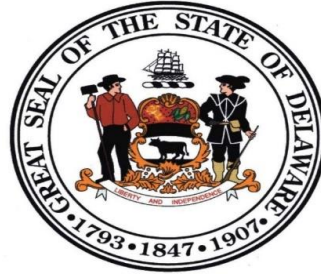


Delaware National Guard Fiscal Year 2026 Bond Bill Hearing March 31, 2025



JAMES A. BENSON
Brigadier General
The Adjutant General, Delaware

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National Guard Dual Missions *Always Ready, Always There*

State Mission

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

Federal Mission

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

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National Guard Impact

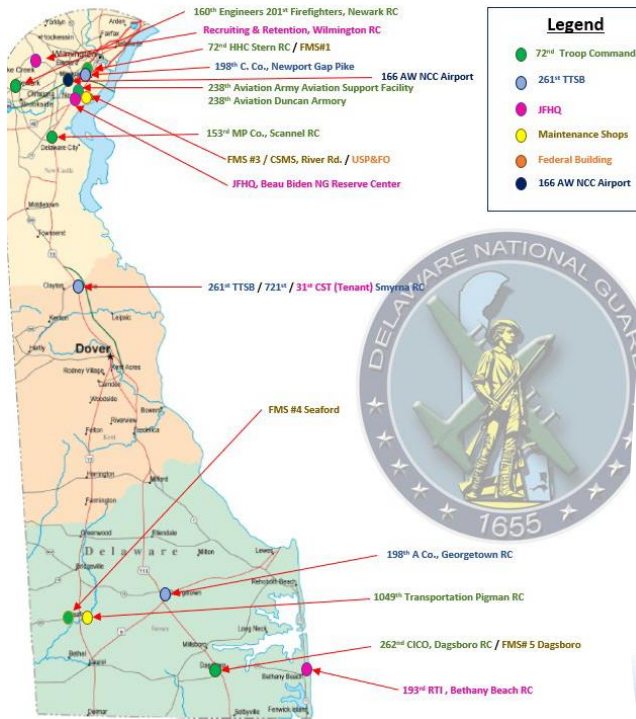
- Continues to be a great value to the state of Delaware and the Nation
- Top employer in Delaware
- Brings millions in revenue to the local economy annually
- Key state agency
- Positive impact

3

Army National Guard Readiness Centers as of October 2024

<u>Readiness Center/Location</u>	<u>Construction Completion Date</u>
Joseph R. "Beau" Biden National Guard/Reserve Center	2013
Smyrna Readiness Center	2003
Dagsboro Readiness Center	1999
Scannell Readiness Center (Delaware City)	1976
Duncan Readiness Center	1975
198th Regimental Armory (1401 Newport Gap Pike)	1972
Wilmington Readiness Center ¹	1959
Stern Readiness Center	1954
Pigman Readiness Center (Seaford) ²	1950
Georgetown Readiness Center	1939
<i>Total of 10 Readiness Centers of which 9 are state-owned</i>	<i>Average age = 50 years</i>
<i>Total of 7 Oldest Readiness Centers</i>	<i>Average age = 63 years</i>
<i>Note 1 - Acquired from Department of Education in 1979</i>	
<i>Note 2 - Federally-owned - ongoing license from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</i>	

4



Readiness Center Locations

- Wilmington
- New Castle
- Delaware City
- Smyrna
- Georgetown
- Dagsboro

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National Guard MCI Program

- Support ongoing maintenance, restoration, repair and replacement projects
- Improve safety of facilities; comply with building codes
- Maintain building envelopes; upgrade equipment
- Replace HVAC systems, roofs, sidewalks, parking lots, electrical systems and lighting
- Renovations

6

Federal and State Capital Funds

- Last five years
 - \$144 million in federal
 - \$35 million in state
- Impact
 - Federal match
 - Usage
 - State emergencies
 - State and federal missions
 - Readiness, recruiting and retention

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FY 2026 Initiatives

- \$2.3 million Minor Capital Budget Request
- \$200 thousand for Maintenance and Restoration
- Minor Capital Improvement Projects

