maryland Military Department is recognized at the State Employee Risk Management Administration Conference.

MAY 2025



Reisterstown – The Fallen Warrior Ceremony at Camp Fretterd honors 13 Soldiers who gave their lives in defense of the nation.

AUG 2025



Middle River – Pilots of the 104th Fighter Squadron complete their fini-flights before the divestment of the A-10s at Warfield Air National Guard Base.

AUG 2025



Edgewood – The Maryland Guard welcomes home 20 members of the 1100th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group after their nine-month deployment to Kuwait, providing maintenance support to U.S. Central Command under Operation Spartan Shield.

SEP 2025



Baltimore – Maryland Museum of Military History, at the Fifth Regiment Armory, reopens with a dedication to the "Maryland 400" room and unveiling of a historic World War II mural.

SEP 2025



Middle River – Maryland Air National Guard members gathered to witness the final flight of the last two A-10C Thunderbolt II, at the operations and maintenance's inactivation ceremony – part of the U.S. Air Force divestment – at Warfield Air National Guard Base, Martin State Airport.

GLOBAL MISSIONS

01 Hurricane Helene
29th Combat Aviation Brigade
12 Soldiers | Asheville, NC

02 Horn of Africa
110th Information Operations Battalion
15 Soldiers | Camp Lemonire, Djibouti

03 European Deterrence Initiative
110th Information Operations Battalion
8 Soldiers | Ft. Meade, MD

04 Operation Spartan Shield
1100th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group
3 Soldiers | Kuwait

05 Guantanamo Bay
629th Military Intelligence Battalion
5 Soldiers | Cuba

06 Inherent Resolve
2-20th Special Forces Group
11 Soldiers | U.S.CENTCOM

07 Warfighter 25-1
291st Digital Liaison Detachment
33 Soldiers | Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA

08 Sage Eagle
175th Security Forces Squadron
20 Airmen | Ft. Knox, KY

09 Inherent Resolve
629th Military Intelligence Battalion
20 Soldiers | Laurel, MD

10 Task Force Freedom
1-224th Aviation Regiment
118 Soldiers | Fort Huachuca, AZ

11 Spartan Shield
629th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Battalion
3 Soldiers | Qatar

12 Spartan Shield
2-641st Aviation Company
6 Soldiers | Kuwait

13 60th Presidential Inauguration
Maryland National Guard
380 Soldiers and Airmen |
Washington, D.C.

14 North Wind 25
29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
5 Soldiers | Hokkaido, Japan

15 Warfighter 25-3
29th Combat Aviation Brigade
48 Soldiers | Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA

16 Arctic Forge
115th Military Police Battalion
10 Soldiers | Helsinki, Finland

17 Weapons Instructor Course 25
175th Maintenance Group
65 Airmen | Nellis Air Force Base, NV

18 Pharmaceutical-based Agent Training
32nd Civil Support Team
20 Soldiers and Airmen |
Melbourne, FL

19 Advance Wrath
175th Maintenance Group
38 Airmen | Louisville, KY

20 Joint Logistics Exchange
175th Logistics Readiness Squadron
40 Soldiers and Airmen |
Bosnia-Herzegovina

21 Operation Wolverine Strike
175th Maintenance Group
61 Airmen |
Savannah, GA and Badin, NC

22 Civil Engineering Training
175th Civil Engineer Squadron
42 Airmen | New London, NC



BUILDING SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

23 Silver Flag
175th Civil Engineer Squadron
63 Airmen | Ramstein, Germany

24 Locked Shields
175th Cyber Operations Group
11 Airmen | Tallinn, Estonia

25 Exercise Hedgehog
107th Field Artillery Regiment
20 Soldiers | Võru, Estonia

26 Defender 25
2-20th Special Forces Group
60 Soldiers | Latvia/Lithuania

27 Combat Search and Rescue
175th Maintenance Group
38 Airmen | Volk Field ANGB, WI

28 Communications Training
175th Communications Squadron
29 Airmen | Macdill AFB, FL

29 Steadfast Deterrence
Special Operations Detachment-OTAN
25 Soldiers | Mons, Belgium

30 Fulcrum Strike
629th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Battalion
142 Soldiers | Glen Arm, MD

31 Warfighter
291st Digital Liaison Detachment
33 Soldiers | Mailly Le Camp, France

32 Inherent Response
115th Military Police
25 Soldiers | Red Land TA, Croatia

33 D-Day Rememberance
29th Infantry Division
8 Soldiers | Normady, France

34 Pacific Sentry
110th Information Operations Battalion
8 Soldiers | Honolulu, HI

35 Saber Guardian
175th Cyberspace Operations Squadron
49 Airmen | Bucharest, Romania

36 National Training Center Rotation
58th Troop Command
259 Soldiers | Fort Irwin, CA

37 Force Support Training
175th Force Support Squadron
64 Airmen | RAF Mildenhall, UK

38 Cyber Velocity
Cyber Protection Team 169
30 Soldiers | Virginia Beach, VA

39 Talisman Saber
110th Information Operations Battalion
10 Soldiers | Sydney, Australia

40 Yudh Abhyas 25
110th Information Operations Battalion
10 Soldiers | Fairbanks, AK

41 Spicy Tamagotchi
Cyber Protection Team 169
23 Airmen | Marshall University, WV

42 Expeditionary Skills Exchange
175th Logistics Readiness Squadron
25 Airmen and Soldiers | Pärnu, Estonia





MARYLAND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

- Committed to excellence in action and effects
- Embedded in our communities, we man, train, and sustain the force
- Ready and able to mobilize without delay when needed to support civil authorities during state emergencies
- Sharpening skills through training and deployments -- deepening readiness for federal service under orders of the President.

LEADERSHIP



Brigadier General Andrew W. Collins
Assistant Adjutant General-Army



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



Soldiers attached to the 29th Military Police Company pose in front of a M-ATV while participating in a National Training Center rotation, Fort Irwin, California.

Left: Maryland Soldier from the 115th Police Battalion participates in Exercise Immediate Response in Knin, Croatia.

Mobilizations, training events, and missions of the Maryland Army National Guard reflect the breadth and depth of specialized skills dedicated to both state and federal missions --
Across the state, units supported multiple domestic missions. 50 Soldiers were activated to assist civil agencies during a winter storm and an additional 50 stood ready to support state and local agencies during scheduled protests in the spring. Guard helicopters provided aerial firefighting support at Aberdeen Proving Ground, completing 219 water drops over 26 flight hours and delivering more than 200,000 gallons of water.

