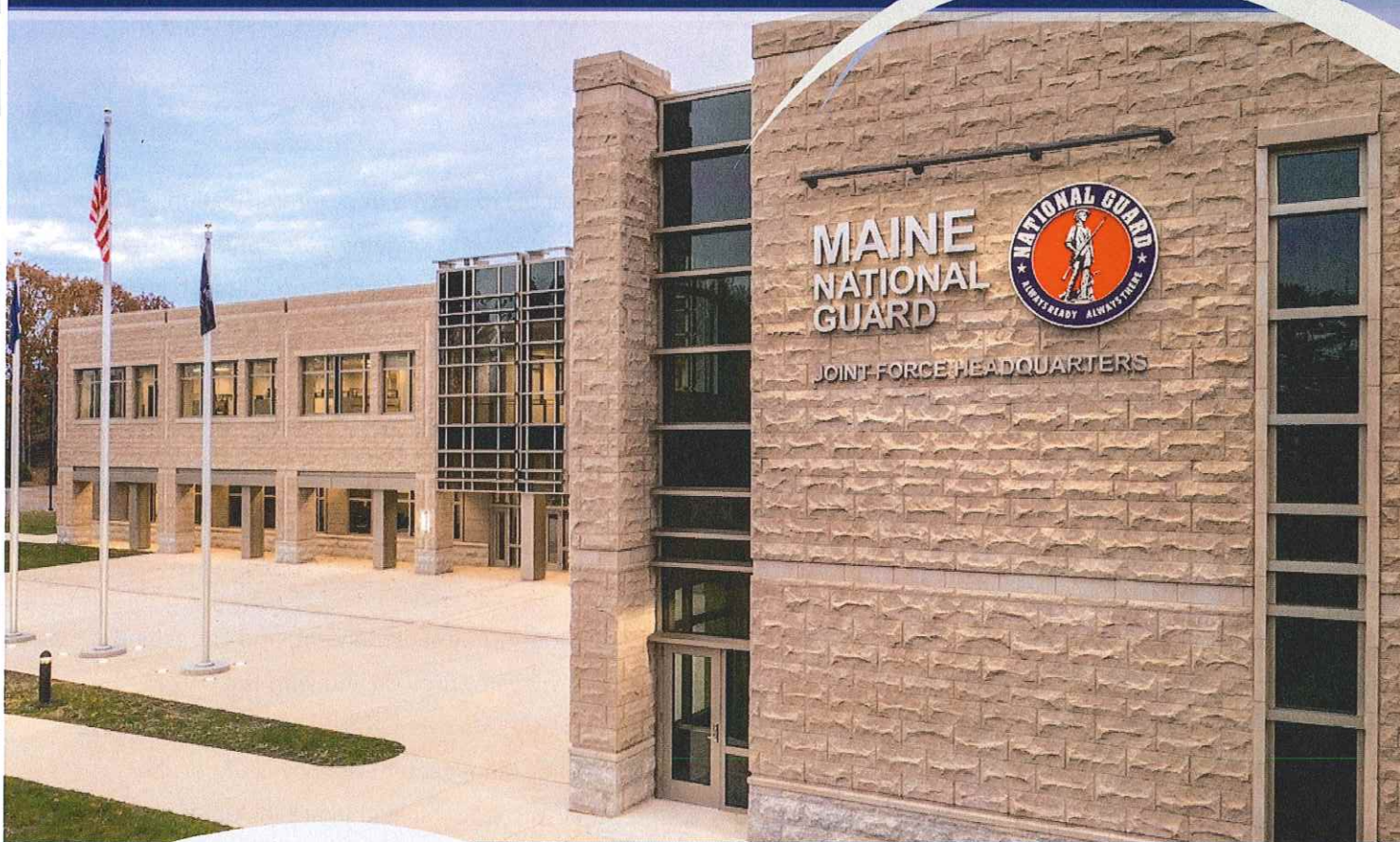


DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Maine National Guard
Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services
Maine Emergency Management Agency

January 2025



LETTER FROM THE COMMISSIONER

BRIGADIER GENERAL DIANE L. DUNN

To members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs (VLA) Committee,

Welcome to the beginning of the 132nd legislative session. As we enter 2025, with a new administration, evolving economic and global conditions, an aging veteran population, challenges such as ongoing homeland security threats and a volatile climate, the strategic importance of our department has never been more clear, highlighting our critical role in navigating these complexities.

