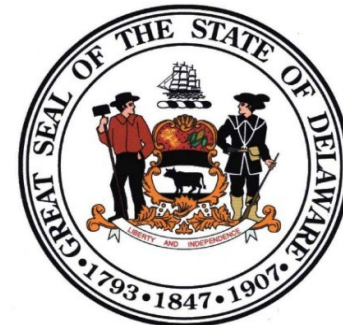


Delaware National Guard

FY 2027 Budget Public Hearing

November
10, 2025
12:30 p.m.



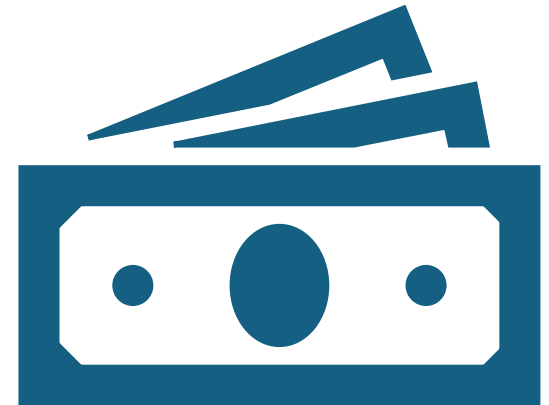
JAMES A. BENSON

Major General

The Adjutant General, Delaware

Outline

- Introduction
- Dual Missions
- Commitment
- FY 2027 Operating Budget Overview
- FY 2027 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 1,694 Army Guard Soldiers and 1,157 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 2027 Operating Budget Request Overview

\$6,448.6 Operating Budget Request

1% Targeted Proposal

- \$63.2 in contractual services funding to mitigate the continual budget shortfall & rising costs

Door Opener

- \$31.0 to cover operating costs for the newly constructed Readiness Center at the River Road Training Site

FY 2027 Capital Budget Request Overview

\$10.2 million Capital Budget Request

Allocation Comprising

- \$2.5 million Minor Capital Request
- \$7.7 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 2025

<i><u>Readiness Center/Location</u></i>	<i><u>Construction Completion Date</u></i>
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 11 Readiness Centers of which 10 are state-owned	Average age = 51 years
Total of 7 Oldest Readiness Centers	Average age = 64 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 2027 Minor Capital Initiatives

\$2.5 million Minor Capital Budget Request

Minor Capital Improvement Projects

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • Scannell Readiness Center (RC) Refurbishment | \$802,100 |
| • Scannell RC Solar | \$827,900 |
| • Stern RC Solar | \$870,000 |

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

FY 2027 Major Capital Initiatives

\$7.7 million Major Capital Budget Request

Major Capital Improvement Projects

- Cheswold RC Design/Site Prep/Construction
 - \$4.2 million (FY28 \$7.8 million)
- Bethany Beach Training Site Road Improvements/Paving
 - \$2 million
- Pigman West Organizational Parking/Paving
 - \$1.5 million

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*



Meyer Administration Values

INTEGRITY

Actions speak louder than words - actions build trust. We will lead with transparency and accountability to ensure every decision serves the public good.

EFFICIENCY

Government should work smarter, not harder. We will eliminate waste, streamline services, and prioritize execution over excuses.

COLLABORATION

Lasting change requires teamwork. We will break down silos, build strong partnerships, and deliver solutions that work.