



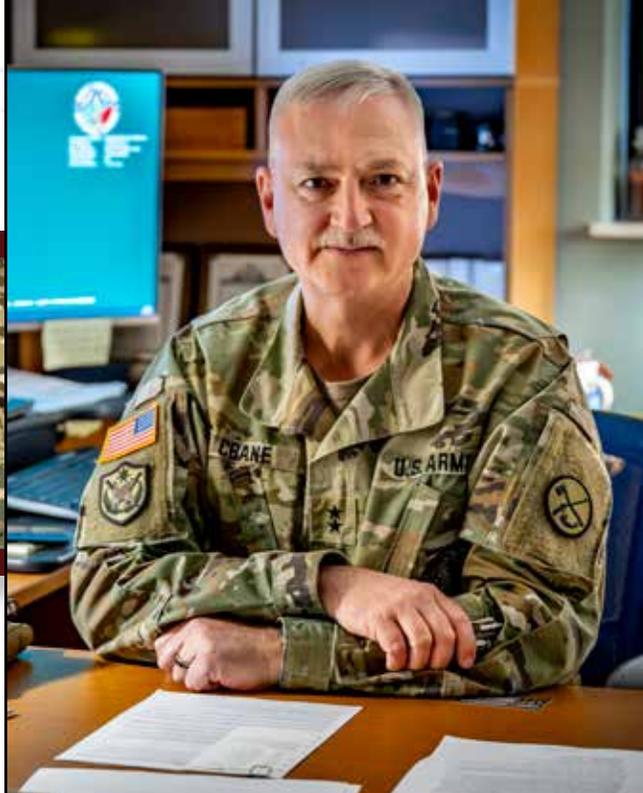
The West Virginia National Guard



"Montani Semper Liberi"

1735

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2023**



Maj. Gen. William E. Crane
The Adjutant General

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Statement from The Adjutant General

Dear Governor Justice,

It is my honor to present the 2023 Annual Report of the Adjutant General to you, the Legislature, and the citizens of the great State of West Virginia.

With a contingent of more than 6,800 Soldiers, Airmen, and civilians, the West Virginia Army and Air National Guard works diligently to secure and strengthen the Mountain State against all threats and to enhance our national defense both at home and abroad.

Internationally, the past year has been incredibly active, with our forces serving a multitude of missions around the globe. From providing support following the attacks on Israel to deploying service members to the Middle East and the Southwest Border, the West Virginia National Guard answered the call on numerous fronts in 2023. In addition, we focused on supporting partners and Allied nations to deepen and strengthen strategic partnerships while participating in and/or leading a multitude of exercises with more than two dozen nations.

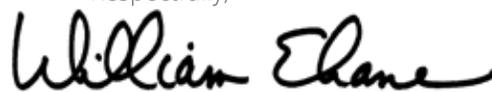
On the home front, we wrapped up our multi-year COVID-19 response efforts, supported the 2023 National Jamboree with almost 600 servicemembers, activated and deployed hazardous material subject matter experts to a HAZMAT train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, activated response crews to provide support during a flash flooding event in five counties, assisted the West Side community of Charleston during an extended natural gas outage, and provided more than 400 servicemembers to provide staffing assistance to the Division of Corrections. We also answered the call to support Operation Lone Star, providing border security operational assistance to the Texas Department of Public Safety with 50 service members. Needless to say, it has been a busy year and we are proud of the service to our state and nation.

The Guard continued outreach to families, retirees and veterans throughout the year as part of our One Guard family priority. This outreach included hosting an inaugural Military Spouse Appreciation Day, holding our second annual Retiree Appreciation Day, and continuing support for our annual Kids Camps and Gold Star Families Retreat Weekend.

Sadly, we were reminded this year that freedom is not free. U.S. Army Spc. Corey A. Moore, 25, a Soldier assigned to the 821st Engineer Construction Company passed away following a motor vehicle accident on the afternoon of September 10, 2023. Service is never without cost and sacrifice, and our hearts continue to mourn the loss of this outstanding young man and Soldier.

The West Virginia National Guard strives to exemplify the National Guard motto, "Always Ready, Always There" in all we do. We remain vigilant and dedicated to serving the people of West Virginia, and of our nation. We are incredibly thankful for the unwavering support of our leaders and fellow citizens that help our One Guard continue to serve and share our West Virginia values and pride.

Respectfully,



WILLIAM E. CRANE
Major General, WVNG
The Adjutant General



West Virginia National Guard Command Structure

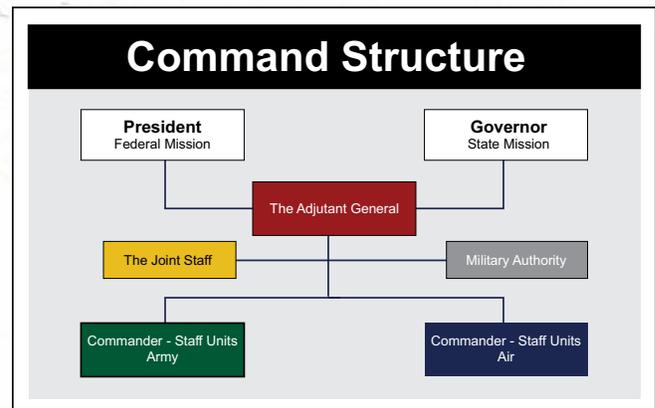
When in a federal status, the National Guard is commanded by the President through the Department of Defense. National Guard units are commanded by the Governor through the Adjutant General during peacetime and for state and federal (Title 32) missions.

Governor Jim Justice Commander-In-Chief, WVNG

The West Virginia National Guard is authorized and governed by Article 1, Chapter 15 of the West Virginia Code and is constituted as both a state and federal force by authority of the National Defense Act approved June 3, 1916.

The National Guard is a reserve component of the Army of the United States and the United States Air Force. In time of peace, the National Guard is a state force, controlled by the Adjutant General as the principal military representative of the Commander-in-Chief, the Governor. The Governor has the power to order the West Virginia National Guard into the active service of the State and to cause them to perform duty such as he shall deem proper.

The National Guard is equipped and paid by the federal government and must meet organizational and training standards to qualify for federal recognition. When Congress declares a national emergency and authorizes the use of armed force requiring troops in excess of those in the active forces, the President of the United States may order the National Guard into the active military service of the United States.¹



Overviews of each Army and Air Guard units are found in the following pages.

Each unit is supported by a staff at the state and unit levels. The state staff mirrors the functional staffs of the Army and Air Guard and serves as a liaison and support agency for units.

In addition, the Joint Staff is a coordinating agency that operates in an intergovernmental, interagency environment to establish the vision for the West Virginia National Guard and to resource and manage state response and other special mission activities. Staff functions and an overview of their accomplishments are outlined on the following pages.

¹ West Virginia Blue Book 1996, p. 98, Holmes, D. E. and Lilly, K. C., Chapman Printing, Huntington, W.Va.

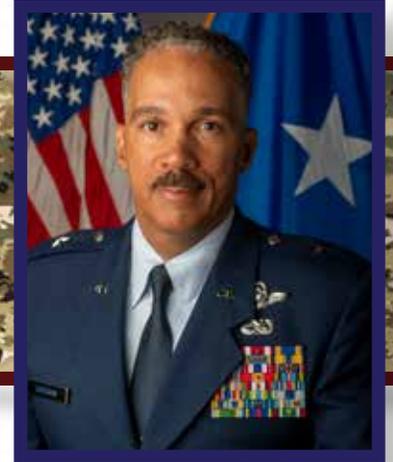
West Virginia National Guard Leadership



William E. Crane
Major General
The Adjutant General
Joint Forces Commander



Murray E. Holt
Brigadier General
Commander/Assistant
Adjutant General-Army



David V. Cochran
Brigadier General
Commander/Assistant
Adjutant General-Air



Michael O. Cadle
Brigadier General
Director, Joint Staff



Michaëlle M. Munger
Brigadier General
Special Assistant to
The Adjutant General



Daniel J. Hutchins
Chief Warrant Officer 5
State Command Chief



James D. Jones
Command Sergeant Major
Senior Enlisted Advisor



Chadwick L. Moneypenny
Command Sergeant Major
Army National Guard



Brandon W. Ives
Command Chief Master Sergeant
Air National Guard



2023 SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- More than 400 WVNG Soldiers and Airmen served overseas during 2023, including small unit deployments and support for combatant commands.
- Soldiers from the 156th Military Police Detachment deployed to Jordan in support of Operation Spartan Shield.
- Members of the WVNG's 35th Civil Support Team deployed to the town of East Palestine, Ohio, to assist first responders and incident command with response efforts for a large-scale train derailment involving hazardous materials.
- More than 50 Soldiers and Airmen assisted citizens of Charleston's West Side community during an extended natural gas outage impacting more than 1,000 families.
- More than 400 Soldiers and Airmen assisted the West Virginia Division of Corrections, Regional Jail Authority and Division of Juvenile Services.
- In March, more than 50 members of the WVNG deployed to Texas, providing direct support to Operation Lonestar to assist in border security operations.
- Aviators and support personnel with Company C, 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion, and Company B, 1-224th Security and Support Aviation Battalion, deployed to the southwestern border as a part of the Department of Defense's Joint Task Force - West.
- The 130th Airlift Wing completed 1,251 sorties, compiling 2,162 flight hours while transporting 517 tons of cargo, and 2,238 passengers. The wing also completed airdrops of 5,928 personnel and 72 tons of cargo during training exercises.
- The 130th Airlift Wing flew the first all-female aircrew sortie in the unit's 63-year history. Lt. Col. Kristen Hoeckel and Maj. Kelly Farris piloted a route from Charleston to Naval Air Station Key West, Florida. Chief Master Sgt. Debbie Turrill, Technical Sgt. Emily Knight and Technical Sgt. Autumn Davis served as loadmasters.
- The 167th Airlift Wing completed more than 850 sorties, compiling 2,600 flight hours transporting 2,600 tons of cargo and nearly 3,400 passengers.
- Twenty-seven Airmen from the 167th Airlift Wing were awarded the Air Medal, presented for single acts of heroism or meritorious achievements, while participating in the August, 2021 withdrawal from Afghanistan. The crew members performed under hostile fire, delivering food and water and airlifting more than 1,100 people to safety, caring for pregnant, sick and elderly passengers. An additional 14 Airmen on two other aircrews were presented with an Air and Space Commendation Medal for conducting numerous aeromedical evacuation missions and transporting more than 450 evacuees.
- The WVNG State Partnership Program conducted 31 engagements with Peruvian Armed Forces and 22 engagements with the Qatari Armed Forces in West Virginia, Peru and Qatar.
- WVNG Soldiers and Airmen participated in the world's largest international cyber defense exercise, Locked Shields 2023. A legal team, comprising members of the West Virginia Army National Guard, 130th Airlift Wing, and U.S. Army, finished 7th out of 35 teams.



- In June, Ridge Runner conducted a two-week exercise to prepare Special Forces units for deployment. The exercise included more than 420 participants from 16 nations and contributed \$2.2 million in direct economic impact to the state.
- In July, more than 580 members of the WVNG supported the 2023 National Scout Jamboree where more than 15,800 Scouts converged in Southern West Virginia.
- Company C, 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion, received six new HH-60M Black Hawk helicopters designed to support aerial medical and ambulatory patient transport.
- Company B, 1-224th Security and Support Aviation Battalion, flew 120 missions and more than 622 hours in support of state and federal law enforcement, resulting in more than \$9.7 million in seizures of drugs, currency, equipment, property, vehicles, and weapons.
- The Counter Drug Program provided analysis and support to law enforcement resulting in the seizure and/or eradication of more than \$6.6 million in methamphetamine, crack cocaine, heroin, fentanyl, marijuana and opium and also supported the National Drug Take Back initiative, helping collect more than 4,230 pounds of unused medications throughout the state.
- The Drug Demand Reduction program, in coordination with the Department of Education's Common Ground program, was active in Berkeley, Jefferson, Morgan, Kanawha, Putnam and Wayne counties, reaching more than 5,900 students in 30 schools.
- The West Virginia Army National Guard received a top environmental award in January after scoring highest in the nation in environmental cleanup, conservation, technological innovation, and planning.
- The Camp Dawson Training Center supported training for more than 128,900 personnel and executed more than \$4.7 million in sustainment, restoration, and modernization funds.
- The Fixed Wing Army National Guard Aviation Training Site in Bridgeport trained 84 Army aviators and will begin training U.S. Navy pilots in FY2024.
- The West Virginia Army National Guard received national recognition for having three of the top ten recruiters in the small state category nationwide.
- The Army Interagency Training and Education Center trained more than 7,650 Soldiers and Airmen in domestic response operations, conducted 100 infrastructure assessments and more than 600 counter-improvised explosive device training courses with 9,700 participants from 37 states and territories. AITEC also supported the Boston Marathon, Super Bowl LV, Macy's Parades, United Nations General Assembly, National Scout Jamboree, Bridge Day, the Gubernatorial State of the State and the State of the Union addresses and more.
- Spc. Bret Williams, a combat engineer carpentry and a masonry specialist with the 922nd Engineer Det., competed in the 2023 All Guard Best Warrior Competition in Alaska following his win at the WVNG Best Warrior Competition. Based on his performance, he was selected to join the Army Guard Best Squad team, representing the entire National Guard at the national Army Best Squad competition.
- Cpt. Richard Payne, of the 197th RTI, was awarded the prestigious Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award for junior officer leadership.
- The Patriot Guardians program secured eight new grants, cooperative agreements, and sub-awards worth \$1.64 million, growing the staff to 16 full-time and 11 part-time employees. The program reached 4,180 participants with in-person livestock, poultry, plant production, homesteading, and agribusiness workshops.
- The Jobs & Hope WV – WorkForce WV Employment Program graduated 60 participants from Heavy Equipment Operator Courses. Another 37 Department of Highways employees were certified to operate dozers and boom mowers.
- The Future Leaders Program expanded to 15 high schools in eight counties, enrolling 988 students with a 99% graduation rate, while providing 550 hours of community service.
- STARBASE Charleston hosted 78 academies for 1,887 5th grade participants in Kanawha and Putnam counties and STARBASE Martinsburg hosted 95 academies for 2,300 5th graders in Berkeley and Jefferson counties.
- The Mountaineer Challenge Academy completed two classes each at its north and south campuses for a total of 5,600 graduates since the program's inception in 1993. MCA cadets contributed 9,150 hours to 115 community service projects worth \$274,000 in community benefits.



2023 ECONOMIC IMPACT



2,003

Full-Time Personnel *

3,930 Soldiers

1,982 Airmen

5,912

Total National Guard Personnel

* Includes Full-Time Active, Guard and Reserve, Federal Technician and Military Authority personnel employed through the WWNG

Military Authority: 590 Assigned Personnel

18:1

West Virginia received **\$18** in federal funding for every state dollar invested in Fiscal Year 2023.

State Investment

Pay & Benefits \$8,112,514
 Goods & Services \$8,418,240
 Construction \$324,080
 Education \$2,700,579

**Total State Investment
 \$19,555,413**

167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg

Military Pay & Allowances \$10,962,558
 Civilian Payroll \$21,802,428
 AGR Payroll \$20,521,886
 All Mil Pers Travel \$1,984,656
 Goods and Services \$12,055,269
 Ground Fuel \$89,337
 Clothing \$42,979

**Total for Air Guard, Martinsburg
 \$67,459,113**

130th Airlift Wing, Charleston

Military Pay & Allowances \$26,370,788
 Civilian Payroll \$14,468,768
 AGR Payroll \$14,660,051
 All Mil Pers Travel \$2,671,729
 Goods and Services \$7,477,055
 Ground Fuel \$78,407
 Clothing \$45,993

**Total for Air Guard, Charleston
 \$65,772,791**

West Virginia Army National Guard

Military Pay & Allowances \$109,339,047
 Civilian Payroll \$40,111,100
 Goods & Services \$74,041,760
 Construction \$385,000

**Total for Army Guard
 \$223,876,907**

\$376,664,224

Direct Economic Impact



JFHQ JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS



JFHQ Joint Forces Headquarters

Commander: Maj. Michael G. Edwards
First Sergeant: 1st Sgt. Travis J. Ova

Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ-WV) provides motivated, highly trained, well-equipped Soldiers prepared to respond to domestic operations, state emergencies, and federal activations.

JFHQ-WV is comprised of more than 190 Soldiers, including leadership of the WVNG. The unit is located in Charleston and conducts operations across the state. JFHQ-WV serves as the senior Army National Guard command and control element supporting Army National Guard units assigned to West Virginia. It provides trained, equipped, and ready forces capable of mobilizing in support of both federal and state missions. With the concurrence of the governor, JFHQ-WV is able to function as a Joint Task Force headquarters under U.S. Northern Command control.

JFHQ-WV is comprised of staff sections that support state and federal operations. JFHQ-WV prepares assessments, estimates, and other intelligence products for senior leaders in the WVNG. These products allow senior leaders to make timely, well-informed decisions. JFHQ-WV provides key staffing to The Adjutant General, assisting in strategic doctrine, plans, training, and exercises. JFHQ-WV also processes promotions, awards, and decorations. This year alone, JFHQ-WV processed more than 12,372 personnel actions.

JFHQ-WV maintained combat skills by conducting Individual Weapons Qualification at Camp Dawson and certifying Soldiers in Combat Life Saver skills. JFHQ-WV also supported the Special Olympics of West Virginia for its annual summer competition and winter dance. Additionally, JFHQ-WV hosts the Gold Star Family Event every year at Camp Dawson.

249th Army Band

Commander: Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeremiah Bennett
First Sergeant: 1st Sgt. John Russell

The 249th Army Band takes pride in representing the WVNG through a diverse musical outreach. As one of our organization's most requested assets, the 249th Band supports ceremonies, troops events, community relations, and numerous other public events throughout the year.



The 249th Army Band continues to support a variety of staple events such as the long-held tradition of leading Grafton's celebrated Memorial Day Parade. Throughout the year, the band supported Change of Command ceremonies, awards banquets, and multiple retirement ceremonies at Camp Dawson. The 249th also provided ceremonial music for four Mountaineer Challenge Academy graduation ceremonies at the North and South MCA campuses. During the unit's Annual Training, the band participated in Ripley's July 4th Parade, performed at Vienna's Freedom Fest, and finished with a concert at Bluefield's Grenada Theater.



The 249th participated in several recruiting and educational events including the annual All-State Band audition preparation clinic at the Morgantown Readiness Center. This event brings young, aspiring music students from across the state to the first-class rehearsal facilities found at the center. These young musicians enjoyed a day of personalized instrument-specific instruction with members of the 249th Army Band. This annual event provides many valuable opportunities for recruiting and community outreach.