Since the creation of the Department of Defense, Veterans, Emergency Management (DVEM) in 1972, the Maine National Guard (MENG), Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services (MBVS), and Maine Emergency Management (MEMA), with the support of the VLA, has always and will continue to adapt to changes to proudly serve Maine people in their times of need and support our communities, state and country.

As we enter this new session and I begin my second year as Commissioner, Adjutant General, and Homeland Security Advisor, I am excited about the future. It is my honor and privilege to provide you with the DVEM department overview. This includes updates of our programs specific to VLA's oversight; DVEM's Administrative section, the Military Bureau, and MBVS. Although the Maine Emergency Management Agency is under the jurisdiction of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, their program highlights are included given their integral role in DVEM. Maine Military Authority shut down operations in 2019. Until final licensing closure activities are complete, remaining financial liabilities exist.

With your support and assistance, DVEM will continue to meet our State and Federal missions to authorize, plan provisions of resources, administer, conduct day-to-day operations and audits of all military training, preparation and readiness, delivery of quality services to all veterans, and emergency preparedness ensuring the protection of life, property, freedom and safety of all Maine's people. We remain consistent in our commitment to provide the best possible service, and I look forward to continuing serving as Commissioner, Adjutant General, and Homeland Security Advisor.

Thank you for all you do to support our great state.

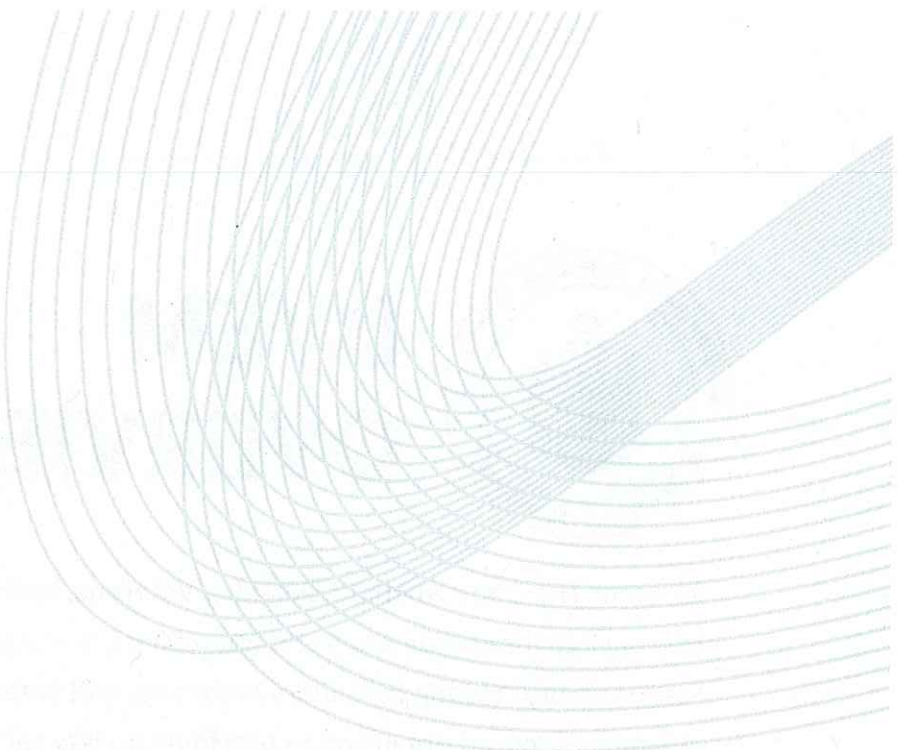


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview	4
Investment Impact	5
Structure	6
Leadership	7
Military Bureau	8
Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services	17
Maine Emergency Management Agency	19



DVEM OVERVIEW

Mission: The Department of Defense, Veterans, and Emergency Management (DVEM) is responsible for coordinating and improving the discharge of the State Government's responsibility relating to military, veterans, and emergency preparedness. DVEM is a customer-focused organization providing quality services and benefits daily and - in times of crisis - protects life, freedom, and property for all of Maine's People.



