



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S REPORT 2024





GROWING THE FORCE

Florida First

"Our top priority remains "growing the force." With over 6 million Floridians under the age of 25, we have been proactive in driving recruitment and retention efforts to bolster our future strength goals."



STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

Office of The Adjutant General
St. Francis Barracks, Post Office Box 1008
St. Augustine, Florida 32085-1008

January 1, 2025

The Honorable Ron DeSantis Governor of Florida

The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis:

It is my pleasure to present you with the Florida National Guard and Department of Military Affairs Adjutant General's Report for 2024 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 250.10, Florida Statutes, which pertains primarily to the administration of the Department of Military Affairs for fiscal year 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024.

The Florida National Guard remains engaged as a community-based organization committed to serving the citizens of Florida. Through engagement and empowerment of the workforce, your Florida National Guard has accomplished much during this past year. This report highlights achievements of your Florida National Guard and the Department of Military Affairs.

The progress reflected in this report demonstrates the high level of readiness and efficiency of the Department of Military Affairs and the Florida National Guard as we accomplish both state and federal missions.

Florida First!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JDH'.

John D. Haas
Major General
Florida National Guard
The Adjutant General

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COVER: Members of the Texas A&M Task Force 1 Search and Rescue Team work alongside Soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company 1st Battalion, 111th General Support Aviation Regiment to conduct search and rescue operations after Hurricane Helene, Sept. 27, 2024. The Florida Army National Guard works closely with our civilian partner agencies and actively monitors all potential areas of impact.

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POINT OF CONTACT: Please contact the Florida National Guard Public Affairs Office at (904) 823-0166 for more information.

REPORT: The Adjutant General's Report is published each year under the provisions of Chapter 250.10, Florida Statutes, and pertains to the administration of the Department of Military Affairs for the fiscal year. The intent is to provide the public with information on the programs and financial activities of the Department of Military Affairs. It is distributed to state and local government agencies and is made available to the public upon request free of charge. The Adjutant General's Report is produced by the Florida National Guard Public Affairs Office.

BACKGROUND PHOTO: U.S. Army CH-47 Chinooks and HH-60G Pave Hawks assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, fly over the EverBank Stadium during the Jacksonville Jaguars Salute to Service game in Jacksonville, Florida, Nov. 10, 2024. The Salute to Service game honors the nation's service members, veterans and their families. Prior to kickoff, the national anthem was performed and during halftime retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Guy Swan administered the oath of enlistment to more than 200 recruits from all six military branches.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

The role of the Office of Legislative Affairs is to provide information to members of the Legislature and their staff so they are equipped with the information necessary to shape their legislative initiatives and to better serve and inform their constituents.

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Maj. Gen. John D. Haas
The Adjutant General of Florida

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S MESSAGE

As I review the successes of the Florida National Guard in 2024, I am proud of our remarkable achievements and accomplishments. We continue to reflect upon our past successes to reprioritize and prepare for the future of the Florida National Guard.

Our top priority remains "growing the force." With over 6 million Floridians under the age of 25, we have been proactive in driving recruitment and retention efforts to bolster our future strength goals. We continue to execute 100 percent of the Educational Dollars for Duty funds and launched the Joint Enrollment Educational Program (JEEP) to attract Florida's top talent. Our efforts have yielded exceptional results, with recruiting goals exceeded by 136 percent and the approval for an additional of a chemical and truck company to our force structure.

The Florida National Guard has proven itself a beacon of readiness and responsiveness. This year, our troops seamlessly shifted from a demanding month-long Exportable Combat Training Capability (xCTC) exercise to responding to an above-average hurricane season, with three direct hits to our state. Our Guardsmen were swiftly on the ground, providing immediate relief, rescue and recovery, demonstrating our ability to mobilize and support fellow Floridians in their time of need.

Our role extends far beyond natural disasters. We continue to actively support border control operations, partnering with law enforcement to secure our boundaries. Additionally, we've bolstered the Department of Corrections, deploying nearly 400 Guardsmen to assist with order and security within our correctional facilities.

Globally, the Florida National Guard is a formidable force, always ready to deploy in support of the National Defense Strategy. Our troops have served with distinction in various overseas missions, embodying our commitment to defending our nation's interests and upholding our shared values.

We must, however, address our infrastructure needs. We currently face a 1.3 million square foot deficit across the state. While new armories in Zephyrhills and Immokalee, along with expansions at the Camp Blanding Readiness Center, will help alleviate this issue, we must continue to seek more opportunities for growth. A critical component of our infrastructure modernization is integrating the F-35 Lightning II. This initiative not only enhances our operational capabilities but also positions Florida as a leader in national defense technology and innovation.

In conclusion, the Florida National Guard stands "Always Ready, Always There" to face ongoing and future challenges. Our unwavering dedication to the safety and security of our state, coupled with our strategic vision for growth and modernization, ensures that we remain a vital asset to both Florida and the nation. We look forward to your continued support as we strive to build an even stronger, more capable force.

Florida First!

Sincerely,

THE COMMAND SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER'S MESSAGE

I am proud to report that your Florida National Guardsmen served their state and nation with distinction over the past year. As their Command Senior Enlisted Leader, it's my pleasure to highlight some of the great work they accomplished on our behalf.

Our state was hit by three hurricanes this year, almost back-to-back, and your Guardsmen contributed almost 120,000 man-days on response and rescued more than 900 residents. More than 3,500 Soldiers and Airmen responded to Hurricane Debby; over 4,000 to Hurricane Helene; and 5,000 Florida Guardsmen and 2,000 from other states responded to Hurricane Milton. Similar to last year, our professionals continued flying missions in support of border patrol and migrant safety along our southern coastline, and approximately 400 supported the Department of Corrections.

Several hundred of our Guardsmen supported federal missions in South America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia in addition to the Southwest Border of Texas and in the National Capital Region. In addition to these operational responses, 5,000 Soldiers from the 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team and 50th Regional Support Group spent almost a month at the Exportable Combat Training Capability in Mississippi this summer. Our Guardsmen have proven time and again how important the Reserve Component is to our nation's security objectives. In fact, it's hard to find a theater of operations that we haven't supported within a 365-day window.

It's been another busy year for our Guardsmen and civilian employees, and as usual, they demonstrated world-class readiness and execution. I'm proud of our team and their drive to remain "Right, Ready and Relevant!"

Sincerely,



Command Sgt. Maj. James B. Kendrick
Command Senior Enlisted Leader

ARMY



Maj. Gen. Robert G. Carruthers III
Assistant Adjutant General - Army
and Commander, Florida Army
National Guard

Major General Robert Carruthers serves as the Adjutant General – Army and as the Commander, Florida Army National Guard. Carruthers directs the training of more than 10,000 Citizen Soldiers and guides the formulation, development and implementation of all programs and policies affecting the Florida Army National Guard.



Command Sgt. Maj. Jasen A. Pask
State Command Sergeant Major,
Florida Army National Guard

Command Sergeant Major Jasen Pask serves as the State Command Sgt. Major of the Florida Army National Guard. Pask is responsible for the welfare of all enlisted Citizen Soldiers. He advises the Commander of the Florida Army National Guard on all enlisted-related matters, particularly in areas affecting Soldier training, readiness and quality of life.



Brig. Gen. William E. Temple
Deputy Commander,
Florida Army National Guard

Brigadier General William Temple serves as the Deputy Commanding General, Florida Army National Guard. He is responsible for managing the budgets and resources for all major programs in the Florida Army National Guard, and oversees the development and coordination of all policies, plans and programs of the Florida Army National Guard.



Brig. Gen. Alex V. Harlamor
Director of the Joint Staff,
Florida National Guard and
Commander, Joint Task Force-Florida

Brigadier General Alex Harlamor serves as the Director of the Joint Staff and is dual-hatted as the Commander, Joint Task Force-Florida when the FLNG is activated for disaster response. He is responsible for the planning and execution of the FLNG's response during state activations.



Command Sgt. Maj. Robert F. Sweat
Command Sergeant Major,
Joint Task Force - Florida

Command Sgt. Major Robert Sweat serves as the Command Sgt. Major for the Joint Staff and is the senior enlisted advisor to the Commander, Joint Task Force-Florida. He advises the Commander, Joint Task Force – Florida on all enlisted-related matters during operations.

AIR



Col. Felix A. Rodriguez Jr.
Chief of Staff,
Florida Army National Guard

Colonel Felix Rodriguez serves as the Florida Army National Guard Chief of Staff. He assists the Assistant Adjutant General – Army in formulating, developing and coordinating all programs, policies and plans to ensure the mission readiness of the Florida Army National Guard. He advises the Florida Army National Guard commander regarding the oversight and support of the 10,000 Soldiers across the state. Rodriguez directs and implements higher-headquarters policies and guidance.



**Chief Warrant Officer 5
Robert W. Gibson**
State Command Chief Warrant
Officer, Florida Army National Guard

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Robert Gibson serves as the State Command Chief Warrant Officer for the Florida Army National Guard. He is the senior advisor to the Commander of the Florida Army National Guard on all matters relating to Warrant Officers. He is responsible for keeping the Assistant Adjutant General – Army informed and makes recommendations on matters affecting Warrant Officers.



Brig. Gen. Richard L. Coffey III
Assistant Adjutant General - Air
and Commander, Florida
Air National Guard

Brigadier General Richard Coffey serves as the Assistant Adjutant General – Air and as Commander, Florida Air National Guard. He is responsible to the Adjutant General for direction of Air National Guard operations, formulating, developing and coordinating all programs, policies and plans to ensure the readiness of the 2,000 Airmen in the Florida Air National Guard.



**Command Chief Master Sgt.
Angella M. Beckom**
State Command Chief Master
Sergeant, Florida Air National Guard

Command Chief Master Sergeant Angella Beckom serves as the State Command Chief Master Sergeant for the Florida Air National Guard. Beckom is responsible for the welfare and morale of all enlisted Citizen Airmen. She advises the Florida Air National Guard commander on all enlisted-related matters of mission effectiveness, professional development, military readiness and training.



Brig. Gen. Matthew J. French
Chief of Staff,
Florida Air National Guard

Brigadier General Matthew French serves as the Chief of Staff for the Florida Air National Guard. He assists the Assistant Adjutant General – Air in formulating, developing and coordinating all programs, policies and plans to ensure the mission readiness of the Florida Air National Guard.



19K

The Educational Dollars for Duty program has been consistently funded at \$5.2 million and more than 19,000 service members have used this program

5K

This summer, 5,000 Florida Guardsmen participated in the Exportable Combat Training Capability (xCTC) at Camp Shelby, Mississippi



Maj. Gen. Robert G. Carruthers III
Assistant Adjutant General - Army
and Commander, Florida Army
National Guard



Command Sgt. Maj. Jasen A. Pask
State Command Sergeant Major,
Florida Army National Guard

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL - ARMY

This year was a banner year for the Florida Army National Guard. Guard members from units across Florida performed admirably during a challenging 2024 with an operational tempo for our units not seen for many years. From responses to natural disasters and overseas deployments in support of our federal mission, to participating in one of the largest training exercises in the country, our Soldiers excelled at every step of the way.

The Florida Guard's swift and effective response to the three major hurricanes that impacted our state this year underscored our readiness and capabilities to support domestic operations. In partnership with federal, state and local officials, our Guardsmen protected countless lives and mitigated the impact of these disasters, providing much-needed relief to communities affected by the storms. We are also grateful to the National Guards of over 20 states that sent troops to assist us during response operations.

In addition, the Florida Guard continued to support the Florida Department of Corrections' mission for the third year in a row, as well as worked with state and federal agencies along the Florida Keys to monitor the Florida Straits and the Gulf to prevent a potential influx of illegal vessels with immigrants.

Beyond our borders, the Florida Army National Guard also supported other states as they faced their own natural disasters, showcasing the spirit of solidarity that binds our country together. In North Carolina, for example, Florida National Guard helicopters and crews assisted local responders and provided relief to hundreds of North Carolinians after the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene.

The Florida Guard has also met demands on a global scale, deploying overseas to uphold the values and security interests our nation cherishes. These deployments reinforce the Florida Guard's integral role in our country's national defense and strengthens our security bonds with our partners.

As we continue to look ahead to meet future challenges, the Florida Army National Guard must remain ready and relevant. That is why this summer, close to 5,000 Florida Guardsmen participated in the Exportable Combat Training Capability (xCTC) at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, in one of the largest training exercises held in the country in 2024.

Exercises like xCTC this year – as well as the opportunity to go to the National Training Center in Ft. Irwin, California, next year – will prepare our Guardsmen to meet the complex and evolving challenges of the modern battlefield. These exercises represent an investment in the future of the Florida Army National Guard, ensuring that our Soldiers are equipped, trained and ready to face any challenge with confidence.

Command Sgt. Maj. Pask and I are in awe of the dedication, professionalism, and hard work of all our Guardsmen this year. Their sacrifices – and those of their families – did not go unnoticed. Thanks to them, our communities are stronger and safer. We are proud of our Guardsmen and are looking forward to their achievements next year.



Florida National Guard Soldiers and Airmen stand in formation during a retirement ceremony at Emmett R. Titshaw Field, Fla., Nov. 22, 2024. Senior Enlisted Advisor Tony L. Whitehead, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, retired after 42 years of military service. Whitehead joined the Florida Air National Guard in 1994 as part of the security specialist and security forces career field.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL - AIR

Each year, the Florida Air National Guard (FLANG) demonstrates its exceptional readiness and wide-ranging expertise through real-world operations and extensive training missions. While we are consistently poised to respond at a moment's notice, this year's performance has surpassed my highest expectations.

As we mark the annual milestone of FLANG achievements, we also celebrate the culmination of a remarkable era and the dawn of a new chapter in our history. The retirement of the F-15 Eagle, a stalwart companion to our Airmen for nearly three decades, is a testament to the dedication and perseverance of our maintainers, pilots, and support personnel. The F-15C's impressive service record, replete with countless training missions, community flyovers, and critical real-world deployments, will be forever etched in our collective memory.

However, as we bid farewell to this iconic aircraft, we eagerly embark on a new journey with the introduction of the F-35A Lightning II to the 125th Fighter Wing. This fifth-generation multirole fighter represents a quantum leap in capability, strength and technological prowess. The F-35A's arrival heralds a new era of air dominance, precision and flexibility, poised to redefine the future of military aviation.

In the coming year, we look forward to leveraging the F-35A's capabilities to enhance our combat readiness, support our allies, and defend our nation's interests. We are committed to upholding the highest standards of excellence, as we have done throughout our history, and to embracing the opportunities and challenges that this new era will bring.

On the domestic front, the FLANG collaborated with the Florida Army National Guard and the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) to address statewide staffing shortages. While these missions fall outside our traditional scope, they reaffirm our dedication to serving the citizens of Florida and supporting local law enforcement agencies. In addition to the DOC mission, we continued our support of Operation VIGILANT SENTRY in South Florida and provided critical assistance to the state of Texas during Operation LONE STAR.

Hurricane response is a frequent challenge for the FLANG, but this year brought a challenging series of back-to-back storms. Our Airmen showcased remarkable resilience and readiness, responding to Hurricane Debby and redeploying within weeks to support recovery efforts for Hurricane Helene. Before completing these efforts, we were once again mobilized to address the widespread impact of Hurricane Milton. Nearly 1,000 Airmen were deployed during this response, marking the largest hurricane response in the history of the FLANG.

Looking forward to 2025, I am confident we will meet challenges with unwavering readiness, resilience, and determination. No matter the mission, our Guardsmen stand prepared. Thank you for your continued dedication – Fly, Fight, Win!



Airmen assigned to the 202nd RED HORSE, 125th Medical Detachment, and the 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron mobilize at Camp Blanding to deploy to areas throughout central Florida ahead of Hurricane Milton's landfall. Officials with the Florida Highway Patrol escorted the 44-passenger convoy to provide an unimpeded, direct route to staging areas.



Brig. Gen. Richard L. Coffey III
Assistant Adjutant General - Air
and Commander FLANG



Command Chief Master Sgt. Angella M. Beckom
State Command Chief Master
Sergeant – FLANG



1K

Nearly 1,000 Airmen were deployed during the 2024 hurricane season, marking the largest hurricane response in the history of the FLANG

F-15

FLANG bids farewell to this iconic aircraft and eagerly embarks on a new journey with the introduction of the F-35A Lightning II to the 125th Fighter Wing



A YEAR IN REVIEW

The Florida National Guard continued to serve our state and nation with distinction throughout 2024. Our Guardsmen deployed around the world, to South America, Europe, the Middle East and the Far East in addition to the National Capital Region and Southwest border. Additionally, we supported several missions across the state, as outlined below.

Operation VIGILANT SENTRY

The Humanitarian Migration Support Mission continues to support Florida law enforcement agencies in South Florida. The Florida National Guard supports the mission out of Marathon, Florida, with over 40 personnel and four aircraft, including six personnel and two aircraft from the Nebraska National Guard, from July 8, 2024, to Oct. 4, 2024. Since the mission's inception in January 2023, we've flown more than 3,600 flight hours and referred more than 500 migrant or vessel sightings to our interagency partners.



Florida Army National Guard Soldiers conducted an aerial surveillance flight during migration support missions in southern Fla., April 2, 2024. Guardsmen join other entities such as the U.S. Coast Guard and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as they work together to secure the coastline. Air assets with the FLARNG provided daily search and rescue capabilities that assist in the detection and identification of potential illegal vessels as well as emergency rescue responses.

LEFT: Florida Army National Guard Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 111th Aviation Regiment conduct flight operations during Hurricane Milton response efforts in Tampa, Fla., Oct. 16, 2024. Gen. Steven Nordhaus, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Maj. Gen. John Haas, the Adjutant General of Florida, participated in the surveillance flight assessing impacted areas following the storm's landfall.

Department of Corrections Support

Since 2022, the Florida National Guard has supported the Department of Corrections with staff augmentation in facilities with critical staffing shortages. The mission expanded to include 13 facilities, with over 400 Soldiers and Airmen activated at mission peak.



Florida Army National Guard and Florida Department of Corrections members pose for a photo following a ceremony in Lake Butler, Fla., Nov. 7, 2024. Florida National Guard members were recognized for their support of daily operations over the past several months.

Operation LONE STAR

On Feb. 22, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis activated the Florida National Guard to deploy to the Southwest border to support the state of Texas using the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). The Florida National Guard supported the Texas National Guard's security initiative against mass migration. A total of 92 Soldiers from the 3-116th Field Artillery Battalion and 19 Airmen from the 202nd RED HORSE Squadron supported the Texas National Guard and other agencies. The Florida National Guard spent a total of 100 days on mission (almost 4,700 man-days). Missions included installing 8,460 meters of anti-climb barrier emplacements and 10,453 meters of C-Wire in Eagle Pass, Texas, 5,725 meters of river dredging, and 33 miles of land grading in Fronton Island, Texas. All personnel returned to Florida on June 1, 2024.



U.S. Airmen assigned to the 202nd RED HORSE Squadron construct a water outlet spanning approximately 1.5 miles on Fronton Island, Texas, in support of Operation LONE STAR, April 29 - May 31, 2024. Their goal was to aid Texas in reducing illegal drug and immigration trafficking by restricting the movement of known cartel groups in one of the most contested and dangerous areas on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Hurricane Debby

On Aug. 1, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis directed the activation of the Florida National Guard to support the state during Hurricane Debby response. In total, over 3,500 Florida Guardsmen and 80 Guardsmen from the South Carolina and Kentucky National Guards were activated. These service members assisted Floridians in 35 counties by conducting liaison support, search and rescue, route clearance, and commodity distribution. The Florida National Guard spent 15 days on mission (almost 22,000 man-days) supporting 111 missions, rescuing 154 citizens, clearing 401 miles of road, and distributing commodities to approximately 11,500 vehicles at our Points of Distribution sites.



Soldiers from the 868th Engineer Company conduct a high-water rescue operation in Live Oak, Fla., following flooding from Hurricane Debby. The Florida National Guard is dedicated to response efforts to support the community and assist residents during storms.

Hurricane Helene

On Sept. 23, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis directed the activation of the Florida National Guard to support the state during Hurricane Helene response. In total, over 4,000 Florida Guardsmen and 17 Guardsmen from the Mississippi National Guard were activated. These service members assisted Floridians in 31 counties, many of the same areas affected by Hurricane Debby earlier in the year. Missions included liaison support, search and rescue, route clearance and commodity distribution. The Florida National Guard spent 15 days on mission (over 32,000 man-days) supporting 181 missions, rescuing 165 citizens, clearing 2,231 miles of road, and distributing commodities to approximately 51,200 vehicles at our Points of Distribution sites.



Spc. Bryan Christian and Spc. Cristian Martinez with the Florida Army National Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 753rd Engineer Battalion, distributes supplies at a point of distribution providing commodities to the people of Suwannee County on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024. The FLARNG is focused on providing humanitarian assistance and enhanced security operations to preserve order in affected communities, with a particular emphasis on counties with the most severe damage.