153rd Public Affairs Detachment

Commander: Capt. James D. Mason
Detachment NCO: Sgt. 1st Class Ariana O. Shuemake

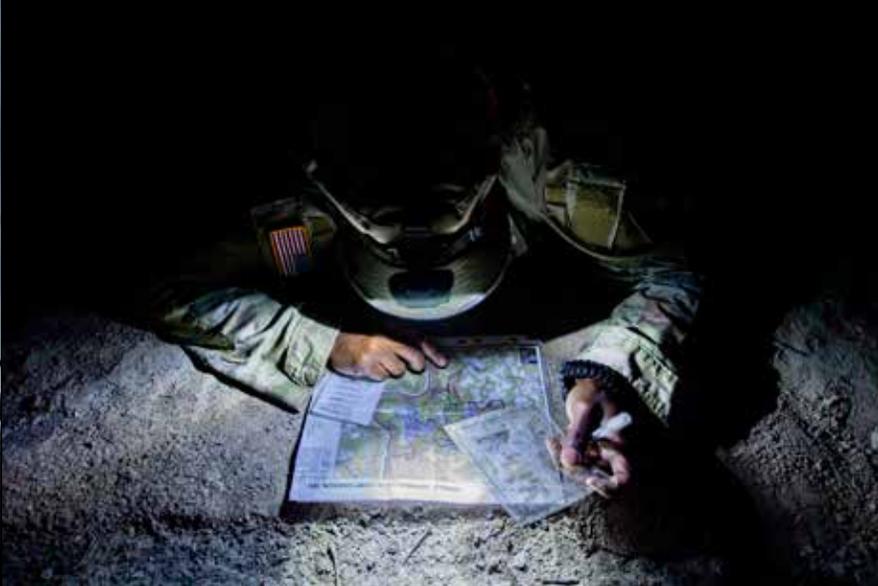
The 153rd Public Affairs Detachment (PAD) is the singular public affairs element for the WVNG providing strategic communications support on behalf of the units and Soldiers of the state. The 153rd PAD is an eleven-member detachment that provides WVNG public affairs coverage of Army, Joint, and multinational operations and exercises.

Throughout 2023, the 153rd PAD conducted missions across the United States, producing photos, videos, articles, and multimedia content for publication to WVNG service members and externally across official social media channels, websites, and broadcast news outlets. Operations and exercises covered in 2023 included the State Best Warrior Competition, the annual Gold Star Families Retreat, the 2023 National Scout Jamboree, the 2023 Ridge Runner exercise, multinational Joint Special Forces training, and quarterly retirement ceremonies. The detachment also supported units throughout the WVNG by providing public affairs coverage of the 201st Field Artillery Battalion's two-part annual training, the 119th Engineer Company's demolition operations training, and the 2/19th Special Forces Group airborne operations training.

The training and missions completed by the 153rd PAD this year were instrumental in preparing the unit for two upcoming overseas operations. In 2024, the 153rd PAD is scheduled for an overseas deployment training rotation to Germany in support of Allied Spirit 24 and then a full nine-month mobilization to Europe in support of ongoing peacekeeping operations in the region.

ARMY WEST VIRGINIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD





- 1092nd ENG
- 771st TCB
- 772nd TCB



111th Engineer Brigade

Commander: Col. Brent A. Schultz

Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. Derek Moore

The 111th Engineer “Black Diamond” Brigade provides command and control of three battalions: The 1092nd Engineer Battalion in Parkersburg, the 771st Troop Command Battalion in Gassaway and the 772nd Aviation Troop Command Battalion located in Williamstown.

The 111th Engineer Brigade continues to provide community support projects through the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program. The IRT program benefits both the community and the units by providing valuable, real-world training opportunities for our Soldiers while completing various construction projects at a significantly reduced cost. The 111th Engineer Brigade also supported several events around the state including Bridge Day, the National Scout Jamboree, and the Best Warrior Competition.



The 111th Engineer Brigade planned and conducted a Command Post Exercise (CPX) evaluated by the Mission Command Training Support Team from Camp Atterbury, Indiana. During the CPX, the brigade staff updated battle drills and synchronized staff integration to focus on the peer-on-peer fight, as well as Multi-Domain Operations (MDO). The 111th Engineer Brigade planned two additional events in preparation for its Warfighting Exercise at the end of year to evaluate the Brigade on Mission Readiness following its most recent overseas deployment.

The 111th Engineer Brigade patch is red and white, the colors traditionally used by engineer units. The tower symbolizes the brigade's engineer mission. The black diamond signifies military constancy to the nation, in times of war and peace, and the rich coal resources of the state. The powder horn signifies the 111th Engineer's heritage as "minutemen for freedom."

ESSAYONS – LET US TRY

1092ND ENGINEER BATTALION

- 115th EVCC
- 119th SAPPER
- 601st ESC
- 821st ECC
- 922nd EUD



1092nd Engineer Battalion

Commander: Lt. Col. Melvin Hodges

Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. Aaron Kincaid

The 1092nd Engineer Battalion is headquartered in Parkersburg. Since the Korean conflict, the 1092nd has provided engineer support through assured mobility, counter mobility, and survivability operations to the nation and the great state of West Virginia. The 1092nd Headquarters provides mission command and control to five subordinate engineer and support units throughout West Virginia. These units include the 115th Engineer Vertical Construction Company (EVCC) and Detachment, the 119th Engineer Company (SAPPER), the 601st Engineer Support Company (ESC), the 821st Engineer Construction Company (ECC) and Detachment, a Forward Support Company (FSC), and the 922nd Engineer Utilities Detachment.

Over the past year, the 1092nd Engineer Battalion Headquarters participated in a Command Post Exercise (CPX) evaluated by the mission command training support team at Camp Dawson. During the CPX, the staff updated battle drills and synchronized staff integration to focus on the peer-on-peer fight and multi-domain operations. The 1092nd FSC also went to Camp Dawson, to increase mission essential task proficiency, specifically, logistics packages and convoy operations supporting the exercise. The 115th conducted horizontal projects at Boy Scouts of America in Glen Jean, improving future living sites, while the vertical section conducted construction operations in support of Operation Resolute Sentinel in Flores, Guatemala, constructing foundations for school buildings. The 119th was part of Operation Noble Partner in the country of Georgia, where the unit conducted training operations with more than 30 countries. The 601st and 821st focused on individual training while conducting support for construction directives at Camp Dawson. The 922nd performed construction operations at the Raven Rock Mountain Complex near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Tasks included the construction of concrete pads for future well sites and trenching and conduit for communication lines, saving the U.S. government more than \$3 million.

Additionally, the 1092nd Engineer Battalion Headquarters continued to support the COVID response across West Virginia. The battalion provided more than 60 volunteers for the Division of Corrections around the state. The battalion also supported the evaluation of WVNG's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Enhanced Response Task Force Package (CERFP) by providing 55 Soldiers for the Search and Extraction element. The 1092nd Engineer Battalion continues to support the extremely high operational tempo it is tasked with while standing ready to execute combat or emergency response operations to defend the nation and state.



115th Engineer Vertical Construction Company (EVCC)

Commander: Capt. Jesse Burkett

First Sergeant: 1st Sgt. Jennifer Roderick

The 115th Engineer Vertical Construction Company is headquartered in Clarksburg and includes the company headquarters, a maintenance platoon, two vertical construction platoons, and a horizontal platoon. The 115th EVCC provides engineer support through assured mobility, counter-mobility, survivability, and general construction operations.

The 115th EVCC commenced the previous year by preparing for its Annual Training mission, including Warrior Task Training, Physical Health Assessments and the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) while incorporating both horizontal and vertical skills training for construction missions. In July, the 115th attended Annual Training at Camp Dawson in Kingwood, conducting multiple vertical and horizontal missions.

The horizontal platoon spent Annual Training repairing gravel paths across the campus of Camp Dawson making

the area a safe and efficient place to travel. The vertical platoons were tasked with the construction of a dedicated ACFT building designed to house essential equipment and resources required for the successful administration of the ACFT. A second mission required building a concrete pad.

Throughout the year, the 115th EVCC provided Soldiers and equipment to support multiple State Active Duty missions including the Division of Corrections support, flood duty, and Operation Lonestar along the southwest border.

The Soldiers of the 115th excel in a demanding operational environment, where they are continually engaged and eagerly volunteer to assist the state and nation when called upon. This unit is known for its technical and tactical expertise and is always prepared to deploy, engage, and accomplish its duties for both state and federal missions.



119th Engineer Company (Sapper)

Commander: Capt. Abbey Wilson-Napolitani

First Sergeant: 1st Sgt. Michael Taylor

The 119th Engineer Company (Sapper) in Moundsville is the only Combat Engineer unit in West Virginia, and is relied upon for its extensive knowledge of explosives and demolitions, as well as supporting State Active Duty missions. The 119th provided support through assured mobility, counter-mobility, and survivability operations to its country and partnered nations as well as the great state of West Virginia since 2008.

During Annual Training, the 119th was tasked with enabling Task Force Security (TFS) in support of the National Scout Jamboree. Execution and planning by the Task Force supported the security of more than 15,000 Scouts and supporting personnel. Throughout the year, the unit conducted its

annual holiday luncheon, presenting awards for performance and celebrating unit members' family participation during the year.

The 119th also supported John Marshall and Wheeling Park recruiting events to showcase and demonstrate National Guard opportunities within the state. The company demonstrated expertise during battalion training at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, where skills with crew served weapons and grenades were taught across the battalion. Training on individual weapons and combat engineer specific equipment was conducted at Camp Dawson and has honed the skills of the company to make the 119th one of the most diversely trained units in West Virginia.



601st Engineer Support Company (ESC)

Commander: Capt. James Tate

First Sergeant: 1st Sgt. Nicholas Ellison

The 601st Engineer Support Company (ESC) in Buckhannon includes a maintenance platoon, one vertical construction platoon and two horizontal construction platoons. The 601st ESC provides engineer support through survivability operations, expeditionary deployment operations and general construction operations.

During the training year, the 601st ESC conducted Annual Training at Camp Dawson and also supported the National Scout Jamboree. The unit focused on improving roads and drainage and performed expedient recovery operations, while also concentrating on individual Soldier skills, ensuring the unit's personnel were prepared to take on any mission.

The 601st ESC supports the Search and Extraction section of the WNG's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear,

and Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), contributing to the preparedness of the state and nation.

The unit also provided Soldiers and equipment to support several State Active Duty missions, including the Division of Corrections (DoC) support and flood clean-up. During the height of the DoC mission, the 601st ESC had about a dozen Soldiers supporting numerous tasks at prisons throughout the state.

The Soldiers of the 601st ESC thrive on a high operational tempo environment with challenging missions. The 601st ESC continually volunteers to support the state of West Virginia with all types of emergencies. The 601st ESC is a technically and tactically proficient company element ready to deploy, fight, and succeed when tasked with any state or federal mission.



821st Engineer Construction Company (ECC)

Commander: Capt. Carl E. Boyles III

First Sergeant: 1st Sgt. Matthew T. Park

The 821st Engineer Construction Company (ECC) is headquartered in Summersville with a Detachment located in Parkersburg. The company consists of a headquarters platoon, two horizontal construction platoons, a maintenance platoon, and one vertical platoon. The 821st ECC is prepared to provide engineer support through mobility, counter-mobility, and survivability operations within West Virginia and nationally.

The 821st ECC conducted Annual Training this year at the Summit Bechtel Reserve (SBR) and Camp Dawson. While at SBR, the unit's horizontal assets worked on improving drainage and widening a section of road. The unit's vertical platoon performed several projects at Camp Dawson for AITEC's search and extraction course. These projects included construction of doors, shelving, building improvement, and an electrical project.

The 821st has Soldiers trained and prepared for the Search and Extraction section of the WVNG's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), contributing to the readiness of the state and nation. The 821st is always ready to support the State of West Virginia in times of need, whether it's for storm damage, flood, or snow removal.

The 821st continuously thrives on a high operational environment and remains flexible to complete all challenging missions. Soldiers of the 821st volunteer to support the State with all types of missions and disasters at moment's notice. The 821st ECC is a technically and tactically proficient engineer element ready to deploy, fight, and succeed when tasked with any state or federal mission.



922nd Engineer Utilities Detachment (EUD)

Commander: Capt. Hunter P. Gronlund

Detachment Sergeant: Sgt. 1st Class Jamie L. Frye

The 922nd Engineer Utilities Detachment (EUD) is headquartered in Martinsburg under the 1092nd Engineer Battalion. The 922nd EUD is one of the newer engineer units in the WVNG and has 53 personnel operating within four sections including headquarters, operations, utilities and equipment sections.

Formed in 2017, the 922nd EUD is the first engineer unit in the history of the state to be located in the Martinsburg area.

The mission of the 922nd EUD is to provide facility engineering support in carpentry, masonry, electrical, plumbing, road maintenance and repair. During a deployment, the 922nd would conduct post engineering operations while attached to a Base Command. It is one of only three similar units in the United States.

Throughout year, the 922nd EUD accomplished significant milestones in its training and operational activities. In February, the unit successfully conducted a Change of Command, ensuring smooth leadership transition. Subsequently, from February onwards, the primary focus was on Mission Essential

Task List (METL) training, aimed at preparing personnel for Annual Training at Camp Dawson, in July.

In April, the unit executed an essential Individual Weapons Qualification at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, ensuring that Soldiers remained qualified on their respective weapons systems. During Annual Training, the unit dedicated itself to enhancing vital infrastructure. This involved road maintenance activities such as surveying, grading, backfilling, ditching, siding, and roofing operations. Moreover, the unit conducted convoy operations, honing the skills and readiness of personnel for theater operations. These achievements reflect the unit's commitment to excellence and its unwavering dedication to maintaining high standards of readiness and operational effectiveness.

Finalizing the training year, the 922nd EUD conducted mandatory training, Mission Essential Task List training, Soldier welfare checks, warrior tasks and battle drills and professional development training throughout the year to continuously improve unit readiness.

771ST TROOP COMMAND

- 753rd EOD
- 863rd MP
- 156th MP
- 157th MP
- 3664th SMC
- 1935th CCT



771st Troop Command Battalion

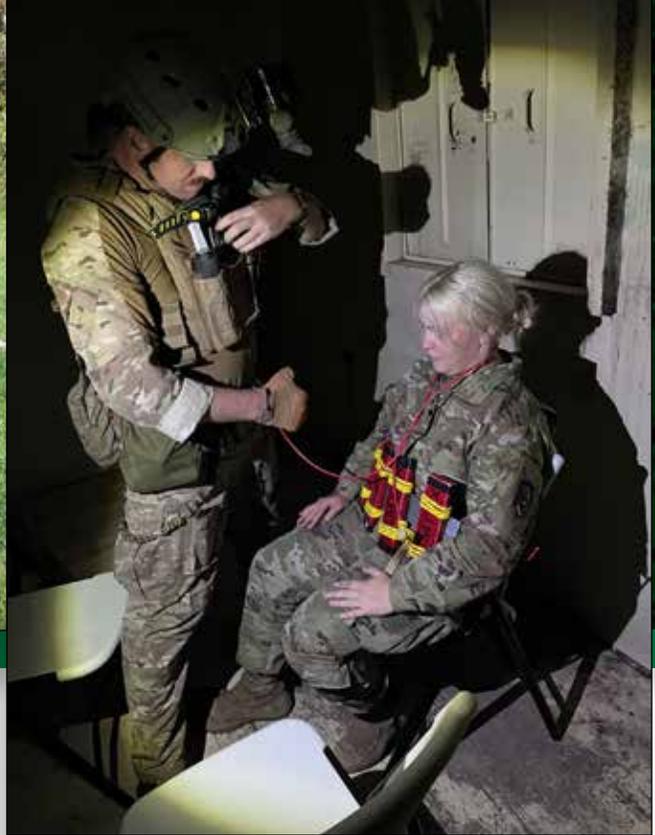
Commander: Lt. Col. Timothy J. Miller

Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. Michael R. Reffitt

The 771st Troop Command Battalion is located in Gassaway. The unit leads seven subordinate companies consisting of the 3664th Support Maintenance Company (SMC), 753rd Ordnance Company (EOD), 156th Military Police Detachment, 157th Military Police Company, 863rd Military Police Company, 1935th Contingency Contracting Team (CTT) and a Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment. The battalion also serves as the Command and Control (C2) element for the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Enhanced Response Task Force Package (CERFP).

Multiple CERFP missions conducted by the battalion highlighted the past year. In March, the CERFP C2 supported the State of the Union Address in Washington and a CERFP Collective Training Event was conducted in November on the grounds of the White House. This was the first time in history that the WV CERFP trained on location as part of a joint effort, ensuring the effectiveness of its plan.

This year, the battalion assisted its companies in accomplishing multiple missions and preparing for upcoming deployments. The 157th MP was trained as the National Guard Response Force (NGRF) for the WVARNG, and the 3664th Support Maintenance Company earned its designation as a Contingency Response Force unit. The battalion has also been busy preparing for the return of the 156th MP from its overseas deployment as well as upcoming mobilizations for the 863rd MP, 1935th CTT, 753rd EOD and the 157th MP.



753rd Ordnance Company (EOD)

Commander: Capt. Evan D. Simpson

First Sergeant: 1st Sgt. Roger S. Queen

The 753rd Ordnance Company (EOD) is located at Camp Dawson in Kingwood. The unit's mission is to detect, identify, evaluate, render safe, exploit, and provide final disposition of explosive hazards, to include U.S. and foreign conventional ordnance and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) hazards. The unit provides capabilities to federal, state and local agencies as well as conducting joint and multinational operations worldwide.

In February, the unit sent two Soldiers to the 863rd Military Police Company to train their Master Drivers on proper maintenance, operation, and driving of the M-ATV, a Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle. This improved readiness of the 863rd and the overall readiness of the 771st Battalion. The unit also enhanced its capabilities by training with multiple robotic platforms and utilization of the XRV X-ray system in preparation for an upcoming mobilization. Additionally, the unit arranged for country briefs for current events, trends, techniques, and first seen technology in order to enhance capabilities and knowledge.

During Annual Training, the unit completed a dismounted land navigation course as well as conducting counter ID operational support training. Along with fielding new equipment, a training team from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, trained members of the 753rd on supporting Special Forces as Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians in order to enhance their skills and capabilities. This particular training was conducted during nighttime with a focus on proficiency with new gear including Bi-Night Vision devices.

Throughout the spring and summer, members of the unit went in groups to the Humanitarian Demining Course. This course provided key information and preparedness to unit members for their upcoming deployment by teaching numerous critical skills. The course also provided information and skills to assist with the State Sponsorship Program Mission.

