

# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

# Major General Douglas A. Farnham Commissioner/Adjutant General

Veterans and Legal Affairs Brief, January 2023



# Outline

- DVEM Overview
- Military Bureau
- Maine Army National Guard
- Maine Air National Guard
- Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services



# **DVEM Organization Chart**







# **DVEM Annual Expenditures**

Average Federal: \$62 million per year Average State: \$9 million per year



			112020		
Gen Fund	8	9	10	9	9
Federal	36	41	37	82	112
Others(incl.066)	17	9	3	1	1
Total	61	59	50	92	122
GF % Share	13%	15%	20%	10%	7%



# **Joint Force Headquarters - Maine**







# **Governor's Essential Ten Capabilities**



#### Security

488th Military Police

B/3-172nd Infantry (Mountain)

251st Combat Engineer

**101st Security Forces Squadron** 

## Signal

265th Combat Communications Squadron

243rd Engineering Installation Squadron

101st Communication Flight

## Engineering

133rd Engineer Battalion

**136th Vertical Engineer** 

**262nd Horizontal Engineer** 

251st Combat Engineer

185th Engineer Support Company

243rd Engineering Installation Squadron

**101st Civil Engineering Squadron** 

#### **Command & Control**

**Joint Forces Headquarters** 

120th Regional Support Group

52nd Troop Command

**121st Public Affairs Detachment** 

195th Army Band

**101st Air Refueling Command Post** 

101st Civil Engineering Squadron's Mobile Emergency Command Center

### Logistics

120th Regional Support Group

286th Combat Service Sustainment Bn 101st Logistics Readiness Squadron

101st Civil Engineering Squadron

Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive (CBRNE)

11th Civil Support Team

521st CBRNE, Enhanced Response Force Packages (CERFP) Joint/Tri-State Mission

**101st Civil Engineering Squadron** 

#### Transportation

1136th Transportation Company

101st Air Refueling Wing

## Maintenance

152nd Maintenance Company

## Medical

C/1-126th MEDEVAC

MEDCOM

**101st Medical Group** 

### Aviation

142nd Air Assault

C/1-126th Medical Evacuation

2/C/1-224th Security & Support

**DET 14 Operational Support (Fixed Wing)** 

101st Air Refueling Wing

Army 📃 Air

Veterans and Legal Affairs Brief, January 2023



# Maine National Guard Unit Locations and Authorized Military Personnel









# State FY 2022

Total Funds spent: \$254,762.89 Total Funds waived by schools: \$451,853.32 Total Number of Servicemembers using the program: <u>114</u>

Army Guard cost waived by schools: \$201,626.65 Army Guard personnel: <u>60</u>

Air Guard cost waived by schools: \$250,226.67 Air Guard personnel: <u>54</u>

CAO 19 JAN23



# **State Partnership Program**





#### Veterans and Legal Affairs Brief, January 2023

#### UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO





# Maine National Guard Counterdrug Program

- Two missions:
  - 1: Investigative and case analysis support
    - The Maine Drug Enforcement Agencies 8 Districts
    - Maine Intelligence Analysis Center (MIAC)
    - High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)
    - Federal DEA office in Portland
  - 2: Civil Operations
    - ➢ Goal is to support community-based organizations (CBOs) − drug demand reduction
- -FY23 Budget: \$1,049,079.90 \$642,255.56 (Army 8 Personnel) \$407,160.30 (Air 4 Paxs)

# Weapons of Mass destruction - 11<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team (CST)

- 22-person team located in Waterville, Maine
- Capabilities:
  - Full suite of chemical, biological, and radioactive analysis equipment, On-site analytical lab, technical decontamination, specialized communication, and medical team.
- Support provided to National and State security events:
  - Waterfront Concert Series, Maine State Police, Governor's inauguration, Boston Marathon





 MENG undertook a 25-month long mission, supporting 35 different mission types across ME, utilizing 600 + SM.