Hurricane Milton

On Oct. 5, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis directed the activation of the Florida National Guard to support the state during Hurricane Milton response. The FLNG immediately transitioned from Hurricane Helene to Hurricane Milton activities. In total, over 5,000 Florida Guardsmen and nearly 2,000 Guardsmen from 23 states were activated. These service members assisted Floridians in 33 counties along the west coast and in central Florida. Missions included liaison support, search and rescue, route clearance, and commodity distribution. The Florida National Guard spent 19 days on mission (over 60,000 man-days) supporting 258 missions, rescuing 600 citizens, clearing 2,642 miles of road, and distributing commodities to approximately 59,300 vehicles at our Points of Distribution sites.



Florida Army National Guard Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 111th Aviation Regiment prepare for a flight during Hurricane Milton support operations in Tallahassee, Fla., Oct. 10, 2024. Guardsmen were joined by other search and rescue components as they executed immediate response operations following the storm's landfall.

Joint Directorate of Military Support

The Joint Directorate of Military Support (JDOMS) completed another successful and busy year as the directorate responsible for planning and executing National Guard Civil Support (NGCS) operations and training. The JDOMS supported multiple simultaneous enduring civil support operations while aggressively executing training to better posture the Florida National Guard (FLNG) to support Florida and the nation when called upon.



JDOMS conducted regular meetings within Florida at each of the 10 FDEM regions, with regular and consistent interfacing with state leadership



JDOMS supported the Department of Corrections (DOC) mission with 400 Soldiers and Airmen supporting 13 facilities in North Florida



FLNG response to Hurricane Debby in August 2024, with over 3,500 Guardsmen completing 111 assigned missions amongst 35 total counties

Fiscal Year 2024 was a busy year for Florida National Guard civil support operations. JDOMS continued to provide oversight and support to Operation VIGILANT SENTRY (OVS) in the Florida Keys, with 40 Soldiers and Airmen and four aircraft assisting Florida law enforcement. Additionally, JDOMS supported the Department of Corrections (DOC) mission with 400 Soldiers and Airmen supporting 13 facilities in North Florida. JDOMS also facilitated the planning, coordination, and execution of the FLNG support to Texas for Operation LONE STAR from February to June 2024, with over 100 Soldiers and Airmen from the 3-116th Field Artillery Battalion and 202nd RED HORSE Squadron supporting Texas’ mission on the Southwest border.

The fiscal year continued with a busy hurricane season with three hurricane responses. First, with the FLNG response to Hurricane Debby in August 2024, with operations primarily focused on Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) regions 2, 3 and 6 along the Gulf Coast of Florida, with over 3,500 Guardsmen completing 111 assigned missions amongst 35 total counties. Next with the Hurricane Helene response in late September 2024, in many of the very same counties the FLNG had supported during Hurricane Debby. Helene responses again focused on FDEM regions 2, 3, and 6 in the state, with over 4,000 Guardsmen completing 181 missions in 31 counties. The FLNG immediately transitioned from Hurricane Helene to Hurricane Milton response and focused on the west coast and central Florida in FDEM regions 4-9. The Hurricane Milton response included over 5,000 FLNG and nearly 2,000 Guardsmen from 23 different states completing 258 missions in 33 counties.

JDOMS continued traditional planning and coordination efforts with NGB, FEMA, other states’ National Guard entities, and our state and local partners. JDOMS conducted regular meetings within Florida at each of the 10 FDEM regions, with regular and consistent interfacing with state leadership. The capstone event of our coordination with our partner states was the annual All Hazards Coordination Workshop in New Orleans, Louisiana, held in March. States identify their shortfalls in response to potential disasters or events and agree on potential EMAC solutions to those problem sets. JDOMS bolstered readiness and shared understanding with our partners by participating in exercises and initiatives outside the National Guard. Exercises such as the Lower Keys Medical Center Evacuation and Florida Department of Law Enforcement’s (FDLE) Continuity of Government, both in June, facilitated inter-agency cooperation and planning.

Adaptive Battle Staff (ABS) training was revamped for Fiscal Year 2024, with the annual Hurricane Exercise (HURREX) expanding into the Domestic Operations Exercise (DOMOPS-EX) for 2024. The DOMOPS-EX was held in May at the Joint Operations Center Training Facility (JOCTF) on Camp Blanding. The DOMOPS-EX included the traditional HURREX and three tabletop discussions with senior leaders and critical planners, including Joint Reception Staging and Onward Integration (JRSOI), Continuity of Operations (COOP)/Continuity of Government (COG), and Cyber Attack with Mass Civil Unrest.



Lt. Col. Daniel S. Brown, Commander of 1st Squadron, 153rd Cavalry Regiment, discusses potential impacted areas of Hurricane Debby at the Franklin County Emergency Operations Center with Franklin County Director of Emergency Management Jennifer Daniels. Over 3,000 Florida National Guard troops were activated to provide support and ensure rapid response to affected areas as the state braced for the storm.



53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team

The 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) is the largest formation in the state of Florida. The IBCT federal mission is to disrupt or destroy enemy military forces, control land areas, and prepare to conduct combat operations to protect U.S. national interests. For the state of Florida, the IBCT deploys to conduct National Guard Civil Support in response to civil disturbance, disasters, and other events as the Governor directs. Most notably, the IBCT responds to hurricanes for life-saving search and rescue during and immediately following the storm. The IBCT continues to support the citizens of Florida with stability and humanitarian operations immediately following the storm.

In Training Year 2024 (TY24), each battalion and squadron conducted the Exportable Combat Training Center (xCTC) rotation at Camp Shelby Joint Training Center, Mississippi. During xCTC, units conducted situation lanes focused on mission essential tasks including movement to contact, attack, and defense. Units also conducted a platoon-level live-fire lane that included the use of obscuration, breach of an obstacle, and concluded with assaulting through an objective. The mission was followed by executing medical evacuations of simulated wounded Soldiers. The primary focus of xCTC is platoon-level training and validation, but the IBCT continued to train by echelon from company to brigade level to prepare for TY25 when they execute brigade-level operations at the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, California.

The Gator Brigade continued its support and participation in the State Partnership Program, sending teams to Barbados, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Guyana, Grenada and St. Vincent for various training events. The training focus for these events included subject matter expert exchange on drones, first aid, jungle survival and NCO professional development programs.

The IBCT began TY24 by closing out response efforts for Category 4 Hurricane Idalia in the Big Bend Region of Florida. The IBCT ended TY24 in the same manner, as it mustered and responded to Category 4 Hurricane Helene in the same region of the state. As the storm damaged the rural areas of various North Florida counties, the IBCT was in the right position to provide immediate search and rescue and route clearance support. The IBCT assigned 21 counties as area of operations to six battalions and a squadron for hurricane response and support, which included search and rescue, route clearance, food and water distribution, and security operations. The Gator Brigade continued to show why it is the premier IBCT in the nation and an organization that can be trusted to meet the needs of the nation and the citizens of the great state of Florida.

From July through August 2025, the Gator Brigade will execute brigade-level operations at the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, California. The IBCT will use that training experience to prepare for multiple deployments in TY26 to various Combatant Commands throughout the world. The deployments in TY26 will last until the beginning of TY27. When the state of Florida and our nation calls, the Gator Brigade answers!

From the Front!



Col. John S. Sargeant
Commander, 53rd IBCT



Command Sgt. Maj. James L. Reid Jr.
Command Sergeant Major,
53rd IBCT



ORGANIZED 1963

21

The 53rd IBCT assigned 21 counties as area of operations to six battalions and a squadron for hurricane response and support for Category 4 Hurricane Idalia

PHOTO PAGE 14: Florida Army National Guard Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment wait to board CH-47 Chinooks piloted by Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 111th Aviation Regiment during Exportable Combat Training Capability (xCTC) exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss., July 28, 2024. Soldiers with the aviation regiment played a large role in assisting several other units throughout Camp Shelby for the culminating event.

53RD INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM (continued)

OUR MISSION

The 53rd IBCT is the largest formation in the state of Florida. The 53rd IBCT's federal mission is to disrupt or destroy enemy military forces, control land areas including populations and resources, and prepare to conduct combat operations to protect U.S. national interests. For the state of Florida, the 53rd IBCT deploys to conduct National Guard Civil Support in response to civil disturbances, disasters and other events as directed. Additionally, it is prepared to provide mission command and sustain Military Assistance for Civil Disturbance, Quick Reaction Force, or National Guard Reaction Force.



Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG) Soldiers Capt. John Clark, left, and 1st Sgt. Eddie Roseman Bravo Company, 2-124th Infantry Battalion stand together as they prepare to lead their company of Soldiers through a movement drill during Exportable Combat Training Capability (xCTC) exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss., July 19, 2024. xCTC allowed FLARNG Soldiers to put readiness and response skills practiced throughout a five-year period into action.



Maj. Gen. Robert Carruthers, Florida Army National Guard Commander and Assistant Adjutant General - Army, presided over the 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team's change of command ceremony in February, 2024. Col. Blake Glass, the outgoing commander, led the unit through a truly historic period. Col. Sam Sargeant, the incoming commander, last served as the Director or the Joint Directorate of Military Support, and was the Combat Training Center Commander in the Ukraine with Col. Glass.



Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG) Soldiers with 1-153rd Cavalry Regiment drive Humvees to firing lanes for a live fire exercise during Exportable Combat Training Capability (xCTC) exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss., July 21, 2024. xCTC is a capstone exercise that assists FLARNG Soldiers to strengthen their area of expertise for deployments around the world.



Florida Army National Guard Soldiers with the HHC Mortar Platoon, 1-124th Infantry Battalion drop a shell into a mortar tube during Exportable Combat Training Capabilities (xCTC) at Camp Shelby, Miss., July 18, 2024. xCTC is a multi-state exercise utilizing nearly 5,000 Soldiers across several days.



Florida Army National Guard Soldiers with Charlie Troop, 1st Battalion, 153rd Cavalry Regiment, prepared boats for a possible hurricane in Tallahassee, Fla., on Aug. 4, 2024.



Florida Army National Guard Soldiers with Alpha Battery, 2-116th Field Artillery Regiment, and Bravo Company, 1-185th Assault Helicopter Battalion, work together at a sling load exercise to transport a M119 105 mm howitzer during Exportable Combat Training Capability (xCTC) exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss., July 22, 2024. Soldiers in the unit displayed a warrior's haste throughout the exercise and demonstrated strong combat readiness skills.



Florida Army National Guard Soldiers Spc. Gabriella Garcia Espolita (left) and Spc. Anthony Marlowe (right), cannon crewmembers with Alpha Battery, 2-116th Field Artillery Regiment, fired a M119 105 mm howitzer during Exportable Combat Training Capability (xCTC) exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss., July 26, 2024. Soldiers with the field artillery worked together during live fire exercises to achieve mission readiness.

53RD INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM (continued)



Soldiers from the Florida and South Carolina National Guard search for residents in need of assistance near Stuart, Fla., Oct. 10, 2024. Areas of the city were decimated by tornadoes spawned by Hurricane Milton as the storm progressed across the state. The Soldiers are assigned to Charlie Company 1st Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment, 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the Detachment 1, 1051st Transportation Company, 1050th Transportation Battalion, in Florida and South Carolina, respectively.



Florida Army National Guard Soldier Staff Sgt. Andrew Wolfgram, squad leader with 3rd Squad, 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 1-124th Infantry Battalion participated in a multi-unit air movement with 1-111th Aviation Regiment during Exportable Combat Training Capability (xCTC) exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss., July 19, 2024.



Soldiers from A Company, 53rd BSB, clear streets of debris from Hurricane Helene in St. Pete Beach, Fla., to prepare for Hurricane Milton, Oct. 8, 2024. The Florida National Guard cleared debris and prepared critical infrastructure ahead of Hurricane Milton's landfall.



Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG) Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment, 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, distributed food, water, ice, and hurricane kits to citizens impacted by Hurricane Milton in Venice, Fla., Oct. 11, 2024. FLARNG Soldiers positioned around the state to help fellow Floridians in their time of need and distributed essential items at various locations.



Soldiers with the Florida Army National Guard's Delta Company, 753rd Brigade Engineer Battalion, partnered with the Florida Highway Patrol to conduct traffic-control operations in Tampa, Fla., on Oct. 14, 2024.



Florida Army National Guard Soldiers (FLARNG) with 753rd Brigade Engineering Battalion prepared a firing kit to launch an M58 Mine Clearing Line Charge (MICLIC) during the Exportable Combat Training Capability (xCTC) exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss., July 22, 2024. Testing utilities like the MICLIC displayed the FLARNG's readiness and ability to persevere through wartime scenarios where weapons like mines may be found.



Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG) Soldiers from HHC, 2-124th Infantry Regiment, departed their armory in Orlando, Fla., and headed towards Riverview, Fla., to team up with additional assets ahead of Hurricane Milton, Oct. 8, 2024. The FLARNG had Soldiers positioned throughout Florida engaged in prestaging efforts to support mission readiness and civilian needs as they arise.



Florida Army National Guard Soldiers (FLARNG) Soldiers from the 753rd Brigade Engineering Battalion cleared debris from roads in Bell, Fla., on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024. Response to Hurricane Helene was a massive team effort, and FLARNG fully mobilized all available forces.



50th Regional Support Group

The 50th Regional Support Group (RSG) began 2024 by welcoming a new commander. Army Brig. Gen. William Temple transferred command to Army Col. Jeremy Davis in Homestead, Florida, on Jan. 21, 2024.

Davis left the 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, where he served as the task force commander responsible for providing air defense for the U.S. Capitol. Upon officially taking command of the 50th RSG, Davis thanked his family for their support and said he was looking forward to his new role in the Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG).

"The Soldiers of the 50th possess a diverse and specialized set of skills," Davis said. "I'm excited for the opportunity to learn about our capabilities and develop them to their fullest potential. Brig. Gen. Temple, you leave some very big shoes to fill, and I'm immensely grateful for the legacy you leave behind. You've set a high bar."

Although Florida is known as "the Sunshine State," it's also well known for its hurricanes and the dangers they present, and 2024's hurricane season was especially active. Members of the 50th RSG were among thousands of Guardsmen who reported – repeatedly – for state active duty (SAD) at armories and emergency facilities across the state to provide defense support to civil authorities (DSCA) in response to Hurricane Debby in August, Hurricane Helene in September, and Hurricane Milton in October.

The 927th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), headquartered at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, always stands prepared to support the state during any natural disaster.

When Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis activated the FLARNG for Debby, the 927th CSSB deployed the 856th and 356th Quartermaster Companies to Florida's State Logistics Response Center (SLRC) in Orlando to provide professional logistical support and assist their civilian counterparts with warehouse operations. The SLRC plays a significant role in Florida's disaster-response strategy. It provides approximately 200,000 square feet to store water, food, and other emergency commodities that are transported to impacted areas throughout Florida in response to natural disasters.

Soldiers of the 927th CSSB later provided their expertise and coordinated efforts with various emergency response organizations in preparation for both Helene and Milton's landfalls as well. Eighty Soldiers assigned to the 356th and 856th also mobilized and synchronized at an emergency operations center responsible for the tracking and dispatching of 800 missions, where they provided liaison support for the state of Florida, the Federal Department of Emergency Management, and the Florida State Emergency Response Team.

The 146th Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB), headquartered in Jacksonville, supported federal and state missions by providing expert communications capabilities and support services during its DSCA operations.

During Florida's Milton response, the 146th supported out-of-state National Guard units by conducting in-processing and out-processing functions for visiting personnel through joint reception, staging, onward movement, and integration operations. This mission aligns with the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, which allows states to provide mutual assistance during emergencies and disasters. Its execution ensured neighboring units received the food, lodging and vehicle maintenance they needed to assist Florida responders after landfall.



Col. Jeremy M. Davis
Commander, 50th RSG



Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas L. Delano
Command Sergeant Major,
50th RSG



ORGANIZED 1946

16

The 13th Army Band provided
16 performances supporting
the FLARNG, other government
agencies, and nonprofit
organizations

PHOTO PAGE 20: Soldiers from the 153rd Financial Management Support Battalion gathered for a heartfelt deployment ceremony in St. Augustine. Friends and family also attended the event, symbolizing the beginning of a significant journey for their Soldiers. During the ceremony, troops embodied the spirit of "right, ready, relevant" as they said goodbye to their loved ones and prepared to answer the call to serve.

50TH REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP (continued)

The 930th Digital Liaison Detachment (DLD) is a unique operational and strategic-level asset within the 50th RSG, and the only DLD in the FLARNG. The unit's federal mission is to liaise between joint, combined and multinational partners with U.S. Army forces, and to meet its federal mission, the 930th DLD must train with foreign partners each year. Its state mission is to liaise or serve in a higher command capacity during SAD.

The 930th assumed its primary task as the joint operations command's mission support command liaison, and it maintained a ready posture to provide additional support if called upon for Debby. During Helene, the 930th DLD activated the Soldiers who would serve as liaison officers and stood by for tasking.

The Miami-based 260th Military Intelligence (MI) Battalion (Linguist) supported federal and state missions by providing military intelligence, logistical analysis, and liaison support. The 260th is composed of one headquarters and headquarters detachment, which provides mission command for its two subordinate human intelligence collection companies.

The 260th MI Battalion mobilized to Palm Coast on SAD in response to Debby. A few weeks later, its Soldiers again supported DSCA operations due to Helene, while simultaneously reporting to the Port of Miami in response to a nationwide strike from the International Longshoremen's Association. During Milton, the 260th once again activated and responded to Fort Myers to provide immediate assistance to civilian authorities in Collier, Hendry and Lee Counties in support of Area of Operation SPEAR.

The biggest training-focused activity for the 50th RSG was Operation Castle Keeper in July 2024 and involved supporting the 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) during its Exportable Combat Training Capabilities (xCTC) rotation at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. xCTC is a major training event the FLARNG completes every five years. It ensures the 53rd IBCT's readiness and proficiency to deploy and provides realistic scenarios that certify the 53rd IBCT has achieved its training requirements.

During xCTC, Charlie Company, 146th ESB provided the 53rd IBCT with expert communications support. During the three-week event, 19 of the 146th's Soldiers operated command post nodes to support their higher command element for this critical training event.

The rear detachment of the 927th CSSB's headquarters and headquarters company (HHC) assisted the 53rd IBCT's line-haul operations during its annual training (AT) by coordinating and operating the commercial tractor-trailer staging area at Camp Shelby during xCTC. The team staged, tracked and escorted a total of 328 commercial tractors as they facilitated the loading and movement of over 500 pieces of equipment.

The 631st Support Maintenance Company (SMC), based in Starke, provided direct, support-level maintenance during Operation Castle Keeper for xCTC to the 53rd IBCT and its supporting units. The 631st later assisted with line-haul requirements during retrograde operations that promptly loaded several hundred

pieces of equipment. During DSCA operations for Helene, the 631st SMC conducted vehicle recovery and maintenance services for mobilized units.

The 50th RSG's Soldiers were also busy throughout the year as they engaged in training and conducted support missions within Florida, across the country, and overseas with international partners and allies.

The 146th ESB continued its two-year federal mission serving the Command-and-Control CBRNE Response Enterprise-Bravo mission, which began in June 2023. Under this mission, the 146th provides satellite communications capabilities for the Michigan Army National Guard's ISO Task Force 46 when responding to a real-world disaster within the U.S.

The 927th CSSB's HHC covered both state and federal missions throughout 2024, deploying to the Southwest border to reinforce the federal mission, and its units have continued training at multiple sites while supporting state activations in Florida.

The 927th CSSB's 856th Quartermaster Company, based in Arcadia, conducted three separate Annual Training (AT) periods. The 856th first reported to Camp Dodge, Iowa, for evaluation at the Sustainment Training Center (STC). At Camp Dodge, three platoons completed warehouse training established by Global Combat System Support – Army, the Army's tactical logistics and financial management program. The company's Soldiers also completed Material Handler Equipment driver training in Iowa and received the "Unit Safety Award" from STC staff.

The 856th went on to conduct maintenance at the unit training equipment site in Avon Park, Florida, and later flew to West Point, New York. One platoon from the 856th conducted class II distribution at the U.S. Military Academy to help more than 300 new cadets prepare for training.

The 254th Transportation (TC) Battalion (BN), headquartered in West Palm Beach, facilitated federal and state missions by providing transportation and logistics services. Its headquarters element provided mission command for four subordinate transportation companies that supported the United States Army Europe and Africa Command's Avenger Triad 24 exercise, xCTC, the Southwest Border mission, the Florida Department of Corrections augmentation, and it reported for SAD in response to Debby.

During its AT, the 254th traveled to Grafenwohr, Germany, to conduct a command post exercise sustaining the movement of V Corps' divisions across the U.S. European Command's area of operations in support of Avenger Triad 24. This was the largest event to date with multinational participation in a joint, large-scale combat operations exercise, where the 254th TC BN demonstrated its professionalism and the importance of the 50th RSG's mission to its active-duty partners.

Soldiers assigned to the 254th volunteered to meet the governor's call to backfill the Florida Department of Corrections manpower shortfalls. Soldiers received training by corrections officers on staffing corrections institutions statewide.