The Army National Guard saw an effective recruiting year, with its top recruiter ranking among the top 5 nationwide for similar-sized states, thanks to 27 enlistments. Efforts of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion achieved 641 enlistments and 535 reenlistments.
The 70th Regional Training Institute graduated 332 National Guard Soldiers this year from leader development programs and specialized skills training.



Staff Sgt. Miles Crawford fires an M-26 shotgun while competing in the National Best Warrior Competition hosted by the Maryland Army National Guard.



Soldiers from the 231st Chemical Company, working as support staff for the National Best Warrior Competition, pose for a group photo.

The 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, equipped with UH-60M helicopters, conducted 71 missions, six flyovers, and 11 outreach static displays. Brigade staff served as the response cell during Warfighter 25-3. Three aviation elements completed operational missions: a Kuwait deployment for 26 Soldiers from the 1100th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group and 2-641st Aviation Company and deployment to the U.S. southern border for 118 Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment.



Governor Wes Moore administers the oath of enlistment for Soldiers as a part of the 250th Army Birthday celebrations. in Annapolis, MD.

58th Troop Command oversaw the Soldiers of the 1-175th Infantry Regiment training for future missions and 291st Digital Liaison Detachment Soldiers supporting operations in France. 110 Soldiers of 115th Military Police Battalion took part in Defender Europe in Croatia. During a National Training Center rotation, 259 Soldiers of the 1297th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and the 29th Military Police Company validated large-scale combat skills. The command also planned and executed the National Best Warrior Competition where Staff Sgt. Miles Crawford qualified to advance to the U.S. Army Best Squad Competition.

The 58th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade mobilized two Military Intelligence teams, a Special Forces team, and an Information Operations team supporting U.S. Central Command, the Horn of Africa, and U.S. Cyber Command. The 110th Information Operations Battalion participated in multinational exercises, including Pacific Sentry 25, Talisman Saber 25, and Yudh Abhyas 25. The brigade executed Fulcrum Strike 25, preparing Soldiers to support rapidly deploying division headquarters; and activated the 629th Intelligence and Electronic Warfare Battalion, restructuring the unit to focus on large-scale combat operations against near-peer adversaries.

MARYLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

- Committed to the community
- Ensuring our Airmen are ready to support state and federal missions
- Supporting Maryland's Cyber Center for Excellence by 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



The MDANG formally inactivated the 175th Ops Group, the 175th Maintenance Group, and all subordinate units during a ceremony at Warfield ANG Base.

Left: Airmen gather critical information from the emergency operations center for Exercise Wolverine Strike at Warfield ANG Base.

The inactivation ceremony for the A-10C Thunderbolt II flying mission at the 175th Wing marked the conclusion of operations for one of the Air National Guard's longest-serving flying units. The ceremony formally inactivated the 175th Operations Group, the 175th Maintenance Group, and all subordinate units.

This transition closed a significant chapter in the Wing's history, reflecting decades of distinguished service, operational excellence, and unwavering commitment to both federal and state missions.

The operations and maintenance Airmen completed nine combat deployments over the past 25 years, including their final deployment in 2024. Prior to the divestment, nearly 50 Airmen and six A-10C aircraft conducted combat search and rescue training at Volk Field. The Wing also executed Operation Wolverine Strike, a large-scale combat readiness exercise across multiple East Coast locations that tested its ability to operate in contested environments.

The 175th Wing earned national recognition when it received the Spaatz Trophy, one of the service's highest honors, for overall readiness and excellence. The legacy of the A-10C mission and the Airmen who supported it will remain an enduring part of the 175th Wing's heritage. That history is reflected in a three-panel acrylic mural, painted by Staff Sgt. Rachel Underwood, now hanging in the Wing's headquarters building at Warfield Air National Guard Base, Martin State Airport.

The 175th Wing will transition to a potent cyber operations mission – building on the strengths of the existing 175th Cyberspace Operations Group. This year alone, the Group led seven major globally-integrated cyber missions. With a reputation as the "gold standard" for partner collaboration, the COG worked with the Maryland Cybersecurity Task Force, and with Estonian counterparts in Baltic Blitz, Crossed Swords, and Locked Shields. These experiences as well as joint operations with Romania and Estonia, during Saber Guardian 25, deepen their ability to protect critical infrastructure – for Maryland and for allies. Ten cyber Airmen were graduates of the new U.S. Air Force Warrant Officer Training School.

The 235 Civil Engineer Flight developed multimillion-dollar infrastructure plans, supported NATO's security investment programs, led airfield pavement assessments, and enabled Agile Combat Employment planning in Europe. They also directed a NATO airfield survey critical to the flow of military assistance to Ukraine.

The 175 Civil Engineer Squadron developed an Expeditionary 3D-Concrete Printer for rapid production of fortified structures and launched a new Unmanned Aircraft System to assess infrastructure for rapid emergency response.



175th Wing fire department removes the door from an overturned vehicle for Exercise Wolverine Strike at Warfield ANG Base.



175th Maintenance Group Airmen at Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center, Wisconsin during combat search and rescue training.

MARYLAND DEFENSE FORCE

- Operating as all-volunteer, uniformed component authorized by Maryland law
- Providing specialized technical and professional skills that augment the state mission of the MD National Guard
- Preparing Guard members for federal mission mobilization & redeployment

LEADERSHIP



Brigadier General Gregory J. Juday
Commander-MDDF



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



Members of the 10th Medical Regiment assisted with medical care to Guard members at Beecham Clinic.

Left: Members of the Maryland Defense Force participate in an award ceremony during their annual muster.

The voluntary commitment of Maryland Defense Force members creates the winning edge for Guard member support programs, youth programs like Freestate ChalleNGe, and community support such as medical assistance, technical aid, and formal honors at funerals and other meaningful ceremonies.

The 10th Medical Regiment specialists supported Maryland communities like the Howard County Public Schools' Unheard Perspectives Showcase, National History Day, and Simulated Congressional Hearings. They also conducted Lunch & Learn seminars with the University of Maryland School of Medicine's Area Health Education Center on suicide awareness and emergency preparedness and took part in the Anne Arundel OEM Mass Casualty Exercise. Their volunteers gave Basic Life Support training for the Anne Arundel Fish and Game Association. In support of the Maryland National Guard, they gave healthcare and behavioral support to the Beecham Clinic and the Flight Surgeon Office. They also served Guard members with suicide prevention/ behavioral health support.

231st Troop Command's liaison officers acted as planners, evaluators and controllers for Guard and local exercises. The unit worked the Smith Island Evacuation Exercise with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. And they ensured success of the Soldier Readiness, Yellow Ribbon, and retirement programs, while also embedding Chaplains in Army Guard units.



Specialists with the 121st Engineer Regiment taught the Infrastructure and Society Course, with fieldwork, to University of Maryland students.

