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MILITARY DEPARTMENT
FIFTH REGIMENT ARMORY
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-2288

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Maryland Military Department
Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Budget
Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis

Senate Budget and Tax Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee
Senator Craig Zucker, Chair

House Appropriations Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee
Delegate Malcolm Ruff, Chair

March 2 and 3, 2026

Honorable Chair and members of the Capital Budget

Subcommittee, my name is Major General Janeen L. Birckhead, and I am honored to present the Capital Budget testimony for the Maryland Military Department.

We thank DLS analyst Ms. Rai and DBM analyst Mr. Rader for their continued support.

Before highlighting our key projects, I want to underscore why these investments matter. Every Maryland National Guard readiness center serves as a power projection platform — not only to respond to emergencies here at home, but to mobilize Soldiers and Airmen for overseas missions.

Since September 11th, the Army has transformed dramatically. The equipment our Soldiers carry and the training they require demand modern, purpose-built facilities. Many of our current readiness centers were not designed for today's force, and our capital program corrects that gap.

Our top capital priority is the White Oak Readiness Center, which stands at 60% design. This project is on the Chief of Staff of the Army's Unfunded Priority List for FY27 construction funding.

MMD will also pursue Congressionally Directed Spending in parallel to ensure this project is fully funded.

Our second capital priority is the Joint Force Headquarters at Camp Fretterd. We received \$750,000 in GO Bonds for FY26 and are developing the Part I/II facility program for submission by fall 2026. We concur with the DLS recommendation to deauthorize the \$750,000 to align funding with the revised design schedule.

Regarding the \$7 million increase in total project cost for the Hagerstown VMS project: the programmed amounts have been increased by an estimated \$1.25M for design and \$6.M for construction as a result of preliminary project cost estimate reviews in collaboration with DGS indicating the square footage costs were too low.

The MD Army National Guard has received notification from NGB of the approved CDS request. NGB is currently reviewing all approved CDS projects to be funded. Concurrently NGB is reviewing all supporting project documentation submitted by MDARNG. Once Federal funding is received at the NGB level, and project documentation is validated, NGB will issue a Design authority memo. MMD and NGB will execute the Master Construction Cooperative Agreement and funding will be released to MDARNG.

This process is anticipated to be complete in May 2026. Once funding is received from NGB, MMD will issue a Fund Cert to DGS for Professional Services solicitation and award, which must be obligated by Dec 2026.

The Hagerstown RC project and the Vehicle Maintenance Shop project completions are no longer interdependent due to conflicts in project scheduling. Both units will be temporarily stationed to alternate locations during construction.

The Hagerstown and Edgewood VMS projects received Congressional Directed Spending earmarks, and they are 100% federally funded projects.

The Frederick Readiness Center anticipates a construction solicitation by fall 2026, with completion in winter/spring 2028.

In closing, MMD concurs with our DLS analyst PAYGO Recommended Actions and the GO Bond Recommended Actions. MMD's unique federal-state funding strategy depends on the continued active support of DBM and DGS to fully leverage every federal dollar available to Maryland.