The 260th MI BN provided intelligence professionals to Joint Task Force – Bravo in support of U.S. Southern Command in a federal mission and participated in three major training exercises. They facilitated the 53rd IBCT’s training during xCTC at Camp Shelby, as well as U.S. Southern Command at CENTAM Guardian, a multinational exercise in Honduras, and at Camp Williams, Utah, during Panther Strike 2024, the Army’s largest intelligence exercise.

The 13th Army Band provided over 16 performances supporting the FLARNG, other government agencies, and nonprofit organizations, to include events hosted by the National Guard Association of the United States, as well as holiday parades, veterans’ events, changes of commands, and many other occasions. The Soldiers performed admirably and have received statewide recognition for their professionalism and talent.

As 2025 approaches, the 50th RSG stands trained and ready for future challenges, whether they come from the forces of nature threatening Floridians within the state, or from dangers posed by foreign adversaries.

“My first priority as a commander has always placed readiness at the top of the list for any unit I’ve ever led – and I’m not unique that way – that’s a consistent trait among the Florida Guard’s leadership,” Davis said. “We can’t ever get complacent because the next potential hurricane is always only six months away at the most, and that’s just a danger that we know to expect. When it comes to providing for the safety and security of our neighbors, every mission is a no-fail mission.”

OUR MISSION

The 50th RSG deploys to provide contingency and expeditionary base operations support, with responsibilities for managing facilities, providing administrative and logistical support of Soldier services, ensuring the security of personnel and facilities on a base camp. The RSG provides mission command of assigned units during Homeland Security (HLS), Homeland Defense (HLD), and Civil Support (CS) missions within the United States, to include managing the Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, and Integration (RSOI) of supporting forces. When not deployed, the RSG provides oversight for training, readiness, and mobilization of assigned forces.



Brig. Gen. William Temple transferred his command of the 50th Regional Support Group to Col. Jeremy Davis during a change of command ceremony in Homestead, Fla., on Jan. 21, 2024. Maj. Gen. Robert Carruthers, the Assistant Adjutant General - Army, as well as the commander of the Florida Army National Guard, served as the presiding officer of the ceremony.



Members of the Florida Army National Guard's 13th Army Band performed during a U.S. Southern Command change of command ceremony in Doral, Fla. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin III presided over the ceremony wherein Army Gen. Laura Richardson transferred her command to Navy Adm. Alvin Holsey.

50TH REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP (continued)



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Alex Harlamor, director of the Florida National Guard's Joint Staff and commander of Joint Task Force-FL, greeted Soldiers and discussed logistical operations during a command visit to the State Logistics Response Center in Orlando, Fla., on Aug. 8, 2024. During his visit, Harlamor also "coined" several Soldiers as a token of appreciation for their exemplary efforts during this emergency response operation.



The Florida Army National Guard's 50th Regional Support Group held a deployment ceremony for the 144th Transportation Company in Marianna, Fla. on Oct. 27, 2024. Soldiers' families, friends, and colleagues were in attendance during the event to bid farewell to their loved ones ahead of the unit's upcoming departure.



Florida Army National Guard (FLANG) Soldier Spc. Jeovany Perez, a member of the 930th Digital Liaison Detachment, plots a course during the land navigation portion of Best Warrior 2024 at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Fla., Feb 29, 2024. Perez competed alongside other FLANG soldiers in various events designed to test endurance, strength, and aptitude in various soldier functions.



Spc. Juan Sanchez, an HR specialist, conducts a preventative maintenance check on a generator, Aug. 3, 2024, prior to Potential Tropical Cyclone Four making landfall. Sanchez is assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 50th Regional Support Group of the Florida Army National Guard based in Homestead, Fla.



Florida Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 856th and 356th Quartermaster Companies tracked commodities and missions at the State Logistics Response Center (SLRC) in Orlando, Fla. on Aug. 5, 2024 prior to Tropical Storm Debby's landfall as a hurricane. The SLRC is a warehouse that provides approximately 200,000 square feet to store water, food and other emergency commodities that are transported to impacted areas throughout Florida in response to natural disasters.



Spc. Sydnie Spencer (right), a supply specialist assigned to the 50th Regional Support Group, fires a training round to qualify with the M-320 grenade launcher at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Fla., March 1, 2024. Army Staff Sgt. Jonathan Payne (left), a motor transport operator assigned to the 144th Transportation Company, assigns targets, gives adjustments for impacts, and evaluates Spencer's shooting.



The Florida National Guard answered the Governor's call to support the Florida Department of Transportation, as needed, to ensure Floridians receive supplies and materials from ports during this critical time. In times of need, the Florida National Guard answers the call, "Always Ready, Always There."



Spc. Brian Ludwig, a mechanic assigned to the 356th Quartermaster Company, secured a light capability rough terrain forklift to be hauled away after Soldiers used it to unload body armor plates for firing range training in Camp Shelby, Miss., July 16. Ludwig is among almost 5,000 Florida Army National Guard Soldiers mobilized to Camp Shelby to support the Exportable Combat Training Capability exercise, a major training event that ensures the 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team's readiness and proficiency to deploy.



83rd Troop Command

The 83rd Troop Command (TC) is the most diverse major subordinate command in the Florida National Guard. 83rd TC “enables victory” by providing unique capability in support of our state and nation. 83rd TC executed an unprecedented amount of State Active Duty (SAD) missions this year, including Operation Vigilant Sentry in the Florida Keys and three hurricane responses. The 83rd conducted operations in CENTCOM, SOUTHCOM and INDO-PACOM with its diverse units and capabilities.

1-111th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB): The 1st Battalion, 111th Aviation Regiment (MAKOs) secured the Florida Straits by providing aerial reconnaissance to ensure the integrity of Florida’s borders. The 1-111th AV BN response effort activated aircraft and covered 558 miles of Florida’s border, resulting in over 1,000 flight hours. 1-111th AV BN provided 10 aircraft in support of 53 IBCT Exportable Combat Training Center (xCTC) 24-09 Rotation at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, enabling aerial MEDEVAC, air assault and air movement operations. Additionally, the 2024 hurricane season activated the MAKOs in support of Hurricane Debby, Hurricane Helene, and Hurricane Milton where pre-positions of assets enabled search and rescue operations and immediate aerial damage assessments to state and local authorities. The MAKO Battalion executed over 400 flight hours throughout the 2024 Hurricane Season.

3/20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) (SFG (A)): 3rd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) focused on training to enhance our capacity to execute operations in competition and crisis in large-scale combat operations. 3/20th SFG(A) BN HQ element focused on two different training exercises to enhance and integrate a new staff through mission planning at Special Operations Mission Training (SOMTC), and VIPER FALCON, a training exercise that focused on the utilization of a partner force in combat operations. Additionally, 2024 hurricane season activated the BN in support of hurricanes Helene and Milton, where ODAs enabled state and national search and rescue (SAR) operations teams in immediate response. The SAR mission utilized the unique skillsets, equipment and capabilities our operators bring in support of Floridians in need.

2&3/54th Security Forces Assistance Brigade (SFAB): SFABs build and sustain readiness by manning, training and validating total Army Security Force Assistance (SFA) Teams for employment across multiple combatant commands. Operationally, 2/54 has mobilized 42% of the formation to SOUTHCOM (Team 6222, 6221, and 6220) and INDO-PACOM (Team 6213) in FY24. Camp Atterbury, Ind., served as the center of gravity to validate Advisor Teams hosting Pre-Mobilization Training (PMT) Operation Combined Victory (OCV). This two-week exercise focused on Assess, Support, Liaise, Advise (ASLA) operations in a Large-Scale Combat Operation (LSCO) environment. 2/54 continues to certify teams through Training Readiness Assessment Program (TRAP), a 41-day, 22-task program focusing on Shoot, Move, Communicate, Medicate, and Advise. Additionally, 2/54 supported 23 Liaison Officer (LNO) missions in 3 State Active Duty operations in support of Task Force LNO.

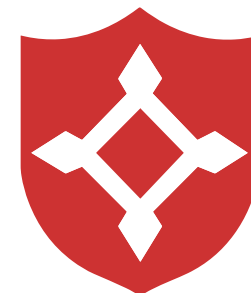
44th & 48th Weapons of Mass Destruction – Civil Support Team (WMD-CST): The 44th and 48th Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Teams (WMD-CSTs) missions are to defend the Homeland from a WMD threat or attack. Comprised of 22 full-time Army and Air Guard service members per team, the CSTs are postured to provide 24/7 support to conduct crisis and consequence



Col. Jason M. Hunt
Commander, 83rd TC



Command Sgt. Maj. Miguel Hernandez
Command Sergeant Major, 83rd TC



ORGANIZED 1978

400

The MAKO Battalion executed over 400 flight hours throughout the 2024 Hurricane Season

PHOTO PAGE 26: Florida Army National Guard Soldiers with 2-124th Infantry Battalion load a CH-47 Chinook piloted by Soldiers of 1-111th Aviation Regiment for Exportable Combat Training Capabilities (xCTC) exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss., July 19, 2024. xCTC is an exercise intended to prepare Soldiers for missions and deployments both domestic and abroad.

83RD TROOP COMMAND (continued)

management operations anywhere in the nation. The CSTs' mission requires them to work extensively with our civilian emergency management (EM) partners. The CSTs completed several milestones, to include nine Collective Training Lanes, one USARNORTH Training Proficiency Evaluation (TPE), 25 Steady State and 17 Assist Missions. The CSTs also supported hurricanes Helene and Milton responses by providing critical Liaison Officers to Emergency Operations Centers prior to their landfalls. The 48th CST assisted the US Secret Service during Israel Prime Minister Netanyahu's visit with President Trump in Mar-a-Lago. Our guardsmen integrated with the Secret Service to provide a CBRN QRF within the convoy as the PM traversed the State.

448th Chemical Battalion: The 448th Chemical Battalion supported the 53rd during xCTC with the 256th Medical Company Area Support (MCAS) and 221st Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD). 256th MCAS provided crucial medical support to the 53rd, excelling in medical tasks by ensuring rapid casualty care and evacuation. 221st EOD provided two Soldiers for mine clearing line charge live-fire disposal.

The 868th Engineers efficiently cleared the extension for the CBJTC PT Track, allowing seamless operations for contracted completion. Meanwhile, the 448th HHC showcased their preparedness in their first hurricane response as a command and control element, demonstrating strong coordination and swift action in disaster relief efforts. Additionally, the 1448th Chemical Company played a key role in supporting chemical enhanced response force package during exercise validation, delivering expert chemical, biological, and radiological defense capabilities and mission tracking. Each unit's performance contributed to mission success and highlighted their operational readiness. 221ST EOD supported the UN General Assembly and conducted an Arms Ammunition and Explosive SPP mission in Grenada. Training events completed include hosting Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearm Post Blast Investigation and Attack Scene Investigation Forensics with five different National Guard EOD companies, Florida Air National Guard EOD and active-duty Navy and Air Force.

2-111th Airfield Operations Battalion (AOB): 2-111th Aviation Regiment Airfield Operations Battalion actively trained on all six assigned mission essential tasks this FY. Our air traffic controllers provided visual and instrument flight rules tower services for over 900 air traffic movements at Fernandina Beach Municipal Airport in support of 2023 Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance. The AOB conducted Contingency Airfield Management Training instructed by ATS Command. The 2-111th AOB also supported several live and training operations to include flight operations for Operation VIGILANT SENTRY, air traffic services and airspace coordination for Operation VIPER FALCON, HICON and Safety Staff for xCTC, and cadre staff for two Florida State Guard initial entry training events.

SOD-C (Special Operations Detachment C): Currently deployed to combat operations in Iraq.

OUR MISSION

The 83rd TC trains, equips and provides command and control of Florida Army National Guard units in order to augment the active-duty army as well as support civil authorities in the protection of life and property and preserve peace, order and public safety under competent orders of state authorities. The 83rd TC is comprised of Aviation and Air Traffic Control battalions, two Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Teams, two Security Force Assistance Battalions, a Chemical Battalion, and a Special Forces (Airborne) battalion.



Maj. Gen. Robert Carruthers, Commander of the Florida Army National Guard, presided over the 83rd Troop Command's change of command on Saturday, March 2, 2024 at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. Brig. Gen. Alex Harlamor, the outgoing commander, now serves as the Director of the Joint Staff, Florida National Guard, and Col. Jason Hunt, the incoming commander, previously served as the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center commander.



The Florida Army National Guard's (FLARNG) 1st Battalion, 111th Aviation Regiment, prepares a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter for support operations ahead of Hurricane Helene, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024. The FLARNG is well-equipped, with assets including high-wheeled vehicles, helicopters, boats, and generators.



Florida Army National Guard Soldiers with 868th Engineer Company transport sand during Hurricane Helene response operations at Sand Key, Fla., Oct. 4, 2024. Guardsmen helped transport sand to clear roadways and later redistribute it through the coastline. Response operations continued following the storm's landfall to support communities most affected by the storm's path.



The Florida National Guard (FLARNG) 83rd Troop Command hosted their 2024 Best Warrior Competition at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center in Starke, Fla., Jan. 2024. Pfc. David Little, of the 2-111th Air Operations Battalion, competes in the competition's 12-mile road march. Little carried on to win 83rd Troop Command's best warrior competition and will go on to compete in the FLARNG state-wide Best Warrior Competition in March.



Staff Sgt. Patrick Chasten, a combat engineer with the 870th Engineer Company, maneuvers an obstacle during Best Warrior 2024 at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Feb. 28, 2024. Competitions such as Best Warrior give participants a platform to demonstrate their dedication to service as they are assessed both physically and mentally over the course of three days. Soldiers must showcase their proficiency in events such as land navigation, marksmanship, a professional military board and more.

83RD TROOP COMMAND (continued)



Florida Army National Guard Soldiers with 1-111th General Support Aviation Regiment conduct flight operations during Hurricane Helene support missions at Army Aviation Support Facility 1. Florida Guardsmen are providing aviation support capabilities as part of post-storm operations. We have forces operating throughout the state, providing assistance to the areas of greatest need.



A candidate receives instruction for land navigation during Special Forces Conditioning and Preparation (SFCP) at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Fla., Jan. 27, 2024. Florida Army National Guardsmen from 3rd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group hosted the four-day event where participants honed necessary skills under the guidance of experienced special forces operators.



Soldiers from the 753rd Brigade Engineering Battalion bring a POD to a riverside community in Branford, Fla., on Sept. 29, 2024. They also clear roads to ensure access for those in need following Hurricane Helene.



Sgt. Thomas Whitfield, a CH-47 "Chinook" Helicopter Repairer with the 1-111th Aviation Regiment, performs a maintenance check during migration support missions in southern Fla., March 20, 2024. The Florida Army National Guard responded within 72 hours to support local and state authorities with operations along the southern coastline. Over 80 personnel and six aircraft conduct daily patrolling missions to help identify potential migrant vessels.



Soldiers with the Florida Army National Guard's 111th Aviation Regiment prep a CH-47 Chinook for support operations ahead of Tropical Storm Debby, Aug. 3, 2024



Maj. Gen. John Haas, the Adjutant General of the Florida Army National Guard, prepares to board a UH-60 Black Hawk piloted and crewed by Soldiers with Bravo Company, 1-185th Aviation Detachment, departing from Perry Foley Airport in Perry, Fla., on Aug. 6, 2024. Haas and the aviation crew tour the affected areas of Florida to ensure a continued effective response.



Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group conduct Urban Search and Rescue water training at Camp Blanding, Fla., Oct. 8, 2024. The unit is practicing techniques to rescue stranded citizens once Hurricane Milton subsides.



Florida Army National Guard Soldiers with 1448th Chemical Company, 448th Chemical Battalion, assist in high-water rescue missions in Altamonte Springs, Fla., Oct. 10, 2024. The FLARNG has mobilized throughout Florida to engage in post landfall efforts to support Floridian's and communities in their time of need.



164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

The mission of the 164th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade (BDE) is unique as every level of command, from platoon to brigade, operates in all three levels of war: tactical, operational, and strategic. The BDE organized, trained, and equipped its units to support a range of missions that directly support the National Defense Strategy. In addition to the national defense requirements, the BDE supports varying Florida state emergency operations and national special security events. The 164th ADA BDE is critical to a growing and highly relevant Air Defense strategy for large-scale combat operations across the globe.

It has been a remarkable year for the 164th ADA BDE by first adopting the identity and name of the "Storm Brigade." The Storm BDE Soldiers have become committed to all levels of cohesiveness, rigorous training, discipline, and physical fitness. Over the past year, the Storm BDE has demonstrated its versatility and dedication by supporting crucial deployments both domestically and abroad, committing to advanced training and readiness, and playing a significant role in humanitarian and disaster relief efforts.

In February, Soldiers from the 3-116th Field Artillery (FA) Battalion (BN) were activated in support of Operation LONE STAR (OLS), sending over 200 Soldiers to the Southwest border of Texas. This mission's focus entailed detecting and monitoring border operations to impede or deny illegal crossings, maintain situational awareness, and apply appropriate enforcement of overall border security. During this OLS mission, Soldiers constructed 2,318 feet of anti-climb barrier, significantly enhancing border protective measures.

Simultaneously, Soldiers from each battalion competed for the title of Brigade Best Warrior. One Soldier from the 3-116th FA BN and another from the 3-265th ADA Battalion won and represented the brigade at the Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG) state competition.

In April, the 1-265th ADA BN participated in pre-mobilization annual training at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center (CBJTC), Fla. Their training included M3P .50 caliber live-fire exercise, individual weapon system qualification, Army Warrior Tasks, Sentinel and Avenger crew member drills, and simulated aircraft engagements. In June, 1-265th ADA BN mobilized over 230 Soldiers to Fort Bliss, Texas. They completed additional mobilization requirements such as counter unmanned aerial system training, tactical combat casualty care, Avenger live-fire exercise, and the culminating training event to complete simulated air prosecution requirements for the upcoming Operation NOBLE EAGLE (ONE) mobilization. Since July of 2024, the battalion has been mobilized at the National Capital Region Integrated Air Defense mission in support of ONE. The mission's main goals and objective are to maintain and manage Air Defense sites to protect the airspace of the National Capital Region.

Concurrently, Charlie Battery, 3-265th ADA supported the Joint Readiness Training Center, showcasing its unwavering commitment to readiness, interoperability, and mission success. The Battery engaged in rigorous training scenarios and Soldiers were exposed to complex tactical situations designed to replicate real-world combat operations. This ensured our Soldiers were prepared for any contingency, reinforcing their ability to operate in austere conditions.



Col. Adam M. Curry
Commander, 164th ADA



Command Sgt. Maj. Onel O. Labeach
Command Sergeant Major,
164th ADA



ORGANIZED 1987



During the Operation LONE STAR mission, Soldiers constructed 2,318 feet of anti-climb barrier, significantly enhancing border protective measures

PHOTO PAGE 32: Soldiers from the 3-265th Air Defense Artillery clear road debris in Cedar Key while assisting law enforcement at a checkpoint as part of their route clearing patrol, Sept. 27, 2024. Response to Hurricane Helene was a massive team effort, and Florida Army National Guard fully mobilized all available forces.

164TH AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BRIGADE (continued)

164th ADA Brigade was activated throughout the summer and fall to respond to three hurricanes: Debby, Helene, and Milton. Across all three historic storms, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion (HHB) 164 ADA executed command and control for 115 missions, including rescuing 222 people and 11 animals through 32 search and rescue missions, clearing 2,783 miles of road, and distributing 111,197 boxes of water and 69,206 cases of MREs. HHB 164 ADA coordinated 44,438 person-hours across the state to achieve these outcomes. The brigade responded to and worked closely with the counties of Taylor, Dixie, Lafayette, and Levy, providing humanitarian assistance to over 1,700 civilians as needed. The Storm Brigade reaffirmed their unwavering dedication and commitment to the welfare of Florida's residents.

Late August 2024, the 164th ADA Brigade staff traveled to Grafenwöhr, Germany, to participate in Avenger Triad 2024, the largest NATO exercise since the Cold War. This command post exercise is led by U.S. Army Europe and Africa (USAREUR-AF) and tests and improves U.S. and NATO Force's synchronization of warfighting efforts in Europe. During the large-scale combat operation training scenarios, the brigade was able to train against peer threats in a high to medium Air Defense role. In this exercise, the unit enhanced its command-and-control elements, leading three Patriot battalions critical to the main effort of the scenario while also serving as subject matter experts for emerging technologies in the air defense space. Soldiers' training involved complex and challenging simulation exercises that provided excellent opportunities for Air Defense National Guard units to work alongside active-duty counterparts to increase readiness, employ new concepts, and strengthen interoperability.

As the 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade concludes another remarkable year, their steadfast dedication to national defense, international partnership, and humanitarian efforts remains a testament to their resilience and commitment. With a proud history and a promising future, the Storm Brigade stands ever-ready to defend the skies and answer the call of duty wherever and whenever needed.

200

Soldiers from the 3-116th Field Artillery (FA) Battalion (BN) were activated in support of Operation LONE STAR (OLS), sending over 200 Soldiers to the Southwest border of Texas.

