

2024
ANNUAL REPORT



WEST VIRGINIA

NATIONAL GUARD

"Montani Semper Liberi"



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Statement from The Adjutant General



Maj. Gen. William E. Crane
The Adjutant General



Dear Governor Morrisey,

It is my honor to present the 2024 Annual Report of the Adjutant General to you and to our fellow citizens of the great State of West Virginia.

Today, our Guard is more than 6,400 Soldiers, Airmen and civilians strong. The men and women who comprise the West Virginia Army and Air National Guard work tirelessly to secure and strengthen the Mountain State against all threats and to enhance our national defense at home and abroad. We could not be prouder of the work we accomplish every day!

2024 has been a year of incredible growth and resolve for our Guard. As our American and Allied Armed Forces continue to transition from the Global War on Terror to a Great Power Competition posture and mindset, our focus remains on improving readiness and lethality, modernization of the force and building strong and enduring strategic alliances and partnerships at home and around the globe.

No matter the mission, our One Guard family has met every assignment, exemplifying our motto; "Always Ready, Always There."

As you review this Annual Report we hope the integrity, pride, resolve, dedication, devotion and values of our organization shine through. No matter the challenges that may present themselves, we stand ready to serve you and our fellow West Virginians.

Respectfully,

William E. Crane

WILLIAM E. CRANE
Major General, WVNG
The Adjutant General

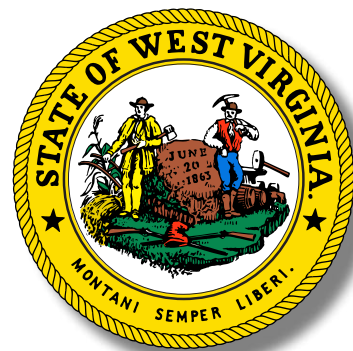


**Governor
Jim Justice**
Commander-In-Chief,
WVNG

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.

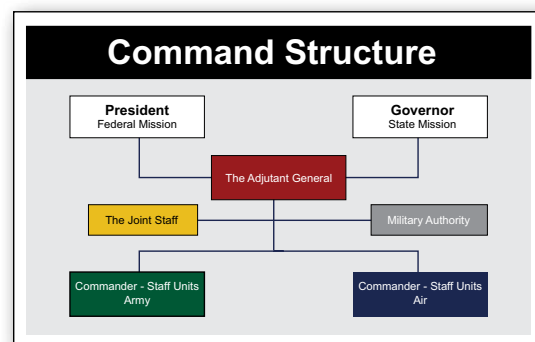
The National Guard is equipped and paid by the federal government and must meet organizational and training standards to qualify for federal recognition. When Congress declares a national emergency and authorizes the use of armed force requiring troops in excess of those in the active forces, the President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



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.

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

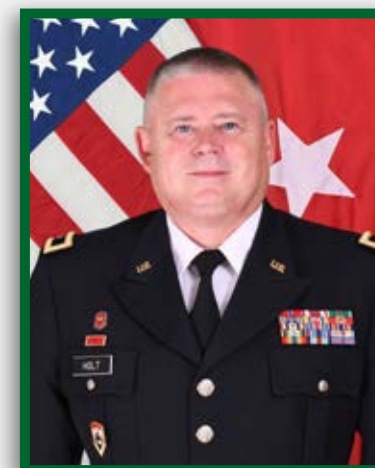


Each unit is supported by a staff at the state and unit levels. The state staff mirrors the functional staffs of the Army and Air Guard and serves as a liaison and support agency for units.

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.



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



Michaelle 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

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



WEST VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD 2024 Economic Impact

State Investment

Pay & Benefits	\$11,723,451
Goods & Services	\$4,098,851
Construction	\$432,415
Education	\$2,355,141
Total State Investment	\$18,609,858

130th Airlift Wing
Charleston

Military Pay & Allowances	\$23,984,167
Civilian Payroll	\$16,555,255
AGR Payroll	\$17,888,350
All Mil Pers Travel	\$828,997
Goods & Services	\$6,779,662
Ground Fuel	\$75,569
Clothing	\$45,993
Total for 130th Airlift Wing	\$66,112,000

167th Airlift Wing
Martinsburg

Military Pay & Allowances	\$12,629,609
Civilian Payroll	\$1,800,798
AGR Payroll	\$22,698,179
All Mil Pers Travel	\$22,215,766
Goods & Services	\$32,550
Ground Fuel	\$79,807
Clothing	\$10,830,344
Total for 167th Airlift Wing	\$70,287,053

West Virginia Army National Guard

Military Pay & Allowances	\$111,950,885
Civilian Payroll	\$39,792,199
Goods & Services	\$60,721,135
Construction	\$780,516
Total for Army Guard	\$213,244,735

2,009 Airmen

2,151 Full-Time Personnel *

3,830 Soldiers

6,581 National Guard Personnel Total

ARMY-AGR 410 Assigned

ARMY-Tech 473 Assigned

AIR-AGR 354 Assigned

AIR-Tech 314 Assigned

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

Military Authority: 600

Assigned Personnel

20:1

West Virginia received nearly **\$20** in federal funding for every state dollar invested in Fiscal Year 2024.

Direct Economic Impact
\$368,253,646

Significant Accomplishments

- The WVNG supported the United States Northern Command's Southwest Border mission, deploying 49 Soldiers and four UH-72A Lakota helicopters to assist local, state and federal officials in combatting illegal immigration and human and illicit drug trafficking.
- The WVNG completed state active duty support for the West Virginia Division of Corrections due to chronic staffing shortages. At its height, more than 400 WVNG servicemembers actively supported the DoC mission.
- The WVNG Ridge Runner Program continued to grow, hosting four large-scale Ridge Runner exercises throughout West Virginia involving over 800 participants from more than 13 allied and partner nations.
- More than 140,400 military and civilian personnel from around the globe attended training courses, conferences, and special events during 2024 at Camp Dawson.
- WVARNG and WVANG personnel participated in more than two dozen large-scale multi-national exercises domestically and internationally including in Germany, Czechia, the Arctic, Japan, Peru and the Antarctic.
- WVARNG and WVANG aircraft and crews flew more than 9,160 total accident-free hours without incident.
- The WVNG Military Funeral Honors team completed more than 920 missions working with Veteran Service Officers and veteran organizations to provide final rights and other support activities at veteran funerals.



Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ-WV)

Based in Charleston, Joint Force Headquarters is the senior command-and-control element supporting Army and Air National Guard units assigned to West Virginia. JFHQ serves as the direct link and liaison element between the Guard and local, state and federal governments, law enforcement and partner agencies.

In addition to staff sections that provide interagency support for state and federal operations, JFHQ oversees operations for the 249th Army Band, based in Morgantown and the 153rd Public Affairs Detachment in Charleston.

- Members of the WVNG's Counter Drug Program helped local, state and federal law enforcement seize and eradicate more than \$12 million dollars of illicit drugs from West Virginia streets while also mentoring more than 5,100 students in 32 schools via the Drug Demand Reduction Program.
- The WVNG signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the Irregular Warfare Center to formalize the existing WVNG/IWC partnership which includes enhancing opportunities for joint training exercises such as the Ridge Runner and Ridge Healer programs.
- More than 150 airmen with the 167th Airlift Wing returned home to West Virginia in September after completing a three-month deployment overseas supporting airlift functions in theatre with other units as part of the Air Force's Force Generation (AFFORGEN) deployment model.
- The Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy programs graduated four classes with more than 290 cadets successfully completing the 22-week program. During 2024, MCA cadets participated in more than 120 community service projects with more than 16,000 hours donated contributing more than \$515,000 to local communities.
- The Future Leaders Program served more than 1,200 students in 15 high schools in nine counties (Brooke, Clay, Logan, Monongalia, Putnam, Roane, Tucker, Upshur and Wyoming) throughout West Virginia.
- The DoD STARBASE program, which provides "hands-on, minds-on" Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) basic and advanced educational opportunities for 5th graders in the greater Martinsburg and Charleston areas, hosted more than 4,300 students during 2024.



West Virginia Army National Guard (WVARNG)

The West Virginia Army National Guard is comprised of more 3,830 Soldiers plus civilian employees. The WVARNG is divided into 42 brigades, battalions and individual units. Established in 1636, the U.S. Army National Guard is the oldest component of the U.S. Armed Forces and serves as the primary combat reserve of the U.S. Army.

The Army National Guard has played a significant role in all of America's wars and major contingencies since the birth of the nation. During the 20th century, the Army National Guard became an essential part of the U.S. Army, transitioning into a highly lethal combat force able to meet the requirements of the National Military Strategy and National Defense Strategy.

The Army National Guard is governor-responsive and ready to defend the homeland anytime and anywhere. The Army Guard has helped communities recover from natural disasters, pandemics and civil disturbances for nearly four centuries. Combining civilian-acquired skills and experiences with their combat training, Army National Guard Soldiers bring rich and unique capabilities to the Joint Force.



111th Engineer Brigade

The 111th "Black Diamond" Engineer Brigade, headquartered in Red House, is comprised of three battalions and 19 individual units, including the 771st Troop Command Battalion, 772nd Troop Command Battalion and the 1092nd Engineer Brigade.

With a primary focus on engineering operations, the 111th also includes aviation units, as well as a maintenance company, an ordnance company, a contingency contracting team, two military police companies, a military police detachment, a field feeding platoon and a specialized homeland defense team. Its dual-purpose mission ensures readiness to overseas combat support and critical domestic operations.





1092nd Engineer Battalion

The 1092nd Engineer Battalion, based in Parkersburg, is comprised of the 1092nd Forward Support Company based in Parkersburg, the 821st Engineer Construction Company based in Summersville, the 115th Vertical Construction Company based in Clarksburg, the 601st Engineer Support Company based in Buckhannon, the 922nd Engineer Utilities Detachment based in Martinsburg, the 119th Sapper Engineer Company based in Moundsville and the 1863rd Field Feeding Platoon based in Buckhannon.

The primary mission of these units includes providing engineering support such as surveying, grading, backfilling, excavating, concrete pouring and finishing operations. Engineers directly impact the operational readiness and sustainability of military infrastructure.

During 2024, these units completed numerous engineering projects and participated in multiple overseas multinational exercises.



771st Troop Command Battalion

The 771st Troop Command Battalion, based in Gassaway, is comprised of the 1935th Contingency Contracting Team based in Buckhannon, the 3664th Maintenance Company based in Eleanor, the 753rd Ordnance Company (EOD) based in Kingwood, the 156th Military Police Detachment based in Holden, the 863rd Military Police Company based in Glen Jean, the 157th Military Police Company based in Moorefield and the CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) based in Eleanor.

The primary mission of the 863rd, 156th and 157th includes military police operations including force protection, physical security and law enforcement investigations. The 753rd is responsible for the handling of explosive ordnance and EOD operations. The 3664th provides the capability to repair wheeled ground vehicles, engineer equipment, communications and electronic equipment, small arms weapon systems, HVAC systems and power generation equipment and more. The 1935th also provides operational and support contract management.

During 2024, these units provided support for multiple national-level events including the Democratic and Republican national conventions, provided support to the United Nations and the annual State of the Union address and traveled with WVARNG units during overseas missions to provide maintenance support. The 1935th is currently deployed overseas supporting operations in Africa.





