

**Maryland Military Department
Testimony**

Fiscal Year 2018 Operating Budget

**Presented to
Senate Health and Human Services (HHS) Subcommittee
March 2, 2017**

**House Public Safety and Administration (PSA) Subcommittee
February 27, 2017**

Introduction

The Maryland Military Department appreciates this opportunity to update the committee on the activities of the Department and to respond to the issues raised and recommendations contained in the operating budget analysis prepared by the Department of Legislative Services (DLS).

This document contains the following information:

1. Highlights of the Maryland Military Department's key accomplishments of the past year.
2. A discussion of the key issues affecting the Department, as discussed in the analysis prepared by the Department of Legislative Services (DLS).
3. The Department's response to the recommendations of the Department of Legislative Services

Key Accomplishments

I am pleased to submit to the budget committees our key accomplishments in fiscal year 2016 for the Maryland Military Department. This summary incorporates the accomplishments of the Maryland Army National Guard, Maryland Air National Guard, Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and Maryland Defense Force (MDDF).

The Maryland Army and Air National Guard continued to support many overseas contingency operations. In addition, to supporting operations in the Middle East, our military personnel have served in Cuba, Estonia, Horn of Africa, Bosnia, & Herzegovina and on our southwest border with Mexico. In addition, our personnel from all the pillars of our department were mobilized for state service during the record breaking Snow Storm Jonas. We also supported efforts in Ellicott City following flooding in July and preparation for Hurricane Matthew in October. This was done with coordination with MEMA and the support from the MDDF.

The Department remains a solid contributor to the economic strength of Maryland as our fiscal impact totaled \$297 million. The Department's ratio of federal dollars spent for each state dollar invested is nearly 23 to 1. We continue to provide employment and education opportunities to Marylanders while providing our citizens an opportunity to serve our state and our nation.

The Maryland Military Department remains a "relevant and ready" force prepared to serve the needs of our citizens. Thank you for your support, as we continue a new chapter in our long and distinguished history.

Key Issue and Discussion:

Freestate Challenge Academy (FCA) Operations, Performance, and New Initiatives:

The Department should comment on FCA's dual status as a GED and alternative education facility, steps taken to increase academy enrollment, and the status of its relationships with and the ability to offer enhanced educational alternatives with the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), the Department of Social Services (DHR/DSS), and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The Department should also establish a goal for the percentage of FCA graduates who obtain a high school diploma/GED as part of the Military Department's annual MFR performance measures, beginning with the fiscal 2019 submission. (DLS Analysis page 3 & 20).

Agency Response:

The April 2016 Joint Chairmen's Report, JCR page 25, requested the Department to, "Report on Obtaining GED certification for the Freestate Challenge Academy". This report also included an update on FCA's alternative education program, the impact on improving enrollment, and the status of the Department's relationship with DJS, DHR/DSS & MSDE. A copy of the Department's response submitted to the JCR on 28 September 2016 is included with this testimony as attachment #1.

Summarized in our testimony below are the key highlights from the JCR response along with updates since the JCR submission:

1. Update on the Freestate Challenge Academy becoming a GED Option Program:
 - a. On June 29, 2015, the Freestate Challenge Academy was certified as an approved Pearson Vue GED Testing Facility.
 - b. The graduates from the June 2015 class were the first cadets (students) to take the GED test at the certified Freestate Challenge Academy testing location.
 - c. All future classes will utilize the Freestate Challenge Academy testing location for GED testing.
2. Update on the Freestate Challenge Academy becoming an Alternative Education Program to provide enhanced educational opportunities:
 - a. On May 13, 2016, the Freestate Challenge Academy was approved by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) as an alternative education program for purposes of the compulsory attendance exemption.
 - b. Section 7-301 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, sets forth the State's compulsory school attendance law. It requires a child who is age 5 or older and under 17 to "attend a public school regularly during the entire school year" unless the child satisfies an exemption to the law.
 - c. One of the exemptions is if the child "attends an alternative educational program." MSDE has determined that Freestate Challenge Academy is an alternative educational program under this exemption. Therefore, a 16 year old can legally withdraw from school to attend the Freestate Challenge Academy.
 - d. Please note that the age of compulsory school attendance will rise from 17 to 18 on July 1, 2017.
3. Impact on Challenge Academy since this distinction has been obtained:
 - a. Increased enrollment at the Freestate Challenge Academy.
 - b. Established an Education Advisory Committee to determine requirements for credit recovery and additional educational opportunities for cadets.
 - c. Increased graduation rates and GED completion.
 - d. Closer working relationship with MSDE to increase opportunities for after school employment, education and skills training.