Engineering support from the 121st Engineer Regiment accomplished missions beyond the scope of the Guard. They assisted in upgrading security at the Fifth Regiment Armory, repaired drainage for the Miller Building at Camp Fretterd, provided programming support and electrical inspections, and installed the important Arsenal of Democracy mural at the MD Military Museum. They completed 117 inspections of Army assets for the annual installation status report program. The unit taught the "Infrastructure and Society" course to students at the University of Maryland.

The Maryland Defense Force's 256th Cyber Defense Unit took part in the Cyber Resilience Corps, a partnership chaired by UC Berkeley's Center for Long-Term Cybersecurity & Cyber Peace Institute. The Cyber Resilience Corps led development of a roadmap to strengthen the state's collective cyber defenses. The 256th is training for its role safeguarding Maryland's key info systems from potential threats. Members shared "digital hygiene" and cyber awareness in community presentations.



The 231st Troop Command established and operated an advanced base camp during a simulated evacuation of Smith Island, on the islet of Long Point.

The 27th Battalion made key inroads in the Guard's recruiting by redesigning new recruits' experience as they transition into trained service members and upgrading social media support to recruiting.

Musical support from the Defense Force Band brought honor and dignity to military school graduations and ceremonies like Crownsville Veterans Day and Wreaths Across America. Ceremonial mounted Cavalry Troopers raised the formality of military funerals, community cemetery events, and the Takoma Park 4th of July Parade, among others.

Provided

1,150 volunteer hours

to inspect Maryland Guard assets, saving the state more than $100K

JOINT STAFF

- Assisting the Adjutant General in exercising authority and direction
- Aids in strategic direction of Maryland National Guard forces, ensuring effective operations under unified command
- Integrates Army & Air National Guard personnel into a cohesive operational team

LEADERSHIP



Brigadier General
Craig M. Hunter
Director-Joint Staff



Chief Master Sergeant
Monica A. Aragon
Senior Enlisted Advisor-Joint Staff

The Joint Staff serves as the primary staff element for the Adjutant General of Maryland through oversight to develop and implement strategic plans and interagency collaboration to align state and federal priorities.

The Joint Staff coordinates Maryland National Guard response to state-level emergencies, including natural emergencies, human-critical infrastructure protection, and civil disturbances. It creates public-private integration and manages requests for military support to other states, e.g., Hurricane Helene response in North Carolina, through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. The staff provides administrative oversight for state active-duty missions authorized by the Governor and provides oversight of the Maryland Guard organizations supporting the State of Maryland. The Joint Staff manages the MD Cybersecurity Task Force support, civil support in CBRN events, counterdrug, honor guard, and the personal support mandates including sexual assault response and equal employment. The Cyber Protection Team 169 now reports to the Joint Staff for expanded cyber operations capability available to the state.

The Joint Staff reorganized and supported initiatives to meet priorities of the Adjutant General and State of Maryland like the first Maryland Critical Infrastructure Collaboration Workshop, which focused on cyber threats to water treatment facilities – advancing state, local and federal partnerships and guiding organizational resilience. The next workshop will address threats to the energy sector.



A MDARNG Soldier conducts traffic control operations in support of the 60th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C.

Left: Brigadier General Craig Hunter, director of the Joint Staff, greets the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina cyber Soldiers.



Lt. Col. Meaghan Lazak delivers an informational briefing to an audience of security and infrastructure cybersecurity experts at the Maryland Critical Infrastructure Cyber Resilience Workshop.

The Joint Resiliency Directorate was formed to bring people-focused specialties together in a holistic approach to fostering healthy command climates and enhance Guard members' readiness. Centralized public affairs, strategic communication, and public engagement functions will improve responsiveness and collaboration with public and private stakeholders in the state and relationships with interagency and international partners.



Col. Louis Hawkins speaks with Russell Strickland, the Director of MDEM, at the 2025 Maryland Defense Critical Infrastructure Interagency breakfast.

The Joint Staff is manned with experienced staff from Maryland's Air and Army National Guard, Maryland Defense Force and Maryland Military Department as well as liaison officers working with the Estonian Defense Force and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and active-duty emergency preparedness liaisons.

Maryland
MILITARY DEPARTMENT

MARYLAND MILITARY DEPARTMENT

- Civilian teammates of the Air and Army National Guard
- Providing administrative, logistical and facility support
- Enabling Soldiers and Airmen to effectively and efficiently accomplish their state and federal missions

LEADERSHIP



David M. Paolucci
Chief of Staff



Timothy Mullen
Deputy Chief of Staff



Daniel Torres, MMD assistant IT director, inspects a server rack at the Fifth Regiment Armory.

Left: Brady Gatewood, MMD groundskeeper, pauses in his work.

The Maryland Military Department is a state government agency that supports the Maryland Army National Guard, Maryland Air National Guard, and Maryland Defense Force, all under the command of the Adjutant General. The department headquarters enables the forces to execute the dual mission of serving Maryland and supporting national security. The department's administrative support staff, including our Finance Office, which directly supports the troops with receiving pay when they are called upon for State Active Duty. The Procurement Office supports the mission by procuring software, hardware, contractors and more to aid the Maryland National Guard.

The Equal Employment and Opportunity Office ensures fair treatment in employment decisions (hiring, promotion, pay) for all individuals and prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or genetic information.

In addition to ensuring MMD's IT needs are met, the Information Technology Office supports the safety and security of personnel and visitors at the Guard's headquarters in the Fifth Regiment Armory by implementing the Visitor Management System, software that maintains a digital record of everyone who enters and exits the facility.



Maryland National Guard Honor Guard employees hold up a photo depicting Honor Guardsmen supporting a military funeral highlighting guardsmen.



MMD employees gather at the State Award Employee Luncheon at the Fifth Regiment Armory.

The Installations Office maintains Guard facilities across the state and executes the facilities' master construction projects, ensuring service members have adequate administrative, logistical, and training hubs to support units responding to federal and state missions.

The Retirement Services and Archives Office maintains service records for the National Guard. More specifically, the RSA Office maintains discharge documents, including NGB Form 22s, DD-214s, NGB Form 23Bs, separation orders, and more.

The Public Affairs Office tells the story of the men and women who support those in uniform by securing media coverage for key events to increase the reach of our stakeholders, posting daily content on our social media platforms to keep our audience informed and crafting quarterly internal newsletters to keep everyone in the know about what the other offices have accomplished.

The MMD is responsible for requesting federal reimbursement for state funds expended under cooperative agreements to support military programs with budgets exceeding $19 million annually. The department provides oversight to four meaningful public programs of the Maryland National Guard: the Honor Guard, Health Care for Heroes and the Maryland Museum of Military History.