772nd Troop Command Battalion

The 772nd Troop Command Battalion, based in Williamstown, is comprised of flight companies and detachments for maintenance, logistics and operations support with nearly 300 Soldiers, 20 helicopters and 1 fixed wing aircraft. Individual units include Company C, 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion based in Williamstown, Detachment 28 Operational Support Airlift based in Williamstown, Detachment 1 Company B, 1-224th Security & Support Aviation Battalion based in Williamstown, Company C, 1-150th Air Assault Battalion based in Wheeling and Detachment 1 Company B, 248th Aviation Support Battalion based in Wheeling.

The primary mission of these units includes providing aviation support for missions involving personnel movement, sling load, rappel, fast rope insertion / extraction (FRIES), helocast, paratroop, bambi bucket (water bucket) fire support and expeditionary operations. The units also are heavily involved in counter-drug efforts with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

Highlights during 2024 included wildland aerial firefighting support in Hardy County, West Virginia, support for the State Partnership Program in Peru, participation in joint-exercises with elements of the West Virginia Air National Guard and helping local, state and federal law enforcement seize and eradicate more than \$12 million dollars of illicit drugs. 772nd units flew a total of 3,500 hours this fiscal year.



77th Brigade Troop Command

The 77th Brigade Troop Command, headquartered in Glen Jean, is comprised of two battalions, one Cavalry regiment and four individual units, including the 2/19th Special Forces Battalion and the 1/201st Field Artillery Battalion.

Homeland Response Force (HRF)

The HRF, headquartered in Dunbar, is a self-contained rapid-response unit that assists local, state and federal emergency managers and officials in response to natural, man-made, or terrorist-initiated disasters and other emergency events. HRF members are highly trained in Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, high-yield Explosive (CBRNE) and additional Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) incidents and conduct command and control, security, search and extraction, decontamination and medical triage operations to save lives and protect communities.



2-19th SFG (Airborne) Special Forces Battalion

The 2/19th Special Forces Battalion is comprised of a Headquarters Company, Support Company and Forward Support Company, all based in Kenova. The unit also has Company C based in Kingwood, Company A based in Middletown, Rhode Island and Company B based in Columbus, Ohio. Also under the administrative control of the 2/19th is the 1-528th Forward Support Company (Airborne) based in Martinsburg and Company E Forward Support Company based in Kenova.

The primary mission of the 2/19th is to man, train, equip and deploy Special Operations Forces (SOF) to conduct Special Warfare globally as directed by U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). Portions of the unit also respond to homeland threats, disasters, or other assigned domestic missions. During 2024, the unit participated in multiple large-scale exercises throughout Africa, Europe and Asia and continued to prepare for upcoming deployments throughout FY2025.





1-201st Field Artillery Regiment

The 1/201st Field Artillery Battalion, headquartered in Fairmont, is comprised of Alpha Battery based in Elkins, Bravo Battery based in Morgantown, Charlie Battery based in Lewisburg and the 1201st Forward Support Company based in Kingwood.

Founded as a voluntary militia in Orange County, Virginia by Morgan Morgan on February 17, 1735, the 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery Regiment is the longest continuously serving military organization in the United States. The unit celebrated its 289th anniversary this year.

The primary mission of 1-201st includes utilizing M109 Paladin howitzers to provide counter-battery and cannon artillery fire to maneuvering Army field units during combat operations. During 2024, the unit participated in two artillery live-fire exercises in Michigan and provided testing of cutting edge U.S. Army equipment planned for implementation on future battlefields.



150th Cavalry Regiment

The 1/150th Cavalry Regiment, headquartered in Bluefield, is comprised of Alpha Troop based in Holden and Gassaway, Bravo Troop based in Red House, Charlie Troop based in Glen Jean, Delta Troop based in Sanford, North Carolina and D Company 230th Forward Support Company (FSC) based in Glen Jean.

The primary mission of the 1-150th includes utilizing Bradley Fighting Vehicles (BFV) and M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams tanks to maneuver on the battlefield and conduct reconnaissance and surveillance in support of combat operations in a Joint austere environment.

During 2024, the unit participated in the multi-national Defender Europe 2024 exercise and was one of the very first National Guard units nationwide to field the U.S. Army's Next Generation Squad Weapons (NGSW) M17 Combat Pistol and XM7 rifle.



Special Operations Detachment-Europe (SOD-E)

SOD-E is based at Camp Dawson and is tasked with supporting the United States Special Operations Command – Europe (SOCEUR). The unit'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.



During 2024, the SOD-E supported SOCEUR on four separate exercises: Nordic Response, Austere Challenge, Trojan Footprint and Adamant Serpent in Germany and Nordic Region. At each exercise, SOD-E members provided mission command for Special Operations Forces in land, maritime and air domains from more than 25 nations while liaising with conventional forces from the U.S. and NATO partners.



Medical Detachment (MEDDET)

The West Virginia Army National Guard MEDDET, located in South Charleston, provides medical services at Camp Dawson and on-site for WVARNG units. The MEDDET ensures the medical readiness of WVARNG Soldiers and United States Army Reserve units by providing annual medical and dental evaluations and administering required immunizations, audiograms and behavioral health screenings. It also provides follow-up surveillance of injured and ill service members to ensure continued individual medical readiness. The MEDDET delivers a pool of readily available medical providers for state emergencies, routine CONUS and OCONUS National Guard deployments and other national contingencies.

During 2024, MEDDET continued to rank in the top five in the nation for medical readiness.





Camp Dawson Garrison Training Center

Located in Kingwood, the Camp Dawson Garrison Training Center supported training for more than 140,407 military and civilian personnel during 2024. Camp Dawson provides a vast array of capabilities including transient training space along with a full suite of classrooms, barracks and computer labs, as well as live fire ranges up to 7.62mm and more than 3,000 acres of light maneuver area.