In August, members of the 753rd returned for driver's training and trained on the demolition range. During this time, the command team was notified that its deployment to Kuwait had been cancelled. Towards the end of the month, a command element was sent to Arizona to meet with the National Guard Ordnance Group for a key leader engagement. Soldiers in attendance shared experiences with other EOD companies from around the US, to include validation of future EOD Team Leaders.

With the year coming to a close, members of the 753rd returned one final time to complete individual weapons qualification, crew served weapons qualification, as well as Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) with a Special Forces Combat Medic.

Over the coming year, the 753rd will continue to share its wealth of knowledge and increase its strength by attending numerous recruiting and retention events throughout the state. Additionally, some members will be deploying in order to assist the 753rd's sister company, the 430th Ordnance Company (EOD) based in North Carolina.



863rd Military Police Company

Commander: Capt. Sebastian Clark

First Sergeant: 1st Sgt. Wayne Stephenson

The 863rd Military Police Company is headquartered in Glen Jean. The unit supports federal and state missions with trained and motivated Soldiers skilled in support of mobility, security, detention and police operations as well as Expeditionary Deployments. The 863rd is also tasked with Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) decontamination mission support.

In February, the 863rd provided support for the State of the Union Address in Washington. Its mission was in support of a contingency operation as the decontamination element for a potential terrorist attack in the National Capital Region. The unit is fully prepared to respond to any CBRNE event within FEMA region III or nationwide.

Along with Capital response, the 863rd supported the Governor's call to assist Operation Lonestar at the southwest border as several Soldiers volunteered for the mission.

The 863rd is deeply embedded in the local community, prepared to assist, protect, and defend its citizens and their

way of life. The unit supported the 41st Annual Bridge Day event in Fayetteville. This event draws more than 100,000 spectators annually. Year after year, the West Virginia State Police request assistance from the 863rd as a force multiplier during the festival, and partners together to ensure the safety of all who attend.

The 863rd was the first National Guard Unit to conduct Annual Training at Fola training area, in Clay County, in conjunction with Civil-Military Innovation Institute (CMI2) and Dirt Days Innovation. This opportunity allowed the unit to exercise all five of its Mission Essential Task List skills in realistic training environments. The operation involved moving more than 90 Soldiers, 25 vehicles, and hundreds of pieces of equipment along with the food, fuel, water, and supplies for eight days of sustainment in a field environment. This Annual Training also included Army rifle and pistol qualifications along with the new M-ATV, a mine-resistant ambush protected (MRAP) vehicle. Simultaneously, the unit supported the National Scout Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Reserve, providing security assistance in support of various state and federal law enforcement agencies.

156th Military Police Detachment

Commander: Capt. John F. Ivester

Detachment Sergeant: Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Hatfield

The 156th Military Police Detachment is headquartered in Holden and supports both federal and state missions with trained and motivated Soldiers skilled in specialized support to Law-and-Order Operations. The 156th has a rich history of overseas deployments, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004, Operation Enduring Freedom in 2011, Operation Freedom's Sentinel in 2018, and its current mobilization to Jordan in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

Over the past year, the 156th Military Police Detachment has been focused on its Military Police Law Enforcement mission, providing Law Enforcement, Military Police Investigations, Traffic Accident Investigations, Force Protection, Physical Security, and Engagement Support Team over-sight in the United States Central Command

Area of Operations, specifically in Area Support Group – Jordan. During the mobilization, several 156th Soldiers assisted Host Nation Partners by participating in the Jordanian Armed Forces Language Institute engagement, teaching English on a weekly basis. The unit was consistently recognized by the Area Support Group- Jordan commander for being proactive with every mission, in support of the strategic vision for current operations.

The Soldiers of the 156th Military Police Detachment display a deep devotion to nation and state and represent the citizens of West Virginia well on the international stage. The unit is a staple in the southern West Virginia community, and a reliable tool in the Army's force pool arsenal for more than 20 years. The detachment is looking forward to the end of the year when they begin the transition back home to continue their service to their communities and their families.



157th Military Police Company

Commander: Capt. Andrew L. Miller

First Sergeant: 1st Sgt. Dennis Gregory

Located in Moorefield, the 157th Military Police Company consists of about 160 Soldiers across three platoons and a Headquarters section. The 157th remains focused on The Adjutant General's priorities and the WVNG Strategic Vision. Throughout the year, the Company worked towards becoming qualified as a National Guard Reaction Force while maintaining proficiency on Military Police functions and individual readiness requirements.

In April, the 157th conducted Joint Service Training with the West Virginia Air National Guard on National Guard Reaction Force. In August, the unit completed Individual Weapons Qualification, Crew Serve Weapons Qualification, and a Field Training Exercise during Annual Training at Ft. Barfoot, Virginia. The 157th also supported domestic operations including the National Scout Jamboree and Operation Lonestar along the southwest border.

In 2024, the unit will remain focused on maintaining a fully trained force and supporting the National Guard Reaction Force mission that provides the state with an asset in the event of civil unrest and/or crowd control.



3664th Support Maintenance Company (SMC)

Commander: Capt. Kyle D. Hartleben

First Sergeant: 1st Sgt. David J. Wilson

The 3664th Support Maintenance Company is located in Eleanor at the Armed Forces Reserve Center. The SMC's platoons consist of Headquarters, Automotive and Armament, Communications and Electronics, and the Ground Support Equipment platoon. The unit's mission is to provide field maintenance, including all low density, and limited recovery support to units on an area basis. The 3664th has the capability to repair wheeled ground vehicles, engineer equipment, communications and electronic equipment, small arms weapon systems, HVAC systems, power generation equipment and more. Additionally, the unit also provided fabrication and wheeled vehicle recovery services to supported units.

This year, the 3664th focused training on Mission Essential Tasks while also developing and honing mechanical repair skills. Soldiers qualified on crew served weapons and individual weapons during Annual Training at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

3664th Soldiers also volunteered to support the Division of Corrections mission throughout the year.

The 3664th was identified as a Contingency Response Force (CRF) unit as part of the Army's Early Deploying Unit Program. An NGB in-depth review of units identified for the CRF program determined that the 3664th had the highest readiness of all CRF units in the nation. Though not mobilized under the CRF program, the unit remained ready to deploy.

Lastly, the 3664th was selected to assume the CERFP Decontamination mission and began training and certification for this transition. The unit learned how to decontaminate individuals in chemical, biological, and radiological incidents, and also trained the proper operation of many pieces of equipment new to the members of the unit. Participating Soldiers also certified in Hazardous Materials Operations and the proper wear of personal protective equipment.



1935th Contingency Contracting Team (CCT)

Commander: Maj. Darren G. Morris

Detachment Sergeant: Sgt. 1st Class Richard Osborne

This year, the 1935th CCT prepared for and conducted the Operation Patriot Press (OPP) Annual Training mission at Army Contracting Command at Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois. The OPP event was successful in bringing together Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve component contracting communities, military and civilian, to create opportunities to collaboratively train and execute strategic contracting missions using Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) and Enhanced Army Global Logistics Enterprise (EAGLE). The OPP was successful in presenting real-world contract administration support tasks directly tied to the CCT's Mission Essential Task List (METL). Additionally, the event was beneficial for the CCT as a way to prepare and validate for their upcoming overseas mission.

As a result of the recent successes of the 1935th CCT while supporting Army Contracting Command, WVARNG was selected to be one of 19 states to transition from a 5-person CCT to a nine-person Contracting Detachment (CONDET). This transition, which will take place in FY24, expands the team to add four senior NCO positions to the MTOE and allows further promotion potential for current NCOs to remain on the team.

Moving forward, the 1935th will continue preparing for an upcoming overseas support mission that the team was assigned to support in FY24-FY25 while simultaneously staffing for the unit's transition from a CCT to a CONDET.

- B 248th ASB
- C 1-150th AB
- C 2-104th
- Det 28 OSA
- B 1-224th

772ND TROOP COMMAND



772nd Troop Command (Aviation)

Commander: Lt. Col. Floyd Watts

Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. Joshua Miller

The 772nd Troop Command is located in Williamstown with 11 units comprised of flight companies and detachments for maintenance, logistics, and operations support. The 772nd trains and operates as a General Support Aviation Battalion HQ and is prepared to become a combat battalion headquarters if the opportunity arises. The units consist of nearly 300 Soldiers, 20 helicopters, and one fixed-wing aircraft. The organization provides robust aviation assets to support state and federal missions while still meeting all Department of the Army training requirements. The capabilities available consist of an Air Assault Company, Aeromedical Evacuation Company, Security & Support Company, Aviation Support Battalion Detachment, and an Operational Support Airlift Detachment.

During FY23, the organization provided critical domestic support and value-added training to our interagency partners. Some notable missions included support for the National Scout Jamboree, Medevac HH-60 Black Hawk M-Model transition, Counter Drug Missions, Aerial Door Gunnery, Swiftwater, and Wildfire Training Support. 772nd units flew 3,500 hours this fiscal year with 60 aviators and 45 crew members.

Detachment 1

Company B, 248th Aviation Support Battalion

Commander: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ty Miller

The 248th ASB is located in Wheeling and is assigned 35 Soldiers. The 248th provides aviation field and limited sustainment maintenance to aviation units organic to the

Army Aviation Support Facility #2. Unit training provides exposure to high level Battle Damage Assessment & Repair, Production / Quality Control functions, Airframe & Component Repair, and Maintenance support activities.

The unit attended Annual Training in Groton, Connecticut, at the Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group (TASM-G). Together with Soldiers assigned at the TASM-G, they conducted extensive Phase Maintenance training culminating with a Downed Aircraft Recovery scenario.



Company C, 1-150th Assault Battalion

Commander: Capt. Hollianne Peal

First Sergeant: 1st Sgt. Ronald Stanley

Company C, 1-150th Air Assault Battalion is located in Wheeling with 90 assigned Soldiers equipped with ten UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters. The unit provides assault aviation operations with civil support capability augmentation. Mission Essential Tasks include: personnel movement, sling load, rappel, Fast Rope Insertion/Extraction (FRIES), helocast, paradrop, bambi bucket (water bucket) fire support and expeditionary operations. This diverse mission set allows the unit to be one of the most uniquely qualified aviation units in the Army National Guard.

Over the past year, the 150th has flown more than 1,300 flight hours without accident or incident, supporting the movement and training of conventional forces, VIP's and Special Operations units throughout the east coast. The 150th also supported multiple events across West Virginia, including

support for the National Scout Jamboree and retention and recruiting events. Additionally, the 150th provided aviation support for the Marine Corps Infantry Officer Course at Fola Training Area in Clay County. This training is vital to WWRNG units and all branches of service, and enhances the unit's ability to be leveraged as a force multiplier, wherever and whenever needed, both locally and on a national level.

The unit continues to leverage momentum developed during last year's New River Gorge firefighting support, ever enhancing its capabilities by gaining National Certification as a fire fighting asset. During that mission, the unit flew more than six hours, dispersed 13,200 gallons of water in 22 sorties, and extinguished more than 25 acres of forest being consumed by fire. The efforts of the crew potentially saved lives and millions of dollars in infrastructure.



Company C, 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB)

Commander: Capt. John Kiser

First Sergeant: 1st Sgt. Taylor Hender

Company C, 2-104th Aviation Regiment, an Aeromedical Evacuation Company (MEDEVAC), is located in Williamstown. The unit consists of a Company HQ, two Forward Support Medical Evacuation Platoons and supporting detachments from Company D & E (Maintenance/Fuel). More than 80 Soldiers maintain and operate six HH-60M Black Hawk helicopters. Company C's federal mission is to provide MEDEVAC support in a division Area of Operations and evacuate battlefield casualties. The unit's state mission is to provide aeromedical evacuation and search & rescue capability to the Governor and citizens of West Virginia in times of emergency.

Charlie Company successfully completed New Equipment Fielding of six new M-Model (HH-60M) Black Hawk Helicopters. The upgraded Black Hawk benefits both pilots and medics with its 4-Axis Autopilot System and Enhanced Medical

Interior. This upgrade further enhances the unit's ability to support contingency operations overseas and during domestic emergencies.

The unit continues to leverage experience gained from participation in lifesaving efforts in support of Eastern Kentucky flooding from the previous year with the purchase of rescue baskets and the vital training associated with them. The baskets are a lifesaving asset that enhance the unit's ability to rescue the elderly and small children. During those missions, the unit completed 23 live hoist rescues of civilians stranded across the state. The Hoists consisted of multiple lifts from rooftops, partially submerged vehicles and high-angle rescues from mountainsides. The unit also cross-trained this year with the 1-150th Air Assault and gained National Certification as an alternate firefighting asset.

Detachment 28

Operational Support Airlift (OSA)

Commander: Chief Warrant Officer 4 David Hayes

Detachment 28 is located in Williamstown and has seven assigned Soldiers that fly the C-12V (King Air 200). The unit provides daily support to the Department of Defense and the Military District of Washington, DC with personnel movement. During the past year, these Soldiers supported

more than 450 flight hours and moved personnel all across the country. The unit also continues to train for the possibility of deployment outside the continental United States. Over the years, the unit has participated in multiple deployments to Afghanistan, Africa, and South America.



Detachment 1

Company B, 1-224th

Security & Support Aviation Battalion

Commander: Capt. Samuel Zengel
First Sergeant: 1st Sgt. Ryan Powers

Company B, 1-224th is located in Williamstown, with 49 Soldiers assigned and equipped with four UH-72A Lakota helicopters. Flight hours this fiscal year exceeded 800 accident-free hours. Annual training was conducted with a heavy focus on Mission Essential and Pre-Mobilization Tasks in preparation for an upcoming deployment in support of Southwest Border Operations. The 224th conducted extensive Field Training, culminating with Command Post



exercises with the battalion headquarters prior to deployment. The 224th also plays a critical role in the West Virginia Counter Drug Aviation Section, supporting local and federal law enforcement agencies year-round. The unit flew 622 hours and supported 120 counter narcotics missions, that facilitated more than \$9.7 million in total seizures of drugs, currency, equipment, property, vehicles and weapons.

- 2/19th SFGA
- 1-150th CAV
- 1-201st FA



77TH BRIGADE TROOP COMMAND

77th Brigade Troop Command

Commander: Col. James. D. Reese

Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. Christian M. Morrison

The 77th Brigade Troop Command, in Glen Jean, has an authorized strength of 1,619 Soldiers. The headquarters provides leadership, support and command and control to three diverse battalion elements with approximately 1,506 Soldiers assigned from across West Virginia.

The Brigade's subordinate units include; 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery; 1st Squadron 150th Cavalry Regiment, and 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

The 77th Brigade supported numerous state and federal missions this year, including Soldiers performing State Active Duty missions in support of the Division of Corrections, the National Scout Jamboree, and the deployment of Soldiers in support of federal missions within the United States and abroad. The 1-150th Cavalry Squadron provided Soldiers to train reconnaissance units from the Moldovan Army. The 2-19th SFG(A) conducted 19 Joint Combined Exchange Training concepts with foreign nations. The 1-201st Field Artillery Battalion deployed to Camp Grayling, Michigan and completed Gunnery Tables V and VI certifying M109A6 Paladin crews in gunnery proficiency.

Continuing the longstanding traditions of the WVNG, units of the 77th Brigade prepared and executed numerous missions in support of communities across the Mountain State. This support was demonstrated with the completion of 21 separate Military Support to Civil Authorities (MSCA) requests across multiple communities.

The 77th Brigade continues to focus on The Adjutant General's Priorities: One Guard Family, readiness, Army Values, Inclusion and Diversity and the West Virginia Army National Guard Strategic Vision. The 77th Brigade provides ready, relevant, and well-trained units comprised of citizen soldiers and leaders who are prepared to serve in the broad spectrum of operations whenever and wherever called upon.



2-19th SFG(Airborne) Special Forces Battalion

Commander: Lt. Col. Robert “Bob” Luther
Command Sgt. Maj. Martin “Scott” Graff

The 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) is comprised of Headquarters Company, Support Company, and Forward Support Company in Kenova, Company C in Kingwood, Company A in Middletown, Rhode Island and Company B in Columbus, Ohio. 2nd Bn., 19th SFG(A) mans, trains, equips, and deploys Special Operations Forces to conduct Special Warfare globally as directed by U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). 2nd Bn. elements also respond to homeland threats, disasters, or other assigned domestic missions as directed by their respective state governors. 2nd Bn. also retains administrative control of the 1-528th Forward Support Company (Special Operations) (Airborne) located in Martinsburg.

In 2023, 2nd Bn. Soldiers supported units from across the state as well as conducted Joint Exercises with sister services and various components. This included 19 training concepts and four Joint Combined Exchange Training overseas missions. 2nd Bn.’s major training event took place in June with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit prior to its deployment to the Mediterranean Sea. 2nd Bn. established a Special Operations Task Force to employ joint Marine and US Army Special

Operations teams in a denied area against high-payoff targets. Close coordination with the US Navy and 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit led to an extremely successful exercise.

Company C conducted two major exercises in 2023 and prepared one Special Forces team for deployment. One Operational Detachment Alpha (ODA) conducted Joint Combined Exchange Training with the Peruvian Fuerzas Especiales Conjuntos to enhance partner relationships in support of Special Operations Command South and U.S. Southern Command objectives. The exchange enabled the team to train on specific Mission Essential Tasks to include advanced marksmanship, advanced medical training, high-altitude mountain training and Troop Leading Procedures.

Company C also participated in a US State Department Exercise called ATLAS SILVER. Company C and elements of B Company assisted the Department of State in training new agents in high stress scenarios. The teams leveraged the unique training opportunity to furthering the Soldiers ability to work with Embassy Staffs and support Combatant Commanders worldwide.



1-150th Cavalry Regiment

Commander: Maj. Shawn McGlothlin

Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Cooper

The 1st Squadron, 150th Cavalry Regiment was established in 1792 with the formation of the Militia of Greenbrier County. The Squadron's lineage includes to the War of 1812 and the American Civil War. The Unit was federalized in 1917 for Service in World War I.

The squadron consists of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop in Bluefield, Alpha Troop in Holden and Gassaway, Bravo Troop in Red House, Charlie Troop at Glen Jean, D Company 230th Forward Support Company (FSC) at Glen Jean, and Delta Troop in Sanford, North Carolina. The 1-150th serves as the Cavalry Squadron for the 30th Armor Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) and is assigned to

conduct reconnaissance and surveillance in support of the ABCT in the Area of Operations. Squadron operations empower the brigade to anticipate, forestall and dominate threats, ensuring brigade mission accomplishment through decisive action and freedom of maneuver.

