The Delaware Army 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 other contingencies. 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 employing a full-time, part-time, and state workforce.

**MISSION**

The Delaware Army and Air National 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 are concentrating on individual qualification training and leader development as first priority with collective or unit training at the company/squadron 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.

The long-range plan is to construct new readiness centers in sequence in Smyrna, Wilmington (new headquarters) and Pencader. Again, this year, the Delaware Army National Guard requests a substantial increase in state funding for repair of Army Guard readiness centers. Army Guard readiness centers average 43 years of age, with those in Kent and Sussex averaging over 50 years of age. In addition to being old and inefficient, 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.

Federal funds have been appropriated for construction of a 37.1 thousand square foot, 148-person Smyrna Readiness Center. The State has also appropriated its 25 percent share of the construction funds ($2.4 million).

**KEY OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the Delaware Army National Guard is to maintain a balanced force structure authorization of 1,725 troops and maintain the current structure of about 1,100 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 provide additional tuition assistance for Delaware National Guard members. An additional $75.0 bringing the total to $350.0 in Fiscal Year 2001 was approved by the 140th General Assembly. This incentive has increased the number of non-prior service accessions into the organizations, thereby resulting in improved personnel end-strength numbers.

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Federal funds have been appropriated for construction of a 37.1 thousand square foot, 148-person Smyrna Readiness Center. The State has also appropriated its 25 percent share of the construction funds ($2.4 million).
The State purchased 13 acres in the Smyrna Industrial Park for the new facility.

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 officers 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 the Delaware National Guard to fulfill responsibilities to the State of Delaware and to play an important role in the Army and the Air Force of this new 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 that occurred during and since Fiscal Year 2000 are:

- Worked with the Delaware State Police in the Drug Education for Youth Program (DEFY).
- Provided assistance during storms that hit the Delaware Coast. Personnel, equipment and logistical support were provided for recovery operations throughout the State.
- Worked hand-in-hand with Delaware mentoring program and family assistance program throughout the State.
- Provided tuition assistance to 369 guard members, allowing them to further their education. This program has contributed to an increase in recruiting and retention.
- Received the National Recycling Award from the National Guard Bureau on behalf of the recycling efforts at the Dagsboro Armory Readiness Center.
- Provided routine assistance in the areas of drug interdiction and counter-drug operations to law enforcement agencies and local communities.
- Conducted annual emergency preparedness exercises with the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) regarding the Salem Nuclear Power Plant.
- Worked hand-in-hand with Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control in various environmental arenas each year.
- Assisted the Department of Administrative Services in the selection of architects and engineers for major construction projects throughout the State for all state agencies.
- Supported local communities through a myriad of programs and initiatives.
  - Holiday concert for citizens of the First State
  - Feed the hungry – Thanksgiving Dinner
  - Adopt-a-Family
  - Salvation Army kettle drive
  - Operation “Shoe Box”
  - Special Olympics “Plane Pull”
  - Blood Drive
  - “Coats for Kids” Campaign
  - HOSTS Mentoring Program
  - DEFY Programs
  - Habitat for Family

**FY 2002 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

**OPERATING BUDGET:**

- Recommend inflation adjustment of $78.0 in Personnel Costs to cover the expected federal equivalent salary adjustment for State National Guard employees.
- Recommend enhancement of $25.0 in Contractual Services to fund telecommunication services to state armories.
- Recommend enhancement of $5.0 in Contractual Services, fleet rental for one van for Facilities Maintenance Office, Information Management Section to provide agency-wide telecommunication support.
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Capital Budget

- Recommend $300.0 for completion of the Smyrna Readiness Center to enable the facility to also be used as a community center.
- Recommend $150.0 for minor capital improvement and equipment.

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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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