- e. This distinction has given at risk youth a “second chance” and a greater opportunity with achieving success of becoming productive citizens.
4. Outreach efforts and communication with the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) and Department of Human Resources (DHR/DSS) to recruit at-risk youth eligible for the program:

The recruiters at the Freestate ChalleNGe academy have developed a strong working relationship with the DJS and Department of Social Services (DSS) at statewide locations. This partnership has been strengthened by conducting the following activities:

- a. Periodic meetings with DJS and DSS staff including the family and children enrolled within their programs.
- b. Regular visits to DJS Judges and Magistrates in Prince George’s County and Baltimore City.
- c. Attending meetings for Foster Care transition at the DSS.
- d. On-site and offsite presentations for DJS and DHR staff, parents and youth.
- e. Attending DJS conferences, workshops and other activities throughout the state.
- f. Inviting DJS and DHR staff to attend various ChalleNGe events and functions.
- g. Annually, conduct a “Cadet for a Day” and “Industry Day” to bring educators, community and business leaders together to provide program awareness.

The ChalleNGe Program's Managing for Results (MFR) measures have been updated as requested in the April 2016 JCR (page 26) and have been included with the Department’s FY2018 Operating Budget submission (see attachment #2). These updated measures include a goal of 200 graduates and 150 cadets who pass the GED/obtain a diploma. Future MFR submissions will include a “Percentage of graduates who obtain a diploma/pass the GED”. For FY2017 & FY2018, the Department’s estimates this percentage will be 75% (150/200).

Key Trend:

National Guard Facilities Fail to Reach Maintenance Goals:

The Military Department should comment on steps taken to improve Army National Guard facility functionality ratings. The Department should comment on upcoming facilities, their potential impact on ISR ratings, and any steps taken to reduce maintenance backlogs and enhance Army facilities’ functional status. (DLS Analysis pages 3 & 7).

Agency Response:

The Military Department’s (DMIL) Army Operations and Maintenance Program are tasked with operating and maintaining thirty-two (32) Readiness Centers in nineteen (19) counties and Baltimore City. In addition there are, three (3) Army Aviation Facilities, one (1) Airbase, various vehicle, equipment and aircraft maintenance facilities, and four training sites. These facilities account for 294 buildings and 3,917 acres of land. The program’s Managing for Results (MFR) goal is to maintain 95 % or more of the facilities in a fully functional status in compliance with National Guard Bureau (NGB) requirements which has been consistently missed primarily due to the strict federal Installations Status Report (ISR) criteria and maintaining many older facilities that are deteriorating. From FY2015 to FY2016, the number of functional facilities increased from 21% to 23%.

Although, progress has been made with improving the number of functional facilities as a result of divesting of four (4) armories (Greenbelt, Cascade, Old La Plata & Pikesville) and the recent new construction (or renovation) of three (3) armories (Dundalk, Westminster & New La Plata), there is still work to be done in a very difficult fiscal climate. Obtaining the required state matching funds within the Department’s operating and capital budgets is critical when leveraging federal funds to build new facilities and renovate existing facilities. The current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) has about \$40 million in

FY18 capital funding which will improve our facility rating by replacing older facilities (Easton, Ellicott City & Catonsville) with newer fully functional facilities at Easton, Havre de Grace, & Freedom (Sykesville).

However, it is anticipated that the amount of federal funding available and the number of projects that will be approved annually will be limited due to the current fiscal climate. In addition, the Department's recent approval of funding for capital projects within the CIP does not fully address the shortfalls the Department currently has for funding on-going repair and maintenance requirements at existing facilities. Lastly, due to the difficult fiscal climate, recent FY17 cost containment actions have impacted the Department's ability to eliminate backlog maintenance projects. The Department will continue to work with key state and federal stakeholders to obtain the necessary state and federal funds needed to address repair and maintenance backlogs.