The Squadron began the year with a high operational tempo during collective and home station assemblies. With training focus on individual and crew readiness at the beginning of year, the squadron steadily improved its personnel and equipment readiness. By the second quarter, the Squadron qualified mounted machine gun crews and Bradley Fighting Vehicles (BFV) crews in preparation for deployment to Fort



Stewart, Georgia. During its Annual Training, the Squadron served as the Opposing Force in support of the brigade's Combined Arms Battalion (CAB). The Squadron trained in mounted and dismounted platoon maneuver, combat resupply and exercised its mission command systems in an austere environment. The Squadron was able to validate and increase its overall training readiness during this time.

During the training year, the squadron not only executed training in support of its federal mission, it also employed Soldiers and equipment to support the state. Participating in Operating Lonestar, the squadron deployed Soldiers

in support of Operation Lonestar along the Texas border. Squadron Soldiers also volunteered for State Active Duty in support of the Division of Corrections mission. Additionally, the Squadron participated in several joint training events such as reconnaissance and security training with Moldovan Armed Forces as part of the Agile Hunter training exercise. The Squadron continued its training relationship with the Qatari Emirate Land Forces in planning a joint battalion staff Command Post Exercise as part of the Eastern Action training exercise. These multiple engagements for the squadron improved its overall interoperability and leader proficiency.



1-201st Field Artillery Regiment

Commander: Lt. Col. Shawn E. Pratt

Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffery T. Galbraith

The 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery Regiment is the longest continuously serving military organization in the United States. It was founded as a voluntary militia on February 17, 1735, and celebrated its 288th anniversary in 2023.

Headquartered in Fairmont, the 1-201st has subordinate units across the state, including Alpha Battery in Elkins, Bravo Battery in Morgantown, Charlie Battery in Lewisburg and the 1201st Forward Support Company in Kingwood. These units are always ready to respond to national, regional and local threats.

The mission of the 1-201st Field Artillery Battalion is to provide counter-battery cannon fires to a Field Artillery Brigade with the battalion headquarters serving as a tactical and

administrative headquarters. The headquarters element is positioned for the most effective control of battalion assets, commensurate with the terrain and combat mission.

Three firing batteries are the primary tactical units within the battalion and provide artillery fires to supported maneuver units in general support or general support reinforcing roles.

The headquarters battery is deployed with or near the headquarters element to support the headquarters staff with command, control and supervision of operating elements. Some elements such as the battalion aid station, battery maintenance section and human resources section may be located in the battalion area.





The 1-201st Forward Support Company provides direct logistics support to the battalion.

In 2023, the 1-201st participated in diverse missions, training events and provided support to West Virginia and the nation. The 1-201st conducted two Field Training Exercises at Camp Dawson in Kingwood. These exercises focused on proficiency in basic Soldier skills such as rifle marksmanship and collective tasks such as field artillery crew certification. Practicing these skills increased the battalion's lethality to the level needed to successfully meet a diverse mission set.

The battalion's Annual Training at Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center, Michigan, allowed the 1-201st

further increase its proficiency in firing Precision Guided Munitions (PGM) fielded the prior year while also exploring options in base defense, convoy movement, and degraded operations. PGMs increase the effectiveness of artillery fires and decrease the potential for collateral damage, allowing for cannon-based fires to be used in a broader portion of the battlespace, thus ensuring the battalion's place on the battlefields of the 21st century.

Throughout 2023, 82 Soldiers from the 1-201st volunteered to support of the Division of Corrections mission.



MEDDET Medical Detachment

Commander: Col. Todd R. Fredricks (State Surgeon)

First Sergeant: Sgt. 1st Class Crystal Hill

Located in South Charleston, the MEDDET provides medical services at Camp Dawson and on-site for WVARNG units throughout the state. The MEDDET ensures the medical readiness of WVARNG soldiers (and local Army Reserve forces) by providing medical and dental evaluations and administering required immunizations, audiograms, and behavioral health screenings.

With an overall medical readiness of 90.3% and a 96.4% dental readiness rate, WVARNG ranks 3rd in the nation for medical readiness. Additionally, 90% of WVARNG medical providers are fully credentialed and privileged. These numbers are rolling totals and are expected to improve through the remainder of the fiscal year.

The MEDDET provides a pool of readily available medical providers for state and federal emergencies and supports medical retirement eligibility and Line of Duty processing, and provides follow-up for injured and ill service members to ensure continued individual medical readiness.

Currently, the MEDDET has 15 assigned National Guard providers, one USAR provider, four medical students and residents, and 34 enlisted soldiers. Additionally, the MEDDET provides a rotating pool of providers to WVARNG line units with medical positions. This includes filling shortfalls in deploying units. This rotating pool allows the MEDDET to provide operational broadening assignments for WVARNG providers while familiarizing them with the diverse operations throughout WVARNG units.

This year, the MEDDET continued “pre-COVID” operations, having completed 61 Physical Health Assessments (PHAs). As of October, the MEDDET ensured a 7.2% influenza annual vaccination rate (early season and delayed vaccine delivery) while non-annual vaccination rates for the force include MMR: 31.6%, Polio: 76.3%, Smallpox: 5%, Tdap: 99.2%, Varicella: 19.6%, and a 28.9% Sickle Cell trait screening completion rate.

The MEDDET will see the majority of WVARNG Soldiers for FY24 during the first quarter so current totals are expected to change rapidly.

This fiscal year, the MEDDET conducted training events including the Best Warrior Competition with Medical Lane testing and provider coverage, two Combat Lifesaver courses (CLS) and Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TC3) courses, support to the National Scout Jamboree, and the 1-201st Field Artillery during its Annual Training.

Additional efforts gained a Training Site Code for Camp Dawson for the annual Combat Medic Sustainment Course, which includes TC3 Level III and Basic Life Support. There are currently 121 Combat Medics in the State.

Soldiers of the WVARNG MEDDET are devoted to serving the medical needs of the total force and the state during deployments, peacetime, and emergencies. The MEDDET’s mission ensures a medically deployable and ready force to meet the needs of West Virginia and national emergency response and combat needs.



SOD-E

Special Operations Detachment-Europe

Commander: Col. Christopher J. Brown

Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. Nathan D. Lyons

The Special Operations Detachment – Europe (SOD-E) is based at Camp Dawson and is tasked with supporting the United States Special Operations Command – Europe (SOCEUR). The SOD-E's primary mission is to provide command and control of Special Operations Forces under the command of SOCEUR. SOD-E members play an integral role in this theater level mission. The SOD-E's ability to deploy on short notice and serve as a Command and Control element of Special Operations Forces has led the unit to be used in support of numerous missions. In addition to the unit's federal mission, SOD-E members are tasked with conducting sustained operations in support of federal and state-declared emergencies.

The SOD-E is organized into ten sections that form the backbone of a Special Operations Joint Task Force. These sections are command, personnel, intelligence, operations, logistics, plans, communications, force protection, aviation, legal, and medical. SOD-E service members also fill critical individual positions in support of SOCEUR. These include lead planners at the SOCEUR headquarters and liaisons at U.S. Embassies in the SOCEUR Commanding General's priority countries. This year the SOD-E supported SOCEUR on three exercises; Austere Challenge, Agile Spirit and Adamant Serpent in Germany, Black Sea Region, and Nordic Region.

Austere Challenge is a series of exercises conducted since the 1990's. This iteration focused on training combatant command coordination, command and control and the integration of capabilities and functions across U.S. European Command headquarters, its component commands and U.S. interagency. The intent of Austere Challenge 2023 was to prepare forces, validate strategic access, exercise deterrence principles, and integrate and synchronize with the NATO alliance. Through these efforts, the exercise contributed to strengthening partnerships globally. SOD-E members augmented SOCEUR staff in establishing a crisis joint operations center in Stuttgart, Germany, filling critical roles

in Future Operations, Personnel, Logistics, and Communications directorates of SOCEUR. This exercise provided exposure to theater level operations, coordination across component commands, and strengthens SOCEUR and SOD-E relationships.

Agile Spirit is a United States Army Europe – Africa (USAREUR-AF) Joint Exercise Program exercise. Agile Spirit 2023 assisted Republic of Georgian armed forces in preparation for contingency deployments, providing regional assurance and confidence in the Black Sea Region. Training objectives for SOD-E, Georgian SOF and NATO SOF partners from Poland, Greece and United Kingdom focused on interoperable asymmetric defence capabilities in a denied environment through a resistance construct. SOD-E personnel traveled to Georgia to replicate a NATO Special Operations Component Command (SOCC) High Control for the Georgian-led Multinational Division Task Force, provided scenario planning products and injects, and managed SOCC equities during the Command Post Exercise. SOD-E members mentored and advised Georgian Special Operations Forces on mission command activities to best support the Georgian Special Operations Forces East Command meet its training objectives for the exercise.

Adamant Serpent is a SOCEUR Joint, Combined Exercise in Norway and Sweden consisting of conventional and Special Operations Forces operating in the land, maritime, and air domains to test combined military operations, rapid response capabilities, and readiness to support regional defense for the Nordic / High North Region. SOD-E members augmented the combined Joint Special Operations Task Force staff in Norway as members of the operations, communications, intelligence, and personnel directorates. SOD-E members were critical in providing liaison with SOCEUR, which acted as Higher Commander for the exercise and enabled Norwegian, Swedish, Canadian, and Finnish partners to meet training objectives, and further US – Partner interoperability.



Camp Dawson Garrison Training Center

Commander: Lt. Col. Christina Hardy

Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. Ryan Higginbotham

Located in Kingwood, the Camp Dawson Garrison Training Center supported training for more than 128,917 military and civilian personnel during FY23. As a Level IV Garrison Training Center, Camp Dawson provides a vast array of capabilities. Capabilities include transient training infrastructure along with a full suite of classrooms, barracks, computer labs as well as live fire ranges up to 7.62mm and more than 3,000 acres of light maneuver area.

Camp Dawson also hosts tenant organizations including the Camp Dawson Event Center that supports housing for more than 500 personnel and a classroom environment capable of training more than 1,000 personnel. Additionally, the Training Center supports tenant organizations including the 197th Regional Training Institute (RTI), 753rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal, C Company 2/19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1201st Forward Support Company, Special Operations Detachment – Europe, the Mountaineer Challenge Academy – North, the Army Interagency Training and Education Center, a robust Environmental Section and a major venue for training for the Governor’s Jobs and Hope Program. Camp Dawson also recently gained the 1257th Engineer Detachment, which are Firefighters for the Garrison.

Camp Dawson maintains mutually beneficial relationships with local community agencies including law enforcement and emergency services, economic development, and the

Department of Education. The Camp Dawson staff also participates as board members for the Real Property Planning Board, Training Center Command Advisory Council, USP Hazelton Community Relations Group, as well as providing direct support to future planning for training capability development throughout the state.

Modernization and restoration efforts remain a priority for Camp Dawson in FY23 with the execution of \$4.7 million in sustainment, restoration, and modernization funds. Awarded contracted projects include:

- Restoration of the Regional Training Institute roof
- Regional Training Institute carpet replacement
- Regional Training Institute electronic lock replacement
- Mountaineer Challenge Academy camera replacements
- Mountaineer Challenge Academy door replacements
- Army Combat Fitness Test pavilion
- Confidence Course Obstacle replacement
- Airfield striping
- Auditorium renovation / modernization
- Boiler replacement at parachute rigger shop
- Force Protection replacements

Camp Dawson enters the new year ready to support another high-volume training year with plans for continued infrastructure improvements including gaining a new full-time fire department.



197th Regiment Regional Training Institute (RTI)

Commander: Lt. Col. Clifford M. Brackman

Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. Waymon D. Cogar

The 197th Regiment RTI is located at Camp Dawson in Kingwood and is the state's premier training and education center. The RTI serves as part of the One Army School System providing training and certification to the National Guard, Reserve Component, and Active Components. The 197th RTI is the higher headquarters for the State Officer Candidate School (OCS) Program, the 1st Modular Training Battalion (MTB), and the Fixed Wing Army Aviation Training Site (FWAATS). The Regiment also teaches the Common Faculty Development Instructor Course (CFDIC). The ability to teach CFDIC allows the Regiment to certify its instructors for both the MTB's as well as the OCS program. During FY23, the 197th RTI completed a Training and Doctrine Command accreditation with an overall score of 99.7%, demonstrating excellence and professionalism as one of the top National Guard schoolhouses in the nation.

The regiment provides oversight to reclassification and advanced Professional Military Education training for Horizontal Engineers and Horizontal Engineer Supervisors. The 197th also conducts reclassification training for Vertical Engineers through the Carpentry / Masonry Specialist course. In FY23, the MTB had a student throughput of nearly 300 service members, resulting in 600 certifications, and an increase of qualified Soldiers, significantly enhancing engineer capabilities across the Army. The Regiment's mission focuses on realistic training and leader development through rigorous development and implementation of Operational Environment variables in all aspects of training. The commitment to educating and developing leaders through doctrine, real world experiences and hands-on training creates a world-class military education for every Soldier that trains at the 197th RTI.

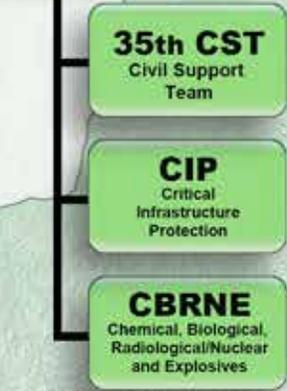


TAG
The Adjutant General
West Virginia National Guard

JFHQ
Joint Forces
Headquarters



FWAATS
Fixed Wing
Army Aviation
Training Site



771st
Troop Command
Battalion

1935th
Contingency
Contracting Team

3664th
Maintenance
Company

753rd
Ordnance Company
(EOD)

CERFP
CBRNE Enhanced
Response Force
Package

156th
Military Police
Detachment

863rd
Military Police
Company

157th
Military Police
Company

C Company
2/104th
General Support
Aviation Battalion

Det 28

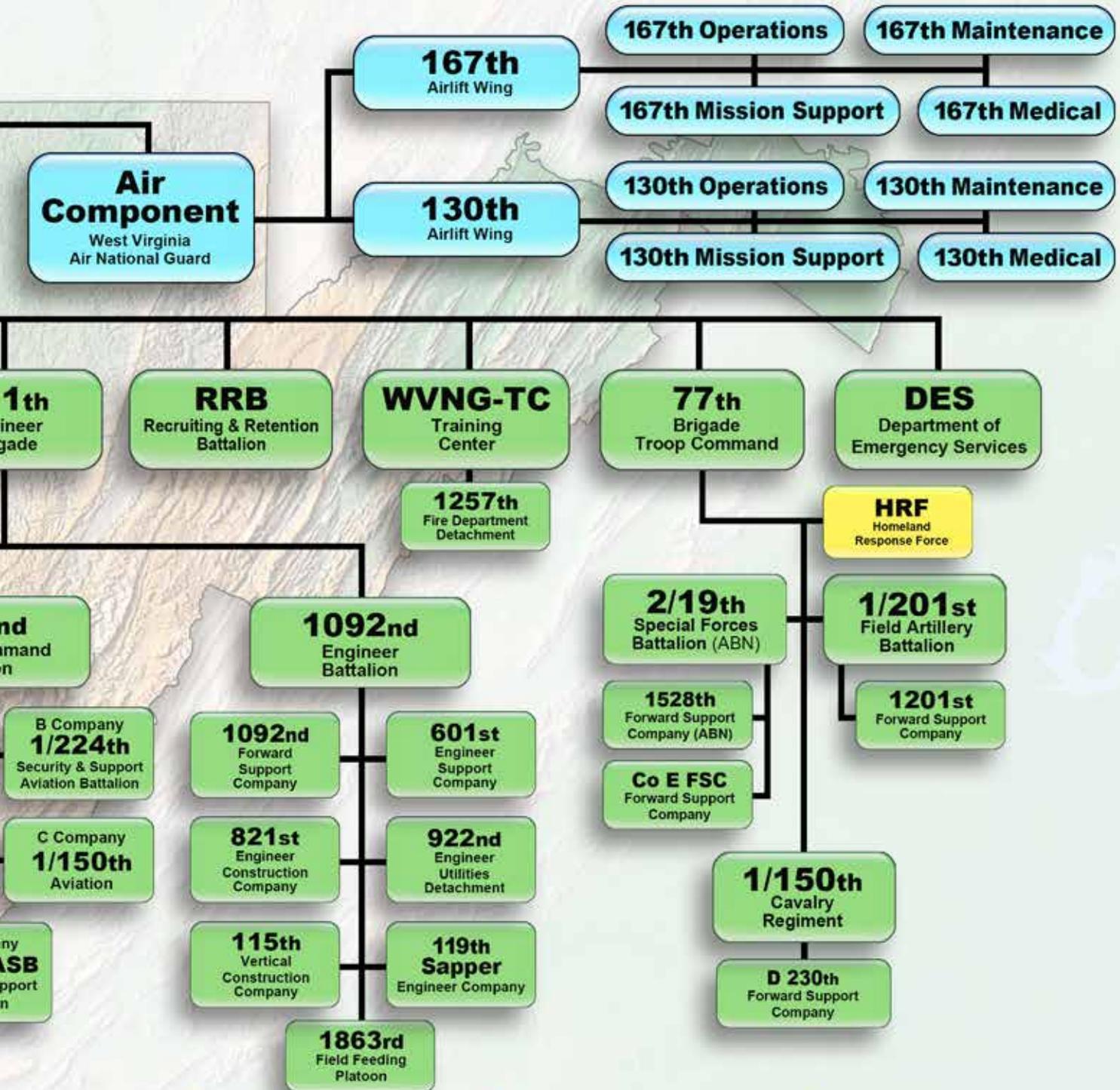
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248th A
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Current as of January, 2023

West Virginia National Guard Organization Chart

for
Army National Guard, Air National Guard and Joint units



Joint Forces



Air National Guard



Army National Guard



Additional Mission Set



FWAATS

Fixed Wing Army Aviation Training Site

Commander: Lt. Col. Joseph A. Jurkowitz

First Sergeant: 1st Sgt. John G. Sheets

Operating out of the North Central West Virginia (Benedum/Clarksburg) Airport, the Fixed Wing Army National Guard Aviation Training Site serves Army aviators from Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve components, providing unparalleled, top-tier flight instruction for more than 20 years. The unit's military training flights and student throughput are major contributing factors to the airport maintaining its active control tower. The FWAATS full-time staff includes 24 Active Soldiers, two Federal Technicians, 15 maintenance contractors and two State employee facility caretakers.

The FWAATS provides courses in multiple fixed wing air frames, including all variants of the Beechcraft C-12 Huron, and the Fairchild C-26 Metroliner. The C-12 has a diverse mission set consisting of VIP, cargo, troop movement, and disaster relief. The C-26 specializes in the transport mission, providing rapid movement of troops and personnel throughout the country. No matter the mission, pilots must be proficient with flying the aircraft in all flight modes and weather conditions. The FWAATS offers initial aircraft qualification, Instructor Pilot, Senior Instructor/Instrument Flight Examiner, and Instructor Pilot Standardization courses in both the C-12

and C-26. This instruction ensures pilots meet the standard in all flying conditions and return to their units confident, standardized, and ready to be a force multiplier. In FY23, the FWAATS trained 84 students and will begin training Navy pilots in FY24.