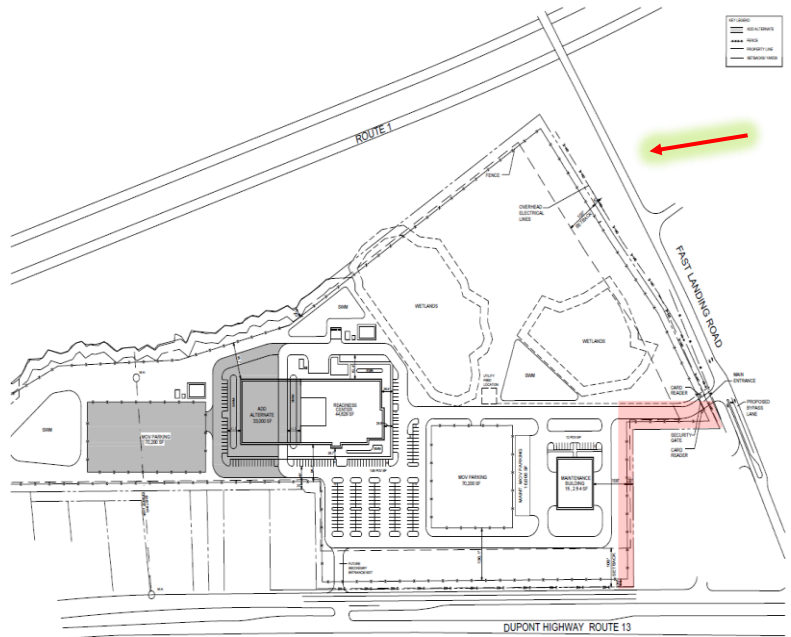
• 1401 1st Floor Roof Sustainment	\$515,000
• BBTS Running Track Sustainment	\$524,000
• BBTS Domestic Water Laterals Sustainment	\$525,000
• AASF Fire Alarm Sustainment	\$257,500
• BBTS 151 Renovation	\$669,500

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

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Cheswold Readiness Center Fast Landing Rd.

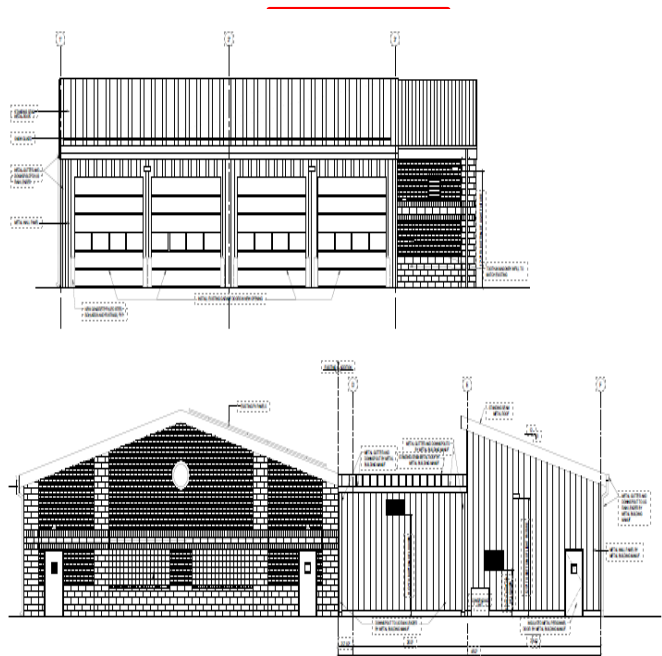
- Major Capital Budget Request
- Funding for design, site prep, and construction
- 44,829 SF facility
- \$21 million federal/\$13.65 million state (FY25 \$300 thousand; FY26 \$3.85 million; FY28 \$6.8 million)
- Supports 1049th Transportation Company
- State Design-Build Authority



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Civil Support Team (CST) Expansion

- Major Capital Budget Request
- Sustain existing 5,000 SF and construct additional 3,000 SF
- Enhance readiness levels by addressing space shortages while lowering operations and maintenance costs
- Supports housing of emergency vehicles
- State funding of \$1.5 million will be used to leverage federal funding



