The Delaware Army and Air National Guard is a federally-authorized requirements-driven, capabilities-based force with both federal and state missions. The federal mission is to maintain properly trained and equipped units available for prompt mobilization in the event of war, national emergencies, or as otherwise needed. In this capacity, command and control is within the purview of the President of the United States. The state mission is to provide trained and disciplined forces for domestic emergencies or as otherwise directed. In a peacetime environment or operation, short of federal mobilization, the organizational command and control is directed by the Governor of Delaware. The Delaware National Guard provides these capabilities by utilizing a full-time, part-time, and state workforce.

**KEY OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the Delaware Army National Guard is to maintain a balanced force structure authorization of 1725 troops and maintain the current structure of about 1100 personnel in the Air National Guard. Since Congress has established the funded end strength authorization at less that the full force structure authorization, the Delaware National Guard is allowed to recruit to about 91 percent of full strength in the Army Guard and about 97 percent in the Air Guard. The Delaware Army and Air Guard are short of meeting that goal. An analysis identified a need to update the Delaware Code regarding tuition assistance for Delaware National Guard members. An additional $162.2 million was approved by the 139th General Assembly. This incentive should increase the number of non-prior service accessions into the organizations, thereby resulting in improved personnel end-strength numbers. Performance measures will be monitored throughout the remainder of 1999.

The Delaware Army and Air Guard is concentrating on the fundamentals of mission readiness; i.e., individual qualifications, leader development, and unit training. Ready units are built from the smaller formations to the larger. The Delaware Army and Air National Guard is concentrating on individual qualification training and leader development as first priority with collective or unit training at the company level to follow. With greater reliance on the reserve components in national security, the standards of excellence must be the same for both the active and the reserve components.

Funding is expected to support the construction of the Dagsboro Readiness Center in Fiscal Year 1999. The Delaware Air Guard, has secured $23 million for the construction of a new firehouse. Construction has begun on that facility. In addition, Congress appropriated $5.3 million in the Fiscal Year 1998 Defense budget for a new operations building for the Air Guard.

The long-range plan is to construct new readiness centers in sequence in Smyrna, Pencader and south of Milford. Again, this year, the Delaware Army and Air National Guard request substantial increase in state funding for repair of Army Guard readiness centers. Army Guard readiness centers average 45 years of age, with those in Kent and Sussex averaging over 60 years of age. In addition to being old and inefficient, the
The demographic movement of the population within the state over the past 30 years has caused many existing readiness centers to be poorly located in comparison to population densities.

Funds have been appropriated for construction of the new 37.1 thousand square foot, 167-person Dagsboro Readiness Center. The $1.27 million represents the 25 percent state matching funds required for the construction of new readiness centers. The remaining 75 percent must be federally funded. It is believed Congress during federal Fiscal Year 1999, will approve the federal appropriation.

The Army Guard and Air Guard both have a nucleus of well-qualified senior leaders in the officer and noncommissioned officers ranks. Intensive training programs are being held for both officers and noncommissioned officer to extend that base. Because they are the first-line leaders and trainers, a professional noncommissioned officers corps is the key to readiness.

An intensive program of rehabilitating or purging soldiers and airmen who are absent without leave (AWOL) or who use narcotics is in place. The standards are fair, and consistently applied. Percentage of chronic absentees continues to be the lowest in the Atlantic region and among the best in the nation.

The strategic plan in the near term is to position ourselves to fulfill our responsibilities to the State of Delaware and to play an important role in the Army and the Air Force of the next century. The Delaware National Guard will employ a strategy that is realistic in light of budget realities, which focuses intently on readiness and professionally planned and executed training programs, maintains quality accession and retention programs, and concentrates on a few high-payoff priorities, deferring or canceling programs which only peripherally affect readiness.

**BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The Delaware National Guard mission is to provide personnel and equipment in the event of a natural disaster, civil disturbance or an actual armed conflict. Therefore, the service provided by the Delaware National Guard can be to a local community, the entire population of the State of Delaware and/or the United States of America. Examples of these types of activities occurring during and since Fiscal Year 1994 are:

- Provided assistance during the 1994 ice storm in lower Delaware. Personnel, equipment and logistical support were provided for the recovery operation throughout the state.

- Assistance is routinely provided in the areas of drug interdiction and counter-drug operations to law enforcement agencies and local communities.

- Emergency preparedness exercises are conducted yearly with the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) regarding the Salem Nuclear Power Plant.

- Work hand in hand with Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) in various environmental arenas each year.

- The Delaware National Guard assists the Department of Administrative Services in the selection of architects and engineers for major construction projects throughout the state for all state agencies.

**FY 2000 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

**OPERATING BUDGET:**

- Recommend inflation of $72.0 to cover the expected federal equivalent salary adjustment for State National Guard employees and $7.0 for the Unit Fund Allowance line.

- Recommend enhancement of $10.1 for .25 FTE and .75 FTE NSF, Hazardous Waste position for the Delaware Air National Guard and $50.0 for additional tuition assistance.

- Recommend one-time funding in the Budget Office's Contingency of $12.5 for computer work stations.

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**ACTIVITIES**

- Provide administrative, maintenance, security and facilities for training the Delaware National Guard for the federal mission and the state mission to assist local civil authorities in the event of disaster, disturbances or other emergencies.

- Provide maintenance, repairs and payment of operating costs of daily operations of the Army and Air National Guard facilities in accordance with the Service Contract Funding Agreements with the federal government.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

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