The FWAATS often supports Joint Operational Support Airlift Center missions through the request of the Operational Support Airlift Activity. This includes aircraft ferrying support due to fleet upgrades, modifications, upper-level maintenance, or aircraft relocation.

The FWAATS plays a pivotal role in ensuring the continued proficiency and professionalism of Army Aviators during the transition from the Global War on Terror to a focus on Large Scale Combat Operations. FWAATS's unwavering commitment resulted in the training and preparation of many aviators, equipping them with the necessary skills to effectively respond to the Nation's call both domestically and internationally. The site's dedication to mission readiness and the development of highly capable aviators exemplifies exceptional abilities and commitment to achieving Army objectives.



R&R

Recruiting & Retention Battalion

Commander: Maj. Caroline Muriama

Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Leone

Headquartered in Charleston, the Recruiting and Retention Battalion (RRB) is the primary advisor to the Adjutant General and senior leadership of the West Virginia Army National Guard on the three tenets of strength management: recruiting, retention and attrition management. The RRB develops, implements and monitors the State Strength Maintenance Program based on guidance from the National Guard Bureau and state leadership.

The WVARNG ended FY23 with an end strength of 3,940 Soldiers, or 98% of authorized positions. Personnel strength and unit readiness enables the WVARNG to perform its federal, state and community missions by providing relevant and capable assets for the broad spectrum of operations in support of homeland security, overseas national security objectives and domestic operations in support of state disasters.

Attrition management focuses on reducing unexpected losses in strength. These goals are achieved through recruiter support with unit leadership and Recruit Sustainment Programs (RSP). Three RSP locations prepare new Soldiers with skills necessary to complete Basic Military Training and Advanced Individual Training. Training includes the wearing of the uniform, Drill and Ceremony, and basic Soldier skills.

In addition to enlisting new members, the retention of current members of the WVARNG is imperative for continuity among leaders and maintaining subject matter experts in the organization. RRB conducted the Final Formation Program (FFP) throughout FY23 and retained 473 Soldiers, or 101% of the FY 23 retention mission of 471 reenlistments.

Recruiters' consistent dedication to the recruiting mission was observed during the year-end Recruiter and Rookie of the Year Boards. Board winners include Recruiter of the Year, Staff Sgt. Cody Gray, and Rookie of the Year, Staff Sgt. Andrea Gump. Both represented the WVARNG at the regional competition in the first quarter of FY24.

In FY23, WVARNG RRB received national recognition for having three of the top ten recruiters in the small state category.

The RRB retained talent within the WVARNG and welcomed nine new Recruiting NCOs in 2023. All nine Recruiters possessed varying experiences, cultures, and backgrounds that brought revitalized energy and diversified ideas to the battalion. RRB will continue to grow and sustain the force of the WVARNG in 2024 by educating current Soldiers and citizens on the benefits of belonging to the WVARNG family.

- 130th AW
- 167th AW

AIR WEST VIRGINIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD







130th Airlift Wing

Commander: Col. Bryan W. Preece

Command Chief: Chief Master Sgt. Harold K. Williams

The men and women of the 130th Airlift Wing, located at McLaughlin Air National Guard Base in Charleston, strive to achieve the unit's vision of "Citizen Airmen providing unsurpassed worldwide airlift, striving for excellence and continuous improvement, serving the state and nation." With nearly 1,100 Airmen assigned, the Wing actively executes its mission to organize, train, equip, develop, and deploy forces capable of conducting effective and sustained operations.

The conversion of the unit's fleet to eight new C-130J-30 Super Hercules started in June 2021 and is expected to be completed in early 2024. Each of these aircraft is valued at approximately \$90 million. Although the J model is larger than its predecessor, it requires two fewer aircrew members. Despite this, the unit successfully retained more than 80% of its flying members. Additionally, the 130th Airlift Wing has executed 7,660 workdays, amounting to \$2,108,0917 in pay and allowance, \$579,233 in travel funds, and \$244,784 in supplies and equipment to achieve initial operating capability. This conversion will enable the unit to contribute to the local economy, serve the state of West Virginia, and align with the National Defense Strategy. This achievement undoubtedly empowers the unit to further strengthen its commitment to providing airlift and aeromedical evacuation missions within the United States and abroad.

In January, the 130th AW achieved a significant milestone by launching its first ever all-female aircrew sortie aboard the wing's new C-130J-30. In that same month, the Wing retired its RC-26B detachment after 20 years of service, flying intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions in support of national and state directives.

The 130th deployed seven members to support Air Expeditionary Forces (AEF) and Contingency missions based in Germany, UAE, Djibouti, and Qatar. For non-AEF missions, the Wing also sent 912 members to Antarctica, Ramstein AB (Germany), Vogelweh (Germany), Sigonella (Italy), Lima (Peru), Texas and Mississippi. Additionally, 54 Airmen were deployed for the State of the Union and domestic operations training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC).



The Wing participated in major exercises including Operation Deep Freeze, Silver Arrow, FLARE, and FLARE V. Aircrews flew 1,251 sorties, compiled 2,162 hours, hauled 517 tons of cargo, transported 2,238 passengers, airdropped 5,928 personnel and 72 tons of cargo during Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.

Maintenance personnel kept the fleet of Super Hercules aircraft at an overall 74.4 percent Mission Capability Rate for FY23, which exceeded the Air Force Standard. This ensured that aircrews had safe and reliable aircraft for 2,690.9 safe flying hours since the conversion.

Overall, the Wing provided support to National Capitol operations and executed various missions with high levels of efficiency and safety.

In order to build and maintain relationships with the community, the 130th AW participated in 33 community engagement events across the state including 10 base tours for local schools and youth organizations and continued partnerships with local high schools, offering mentorship and guidance to students in engineering and graphic design.

In June, the Airmen Readiness Center was opened, which centralized the wing's assistance agencies to one convenient location. Additionally, the 130th AW continued to support its members and community partners through a variety of

events, such as Yellow Ribbon, Family Programs, and Strong Bonds Events. The Wing worked with organizations such as the Red Cross and Veterans Affairs to provide consultation and information through virtual platforms; Youth Resiliency Workshops, and Retirement Round-Ups for members and their families in various stages of their Air Force careers. The Wing held its third annual Retiree Recall, where it engaged and hosted 74 members of the "One Guard" family, updating and educating them on the wing's missions and current events.

The 130th AW prioritized engagement with local youth to spark interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) career fields, prompting improved synergy with the West Virginia Civil Air Patrol. Additionally, McLaughlin Air National Guard Base is the home of the STARBASE Academy of Kanawha and Putnam County, providing STEM opportunities for fifth graders.

The Air Force values of Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do are embodied in the Wing Commander's charge to stay "ready," display "respect for others," and being "responsive to change." The values and guiding principles have been on constant display through a dynamic 2023. Whether on foreign soil, the Continental U.S., or here at home in West Virginia, the men and women of the 130th Airlift Wing are always "Ready to Go!"



167th Airlift Wing

Commander: Col. Martin E. Timko

Command Chief: Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Snyder

The 167th Airlift Wing, based in Martinsburg, operates eight C-17A Globemaster III aircraft. A team of approximately 1,000 men and women carry out the mission of the Wing – to provide citizen Airmen for rapid global mobility to support and defend the nation and the state of West Virginia. Under the direction of the Wing commander and command staff, the unit is organized into four Groups: Operations, Maintenance, Mission Support and Medical.

This year aircrews flew more than 850 sorties and aircraft maintainers logged more than 50,000 work hours supporting a wide range of regularly scheduled training flights, channel missions and operational necessity airlift missions. Approximately 48 Airmen worked with the Division of Corrections to alleviate staffing shortages. Fifty Airmen supported the National Scout Jamboree. Seven Airmen departed for overseas deployments. More than 400 Airmen supported local, national, and international exercises to include, Peruvian-hosted Cooperacion IX and German-led Air Defender 2023, Neptune Hawk, Red Flag and Unicorn Thunder. Airmen supported West Virginia's Greatest Airshow and welcomed more than 600 community members for base tours. Additionally, orientation flights were provided for nearly 250 cadets in DoD sanctioned programs and 89 employers through the ESGR Bosslift program.

The 167th Operations Group aircrews provided critical airlift across the globe, totalling more than 850 sorties and 2,600 flying hours, moving nearly 3,400 passengers and over 2,600 tons of cargo. In addition to rapid global mobility operations, the 167th Operations Group participated in seven exercises, including Cooperacion IX and Air Defender 2023 where West Virginia's C-17 aircraft played a pivotal role flying over 220 hours and moving 250 tons of cargo, more than any other Air National Guard wing. The 167th Operations Group remains on the cutting edge of Agile Combat Employment developments such as Multi-Capable Airmen, specialized fueling operations, forward arming and refueling points, and unlit landing operations. The group continues to evolve its readiness for near-peer challenges by focusing on realistic training and exercises with a focus on integration of joint, allied, and partner forces.



The 167th Maintenance Group continued to provide safe, reliable, and sustainable aircraft in support of the Wing's global airlift mission while executing domestic operations. Maintainers participated in Air Defender 2023, operating as the main C-17 aircraft maintenance support package. The maintenance group continued to support the European Command aircraft de-icing efforts and served as a test base for Time Compliance Technical Order proofing, as well as the AeroCore Engine Wash proof of concept. 167th maintainers staffed National Guard Bureau Production Assessment Team visits and numerous Inspector General inspections for other ANG units. In addition, the munitions team created a robust combat munitions training program that is now the standard across the C-17 community.

The 167th Mission Support Group is comprised of the 167th Logistics Readiness Squadron, the 167th Security Forces Squadron, the 167th Civil Engineering Squadron, the 167th Force Support Squadron and the 167th Communications Flight. Airmen within this group carry out a dynamic range of functions for the Wing.

The 167th Logistics Readiness Squadron processed more than 4.3 million gallons of petroleum and cryogenic product, processed 8,200 inbound and outbound shipments, handled 688 missions, including 160.8 tons of cargo, and 589 fleet services. The squadron supported the deployments of nine personnel to multiple strategic commands and conducted 33 ground trainers with aircrews utilizing 310.8 tons of rolling stock and pallets.

The 167th Security Forces Squadron's combat arms team trained 438 Wing members in firearms maintenance and operations. Defenders conducted joint training to strengthen the West Virginia National Guard's ability to respond to various security challenges and domestic crises. The Phoenix Raven team participated in 10 missions and supported a 30-day stage in Africa and a 180-day stage in Qatar.



The 167th Civil Engineering Squadron managed over \$19 million in contracts to include improvements and repairs to the C-17 aircraft maintenance shops, demolition and rebuild of the fuel cell facility, a base-wide fire protection upgrade, and airfield marking and runway rubber removal. The CES operations flight executed 2,900 work orders totalling over \$270,000 in preventative maintenance funds for 33 facilities. Additionally, the 167th Fire Department responded to more than 150 mutual aid calls in the local community.

The 167th Contracting Office completed 52 contracts for critical acquisitions of essential supplies, services and construction valued at \$17 million, to include \$11 million in building renovations and the integration of a cutting edge Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility that will add significant capability to the Wing and its partners.

The 167th Communications Flight personnel completed nearly 2,000 work requests including the addition of protected flight communications capabilities, allowing aircraft to communicate with other warfighters securely. Additionally, the flight expanded remote access solutions and began infrastructure upgrades on antiquated systems and hardware.

The 167th Medical Group ensured Airmen were medically ready to support national and worldwide missions. The medical group's En Route Patient Staging and Critical Care Air Transportability Teams showcased these unique capabilities during Cooperacion XI. The group continued to leverage external partnerships through their training affiliation agreement with the WVU School of Medicine and the Counter CBRN All-Hazard Management Response training team garnering valuable training from each.

DOMOPS DOMESTIC OPERATIONS

- AITEC
- CIP
- CBRN
- 35th CST
- 35th CERFP
- WVAHRT
- COUNTER DRUG





AITEC

Army Interagency Training and Education Center

Commander: Col. Gina M. Nichols

Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Phillips II

The Army Interagency Training and Education Center trains, educates, develops, and builds homeland defense and civil support activities; establishes standards, drives improvement, and leads change to ensure the Department of Defense and Joint Intergovernmental, Interagency and multinational spectrum partners/organizations are prepared to defend, respond, and assist supported agencies in successful operations now and into the future.

Federal funding to AITEC from the National Guard Bureau, the DoD and other agencies total \$23 million annually, employing 251 personnel. AITEC remains the second largest full-time employer of National Guard Soldiers in West Virginia.

Since 2018, AITEC has been working to enhance the Department of Defense Cyber Strategy, representing the DoD vision for addressing cyber/malicious threats and implementing the priorities of the National Security Strategy and National Defense Strategy for cyberspace. Establishing the Cyber Protection Team Mission Element (CPT-ME) within AITEC greatly enhances the organizations' ability to support external governmental agencies and other military partners. AITEC's development and growth of cybersecurity maturation is based on operational expertise and matured relationships

with external governmental cyber departments. AITEC is the only unit in the National Guard Force Structure with the unique mission to perform CPT-ME duties.

AITEC has improved the WVNG's ability to maintain a fully trained and operational CPT-ME. AITEC Soldiers who specialize in cybersecurity are used as directed in a drill status and have full-time opportunities to assist in the development of DoD, interagency, and intergovernmental cybersecurity programs. Establishing these drill status positions, the WVNG would receive more Return on Investment for associated training costs, even if the Soldier is employed by a civilian entity. Cybersecurity Soldiers could be utilized during drill weekends, Annual Training days, or short-term active-duty to support mission requirements. Cybersecurity positions also provide a conduit for upward mobility for service members with a cybersecurity training specialty while supporting the 2018 DoD Cyber Strategy and the 2022 DoD Zero Trust strategy and roadmap.

AITEC continues to grow its outreach by providing support for the New York National Guard State Partnership Program by sending subject matter experts to Brazil to enhance relationships with South American Partners.



AITEC CIP

Critical Infrastructure Protection Battalion

Commander: Lt. Col. Bruce Pauley

Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. Christian Morrison

The Army Interagency Training and Education Center's CIP Battalion, executes global assessments and training in Cyber Operations, Mission Assurance, Port Security & Resilience, Infrastructure Visualization, and Bombing Prevention for State organizations, Department of Defense, Interagency, and Intergovernmental partners.

Port Security and Resiliency Assessment (PSRA) Team

The PSRA team conducted 32 assessments in Guam, Hawaii, Mobile, Baltimore, Cleveland, and Davenport to identify a port's ability to detect threats, prevent attacks, protect critical infrastructure, and respond to incidents. The team identified opportunities to mitigate risk and enhance maritime security. The results helped assess each port's security and determine how to invest limited security resources. The findings provide recommendations for federal, state, and local agencies and supports Port Security Grant Program justifications, Area Maritime Security Assessment updates, and Maritime Security Risk Analysis Model data validation.

The Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA)

Mission Assurance Team

The DISA MA team conducted 12 assessments in the U.S. and overseas. The Joint Force Headquarters Department of Defense Information Networks and DISA team also taught two Critical Information Infrastructure Protection courses in Tallinn, Estonia and supported exercises in the Indo-Pacific Theater. The team also participated in Locked Shields Cyber Exercise 2023, a NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre of Excellence effort.

The DISA Information & Communication Technology – Supply Chain Risk Management program completed supply chain due diligence on an estimated 235 companies, 750 ICT products, and tested more than 1,900 USB & network devices for rogue/counterfeit components.

Department of Homeland Security CISA

The Infrastructure Visualization Platform team conducted 194 captures, creating 171 products to provide situational awareness and maintain safety for the Port of Guam, Nevada Capitol, HBCUs, Charles Schwab Stadium, Cross Insurance Arena, University of Alabama, and the Las Vegas Convention Center.

The Infrastructure Survey Tool (IST) team conducted 58 collects during assessments including T-Mobile Arena, Expo New Mexico, Nebraska Capitol, Allegiant Stadium, and multiple university campuses and hospitals.

The Office for Bombing Prevention (OBP) team conducted 615 counter-improvised explosive device training courses, with 9,736 participants from 37 states and territories. The Explosive Blast Modeling team conducted 11 explosive blast assessments and supported events including the Boston Marathon, Super Bowl LV, Macy's Parades, Mardi Gras, and United Nations General Assembly.

HQDA Mission Assurance Assessment

During FY23, the team expanded, forming two teams with 26 members. These teams executed five assessments, including four for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. The team assessed more than 30 critical assets within the DoD. The team also collaborated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Black Start Exercises aimed at measuring resiliency and countering potential threats such as power blackouts, outages, and sabotage.

The team also hosted the Annual Mission Assurance Conference at Camp Dawson, in Kingwood, bringing together representatives from more than 23 DoD Agencies and Combatant Commands.



AITEC CBRNE CBRNE Battalion

Commander: Lt. Col. Bryan J. Pauley

Command Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. Barry A. Moore

The CBRNE Battalion facilitates interoperable capabilities and readiness for the National Guard CBRN Response Enterprise (NG-CRE) within the National Response Framework, with training based at Camp Dawson and St. Albans. The organization's branches include Exercise Management, Exercise Design & Simulation, Individual Training, Collective Training, Exercise Director and Quality Assurance to provide specific training courses and external evaluations. The battalion consists of more than 130 servicemembers and civilians and sustains the readiness for the NG-CRE units across all 54 U.S. states & territories.

Throughout 2023, AITEC CBRNE Bn. ensured the readiness of NG-CRE response units by conducting 81 training missions. The battalion conducted 18 Collective Training Events, including six CBRN Enhanced Response Force Package evaluations, five Homeland Response Force evaluations, and seven Sustainment Year Collective Training Events. The battalion also conducted 57 Individual Training Courses, including 14 Weapon of Mass Destruction Command Post courses, 12 Mass Casualty Decontamination

courses, nine Search and Extraction Basic courses, and 16 CBRN Responder courses. CBRNE Bn. trained 7,656 Soldiers and Airmen to effectively perform domestic response operations.

In addition to supporting domestic operations, the CBRNE Bn. provided information exchanges to Qatar for the 2022 World Cup. The battalion also provided subject matter experts to Qatar who assisted with World Cup. They provided advice, guidance and assisted with planning for mitigating and responding to potential mass casualty events.

The CBRNE Bn. budget is approximately \$13 million per fiscal year and employs 133 personnel, making it one of the largest employment opportunities for service members and their families. The CBRNE Battalion recruits individuals from other states to work via state-to-state agreements, many of whom end up transferring to the West Virginia National Guard. These agreements create opportunities for individuals from various backgrounds to bring their unique skillsets to West Virginia, not only in a military capacity, but for potential post-military careers as well.