A patron stops by the MMD table during a job fair at the Fifth Regiment Armory.

STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM





Soldiers from the 115th Military Police Battalion pose for a group photo in Knin, Croatia during exercise Immediate Response with Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovnia.

In Fiscal Year 2025, the Maryland National Guard continued to deliver strategic value through the National Guard State Partnership Program, strengthening long-standing relationships with Estonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina while supporting U.S. European Command and NATO objectives. Through sustained engagement, Maryland reinforced interoperability, enhanced partner capacity, and advanced shared readiness across multiple domains.

Across both partnerships, Maryland executed a broad portfolio of activities including logistics planning, cyber defense cooperation, military police operations, medical readiness, and senior leader engagements. These efforts emphasized practical outcomes, operational relevance, and long-term institutional development.

Key highlights included a major joint logistics engagement with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Maryland's participation in multinational exercises such as Immediate Response 25 and Crossed Swords, and continued integration with Estonian forces during large-scale national and NATO training events. Domestically, partner participation in the Maryland National Guard Best Warrior Competition reinforced the strength of these relationships and demonstrated the value of sustained professional exchange.

The Maryland State Partnership Program remains a force multiplier, strengthening allied capabilities overseas while enhancing the readiness and professionalism of Maryland Soldiers and Airmen. Through consistent engagement and trusted partnerships, the program continues to support regional stability, collective defense, and Maryland's role as a reliable partner at home and abroad.



28 Events
Bosnia & Herzegovina

36 Events
Estonia



4 Events
in the U.S. with both partners

FY25

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

In Fiscal Year 2025, the Maryland National Guard continued to advance its enduring partnership with Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), strengthening military professionalism, interoperability, and institutional capacity in support of U.S. European Command objectives and NATO integration. Building on more than a decade of cooperation, the partnership focused on logistics, military police operations, cyber defense, medical readiness, and senior leader engagement.

The most significant engagement of the year was the Bosnia and Herzegovina Joint Logistics Engagement, conducted in Sarajevo with senior leaders and subject matter experts from the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH). Maryland Soldiers from the 1297th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion led a multi-day logistics workshop emphasizing expeditionary sustainment, materiel readiness, maintenance synchronization, and fuel distribution planning in a multinational environment. The event culminated in a tabletop exercise that challenged both forces to plan and sustain joint operations aligned with NATO standards. This engagement directly supported AFBiH modernization efforts and strengthened sustainment interoperability between U.S. and partner forces.

Maryland Soldiers also supported Exercise Immediate Response 25, a large-scale multinational exercise conducted as part of the U.S. Army Europe and Africa Defender series. Elements of the 115th Military Police Battalion participated alongside AFBiH and allied forces, executing law enforcement operations, convoy security, and detainee handling tasks in a complex training environment. Their participation reinforced the operational credibility of the partnership and demonstrated the effectiveness of long-term military police cooperation between Maryland and BiH.

Cyber defense remained a key line of effort during FY25. Maryland cyber professionals conducted subject matter expert exchanges with AFBiH counterparts focused on network defense, incident response, and information security best practices. These engagements enhanced BiH's cyber resilience while reinforcing Maryland's role as a trusted partner in emerging domains.



Top: Chief Master Sgt. Aragon works alongside AFBiH member to plan convoy route in preparation for Immediate Response 25.

Bottom: Cyber Operators from the AFBiH work together with Soldiers from CPT 169 during a mil-to-mil cyber exchange in Sarajevo.

Medical readiness and force sustainment also featured prominently throughout the year. Maryland medical personnel supported recurring demining medical certification events and trauma care exchanges, ensuring AFBiH units remain prepared to support both military operations and humanitarian missions. These activities reflected the partnership's emphasis on practical, mission-ready outcomes.

Throughout FY25, senior leader engagements reinforced mutual trust and strategic alignment. Maryland National Guard leaders met with BiH defense officials to assess progress, identify future opportunities, and ensure engagements remained aligned with shared security objectives. Together, these activities underscored the maturity of the Maryland–Bosnia and Herzegovina partnership and its continued contribution to regional stability and collective defense.



FY25

ESTONIA

In Fiscal Year 2025, the Maryland National Guard continued to strengthen its long-standing partnership with Estonia, one of the Guard's oldest and most operationally integrated State Partnership Program relationships. Engagements throughout the year emphasized cyber defense, collective deterrence, interoperability, and high-end readiness in support of NATO's northern flank.



Maryland National Guard donates a flag during the 7th anniversary of the Estonian Cyber Command at the Estonian War Museum Biimsi, Estonia.

Cyber cooperation remained a cornerstone of the partnership. Maryland Air National Guard personnel from the 175th Cyberspace Operations Group participated in Exercise Crossed Swords, Estonia's premier multinational cyber defense exercise. Working alongside Estonian and allied cyber professionals, Maryland Airmen enhanced collective capabilities to detect, defend against, and respond to advanced cyber threats. These recurring engagements reinforced shared tactics, techniques, and procedures while strengthening trust across allied cyber forces.

Land force interoperability also featured prominently during FY25. Soldiers from the 291st Digital Liaison Detachment and 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment supported planning and execution activities associated with Exercise Hedgehog 25, Estonia's largest national defense exercise. These efforts focused on fires integration, command and control, and digital interoperability within a multinational framework, directly contributing to NATO readiness and deterrence objectives in the Baltic region.

The partnership extended beyond overseas engagements to include meaningful collaboration in Maryland. The Maryland National Guard Best Warrior Competition, hosted at Aberdeen Proving Ground, again welcomed participants from the Estonian Defence Forces. Competing alongside Maryland Soldiers, Estonian service members tested their tactical proficiency, endurance, and leadership under demanding conditions. Their participation highlighted the depth of the bilateral relationship and underscored the shared professional standards developed over decades of cooperation.

Logistics and sustainment planning also advanced during FY25. Maryland logisticians conducted planning exchanges with Estonian counterparts focused on mobility, supply chain resilience, and sustainment support to large-scale operations. These engagements complemented Estonia's national defense planning and enhanced allied readiness to operate in contested environments.

Senior leader engagements throughout the year ensured strategic alignment and continuity of effort. Maryland National Guard leaders engaged Estonian defense officials to review progress, assess emerging security challenges, and identify future areas of cooperation. These discussions reinforced the Guard's role as a reliable and enduring partner to Estonia and NATO.

Collectively, FY25 engagements with Estonia reflected a mature, operationally focused partnership built on trust, shared experience, and mutual commitment to collective defense. The Maryland–Estonia relationship remains a model within the State Partnership Program for its depth, consistency, and strategic relevance.