Camp Dawson hosts the Camp Dawson Event Center that supports housing for more than 500 personnel and classrooms capable of training more than 1,000 personnel. Camp Dawson also 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, 1/80th Engineers, Special Operations Detachment – Europe, the Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy – North, the Army Interagency Training and Education Center and serves as the major training venue for the Governor's Jobs and Hope Program.

197th Regiment Regional Training Institute (RTI)

The 197th RTI in Kingwood is West Virginia's premier training and education center serving the One Army School System with training and certification for National Guard, Reserve and Active Components.

The 197th RTI completed its most recent Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) accreditation with an overall score of 99.7%, demonstrating excellence and professionalism as one of the top National Guard schoolhouses in the nation.



The 197th RTI / 1st Modular Training Battalion (MTB) provides oversight to reclassification and advanced Professional Military Education (PME) training for Horizontal Engineers and Horizontal Engineer Supervisors. The 197th also conducts reclassification training for vertical engineers through the 12W10 Carpentry / Masonry Specialist course.

The 197th had a throughput of more than 400 student service members this year, culminating in more than 800 certifications that significantly enhanced engineer capabilities across the Army.



Fixed Wing Army Aviation Training Site (FWAATS)

The Fixed Wing Army National Guard Aviation Training Site, operating out of North Central West Virginia (Benedum/Clarksburg) Airport, is where Army Aviators from all three components (Active Duty, National Guard and Reserves) have received 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.

FWAATS offers initial aircraft qualification, Instructor Pilot (IP), Senior Instructor/Instrument Flight Examiner (IFE) and Instructor Pilot Standardization courses in both the Beechcraft C-12 Huron and the Fairchild C-26 Metroliner. This instruction ensures pilots meet the standard in all flying conditions. In FY 2024, FWAATS trained a total of 65 students including Naval and Air Force aviators.

In addition to training pilots, FWAATS also supports Joint Operational Support Airlift Center (JOSAC) missions nationwide. This includes aircraft ferrying support due to fleet upgrades, modifications, upper-level maintenance, or aircraft relocation while providing rapid movement of troops and personnel throughout the country.



Recruiting & Retention Battalion (RRB)

Headquartered in Charleston, the Recruiting and Retention Battalion 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.

In 2024, RRB successfully enlisted 408 new members into the WVARNG and successfully retained 462 Soldiers, or 92.4%, of its reenlistment goals. The WVARNG ended 2024 with an end strength objective of 3,899 Soldiers, or 97.7% of authorized positions.





West Virginia Air National Guard (WVANG)

The West Virginia Air National Guard is comprised of the 167th Airlift Wing stationed at Shepherd Field Air National Guard Base in Martinsburg and the 130th Airlift Wing stationed at McLaughlin Air National Guard Base in Charleston.

167th Airlift Wing

The 167th AW flies the C-17A Globemaster III aircraft providing rapid global mobility to support and defend the nation and West Virginia. The unit is 983 service members strong.



During 2024, the 167th AW engaged in Multi-Capable Airman (MCA) and Agile Combat Employment (ACE) training early in the year, aligning with the Air Force's new approach to preparing Airmen for aircraft mission generation in contingency environments. The unit logged more than 2,700 flying hours, transporting more than 10,400 lbs. of cargo and 5,200 passengers. Deployed Airmen provided air mobility capabilities in support of CENTCOM. The deployment marked the first large-scale overseas mobilization for the wing in more than 20 years.

The unit participated in multiple large-scale exercises including Sentry Unicorn, Sentry Aloha, Arctic Edge and Resolute Sentinel with State Partnership Program nation Peru.

Additional 2024 highlights for the 167th AW include:

Members of the 167th Medical Group also supported an Innovative Readiness Training with the Blackfoot Tribe in Montana, providing routine and emergency dental and optometry services to members of the community.

Fifty-one 167th Logistics Readiness Squadron personnel traveled to Yokota Air Base, Japan, to take part in an annual training event with the 374th LRS and the 730th Air Mobility Squadron. The dynamic training event facilitated core task training, simultaneously building partnership between the Air National Guard and Active Duty components.

The 167th Civil Engineering Squadron oversaw the completion of the wing's fuel cell hangar renovation while managing 12 other construction and design contracts totaling more than \$17 million. The squadron also diligently executed an \$800,000 base-wide HVAC project with end of year funding. Another significant improvement to the installation included an \$845,000 network infrastructure upgrade, implemented by the 167th Communications Squadron.

Well over 1,000 community members visited the wing for base tours, orientation flights and the inaugural Fire Truck Pull event held in July. Additionally, 167th Airmen mentored students in local schools, assisted the Martinsburg Union Rescue Mission with various tasks and supported numerous charitable causes. These continued efforts demonstrate the 167th Airlift Wing's strong connection and integration with the community and help reinforce trust and confidence in the U.S. military.



130th Airlift Wing

The 130th AW flies the C-130J-30 Super Hercules aircraft providing essential combat airlift capabilities to safeguard national security and bolster domestic and emergency operations across the Mountain State. The unit is 1,023 service members strong.

During 2024, the 130th completed its conversion of eight C-130J-30 aircraft from older Hercules models and received Initial Operating Capability certification on following nine months of operational tests and evaluations designed to stress both the aircraft and their crews under real-world conditions. The unit logged more than 2,250 safe flying hours while maintaining a mission capable rate of 76.5%, surpassing the Air National Guard standard by 6.5%. The unit deployed 309 members to support the State Partnership Program in Peru, Qatar and Gabon, participated in numerous exercises around the world

including Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica, Arctic Defender, Resolute Sentinel 24, Silver Arrow 24, Cyber Shield 24 and Locked Shields 24. The unit also actively participated in operations within Africa Command (AFRICOM) and Central Command (CENTCOM) areas of responsibility.