35th CST Civil Support Team

Commander: Lt. Col. Jerry Floyd

First Sergeant: 1st Sgt. Teddy Scouras

Located in St. Albans, the 35th CST is comprised of 22 full-time Army and Air National Guard members assigned to 14 specialties, providing unique military capabilities, expertise, and technologies to assist civil authorities. The 35th CST is on-call, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to the Governor of West Virginia for rapid response. The team supports civil authorities at domestic chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) incident sites by offering hazard identification and consequence assessments. The unit advises authorities on response measures and facilitates the arrival of follow-on military forces during emergencies, WMD terrorism incidents, intentional/unintentional use of CBRN materials, and natural or manmade disasters that could result in catastrophic loss of life or property. The 35th CST complements and enhances, but does not duplicate, federal, state, and local CBRN response capabilities.

Throughout the year, the employment of the 35th CST, in conjunction with numerous federal, state, and local interagency partners, was focused on reducing WMD threat vulnerabilities within the state and throughout the region. During the past twelve months, the team was proactive in executing 32 joint and individual missions, while strengthening interagency relationships. In February, the 35th assisted the 52nd CST in Ohio, during the East Palestine train derailment. Team efforts greatly strengthened Ohio's mitigation efforts

and first responder capabilities. The 35th also provided hazard assessment teams and subject matter expert support for numerous large scale public events considered to have high threat target value, critical infrastructure status, or significant population attendance levels. Included in the numerous events, the team jointly supported interagency response capability at the International World Association of Marching of Bands in Buckhannon, the National Scout Jamboree, Mercedes-Benz UCI Mountain Bike World Cup at Snowshoe, Bridge Day in Fayette County, the West Virginia State Fair, all WVU home football games in Morgantown, and both the West Virginia Gubernatorial State of the State and State of the Union Address in Washington.

The team also received major upgrades to its communications platforms this year. State-of-the-art enhancements to the Unified Command Suite, Tactical Operation Center and the Advanced Operation Node vehicle greatly improve communication abilities with local, state, and federal partners.

The 35th CST remains trained, equipped, and always committed to excellence to be a leader among the 57 Civil Support Teams across the states and territories. The unit continues to support the Homeland Defense mission, living by the motto...READY, ALWAYS READY!



35th CERFP

CBRN Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP)

Commander: Maj. Timothy J. Miller

Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. Michael R. Reffitt

The 35th CERFP consists of 208 Army and Air Force personnel prepared to assist local, state, and federal agencies in consequence management. The unit is stationed in Eleanor and Charleston and has six primary functional areas to provide incident commanders with Command and Control, Mass Casualty Decontamination, Search and Extraction, Communications, Medical and the Fatality Search and Recovery during a CBRN response. The team can be deployed in its entirety or modularized depending on the type and magnitude of the incident or CBRN threat.

In January, members of the 35th CERFP attended the Wilderness Search and Rescue Specialist Course at FOLA in Clay County in preparation for the deployment of the WVNG All Hazards Response Team.

In February, the 35th CERFP conducted an on-site standby mission for the State of the Union Address in Washington, providing decontamination, search and extraction, and medical support to a Joint Task Force that included the United States Capitol Police Hazardous Materials Response Force, United States Secret Service, FBI, D.C. Fire and EMS, USMC Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF), the 33rd Civil Support Team, and others.

In April, members of the CERFP supported the Puerto Rico CERFP with fielding and initial set-up of the National Guard CBRN Response Enterprise Information Management System.

In June, members of the 35th CERFP full time staff participated in a Tabletop Exercise with Marshall University, Cabell Huntington Hospital, Cabell County EMS, and other local first responders in preparation for the collective training event in October.

In August, the 35th CERFP also conducted a Deployment Readiness Exercise for the Swift Water Rescue Team. The Team was alerted, assembled, and mobilized to stage in preparation to be activated. The CERFP also hosted a Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) course, Mass Casualty Decontamination Course, and Command Post course to ensure all members stay trained and ready in all its disciplines.

In October, the 35th CERFP participated in a Collective Training Exercise at Joan C. Edwards Stadium to exercise the full capability of the CERFP as well as integrate plans and procedures with local first responders. Some of the first responders that participated in the exercise included Cabell Huntington Hospital, Marshall University, Huntington Fire Department, Huntington Police Department, and the Cabell County EMS.

In November, the 35th CERFP conducted a Collective Training Exercise at the U.S. Capitol with Capitol Police, the U.S. Marine Corps Chemical Biological Incident Response Force, and other local first responders to exercise the State of the Union Address response plan.



WVAHRT

West Virginia All Hazards Response Team

Commander: Maj. Dwight Siemiaczko
Team NCOIC: Sgt. 1st Class Bradley Convery

The WVAHRT, based out of Rock Branch and Eleanor, is trained and specialized in emergency situations. The team formed and completed initial training in December as the need was determined for a FEMA Type 2 Swift Water Team following multiple devastating floods that occurred across the state. The WVAHRT is composed of members from the West Virginia National Guard, Clendenin Fire Department and Glasgow Fire Department. The WVAHRT provides severe flood response rescue capabilities and wildland fire response throughout the state and nation.

Over the past year, the WVAHRT completed requirements to become a FEMA Type 2 team including Technical Rope Rescue, Swift Water Rescue, Wilderness Search and Rescue, Large Animal Rescue, and EMT B. The team also added Wild Land Fire and Chainsaw Safety to provide an additional resource to the state.

The WVAHRT assisted Spec Rescue International in three Open Enrollment Swift Water Technician courses on the New

River. The Swift Water Open Enrollment Courses consisted of five days of training covering all facets of flood response/rescue in flat water and swift water environments.

The WVAHRT provided water rescue support to 2-19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) as they conducted freefall parachute training near water obstacles.

WVAHRT assisted Marshall University's Engineering Department with the Concrete Canoe Competition held at Beech Fork, by setting up the course and providing two boat teams to patrol the lake, ensuring the safety of all participants.

In April the WVAHRT supported the U.S. Coast Guard on the Kanawha River for their High Value Target Training. In this event, the Coast Guard used the WVAHRT team to improve their boat operation and maneuvering tactics. Additionally, the WVAHRT team had the opportunity to train on a variety of Coast Guard boats.



Counter Drug & Drug Demand Reduction

The West Virginia National Guard Counter Drug Program is essential to the state's strategic goals to combat illegal drug trafficking. WVNG provides operational support for West Virginia's multi-agency counter drug task force consisting of more than two dozen agencies including the FBI, DEA, West Virginia Emergency Management Division, the State Police, the United States Marshals Service and more.

WVNG criminal analysts contributed investigative case and analysis support to six agencies/task forces in multiple locations. Their efforts resulted in the seizure and/or eradication of methamphetamine, crack cocaine, heroin, fentanyl, marijuana and opium valued at nearly \$6.6 Million dollars. The program also seized over a \$1 million in cash statewide.

The program operates a fleet of uniquely equipped aircraft including LH-72 Lakota helicopters providing critical intelligence to the Task Force. In 2023, WVNG Counter Drug Aviation flew 120 missions, totaling 621.6 flight hours.

Drug Take Back Initiative

In October and November, WVNG Counter Drug assisted the Drug Enforcement Administration with the 24th National Drug Take Back initiative, an effort to prevent medication misuse and opioid addiction.

With drop off locations throughout the state, this coordinated effort between local, state, and federal agencies collected 4,238 pounds of unused medications throughout the state, which were transported to Virginia for incineration.

2023 Seizures

Heroin (g)	3,727.00	\$372,700.00
Cocaine (g)	8,757.17	\$875,716.80
Crack (g)	482.69	\$48,269.00
Meth (g)	20,040.95	\$2,004,095.00
Fentanyl (g)	11,321.53	\$1,132,153.00
Fentanyl (pills)	50	\$1,250.00
Marijuana (g)	55,552.17	\$2,222,086.80
MDMA (g)	33.97	\$3,397.00
Oxycodone (pills)	356.80	\$8,920.00
Oxycodone (g)	62.30	\$1,557.50
Synthetic Opiate	111.80	\$1,118.00
Hydrocodone (g)	52.90	\$1,322.50
Benzodiazepine (g)	8.50	\$127.50
Amphetamine (g)	692.21	\$6,922.10
Cash	1,008,605.50	\$1,008,605.50

Total Value of seizures

\$7,688,240.70

Drug Demand Reduction

Through the state's Common Ground program, WVNG's innovative Drug Demand Reduction Program builds strategic partnerships with local and state agencies to develop anti-drug coalitions focused on educating, mentoring and inspiring youths in schools and communities.

DDR focuses on developing attributes in our youths and instilling leadership, civic duty, self-esteem, positive choices and drug awareness through mentorship and engagement with Soldiers and Airmen who volunteer at local schools.

The Drug Demand Reduction team has continued to read and mentor throughout the Berkeley, Jefferson, Morgan, Kanawha, Putnam and Wayne counties. The team continued to provide instruction on folding the American flag, life skills and manners. Throughout the year, WVNG DDR participants reached more than 5,900 students in 30 schools throughout West Virginia.



Operation Lonestar

Southwest Border Mission

Task Force Commander: Capt. Zachary Pingley

Task Force NCOIC: Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Hopkins

In August, 52 members from various units of the West Virginia National Guard volunteered for Operation Lonestar, launched in March, 2021, to respond to the rise in illegal immigration in Texas. The operation directed the Texas Department of Public Safety to use available resources to enforce all applicable federal and state laws to prevent criminal activity along the border, including criminal trespassing, smuggling, and human trafficking, and to assist Texas counties in their efforts to address those criminal activities.

The Soldiers' primary mission was to assist in securing the border by being positioned in strategic points along the border. The WVNG members worked alongside the Texas National Guard and Texas law enforcement partners to detect,

deter, and interdict transnational criminal activity between points of entry. In coordination with the Texas National Guard, the WVNG personnel fell under operational control of the Texas National Guard Joint Task Force for Operation Lonestar and worked with National Guard units from North Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota.

Governor Justice responded to an official Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) request by Texas Governor Greg Abbott in May, 2023. West Virginia Soldiers participated in the 30-day mission in Eagle Pass, Texas. Throughout the operation, Soldiers encountered more than 10,178 illegal migrants crossing the Rio Grande River into the United States.



Division of Corrections Personnel Augmentation Mission

The WVNG has been essential in supporting the West Virginia Division of Corrections (DOC) throughout 2023. More than 400 service members were deployed to 17 facilities across the state, highlighting the vital role that the WVNG plays in ensuring public safety and the well-being of West Virginians.

The DOC was facing a crisis due to chronic understaffing, which created an unsafe environment for both correctional officers and inmates. Governor Jim Justice called upon the National Guard to provide immediate support and stabilize the situation. The WVNG deployment has focused on non-custodial roles, such as administrative tasks, control center management, camera operations, and other support functions. This allowed correctional officers to concentrate on their core duties of maintaining order and ensuring inmate safety.

The presence of the National Guard has significantly improved the overall environment within the facilities, according to DOC officials. Former Commissioner Betsy Jividen stated that

the National Guard's dedication and professionalism have helped to improve security, reduce tensions, and create a more stable environment for everyone.

The WVNG's support has provided much-needed relief to the DOC and its staff. The collaboration between these two entities demonstrates the dedication of both organizations to serving the state of West Virginia and ensuring the safety and security of its citizens.

While the DOC is currently working on recruiting and retention initiatives to address staffing shortages, the future of the WVNG deployment remains to be determined. However, the WVNG's support to the DOC in 2023 has been a critical intervention, demonstrating the adaptability and resilience of both organizations in the face of challenging circumstances. As the DOC continues to address its shortages, the collaboration with the WVNG serves as a model for inter-agency cooperation in pursuing public safety and justice.

- RIDGE RUNNER
- SPP
- NSJ
- MCA
- STARBASE
- FLP
- JOBS & HOPE
- PG
- FPO
- MSCA
- CFMO
- SAFETY

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



Ridge Runner Irregular Warfare Exercise

Director: Lt. Col. Mike Susick
Deputy Director: Mr. Jason Smith

The Ridge Runner Irregular Warfare Exercise is operated by the West Virginia Army National Guard and provides an exercise venue for Special Operations Forces (SOF) to train and validate units prior to deployment. Originally established in the 1980s as a Personnel Recovery exercise, the program recently developed into multi-domain, Irregular Warfare operations to meet emerging great power competition training requirements.

Ridge Runner incorporates SOF elements including Army Special Forces, Civil Affairs, Psychological Operations, Marine Corps, conventional forces, allies, partner nation SOF, territorial defense forces, and other U.S. organizations and agencies to replicate theater Irregular Warfare operations while providing realistic pre-mission training. The exercise creates a dynamic and realistic training environment by incorporating federal, state, and local government agencies, departments and officials into the exercise providing an unmatched real world training environment. Additionally, the program focuses on innovation and experimentation by partnering with key defense industry partners, local universities, and the Irregular Warfare Center to test new Irregular Warfare concepts, technology, and ideas.



The Ridge Runner Program leverages State Partnership Program (SPP) relationships by providing exercises that enable SPP and NG SOF the ability to train concurrently on defined tasks. This environment is ideal for USSOF elements to build rapport with Partner Nation (PN) forces prior to deployment. Since its inception, the program has hosted Polish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Estonian, Hungarian, Slovakian, Georgian, Moldovan and British allies.

In June, the Ridge Runner program executed a two-week exercise including more than 400 USSOF and partners from 16 nations and was used as a validation exercise for a Special Forces Company from 19th SFG(A) prior to a deployment to Eastern Europe. The exercise focused on building long-term interoperability between U.S. and PN SOF, enabling mission

essential tasks and assessing readiness while enhancing strategic and operational warfare capabilities.

The Ridge Runner Program also conducts Ridge Healer, an Irregular Warfare medical resiliency exercise that simulates complex medical environments. The program executed its inaugural event in June with the 193rd Special Operations Medical Group, Pennsylvania Air National Guard. Ridge Healer tested the Special Operations Surgical Team on its ability to support irregular warfare medical tasks in an austere and contested environment.

Next year, the program will grow in scope to include two annual Ridge Runner Exercises as well as four annual Ridge Healer Exercises.



SPP

State Partnership Program

Lt. Col. Erik J. Sarson, Deputy J5 / State Partnership Program Director
Maj. Joseph Z. Reppert, State Partnership Program Coordinator (Peru)
Capt. Gerald W. Fitzwater, State Partnership Program Coordinator (Qatar)

The WVNG SPP supports security cooperation objectives of the United States by developing enduring relationships with Peru and Qatar, and by carrying out activities to build partner capability, improve interoperability, and enhance U.S. access and influence while increasing the readiness of U.S. and partner forces to meet emerging challenges together. These relationships extend beyond military-to-military ties, benefiting the WVNG, Peru, Qatar, the State of West Virginia and the U.S. Government.

QATAR:

The WVNG partnership with Qatar began in 2018 and has grown rapidly, with 434 engagement days since inception. Qatar was the first country in the Arabian Peninsula to enter an SPP relationship. This has increased U.S. understanding, access, influence and continuity in the region.

In 2023, the WVNG conducted 22 engagements with Qatar for a total of 73 engagement days in the U.S. and Qatar. The SPP focused on key leader engagements, intelligence restructuring and interoperability, physical security, human resources development, reserve component integration, land forces operations, countering weapons of mass destruction, facility management, Army engineering, and women, peace, defense support to civil authorities and security engagements.

This year was an outstanding one for the relationship considering the number of touch points between the WVNG

and the Qatar Armed Forces. The WVNG Adjutant General conducted his annual key leader engagement with Qatar and met with the Chief of Defense in Qatar and at the SPP 30th Anniversary in Washington. The WVNG and CENTCOM made large strides with the Qatar Weapons of Mass Destruction Defense Unit and will be conducting bilateral and multilateral joint exercises in the future. The Qatar Emiri Land Forces attended the Eastern Action exercise here in West Virginia with members from Army Central Command, further strengthening interoperability and relationships for years to follow. The WVNG conducted several engagements involving intelligence and physical security with the Qatar Armed Forces, which will continue to enhance the depth of the partnership.

The WVNG hired a new SPP Coordinator for Qatar to work at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Charleston. He has integrated into the Joint Staff and helped coordinate numerous bilateral events.



PERU:

The WVNG partnership with Peru began in 1996 and continues to thrive. This year, the WVNG executed 31 engagements with members of the Peruvian Armed Forces and accomplished strategic lines of efforts by strengthening partnerships, countering threats and building the team. Working side-by-side with Peru, the WVNG conducted engagements with a primary focus on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HA/DR), cyber and Enlisted Leader Professional Development (ELPD). Ultimately, these engagements directly increased U.S.-Peru interoperability and further deepened the bonds of friendship and camaraderie between the countries.

Starting the year strong, the WV Air National Guard (WVANG) participated in the multinational exercise, Cooperation IX, in May. The WVANG and Peru trained on aeromedical response in countering a simulated earthquake-tsunami scenario with more than 50 Airmen and one C-17. This was the first time since 2014 that WVANG was able to deploy an aircraft to Peru in support of the SPP. In conjunction with this mission, the WVANG also brought real-world humanitarian aid and an ambulance to Peru. This exercise not only increased unit readiness to rapidly deploy, but also created memories which will last a lifetime!

The 167th Airlift Wing also welcomed a Peruvian three-star officer delegation and other key leaders to Martinsburg, where they hosted the annual Air Staff Talks. This venue provided a forum to outline future engagements for the next five years, while also providing some West Virginia culture to

our brothers and sisters from Peru. Building off that momentum, the WV Army National Guard hosted its first four-star officer visit in June when they welcomed the Peruvian Army Commanding General and his team to our wild and wonderful backyard.

Stepping into the political arena, Peru sent their newly appointed Ambassador, three General Officer Defense Attachés, and other key political advisors to participate in the SPP 30th Anniversary hosted by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau (CNGB) in Washington in early July. Later that month, the Peruvian Ambassador invited the WV Adjutant General and five WVNG senior leaders to take part in some Peruvian hospitality as they attended the Peruvian Independence Day Celebration at the Ambassador's Residence in Washington. Reaching further, the WVNG demonstrated its influence by coordinating the Peruvian Minister of Defense visit with the CNGB, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other agencies during his visit to Washington. in August.

This year was extremely busy and beneficial for the WV-Peru relationship. The WVNG conducted many engagements related to HA/DR, cyber defense and security, ELPD, aeromedical evacuation, logistics, engineering, joint operations, special operations forces and much more. The SPP set out to prove how the WVNG could contribute to U.S. security cooperation initiatives, and they delivered! Now, the SPP moves into 2024 with a full plate and an optimistic attitude that it will continue to promote the U.S. as the most reliable and trusted partner for years to come.