Top Right: Maryland National Guard members participate in a color guard during the Estonian Victory Day parade in Tallinn, Estonia.

Bottom Right: A member from the The 1-175th Infantry Regiment conducts training alongside a member of the Estonian Defense Force during Dagger Strike '24.





COUNTERDRUG PROGRAM

The Maryland National Guard Counterdrug Program (CDP) supports federal, state, and local law enforcement organizations in their mission to eradicate illicit drugs in Maryland. The program is based in the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore and is manned by 51 Soldiers and Airmen. The CDP provides aerial reconnaissance and observation support, investigative analyst support, and drug demand reduction outreach to support federal, state, and local partners aligning with the Governor's drug prevention priorities.

CDP aerial observation and reconnaissance support is comprised of three UH-72 Lakota helicopters, two pilots and one mechanic. Over the last 12 months, the program have conducted 86 aerial missions in support of law enforcement agency requests totaling 203 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. 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 section (DDRO) supports local community-based organizations in planning and executing events that engage communities and promote illicit drug awareness and use prevention. The DDRO team supports local community-based organization leaders and enhances their operational efficiency. Currently, the program is teamed with nine community-based organizations and plan to expand operations in the new year.

Top Right: MDNG Counterdrug Program partnered with DEA for National Prescription Drug Take Back event in Baltimore.

Top Left: MDNG Counterdrug Program at House of Addiction and Sound of Silence at Marley Station Mall in Glen Burnie.

Bottom Right: Illicit drugs collected during a law enforcement operation supported by the Maryland National Guard Counterdrug Program.



Supported illicit drug seizures amounting to over

$28 Million

Fentanyl
380.7 lbs

Cocaine
365.75 lbs

Marijuana
1,787.27 lbs

Supported in the seizure of:

406
Weapons

$2M
in Currency

197
Drug-related pieces of equipment

29
Vehicles



26 Missions | **25** Assists

32ND CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM

The 32nd Weapons of Mass Destruction–Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) is a specialized, federally funded unit of the Maryland National Guard composed of 22 highly trained, full-time Soldiers and Airmen. Each member brings advanced technical expertise in identifying and assessing Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) hazards, providing a critical capability to safeguard communities during complex and high-risk incidents.



The team's core mission is to support federal, state, and local emergency management agencies during CBRN events. When requested, the 32nd WMD-CST assists incident commanders by identifying hazardous substances, assessing current and projected consequences, and recommending appropriate response measures. Their rapid analysis and technical guidance enable decision-makers to act quickly and effectively, reducing risk to first responders and the public.

Last year, the team maintained a high level of readiness through rigorous training, joint exercises, and real-world mission support. The unit executed a Deployment Readiness Exercise at Patrick Space Force Base, Florida, testing its ability to rapidly mobilize personnel and equipment for a nationwide emergency. The exercise culminated with an airlift to Shepherd Field Air National Guard Base, West Virginia, validating the team's expeditionary capabilities.

The 32nd also participated in a multi-day U.S. Army North Scenario Training Exercise, preparing for its external proficiency evaluation for next year. The team supported Ocean City Emergency Management during the 2025 Blue Angels Air Show, providing standby CBRN monitoring and detection to ensure public safety.

The team trained with the FBI's Hazardous Evidence Response Team to refine Joint Hazard Assessment Team operations in preparation for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and hosted the Joint CBRN Characterization, Exploitation, and Mitigation Course with the FBI and Maryland State Police. These efforts enhanced coordination, interoperability, and shared response tactics, reinforcing Maryland's preparedness for complex emergencies.

Top: 32nd CST and the FBI conducted CBRNE training at Ft. George G. Meade.

Bottom: 32nd CST hosted visitors from the Analytical Task Force Germany for a tour of their facilities at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland.



1,729 Funeral Missions Performed During State Fiscal Year 2025

HONOR GUARD

The mission of the Maryland National Guard Honor Guard is to represent the Maryland National Guard in ceremonial functions and to provide the professional and highest level of dignity and pride in performing Military Funeral Honors for our veterans in the State of Maryland. Team members are trained to perfection to leave memories of reverence and dignity. The team considers it a privilege to provide military honors to deceased veterans with deep humility and respect.

Special Events Covered

Each year, honor guard teams support Veterans Day and Memorial Day Ceremonies at our State Veteran Cemeteries: Hurlock Veterans State Cemetery, Crownsville Veterans State Cemetery, Cheltenham Veterans State Cemetery, Garrison Veterans State Cemetery, and also Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens. Some of our highlights from this past State Fiscal Year have been:

- Provided the Color Guard in June supporting the American Legion Post #91 post president banquet in Cambridge, MD.
- Provided the Color Guard in June supporting the annual conference for the Maryland State Funeral Directors Association held in Ocean City, MD.
- Provided the Color Guard to present the Colors for the Baltimore Orioles Baseball Game, Baltimore Orioles vs Cincinnati Reds.
- Provided a bugler to sound TAPS at the Maryland State Capitol for the Fallen Heroes Tribute during the Maryland General Assembly's Veterans Caucus.
- Provided buglers to four separate locations to sound TAPS for the National Wreaths Across America.





Top: Honor Guard Soldiers prepare to march forward while serving as a color guard at a ceremony for the Harriet Tubman commissioning ceremony.

Middle Left: A bugler plays TAPS during the Dulaney Valley Memorial Day service in Timonium.

Bottom Right: Honor Guardsmen place a wreath during the annual Fallen Warrior Ceremony at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation.



229TH ARMY BAND

Last year, the 229th Army Band demonstrated exceptional professionalism and versatility, executing 49 musical support missions across the State of Maryland. Through concerts, ceremonies, and community events, the band strengthened civil-military relations and upheld the proud musical traditions of the Maryland Army National Guard. Notable highlights included performances for the Bicentennial Celebration of the American Friends of Lafayette Tour at Fort McHenry, the Assumption of Command for the 30th Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and major events supporting the 629th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment, and the 741st and 742nd Military Intelligence Battalions at Fort Meade.

The 229th further enhanced its community presence through key performances for Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and the 250th U.S. Army Birthday celebration at the Maryland State House. The unit represented the Maryland National Guard at the Maryland Music Educators Association Annual State Conference, engaging with hundreds of young musicians and expanding recruiting efforts. The year also marked five promotions, the onboarding of four new Soldier-musicians, and the retirement of two long-serving members whose contributions were instrumental to the band's success. These achievements reflect the 229th Army Band's ongoing commitment to readiness, professional excellence, and public engagement.

49 Performances





Top: 229th Army Band members perform during the 1-175 Infantry Regiment pass and review ceremony at Dundalk Readiness Center.

