Delaware National Guard

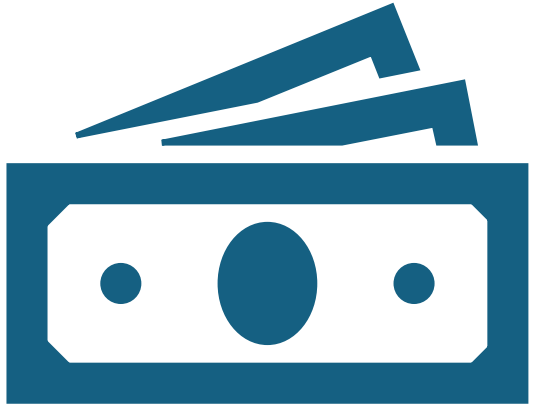
FY 2028 Budget Public Hearing

November 4, 2026 1:00 p.m.

JAMES A. BENSON
Major General
The Adjutant General, Delaware

Outline

- Introduction
- Dual Missions
- Commitment
- FY 2028 Operating Budget Overview
- FY 2028 Capital Budget Overview
- Closing



National Guard Dual Missions

Always Ready, Always There

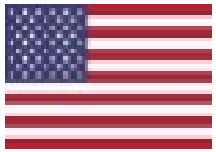
State Mission

- The Governor may call individuals or units into state service during emergencies or to assist in special situations
- To provide trained and disciplined forces for domestic emergencies or as otherwise provided by state law



Federal Mission

- President serves as Commander-In-Chief
- Provide properly trained and equipped units for prompt mobilization for war, national emergency or as otherwise needed



National Guard Commitment

- Maintain a balanced force structure authorization of 1,693 Army Guard Soldiers and 1,128 Air Guard Airmen and women
- Enhance joint operation capabilities between Army and Air personnel and achieve optimal mission effectiveness and efficiency
- Continue quality recruiting, promotion and retention programs
- Enhance mission readiness, through effective military leadership development programs and challenging unit training
- Develop and participate in community-impact programs at the local, state and national levels





FY 2028 Operating Budget Request Overview

$7,263.8 Operating Budget Request

Door Openers

- Education Assistance increased funding of $500,000 to mitigate the continual budget shortfall and offset rising costs
- $113,200 in funding to support a new state public affairs position with zero net FTE impact

Discretionary <1% Increase

- Request $46,588 in funding to expand the highly successful Co-op Program by adding two Army-side student slots
- Approval of the full 1% discretionary cap ($64,676) will secure two existing Air slots previously reliant on existing funds

FY 2028 Capital Budget Request Overview

Operating Budget Request (cont'd)

Discretionary 1% Decrease

Fiscal Year 2028 Delaware National Guard
1% Decrease Proposals

				FTEs			Dollars			Description of Reduction and Impact to Services
Fiscal Year 2027 Budget				31.5	n/a	99.5	$6,467.6	n/a	n/a	
Priority	Impact Level	IPU	Appropriation	GF	ASF	NSF	GF	ASF	NSF	
1	2	76	Travel/Supply - State Partnership Program (Program Code 76002)				(4.0)			Without adequate funding, core defense security objectives will be compromised.
2	2	76	Supplies and Materials				(14.0)			With diminished funding, preventive maintenance program will experience significant backlogs leading to facility degradation, mission readiness risks, and occupant safety concerns.
3	2	76	Contractual Services				(38.5)			With diminished funding, preventive maintenance program will experience significant backlogs leading to facility degradation, mission readiness risks, and occupant safety concerns.
4	3	76	Travel				(3.2)			Without the necessary funding, required training programs will be denied or significantly curtailed resulting in reduced operational readiness, increased risk in the field, and mission failure potential.
5	3	76	Unit Fund (Title 20, Chapter 1, Subchapter VI, Section 184, appropriated funds to enhance the morale, welfare, and recreation of assigned personnel.)				(5.0)			Reduced funding will directly impact service members and their families leading to morale and retention challenges, military readiness, and mission sustainment.
Total				0.0	0.0	0.0	($64.7)	$0.0	$0.0	
% Increase/(Decrease)							(1.0%)	#VALUE!		

FY 2028 Capital Budget Request Overview

$9.8 million Capital Budget Request

Allocation Comprising

- $2.3 million Minor Capital Request
- $200,000 Maintenance and Restoration
- $7.3 million Major Capital Request
- Directly enhance ability to respond to state and federal missions
- Maintain secure and functional facilities
- Support the wellbeing of service members

Army National Guard Readiness Centers as of October 2026

Readiness Center/Location	Construction Completion Date
Penns Way	2026
River Road Training Site Readiness Center	2025
Joseph R. "Beau" Biden National Guard/Reserve Center	2013
Smyrna Readiness Center	2003
Dagsboro Readiness Center	1999
Scannell Readiness Center (Delaware City)	1976
Duncan Readiness Center	1975
198th Regimental Armory (1401 Newport Gap Pike)	1972
Wilmington Readiness Center [1]	1959
Stern Readiness Center	1954
Pigman Readiness Center (Seaford) [2]	1950
Georgetown Readiness Center	1939
Total of 12 Readiness Centers of which 11 are state-owned	*Average age = 47 years*
Total of 7 Oldest Readiness Centers	*Average age = 65 years*
Note 1 - Acquired from Department of Education in 1979	
Note 2 - Federally-owned - ongoing license from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	

FY 2028 Minor Capital Initiatives

$2.3 million Minor Capital Budget Request

$200,000 Maintenance and Restoration

Minor Capital Improvement Projects

- **Duncan RC – HVAC lifecycle replacement**
- **Wilmington RC – Wing E demolition**
- **Scannell RC – Roof replacement**
- **1401 RC – Indoor sustainment/exterior bldg. envelope**
- **Georgetown RC – Roof replacement**

Total federal share for MCI this year is approx. $5 million

FY 2028 Major Capital Initiatives

$7.3 million Major Capital Budget Request

Major Capital Improvement Projects

- Cheswold RC Design/Site Prep/Construction
  - $6.8 million
- Bethany Beach Training Site Trailer Replacement
  - $475,000

Closing Remarks

- Sustain operational readiness and effectiveness
- Thank you for continued support
- Proud to serve the citizens of this great State & Nation
- *Always Ready, Always There*