National Scout Jamboree

Director: Lt. Col. Gary Gwynn

Deputy Director: Lt. Col. Doug Garrett

The 2023 National Scout Jamboree (NSJ) was held July 19-28 at the Summit Bechtel Reserve (SBR) in Fayette and Raleigh counties with both Title 32 and Title 10 support. The purpose of standing up a Joint Task Force (JTF) under a Dual Status Commander (DSC) was to facilitate a successful Jamboree by providing command and control of the JTF, which would contribute to the safety and security of all participants for the duration of the operation. The 580-member JTF-NSJ operated out of the Glen Jean Armory and Camp Victory at the SBR. The JTF-NSJ supported 15,889 Scouts and 4,052 day-visitors. TF Medical treated 1,034 scouts and 29 military personnel. TF Events reported more than 10,000 visitors to the Military Exhibits area on SBR. The direct economic impact to West Virginia from both the Scouts BSA and DoD was estimated to be over \$10 million.



The DoD supports the National Scout Jamboree and World Scout Jamboree under the authorities found in Title 10 USC., Section 2554. "The Secretary of Defense shall provide at least the same level of support under this section for a National or World Jamboree as was provided under this section for the preceding National or World Jamboree." The West Virginia National Guard has supported two previous National Scout Jamborees in 2013 and 2017, as well as the World Scout Jamboree in 2019. The WVNG/NSJ Planning Team continues to operate efficiently and effectively, supporting the future National Scout Jamboree mission as directed. The next NSJ dates have not be published.



MCA

Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy

State Director: Phillip Cantrell

MJCP Program Manager: Anthony Favro

Director MCA North: Dianna Trickett

Director MCA South: Paul Perdue

The Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy (MCA) helps redirect the lives of teens who have fallen behind in the traditional education system. With graduates from all 55 counties, the MCA offers a safe, secure, structured training environment for volunteer youth who strive to improve their lives, enhance their futures and who are better for having the ChalleNGe Experience.

West Virginia is home to two Youth ChalleNGe sites, MCA North at Camp Dawson in Kingwood, and MCA South in Montgomery. The mission of the Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy is to train and mentor selected at-risk youth to become contributing members of society using the 8 Core Components in a quasi-military environment during a 22-week residential and one-year follow-up program. The ChalleNGe Academy has graduated 5,502 West Virginia teens since 1993.

Cadets receive real-world training in addition to academics. All Cadets receive certifications in CPR, First Aid, Hunter's Safety, OSHA 10 and Food Handling. Each program site also offers Career Exploration Courses to interested Cadets. Career Exploration Classes vary by class with opportunities available in agriculture/eco, college readiness, cyber security, electrical, meat cutting, military preparation, oil and gas, photography, ServSafe Food Protection, welding and SCUBA.



Service to Community is an important part of cadet life at the Mountaineer Challenge Academy. Cadets develop an understanding of the benefits of volunteering in community projects and agencies. Cadets volunteer for many hours during each 22-week program, performing services for non-profit organizations throughout the state. MCA North cadets completed 90 projects with 3,864.61 hours. MCA South cadets completed 26 projects with 5,295 hours. At the recognized value of \$31.80 per volunteer hour, MCA Graduates have donated \$274,013.90 back to the state!

In addition to the two Youth Challenge locations West Virginia also has one of the few Job Challenge locations in the nation.

Mountaineer Job Challenge Program (MJCP) is a program for MCA Program Graduates. The mission of the MJCP is to provide graduates with career and technical education leading to industry recognized certification and job placement, while maintaining the program's 8 Core Components in a quasi-military residential environment. Mountaineer Job Challenge has graduated 153 Students since the program started in 2019.

The program continues to increase public awareness, attract potential Cadets and train future mentors. Applications are accepted year-round and classes begin in January, April, July and October.



West Virginia **STARBASE**

The mission of West Virginia STARBASE is to raise interest and improve knowledge and skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) by exposing students to an exciting, dynamic, technological environment as well as positive military and civilian role models found in the WVNG.

STARBASE is a congressionally authorized, DoD civil military program, 100% federally funded and administered by the West Virginia Military Authority and hosted by the West Virginia National Guard.

West Virginia STARBASE Charleston

Program Director: Kayla Bossie

During the 2022-2023 school year, WV STARBASE Charleston hosted 78 academies from Kanawha and Putnam County School Districts. The program served 1,887 5th grade students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. The implementation of new instruction for the school year provided cutting edge curriculum that best meets the needs of our students.

WV STARBASE Charleston operated a STARBASE Advanced program, an after-school mentoring program for middle school students. The STARBASE Advanced program was held at Hayes Middle School with a focus on robotics and drones.

STEM outreach is an additional commitment of the STARBASE program. WV STARBASE Charleston is fully partnered and committed to both the West Virginia Army and Air Guard Family Readiness and Child and Youth Programs. During the year, WV STARBASE Charleston provided STEM outreach to military dependents and the community through Trunk or Treat, Evening with Santa, Military Purple Ball and the 130th Family Day. From October through January, the program

hosted parent counties Elementary, Middle and High School Robotics and Drone Competition with a STARBASE Advanced team going on to compete at the World Championship Competition. The WV Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) organization visited WV STARBASE Charleston and enjoyed the “hands-on, minds-on” STEM curriculum while visiting. Throughout the school year, the program provided STEM instruction to more than 120 Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy-South students.

WV STARBASE Charleston offered multiple STEM summer camps for military dependents. The summer camps were offered at Charleston and at two remote armories, reaching a whole new demographic of military dependents that would otherwise never have such an opportunity. This extends the district by two additional counties. WV STARBASE Charleston provided STEM instruction during the WV National Guard’s annual Kids Kamp in Kingwood. The program’s presence is strong and growing throughout the Central and Southern areas of West Virginia.



West Virginia STARBASE Martinsburg

Program Director: Sherra Triggs

STARBASE Martinsburg strives to foster student excitement and engagement in STEM subjects and has been committed to this endeavor since 2003. Located at the 167th Airlift Wing, STARBASE Martinsburg ignites a passion for STEM by providing “hands-on, minds-on” activities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. STARBASE Martinsburg currently serves all fifth-grade students from Berkeley and Jefferson counties in the Eastern Panhandle, providing classes with 25 hours of DoD approved curriculum spanning five consecutive days. Participating students interact with military personnel to explore careers and observe real-world STEM applications. The program aims to encourage students to explore STEM opportunities.

Operating three classrooms, STARBASE Martinsburg hosted 95 academies for 2,300 students during the 2022-2023 school year. The staff of STARBASE Martinsburg consists of a Program Director, Office Manager/Program Instructor, four Program Instructors, and two permanent, part-time Instructor Assistants.

This year, STARBASE Martinsburg hosted its first community STEM Night to raise STEM awareness to children of all ages. In partnership with the National Guard DDR program, the community event hosted more than 500 attendees and 30 vendors. STARBASE Martinsburg also participated in providing STEM programs for local elementary schools. Students navigate STEM themed stations exploring topics including density, robotics, physics, and chemistry. STARBASE Martinsburg even volunteers as science fair judges at various elementary and intermediate schools.

In addition to providing STEM related programs to elementary and intermediate aged students, STARBASE Martinsburg operated two sessions (thirty weeks total) of STARBASE Advanced 2.0, an after-school mentoring program providing the missing link for at-risk youths making the transition from elementary to middle and on to high school. These after-school programs, held at Mountain Ridge Middle and Hedgesville Middle, allowed more than 50 middle school students the opportunity to work alongside 18 mentors from the 167th Airlift Wing.

STARBASE Martinsburg also offered summer programs for students aimed at advancing STEM education at various grade levels. Three, on-site, summer STEM Camps geared towards students ages 9-14 were held, as well as three “Little Einstein’s” camps designed to promote STEM education among younger students (ages 5-8). STARBASE Martinsburg also provided STEM education to Jefferson and Berkeley County Public School Systems summer school programs.

In July, STARBASE Martinsburg collaborated with Kansas, California, and Virginia STARBASE sites to participate in STARBASE Beyond 3.0, an initiative designed to reach high school students by offering advanced STEM topics and activities to keep the passion for science inquiry strong with older students. To make the program successful, STARBASE Martinsburg partnered with the JROTC Cyber Patriot Camp and other STARBASE instructors to host a robotics camp reaching students across the nation.



FLP

Future Leaders Program

State Director: Deborah M. Patterson

The Future Leaders Program began in 2019 and is now entering its fifth year of continued success in educating and guiding West Virginia students. FLP's mission is to provide West Virginia schools and students with a quality educational program with emphasis on leadership, citizenship, military science, and most importantly, life skills.

During the 2022/2023 school year, students were involved in multiple different community activities, which brought a sense of pride to themselves and the program. FLP is continuing to grow and support the schools and communities in ways that build a strong foundation with multiple organizations outside the school setting.

FLP is a leadership program that enhances leadership qualities, teaches life skills, promotes citizenship, and utilizes a military leadership technique that assists in bringing structure to the learning environment while using hands on, practical learning skills. Furthermore, the core objectives of the Future Leaders Program are: Develop Leadership Skills, Foster Academic Excellence, Build Good Citizenship, teach basic Military Knowledge and History, and Promote Health, Fitness, and Physical and Mental Wellness. Utilizing such topics as these, students become better prepared for life after high school.



All instructors are former or retired military personnel with professional experience that contribute to the classroom environment. Additionally, all instructors become fully certified to teach through the West Virginia Department of Education. FLP supports the three E's of Education, Employment, and Enlistment and encourages all students to seek one of these options after graduation.

Some of the performance-based metrics for the 2022/2023 school year included a 99% graduation rate for all seniors enrolled in the program, more than 550 hours of community service, multiple students joining the National Guard and other military services, multiple students entering college, and many more entering the workforce. Grades improve, attendance rates rise, graduation rates rise, and discipline issues are reduced.

The Future Leaders Program has once again proven its value in the high school setting. Due to the extraordinary efforts of the FLP staff and the instructors, students have grown personally and professionally. The goal is to affect as many youths as possible and ensure that they are better informed and ultimately become more productive citizens.

Managed by a Director, with the assistance of the Operations and Curriculum Development Specialist, Program Support Specialist, and instructors, FLP was able to teach skills for academic success. During the 2022/2023 school year, there were 16 high schools throughout eight counties servicing approximately 988 students participating in the program. The counties included Wyoming, Logan, Clay, Putnam, Upshur, Monongalia, Brooke, Roane and Tucker.



WVNG Equal Opportunity (EO) Program

State Equal Employment Manager: Capt. Mackenzie N. Watson

Equal Employment Specialist: Tech Sgt. Rebecca C. Burnfield

The WVNG Equal Opportunity (EO) office is located in Charleston while conducting operations throughout the state. The EO Program formulates, directs, and sustains a comprehensive effort to maximize human potential to ensure fair treatment for all service members based solely on merit, performance, and potential in support of readiness. The EO philosophy is based on fairness, justice, and equity. Commanders are responsible for sustaining a positive EO climate in which every service member is treated with dignity and respect. Commanders are also responsible for the Civilian Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Program which provides equal opportunity for all DA Civilians and prohibits discrimination in employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or reprisal.

The EO office advises commanders regarding all matters relating to equal opportunity to increase the morale and readiness of the WVNG.

In August, the WVARNG hosted an Equal Opportunity Leadership Course (EOLC) at Camp Dawson, graduating 21 Equal Opportunity Leaders (EOLs). The EOLC provided instruction for EOLs, company-level EO professionals, to assist their commanders in contributing to mission accomplishment, cohesion, and readiness. EOLs help build effective units by focusing on eliminating discriminatory behaviors and practices that undermine teamwork, mutual respect, loyalty, and shared sacrifice of service members.

Four WVNG EO Advisors (EOAs) graduated from The Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute's (DEOMI) Equal Opportunity Advisor Reserve Component Course (EOARCC). These EOAs serve as advisors to commanders on the EO program, its policies, procedures, and issues; trainers and educators for commanders, leaders, and service members; assessors of the EO climate of their units; and change agents for implementing changes to the EO program and other related areas that affect the command.



Joint Diversity Executive Council

Co-Chair: Brig. Gen. Michaëlle Munger

The WVNG's Joint Diversity Executive Council (JDEC) was formally established in 2022 to serve as a forum of senior leaders who collaborate on inclusion and diversity initiatives throughout the organization. Since its inception, the JDEC established a charter to guide efforts, define responsibilities, establish goals and objectives, and set a foundation of leader engagement on a quarterly basis. The charter set a goal to draft the WVNG Inclusion and Diversity Strategic Plan, spanning five years to focus on The Adjutant General's priorities.

The three lines of effort for the strategy include leader commitment, talent management and institutionalizing inclusion and diversity. Leader commitment begins with training leaders, and all WVNG leader courses now incorporate inclusion and diversity messages. Feedback loops were created to allow the workforce to bring concerns to leaders anonymously, allowing an opportunity to affect change. Talent management focuses on ensuring everyone has an equal opportunity to

promote and compete for positions of greater responsibility using a transparent and merit-based system. In addition, leaders are encouraged to look beyond military training and explore civilian achievements to maximize talents within the organization. Institutionalizing inclusion and diversity will ensure the staff and systems in place will be enduring to continue to improve and receive feedback from the force.

The JDEC meets quarterly and allows leaders to engage in discussion, analyze data, and ensure resources are made available to effect meaningful change. Highlights for 2023 include completing the strategic plan, formalizing meetings and establishing a website to post JDEC information, conducting a diversity survey with record-breaking participation, incorporating inclusion and diversity into leader training, identifying policies that will be updated to ensure transparent talent management, and ensuring staffing positions are filled and feedback loops are evaluated.



Economic Development Jobs & Hope WV Workforce Initiative

Program Manager: Cindy Bailey

The WV Adjutant General's Economic Development Office (EDO) strives to develop and maintain strategic partnerships with federal, state, and local governments and community and economic development organizations in the public and private sector, to support and compliment the vision and mission of the West Virginia National Guard. The EDO, headquartered in Charleston, has training sites at Camp Dawson (Kingwood), Kanawha Institute for Social Research & Action-KISRA (Dunbar), Recovery Point (Charleston), Mountaineer Challenge Academy-South (Montgomery), Fresh Start (Logan) and Lakin Correctional Center (Columbia).

Since the inception of Governor Justice's Jobs & Hope West Virginia (J&H) program that assists West Virginians with barriers to employment, the EDO has conducted workforce training programs to help prepare participants to re-enter the workforce. In support of employers of J&H participants statewide, the EDO is the program operator for the J&H Workforce Employment Program (JHWEF). In 2023, a Veteran/Military J&H Transition Agent was hired to focus on the unique needs of the military community who are eligible for J&H and seeking to re-enter or realign career employment.

The Heavy Equipment Operator Course (HEOC) that includes a 28-day "hands-on" training in the operation of heavy equipment, holds seven courses annually with a graduation and job fair held in collaboration with the Contractors Association of West Virginia (CAWV) at the conclusion of each course. In 2023 60 participants, 48 J&H and 12 Mountaineer Jobs Challenge Program cadets, were trained. Additionally, the WV Department of Highways utilized this program to certify 37 existing employees, who would have been required to travel out of state for an equivalent certification. In June, participants from the J&H HEOC participated in a community service project in collaboration with the non-profit organization Stepping-Stones, to begin the first phase of building an all-accessible

playground at their facility in Mylan Park, Morgantown. This project allowed the HEOC trainees to apply skillsets in a real-world setting and showcase talents in operating heavy equipment for potential employers who were in attendance.

In 2023, the J&H Lawn and Landscape Technician Course trained 21 participants and provided general agriculture education during weekly workshops at Recovery Point and Lakin Correctional Center. In addition, the agriculture-based business incubator at KISRA was utilized to conduct J&H and WV Nursery & Landscape Association training in lawn and landscape, greenhouse growing and raised bed production, utilizing two greenhouses, raised beds, chicken coop, food safety certified processing and packaging space, and cold storage infrastructure. The facility at KISRA creates additional opportunities to provide workforce training for Mountaineer Challenge Academy cadets and other community stakeholders, increasing the outreach potential in the future.

The JHWEF, assisting J&H participants in obtaining employment that is wage-paid and subsidized, is available to employers who hire J&H participants. In 2023, the WV Legislature funded a second grant for use in this program and to date, 113 jobs have been filled by J&H participants representing employers in the construction, manufacturing, agricultural and non-profit sectors, among others. To date, approximately \$2.6 million of subsidies have been allocated to employers of J&H participants. As a result, the JHWEF supports local employers and provides incentives for businesses looking to locate in West Virginia who are seeking a trained workforce.

The programs in the WV Adjutant General's office that focus on education, workforce training, and employment opportunities, stimulate economic development and job creation in the state, benefitting members of the WV National Guard, West Virginians, and the One Guard Family.



Patriot Guardians Agricultural Program

Program Director Melissa Stewart

Patriot Guardians provides non-formal agricultural education and hands-on learning opportunities to veterans, military members and their families. This grant-funded program offers assistance and support to everyone from backyard hobbyists and start-up business owners to seasoned professional farmers.

In 2023, Patriot Guardians (PG) secured eight new grants, cooperative agreements, and sub-awards totaling \$1.64 million. This led to significant staff expansion to support 16 full-time and 11 part-time employees, with more than 26% having military backgrounds. The team organized in-person livestock, poultry, plant production, homesteading, and agribusiness workshops, reaching 4,187 participants, with more than 50% having military connections. A total of 472 contact hours occurred over 17 interactions with youth at Mountaineer Challenge Academy (MCA) South. Patriot Guardians' agriculture specialists completed 77 on-farm assessments and helped seven military/veteran entrepreneurs with small business startups.

The marketing department created five logos for program participants who completed PG agribusiness workshops and provided marketing consultations. PG received recognition from Farm Credit of the Virginias and was highlighted in their e-newsletter and social media channels. In addition to being spotlighted in their publications, Director Melissa Stewart was a featured speaker at the Farm Credit Knowledge Center's Launching Leaders Summit to discuss the Patriot Guardians programs and its mission to work with military members and their families.

This year was the first year that PG held monthly farmers markets. The vendors for these markets were all participants in PG programs. The monthly average revenue generated from the markets was \$727, totaling \$5,089 for the year.

Summer found the Patriot Guardians Urban Farm busy with visits from First Lady Cathy Justice, Congresswoman Carol Miller, Farm Credit of the Virginias, and about 40 cadets from MCA. Visitors had the opportunity to tour the greenhouses, packing house, gardens, and chicken run while learning how an urban farm works. Additionally, PG Urban Farm sold 1,253 pounds of produce to local restaurants and at the monthly farmer's market held on base.

