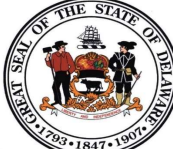



**Delaware National Guard  
FY 2026 JFC Budget Hearing  
February 27, 2025  
11:30 a.m.**

JAMES A. BENSON  
Brigadier General  
The Adjutant General, Delaware



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**Outline**

- Introduction
- Dual Missions
- 2024 Year in Review
- Commitment
- FY 2026 Budget Overview
- Closing

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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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# 2024 Year in Review

## Mobilizations

### Hurricane Milton Relief Efforts

- 99 Soldiers
- 46-vehicle convoy
- Ready within 48 hours



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## **2024 Year in Review (cont'd)**

### State Active Duty (SAD) Cyber Support

- Performed 94 days of State Active Duty
- In support of Primary and General Elections, and DOJ/DTI request
- Partnership with DEMA, DTI, Department of Elections, and Department of Safety and Homeland Security

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## **2024 Year in Review (cont'd)**

### 31<sup>st</sup> Civil Support Team (CST)

- Federally funded 22-member team (Army and Air)
- Identify a multitude of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive threats
- Partnership with DEMA, DNREC, and various emergencies service agencies
- Responded to six state requests

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**2024 Year in Review (cont'd)**

Air National Guard 166<sup>th</sup> Fire and Emergency Services Flight-Station 33

POTUS Support










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**2024 Year in Review (cont'd)**

Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Program

- 144 Soldiers and Airmen
- 10 Training exercises
- Involved since 1996

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### 2024 Year in Review (cont'd)

#### State Partnership Program

- Partner with Trinidad and Tobago
- Ongoing for 20+ years
- Disaster management, corrections, and education

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### 2024 Year in Review (cont'd)

#### Youth ChalleNGe Program

- Established in 2016
- 157 participants
- 103 program graduates
- 54 earned GED

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## **2024 Year in Review (cont'd)**

### **Joint Enlistment Enhancement Program (JEEP)**

- Implemented in FY 2023
- Offers a monetary incentive for referring new enlistees
- Help grow and maintain a high-quality force ready to serve
- Air and Army combined total of 104 enlistments (nearly 10%) directly from JEEP leads/referrals

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## **Upcoming Deployment**

### **101<sup>st</sup> Public Affairs Detachment (PAD)**

- Kosovo
- April 2025 (year-long deployment)
- Four Soldiers
- Support ongoing NATO-led international peacekeeping operations
- Highlight the importance of allied partnerships

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## National Guard Commitment

- Maintain a balanced force structure authorization of 1,693 Army Guard Soldiers and 1,161 Air Guard Airmen
- Enhance joint operation capabilities to achieve optimal mission effectiveness and efficiency of operations involving Army and Air personnel
- Continue quality recruiting, promotion and retention programs
- Enhance mission readiness, through effective military leadership development programs and challenging unit training
- Develop and participate in local, state, and national programs and partnerships that provide a positive impact on the community



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## FY 2026 Budget Request Overview

- \$6,319.9 Governor's Recommended Operating Budget
- Door Openers
  - \$43.0 to cover operating costs at 12 Penns Way, Pandemic Readiness Center
  - \$27.6 annualization-remaining portion of FY25 approved Admin Officer position/FTE
- 1% Recommended Up Proposal
  - \$59.7 in education assistance to mitigate the continual budget shortfall
  - Vital recruiting & retention tool
- Summary of Vacant Positions
  - 1 FTE (GF & NSF)

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## Closing Remarks

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



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## *Meyer Administration Values*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INTEGRITY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Actions speak louder than words - actions build trust. We will lead with transparency and accountability to ensure every decision serves the public good.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EFFICIENCY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Government should work smarter, not harder. We will eliminate waste, streamline services, and prioritize execution over excuses.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COLLABORATION</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Lasting change requires teamwork. We will break down silos, build strong partnerships, and deliver solutions that work.</i></p>
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