Additional 2024 highlights for the 130th AW include:

A team of 47 medical personnel and support staff, part of the Chemical Biological Radiation Nuclear (CBRN) Task Force, collaborated with local, county, state and federal agencies through various joint training events. These included services to the Nation's Capital for the State of the Union, the "Marshall Stampede" at Marshall University, mass casualty exercises with Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC) and Kanawha County EMS, and Operation Red Flag in Las Vegas with Blackfoot Tribal Health in Montana. Additionally, the detachment secured a training agreement with CAMC, ensuring its medics and nurses remain fully proficient and meet all readiness standards.

Firefighter Master Sgt. Andrew Mencin was awarded the Bronze Star for his valor during a deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. During his six-month deployment, Master Sgt. Mencin and his thirteen-man team faced significant threats, enduring four indirect rocket strikes, two complex theater ballistic missile attacks and two assaults by hostile unmanned aerial systems.

August 2024 saw the 130th Airlift Wing undergo its Unit Effectiveness Inspection (UEI) Capstone from the Air Mobility Command (AMC), receiving praise from the inspection team on the wing's pride, morale and professionalism, highlighting their seamless transition from the C-130H to the C-130J and their data-driven operations. The Wing received an overall inspection grade of EFFECTIVE, with numerous HIGHLY EFFECTIVE ratings across subcategories. Inspectors also praised the wing's September 2023 Readiness Exercise (REV) for its challenging and realistic scenarios.



Army Interagency Training and Education Center (AITEC)

Located in St. Albans, AITEC 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 partners and organizations are prepared to defend, respond and assist supported agencies in successful operations. The command employs 251 personnel and receives more than \$23 million in federal funding each year.

AITEC is comprised of multiple units, including the Critical Infrastructure Battalion, the 35th CBRN Enhanced Response Force Package and the 35th Civil Support Team. These units also contain smaller specialized teams such as the Cyber Protection Team Mission Element (CPT-ME), Civilian Defense Critical Infrastructure Support Team (CDCI-ST), United States Coast Guard (USCG) Port Security and Resilience Assessment (PSRA) Team, Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) Mission Assurance Team, Office for Bombing Prevention Team and Headquarters Department of the Army (HQDA) Mission Assurance Assessment Team.



Critical Infrastructure Protection Battalion (CIP)

The CIP Battalion executes both domestic and global assessments and training in Cyber Operations, Mission Assurance, Port Security and Resilience, Infrastructure Visualization and Bombing Prevention for state organizations, DoD, intergovernmental and interagency partners. CIP teams' findings provide comprehensive, valid and defensible actions to senior level decision-makers in civilian organizations and federal, state and local agencies to further enhance national and global security.

During 2024, CIP conducted more than a dozen assessments of DoD assets, tested over 1,900 devices for counterfeit components, trained more than 9,580 participants during more than 580 counter-improvised explosive devices training courses and created more than 170 products to support critical infrastructure security, special event planning and response operations.



35th CBRN Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP)

Based at Camp Dawson and St. Albans, CBRNE BN ensures CBRNE readiness for the National Guard, providing training courses and evaluations for units across all 54 U.S. States and Territories.



During 2024, CBRNE Battalion conducted 52 individual training courses, held 23 collective training events and executed more than 75 training missions. In total, CBRNE battalion trained more than 8,600 service members from around the nation to effectively conduct domestic response operations.



35th Civil Support Team (CST)

The 35th CST (Weapons of Mass Destruction) provides unique military capabilities, expertise and technologies to assist civil authorities at domestic chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) incident sites. The 35th CST is on-call and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to the Governor of West Virginia for rapid deployment. 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 human-made disasters that could result in catastrophic loss of life or property.



During 2024, the 35th CST executed 33 total missions including two emergency deployments, 13 planned deployments of Joint Hazard Assessment Teams and 18 interagency partner assistance missions.



Ridge Runner

The Ridge Runner Irregular Warfare Program 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 refocused on multi-domain irregular Warfare (IW) operations to meet current emerging great power competition training requirements. Presently, the program executes six operational-level IW exercises annually in a multi-domain, contemporary security environment with peer/near-peer threats integrating SOF operations with joint, conventional, interagency and partner forces.

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.

In 2024, the Ridge Runner program executed two large-scale Ridge Runner Exercises in April and July. These exercises combined included over 800 USSOF and partners from 13 nations, including elements from Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Slovakia, Georgia, Canada, Mongolia, Moldova, Jordan, Qatar and the United Kingdom.

Ridge Runner also conducted four Ridge Healer exercises throughout 2024. Ridge Healer provided the medical community of interest with the premier irregular warfare medical resiliency laboratory capable of simulating complex multi-domain austere, contested and denied area medical sustainment environment.

State Partnership Program (SPP)

The West Virginia National Guard State Partnership Program supports security cooperation objectives of the United States by developing enduring relationships with Peru, Qatar and Gabon that build partner capability, improve interoperability and enhance U.S. access and influence while increasing the readiness of U.S. and partner forces. These relationships, which can extend beyond military-to-military ties, benefit the WVNG, our partner nations, the State of West Virginia and the U.S. Government.



Peru

The WVNG partnership with Peru began in 1996 and continues to thrive. In 2024, the WVNG executed 31 engagements with members of the Peruvian Armed Forces, strengthening partnerships and countering threats. Engagements had a primary focus on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HA/DR), Cyber and Enlisted Leader Professional Development (ELPD).



Qatar

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



In 2024, the WVNG conducted 22 engagements with Qatar. These occurred in both the U.S. and Qatar and focused on key leader engagements, intelligence restructuring and interoperability, physical security, human resources development, reserve component integration, land forces operations, defense support to civil authorities, countering weapons of mass destruction, facility management, Army engineering and Women, Peace and Security engagements.