RECOMMENDED DLS ACTION:

Concur with Governor's Allowance (DLS Analysis pages 4 & 21):

Agency Response:

The Department concurs with the DLS recommendation.



LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, Jr.
GOVERNOR
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

STATE OF MARYLAND
MILITARY DEPARTMENT
FIFTH REGIMENT ARMORY
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-2288

LINDA L. SINGH
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

28 September 2016

The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer
Chair Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh
Chair House Appropriations Committee
121 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Kasemeyer and Chairman McIntosh:

The attached report is submitted by the Military Department (MD) to satisfy the April 2016 Joint Chairmen's Report, JCR page 25, Study Report requirement as follows:

Budget Code D50H0101, "*Report on Obtaining GED certification for the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy.*" Due October 1, 2016.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this Status Report, please contact BG(R) Annette Deener, Military Department Chief of Staff, 410 576-1451, Annette.m.deener.nfg@mail.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Singh".

LINDA L. SINGH
Major General, MDARNG
The Adjutant General

Enclosures

Cc: Ms. Rebecca Ruff, DLS Budget Analyst

JOINT CHAIRMEN'S REPORT
MARYLAND MILITARY DEPARTMENT
MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD FREESTATE CHALLENGE ACADEMY

The information contained in this document is in response to the April 2016 Joint Chairmen's Report (page 25) requesting for a Status Report on Obtaining GED certification for the Freestate Challenge Academy: *The Military Department has indicated its intent in having the Freestate Challenge Academy become a GED option program and an alternative education program that includes credit recovery, in order to provide enhanced educational opportunities for youth participating in the program. The budget committees fully support this effort and request that the department submit a report on the progress made to achieve this designation and the plans for how the program will be impacted once the distinction is obtained, including the communication with the Department of Juvenile Services and the Department of Human Resources to coordinate outreach to at-risk youth eligible for the program. The report should be submitted to the budget committee no later than October 1, 2016.*

1. Update on the Freestate Challenge Academy becoming a GED Option Program:
 - a. On June 29, 2015, the Freestate Challenge Academy was certified as an approved GED Testing Facility.
 - b. The graduates from the June 2015 class were the first cadets (students) to take the GED test at the certified Freestate Challenge Academy testing location.
 - c. All future classes will utilize the Freestate Challenge Academy testing location for GED testing.

2. Update on the Freestate Challenge Academy becoming an Alternative Education Program to provide enhanced educational opportunities:
 - a. On May 13, 2016, the Freestate Challenge Academy was approved by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) as an alternative education program for purposes of the compulsory attendance exemption.
 - b. Section 7-301 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, sets forth the State's compulsory school attendance law. It requires a child who is age 5 or older and under 17 to "attend a public school regularly during the entire school year" unless the child satisfies an exemption to the law.
 - c. One of the exemptions is if the child "attends an alternative educational program." MSDE has determined that Freestate Challenge Academy is an alternative educational program under this exemption. Therefore, a 16 year old can legally withdraw from school to attend the Freestate Challenge Academy.
 - d. Please note that the age of compulsory school attendance will rise from 17 to 18 on July 1, 2017.

3. Plans for how the program will be impacted once this distinction has been obtained:
 - a. Increased enrollment at the Freestate Challenge Academy.
 - b. Increased number of students returning to school and obtaining credit recovery.
 - c. Increased graduation rates and GED completion.
 - d. Closer working relationship with MSDE to increase opportunities for after school employment, education and skills training.