# **MENG COVID Mission Highlights**

- Supported the administration of **208,474** vaccines
- Supported 50,698 COVID tests at sites throughout ME
- Processed 184,944 samples at the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory
- Investigated/traced 23,853 cases of COVID w/the CDC
- N-95 Fit-Tested 4,245 personnel and training 381 community trainers
- Responded to 4 deadly outbreaks in long-term care facilities
- Provided logistical support for over 880,000 pieces of FEMA-donated PPE
- Collaborated support for more than 8,000 resource requests statewide
- Managed warehouse inventory/storage/distribution of 12 million items
- Provided staffing to decompress 17 overwhelmed Maine medical facilities
- MENG LNOS embedded at local level, w/MEMA SEOC, and w/JFHQ EOC



# **MENG Deployments**



# **Army National Guard**

#### <u>FY21</u>

Oct 2020 to Oct 2021 : 125 Soldiers from 262 EN to SWB Mission Jan 2021 to Mar 2021 : 60 Soldiers from 488<sup>th</sup> MPs to DC for Capitol Response

#### FY22

Mar 2021 to Mar 2022 : 124 Soldiers from the 172<sup>nd</sup> Infantry to AFRICOM Oct 2021 to Dec 2022 : 125 Soldiers from 488<sup>th</sup> MPs to SWB Mission May 2022 to Mar 2023 : 84 Soldiers from 120<sup>th</sup> RSG to Poland

#### Upcoming:

Feb 2023 to Dec 2023 : 36 Soldiers from 3-142 AV to CENTCOM Jun 2023 to Mar 2024 : 4 Soldiers from 641 AV (OSACOM) to AFRICOM Sep 2023 to Sep 2024 : 11 Soldiers from 146<sup>th</sup> Cyber to NORTHCOM Oct 2023 to Oct 2024 : 27 Soldiers from 1-224 AV to NORTHCOM

## **Air National Guard**

#### FY21

150 deployers from 101ARW and 265<sup>th</sup> CBCS to various CENTCOM, EUCOM locations

Assisted with the transport and logistics of the Capitol Response mission

#### FY22

234 deployers from 101ARW and 243 EIS to various CENTCOM, EUCOM and AFRICOM

Upcoming/Ongoing: 3 GSU Personnel at Ramstein AFB for European Deterrence Initiative 22-1 GSU Data: FY 23 30 Deployed currently 101<sup>st</sup> ARW: FY 23 2 Deployed currently

(Antarctica

CAO 19 JAN23



# **Maine Army National Guard Brigadier General Dean A. Preston Brigadier General Blair E. Tinkham**



(Federal Funds for FY22)

- Payroll \$69.6 Million
  - > \$55.2 Million for Full-Time personnel
  - > \$14.4 Mil for Drilling Guardsmen
- Facilities Modernization, Refurbishment, and Maintenance \$18 Million
- New Construction and Design \$21.7 Million
- Supply and Services \$6 Million
- Total Impact ~ \$115 Million



(As of Jan 19, 2023)

- Authorized: 1,918
- Assigned: 1,754 (91.4% fully manned)
- Total Full Time Employees: 497

Active Guard Reserve (AGR): 208 Federal Technicians: 187 Title 5 Civilians: 53 State Employees: 49



# **MEARNG Recruiting and Retention**

Highlights: FY22 was the most challenging recruiting year since the inception of the all-volunteer force in 1973.

- The Maine Army National Guard received 117 new enlistments in FY22, achieving 48% of its mission.
- The Maine Army National Guard completed 245 re-enlistments, achieving 90% of its mission.
- FY23 is trending very close to FY22 at the national level, and lower in Maine.

#### Challenges:

- Maine has a declining population in the military recruiting age demographic (17-24 years old) and is projected to continue to decline for the foreseeable future.\*
- Only 23% the recruiting age demographic are qualified for military service (fit to serve).
  - ASVAB scores have declined 9% since 2020, primarily attributed to remote schooling.
  - 66% of individuals that take the ASVAB cannot achieve a score that qualifies them for military service.
  - Additional disqualifying factors such as failure to meet physical standards (exceeding allowable body-fat %), legal and illegal drug use, and medically disqualifying conditions continue to rise.
- Maine has a relatively small and declining younger veteran population; 83% of qualified applicants grew up in households where a parent served in the military.
- The measured propensity, or interest, to serve has declined to 9% of the recruiting age demographic.
- The Maine Army National Guard has been shrinking since its post-WWII high of 4988 personnel.

\* Maine Population Outlook,

2018-2028, April 2021, Office of the State Economist



# Legislative Support:

- Fund programs focused on increasing the physical fitness, academic proficiency and resiliency of high school students
- Continue to support the Maine National Guard tuition waiver program
- Provide funding to support facility upgrades to provide units with their authorized space, mitigate code violations & increase energy efficiency.
- Continue to endorse programs and initiatives that support families and employers of Maine National Guard Service Members.