Gabon

In November, a large delegation of WVNG members and State of West Virginia representatives traveled to the Gabonese Republic to hold a signing ceremony marking the official launch of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program relationship between West Virginia and the African nation. Signing the official document were Maj. Gen. Bill Crane, the Adjutant General of the West Virginia National Guard and Brig. Gen. Landry Mbondo, Deputy Chief of the Gabonese Armed Forces.

Future planned engagements with Gabon include numerous additional top-leader engagements, non-commissioned officer professional development, disaster preparedness, and engineering training.





Mountaineer Challenge Academy (MCA)

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 and enhance their futures.

West Virginia is home to two Youth Challenge sites, MCA North located at Camp Dawson in Kingwood and MCA South located 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 Model's 8 Core Components in a quasi-military environment during a 22-week residential and one-year follow-up program. The Challenge Academy has graduated 5,812 West Virginia teens since 1993 and provides cadets with the opportunity to earn a high school diploma as part of their course completion.

Cadets receive real world training in addition to their academics. All Cadets receive certifications in CPR and First Aid, Hunter's Safety, OSHA 10 and Food Handler's. Each program site also offers Career Exploration Courses to interested Cadets. Career Exploration Classes vary from class to class with possible opportunities available in Agriculture/Eco, College Readiness, Cyber Security, Electrical, Meat Cutting, Military Prep, Oil and Gas, Photography, ServSafe Food Protection and Welding.

Service to Community is another important part of cadet life at the Mountaineer Challenge Academy. Cadets develop an understanding of the benefits gained from 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 8,321 hours. MCA South Cadets completed 8,129 hours. At the recognized value of \$31.80 per volunteer hour, MCA Graduates donated \$523,110 to communities during 2024.

Mountaineer Job Challenge Program (MJCP)



The Mountaineer Job Challenge Program (MJCP) is a post-graduation program for MCA Program Graduates. The mission of the MJCP is to provide graduates with career and technical education leading to industry

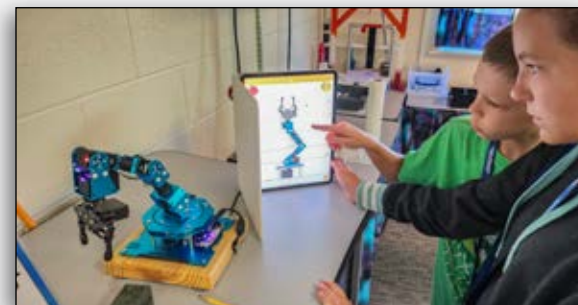
recognized certification and job placement, while maintaining the Youth Challenge Program's 8 Core Components in a quasi-military residential environment. Mountaineer Job Challenge has graduated 202 Students since the program started in 2019. MJCP offers five career paths while seeking additional opportunities to increase capacity for more career fields. Job Challenge offers, welding, building construction, medical assistant, heavy equipment operator and fiber optics/HS diploma.

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

DoD STARBASE is a premier educational program. Students participate in challenging "hands-on, minds-on" activities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). They interact with military personnel to explore careers and observe STEM applications in the "real world." The goal is to be the premier DoD youth outreach program for raising the interest in learning and improving the knowledge and skills of our nation's youth in STEM education.

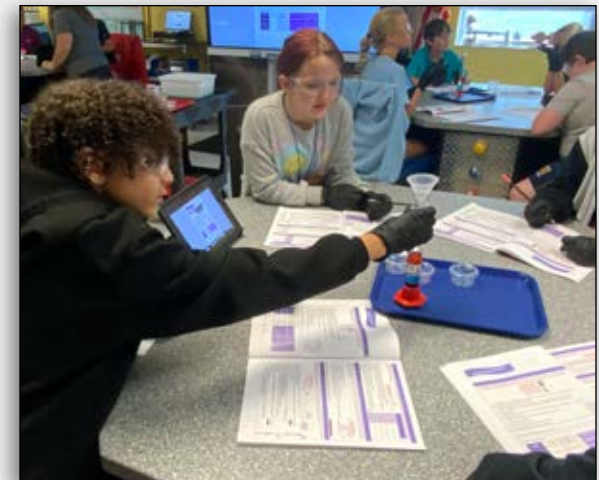


STARBASE Martinsburg

Since its establishment in 2003, STARBASE Martinsburg has been at the forefront of engaging students in STEM education in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia. Located at the 167th Airlift Wing in Martinsburg, STARBASE Martinsburg is committed to making a positive impact on every student who walks through its doors. The site runs three classrooms daily, providing a 25-hour hands-on, minds-on STEM curriculum to every 5th grade student in the surrounding school districts, reaching approximately 2,500 students each year.

In addition to the standard program, Martinsburg offers STARBASE Advanced, a program designed to further cultivate students' interest in STEM and carry them through middle and high school. This includes an after hours middle school advanced program and a high school advanced program for Marine Corp JROTC cadets, focusing on robotics and computer-aided design.

STARBASE Martinsburg also hosts a yearly STEM Night to engage the community with various STEM careers and hands-on activities, with more than 700 attendees in the most recent event.



STARBASE Charleston

WV STARBASE Charleston has been able to serve the local public and private schools for 23 years providing an engaging "hands-on, minds-on" Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) curriculum. STARBASE Charleston simultaneously operates three classrooms across the entirety of Joint Base West Virginia, one embedded with Joint Forces Headquarters and two at the 130th Airlift Wing.



During the 2023-2024 school year, WV STARBASE Charleston provided STEM instruction to 1,844 5th grade students from Kanawha and Putnam County School Districts. STARBASE Charleston operated an STARBASE Advanced program at Clay County Middle School with a focused curriculum on drones. STARBASE Charleston offered multiple STEM summer camps reaching 98 military dependents.