100K

Across all three historic storms, HHB 164 ADA executed command and control for 115 missions, including rescuing 222 people and 11 animals through 32 search and rescue missions, clearing 2,783 miles of road, and distributing 111,197 boxes of water and 69,206 cases of MREs.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the 164th ADA is to organize, train, and equip its units for mobilization in support of both federal and state missions. This involves preparing forces to respond effectively to a range of national defense and state emergency requirements. The 164th ADA is not just relevant, but critical, as the brigade operates in all three levels of war: tactical, operational and strategic.



Col. Adam Curry, commander of the 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, recently presided over a change of command ceremony for the Florida National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment. The outgoing commander of 3rd Battalion was Lt. Col. Harvey Rocha, and the incoming commander is Lt. Col. Adam Bailey.



Three Avenger crew members from the Florida National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, prepared their vehicle for remote operation during an emplacement drill at Camp Shelby, Miss. on July 23, 2024.



The 3-116th Field Artillery Battalion conducts annual training at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center on the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) during its annual training period.



Florida Army National Guard Soldiers with the 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery Regiment, conducted a Survey and Assist patrol following Hurricane Milton in Kissimmee, Fla., Oct. 10, 2024. The Florida National Guard ensures the safety and well-being of residents in affected areas.



Private 1st Class Victoria Torres, 3-265th Air Defense Artillery Battalion, hugs a child during the Florida National Guard's response to Hurricane Milton in Palmetto, Fla., on Oct. 8, 2024.



Soldiers from the 3-116th Field Artillery Battalion supported Operation Lone Star along the southwestern border in Texas.

164TH AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BRIGADE (continued)



Soldiers from the 2-116th Field Artillery pass out food and water to civilians in Perry, Fla., on Sept. 29, 2024. Florida Army National Guard has established PODs throughout the area to assist those affected by Hurricane Helene.



Staff Sgt. Kostadin Karkolev from Bravo Battery, 3-265th Air Defense Artillery, clears road debris in the Bronson Cedar Key area of Florida on Sept. 27, 2024, as part of the response to Hurricane Helene.



Staff Sgt. Chris S. Creese, Sgt. 1st Class Samuel E. Segura, and Pfc. Gabriel J. Segura serve together in the 1-265th ADA, exemplifying their family's deep commitment to military service. Their efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Debby highlight their dedication to the state and country.



Major General Robert Carruthers, Assistant Adjutant General-Army, recently officiated a departure ceremony for the 1-265th Air Defense Artillery Battalion. Friends, families, and distinguished guests joined to proudly bid farewell to the Soldiers mobilizing in support of Operation Noble Eagle. This marks the fourth deployment of the 1-265th ADA BN to protect the National Capitol Region.



Maj. Gen. John D. Haas, Adjutant General of Florida, and Lieutenant Governor of Florida Jeanette Núñez, pose for a photo alongside Soldiers in the Florida Keys, April 8, 2024. The Florida Army National Guard has maintained aerial surveillance capabilities as part of migrant operations along the southern coast line.



Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG) Soldiers with HHB, 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, help deploy a flood mitigation device to protect a hospital from flooding in Sanford, Fla., Oct. 8, 2024. The FLARNG has Soldiers positioned throughout Florida engaged in prestaging efforts to support mission readiness and civilian needs as they arise.



Spc. Jacob Alekseyev, an Air Defense Battle Management System Operator with the 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, plots land navigation points during Best Warrior 2024 at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Feb. 29, 2024. Land navigation and Army Warrior Tasks are two of the assessments Soldiers must participate in during the multi-day event.



The Adjutant General of Florida, Maj. Gen. John D. Haas, recently visited our soldiers at the southwest border on state active duty. They're working alongside the Florida Highway Patrol, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida State Guard to help the Texas National Guard secure the border. Their unwavering dedication to our citizens is nothing short of inspiring.



Camp Blanding Joint Training Center

Camp Blanding Joint Training Center (CBJTC), located near Starke, Florida, is a 73,000-acre premier training center for Florida National Guard units and our Unified Action Partners. CBJTC aspires to be the best training facility in the southeast U.S., supporting civil authorities and combat training, with the ability to host brigade-sized elements and a focus on Unified Land Operations (ULO). The training center provides federal, state, and local customers with training areas, ranges, education facilities, simulation platforms, maintenance, and other services.

Camp Blanding has proven to be a valuable asset to Florida's state agencies, providing essential services to thousands of Soldiers, civilian first responders, and civilian utility providers during hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton in 2024. It serves as a Continuity of Government site for the Governor and his Executive Branch, and a Continuity of Operations site for the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) and Joint Forces Headquarters-Florida.

Camp Blanding hosts various FDEM Emergency Management Academies, focusing on county emergency managers from around the state, designed to enhance capabilities in response to natural disasters or state emergencies. Additionally, Camp Blanding's value as a critical strategic asset for the training and mobilization of units has been repeatedly validated with continued federal homeland and overseas contingency operations.

Thanks in part to unprecedented investment from our state leadership, CBJTC has begun what can be described as generational growth and modernization. This investment includes additional billeting, range modernization, and improvements to CBJTC's ability to recover, maintain, and deploy troops and equipment. The improvements are essential to our ability to serve our Soldiers and Airmen, as well as our state, federal, and international partners, ensuring CBJTC remains relevant into the future.

Camp Blanding prioritizes cultivating relationships with its surrounding communities, partners and stakeholders. For example, CBJTC maintains its strong relationship with the Keystone Airpark as an integral asset to support federal and state missions. We also partner with Clay County Development Authority and Clay Economic Development Corporation to protect and improve CBJTC infrastructure through the execution of grant funds awarded by Florida's Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and the Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF).

Camp Blanding completed \$6.2M of construction projects during 2024 and has begun the design phase to construct an Operational Readiness Training Complex that will house, feed and sustain tomorrow's Guardsmen with more modern classrooms, billeting and planning capabilities. Additionally, \$12.3M is being allocated to CBJTC's live-fire weapons range modernization initiatives, enabling them to integrate an Infantry Platoon Battle Course into the same lands being used for a Multi-purpose Training Range. This economy of space approach is integral to CBJTC's customers being able to "train to the fence line," a testament to CBJTC's commitment to using every space available on Camp Blanding to enable the Florida National Guard to remain Right, Ready & Relevant.

Camp Blanding is your premier training site, providing readiness to the state and nation since 1939 and is postured to continue for decades to come.

Serving Warriors!



Col. Jeremy T. Hopkins
Commander, CBJTC



Command Sgt. Maj. Russell L. Lloyd
Command Sergeant Major, CBJTC



ORGANIZED 1939



Camp Blanding completed \$6.2M of construction projects during 2024 and begun the design phase to construct an Operational Readiness Training Complex that will house, feed and sustain tomorrow's Guardsmen with more modern classrooms, billeting and planning capabilities

PHOTO PAGE 38: New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to 42nd Regional Support Group arrived at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center in Starke, Fla., Oct. 11, 2024. Following the impact of Hurricane Milton, more than 3,000 National Guardsmen from various states volunteered to provide support to Florida. These mission sets include search and rescue, route clearance, handing out food, and more.

73K

Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, located near Starke, Florida, is a 73,000-acre premier training center for Florida National Guard units and our Unified Action Partners

CAMP BLANDING SUPPORTED TRAINING 287 DAYS IN FY24

FISCAL YEAR 2024 BY THE NUMBERS:

211 Army units trained – 265,490 personnel total
16 Navy units trained – 2,823 personnel total
12 Air Force units trained – 5,217 personnel total
12 USMC units trained – 6,133 personnel total
1 USCG units trained – 567 personnel total
44 Non-DOD agencies trained – 41,689 personnel total

TOTAL PERSONNEL TRAINED – 321,919

AVAILABLE RESOURCES:

55,000 Acres for Maneuver Training
Drop Zones and Air Assault Strip
Over 50 Live Fire Ranges
Engagement Simulation Venues
60+ Helicopter Landing Zones
Urban Terrain Training Facility
Waterborne Training Areas
Rubble & Tunnel Trainers

1939

Camp Blanding is your premier training site, providing readiness to the state and nation since 1939 and postured to continue for decades to come.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the CBJTC is to command, operate, manage and administer the use of resources of a Level II Garrison Training Center to accomplish all assigned missions by providing year-round customer service through administrative, engineering, logistical, training and operational support to assigned, attached, transient, or tenant units and joint forces activities for up to and including brigade sized elements.



Maj. Gen. Robert Carruthers, Assistant Adjutant General-Army, recently officiated the change of command ceremony for Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. Col. Todd Hopkins is the new commander of CBJTC, and Col. Jason Hunt is the commander of the 83rd Troop Command.



A Florida Army National Guard Soldier (FLARNG) maneuvers an obstacle during Best Warrior 2024 at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Feb. 28, 2024. Best Warrior is a competition open to any FLARNG member ready to put their skills to the test against other top candidates. Competitions such as Best Warrior give participants a platform to demonstrate their dedication to service as they are assessed both physically and mentally over the course of three days.



Soldiers assigned to the 1050th Transportation Battalion, 59th Troop Command, South Carolina National Guard, listen to a briefing at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Fla., Aug. 4, 2024. The 1050th Transportation Battalion mobilized in support of Florida's request for assistance through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) process, in anticipation of Tropical Storm Debby.



U.S. Airmen assigned to the Florida Air National Guard's 202nd RED HORSE Squadron got out of a U.S. Army HH-60 Black Hawk after a simulated medevac during the FEBEX24 exercise at Camp Blanding, Fla., Feb. 3, 2024. Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer (RED HORSE) Squadrons are highly mobile and rapidly deployable response forces. They are responsible for performing heavy damage repair for recovery of critical Air Force facilities and utility systems following enemy attack or natural disaster in remote, high-threat environments world-wide.



The Florida Army National Guard recently partnered with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) for Boss Lift 2024, which provided civilian employers insights into National Guard Soldier training. The event included demonstrations from the Florida National Guard's 20th Special Forces Group and the 44th Civil Support Team at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. Boss Lift provides a unique and valuable opportunity for business leaders to observe National Guard training firsthand and to better understand the contributions of National Guard soldiers to U.S. defense.

CAMP BLANDING JOINT TRAINING CENTER (continued)



U.S. Airmen assigned to the Florida Air National Guard's 202nd RED HORSE Squadron practice Tactical Combat Casualty Care during the FEBEX24 exercise at Camp Blanding, Fla., Feb. 2, 2024. The exercise sought to measure core competencies against the requirements of operating in an austere, contested environment.



CBJTC had the pleasure of hosting interns from PEO STRI. These young and talented professionals are part of a team that aspires to enter the Army civilian workforce and shape the future of Army simulation's training. We gave them a tour of our Simulations Campus as well as our Asymmetric Training Facility.



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgts. assigned to the Florida Air National Guard pose for a group photo after a ceremony at Camp Blanding, Fla., Feb. 3, 2024.



Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Kendrick, Command Senior Enlisted Leader of the Florida National Guard, recently gave remarks during a Florida State Guard graduation ceremony at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center.



Maj. Gen. Robert Carruthers, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jasen Pask, right, award participants of Best Warrior 2024 at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, March 3, 2024. Best Warrior 2024 is an annually held competition that tests Florida Army National Guard Soldiers mental and physical endurance as they compete against peers.



Florida Army National Guard Soldiers with 2-111th Aviation Regiment and the 753rd Brigade Engineer Battalion recently performed Unmanned Aircraft System test-flights and inspected motor pool equipment on an airfield at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center.



Maj. Gen. John D. Haas, the Adjutant General of Florida, is joined by prominent members of the community and senior leaders of the Florida National Guard to participate in a groundbreaking ceremony at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center in Starke, Fla., Dec. 17, 2024. Florida National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and high-yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package held the event to signify the construction of a new administrative building.



Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG) soldier SGT Ryan Leidle, a member of the 3-116th Field Artillery Regiment, does the sprint-drag-carry during the Army Combat Fitness Test portion of the Best Warrior Competition at Camp Blanding, Fla., Feb. 29, 2024. Leidle competed alongside other FLARNG soldiers in various events designed to test endurance, strength, and aptitude in various soldier functions.



125th Fighter Wing

The 125th Fighter Wing experienced a transformative year in 2024, marked by significant leadership changes and the continuation of its vital role in both national defense and state emergency response efforts. The wing welcomed Col. Mansour Elhihi as the new commander, who ushers in a new era of leadership focused on innovation, mission readiness, and community engagement.

Throughout the year, the 125th Fighter Wing deployed personnel to key regions around the world, supporting operations across the CENTCOM, AFRICOM, PACOM, and EUCOM areas of responsibility. Members of the 125th Civil Engineer Squadron, 125th Logistics Readiness Squadron, and the 114th Space Control Squadron contributed to vital missions, including space operations, engineering, and logistical support. These deployments underscored the wing's versatility and capability in addressing complex challenges on a global scale.

Domestically, the 125th Fighter Wing provided critical support during three major hurricanes—Debby, Helene, and Milton. The wing activated over 850 personnel throughout the state of Florida as part of the state's emergency response efforts. Their work included distributing thousands of cases of water, food and medical support, as well as providing logistical support to enable rapid disaster recovery. The wing's teams also helped clear roads and remove debris, ensuring that emergency responders could access the hardest-hit areas. Their swift and efficient response ensured that first responders could reach those affected by the storms, further solidifying the 125th Fighter Wing's role as a reliable partner in state emergency response efforts.

A notable achievement in 2024 came from the 125th Communications Squadron, which spearheaded innovative cybersecurity initiatives. The implementation of the Shadowproject reduced network vulnerabilities and elevated the 125th Fighter Wing into the top ten percent of all Air National Guard units for cybersecurity hygiene. The squadron's outstanding performance in the National Guard's Cyber Shield Exercise, where they secured second place in the NetWars competition, further underscored their expertise in this critical area.

In addition, the 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron (JCSS) made a significant impact during Exercise European Thunder '24 in the EUCOM area of responsibility. The 290th deployed 72 personnel and \$4.3 million in communications equipment across multiple locations in Germany, integrating with active-duty squadrons for tactical data link and on-the-move communications training. Their work involved delivering a common operating picture to participating units and assisting in the deployment of new weapons system capabilities. The exercise, which came in significantly under budget, validated 88 new tasks and demonstrated the squadron's ability to execute large-scale mobility exercises and support real-world operations.

Individual accomplishments were also a hallmark of 2024. Senior Airman Kyle Manley earned recognition as the Airman of the Year for the state of Florida, a testament to his dedication and professionalism. This accolade reflects the wing's commitment to fostering the growth and development of its personnel.

The 125th Security Forces Squadron participated in high-profile training exercises, including Red Flag at Nellis Air Force Base and testing and validating new Air Force tactics and procedures in Alaska. They also strengthened local partnerships, integrating with Jacksonville International Airport to implement the Negation of Improvised Non-State Joint Aerial (NINJA) system to detect and mitigate



Col. Mansour G. Elhihi
Commander, 125th FW



Command Chief
Master Sgt. David J. Hogan
Command Chief Master
Sergeant, 125th FW



ORGANIZED 1947

850

The 125th Fighter Wing activated over 850 personnel throughout the state of Florida as part of the state's emergency response efforts during three major hurricanes—Debby, Helene, and Milton

PHOTO PAGE 44: U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 125th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron prepared an F-15C Eagle for flight at Jacksonville Air National Guard Base, Fla., July 11, 2024. The F-15 Eagles are leaving the 125th FW near the end of 2024 and the unit is expected to receive F-35 Lightning II aircraft in early 2025. Conversion training and infrastructure changes are currently underway to prepare Airmen for the change in mission.

125TH FIGHTER WING (continued)

drone threats near the base. These efforts underscored the squadron's ability to protect vital assets at home and abroad.

As part of the wing's transition to the F-35 Lightning II aircraft, the 202nd RED HORSE Squadron played a critical role in constructing a new entry control point at Jacksonville Air National Guard Base. The project included the construction of a new roadway and upgrades to security infrastructure, ensuring the base was prepared for the operational requirements of the next-generation fighter jet.

The wing also focused on readiness through the 2024 FEBEX Contingency Training Exercise, involving 150 Airmen from various units. The exercise simulated combat scenarios and emergency response operations, preparing the wing for both domestic and global missions.

Community engagement remained a priority throughout the year, with events such as Friends of the FANG and JROTC Day helping to strengthen the wing's ties with the local Jacksonville community. These efforts were supported by comprehensive vulnerability assessments to ensure the safety of all participants.

In 2024, the 125th Fighter Wing continued to be a vital asset to both national defense and state emergency response efforts. With successful deployments, innovative security measures, and ongoing infrastructure improvements, the wing remains poised to face any challenge. Under Col. Elhihi's leadership, the 125th Fighter Wing has proven its dedication to excellence while building strong connections with the communities it serves.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the 125th FW is to provide air defense for the southeastern United States, as directed by the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), from Charleston, South Carolina to the southern tip of Florida and across the Florida panhandle. A subordinate unit, the 202nd Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers (RED HORSE) Squadron, provides a highly mobile, rapidly deployable civil engineering response force that performs heavy damage repair for recovery of critical Air Force facilities and utility systems following enemy attack or natural disaster.



The 125th Fighter Wing hosted a change of command ceremony at the Jacksonville Air National Guard Base, Fla., Sept. 14, 2024. Outgoing commander, Col. George Downs, relinquished command to incoming commander, Col. Mansour Elhihi, before Airmen, friends and family.



Maj. Corey T. Clark, director of operations, 125th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, retired during a ceremony Jan. 6, 2024, at Jacksonville Air National Guard Base, Fla. Clark retired from the Florida Air National Guard with over 23 years of military service.



Senior leaders from the 125th Fighter Wing recently toured the Lockheed Martin facility in Fort Worth, Texas, to lay eyes on the unit's first F-35A Lightning II scheduled for delivery to the Jacksonville Air National Guard Base in 2025. During the visit, Airmen signed the new aircraft to commemorate its future role with the Florida Air National Guard. As the 125th Fighter Wing prepares to say farewell to its current fleet of F-15C Eagles, it looks forward to integrating the new F-35A Lightning II into its operations.



Airmen from the 125th Fighter Wing joined the Jacksonville Aviation Authority for a dedication ceremony honoring Aircraft 78-0519, an F-15C Eagle now permanently displayed at the entrance of Jacksonville International Airport.



Airmen assigned to the 125th Medical Group, Detachment 1 stand for a group photo during an exercise Aug. 9, 2024, at Muñiz Air National Guard Base, Carolina, Puerto Rico. The exercise is part of the 125th Medical Group, Detachment 1's training that enhances air-load capabilities, refines pre- and post- deployment procedures, expands mission readiness in an unfamiliar environment, and fulfills Comprehensive Medical Readiness Plan requirements, including critical care, search and extraction, and Air Force Specialty Code proficiency training, while collaborating with the 156th Medical Group.



The Assistant Adjutant General-Air and Commander of the Florida Air National Guard, Brig. Gen. Richard Coffey spends the morning with Airmen from the 125th Fighter Wing Explosive Ordnance Disposal Shop and experienced what it's like to suit up in their equipment at Camp Kong, 125th Fighter Wing Air National Guard Base in Jacksonville, Fla. Nov. 3, 2024.

125TH FIGHTER WING (continued)



U.S. Air Force Col. Brenda Brinkley, 125th Medical Group commander, (right), salutes U.S. Air Force Col. George Downs, 125th FW commander, at the 125th Medical Group assumption of command ceremony, June 8, 2024, at the 125th FW in Jacksonville, Fla. When a new commander takes over a unit, the guidon is given to the incoming commander in front of the unit so all could witness their new leader assuming command.



Victoria Yeager, wife of U.S. Air Force Retired Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager, engages in discussion with U.S. Air Force Col. Mansour Elhihi, 125th Fighter Wing commander, during her visit to the 125th FW at the Jacksonville Air National Guard Base, Fla., Oct. 31, 2024. During her visit, Mrs. Yeager met with service members while she toured the Aircrew Flight Equipment unit, fire department, attended the welcome briefing hosted by Elhihi, and spoke to Department of Defense STARBASE students.



Chief Master Sgt. Jennifer Koonce walks a high school student through donning personal protective equipment during the JROTC Day event at Jacksonville Air National Guard Base, Fla., May 17, 2024. During the event, cadets received a mission brief, engaged with senior leaders, and participated in several interactive presentations involving an F-15 fighter jet, a Security Forces weapons display, and equipment demos with teams from maintenance, emergency management, fire rescue, and medical.



U.S. Airmen assigned to the 202nd Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers (RED HORSE) Squadron, Florida Air National Guard, cleared roads in Dixie County, Fla., after Hurricane Debby, Aug. 6, 2024. The 202nd RED HORSE Squadron, stationed at Camp Blanding, Fla., is a specialized, highly mobile civil engineering team comprised of Florida Air National Guardsmen that provides rapid response capabilities for multiple worldwide contingencies and operations.



