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GOVERNOR
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

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

JANEEN L. BIRCKHEAD
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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

Senate Budget and Tax Committee
Health and Human Services Subcommittee
Senator Cory V. McCray, Chair

House Appropriations Committee
Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee
Delegate Gabriel Acevero, Chair

January 29 and 30, 2026

Honorable Chair and distinguished members of the
Subcommittee, I am Major General Janeen Birckhead, the Adjutant
General of the Maryland Military Department.

Our department thanks Governor Moore, Lieutenant Governor Miller, DBM Analyst Mr. Oakman, DLS Analyst Ms. Rai, and the Budget Committees for their support.

MMD submitted a written response to the DLS budget analysis for your review. In my remaining time, I am going to highlight a few items.

The Maryland Military Department mission is to support the Maryland National Guard, and is responsible for the *care, maintenance, and security* of the facilities, including twenty-seven readiness centers and three military reservations.

One of the most pressing issues facing the Maryland Military Department is the need for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding. Retaining the additional \$1.0 Million in O&M funds is crucial for the upkeep of our readiness centers and facilities statewide; furthermore, it provides the necessary state match to retain federal funding in Maryland.

The lack of sufficient resources within the O&M budget has created the historic trend of falling below the 95% functional goal set by the National Guard Bureau. Additional funding would prevent an organizational risk to safety, mission, avoidable cost overages, and resilience.

Additionally, continued funding for our State Active Duty Security Force is an important asset that ensures the security of our personnel and equipment.

Furthermore, MMD was asked to brief the committees on two items – the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy and the conversion of the 175th Wing to a Cyber Wing.

The Freestate ChalleNGe program is currently closed. We are coordinating with the National Guard Bureau (NGB) and the Department of General Services to ensure we meet the specific program requirements mandated by NGB.

The 175th Wing is in the process of transitioning to a Cyber Wing. While the transition is manpower neutral, we understand some of our operations and maintenance personnel will retire, transfer to other states, or discontinue their service. Senior leadership is diligently working to make sure every airman is able to continue their military career. The change of mission will have no impact on the department's budget beyond fiscal 2027.

The critical budgetary investment in public safety by the Moore-Miller Administration's FY 2027 budget will ensure the readiness of our soldiers and airmen, and our ability to respond to our state and nation when called.

Thank you.