The Department of Defense, Veterans, and Emergency Management provides revenue generating programs, develops an educated and trained workforce, and delivers services critical to the health, welfare, safety, and the growth of Maine communities and constituents.



Photo: "Ruck to Remember 2024" with Maine Army, Air and civilian community members

Investing in DVEM invests in MAINE

DVEM is an economic force multiplier with significant federal funding that supports state efforts.



- ✓ Trained and ready civil and military response force
- ✓ \$131,596,205 in federal payroll
- ✓ \$6,695,307 in federal contracts to local businesses
- ✓ \$1.5 billion in real property value and \$20 million in cooperative agreements



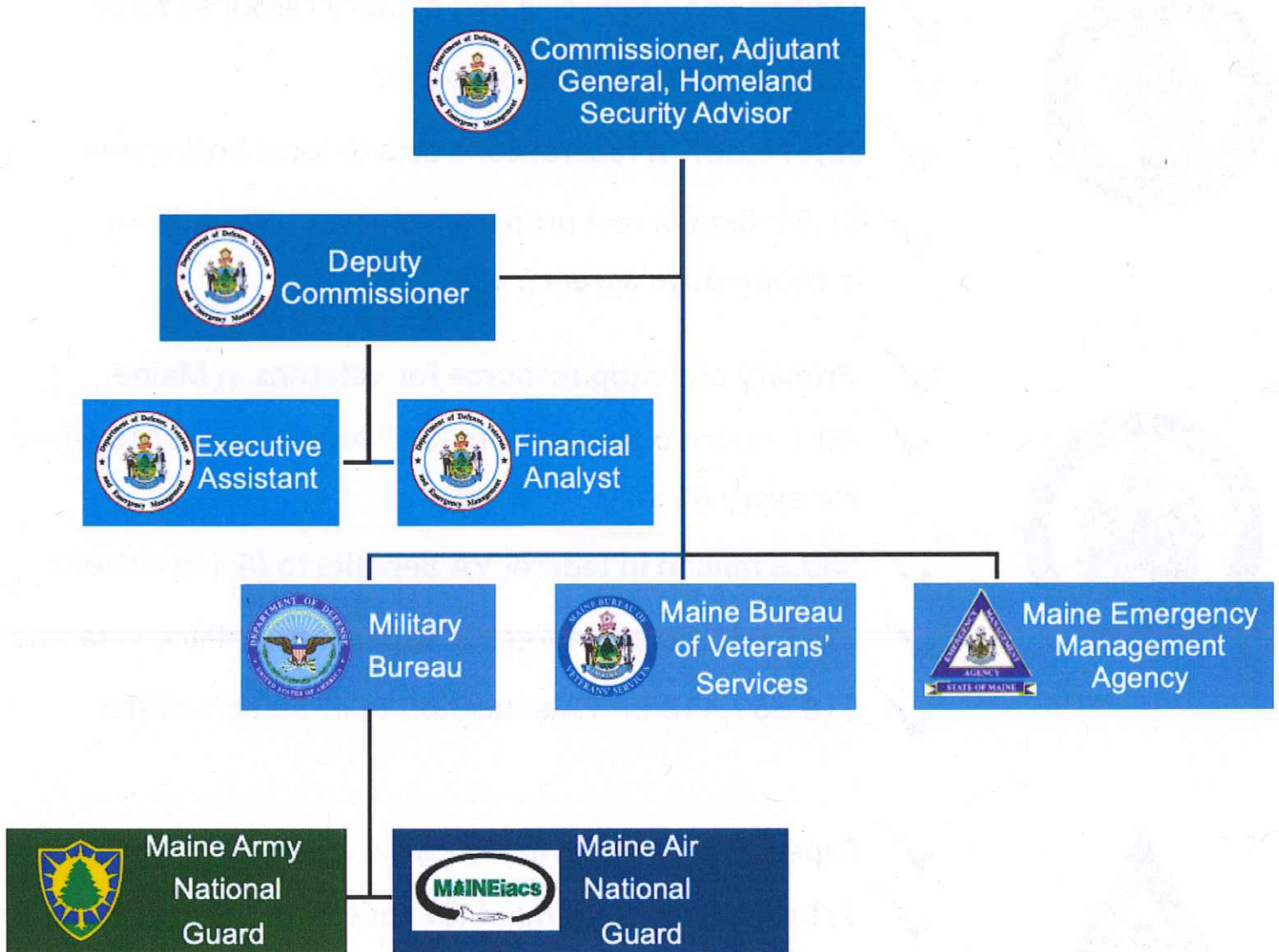
- ✓ Primary one-stop resource for veterans in Maine
- ✓ 10:1 return on investment (\$10 federal dollars received for every \$1 state invested)
- ✓ \$50.3 million in federal VA benefits to Maine citizens
- ✓ \$214,486.96 in emergency expenses to Maine veterans
- ✓ \$13,069,413 in VA education to in-state facilities