U.S. Air Force Col. George H.H. Downs, commander of the 125th Fighter Wing, completed his "fini" flight at Jacksonville Air National Guard Base, Fla., August 9, 2024. Final flight, also known as fini flight, is a tradition for pilots and some aircrew members who are retiring or moving to another base. Downs is preparing to transition from his current command to a new role at Joint Force Headquarters - Florida.



Senior leaders pose for a photo in front of the 125th Maintenance Group hangar during a Florida National Guard senior leader visit at Jacksonville Air National Guard Base, Fla., Mar. 11, 2024. This visit marks U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John D. Haas' first visit to the 125th Fighter Wing as the Adjutant General of Florida.



U.S. Airmen from the Florida Air National Guard's 202nd Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operations Repair Squadron Engineers (RED HORSE) loaded emergency response supplies ahead of Hurricane Helene's anticipated landfall.



Col. Mansour Elhihi, 125th Fighter Wing commander (left), presents Lt. Col. Timothy Dunagan, former 125th Fighter Wing Headquarters Section commander (right), with a U.S. Air Force Meritorious Service Medal at Jacksonville Air National Guard Base, Fla., Nov. 3, 2024. The 125th FWS is standing down to make way for the new A-Staff model.



601st Air Operations Center & 101st Air And Space Operations Group

FLORIDA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The Florida Air National Guard (FLANG) members assigned to the 101st Air and Space Operations Group (101 AOG), the 101st Air Communications Squadron (101 ACOMS), and the 101 AOG Detachment 1 (101 AOG Det 1) provide essential personnel, technical expertise, and critical support functions that sustain operations for the Title 10 mission of the 601st Air and Space Operations Center (601 AOC). The 601 AOC is also known as "America's AOC," and plays a pivotal role in planning, directing, and assessing air and space operations for the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), and United States Space Command (USSPACECOM). Located at Tyndall Air Force Base, the AOC provides aerospace warning and control for NORAD's air defense activities and directs air and space capabilities in support of USNORTHCOM's Homeland Security and Civil Support missions. These responsibilities extend across the continental U.S., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and surrounding waters.

The roots of this air defense mission trace back to World War II and have evolved significantly over the decades. During the early 1980s, the air defense mission went through a broad restructuring of operations to align better with the broadening strategic needs. In the late 1980s the Southeast Air Defense Sector (SEADS) was established, which was responsible for 3,000nm of coastline from Virginia to Texas. In 1995, the SEADS mission was reassigned from Active Duty to the Florida Air National Guard (FLANG).

Following the events of September 11, 2001, the need for operational oversight of air defense capability became even more critical, leading to the formation and formal establishment of the 601 AOC in 2007. In 2009, the FLANG redesignated SEADS as the 101st Air and Space Operations Group (101 AOG).

America's AOC also supports Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) by coordinating life-saving relief and rescue operations during natural or man-made disasters. Some notable examples are Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Sandy, and Hurricane Maria where the AOC coordinated air support for relief and recovery operations. Following the devastation of Hurricane Michael in October of 2018, the AOC quickly mobilized to support both its personnel and the surrounding community. The AOC has also been involved in wildfire response efforts as well as collaborating with the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) ensuring timely and effective air operations to aid in civilian rescue, relief, and recovery efforts across the United States.

Some notable defense operations supported by the AOC include Operation NOBLE EAGLE (ONE), President of the United States (POTUS) Support Missions, National Special Security Events (NSSE), and other major air defense events.

For ONE, the AOC plays a crucial role in coordinating air defense operations to protect U.S. airspace and maintain air sovereignty alert missions. In 2023, the AOC orchestrated and directed the first-ever NORAD kinetic event ordered by the POTUS. For this event, the AOC provided command and control for the F-22 Raptor shoot-down of a Chinese high-altitude spy balloon over United States territory.

For POTUS missions, the AOC provides airspace security for Presidential movements, ensuring safe and secure travel for POTUS via coordinating temporary flight restrictions and supporting air defense measures. For fiscal year 24, the AOC protected 110 restricted areas, scrambled 47 fighter aircraft, and intercepted 34 tracks of interest.



Col. Kevin S. Slaughter
Commander, 101st AOG



Chief Master Sgt. Filicity A. Henne
Chief Enlisted Manager,
101st AOG



ORGANIZED 2009

110

For fiscal year 24, the AOC protected 110 restricted areas, scrambled 47 fighter aircraft, and intercepted 34 tracks of interest

PHOTO PAGE 50: The C1AA team gathered at the 9/11 Memorial at the 601st Air Operations Center to honor and remember the lives lost, those saved, and the courageous actions of our fellow Americans following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

601ST AIR OPERATIONS CENTER & 101ST AIR AND SPACE OPERATIONS GROUP (continued)

The AOC provided air defense for multiple NSSEs and other major air defense events during fiscal year 24, including Super Bowl LVIII, the State of the Union Address, the Republican National Convention, the Democratic National Convention, and the United Nations General Assembly.

This fiscal year, the AOC also participated in Operation NOBLE DEFENDER which demonstrated NORAD's capability and readiness to defend Canada and the United States in the challenging Arctic environment. The AOC also participated in Exercise VIGILANT SHIELD, a bi-national, multi-Combatant Command exercise designed to assess and enhance the readiness of NORAD and USNORTHCOM, its components and mission partners to defend North America from attack.

Additionally, 101 AOG members supported operations at the State Emergency Operation Center and the Joint Operation Center for Hurricane Debby relief operations.

The dedicated men and women of the 101 AOG ensure the 601 AOC remains one of the most effective and vigilant organizations in the world, standing watch around the clock-24/7. Their unwavering commitment is embodied in their motto, "We Have the Watch."



U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Richard Coffey, Assistant Adjutant General – Air and Commander, Florida Air National Guard, passes the 101st Air and Space Operations Group (101st AOG) flag to Col. Kevin Slaughter during an assumption of command ceremony held at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., Nov 12, 2024. The passing of the flag symbolizes Slaughter's acceptance of command of the 101st AOG.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the 101st AOG is to provide operational-level Command and Control (C2) of air and space forces as the focal point for planning, directing, and assessing air and space operations within The Continental United States (CONUS) NORAD Region (CONR) and USNORTHCOM; to plan and execute Joint Force Air Component Commander (JFACC) Joint Air Operations Plan and Air Operations Directive; to manage strategic air and homeland security defense air assets; and to provide Commander NORAD/USNORTHCOM with CONUS aerospace warning and control.



Senior Enlisted Advisor Tony Whitehead, SEA to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, received a C1AA mission brief, toured the 601st Air Operations Center (America's AOC), conducted an Enlisted All Call, and met with members of C1AA, 101st Air and Space Operations Group, and Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. Whitehead formerly served as the Command Chief Master Sergeant, CONR-1AF (AFNORTH) from Sept. 1, 2019 through Aug. 24, 2020.



Members of America's AOC have been busy during the month of December educating local students on the NORAD Tracks Santa program. These members have been traveling throughout Bay District Schools to brief students on how they can follow Santa's trip around the globe on December 24th with the help of NORAD, spreading holiday cheer throughout the community.



Gen. Gregory Guillot, commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), visited the Killey Center for Homeland Operations to meet with Lt. Gen. Steven Nordhaus, commander, Continental NORAD Region, First Air Force (Air Forces Northern & Air Forces Space), and staff.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Victoria Truppo, 101st Air and Space Operations Group personnel specialist, middle, poses for a photo with leadership after she was awarded the 2024 Woody Braswell Heroism Award, during the Adjutant General's Leadership Summit in Orlando, Fla., June 28, 2024. Truppo rescued a mother and two children from drowning in powerful currents. Her actions averted what could have otherwise been a catastrophic outcome.



Maj. Matt Campbell, Chief of the Commander's Action Group, 601st Air & Space Operations Center, speaks to more than 40 cadets from the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Air Force Civil Engineering Academy who took a tour of the 601st AOC and the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) during their week-long annual event at Tyndall Air Force Base.



Exportable Combat Training Capability Exercise - 2024

Over 5,000 Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG) Soldiers reported to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, for the Exportable Combat Training Capability exercise (xCTC) in July 2024. The FLARNG used a large array of internal assets to achieve unprecedented training success in preparation for xCTC. We deployed 10 helicopters and over 1,800 pieces of various rolling stock from three different brigades.

During this year's xCTC, the FLARNG performed over 700 collective training exercises that were comprised of day and night live fire iterations, over 240 company and platoon training events, and 4 helicopter air assaults. These infantry-focused exercises were designed to increase the readiness of the 53rd IBCB, as well as the various supporting units. Although xCTC was primarily focused on traditional infantry exercises, the FLARNG leveraged internal expertise with the deployment of elements from the 50th RSG to perform the vital — and often less acknowledged — aspect of the event, basic sustainment and logistics. Basic sustainment such as food, water, and supplies were imperative to the overall success of the exercise, and the FLARNG was able to improve the readiness of not just their infantry, but their sustainment units as well.

"Our sustainers are out there, they're pushing log packs, pushing the resupply, and feeding the beast, so that Soldiers in the hot weather can stay in training," said Army Col. Sam Sargeant, 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander.

While an obvious focal point for a combat-oriented exercise involves the occupational competence and lethality of the infantry Soldiers, xCTC also recognizes the importance of sustainment operations.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Hayden Simms, a supply systems technician with the 356th Quartermaster Company, worked tirelessly to supply participating units with everything they needed, including safety equipment.

"The most important part of the mission is making sure your troops are well-supplied and well-fed," said Simms. "I take that personally as our job here in the field."

Our sustainers are out there, they're pushing log packs, pushing the resupply, and feeding the beast, so that Soldiers in the hot weather can stay in training. The most important part of the mission is making sure your troops are well-supplied and well-fed.



Col. Sam Sargeant

Commander, 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team



Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG) Soldiers with 2-124th Infantry Battalion await to load a UH-60 Black Hawk piloted by Soldiers of 1-11th Aviation Regiment for Exportable Combat Training Capabilities (xCTC) exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss., July 19, 2024. xCTC prepares Soldiers for the National Training Center (NTC) located at Fort Irwin, Calif. xCTC and NTC are training exercises that contribute to the deployment readiness of the FLARNG.

LEFT: Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG) CH-47 Chinooks piloted by Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 111th Aviation Regiment transport Soldiers assigned to 2nd Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment from a drop zone at Camp Shelby, Miss., during Exportable Combat Training Capability (xCTC) exercise, July 28, 2024. These Soldiers practiced and prepared for this culminating event for nearly two weeks.

EXPORTABLE COMBAT TRAINING CAPABILITY EXERCISE - 2024 (continued)

The preparation of the training itself is no exception. Soldiers of the 50th Regional Support Group (RSG) and the 53rd Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) executed an ammunition move from an ammunition supply point to an ammunition holding area for dissemination to various units on July 15. While passing out ammunition to infantry forces for training seems like a basic task – and in the big picture, it is – however, the nature of this work still requires planning, coordination and teamwork to accomplish it safely and efficiently.

“xCTC represents a ‘worst of the worst’ situation, and we’re trying to simulate those conditions to prepare Soldiers for that,” said Army Staff Sgt. Eleyemis Costa, the ammunition noncommissioned officer in charge who oversaw the move. “This exercise can be a reality check for Soldiers who come right out of basic training and haven’t dealt with this kind of environment. To ensure Soldiers can train to the standard, they need those basic resources.”

The following day, Soldiers assigned to the 356th Quartermaster Company used forklifts to unload and organize ballistic plates at Camp Shelby’s Range 13. The plates are crucial components in the body armor Soldiers later used in their training, which members of the 50th RSG facilitated, making a “train like you fight” experience possible.

“Tasks like these point out deficiencies we have before we go into an actual combat environment and make us more prepared and ready to conduct the supply process,” said Army 1st Lt. James Klein, the 50th RSG’s assistant S-2 officer. “The supply process – getting the troops what they need – is one of the most important parts of the military, and every Soldier needs to be protected.”

Toward the end of the xCTC, all Soldiers were preparing for the three-day culminating exercise – the combined arms rehearsal, also known as CAR.

“xCTC is all about platoon validation, and command and control, not only at the company and battalion level, but at the brigade level,” said Army Maj. Justin Howland, 53rd IBCT S-3 officer. “This rehearsal ensures that our staffs are synced and commanders at the highest level can command and control their forces out maneuvering in the training area.”

The rehearsal leading up to xCTC’s culminating exercise is especially important because the overall xCTC event is a rare training opportunity. According to Howland, exercises like xCTC and the rehearsals that lead up to them not only increase the Florida Guard’s readiness, but they establish “generational readiness.” Such opportunities develop junior officers who will eventually lead the companies, battalions and brigades that will engage in future xCTC training cycles – or war with near-peer adversaries.

“Combined arms rehearsals don’t happen very often at a scale of this size,” Howland said. “Only when we’re going to a collective training center or an xCTC are we able to truly do a brigade-sized operation. This [exercise] provides generational readiness across the formation.”



Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG) Soldiers with 2-124th Infantry Regiment prepares to launch an M252 81 mm mortar system during the Exportable Combat Training Capability (xCTC) exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss., July 22, 2024. xCTC put FLARNG Soldiers to the test and strengthened their ability to perform in austere environments.



Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG) Soldiers with the 1-124th Infantry Battalion conducted a mass casualty operation (MASCAL) during the Exportable Combat Training Capability (xCTC) exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss., July 21, 2024. During xCTC, operations like MASCAL ensured FLARNG Soldiers could adequately respond to tumultuous situations with vigor and strength.



Florida Army National Guard Soldiers with 1-124th Infantry Battalion took over a position held by opposing forces (OPFOR) during Exportable Combat Training Capability (xCTC) exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss., July 21, 2024. Soldiers at xCTC utilized a variety of equipment and vehicles to achieve mission readiness.



Florida Army National Guard Soldier Sgt. Jonathan Reyes, a cannon crewmember with Alpha Battery, 2-116th Field Artillery Regiment, prepares ammunition for a M119 105 mm howitzer during Exportable Combat Training Capability exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss., July 26, 2024. Sgt. Reyes prepared every charge for the ammunition being fired to ensure the proper amount of powder was used to hit targets.



From left, Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG) Col. Sam Sargeant, 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander, Florida National Guard Maj. Gen. Robert Carruthers, Florida Army National Guard Assistant Adjutant General-Army, and U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Richard F. Johnson, Deputy Commanding General, Army National Guard, U.S. Army Forces Command, meet to discuss training and readiness progress of the FLARNG during Exportable Combat Training Capability (xCTC) exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss., July 25, 2024.



Florida Army National Guard Soldiers with the 753rd Brigade Engineer Battalion prepared to transport wounded combatants during a simulated mass casualty (MASCAL) event during Exportable Combat Training Capability (xCTC) exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss., July 23, 2024. Soldiers at xCTC participated in combat-oriented scenarios to increase readiness and response capabilities both foreign and domestic.

EXPORTABLE COMBAT TRAINING CAPABILITY EXERCISE - 2024 (continued)



Soldiers from the Florida Army National Guard's Charlie Company, 753rd Brigade Engineer Battalion evaluated Soldiers on their mission essential tasks under night time conditions with low visibility at Camp Shelby, Miss. on July 24, 2024. Charlie company provided support through radio and satellite transmissions to the 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, allowing the brigade commander to maintain secure communication with battalions throughout the exercise.



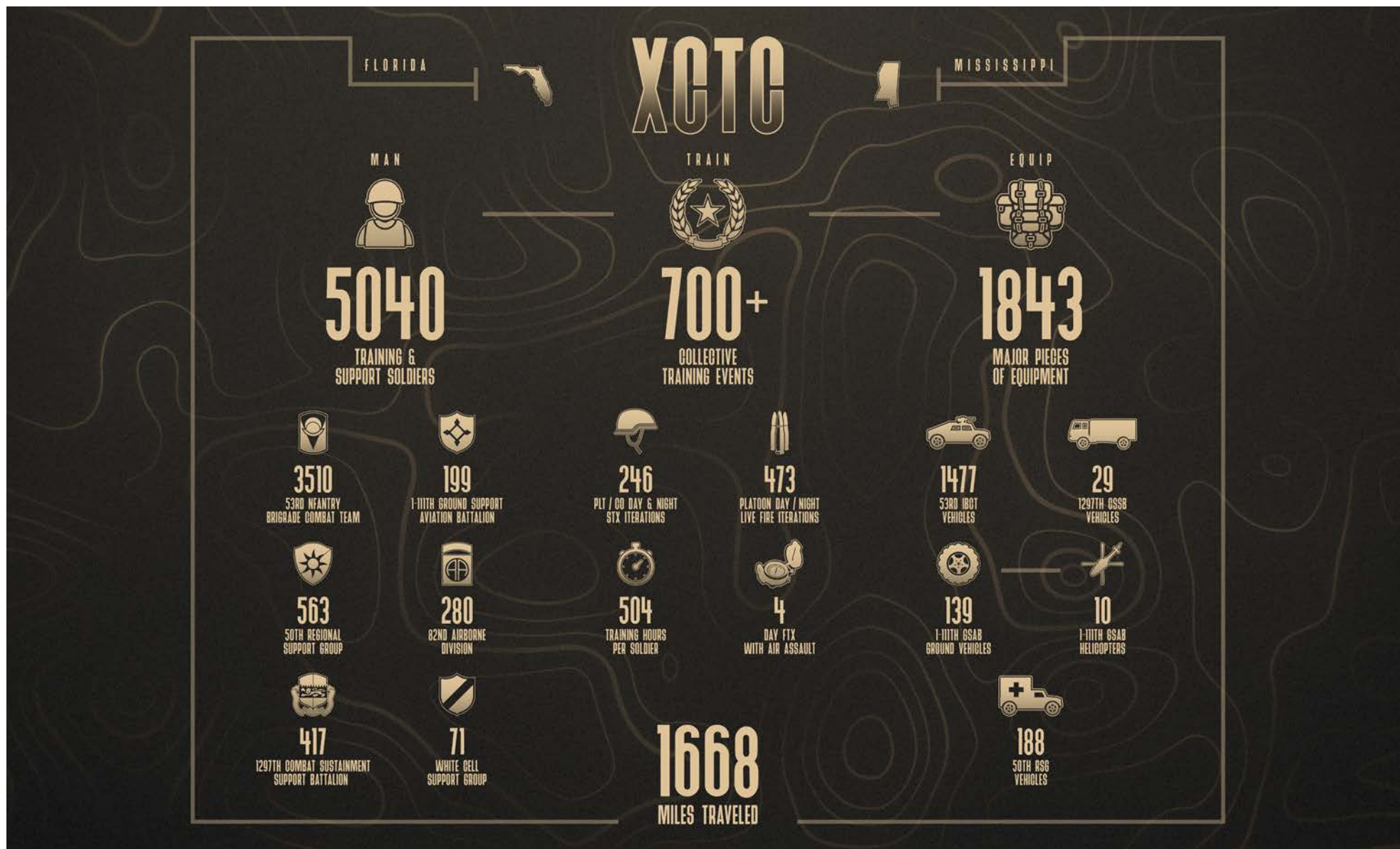
Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Battalion of the 124th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Seminole received an initial welcome brief at the base movie theater, which is part of their joint reception, staging, onward movement and integration processing prior to the Exportable Combat Training Capability exercise in Camp Shelby, Miss., July 13, 2024.



Soldiers from the Florida National Guard's 753rd Brigade Engineer Battalion managed a secured entry point controlled by the 53rd Brigade Support Battalion during the Exportable Combat Training Capability (xCTC) exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss. on July 24, 2024.



Spc. John Canter, a crew chief assigned to 1st Battalion, 111th Aviation Regiment, ensures proper operation in the rear of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter in flight at Camp Shelby, Miss., July 19, 2024.



This infographic provides a snapshot of the enormity of the Florida National Guard's Exportable Combat Training Capability experience.



Importance of Emergency Management Compact During Hurricane Response

The 2024 hurricane season presented significant challenges for the Soldiers and Airmen of the Florida National Guard. Hurricane Debby arrived on Florida's doorstep in early August, and just over a month later, Hurricane Helene followed. Two weeks after that, the Guard was bracing for yet another major storm—Hurricane Milton. While Florida National Guard units are well-trained for emergency response operations, each storm introduces its own set of unique challenges that require flexibility and quick adaptation.

In the days leading up to Hurricane Debby's anticipated landfall, over 3,500 troops were activated, most of whom were preparing for post-landfall response initiatives. Others were stationed at operation centers across the state, fulfilling various roles to ensure effective coordination and positioning forces for optimal support during the storm's aftermath.

Shortly after Hurricane Debby came and went, our Soldiers and Airmen were focused on quickly resetting and preparing to respond to what would ultimately become a truly catastrophic storm in Hurricane Helene. While Florida was spared from most of Helene's disastrous impact, our friends in North Carolina and along the path of the storm were not as fortunate.

In fact, once Hurricane Helene left Florida, the Florida National Guard's work was no longer restricted within state lines, but instead expanded to North Carolina by way of an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) request. EMACs are an integral part of large-scale National Guard operations, enabling states to provide support and response capabilities to each other in times of need.