Middle Right: Band members perform at the 629th IEW activation ceremony at Fort McHenry in Baltimore.

Bottom Right: Drummers perform during the Dulaney Valley Memorial Guard and Memorial Day service in Towson.





Maryland Military Department

CENTER FOR MILITARY HISTORY

The Maryland Military Department Center for Military History, home to the Maryland Museum of Military History, continues its mission of preserving and sharing Maryland's rich military heritage. Museum staff cared for growing archival and artifact collections, supported public research, hosted tours, and delivered extensive educational outreach. This year, the Center opened its newly renovated Civil War and World War II galleries along with a large historic mural, major milestones that enhance the public's understanding of Marylanders' service from Antietam to D-Day. Staff also outfitted Montrose Mansion with a large historical furniture donation, moved two oral history collections from armories undergoing construction, and supported commemorative 250th anniversary events.

The Center supported The Adjutant General's initiative to produce 53 short historical social media features, broadening public engagement with Maryland National Guard history. Museum operations remained robust, with 18 group tours totaling over 300 visitors, 190 walk-in guests, 24 researchers, 30 hosted events, and 12 major artifact donations.



500 Visitors | **18** Tours | **24** Researchers

Maryland National Guard Command Historian

Working alongside the Center—but serving a distinct mission—the Command Historian documented contemporary Maryland Military Department activities for long-term preservation and provided critical professional development through staff rides and historical instruction. This year, the Command Historian delivered 16 historical presentations, conducted 17 staff rides, and completed 12 oral history interviews capturing firsthand experiences of Maryland's Soldiers and Airmen.

Together, the Center for Military History and the Command Historian safeguard the legacy of Maryland's organized militia and National Guard—ensuring that the actions, sacrifices, and achievements of generations are preserved, interpreted, and shared with the public



17 Staff Rides | **16** History Presentations

Top Left: MDNG and MMD personnel pose for a photo with the family of the muralist who created the artwork hung at the Fifth Regiement armory.

Top Right: An archivist with MMD examines a War of 1812-era musician's coatee, donated by St. John's College at the Fifthe Regiment Armory.

Right Middle: MMD museum personnel conduct a tour of the Maryland Museum of Military History after their reopening of the newly rennovated civil war gallery.

Bottom Left: The MDNG command historian conducts a staff ride.

STARBASE

The Maryland National Guard took a significant step toward expanding access to high-quality science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) education with the launch of the STARBASE Maryland program. STARBASE is a Department of War educational outreach initiative designed for fifth-grade students, offering an immersive, hands-on learning experience that connects classroom concepts to real-world applications in engineering, aviation, and technology.

The program is currently in its stand-up phase with $507,000 in federal funding in fiscal year 2025. A director and lead instructor were hired and curriculum development that is aligned with Maryland state education standards in ongoing. Classroom buildout at Warfield Air National Guard Base at Martin State Airport is expected to be completed by June 2026, with students projected to be in seats by September 2026. There will be a demo class with military kids over the summer.

Once operational, STARBASE Maryland will host approximately 30 classes annually, serving up to 35 students per session through a 25-hour immersive curriculum. Students will engage in activities such as rocket design, robotics, computer-aided design, 3D printing, and virtual reality simulations at no cost to participating schools or families. The program will also offer a unique opportunity for students to learn on a military installation from mentors who serve in the Guard, where they can see firsthand how STEAM principles are applied in real-world, high-impact environments.





Top: A student launches a rocket after the STARBASE Rocketry / Forces of Flight lesson during the Wing's Family Day at Martin State Air National Guard Base.

Bottom: Military kids get hands-on learning that included coding, sequencing, problem-solving, and real-world STEAM careers inspired by space exploration.



A Soldier and his family pose for a photo during a Military Homecoming at the Army Aviation Support facility at Edgewood Maryland.

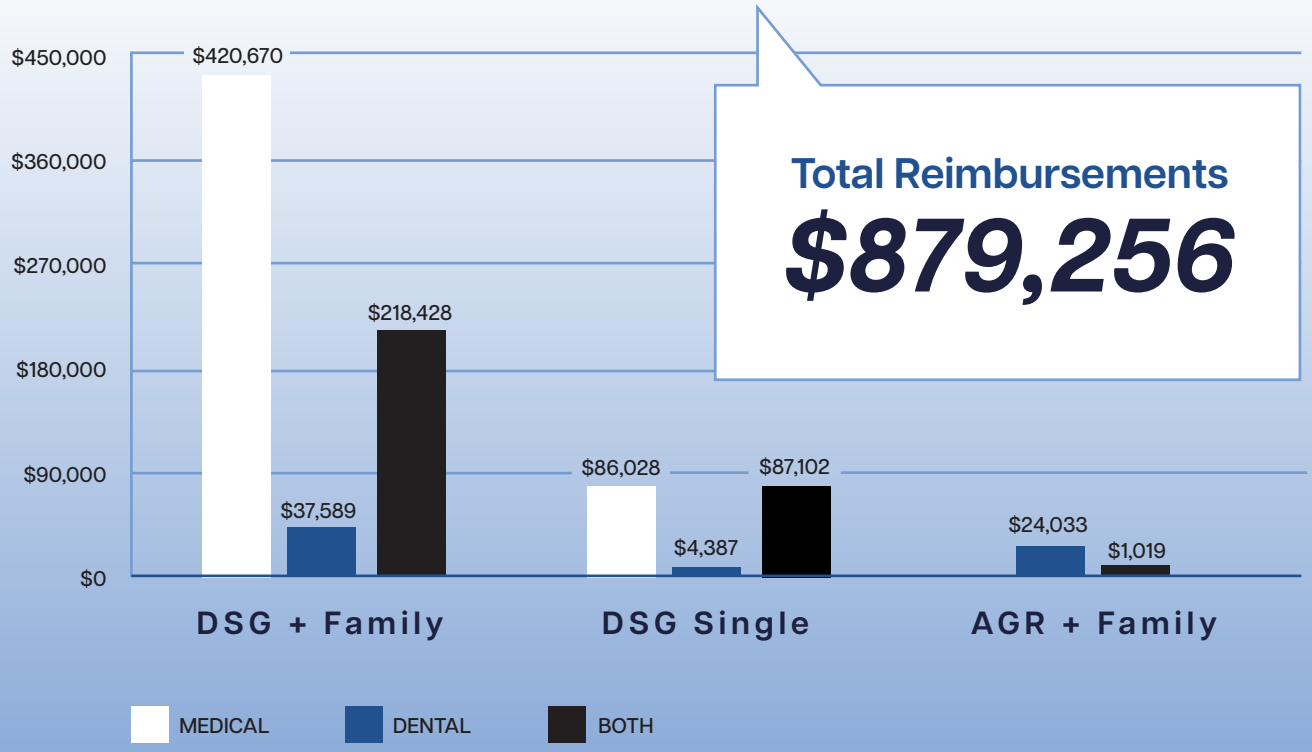
HEALTH CARE FOR HEROES

The Health Care for Heroes program was created to help Maryland National Guard Soldiers and Airmen afford quality health and dental coverage. Administered by the Maryland Military Department, the program reimburses eligible Guard members and their family members enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select or the TRICARE Dental Program for a portion of their monthly premiums. By easing the cost burden of health and dental insurance, the Health Care for Heroes program strengthens the overall readiness, resilience, and well-being of Maryland's Guard members and their families.