- ✓ Expert coordinators in statewide emergency response
- ✓ 7:1 return on investment (\$7 federal dollars received for every \$1 state)
- ✓ \$72 million passed through for federal disaster grants
- ✓ Rated among the top ten state emergency management agencies for mitigation efforts



DVEM STRUCTURE



DVEM LEADERS



Commissioner
Brigadier General Diane Dunn
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Deputy Commissioner
Michelle Lenihan
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Director, Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services
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Director, Maine Emergency Management Agency
Peter Rogers
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MILITARY BUREAU

Maine Army National Guard and Maine Air National Guard




The Adjutant General oversees the health, welfare, and combat readiness of the Maine Air and Army National Guard. Brig. Gen. Dunn also serves as the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor where she facilitates the coordination of homeland security activities through collaboration with partners at the federal, state, and local levels.

Maine National Guard
Adjutant General
Brigadier General Diane Dunn

 diane.l.dunn.mil@army.mil / diane.l.dunn@maine.gov




Maine Army National Guard
Chief of Staff
Colonel James Young

 james.e.young6.mil@army.mil



Maine Air National Guard
Director of Staff
Colonel Brian Camire

 brian.camire.1@us.af.mil

MILITARY BUREAU

Maine Army National Guard and Maine Air National Guard



MISSION

The Maine National Guard stands ready to provide logistical and support services to the community and State of Maine through innovative readiness training, community outreach programs, interagency cooperation, and upon activation by the Governor for emergency response.



Dual Status Mission

State Role:

to provide trained, equipped, and organized units and individuals to protect life, property, and preserve peace, order and public safety



Federal Role:

to provide trained, equipped, and organized forces ready to support active forces during times of national emergency or war.