"The role of the Guard in an EMAC situation is really a force multiplier," said Lt. Col. Brian Cooper, Commander, 1-111th General Support Aviation Battalion. "It's an agreement between states that enables other National Guard organizations into that state to help those citizens in need."

The Florida National Guard is usually the recipient of EMAC support during hurricane operations. Rarely does the Florida National Guard get the opportunity to repay the favor and support other states, thus making Florida's support of North Carolina a historic event, considering its last EMAC operation took place during Hurricane Katrina in 2005 — a storm that left a similar impact in Louisiana as the damage left by Helene in North Carolina and other states.

The role of the Guard in an EMAC situation is really a force multiplier. It's an agreement between states that enables other National Guard organizations into that state to help those citizens in need.



Lt. Col. Brian Cooper

Commander, General Support Aviation Battalion,
1-111th Aviation Regiment



Florida Army National Guard Soldiers with 1-111th General Support Aviation Battalion prepared first responders for a flight during Hurricane Milton support operations in Tallahassee, Fla., Oct. 10, 2024. Guardsmen were joined by other search and rescue components as they executed immediate response operations following the storm's landfall.

LEFT: U.S. Soldiers assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment, 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, delivered water, meals and non-perishable goods to senior citizens residing in the Spanish Lake community in Port St. Lucie, Fla., Oct. 11, 2024. The state of Florida established point of distribution centers throughout Florida and deployed various logistic staging areas to ensure supplies are available to those in need.

IMPORTANCE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMPACT DURING HURRICANE RESPONSE (continued)

“This EMAC was historic — historic in that this generation of Soldiers has never seen this, including myself. Florida typically receives the donor states to us, due to being the first impacted state,” said Cooper. “This one was historic because of the size and nature of this hurricane, affecting numerous states at a great deal of speed. So, what we felt as an impact [in Florida] ultimately impacted those states as well.”

During Florida’s support of North Carolina, our EMAC’d aviation assets provided relief from the demands placed on the North Carolina National Guard and civilian partner agencies. EMAC support from other states during domestic response operations is often overlooked, but it’s proven to be necessary and critically important.

Within the first 24 hours of its EMAC operations, the Florida National Guard’s 1-111th Aviation Regiment conducted aerial resupply of food and water pallets from Asheville Regional Airport to Mitchell High School, hauling more than 20,000 pounds of cargo.

As part of its support package, the FLNG provided two CH-47 Chinooks with heavy lift capabilities. These capabilities allowed the Florida National Guard to deliver commodities to isolated locations, leveraging a larger platform for urban search and rescue movements into an affected area, as well as sling load capabilities, which enable engineer assets to clear roads and make sure first responders can get to the areas of greatest need.

“As a National Guard member, we’re trained and prepared for missions like this. Responding to natural disasters is one of the key roles we fulfill in the Guard, and it’s an honor to be able to contribute to relief efforts for our state and others in need,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ashley Smith, Pilot, Bravo Company 1-111th Aviation Regiment.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Smith was deployed for Hurricane Helene operations in Florida, only to quickly turn around and travel to North Carolina, providing support for the exact same storm. “My team was focused on providing assistance to those in need, ensuring the safety of those affected by the storm, and helping with recovery operations. It’s a challenging situation, but we were ready and committed to doing our part,” said Smith.

Unfortunately, with Hurricane Milton’s imminent landfall on the horizon, the Florida National Guard needed to rescind its EMAC package in preparation for a whole new round of operations back in Florida. Operations which would, once again, bring Soldiers and Airmen from other states to assist Florida in its time of need.

The EMAC process has time and time again proven to be a vital aspect of the National Guard’s framework, which functions as a cohesive unit made up of citizen-Soldiers and Airmen committed to serving the community. All states share a common framework for mission tasks and capabilities, ensuring that the necessary resources are consistently available, and more importantly, giving citizens the peace of mind that the National Guard is “Always Ready, Always There.”



Soldiers from the 868th Engineer Company conducted a high-water rescue operation in Live Oak, Fla., following flooding from Hurricane Debby. The Florida National Guard is dedicated to response efforts to support the community and assist residents during the storm.



Governor Ron DeSantis visits the point-of-distribution site in Perry, Fla., to thank Soldiers from the 1-265th Air Defense Artillery for their hard work and dedication to the state of Florida during Hurricane Debby relief efforts.



Soldiers from the 448th Chemical Battalion in Ocala, Fla., prepared vehicles and equipment in support of Hurricane Helene recovery efforts, Sept. 25, 2024. The Florida National Guard has Soldiers and Airmen activated throughout the state, ready for a full activation of forces as directed by the Governor.



Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG) Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, operated a point of distribution in Bradenton, Florida, to provide food and water to the local community following Hurricane Milton Oct. 11, 2024. FLARNG Soldiers are positioned around the state to help fellow Floridians in their time of need and will be distributing essential items at various locations.



U.S. Airmen assigned to the 202nd RED HORSE, 125th Medical Detachment and 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron, mobilized to areas throughout central Florida ahead of Hurricane Milton's landfall. Officials with the Florida Highway Patrol escorted the 44-passenger convoy to provide an unimpeded, direct route to staging areas. The Florida National Guard activated more than 5,000 personnel to spearhead response efforts across the region in support of communities under the threat of severe impact.



Cadet Kevin Hodge, a Soldier assigned to the 1218th Transportation Company secured cots to an M915A3 tractor truck for transport in Fort Myers, Fla., Oct. 11, 2024, during recovery operations after Hurricane Milton's landfall. Hodge is a former enlisted motor transport operator, currently earning his commission through Nova Southeastern University to serve as an officer.

IMPORTANCE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMPACT DURING HURRICANE RESPONSE (continued)



Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Sweat, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Deputy Commanding General, thanks Soldiers from the Indiana Army National Guard as they prepare to depart from Camp Blanding, Fla., Oct. 18, 2024. The Guardsmen will be awarded the Florida State Active Duty ribbon following their assistance with the state of Florida's recovery efforts following Hurricane Milton.



Florida Air National Guardsmen assigned to various squadrons across the 125th Fighter Wing passed out water and food to civilians in Port Charlotte, Fla., Sept. 28, 2024. The Florida National Guard established points of distribution throughout Florida and operated at various logistic staging areas to ensure supplies are available to those in need. Florida Guardsmen provided humanitarian support capabilities as part of post-storm operations.



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Alex Harlamor, director of the joint staff, Florida National Guard, thanks Guardsmen assigned to the 1053rd Transportation Company, South Carolina Army National Guard, at Camp Blanding, Fla., Aug. 6, 2024. The Guardsmen were awarded the Florida State Active Duty ribbon after mobilizing to assist the state of Florida with it's recovery efforts following Hurricane Debby.



The Florida National Guard is grateful for the New York National Guard's support during Hurricane Milton response operations, along with the many other National Guard units that volunteered to assist during these challenging times. Soldiers and Airmen will continue conducting route clearance missions and staffing points of distribution centers across disaster-affected areas for as long as needed.



In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, hundreds of Florida Air National Guardsmen established points of distribution (PODs) to distribute cases of water and meals-ready-to-eat, commonly known as MREs, throughout Manatee and Charlotte counties in southwest Florida. More than 3,000 cases of MREs and water were distributed to local residents facing food and water shortages.



National Guard Bureau Chief Gen. Steven S. Nordhaus visits a Point of Distribution (POD) site with Florida Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. John D. Haas in Tampa, Fla. on Oct. 16, 2024. PODs provide food, water, ice, and tarps to the local community following Hurricane Milton.



Florida Army National Guard Soldiers with 1-111th General Support Aviation Battalion conducted flight operations during Hurricane Milton response missions in Brooksville, Fla., Oct. 10, 2024. The Florida National Guard was joined by multiple other state's National Guard assets as they conducted operations before and after the storm's landfall. Civilian search and rescue teams were among the many other components working alongside their military counterparts as they provided assistance to those in affected areas.



U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 202nd Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operations Repair Squadron Engineers (RED HORSE) Squadron assigned teams for route clearance Aug. 6, 2024, in Old Town, Fla. The RED HORSE Squadron was activated in response to Hurricane Debby to assist communities with route clearing.

Historic Parade Field Renamed Honoring Major General Titshaw

Generations of service members and their families gathered for the renaming of the St. Francis Barracks Parade Field at St. Augustine, Fla., Sept. 13, 2024. The field was renamed in honor of retired Maj. Gen. Emmett R. Titshaw, Jr., former Adjutant General of Florida. This field represents the legacy the Guard has built through its decades of dedicated service to both the nation and the state.

"All I can really feel is gratitude," said Titshaw. "Gratitude that this place that means so much to me and to my family, where I've lived and served is just remarkable for me to even consider to be honored in this way."

The newly named Emmett R. Titshaw Field at Patriot Point contains soil from 19 locations across the world that represent 10 conflicts in which FLNG Soldiers and Airmen served. The field's preservation is a testament to tradition and honorable service, and was consecrated with the soil in 2013 under Maj. Gen. Titshaw's direction.

"I really hope that it's not lost on the Soldiers and Airmen of this organization that they really have a unique heritage here that goes back hundreds of years and that they are adding to the contributions that have been made by others," said Titshaw. "History is a set of facts but heritage is something else. It's humanizing history if you will, the sacrifice that has gone into their service, their families' sacrifice. I know that Florida is so rich in its heritage...a heritage that influences the choices that we make and the horizons we will embark upon."

As we officially rename this field today, we are reminded that Major General Titshaw's influence extends far beyond the battlefield. His legacy is woven into the very fabric of our organization's heritage, inspiring new leaders to continue his admirable standards of excellence, honor, and duty.

★ ★ **Maj. Gen. John D. Haas**
The Adjutant General of Florida



The historic St. Francis Barracks Parade Field was renamed in honor of U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Emmett R. Titshaw and his contributions to the Guard throughout his decades of service.

The ceremony included the unveiling of the historic marker by both Titshaw and the current Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. John D. Haas. This gesture reflected the legacy the FLNG carries forward as they pay tribute to a leader known for his ability to inspire others and his tenacious allegiance to both the state and the nation.

“As we officially rename this field today, we are reminded that Major General Titshaw’s influence extends far beyond the battlefield,” said Haas. “His legacy is woven into the very fabric of our organization’s heritage, inspiring new leaders to continue his admirable standards of excellence, honor, and duty.”

Emmett R. Titshaw Field is a place where discipline meets tradition. The field is a testament to not only Titshaw, but also to those who paved the way for the organization's future. As service members walk across the newly named field, they are reminded of all those that came before them and the unique history that has laid the foundation for today’s Florida National Guard.

“It’s about the heritage we have and how we connect it to our horizon,” said Titshaw. “What guides us, what is our north star that keeps us moving in the right direction as an organization. I am humbled and grateful beyond words on behalf of my family and the generations of Guardsmen that are represented here.”



Escorted by a Florida Youth Challenge cadet in a period Civil War uniform, Adjutant General of Florida Maj. Gen. Emmett Titshaw Jr. (right) spreads soil from the Olustee Battlefield onto the parade field at the Florida National Guard headquarters, Sept. 13, 2013. Titshaw’s ancestor James R. Terrell fought and died at the 1864 battle.



Several retired general officers attended the Patriot Field renaming ceremony. From left to right, front row to back row, are pictured: Maj. Gen. (ret.) Ronald O. Harrison; Maj. Gen. (ret.) Emmett R. Titshaw Jr.; Maj. Gen. John D. Haas; Brig. Gen. (ret.) Richard Capps; Lt. Gen. (ret.) Guy C. Swan, III; Maj. Gen. Robert G. Carruthers III; Brig. Gen. Richard L. Coffey III; Maj. Gen. (ret.) Joseph Balskus; Maj. Gen. (ret.) Joseph Martin; Gen. (ret.) Craig R. McKinley; Maj. Gen. (ret.) Douglas Burnett.



Retired Maj. Gen. Emmett R. Titshaw and Maj. Gen. John D. Haas, Adjutant General of Florida, unveiled a historic marker during a ceremony at Saint Augustine, Fla., Sept. 13, 2024. The historic St. Francis Barracks Parade Field was renamed in honor of Titshaw and his contributions to the guard throughout his decades of service. Emmett R. Titshaw Field is a place where discipline meets tradition as it stands as a testament to not only Titshaw, but to the leaders that paved the way for the organization’s future.

Educational Dollars for Duty

INCENTIVE TO FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARDSMEN



5M

The EDD program is established by Florida Statute and the Fiscal Year 2025 annual budget is approximately \$5.2 million

100%

Qualified service members attending Florida colleges and public universities can get up to 100% of their tuition covered at Florida's public in-state, resident rate

The Florida National Guard (FLNG) Educational Dollars for Duty (EDD) program is a State of Florida, legislatively directed and funded, education tuition assistance resource that is exclusively available to qualified FLNG service members for pursuing authorized postsecondary educational opportunities that include vocational/technical, industry certification, continuing education, and academic programs. As such, EDD can be used for courses that lead toward a technical certificate, associate's, bachelor's, or master's degree. EDD cannot be used toward a Doctorate degree. The EDD program also pays for authorized licensing and industry certification exams. EDD may refund textbook and instructional material costs if funds are available after all tuition is paid for the fiscal year. The EDD program is a State of Florida benefit, not entitlement.

The EDD program is established by Florida Statute and the Fiscal Year 2025 annual budget is approximately \$5.2 million. The primary purposes of the program are to enhance the Recruiting and Retention Programs of the Florida National Guard and improve the education level of Florida National Guard members.



Qualified service members attending Florida colleges and public universities can get up to 100% of their tuition covered at Florida's public in-state, resident rate. For those attending accredited private institutions, EDD will provide funds at the highest current state resident rate.

"One great benefit of being a member of the Florida National Guard is the state-funded Educational Dollars for Duty program. Over 19,000 Soldiers and Airmen have taken advantage of this valuable incentive which includes coverage of associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees as well as numerous certifications and licensing programs," said Major General John D. Haas, The Adjutant General of Florida.

The EDD program currently supports approximately 1,600 service members per semester who are attending 183 educational institutions and taking over 10,000 courses per year.

For more information on the EDD program and/or school eligibility information, please contact the EDD Group Mailbox at ng.fl.flarnng.list.edd-office@army.mil or visit the EDD website <https://edd.dma.myflorida.com>.

Florida Youth ChalleNGe Academy

COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAM



206

In the last year, 206 young people from throughout the state of Florida were directly impacted by Florida's National Guard Youth ChalleNGe program

8M

Cadets have contributed over 439,000 hours of service to the communities of Florida, a value of over \$8.8 million, during the course of their residential portion at the Academy

The Florida Youth ChalleNGe Academy (FLYCA) is a community-based program that leads, trains, and mentors youth in need of leadership so they can become productive citizens. The Academy promotes adult responsibility, values and basic lifestyle changes by providing a demanding, highly regimented and motivational environment free from outside distractions. In this voluntary program, 16- to 18-year-old high school dropouts enter a rigorous five-and-a-half-month residential phase based on a military model. During the remaining 12-month post-residential phase, the cadet is matched with a mentor and with the help of their FLYCA case manager, the cadet works to stay on track and sharpen their skills after graduation.

Since its inception in July 2001, FLYCA has graduated 6,163 cadets from 63 of Florida's 67 counties from the five-and-a-half-month residential phase. During the residential phase, cadets have the option to participate in credit recovery to return to high school or they can work toward earning their State of Florida High School Diploma through the GED Testing Service. These cadets have contributed over 439,000 hours of service to the communities of Florida, a value of over \$8.8 million, during the course of their

residential portion at the Academy. In the last year, 206 young people from throughout the state of Florida were directly impacted by Florida's National Guard Youth ChalleNGe program.

The Florida Youth ChalleNGe Academy is governed by the Florida Department of Military Affairs and the Florida National Guard. In addition, the Academy is partnered with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, the Florida Department of Children and Families and the Florida Department of Education through Clay County District Schools (CCDS). FLYCA's budget is paid for in part with federal funding and in part from these state partners.

This past year, the Florida Youth ChalleNGe Academy continued to serve Florida's at-risk youth through not only the military structure of the program but through the exceptional Education Department contracted from Clay County District Schools. Through the program, cadets gained experience serving others in meaningful ways such as at local food pantries and assisting with festivals. In addition, cadets were able to take advantage of several educational field trips that gave a more in-depth understanding of curriculum they were being taught in the classroom.



Cadets work towards their fitness goals during the class and take fitness tests to check their progress.



Cadets muster up their courage to take on the rappel tower, allowing cadets to gain confidence in themselves.



Cadets and family are joyous after FLYCA's graduation ceremony.



Cadets expand their knowledge through educational field trips like to the Jacksonville Zoo.

Soldier and Family Readiness

PROVIDING HANDS-ON TRAINING



594

Family Programs supported 594 events, including unit briefings, toy and food drives, Recruiting and Retention events, and Yellow Ribbon events

7K

SFRSs provided information to 7,457 individual Soldiers and family members to answer questions or get them in touch with a resource / organization that could offer assistance

The FLNG Family Programs' staff consists of a trained network of military members, civilian employees, contractors and volunteers working as a team in support of military families. FLNG Family Programs include Soldier and Family Readiness, Child and Youth, Transition Assistance Advisors, Employer Support of The Guard and Reserve (ESGR), and Survivor Outreach Services.

Soldier and Family Readiness Specialists (SFRS) are available to assist service members and their families mitigate challenges and enhance their ability to maintain readiness and well-being. Family Assistance Centers are located throughout the state in order to support military families throughout all stages of contingency and mobilization. SFRSs connect service members and families with resources from national and local community organizations. Services include, but are not limited to, legal referral, TRICARE information, personal financial assistance and counseling, DEERS/ID Cards, employment assistance, and crisis intervention and referral. All uniformed service members, retired uniformed service personnel, and their family members (to include surviving family members of military personnel), are eligible for assistance. During state emergencies, SFRSs will staff the Emergency Family Assistance Center (EFAC) and are ready to assist service members and families 24/7.

In fiscal year 2024, FLNG Family Programs supported 594 events, including unit briefings, toy and food drives, Recruiting and Retention events, and Yellow Ribbon events. Our team reached out into the community 2,422 times to build relationships with resources providers that enabled us to resolve 993 assistance cases. SFRSs provided information to 7,457 individual Soldiers and family members to answer questions or get them in touch with a resource / organization that could offer assistance.

SFRSs support commanders in executing their unit family readiness responsibilities. This support consists of administrative and logistical assistance to develop a family readiness plan and manage volunteer Soldier & Family Readiness Groups (SFRGs). SFRSs provide hands-on training and assist in family communication campaigns such as unit newsletters, websites and phone trees. SFRSs also assist in coordinating family day activities, providing information briefings, and promoting resilience, well-being, and readiness throughout the deployment cycle.



Brian Stewart, Lynn Stephens and Albert Figueroa, Soldier and Family Readiness Specialists with the Florida National Guard, manned an information table at the Clay County Veterans Appreciation Day event at the Clay County Fairgrounds.

The Child and Youth Program supports the social, emotional, and academic needs of military children and youth. It encourages the development of resilience, self-esteem, self-confidence, respect for self and others, team skills, life skills, and leadership abilities through high-quality support services and enrichment programs.

Transition Assistance Advisors (TAA) assist and support qualifying Guard and Reserve service members, veterans, spouses, and families across a wide spectrum with benefits and resources. Assistance is available to service members transitioning from Title 10 active duty as well as their spouses and family members.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) informs and educates service members and their civilian employers regarding their rights and responsibilities governed by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA). ESGR does not have statutory authority to enforce, but serves as a neutral, free resource to employers and service members. ESGR's trained ombudsmen provide mediation of issues relating to compliance with USERRA.

Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) is part of the Army Casualty Continuum of Care. It is designed to provide long-term support to surviving families of fallen Soldiers. SOS's goal is to reassure survivors that they remain valued members of the Army family who deserve our respect, gratitude, and the very best we can provide.

Through these collaborative efforts and partnerships, FLNG Family Programs provides a focus on proactive outreach, community readiness, resilience, and individual and family readiness. These efforts ensure service members and their families are prepared for the challenges of daily life and the many demands and responsibilities often associated with supporting federal and state missions.

For more info, contact the State Family Readiness office at (800) 226-0360.

State Partnership Program

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND SECURITY SINCE 1998

The Florida National Guard (FLNG) State Partnership Program (SPP) has been a cornerstone of international cooperation and security since 1998 when we formed our first partnership with Venezuela. Although the partnership with Venezuela has been dormant for some time, the FLNG has continued to solidify and grow its partnerships with the Regional Security System (RSS) and Guyana. The RSS is a security coalition of seven Eastern Caribbean countries (all island nations) and has its headquarters in Barbados. The FLNG also jointly conducts several of its SPP events with the Virgin Islands National Guard (VING), who shares the RSS partnership with the FLNG. The FLNG SPP engagements with the RSS and Guyana have contributed to enhancing defense capabilities, bolstering regional security, and strengthening diplomatic ties through subject matter expert exchanges (SMEEs), unit assessments, orientation visits, and key leader visits. In FY24, the FLNG and VING conducted a total of 30 SPP events with its partner countries RSS and Guyana.