In addition to weekly programming, Patriot Guardians held its first Urban Agriculture Summit in August at the Eleanor Armory in Red House. The summit consisted of five 45-minute sessions with topics ranging from small business basics to raising trout for home and market consumption to ways to expose children to nature, and much more. There were 58 people in attendance for the event.

This year, the PG Apple Project transplanted more than 2,000 grafted trees for sale to veterans and military individuals planning small orchards. Because the orchard relies on beehives for pollination, beekeeping is also a part of this project. 1,020 pounds of honey was collected from 80 hives. All of the honey was sold, generating \$6,120 in program revenue.

Family Programs Office (FPO)

Director: Sgt. 1st Class Steven Queen

The WVNG Family Programs Office supports mission readiness of service members and their families through ten service programs including the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, Soldier and Family Readiness Program, Child and Youth Program, Survivor Outreach Service, Beneficiary Counselor and Assistance Coordinators, Reserve Component Transition Assistance Advisor Program, Personal Financial Counselor Program, Military OneSource, Military Family Life Counselor Program and Chaplain Corps.

Our Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program organized and executed three weekend training events this year providing resources and benefits to more than 146 service members and their families.

The Soldier and Family Readiness Program operated in five locations, supporting 265 events with 4,758 service members, family members and community partners. The event facilitated 427 cases, 36,330 phone calls, walk-ins, social media contacts, emails, 358 outreach and contacts with family members of deployed servicemembers. FPO provided 22 volunteer Military Point of Contacts/commander trainings and had 74 registered volunteers contributing 575 hours of their time. Specialists attended 68 unit drills, Soldier Readiness Processing events, Recruit Sustainment Program events, Annual Trainings and Yellow Ribbons.

Family Programs' Child & Youth Program conducted 25 events and mailed 212 themed kits/packets. FPO mailer kits alone provided 1,272 hours of programming on topics including life skills, STEM, resilience building, healthy habits and safety. FPO served 3,551 military children, and 6,289 adults. FPO events and outreach were also supported by 390 volunteers.

FPO's collaboration with the Department of Education continued through the Common Ground Partnership. Thirty-six deployment support kits for educators were distributed to educators working to support military families facing deployment. Month of the Military Child celebrations in April included a Governor's Proclamation, Spirit Week, Purple Up Day and a Purple Ball. Additional activities included Dr. Suess Cooking Classes, Teen Camp Outs, 5-day residential camp, Back to School supply giveaways, holiday assistance, Yellow Ribbon support, Strong Bond events and virtual reunion workshops.

The Survivor Outreach Service Coordinator supported events for Gold Star families including Casualty Assistance Officers/Casualty Notification Officer trainings, Churchill Downs, Survivor Day on the River in Newport, Kentucky, Survivor Day on the River in Pittsburgh, Christmas decorating for the Gold Star tree at the State Capitol complex, Gold Star Weekend Retreat, Snowball Express, Apple Tree planting in Honor of service member, marketing events and partnering with the Hershel Woody Williams Foundation on different projects such as area football and baseball games to honor survivors. Overall survivor contact for 2023 was based on continued wellness checks and the ability to have and partner with other Survivor Outreach Coordinators in surrounding states. There were 1,460 survivors and family members that contacted or attended an event this year.

Family Program's Tricare representatives worked more than 5,500 family cases and conducted briefings at more than 40 events and Personal Financial Counselors (PFC) conducted 863 face-to-face, phone, Zoom, and Teams meetings with Service Members and their spouses for their financial needs. PFCs also attended nine events to brief Service Members and their families.

The Child Development Center provided servicemembers and Families with access to quality, affordable childcare to more than 70 children.

The Chaplain Corps continued to enhance the force and strengthen military families through eight weekend retreats as part of the Building Strong and Ready Teams program. 276 Soldiers and family members took part in these resiliency and relationship enhancing training events throughout the state. As guardians of the First Amendment, the Chaplain Corps offered nine prayer breakfasts reaching 87 Soldiers, and four weekly Bible studies across the state, as part of the free exercise of religion. Additionally, the Chaplain Corps served the force through countless chapel services, ceremonial support, funerals, hospital visits, and confidential counseling.

Additionally, Family Programs supported briefings and attendance for WV Military Association, Resource Fairs, Substance Abuse Prevention, Job Fairs, Red Ribbon, Welcome Home and Send Off events, Battle Hand Offs, Future Formations, Retirement Briefs, Retiree Appreciation Day, conferences, and Soldier Readiness Processes.



MSCA

Military Support to Civil Authorities

Program Coordinator: Andy Higginbotham

The West Virginia National Guard is deeply woven into the fabric of the Mountain State through Military Support to Civil Authorities. The WVNG's commitment to community service shines brightly with support for local events such as fairs, festivals, guest speaking, disaster relief, youth programs, reserve officer training corps, and state and federal events.

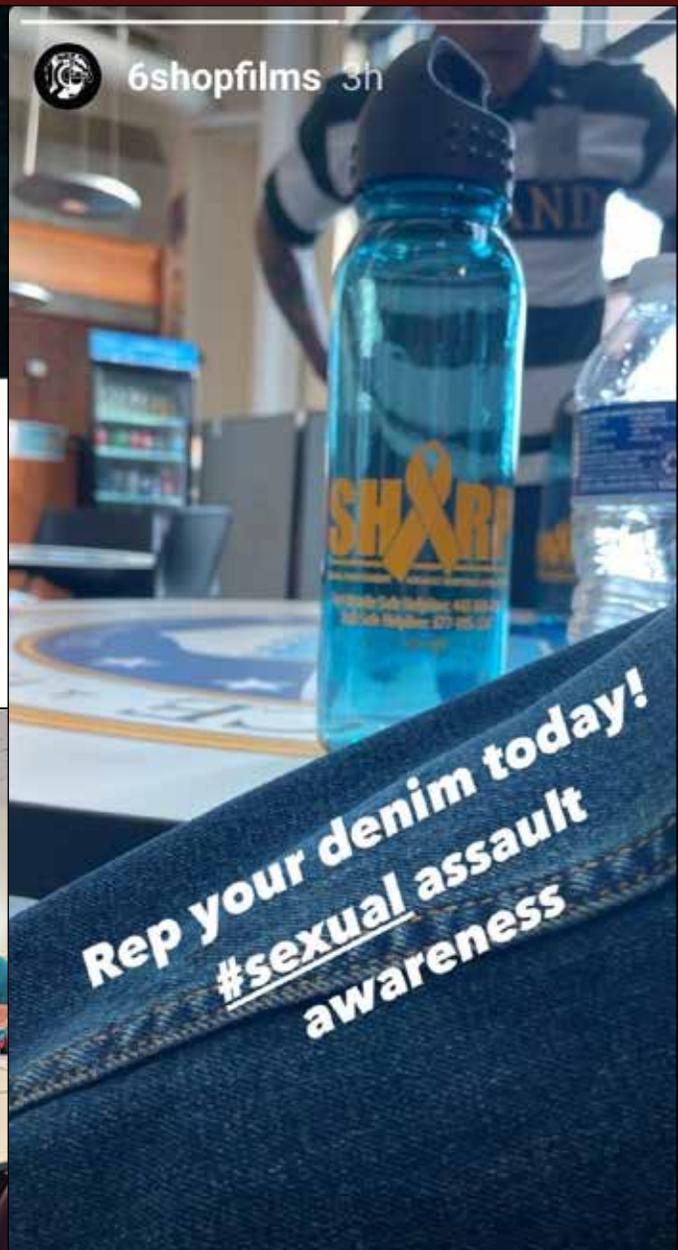
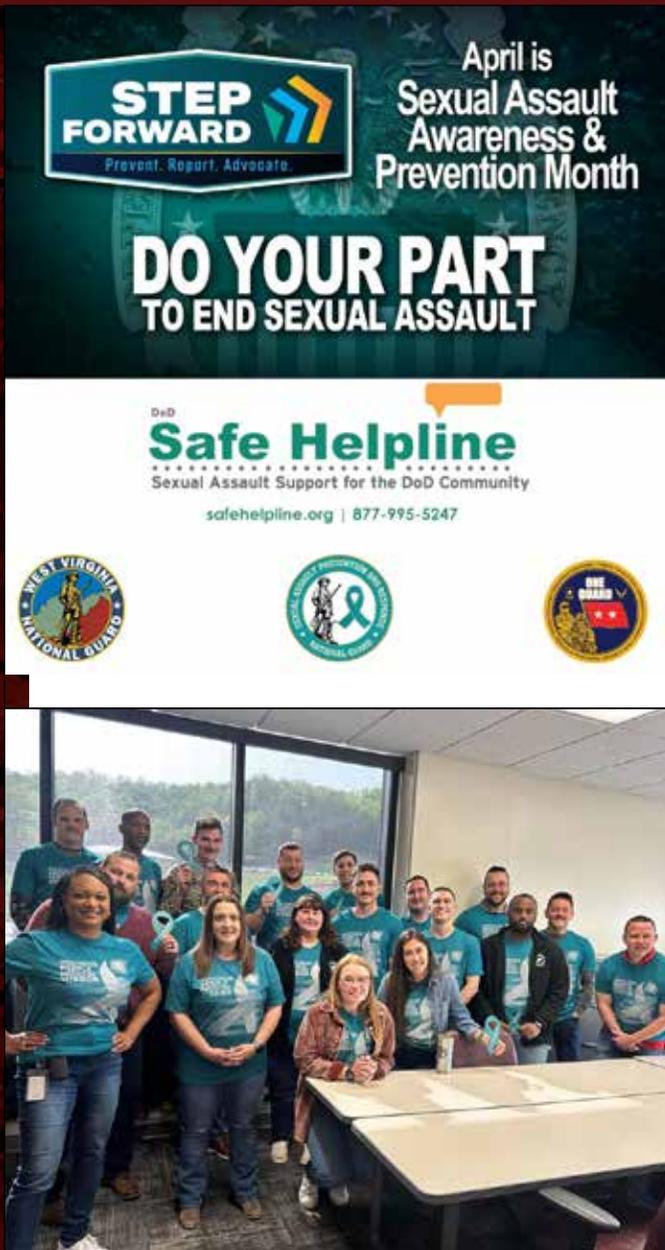
Color Guards, military vehicles and the 249th Army Band are familiar sights at parades and festivals, their crisp uniforms and synchronized movements add a touch of ceremony and pride. The 249th Army Band fills the air with lively marches and patriotic tunes, setting the mood for celebration and community spirit.

MSCA provides support to the community and schools through guest speaking on national holidays such as Veterans

Day and Memorial Day. WVNG members are often invited to speak at schools and community events, sharing their personal experiences and insights on military service and patriotism.

MSCA provides support in many youth programs. WVNG members often mentor youths through Junior ROTC programs and other initiatives, fostering leadership skills, discipline, and a sense of civic duty.

The West Virginia National Guard's dedication to community service goes beyond just duty. It's about being good neighbors, building relationships, and making the Mountain State a better place for everyone. Their presence at local events, their willingness to share their knowledge, and their helping hands in times of need are all testaments to WVNG's unwavering commitment to the communities it serves.



SAPR

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program

State Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC): Jenny Colagrosso

The WVNG Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program (SAPR) offices are in Charleston, Eleanor, Glen Jean and Martinsburg while conducting operations across the state. The WVNG and Department of Defense goals are to ensure a culture free of sexual assault through an environment of prevention, education, training and victim support that enhances the safety and well-being of all service members and DoD civilians.

The SAPR team is federally credentialed through the National Organization of Victim Assistance and trained to provide 24/7 response and support to Service Members and DoD Civilians. The WVNG expanded its SAPR program in 2023 by hiring a full-time Sexual Assault Response Coordinator and Victim Advocate in the 111th and 77th Brigades, and a full-time Victim Advocate in the 130th Airlift Wing. The WVNG SAPR team is comprised of nine full-time civilians and 37 uniformed advocates.



Safety

State Safety Office

State Safety Officer: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Everett T. Mitchell
 Safety Manager: Master Sgt. Benjamin D. Hardin

State Occ Health Nurse: Lt. Col. William A. Barnette
 Industrial Hygiene: Sgt. 1st Class William K. Dempsey III

The West Virginia Army National Guard Safety Office continues to support Soldiers and enhance the mission of the West Virginia Army National Guard. Training events throughout the State were supported directly by the offices of Safety, Occupational Health, and Industrial Hygiene. The Safety Office continues to ensure that all annual facility safety inspections are complete and performed to standard. Motorcycle safety continues to remain a priority. There is still a strong need for the Department of Defense mandated Motorcycle Safety Course. This year the office maximized use of Trainers resulting in 36 newly trained motorcycle riders. The Safety Office also conducted a 30-hour OSHA General Industry Safety Course; resulting in 31 fully trained technicians. During 2023 more than 40 Standard Army Safety and Occupational Health Inspections were completed. These inspections identified and corrected many hazards with the help of the Facility Management Office.

The Occupational Health office continued to address technician safety thru medical surveillance and training. The Occupational Health Office was also able to provide CPR/ First Aid training to 65 technicians at nine locations throughout the state. 24 technicians completed medical surveillance processes required based on their positions within their respective facilities. 33 Industrial Hygiene surveys were completed during 2023. The WVARNG

CECOM mandated inspection for 2023 was completed and found no deficiencies for the organization. The Occupational Health and Industrial Hygiene Offices will continue to offer the training to the technician workforce throughout the state.

The WVARNG Safety and Occupational Health (S&OH) program goals have changed little over the past few years. The Safety Office wants to create the safest possible environment for our personnel to train and grow, thus maximizing their future successes by:

- Enhancing the operational force by embedding S&OH in organizational culture
- Educating leaders at all levels that a well-managed S&OH program is a force multiplier to operations, training and sustainment
- Ensuring S&OH principles are incorporated into planning, policy, training and operations
- Developing S&OH Plan metrics that support the goals of the WVARNG
- Implementing risk management techniques to enable ready units and Soldiers.

Moving forward with the support of leadership and the enthusiasm of our constituents, the Safety Office is poised for continued success.



CFMO

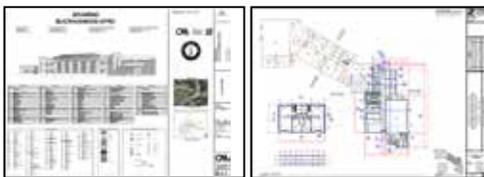
Construction and Facilities Management Office

Command Team: Col. Michael Beckner / Mr. Samuel Peal

The Construction and Facilities Management Office (CFMO) is responsible for construction and maintenance of all facilities and training areas controlled by the West Virginia Army National Guard. The CFMO currently employs 150 personnel to provide support to 50 different locations across the State consisting of over 3,340,000 square feet of Readiness Centers, Maintenance Shops, Aviation Facilities, and other support buildings. The CFMO also supports the Camp Dawson Training Site which has over 100 buildings consisting of over 748,000 square feet and more than 8,800 acres of training areas.

For Fiscal Year 2023, the CFMO executed \$27,383,000 of federal funds to support real property assets for the WVARNG:

Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization	\$18,082,000
Base Operations, for Administrative, Utility, and Municipal Services	\$ 8,259,000
Environmental Conservation and Compliance	\$ 1,042,000



The CFMO awarded one fully federal funded Major Military Construction project in FY 23:

Buckhannon Readiness Center Addition/Alteration	\$20,803,000
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This project will double the size and capabilities of this location with a 29,691 square foot addition utilizing 100% federal funding. Completion of this facility satisfies the critical requirements for an assembly hall, kitchen, and maintenance bays for the existing facility, along with room for one additional unit.

The West Virginia Army National Guard received federal appropriations for three congressionally directed construction projects in 2023, providing much-needed additional space at these facilities:

Williamstown Army Aviation Support Facility Addition	\$5,000,000
Wheeling Army Aviation Support Facility Addition	\$6,000,000
Kenova Armed Forces Readiness Center Addition	\$4,300,000

The CFMO currently has one construction project listed on the Department of Defense Future Years Defense Plan (FYDP) for Fiscal Year 2027:

Martinsburg Readiness Center	\$20,000,000
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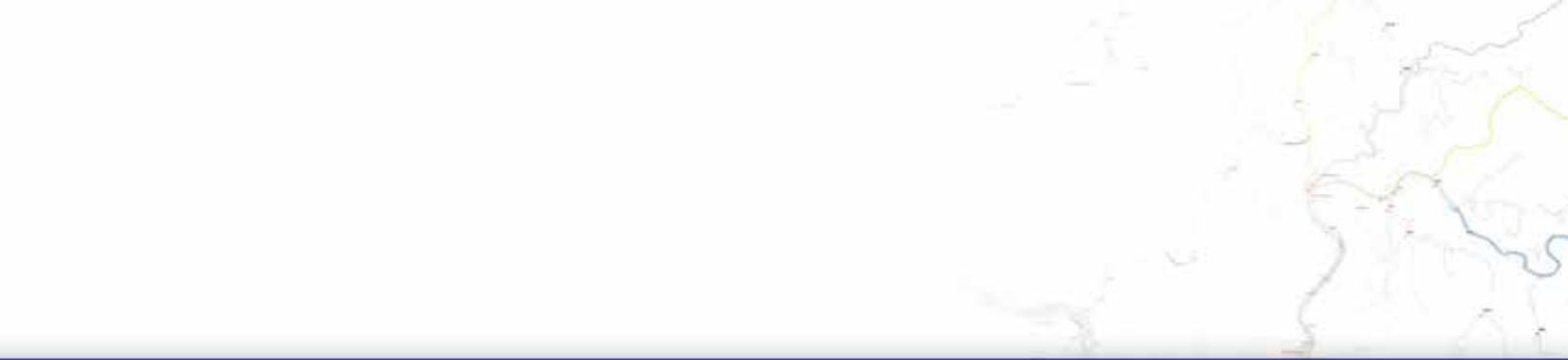
This project will repurpose a 67,000 square foot hangar vacated by the Emivest Corporation in 2011 into a multi-unit Readiness Center. The new facility will be the future home for three Army National Guard units and a Field Maintenance Shop, consisting of more than 430 Personnel with adequate space for equipment and vehicles. Construction is projected to start in 2027 and will be completed by 2029.

The West Virginia Army National Guard partnered with Friends of Cheat (FOC) to develop the following project:

Volkstone Training Area Fence and Paving

This project consisted of installing a protective fence between the federally-owned, WVARNG-controlled Volkstone Training Area and the publicly-accessible rail trail that parallels State Route 72. WVARNG subleased 0.5 acres from the FOC to install the fence. This action allowed the fence to be installed on established right-of-way and avoided impacts to existing wetlands within the area. As part of the agreement, WVARNG graded and paved 4,480 linear feet of the rail trail.





2023 West Virginia National Guard