STEM outreach is an additional commitment of the program. STARBASE Charleston is fully partnered with the West Virginia Army and Air Guard Family Readiness and Child and Youth Programs to provide STEM enrichment to military dependents. Throughout the school year the program provided STEM instruction to Mountaineer Challenge Academy-South reaching more than 87 cadets.





Future Leaders Program

The Future Leaders Program is a high school leadership and life skills program designed to improve student success in high school and beyond. FLP supports the WV Department of Education's "3 E's" (Education, Employment, Enlistment) and teaches skills needed for academic success and conducts career research. FLP instructors are veterans trained to deliver the FLP curriculum using a hybrid of academic and career-technical education (CTE) style of teaching, while the WV Department of Education provides oversight for teacher-related training. FLP helps students by improving grades and attendance, building confidence, increasing graduation rates, improving self-discipline and instilling purpose and direction for post-graduation.

For School Year 2024/25, FLP was taught in 15 Schools (9 Counties) with 1,200+ students enrolled in the program, a 24.6% increase since the program's creation in 2019. Current FLP counties are Brooke, Clay, Logan, Monongalia, Putnam, Roane, Tucker, Upshur and Wyoming.



Adjutant General's Economic Development Office (AGEDO)

The AGEDO strives to develop and maintain strategic partnerships with federal, state and local governments, communities and economic development organizations in public and private sectors, to support and complement the vision and mission of the WVNG.

In support of WV employers, the AGEDO is the program operator for the Jobs & Hope Workforce Employment Program. Established by Governor Justice and the state legislature, Jobs & Hope West Virginia offers support to West Virginians in recovery from substance abuse and addiction. Through a collaboration of state agencies and partners, Jobs & Hope West Virginia provides opportunities for participants to obtain career training leading to secure employment. To date Jobs & Hope West Virginia has awarded about 150 grants, totaling more than \$1.5 million to employers of program graduates.



In 2024, the AGEDO conducted training programs in heavy equipment operation and agriculture for Jobs & Hope WV and Mountaineer Job Challenge participants, leading to employment in public and private industries. Supported by industry associations and employers, approximately 60 participants are trained in heavy equipment operation annually, totaling more than 275 since 2019. These, along with the 900+ participants educated annually in a variety of agriculture-based topics, including composting, lawn and landscape, irrigation and pruning, provides West Virginians the unique skillsets needed to help meet industry demand.



Patriot Guardians

Patriot Guardians provides informal agricultural education and hands-on learning opportunities to veterans, active-duty members of the military and their families. This grant-funded program assists and supports everyone from backyard hobbyists and start-up business owners to seasoned professional farmers.



During 2024, Patriot Guardians continued its mission of strengthening communities and fostering agricultural growth through innovative programming. PG hosted 97 unique hands-on workshops expanding program reach and providing continual learning opportunities.

The PG orchard saw significant growth with 24,000 trees planted and 130 beehives in full operation. This year, PG harvested 600 pounds of honey and approximately two tons of apples, contributing to local food systems and providing participants with another layer of learning. Overall, PG reached 6,625 participants through our programs, securing \$1,412,811 in grant funds and generating \$9,301 in revenue from farmers markets.



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 Marshal's Office and more. WVNG criminal analysts contributed investigative case and analysis support to six agencies/task forces in multiple locations.

Fiscal Year 2024 Confiscations/Seizures

Arrests:	219
Cocaine HCL:	3,388.05 grams
Crack Cocaine:	1,237.87 grams
Heroin:	137.86 grams
Fentanyl:	19,360.18 grams
Meth:	12,437.77 grams
Crystal Meth "ICE":	103,210.91 grams
Marijuana:	6,855.76 grams
Marijuana plants:	8,340
Assets:	\$240,872 value
Currency:	\$264,491 USD
Firearms:	42
Vehicles:	2 cars, 1 ATV

Total Value of seizures
\$12,542,974

In 2024, WVNG Counter Drug Aviation flew 149 missions with 714 flight hours in supporting civilian law enforcement. Their efforts resulted in the seizure and/or eradication of methamphetamine, crack cocaine, heroin, fentanyl, marijuana and opium valued at nearly \$12 million. The program also seized more than \$200,000 in cash and 42 firearms.

The WVNG Counter Drug Program was also the first program in the nation to achieve a perfect score in National Guard Bureau's Counter Drug Compliance Assurance Program On-site Assessment Visit.



Through the state's Common Ground program, West Virginia National Guard's innovative Drug Demand Reduction Program built strategic partnerships with state and local agencies to develop anti-drug coalitions focused on educating, mentoring and inspiring youths in schools and communities. The program focused on developing attributes in our youths and instilling leadership, civic duty, self-esteem, positive choices and drug awareness through mentorship and engagement with WVNG Soldiers and Airmen who volunteer at local schools.



The Drug Demand Reduction team has continued to read and mentor throughout Berkeley, Jefferson, Morgan, Lewis, Kanawha and Cabell counties. The team continued to provide instruction on the folding of the American flag, life skills and manners. Throughout the year, WVNG DDR participants reached more than 5,100 students in 32 schools throughout West Virginia.



Family Programs

The WVNG Family Programs Office supports the mission readiness of service members and their families through 10 Service Programs: Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, Soldier and Family Readiness Program, Child and Youth Program, Survivor Outreach Service, Beneficiary Assistance Coordinators, Reserve Component Transition Assistance Advisor Program, Personal Financial Counselor Program, Military One Source, Military Family Life Counselor Program and the Chaplain Corps.



During 2024, the Soldier and Family Readiness Program operated in five locations and supported 268 events with 12,543 service members, family members and community partners in attendance. The Child & Youth Program conducted 25 events and served 3,617 military kids and 5,716 adults. Survivor Outreach Service Coordinator events supported 1,221 survivors and family members including Gold Star Families.