The FLNG partnership with Guyana over the last two decades has deepened our state's ties with the Guyanese military and civilian authorities. In FY24 the FLNG conducted six events with the Guyana Defense Force (GDF), with over 120 participants from both the FLNG and Guyana on topics ranging from NCO development to jungle survival. These events have helped solidify the bonds between the state of Florida and Guyana and provide a means for continuing to develop this relationship.

Similar to the Guyana partnership, the FLNG-RSS partnership has also been very active and continued to develop in 2024. The RSS nations are comprised of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and St. Lucia. In FY24, the FLNG and VING participated in 24 different events ranging from UAV/drone and cybersecurity to public affairs reporting and human and drug trafficking interdiction. A total of over 500 participants among the seven RSS countries, FLNG, and VING were event attendees.

The FLNG organized and participated in an array of events covering various aspects of security cooperation this year, with both civilian and military participants. These events included SMEEs, assessments, and orientation visits in the areas of military police, medical, cyber, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR), supply and logistics, unit armorer, NCO development, search and rescue, human and drug trafficking interdiction, engineering, intel analysis, media relations, communications, and key leader engagements. Each event showcased the versatility of our partnerships, spanning from disaster preparedness to intelligence analysis and media relations.

HA/DR and cybersecurity are two primary areas of focus for FLNG's engagements with the RSS and Guyana, as both partners are highly susceptible to natural disasters and cyber-attacks from its adversaries. The FLNG conducted a total of five HA/DR

170

Over 170 FLNG service members participated in FY24 SPP events, contributing their expertise, skills, and professionalism to the benefit of our partnerships

120

SPP conducted six events with the Guyana Defense Force (GDF), with over 120 participants from both the FLNG and Guyana on topics ranging from NCO development to jungle survival



Members of the Florida National Guard recently visited the Guyana Defense Force in Georgetown, Guyana. Over the course of three days, they collaborated on force management practices discussing topics like pay systems, organizational structure, promotions, recruiting, and retirement packages. The exchange highlighted shared challenges and unique approaches, fostering mutual learning and deeper understanding of each organization's best practices.

related events and four cybersecurity events with the RSS and Guyana in 2024.

FLNG has made strides with inclusiveness in its SPP events, with women well-represented in several of its events this year. For the first time in its history, the FLNG, in collaboration with the VING, sent an all-female team to Saint Lucia for a Medical Tactical Combat Casualty Care SMEE. The event provided an opportunity for showcasing FLNG's inclusiveness to its partner nations and

proving that gender is not an obstacle in facilitating security cooperation exchanges with them.

In addition to its event planning and execution efforts, the FLNG SPP office has been conducting research on potential new partner nations with whom to join forces. These nations are Portugal and Switzerland. A new partnership with Portugal or Switzerland would enable the FLNG to further engage its capabilities and would allow the state of Florida to contribute towards strengthening U.S. national security posture in Europe.

The achievements of the FLNG SPP would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of both Air and Army National Guard service members. A total of over 170 FLNG service members participated in FY24 SPP events, contributing their expertise, skills, and professionalism to the benefit of our partnerships.

In summary, the FLNG collaboration with its partner nations RSS and Guyana continue to grow and develop each year, with FY24 being a success in terms of the high number and quality of its engagements.

Counterdrug Program

DEFENSE AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC THREATS

The Florida National Guard has operated the premier Counterdrug Program in the Nation for more than 30 years. The Counterdrug Program supports law enforcement agencies (LEA) and community-based organizations (CBO) efforts to reduce the supply and demand for illegal drugs and related transnational criminal activities. The program is committed to providing professional and cost-effective support to federal, state, and local LEAs and CBOs with a counter-narcotics nexus. The program implements analytical-driven, effects-based operations to ensure personnel and resources are leveraged in support of interagency partner operational objectives regarding illicit drugs and related transnational criminality. This operational approach properly aligns the program's support capabilities in response to Florida's most acute transnational and domestic threats. The Counterdrug Program executes its support role through critical mission categories, including prevention support through Drug Demand Reduction Outreach (DDRO), Counterdrug Training via the Multijurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Training (MCTFT), and interdiction support through reconnaissance/observation and analytical support to LEAs.

The DDRO program provides substance misuse prevention support to community-based organizations located throughout the state of Florida. This support includes enhanced agency integration, strategic legislative contributions, and the implementation of cross-jurisdictional prevention initiatives. A key DDRO effort for FY24 included the deployment of the virtual "Night Vision" anti-drug prevention briefing. This curriculum assists educators in meeting the Florida Department of Education's substance-use prevention and mental health education requirements as outlined by the Next Generation Sunshine State Health and Substance-Use Prevention Standards. Night Vision provides students, grades 4-12, with information on the dangers of the five gateway drugs (alcohol, tobacco/vaping, marijuana, prescription pills, and synthetics) and highlights the risks of substance misuse and addiction. In addition, DDRO assists local leaders in developing and resourcing initiatives designed to reduce drug use in the community through education and prevention and being an active partner in the 26th National DEA Take Back Day event. The DEA Diversion Control Unit, with the assistance of FL Counterdrug Personnel and CBOs, helped collect 9,100 pounds of unused medications and narcotics from locations throughout the state.

The MCTFT provides comprehensive training to interdepartmental agencies and federal, state, and local law enforcement. The curriculum focuses on the targeting of illicit narcotics, narco-terrorism, and transnational and domestic criminal organizations. MCTFT employs state-of-the-art training aids and facilities to provide the highest level of relevant training available. Instructors plan and conduct courses at the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center campus, St. Petersburg College, and through Distance Learning and Mobile Training Teams at no cost to the students or

their respective agencies. MCTFT continues its partnership with the Florida Highway Patrol, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Executive Office of the Governor, and the Counterdrug Program in developing the Governor's Initiative on Border Integrity Trafficking Enforcement (B.I.T.E) BACK training curriculum. The curriculum consists of 12 hours of MCTFT instruction on Combat Transnational Organized Crime Strategies and Crime Terror Nexus, Illicit Trade & Diversification of Crime, Human Trafficking & Drug Interdiction, Fentanyl Safety, and Tactical Medical.

The Counterdrug Program also provides ground, mobile radar, and/or aerial reconnaissance and observation assets to LEAs. Law enforcement employs these assets on known and/or suspected transshipment corridors, intermodal transportation hubs, ports of entry, and infrastructures where suspected criminal organizations operate. Collectively, these reconnaissance assets specifically target transnational and domestic criminal organizations, drug smuggling, money laundering, marijuana cultivation, illegal drug laboratories, suspected trafficking airstrips, drop zones, trafficking corridors, suspicious aircraft, watercraft, and a multitude of other illicit criminal capabilities. In FY24, FLNG-CDP partnered with Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) to support the Governor's initiatives to interdict Fentanyl and other illicit drugs emanating from the Southwest Border (SWB). The support consisted of operational interdiction support via analysis support and air/ground reconnaissance and observation. As of August 2024, the FLNG-CDP assisted FHP in the seizure of narcotics and guns on Florida highways consisting of 1,725.8 grams of Fentanyl with a suspected street value of \$253,920 and 20 Guns valued at \$10,730. For every \$1 spent, the FLNG-CDP directly supported the seizure of \$3.92 worth of illicit drugs and weapons in Florida.

The Counterdrug Program Analysts provide militarily unique analytic skills to process, categorize, and evaluate law enforcement investigative information. Analytical support ranges from tactical-level case support to strategic-level analysis. Analytical case support focuses on link and toll analysis, money laundering/financial analysis, subject de-confliction, asset identification, and post-collection analysis of documents and digital media. Strategic level support includes the development of drug threat assessments, annual reports, and informational bulletins. Additionally, analysts facilitate the exchange of information between local, state, and federal agencies to synchronize efforts to detect, disrupt, and dismantle criminal organizations that operate nationwide and/or internationally. Transnational criminal organizations participate in drug smuggling, human trafficking, weapons proliferation, and money laundering. These organizations threaten national security and seek opportunities to expand their worldwide influence, control government entities, and facilitate narco-terrorism. The Counterdrug Program facilitates the synchronization of national strategies to combat transnational criminal organizations at the state and local levels.

COUNTERDRUG PROGRAM SUMMARY FY24

9K

DDRO assisted in the collection of 9,100 pounds of unused or expired medications/narcotics in DEA

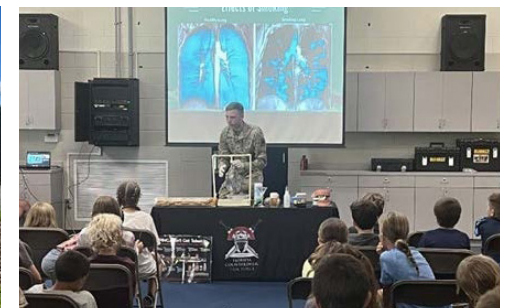
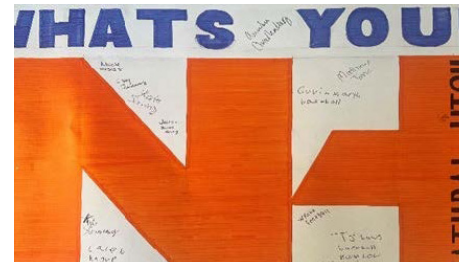
- MCTFT trained 14,202 students across 1,814 agencies/organizations
- FLNG-CD program contributed to the seizure of 13,559 pounds of illicit drugs valued at \$145.6 million and illicit funds/assets valued at \$25.1 million
- Conducted case analytics resulting in the execution of 236 arrests
- DDRO assisted in the collection of 9,100 pounds of unused or expired medications/narcotics in DEA Diversion Control Unit's National Take Back Day events on March 20, 2024, and June 5, 2024
- DDRO provided substance misuse prevention education to 24,790 elementary, middle, and high school-aged students in Florida
- A key force multiplier for law enforcement agencies conducting activities against illicit drugs and transnational crime

24K

DDRO provided substance misuse prevention education to 24,790 elementary, middle, and high school-aged students in Florida



The Florida Counterdrug Program Criminal Analyst provided actionable criminal analytical support resulting in the seizure of 85 kilograms of cocaine (street value \$2,040,000) and 9 firearms (street value \$6,400).



The Florida Counterdrug Program Drug Demand Reduction Outreach (DDRO) Team provided 19 personnel who contributed over 310 hours to implement Elks Drug Awareness Program (DAP) activities, DDRO Night Vision gateway drug presentations, and evidence based Natural High education to 2,200 campers, ages 9-13, at the Florida Elks Youth Camp, Marion County, Umatilla, Fla. DDRO implemented their very own Night Vision curriculum. Night Vision informs youth about the dangers of five gateway drugs (marijuana, tobacco / vape, alcohol, synthetics, and prescription medication) and their negative path towards addiction. During Military Week, DDRO staff and support personnel stayed overnight for seven nights while implementing Night Vision, DAP, and Natural High. The DAP provided youth with trivia, essay writings, and a poster contest that reinforced their drug awareness knowledge in a fun and positive learning environment. Natural High is a virtual evidence-based program that engages youth with inspirational videos and activities to find what naturally motivates them to succeed.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

ACROSS THE STATE OF FLORIDA FISCAL YEAR 2024

CITY	COUNTY	FULL TIME FEDERAL STATE		GUARDSMAN ARMY AIR	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS	STATE GENERAL REVENUE	COMBINED REVENUE
Arcadia	Desoto	3		129	4,890,457.59	\$32,000.00	\$4,922,457.59
Avon Park	Polk	15		163	6,594,707.97	\$45,000.00	\$6,639,707.97
Bartow	Polk	3		106	4,038,332.41	\$43,066.00	\$4,081,398.41
Boca Raton	Palm Beach	1		0	37,048.92		\$37,048.92
Bonifay	Holmes	10		79	3,297,353.98	\$50,843.00	\$3,348,196.98
Boynton Beach	Palm Beach	0		0	0.00		\$-
Bradenton	Manatee	7		114	4,482,919.46	\$43,080.00	\$4,525,999.46
Brandon	Hillsborough	2		0	74,097.84		\$74,097.84
Brooksville	Hernando	37		104	5,223,897.88	\$73,495.00	\$5,297,392.88
Camp Blanding	Clay	370	208	1,178 201	72,504,738.71	\$292,500.00	\$72,797,238.71
Chipley	Washington	3		68	2,630,473.40	\$52,000.00	\$2,682,473.40
Clearwater	Pinellas	0		17	629,831.66		\$629,831.66
Clermont	Lake	0		0	0.00		\$-
Cocoa	Brevard	4		92 79	6,483,561.20	\$54,000.00	\$6,537,561.20
Crawfordville	Wakulla	0		0	0.00		\$-
Crestview	Okaloosa	2		25	1,000,320.87	\$50,460.00	\$1,050,780.87
Crystal River	Citrus	7		162	6,261,267.68	\$82,456.00	\$6,343,723.68
Dade City	Pasco	4		76	2,963,913.69	\$50,000.00	\$3,013,913.69
Daytona Beach	Volusia	0		0	0.00		\$-
DeLand	Volusia	4		69	2,704,571.24	\$50,000.00	\$2,754,571.24
Deltona	Volusia	0		0	0.00		\$-
Eustis	Lake	3		85	3,260,305.06	\$35,000.00	\$3,295,305.06
Ft. Lauderdale	Broward	6		147	5,668,484.94	\$133,256.00	\$5,801,740.94
Ft. Myers	Lee	5		59	2,371,130.95	\$71,000.00	\$2,442,130.95
Ft. Pierce	St. Lucie	4		122	4,668,164.07	\$46,000.00	\$4,714,164.07
Gainesville	Alachua	16		88	3,853,087.80	\$74,000.00	\$3,927,087.80
Gibsonton	Hillsborough	0		0 170	6,298,316.60		\$6,298,316.60
Green Cove Springs	Clay	0		0	0.00		\$-
Haines City	Polk	29		91	4,445,870.54	\$107,000.00	\$4,552,870.54
Hollywood	Broward	0		0	0.00		\$-
Homestead	Dade	23		220	9,002,887.84	\$157,036.00	\$9,159,923.84
Homestead AFRB	Dade	31		0	1,148,516.56		\$1,148,516.56
Jacksonville	Duval	535	52	711 810	78,099,125.80	\$170,000.00	\$78,269,125.80

CITY	COUNTY	FULL TIME FEDERAL STATE		GUARDSMAN ARMY AIR	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS	STATE GENERAL REVENUE	COMBINED REVENUE
Kissimme	Polk	0		0	0.00		\$-
Lake City	Columbia	11		103	4,223,577.01	\$56,175.00	\$4,279,752.01
Lakeland	Polk	12		130	5,260,946.80	\$57,000.00	\$5,317,946.80
Lake Mary	Polk	0		0	0.00		\$-
Lake Wales	Polk	3		126	4,779,310.83	\$42,000.00	\$4,821,310.83
Lake Worth	Polk	0		0	0.00		\$-
Land O Lakes	Pasco	0		0	0.00		\$-
Leesburg	Lake	4		127	4,853,408.67	\$52,000.00	\$4,905,408.67
Lehigh Acres	Lee	0		0	0.00		\$-
Live Oak	Suwannee	4		127	4,853,408.67	\$54,000.00	\$4,907,408.67
MacDill AFB	Hillsborough	35		39	2,741,620.17		\$2,741,620.17
Margate	Broward	1		0	37,048.92		\$37,048.92
Marianna	Jackson	3		106	4,038,332.41	\$80,000.00	\$4,118,332.41
Melbourne	Brevard	4		72	2,815,718.01	\$50,000.00	\$2,865,718.01
Miami	Dade	30		187	8,039,615.89	\$174,417.00	\$8,214,032.89
Middleburg	Clay	0		0	0.00		\$-
Midway	Gadsden	0		0	0.00		\$-
Miramar	Broward	29		768	29,527,990.16	\$343,263.00	\$29,871,253.16
New Port Richie	Pasco	0		0	0.00		\$-
Ocala	Marion	7		226	8,632,398.63	\$47,000.00	\$8,679,398.63
Odessa	Hillsborough	0		0	0.00		\$-
Orange Park	Clay	2		0	74,097.84		\$74,097.84
Orlando	Orange	39		360	14,782,519.54	\$216,790.50	\$14,999,310.04
Oviedo	Seminole	0		0	0.00		\$-
Palatka	Putnam	2		59	2,259,984.19	\$45,000.00	\$2,304,984.19
Palm Bay	Brevard	0		0	0.00		\$-
Palm Coast	Flagler	35		360	14,634,323.86	\$222,500.00	\$14,856,823.86
Palm Springs	Palm Beach	0		0	0.00		\$-
Palmetto	Manatee	3		56	2,185,886.35	\$47,800.00	\$2,233,686.35
Panama City	Bay	13		105	4,371,772.70	\$24,000.00	\$4,395,772.70
Parrish	Manatee	0		0	0.00		\$-
Patrick AFB	Brevard	25		0	926,223.03		\$926,223.03
Pembroke Pines	Broward	0		0	0.00		\$-

CITY	COUNTY	FULL TIME		GUARDSMAN		FEDERAL	STATE GENERAL	COMBINED
		FEDERAL	STATE	ARMY	AIR	APPROPRIATIONS	REVENUE	REVENUE
Pensacola	Escambia	12		212		8,298,958.34	\$110,745.00	\$8,409,703.34
Pinellas Park	Pinellas	78		777		31,676,827.59		\$31,676,827.59
Plant City	Hillsborough	25	2	181		7,706,175.60	\$55,328.00	\$7,761,503.60
Punta Gorda	Charlotte	0		0		0.00		\$-
Quincy	Gadsden	4	1	162		6,187,169.83	\$65,000.00	\$6,252,169.83
Riverview	Hillsborough	0		0		0.00		\$-
Ruskin	Hillsborough	0		0		0.00		\$-
Saint Augustine	St. Johns	317	175	674	28	44,236,411.86	\$6,315,088.00	\$50,551,499.86
Saint Cloud	Osceola	0		0		0.00		\$-
Saint Petersburg	Pinellas	19	2	94		4,260,625.93	\$72,938.01	\$4,333,563.94
Sanford	Seminole	3		137		5,186,848.96	\$54,000.00	\$5,240,848.96
Sarasota	Sarasota	25		123		5,483,240.33	\$64,983.00	\$5,548,223.33
Spring Hill	Hernando	0		0		0.00		\$-
Starke	Bradford	4		132		5,038,653.28	\$39,000.00	\$5,077,653.28
Steinhatchee	Taylor	0		0		0.00		\$-
Tallahassee	Leon	40	11	209		9,632,719.50	\$184,816.00	\$9,817,535.50
Tampa	Hillsborough	31		98		4,779,310.83	\$42,200.00	\$4,821,510.83
Tavares	Lake	8		0		296,391.37		\$296,391.37
Titusville	Brevard	2		0		74,097.84		\$74,097.84
Tyndall AFB	Bay	260		0	112	13,782,198.67		\$13,782,198.67
Valrico	Hillsborough	0		0		0.00		\$-
Wauchula	Hardee	5		62		2,482,277.72	\$68,428.00	\$2,550,705.72
Wellington	Palm Beach	0		0		0.00		\$-
West Palm Beach	Palm Beach	49	1	487		19,895,270.66	\$285,111.00	\$20,180,381.66
Winter Haven	Polk	3	2	81		3,186,207.22	\$43,000.00	\$3,229,207.22
Zephyrhills	Pasco	0		0		0.00	\$-	\$-
TOTAL		2,271	454	10,285	1,400	533,874,953.88	\$10,624,774.51	\$544,499,728.39



Florida Army National Guard Soldiers with 20th Special Forces Group conducted a parachute demonstration during the opening ceremony at the Naval Air Station Jacksonville Air Show, Jacksonville, Fla., Oct. 18, 2024. United States Army Special Operations Aviation Command Flight Company joined Guardsmen as they performed their skilled aerial demonstration.



Senior enlisted soldiers in the Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG) awarded Command Sgt. Maj. Theodore Morris with an NCO sword and plaque during his retirement ceremony at St. Francis Barracks in St. Augustine, Fla., on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024. Morris was honored for more than 39 years of exemplary service in the FLARNG, retiring in the company of friends and fellow Soldiers.