10

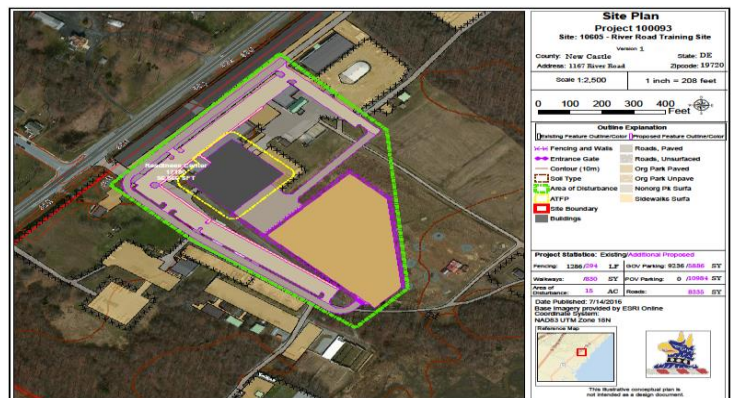
Ongoing Army and Air Military Construction (MILCON) Projects

- River Road Readiness Center
- Transient Training Officer Barracks
- Dagsboro Readiness Center Expansion
- 166th Airlift Wing Fuel Cell Hangar

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River Road Readiness Center

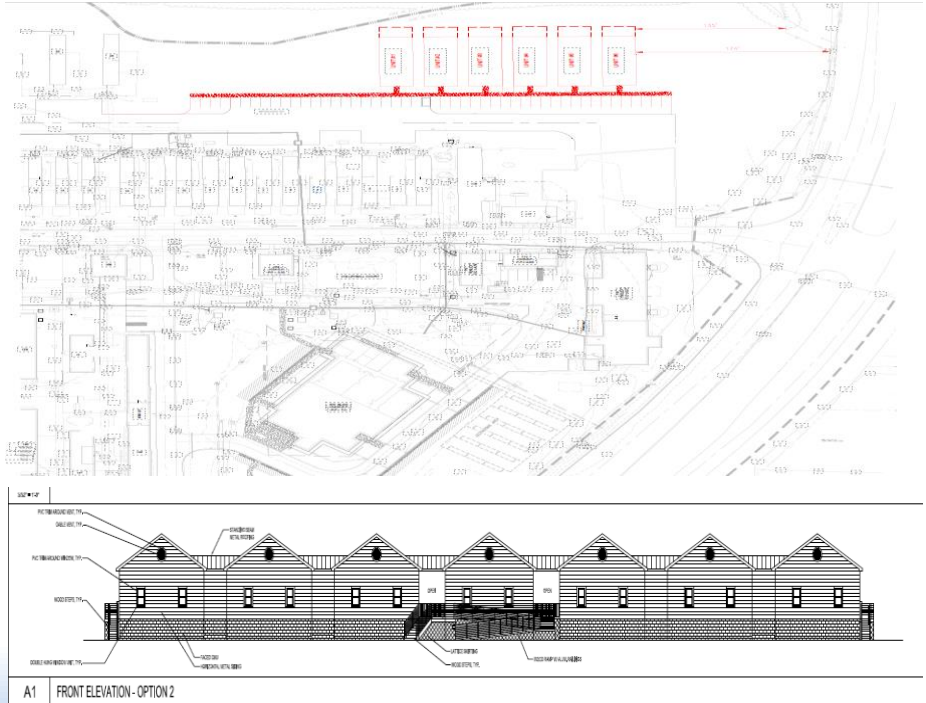
- \$16 million federal / \$8.7 million state match (FY23)
- 46,941 SF (Units-153rd Military Police and new 302nd Field Feeding Team)
- Provide administrative, training, and materiel storage
- Build on federal property – New Castle County
- Project completion expected in Aug 2025