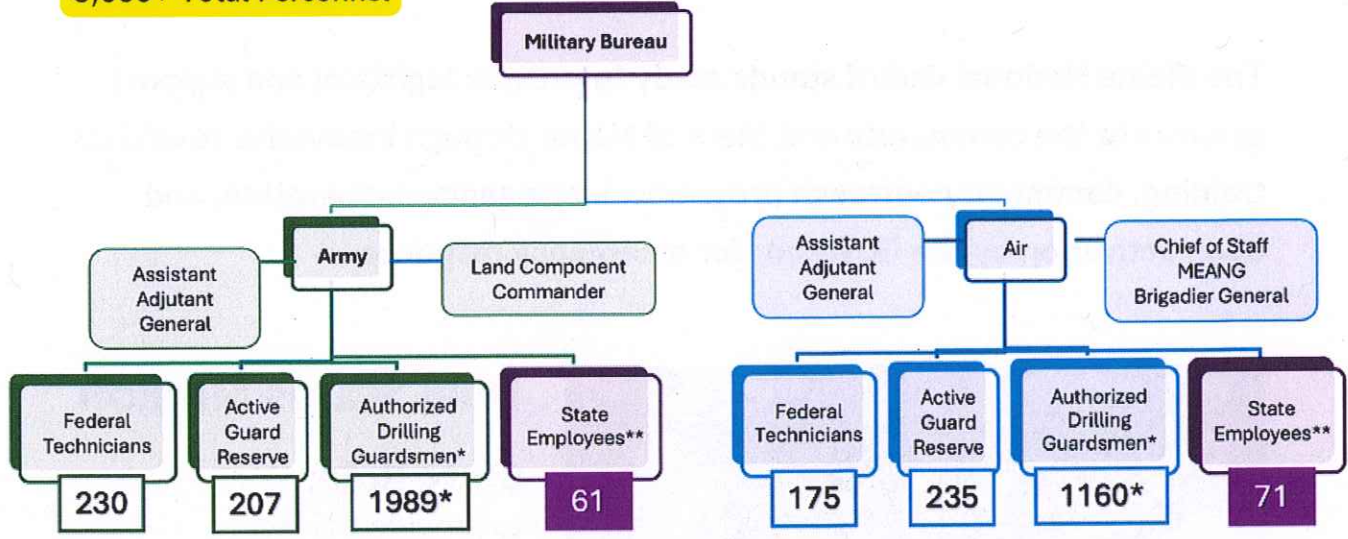
MILITARY BUREAU

Maine Army National Guard and Maine Air National Guard



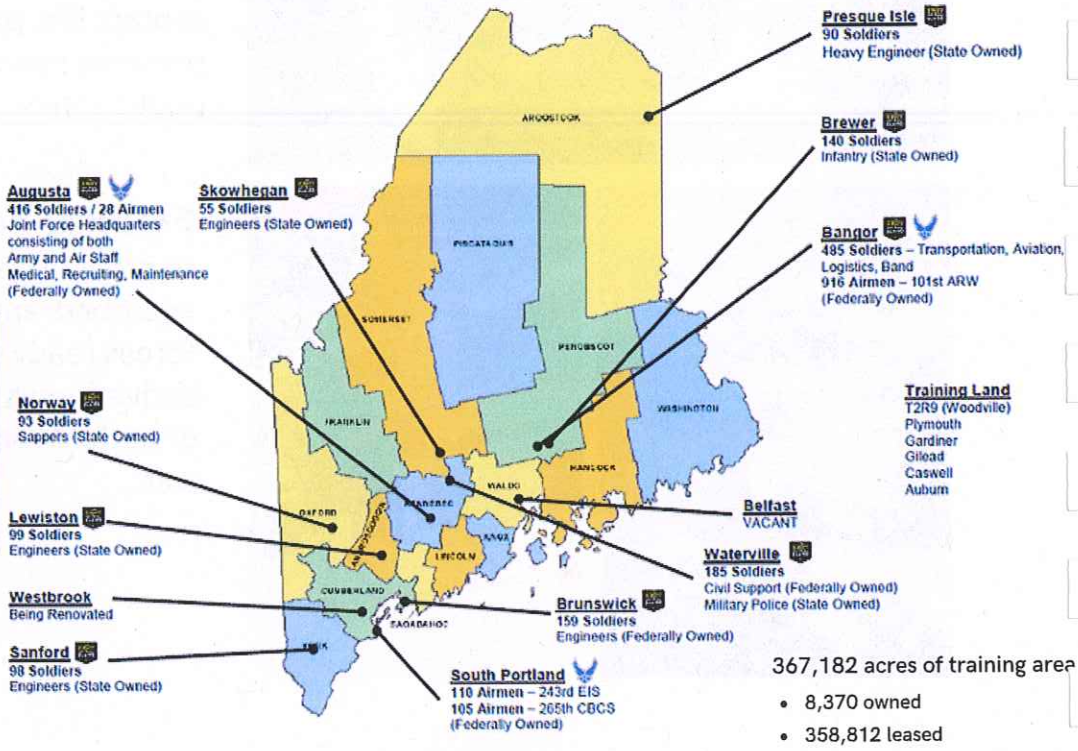
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND AUTHORIZED STRENGTH