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS

FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD

FLORIDA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Military Personnel Expenses	
(Medical Care, Yellow Ribbon, Military Funeral Honor Program, Family Centers & Counseling Programs)	\$6,808,900.00
Human Resources Expenses	
(Civilian Technician and Active Guard & Reserve Pay and Travel)	\$188,786,782.45
Recruiting and Retention Expenses	
(New Soldier Pay, Initial Clothing, Marketing, Mission Operations)	\$4,210,624.00
Intelligence; Strategic Plans and Policy Expenses	
(Youth Challenge, Physical Security, Weapons of Mass Destruction & Support)	\$8,895,775.00
Counter Drug Expenses	
(State Plans (Intel/DDR/RECON), Training, Substance Abuse)	\$18,354,900.00
Aviation Expenses	
(OPTEMPO-Air (aircraft), Additional Flying Training Periods, Safety)	\$5,583,163.00
Logistics Expenses	
(OPTEMPO-Ground (all less aircraft), Transformation/RESET)	\$46,422,532.00
Construction and Facility Management Expenses	
(Facility Maintenance, Environmental Compliance Activities, Military Construction)	\$35,834,738.00
Communications and Automation Expenses	
(Computers, Data Storage, Software Licensing, Equipment)	\$4,174,050.00
Operations and Training Expenses	
(Annual Training/Inactive Duty (IDT) Pay & Allowances, Service Schools & Support, Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Active Duty Operational Support (ADOS))	\$100,998,500.00
TOTAL FLORIDA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD	\$420,069,964.45



Florida Army National Guard Soldiers with 1-111th General Support Aviation Battalion conduct flight operations over Tropicana Field during Hurricane Milton response efforts in Tampa, Fla., Oct. 16, 2024. Gen. Steven Nordhaus, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Maj. Gen. John Haas, the Adjutant General of Florida, participated in the surveillance flight assessing impacted areas following the storm's landfall. The Florida National Guard activated thousands of Soldiers and Airmen across the state to conduct preparation and response operations following the storm's landfall.



An inflatable tent and trailer both assigned to the 125th Medical Group, Detachment 1 sit on the flight line in front of a C-17 Globemaster during an exercise Aug. 9, 2024, at Muñiz Air National Guard Base, Carolina, Puerto Rico. The exercise is part of the 125th Medical Group, Detachment 1's training that enhances air-load capabilities, refines pre- and post-deployment procedures, expands mission readiness in an unfamiliar environment, and fulfills Comprehensive Medical Readiness Plan requirements, including critical care, search and extraction, and Air Force Specialty Code proficiency training, while collaborating with the 156th Medical Group. The exercise also includes providing Individual Medical Readiness support for members of the 156th WG population.



Maj. Gen. John D. Haas, the Adjutant General of Florida, awards the Florida Cross to Senior Enlisted Advisor Tony L. Whitehead, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, during a retirement ceremony at Emmett R. Titshaw Field, Fla., Nov. 22, 2024. Whitehead was a prominent member and leader in the Florida Air National Guard before his appointment as senior enlisted advisor to the National Guard.

FLORIDA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Civilian Pay	\$22,160,661.49
State Agreements	\$4,503,300.00
Transportation	\$241,913.60
Communications / Information Technology	\$200,407.00
Real Property Maintenance	\$12,738,898.79
Recruiting & Advertising	\$82,243.10
Base Operating Support (Svcs, Travel, Supplies)	\$3,422,972.26
Fly Supply / Equipment / Aviation Fuel	\$69,515.00
CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP)	\$95,630.10
Medical	\$81,169.00
Environmental	\$10,599.00
Counter Drug Programs	\$36,208.76
State Partnerships Pay and Travel	\$26,295.00
Military Payroll	\$67,147,375.00
Clothing	\$28,670.72
Subsistence	\$42,622.86
Annual Training Travel	\$1,218,186.47
Non-Prior Service Training Travel	\$82,456.83
School Travel	\$1,161,554.28
Special Training Travel	\$216,506.54
AGR Permanent Change of Station	\$237,803.63
TOTAL FLORIDA AIR NATIONAL GUARD	\$113,804,989.43

TOTAL FLORIDA AIR AND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

\$533,874,953.88

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

GENERAL REVENUE, STATE-MANAGED FEDERAL GRANTS & TRUST FUNDS

General Revenue Appropriations	Approved Budget	FY 24
Salaries and Benefits		\$10,528,196.00
Other Personal Services (OPS)		\$40,997.00
Expenses		\$9,023,348.00
Operating Capital Outlay		\$56,718.00
Replacement Vehicles		\$65,000.00
Information Technology		\$48,437.00
Building/Office Rent		\$5,167,900.00
Joint Enlistment Enhancement Program(JEEP)		\$3,000,000.00
Building/Office Rent		\$200,000.00
Contracted Services		\$544,198.00
FLAIR Replacement		\$437,100.00
Maintenance and Operations Contracts		\$133,000.00
Workers' Compensation - SAD		\$3,246,414.00
Service Charge - Personnel		\$35,298.00
Data Processing Services		\$8,104.00
Total General Revenue		\$32,535,110.00

Camp Blanding Management Trust Fund	Approved Budget	FY 24
Salaries and Benefits		\$1,853,762.00
Expenses		\$67,218.00
Replacement Vehicles		\$50,000.00
Contracted Services		\$49,035.00
Maintenance and Operations Contracts		\$5,000.00
Risk Management Insurance		\$263,928.00
Service Charge - Personnel		\$9,502.00
Total Camp Blanding Trust Fund		\$2,298,445.00

Emergency Management Trust Fund	Approved Budget	FY 24
Public Assistance - State Operations		\$72,411,735.00
Total Emergency Management Trust Fund		\$72,411,735.00



Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, conducted Urban Search and Rescue water training at Camp Blanding, Fla., Oct. 8, 2024. The unit is practicing techniques to rescue stranded citizens once Hurricane Milton subsides.

Federal Grants Trust Fund	Approved Budget	FY 24
Salaries and Benefits		\$19,185,637.00
Other Personal Services (OPS)		\$87,740.00
Expenses		\$10,073,596.00
Operating Capital Outlay		\$804,625.00
Food Products - Youth Challenge		\$500,000.00
Replacement Vehicles		\$529,059.00
Projects/Contracts/Grants - St. Petersburg College		\$2,000,000.00
Contracted Services		\$8,362,663.00
Maintenance and Operations Contracts		\$920,000.00
Lease / Purchase / Equipment		\$30,000.00
Service Charge - Personnel		\$117,530.00
Total Federal Grants Trust Fund		\$42,610,850.00

Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund	Approved Budget	FY 24
Expenses		\$305,000.00
Operating Capital Outlay		\$200,000.00
G/A to Community Services		\$100,000.00
Contracted Services		\$10,000.00
Maintenance and Operations Contracts		\$10,000.00
Total Federal Equitable Sharing - Law Enforcement Trust Fund		\$625,000.00

Capital Improvement Program	Approved Budget	FY 24
General Revenue		\$103,074,151.00
Camp Blanding Management Trust Fund		\$600,000.00
Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund		\$335,000.00
Federal Grants Trust Fund		\$75,835,709.00
General Revenue - Florida State Guard		\$32,700.00
Total Capital Improvement		\$ 212,544,860.00

General Revenue - Florida State Guard	Approved Budget	FY 24
Salaries and Benefits		\$1,314,912.00
Expenses		\$23,045,600.00
Operating Capital Outlay		\$4,156,651.00
Replacement Vehicles		\$1,170,000.00
Information Technology		\$29,400.00
Watercraft Acquisition		\$2,033,492.00
Contracted Services		\$5,010,040.00
FSG - State Activation		\$1,000,000.00
Operation/Motor Vehicle		\$521,810.00
Overtime		\$33,000.00
Aircraft Acquisition		\$38,177,874.00
Service Charge - Personnel		\$3,450.00
Data Processing Services		\$30,000.00
Total General Revenue		\$ 76,526,229.00

Total State Resources**\$ 439,552,229.00**

The 125th Fighter Wing hosted a change of command ceremony at the Jacksonville Air National Guard Base, Fla., Sept. 14, 2024. Outgoing commander, U.S. Air Force Col. George Downs, relinquished command to incoming commander, U.S. Air Force Col. Mansour Elhihi, before Airmen, friends and family.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

PROPERTY AND FACILITIES 2024

Site Name	Year Acquired	Land Ownership	Authority for Occupancy	Capital Asset Value of Major Structures	Land Acres	Notes	Armory Value
ARCADIA READINESS CENTER	1969	State	Lease	\$9,259,527.00	10.00		\$7,824,513.00
AVON PARK READINESS CENTER	1971	State	Lease	\$9,272,406.00	10.00		\$8,317,742.00
AVON PARK (UTES)	1984	Federal	Licenses	\$5,045,254.00	14.60		N/A
AVON PARK (RANGES)	1984	Federal	Licenses	\$879,965.00	41.40		N/A
BARTOW READINESS CENTER	1974	City	Lease	\$9,259,212.00	10.00		\$8,278,129.00
BONIFAY READINESS CENTER	1954	State	Deed	\$18,788,028.00	7.00		\$6,170,554.00
BRADENTON READINESS CENTER	1971	City	Lease	\$18,413,500.00	7.15		\$6,919,696.00
BROOKSVILLE (ARMORY)	1992	County	Lease	\$12,195,357.00	14.00		\$11,279,047.00
BROOKSVILLE RC AASF 2 C23	2000	County	Lease	\$24,868,466.00	4.76	HANGAR: \$22,035,702.00 - AASF assets	N/A
CAMP BLANDING TRAINING CENTER	1939	State	Deed		73000.00		N/A
CBJTC ACUB	2004	State	Deed	Land Only	8736.71	Land Only	Land Only
CBJTC BULLARD ARMORY	1984	State	Deed	\$21,178,125.00	0.00	Land is included in 73,000AC	\$21,178,125.00
CBJTC YOUTH CHALLENGE	1977	State	MOA	\$28,272,025.00	0.00	Land is included in 73,000AC	N/A
CBJTC SPECIAL FORCES	1977	State	Deed	\$7,867,440.00	0.00	Land is included in 73,000AC	\$7,867,440.00
CBJTC EOD READINESS CENTER	2014	State	Deed	\$5,201,816.00	0.00	Land is included in 73,000AC	\$5,201,816.00
CBJTC 2-111TH AVN	1940	State	Deed	\$5,096,870.00	0.00	Land is included in 73,000AC	\$5,096,870.00
CBJTC G4 OPS BLDG	2017	State	Deed	\$899,515.00	0.00	Land is included in 73,000AC	\$899,515.00
CBJTC 927TH CSSB	1992	State	Deed	\$5,207,339.00	0.00	Land is included in 73,000AC	\$5,207,339.00
CBJTC-AIR NATIONAL GUARD SITES	1993	Federal	Licenses	\$57,706,242.00	0.00	Land is included in 73,000AC	N/A
CHIPLEY RC	1958	State	Deed	\$10,621,087.00	2.74		\$10,621,087.00
COCOA READINESS CENTER	1957	City	Lease	\$8,950,146.00	4.00		\$7,669,654.00
CRESTVIEW READINESS CENTER	1954	State	Deed	\$9,813,775.00	4.15		\$7,379,553.00
CRYSTAL RIVER READINESS CENTER	1988	County	Lease	\$19,124,849.00	18.00		\$11,249,579.00
DADE CITY READINESS CENTER	1955	State	Deed	\$8,452,339.00	1.30		\$8,365,881.00
DELAND READINESS CENTER	1955	State	Deed	\$11,491,422.00	3.10		\$9,005,508.00
EUSTIS READINESS CENTER	1954	City	Lease	\$9,545,430.00	1.60		\$7,180,465.00
FLAGLER CO. AIRPORT LEASE	2014	County	Lease	Leased Bldg	0.00	Private Lease	N/A
FT LAUDERDALE READINESS CENTER	1953	County	Lease	\$15,714,852.00	5.80		\$13,169,570.00
FORT MYERS READINESS CENTER	1955	County	Lease	\$9,609,955.00	3.63		\$6,827,934.00
FORT PIERCE READINESS CENTER	1958	City	Lease	\$14,035,875.00	5.50		\$8,035,621.00
GAINESVILLE ALACHUA COUNTY	2019	State	Lease	Land Only	53.00	Land Only	N/A

Site Name	Year Acquired	Land Ownership	Authority for Occupancy	Capital Asset Value of Major Structures	Land Acres	Notes	Armory Value
GAINESVILLE LEASE	2018	County	Lease	Leased Bldg	0.00	Private Lease	N/A
GAINESVILLE 39TH	1965	State	Lease	\$5,385,809.00	57.03		\$4,589,299.00
HAINES CITY READINESS CENTER	1976	City	Lease	\$22,602,793.00	8.38		\$7,382,974.00
HOMESTEAD ARS	1955	Federal	Lease	\$15,514,173.00	10.00	Federal/License	\$11,006,116.00
HOMESTED AASF#3	2021	State	Lease		70.00	LAND ONLY	NA
JACKSONVILLE-ANG BASE	1968	Federal	Licenses		332.00		AIR NATIONAL GUARD
JACKSONVILLE CECIL FIELD RC	1962	State	Lease	\$33,890,350.00	4.00	Facility 00006/ 00013	\$31,602,694.00
JACKSONVILLE CECIL FIELD AASF #1	1969	City	Lease	\$86,395,425.00	6.82		N/A
JACKSONVILLE SNYDER RC	1973	City	Lease	\$24,762,958.00	24.98		\$17,033,711.00
IMMOKALEE COLLIER COUNTY	2009	State	Lease	Land Only	26.41		N/A
LAKE CITY READINESS CENTER	1959	City	Lease	\$13,597,000.00	6.84		\$8,616,288.00
LAKELAND READINESS CENTER	1974	State	Deed	\$15,423,679.00	10.00		\$9,446,226.00
LAKE WALES READINESS CENTER	1958	State	Deed	\$12,072,590.00	6.53		\$10,401,766.00
LEESBURG READINESS CENTER	1950	City	Lease	\$8,337,867.00	2.10		\$6,593,590.00
LIVE OAK READINESS CENTER	1959	State	Deed	\$9,106,368.00	8.50		\$7,432,732.00
MACDILL AFB - SOD-C	2010	Federal	Licenses	\$2,370,961.00	1.28	Federal/License/Enclave	\$1,810,337.00
MARIANNA READINESS CENTER	1958	State	Deed	\$9,072,199.00	5.00		\$8,217,743.00
MELBOURNE READINESS CENTER	1969	Federal	Licenses	\$10,381,322.00	7.00	Federal/License	\$9,126,652.00
MIAMI READINESS CENTER	1980	State	Deed	\$27,314,076.00	5.70		\$20,540,663.00
MIRAMAR READINESS CENTER	1980	Federal	Licenses	\$51,655,424.00	30.00		\$46,891,555.00
MIRAMAR TRAINING SITE	1979	Federal	Licenses	Training Site	291.76	Federal/License	N/A
OCALA READINESS CENTER	1985	City	Lease	\$12,281,006.00	10.02		\$10,839,924.00
ORLANDO NAVAL TRAINING CENTER	1990	Federal	Licenses	\$17,347,698.00	6.50	Federal/License	\$16,360,608.00
ORLANDO READINESS CENTER	1958	City	Lease	\$17,574,465.00	5.00		\$14,508,947.00
PALATKA READINESS CENTER	1958	City	Lease	\$9,384,224.00	1.60		\$8,664,596.00
PALM COAST FLAGLER COUNTY	2009	City	Lease	\$38,688,803.00	55.00		\$32,230,887.00
PALMETTO READINESS CENTER	1963	City	Lease	\$11,629,834.00	5.00		\$8,252,525.00
PANAMA CITY READINESS CENTER	1963	State	Deed	\$14,141,921.00	5.00		\$13,459,344.00
PENSACOLA (ELLYSON FIELD)	1983	County	Lease	\$24,250,167.00	14.21		\$17,805,996.00
PLANT CITY READINESS CENTER	1986	City	Lease	\$14,919,798.00	12.80		\$10,069,938.00

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

PROPERTY AND FACILITIES 2024

Site Name	Year Acquired	Land Ownership	Authority for Occupancy	Capital Asset Value of Major Structures	Land Acres	Notes	Armory Value
QUINCY READINESS CENTER	1989	County	Lease	\$16,097,982.00	14.53		\$15,348,064.00
SANFORD READINESS CENTER	1938	State	Deed	\$8,688,921.00	3.00		\$7,793,209.00
SARASOTA READINESS CENTER	1957	State	Deed	\$17,580,761.00	2.74		\$12,687,237.00
ST AUGUSTINE MARK LANCE RC	1957	City	Lease	\$11,134,063.00	3.00		\$11,134,063.00
ST AUGUSTINE ENSSLIN RC	1993	State	Deed	\$47,466,611.00	18.35		\$40,023,999.00
ST AUGUSTINE C-12	1993	County	Lease	\$3,931,989.00	2.05	Hangar Only	NA
ST AUGUSTINE USPFO	1985	County	Lease	\$8,915,074.00	2.75		\$8,895,639.00
ST AUGUSTINE SFB COMPLEX	1763	State	Deed	\$38,064,203.00	6.74	All 20 buildings located on campus	\$21,483,063.00
ST PETERSBURG READINESS CTR	1958	State	Deed	\$13,387,603.00	6.00		\$10,783,642.00
PINELLAS PARK AFRC/ARNG TENANT	2004	Federal	Licenses	USAR Owned	0.00	ARNG is Tenant	\$-
PINELLAS PARK 48TH CST	2015	Federal	Licenses	\$4,543,492.00	2.84		\$4,543,492.00
STARKE READINESS CENTER	1967	State	Deed	\$14,476,902.00	12.00		\$8,411,460.00
TALLAHASSEE READINESS CENTER	1975	County	Lease	\$22,219,042.00	19.47		\$18,105,508.00
TAMPA READINESS CENTER	1940	State	Deed	\$8,208,983.00	10.37		\$3,684,765.00
TAVARES FMS #7	1988	State	Lease	\$6,279,733.00	10.00	FMS Only	N/A
TITUSVILLE FMS #18	1993	Private	Lease	Leased Bldg	1.00		N/A
WAUCHULA READINESS CENTER	1995	State	Deed	\$13,957,629.00	8.86		\$13,144,718.00
W PALM BCH/BABCOCK CTR	1969	Federal	Licenses	\$13,888,205.00	3.71	Federal/License	\$8,681,931.00
WEST PALM BEACH/CALLAWAY	1982	County	Lease	\$36,669,009.00	18.77		\$27,210,882.00
WINTER HAVEN READINESS CENTER	1936	City	Lease	\$10,646,932.00	3.30		\$10,646,932.00
W PALM BCH/PALM LAKES	1970	State	Lease	\$18,817,918.00	3.90		\$18,817,918.00
ZEPHYRHILLS RC	2022	State	Lease	Land Only	25.00		NA
TOTALS				\$1,179,846,779.00			\$758,027,271.00

COLOR CODE & DESCRIPTION

Figures came from the PRIDEWEB database which is the National Guard Bureau's office property records database for real property.

These figures do NOT include Structures & Linear Structures.

Construction in Progress / Design
Land
Private Lease
Florida Air National Guard
Tenants

Florida Department of Military Affairs



The Department manages a force of nearly 12,000 National Guard members, including almost 900 full-time federal personnel and more than 450 state employees.

The Florida Department of Military Affairs (DMA) provides management oversight and administrative support to the Florida National Guard (FLNG). Directly responsive to the Governor of Florida, the Department operates within the policy guidance and fiscal framework of both federal and state authorities. The Department manages a force of nearly 12,000 National Guard members, including almost 900 full-time federal personnel and more than 450 state employees. Together, the DMA and the FLNG are committed to serving the vital interests of the nation, the state of Florida, and its communities.

The Adjutant General, as head of the department, is specifically tasked with (1) the readiness of the Florida National Guard, (2) its response in times of natural disaster, and (3) assistance to Floridians at risk.

Tracing its heritage back to 1565, the year the Spanish founders of St. Augustine organized their first company of citizen-soldiers, the Florida National Guard's militia heritage extends back into our communities more than 450 years. Whether it was a call to arms during our nation's conflicts, or a cry for help during a natural disaster, the Guard has been there for Florida.

Today Florida National Guard Soldiers and Airmen remain engaged in overseas contingency operations, are vigilant in preparations to respond to domestic emergencies, and are committed to serving Florida's citizens and communities.



MISSION

To provide ready military units and personnel to support national security objectives; to protect our citizens; and to support programs and initiatives which add value to our state and nation.

VISION

The nation's premier National Guard, embodying a winning spirit, living our core values, committed to serving Florida's citizens, and ready to meet the nation's call.

BACKGROUND PHOTO: Volunteers participate in a memorial service during the 17th annual commemoration of the end of the 2nd Seminole War, Aug. 17, 2024. The ceremony honors the service of Soldiers and Native Americans during the Florida War, 1835-1842. Florida National Guard recognizes the service of its citizen Soldiers in early Florida history.

The mission of the Florida National Guard Foundation is to provide support to the men and women of the Florida National Guard in times of emergencies and deployments, to honor and assist those Soldiers and Airmen who have sacrificed their health and well being for the security of our great State and Nation, and to preserve our rich history so the sacrifices of our Soldiers and Airmen are not forgotten.

The Florida National Guard Foundation can be found online at:

www.floridanationalguardfoundation.org | www.facebook.com/FLNGFoundation

For more information please contact the Florida National Guard Foundation Office at **(904) 823-0690**



The Department of Military Affairs and the Florida National Guard can be found online at:

facebook.com/FloridaNationalGuard | twitter.com/FLGuard | instagram.com/floridanationalguard
dma.myflorida.com

For more information please contact the Florida National Guard Public Affairs Office at **(904) 823-0166**