- e. This distinction will give at risk youth a “second chance” and a greater opportunity with achieving success of becoming productive citizens.
 - f. The ChalleNGe Program's Managing for Results (MFR) measures have been updated as requested in the April 2016 JCR (page 26) and will be included with the Department’s FY18 Operating Budget submission.
4. Outreach efforts and communication with the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) and Department of Human Resources (DHR) to recruit at-risk youth eligible for the program:

The recruiters at the Freestate ChalleNGe academy have developed a strong working relationship with the DJS and Department of Social Services (DSS) at statewide locations. This partnership has been strengthened by conducting the following activities:

- a. Bi-weekly meetings with DJS and DSS staff including the family and children enrolled within their programs.
- b. Regular visits to DJS Judges and Magistrates in Prince George’s County and Baltimore City.
- c. Attending meetings for Foster Care transition at the DSS.
- d. On-site and offsite presentations for DJS and DHR staff, parents and youth.
- e. Attending DJS conferences, workshops and other activities throughout the state.
- f. Inviting DJS and DHR staff to attend various ChalleNGe events and functions.

Military Department

MISSION

The Military Department has three missions: our State mission is to provide highly trained personnel, equipment, and facilities capable of protecting life and property and preserving peace, order, and public safety; our Federal mission is to be prepared to defend the nation and its vital national security interest; and our Community mission is to add value to communities by providing highly trained and skilled citizen-soldiers and citizen-airmen whose military skills and discipline accrue to the benefit of employers and civic organizations.

VISION

The Military Department comprises quality people, equipment, facilities and systems to enhance our partnerships with communities and local, State, and federal governments.

KEY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Goal 1. The Administrative Headquarters program will provide resources and services to the Military Department.

Obj. 1.1 The Military Department will maintain 90 percent authorized military end strength through 2016.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Number of Guardsmen authorized	6,483	6,563	6,541	6,542	6,360	6,300	6,300
Percent of authorized strength	97%	93%	92%	92%	96%	90%	90%

Goal 2. All facilities and real property support the operational and training needs of the Maryland Air National Guard to include ongoing operations and responses to State and local emergencies.

Obj. 2.1 To maintain 95 percent or more of the facilities in a fully functional status in compliance with National Guard Bureau requirements.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Number of facilities	55	58	59	57	55	55	55
Percent of facilities in fully functional status	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Goal 3. All facilities and real property support the operational and training needs of the Maryland Army National Guard to include ongoing operations and responses to State and local emergencies.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Number of facilities	36	42	35	39	39	39	39
Percent of facilities in fully functional status	80%	75%	21%	21%	23%	28%	28%

Military Department

Goal 4. At risk youth (Freestate ChalleNGe Academy (FCA) graduates) will become productive citizens.

Obj. 4.1 Increase the percentage of FCA graduates who continue their schooling, get a job, or enter the military to 80 percent.

Obj. 4.2 Increase grade levels in reading and mathematics for at least 90 percent of students taking the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE).

Obj. 4.3 To maintain the percentage of FCA graduates in their Post Residential Phase who have active mentor relationships beyond six months at 60 percent.

Obj. 4.4 To graduate at least 100 FCA students per class.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Number of students	175	177	211	182	214	200	200
Number of cadets who take the GED test	175	177	211	182	214	200	200
Number of cadets who pass the GED test	107	70	53	82	123	150	150
Number of cadets who reenroll in high school	N/A	N/A	N/A	8	5	10	10
Number of cadets who obtain a high school diploma	107	70	53	82	123	150	150
Number of applicants for the program	359	286	435	447	546	675	675
Number of cadets enrolled in the program	N/A	243	239	248	334	350	350
Percent of FCA graduates who continue education or are employed	75%	31%	47%	65%	65%	65%	65%
Percent of students showing increased scores on TABE test	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Percent of FCA graduates with active mentor relationships	65%	21%	65%	99%	64%	85%	85%
Average number of FCA graduates per class	88	89	106	91	107	100	100

Goal 5. Operate the Veterans Burial Detail Program to provide honor with dignity for deceased veterans and their families in Maryland.

Obj. 5.1 Maintain the percentage of services performed without complaint at 99 percent or higher.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Number of services performed	3,422	3,465	3,419	3,662	3,624	3,600	3,600
Percent of services performed without complaint	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Military Department

MARYLAND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (MEMA)

Goal 1. Continue to build and enhance Maryland's resilience with a strong emergency preparedness and operations program.

Obj. 1.1 Increase the number of jurisdictions who have developed, submitted and had approved Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Debris Management Plans.