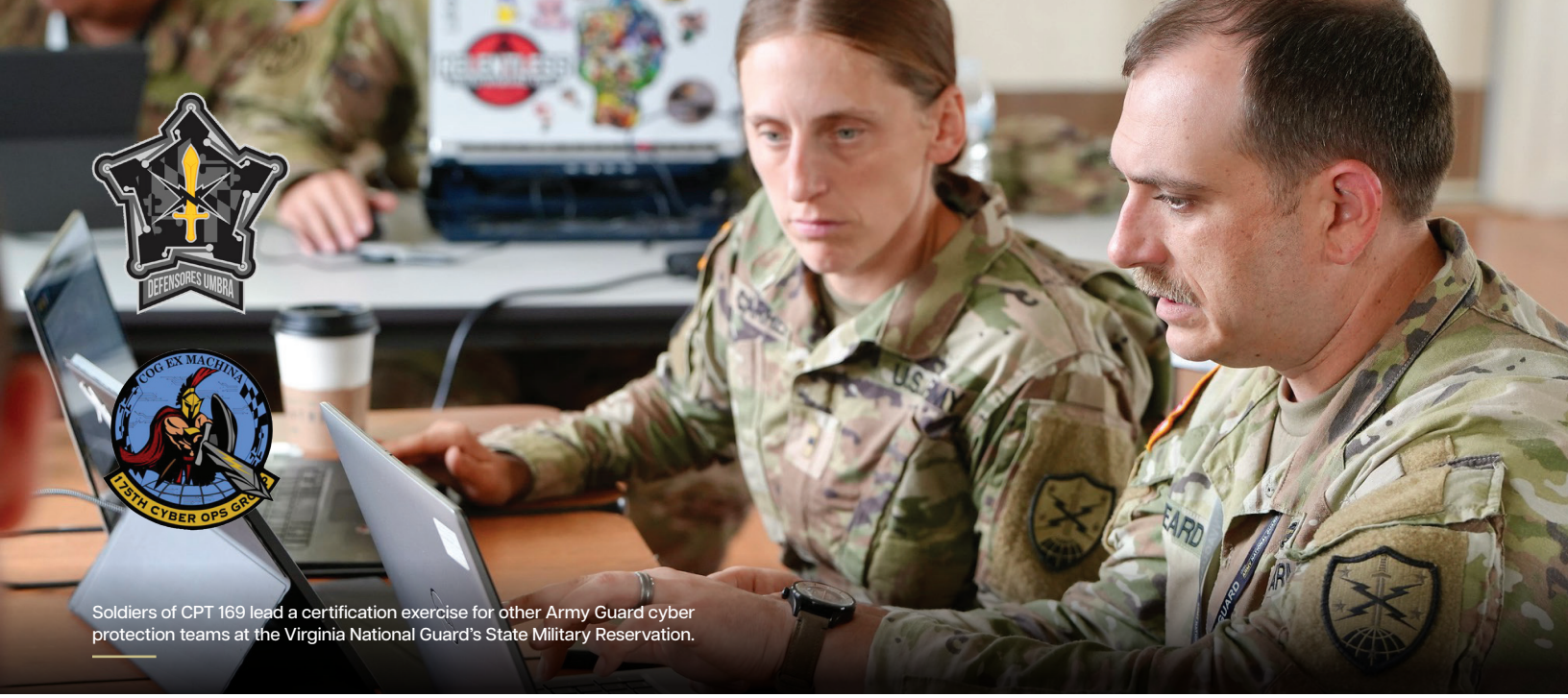
255
new members in 2025

nearly 1,200 Guardsmen have enrolled
840 (Army) 350 (Air)

TRICARE Reserve Select and TRICARE Dental Reimbusements



Total Reimbursements
$879,256



Soldiers of CPT 169 lead a certification exercise for other Army Guard cyber protection teams at the Virginia National Guard's State Military Reservation.

CYBER INITIATIVES

The Maryland National Guard's Cyber Initiatives, which is comprised of the Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Cyberspace Operations Group and the Maryland Army National Guard's Cyber Protection Team 169 sustained a year of significant operational impact globally and enhanced statewide cyber readiness.

The 175th Cyberspace Operations Group trained and supported 239 personnel and enabled participation in seven major exercises, which strengthened NATO partnerships, advanced readiness objectives, and validated capabilities for future mobilizations. Nearly 50 Airmen traveled to Estonia, Finland, and Romania to participate in DEFENDER 25, where they served as the sole providers of cyber effects and validated key cyber protection team capabilities required for future mobilizations.

The 175th COG also led and coordinated Wolverine Strike, an exercise that tested the unit's ability to rapidly forward-deploy in a contested and degraded environment, and met all mission-essential task requirements. The group spearheaded Baltic Blitz 25, a two-part subject-matter expert exchange with Estonia that included participation from the Maryland Department of Information Technology, the FBI, and CPT 169. During Locked Shields 25 and Crossed Swords 25, members enhanced skills in both offensive and defensive cyber operations In Estonia.





CPT 169 led multiple high-value missions, including an Innovative Readiness Training event with Anne Arundel County Public Schools to identify network threats and assess website vulnerabilities. The team delivered qualification record training for four cyber protection teams, fulfilling its role as the Army National Guard's certification lead. CPT 169 also executed bilateral cyber engagements with Bosnia and Herzegovina, supported the G-6 Cyber Hygiene Assistance Team's readiness preparations by reviewing nearly 2,000 security controls, and facilitated deployable defensive cyber operations training across the enterprise.

The unit planned and led Cyber Velocity, the Guard's largest validation exercise, and launched the first Critical Infrastructure Cyber Resilience Working Group focused on the water sector. CPT 169 took part in a national capture the flag event and provided operational technology assessments to other participants.

The Maryland Cybersecurity Task Force, integrates cyber professionals from the Army, Air and Maryland Defense Force, and works closely with experts from the Maryland Department of Information Technology and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management, in coordination with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, to drive a whole-of-government approach to proactive cybersecurity.

