

**Fiscal Year 2025 Public Budget Hearing - November 13, 2023
Haslet Armory Room 133 (11 a.m.)**

Maj. Gen. Michael R. Berry, Adjutant General of the Delaware National Guard

Good morning. It is my distinct honor to represent the Delaware National Guard as we present our Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Operating and Capital Budget Requests.

The Delaware National Guard's FY25 operating budget request is for a total of \$5,896,400 which includes a 1% enhancement from FY24. The operating budget submission identifies specific requests to support two top priorities for next fiscal year.

- \$56,253 in contractual services funding for increased maintenance and repair requirements of both our aging 100% state funded Army Readiness Centers and 25% state funded ANG facilities located at New Castle County Airport. This additional funding will support this agency's needed services in accordance with the Cooperative Agreement, allow for optimal use of federal matching funds and change our operational responses from reactive to preventive in nature; and
- One, 100% state funded, full-time employee to serve as an Administrative Officer-Supervisor to support the Lodging Office on Bethany Beach Training Site.
- Additionally, a door-opener was submitted for \$39,200 in funding to support operating costs for a new Pandemic Readiness Center at 12 Penns Way in New Castle. The purpose of this Readiness Center is to establish a temporary public medical facility to increase treatment capacity and related operational needs for a pandemic or other similar calamity that presents a threat to public safety. This center will house pandemic response equipment and supplies as well as the consolidated DNG Aviation Medical resources. Acquisition expected in 2024 with project completion expected in 2026.

Minor capital improvement funding continues to be a critical budget item for the Delaware National Guard to ensure proper maintenance, repair and acceptable standards of our 10-aging readiness centers. When our antiquated Guard facilities fall into disrepair, this adversely affects readiness, recruiting and retention.

Our FY25 capital budget submission requests \$2.5M in minor capital improvement funding to supplement millions of federal dollars received annually to help maintain our older facilities. If authorized, this funding will help support the many projects listed in our formal capital budget submission.

In addition, we are requesting \$5.3M in capital funding in support of three projects:

- First, is the Dagsboro Readiness Center Expansion. The scope of the project is to build a 16,000 SF addition to the existing structure to meet the C2 quantity rating. The project is currently competing for federal fiscal year 2026 funds. Project estimated at \$6.0M federal with a \$2.0M cost share to the State, totaling \$8.0M.
- Second is the Cheswold Readiness Center. Funding is requested for design, site prep and construction to support a new 44,829 SF Readiness Center that supports training, administrative and logistical requirements of the 1049th Light Transportation Company. The cost of project completion is estimated at \$27.6M with a cost share to the State of \$300K in FY25, \$3.7M in FY26, and \$6.8M in FY28. Due to inflationary measures and long lead times, the Delaware Army National Guard has requested an additional 30% from the federal government which may increase the state share by \$2.1M increasing the estimated cost of completion to \$36M.

- Third is the Scannell Readiness Center Expansion/Renovations. Funding is requested to sustain the existing 25,000 SF facility and expand by 10,000 SF to enhance readiness levels by addressing space shortages while lowering operations and maintenance costs. The projected cost of project completion is estimated at \$9M. \$3M in state funding will be used to leverage federal funding.

Both our FY25 operating, and capital budget requests validate the funding needed to sustain the high level of operational readiness and effectiveness of the Delaware National Guard during the next fiscal year.

On behalf of all the men and women of our Delaware National Guard, I want to thank you for your continued support. The DNG is proud to serve the citizens of this great State and our nation when called.

I am prepared to answer any questions you may have regarding our FY25 budget requests.