Obj. 1.2 Support the lead State agencies with emergency response roles to update their Emergency Support Function (ESF) annexes to the State Response Operations Plan by the fourth quarter of 2017, and annually thereafter.

Obj. 1.3 Utilize the Maryland Emergency Preparedness Program (MEPP) process to develop a State Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment annually.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Percentage of jurisdictions with FEMA Debris Management Plans	23%	23%	27%	27%	42%	50%	60%
Number of quarterly ESF Leadership Group Meetings held	N/A	N/A	4	4	4	4	4
Number of current ESF Operations Plans	N/A	N/A	16	16	16	16	16
² Number of comprehensive MEPP assessments completed	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
² Percentage of MEPP capabilities assessed	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Goal 2. Act as good stewards of funding and resources on behalf of Maryland taxpayers.

Obj. 2.1 Provide one Public Assistance Program Overview/Damage Assessment training in each of the six MEMA regions annually.

Obj. 2.2 Administer federal grant programs and provide grant allotments and technical assistance in support of grant activities to the State's emergency management jurisdictions.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Number of Public Assistance Program Overview/Damage Assessment trainings	N/A	N/A	6	3	2	3	3
Total amount of federal emergency preparedness grant support provided to local jurisdictions (\$ millions)	N/A	\$11.341	\$12.300	\$12.334	\$10.895	\$10.895	\$10.895

Military Department

Goal 3. Maintain and enhance a strong emergency management workforce throughout Maryland.

Obj. 3.1 Institutionalize the Maryland Preparedness Planning Certificate Program (MPPCP) in the third quarter of 2015, and ensure required courses for both levels (basic and advanced) are accessible to prospective participants.

Obj. 3.2 Ensure that all MEMA staff complete required workforce training.

Obj. 3.3 Ensure that all State Emergency Operations Center staff and representatives participate in two discussion and two operational exercises annually.

Obj. 3.4 Ensure that all State Emergency Operations Center staff and representatives are properly trained.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
³ Percentage of MEMA planners with MPPCP certification	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
³ Number of planners outside of MEMA with MPPCP certification	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of staff with required training completed	N/A	N/A	N/A	80%	80%	90%	95%
Percentage of staff with recommended training completed	N/A	N/A	N/A	80%	80%	90%	95%
Number of discussion exercises offered	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	8	6	6
Number of operational exercises offered	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	4	4	4
Percentage of SEOC staff and representative participation in four exercises annually	N/A	N/A	N/A	50%	75%	75%	75%
Number of SEOC Position Specific Trainings conducted	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	4	5	5
Number of SEOC Representatives (Emergency Support Functions)	N/A	N/A	N/A	116	116	116	116
Percentage of SEOC Representatives (Emergency Support Function) that have completed SEOC Training, to include ESF Position specific training	N/A	N/A	N/A	10%	25%	40%	50%

Military Department

Goal 4. Promote Maryland and Maryland businesses through a robust emergency management program.

Obj. 4.1 Provide technical assistance (TA) and planning support to the local jurisdictions in Maryland.

Obj. 4.2 Recruit an additional 20 percent of members into MEMA's Private Sector Integration Program (PSIP) each year.

Obj. 4.3 Publish at least six (6) preparedness podcasts, videos, and/or webinars related to emergency response, preparedness, mitigation, and recovery prior to, during, and after incidents that occur in Maryland each year.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Number of requests for TA received	N/A	N/A	2	8	0	5	10
Number of requests for TA approved/accepted	N/A	N/A	2	8	0	5	10
Number of accepted TA requests completed	N/A	N/A	1	5	0	5	10
Percentage of current local Operational Plans submitted to MEMA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total number of PSIP members	N/A	N/A	139	205	286	343	412
Annual percent increase in PSIP members	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	40%	20%	20%
Total number of materials published	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	10	6	6

NOTES

¹ The Institutional Status Report (ISR), which identifies the functional status of facilities, was completed with a different methodology than in prior years. This resulted in the significant downward trend from 2013 to 2014.

² The agency is currently in the process of revising MEPP.

³ The MPPCP certification has been discontinued.