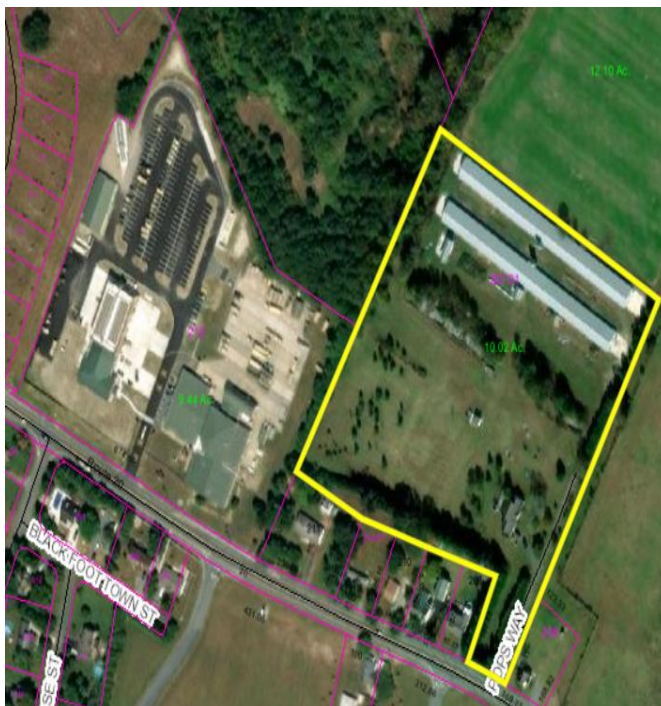
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Transient Training Officer Barracks

- \$8.1 million federal / \$2.5 million state contribution (FY22 and FY24)
- 16,073 SF; on state property – Sussex County
- Supports schoolhouse and accommodates Soldiers who train at Bethany Beach Training Site
- Village Concept with six (8) person units (48) rooms
- Construction completion expected by end of 2027



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• Dagsboro Readiness Center Expansion

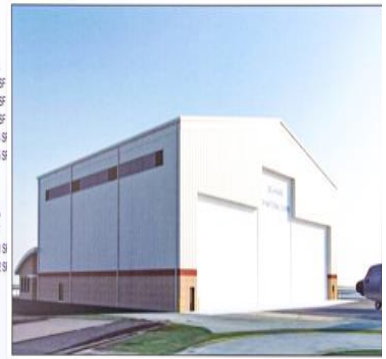
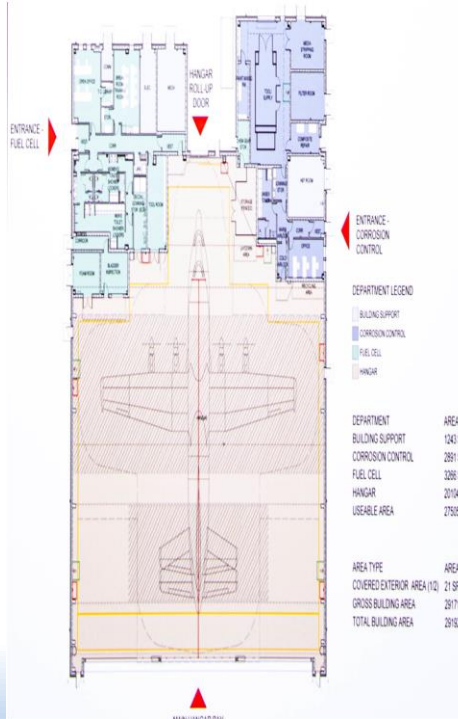
- Major Capital Budget Request
- 3,912 SF addition, 4,512 SF alteration, 4,950 SY ORG parking to existing structure
- Meet Installation Status Report, Quantity Rating C2
- \$7.5 million federal / \$2.5 million state (FY25)
- Support 262nd CICO



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166th Airlift Wing Fuel Cell Hangar

- Demolish current facility
- \$24 million federal / \$1 million state contribution (FY24)
- 29,600 SF; New Castle County Airport
- Supports required aircraft maintenance / corrosion control, fully enclose C-130H and C-130J aircraft
- Critical in sustaining the tactical airlift mission of the 166th Airlift Wing
- Metal building design finalized, approved, and in fabrication
- Completion expected end of 2026



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Closing Remarks

- Continued support and state collaboration
- Remain competitive; deliver high quality services
- Maintain current posture; plan for future growth
- Sustain operational readiness and effectiveness
- Proud to serve the Citizens of this Great State and Nation
- *"Always Ready, Always There"*



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Meyer Administration Values

INTEGRITY

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

EFFICIENCY

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

COLLABORATION

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

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