Family Program Tricare representatives worked more than 4,800 family cases and briefed at over 23 events, and our Personal Financial Counselors (PFC) conducted 634 face-to-face, phone and virtual meetings with service members and their spouses for their financial needs. Additionally, PFCs attended 29 events/briefings to present topics to service members and families.

The Chaplain Corps provided comprehensive religious support to West Virginia Soldiers and families through a robust offering of spiritual resiliency events including the Building Strong and Ready Teams (BSRT) program, which conducted 10 relationship-enhancing retreats that reached 269 Soldiers and family members.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day



Military families, including spouses, are the backbone and foundation of our One Guard. In 2024, Maj. Gen. Crane and Mrs. Crane hosted the 2nd annual Military Spouse Appreciation Day. Eighteen Guardsmen and their spouses attended the event where they were treated to a military flight aboard a C-130J Super Hercules followed by a catered lunch and tours of the West Virginia State Museum and Governor's Mansion. The annual event is designed to show appreciation for the resilience, strength and dedication of military spouses.





Construction and Facilities Management Office (CFMO)

The Construction and Facilities Management Office 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 2024, the CFMO executed \$27,383,000 of Federal funds to support real property assets for the WVARNG:

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

The CFMO awarded one fully Federal funded Major Military Construction project in FY 24:

\$20,803,000	Buckhannon Readiness Center Addition/Alteration
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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 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 2024, which will provide much-needed additional space at these facilities:

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

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

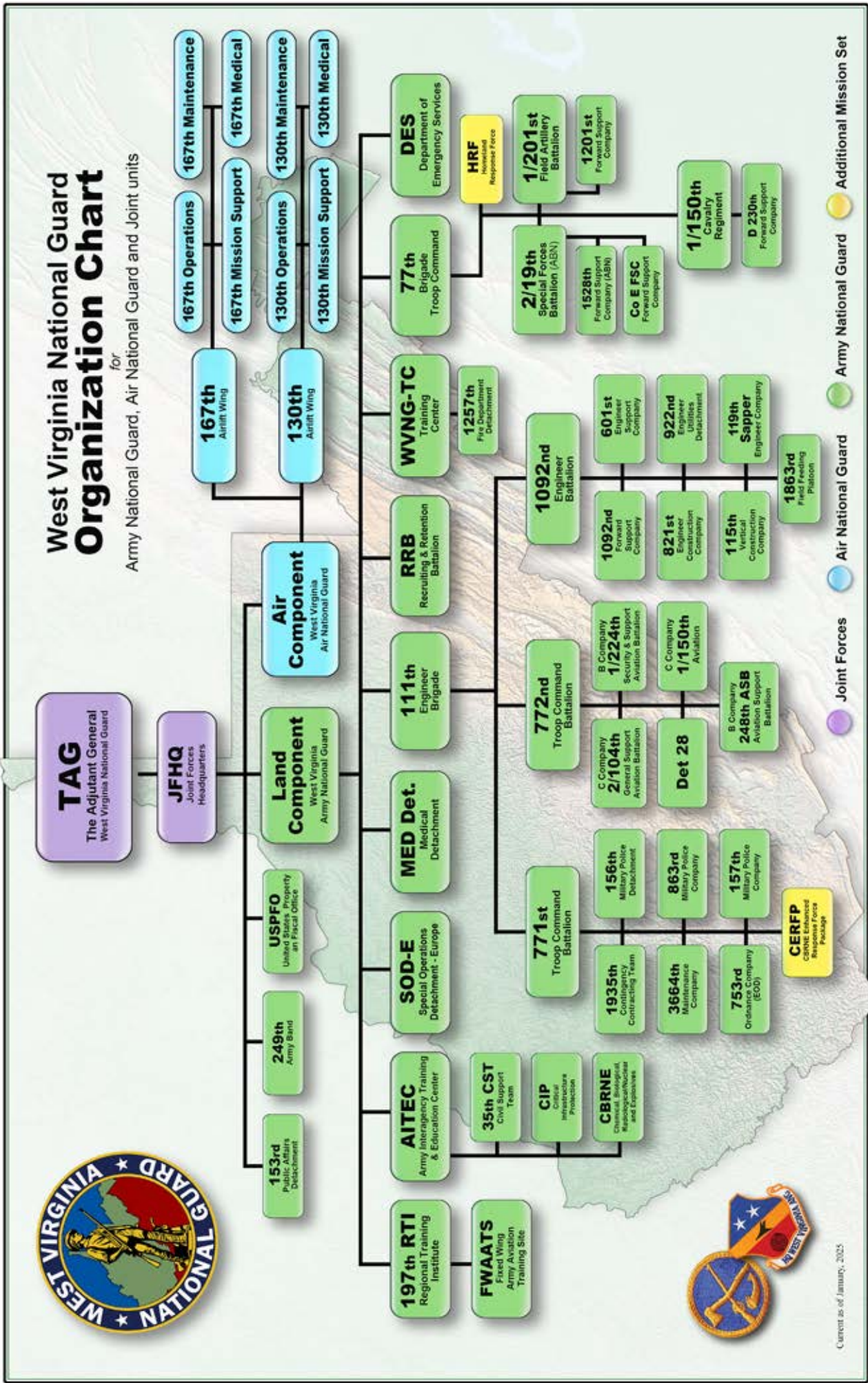
\$20,000,000	Martinsburg Readiness Center
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This project will repurpose a 67,000 square foot hangar vacated by the Emivest Corporation in 2011 into a multi-unit readiness center. The new facility will be the future home for three Army National Guard Units and a Field Maintenance Shop, consisting of more than 430 Personnel with 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:

\$1,154,930	Volkstone Training Area Fence and Paving
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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 WV State Route 72. WVARNG subleased 0.5 acres from the FOC to install the fence. This action allowed the fence installation 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.





2024 West Virginia National Guard