3,000+ Total Personnel



*Includes Federal Technicians and AGR personnel
 ** State employees 100% Federally funded through cooperative agreements

Allocated strength for Army and Air per facility/capability





MILITARY BUREAU

Maine Army National Guard and Maine Air National Guard

CAPABILITIES

- Aviation / Airlift
- Command and Control
- Cyber Defense
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield explosives (CBRNE)
- Counter-terrorism
- Innovative Readiness Training (IRT)
- Transportation
- Security
- Logistics
- Fueling
- Maintenance
- Education Services
- Family Programs
- Resiliency
- Engineering
- Medical
- Communications





MILITARY BUREAU

HIGHLIGHTS

2024 IN REVIEW

- Saved state entities over \$843,000 through the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) community improvement projects
- Assisted in multiple in-state search and rescue operations through aviation support
- Civil Support Team (CST) support to Presidential Inauguration
- Assisted state in seizing \$8 million worth of illegal drugs through the Counter-Drug Task Force
- Supported national security priorities through global deployments; Africa, Middle East, Southwest Border
- Selected as one of the seven finalists for basing site selection of the KC-46, a state-of-the-art strategic refueling aircraft
- Enhanced state delivery of services through increased inter-agency cooperation



L: Brig. Gen. Dunn meets with the Icelandic Ambassador to the United States and her delegation at the Ocean Club in Portland.
R: Senator Susan Collins and Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall visit Bangor Air National Guard Base

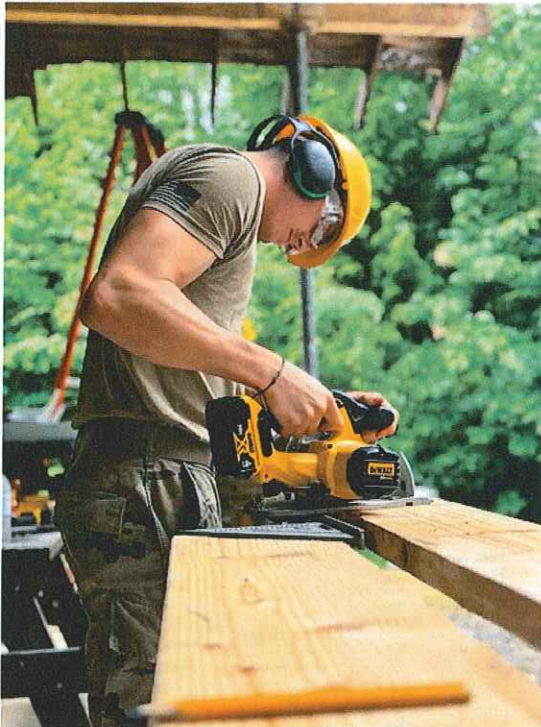


MILITARY BUREAU

INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING

Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) is a Department of Defense (DoD) military program that delivers joint training opportunities while simultaneously providing key services in the local community. Services include:

- Health Care
- Construction / Engineering
- Transportation
- Cyber Security



to Maine organizations in labor and equipment costs in summer 2024

- Lake George State Park
 - Cabin rehabilitation
 - Road improvements
- Brewer Police Department
 - New marksmanship and training facility
- Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery (Augusta)
 - Expansion project
 - Erosion control
- Deepwoods Training Site
 - Salmon Habitat and River Enhancement
 - Fallen tree relocation

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE IRT PROGRAM AND APPLICATION SUBMISSION SCAN THE QR CODE



MILITARY BUREAU

CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM (CST)



The Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)-CST's mission is to provide specialized support and training to first responders and local, state, and federal disaster response and emergency management entities. While optimized for response to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction, they can assist civil agencies with any natural or man-made disaster, and they provide this assistance at no cost to the requesting entity.