Middle Right: CPT 169 members pose for a group photo at Virgina Beach during a certification exercise called Cyber Velocity.

Bottom Left: Airmen from the 175th COG work to identify weaknesses and defend systems during Exercise Wolverine Strike.



RECRUITING

The Maryland National Guard's recruiting teams delivered exceptional results, exceeding accession goals across both the Army and Air components despite a challenging national recruiting environment. The Maryland Army National Guard surpassed its fiscal 2025 goal, finishing the year with 633 total accessions. This included 445 enlisted field accessions (102% of goal), 95 officer accessions (142%), and 101 interstate transfer/in-service accessions (105%). The MDARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion also recorded 641 total enlistments and 536 reenlistments, demonstrating not only strong recruitment but also sustained retention among current Soldiers. Throughout the year, recruiters strengthened their presence at schools, career fairs, community events and local festivals, building trust and awareness across the state. Their efforts connected Marylanders to more than 120 career fields while highlighting education benefits, leadership development and opportunities for domestic and overseas training.

The Maryland Air National Guard also exceeded its FY25 recruiting goals, achieving 164 total accessions against a target of 150. Enlisted accessions reached 135 (103% of goal), while officer accessions surged to 29, achieving 145% of the annual objective. The MDANG success coincided with the implementation of a new Recruiting Command Structure that provided dedicated support in administration, marketing and medical processing allowing recruiters to focus on identifying and engaging high-quality candidates like their Army counterparts. These results are particularly noteworthy given the Guard's ongoing mission conversion from flying to cyber operations and the increased demand for technically skilled Airmen.

Together, these outcomes underscore the Maryland National Guard's commitment to readiness, innovation and service. Enhanced benefits like the Health Care for Heroes program directly contributed to the success of the recruiting and retention teams.





Top: Air and Army National Guard recruiters speak to attendees at the M&T Bank Stadium before a Baltimore Ravens NFL game in Baltimore.

MiddleLeft: Army National Guard Recruiter attends the high school graduation for one of his recruits.

Bottom Left: Army National Guard Recruiters pose with high school students who attende the guard experience at Salisbury Readiness Center.



BOSS LIFT

The Maryland National Guard hosted an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Boss Lift at Warfield Air National Guard Base and Camp Fretterd Military Reservation, which provided 70 employers with an immersive, firsthand look at the dual-role service of their employees who serve as citizen-Soldiers and citizen-Airmen. The day-long event strengthened the vital connection between the Guard and the civilian workforce, highlighting why employer support is essential to mission readiness and long-term force resilience.

During the event, employers experienced the scope and complexity of Guard training through orientation flights aboard UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinook helicopters with the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade and observed A-10C Thunderbolt II sorties by the 104th Fighter Squadron. Employers participated in hands-on Army activities including armored vehicle rides, virtual marksmanship training, and live-fire demonstrations. They also engaged with Airmen from the 175th Wing, exploring cyber operations, emerging technologies such as a 3-D concrete printer and robotic systems, and mission simulators.





Maj. Gen. Janeen L. Birckhead emphasized the importance of employer partnership in her opening remarks, thanking attendees for their commitment to supporting Guard members who balance civilian careers with military service. Lt. Gov. Aruna Miller echoed that sentiment, noting that Guard members return to their workplaces with enhanced leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving skills to make them even stronger employees.

The Boss Lift also educated employers on reemployment rights and responsibilities under federal law, reinforcing the shared responsibility of protecting those who serve. The event concluded with employers signing an ESGR Statement of Support, formally pledging to create a workplace culture that values service.

Maryland's Guard members and their employers are both partners in readiness, resilience, and public service to the state and nation.

Middle Right: 70 employers of the Maryland National Guard Soldiers for a photo at the Warfield Air Base.

Bottom Left: Airmen from the 175th Wing provide demonstrations to employers during Boss lift at Warfield Air Base.

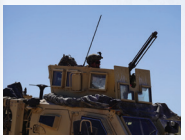
Bottom Left: A civilain employer for a Maryland National Gaurd member rides in a MAT-V during boss lift at blum military reservation.

I AM THE MISSION

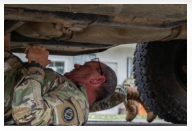






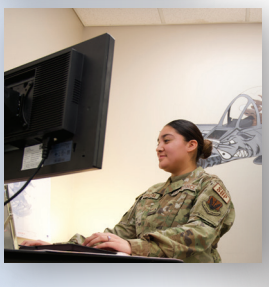


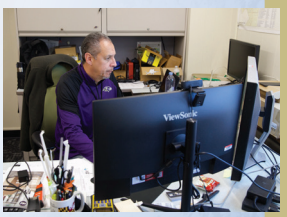


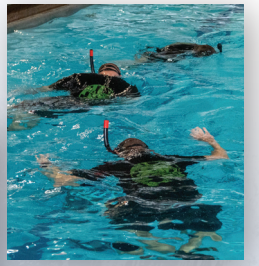


















Every member of the Maryland Military Department, regardless of job or position, is essential to mission success. From frontline operations to behind-the-scenes support, the dedication, skills, and teamwork of every Soldier, Airman, employee, and volunteer drive the Guard's ability to serve and protect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



JOINT RESILIENCY DIRECTORATE

The J-9 Joint Resiliency Directorate was established to create a unified structure for prevention, resilience and support services across the Maryland National Guard. The directorate quickly established the Integrated Primary Prevention Program and the first Joint Community Action Team to strengthen collaboration between Army and Air components.

J-9 built the foundation for a comprehensive prevention enterprise and assumed responsibility for the climate surveys, which provided data-driven guidance to command teams. At the 175th Wing, J-9 piloted the Army's Unit Risk Inventory, identifying previously unseen risks and prompting leadership to approve Wing-wide expansion.

Suicide prevention remained a central focus following the loss of two Soldiers. The J-9 led Suicide Prevention Stand Down training and support to affected units, and produced an interactive wellness video for future delivery. The 175th Wing also expanded peer-to-peer readiness through intervention training and provided engaging Wing-wide suicide prevention sessions.

The J-9-managed Freedom Food Pantry continued statewide support, assisting 482 service members and 1,920 family members while distributing more than 26,000 food items and baby essentials.





Top: MDANG members, family and friends participate in Trunk or Treat festivities at Warfield ANG Base.

Middle: The MDNG hosted a Spring resource fair for Purple Up Day at the Major General Linda L. Singh Readiness Center, Sykesville.

Bottom: A Freedom Food Pantry employee grabs a turkey to give away to a service member in need.

PEOPLE FIRST



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 enhance global security.





MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD

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