- Katahdin Shield - 2024's Largest inter-state and inter-agency CBRNE response exercise in New England
- Joint training with FBI, DEA, local law and fire departments, MEMA, active military, etc.
- Collaboration with University of Maine system for training and role player opportunities

joint (Army and Air)
team of
22 PERSONNEL

ON CALL
24/7

response time
90 MINUTES



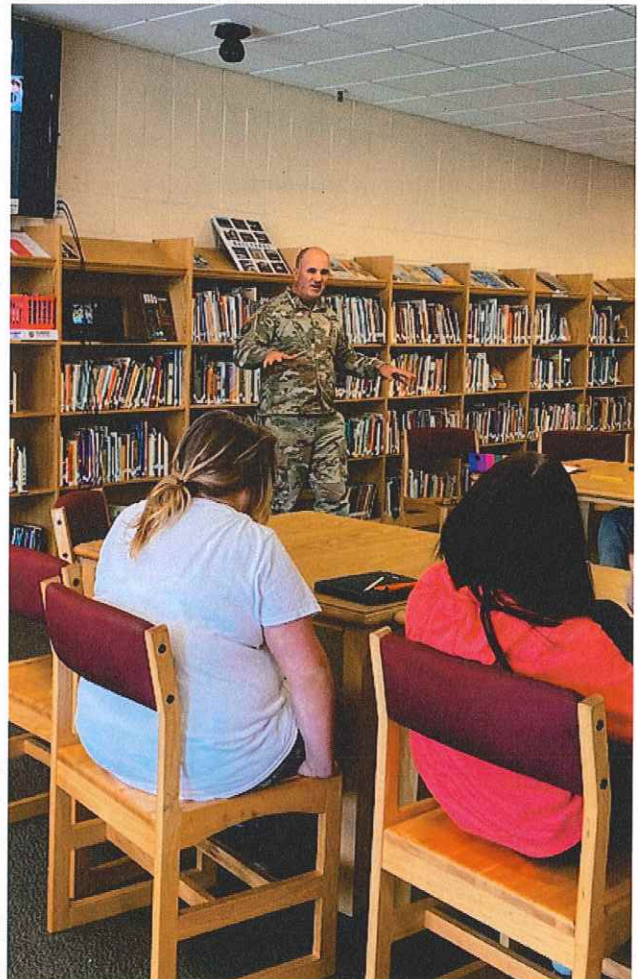
COUNTER-DRUG TASK FORCE



The Maine National Guard's Counter-Drug Task Force's mission is to support the detection, interdiction, disruption, and curtailment of illicit drug trafficking activities and use through the application of military skills and resources.

FY 24 Support

- \$1.6 Million Budget (federal funds)
- 13 Army & Air Guardsman Criminal Analysts helped multiple Law Enforcement Agencies achieve:
 - \$8 million worth of illegal drugs seized
 - \$248k in Illicit Currency Seized
 - 564 Drug Cases
 - 405 Arrests
 - Drug demand and opioid overdose reduction
- Certified 4 Prevention Trainers through "Keepin' It Real," an evidence-based social emotional learning program
- Supported 120 Youth Campers during two-week prevention event
- Drug take-back transportation / disposal support





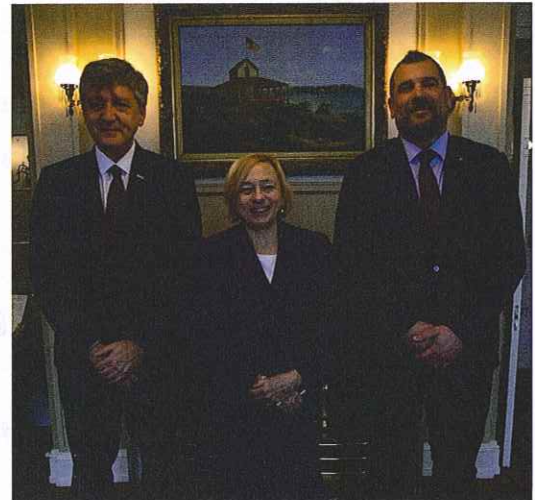
MILITARY BUREAU

Maine Army National Guard and Maine Air National Guard

STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Maine is partnered with Montenegro through the DoD's State Partnership program. We plan, resource, and train together to increase each other's respective capabilities so that the Maine National Guard can provide more ready and experienced service members to the state and nation, while aiding Montenegro in achieving its security objectives.

- Montenegrin support to Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery expansion project
- Montenegrin Minister of Defense visit to Maine in November 2024
- Regular international subject matter exchanges that bolstered National Guard capabilities



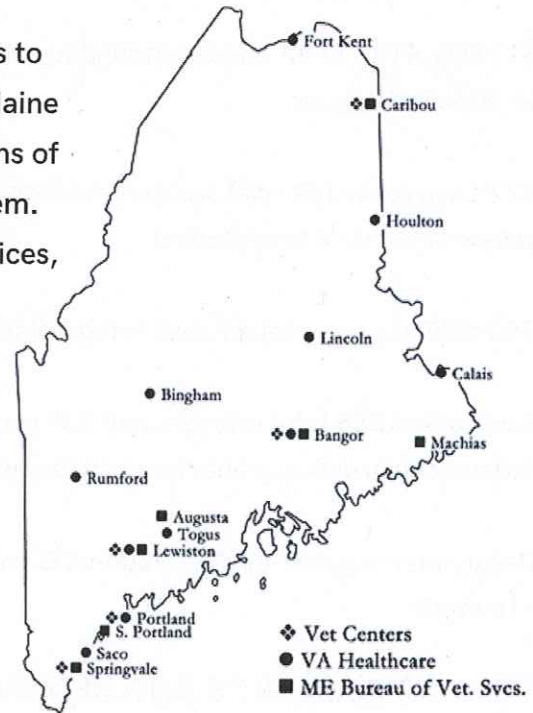
*TOP RIGHT: The Montenegrin Ambassador and Minister of Defense visit with Governor Mills in Augusta, November 2024.
 BOTTOM LEFT: Brig. Gen. Dunn with the Montenegrin Chief of Defense during a conference in Albania, September 2024.
 BOTTOM RIGHT: Montenegrin soldiers support Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery expansion efforts in Augusta, June 2024.*

MAINE BUREAU OF VETERANS' SERVICES



MISSION

To provide comprehensive support and resources to Maine's veterans, their families, and survivors. Maine has one the highest per-capita veteran populations of any state, and MBVS is dedicated to honoring them. The bureau connects individuals to benefits, services, and resources that enhance their quality of life.



MBVS provides highly skilled veterans' services, which include claims services at eight field offices across the state, delivering direct services to our veterans in the community. The bureau also operates 15 itinerant offices throughout the state.

MAINE BUREAU OF VETERANS' SERVICES



2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- 10:1 return on investment (\$10 federal received for every \$1 state invested)
- 3,047 veterans and/or veteran dependents used their education benefits at Maine education and training facilities in 2024
- \$13,069,413 - in VA education funding received for in-state institutions
- 177 emergency financial assistance actions for veterans resulting in \$214,486.96 paid to Maine veterans during a time of need
- \$50 million - the total amount in federal benefits distributed to Maine Veterans and their dependents
- Laid to rest 585 total veterans and 388 spouses in Maine veterans cemeteries; received \$2.7 million in federal construction grants for cemetery expansion projects
- Began interring now-eligible National Guard and Reservist service members in Maine veterans cemeteries



VETERAN'S RESOURCE AND BENEFITS GUIDE

A comprehensive handbook designed to help Maine veterans and their families navigate the various programs, services, and benefits available to them. It serves as a centralized resource to ensure that veterans are fully informed about the opportunities and assistance they can access.





MAINE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MISSION

Through leadership, coordinate the protection of life, property, environment, and economy across all hazards by managing preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts with the State.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Achieved 7:1 return on investment (\$7 federal received for every \$1 state dollar invested)
- Activated the state Emergency Operations Center to monitor presidential election
- Passed through over \$72.4 million in federal grants to state and local partners
- Managed twelve open disasters, the most in the Northeast United States
- Launched a new grant-funded project to fund generators in 45 municipalities
- Led preparedness efforts ahead of the 2024 Solar Eclipse