# **MILCON Project – Presque Isle Northern Maine AFRC**

# **MILCON Project – Saco Future FMS #1**



# **Infrastructure Improvement Projects**

## Westbrook Armory – Renovation





Bangor AFRC – Future Renovation

### Auburn FMS #2 – Maintenance Bay





Norway Armory – Future Renovation

#### Veterans and Legal Affairs Brief, January 2023



# Maine Air National Guard Brigadier General Frank W. Roy Brigadier General Matthew A. Bourassa



**Total Military/Other Personnel Employed by ANG:** 1,228 **Federal Full Time:** 453 **State Full Time:** 70

**Total Military/Other Payroll:** \$63,686,558

Est. Value of Indirect Jobs Created: \$19,117,900

Total Expenditures: \$66,638,278

**Total Financial Impact:** \$86,368,243

CAO 19 JAN23



## **Recruitment Challenges/Opportunities**

FY 2023 Gain/Loss Totals:	Challenges: • Falling ASVAB	<ul><li>Opportunities:</li><li>Offer regular ASVAB</li></ul>
Gains: 28 PAX Losses: 21 PAX	<ul><li>scores due to lack</li><li>of test familiarity</li><li>Military not seen</li></ul>	<ul> <li>test opportunities in HS to all students</li> <li>More access to ASVAB</li> </ul>
NET: <b>+7</b>	as alternative to college	<ul><li>study guides in schools</li><li>Constant MEANG</li></ul>
Retention Rate 98% (+/-)	<ul> <li>Overall lack of emphasis on trade schools</li> </ul>	exposure in HS



# Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services David Richmond, Director



# Purpose of Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services (MBVS)

The Bureau serves as the primary source of information for veterans in the State regarding all services, benefits, and honors administered by the State and to the maximum extent possible, services and benefits provided by the VA, veterans' service organizations, and other organizations dedicated to serving veterans.



# Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System:

MBVS is responsible for the maintenance and operations of the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System which includes four cemeteries across the state:

- Civic Center Drive, Augusta Opened 1970 (166 Acres)
- Mount Vernon Road, Augusta Opened 2001 (98 Acres)
- Caribou Opened 2003 (33 Acres)
- Springvale Opened October 2010 (88.5 Acres)



# Marketing & Outreach Program:

 To increase, to the greatest extent practicable, awareness of services and benefits available to veterans and family members of veterans and to encourage veterans to seek the benefits and services to which they are entitled.

# Objectives:

- Identify Maine veterans.
- Increasing awareness of Bureau for veterans and their families.
- Encourage veterans to self-identify and pursue entitled benefits.



# Providing aid to veterans & their dependents

# Veteran's Emergency Financial Assistance Program (VEFAP):

 Provides financial assistance for a veteran who is a resident of Maine and demonstrates a financial need or hardship. Funded at \$250,000 annually.

# **Educational Benefits:**

 The Bureau assists veterans and their families obtaining educational benefits under the GI Bill and other educational assistance programs.

# Maine Veterans' Dental Network (MVDN):

 Provides connection to financial assistance to any veteran who is not 100 percent service-connected to the VA, doesn't have dental insurance, and cannot afford to pay for dental care out of pocket. (funded through grant from NE Delta Dental)



## Veteran Service Offices:

- The Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services operates full-time and parttime offices across the State of Maine that are dedicated to connecting veterans and their families to their entitled benefits. Our offices in Augusta, Bangor, Caribou, Lewiston, Machias, Portland, Springvale, and Togus are staffed by our Veterans Services Officers (VSOs).
- VSOs are experts on federal, state, and local veteran resources and are dedicated to aiding veterans in navigating the complex web of services and benefits available to them and their families.



# Homeless Veteran Coordination:

 Program of partnerships with human services-based volunteer organizations to provide transitional housing to homeless veterans and coordinate efforts to remedy and prevent homelessness among veterans. State funding to this program is \$100,000 annually.

## **Mobile Homeless Veterans Stand Downs:**

- Held in October: Ellsworth, Augusta, Portland, Springvale.
- 75 Veterans assisted in 2022.
- Provide homeless or at-risk veterans with:
  - $\checkmark$  Access to housing.
  - $\checkmark$  Winter clothes.
  - ✓ Non-perishable foods.
  - $\checkmark$  Other available resources.



# **Recognition Program:**

## **Coins & Certificates:**

 MBVS is issues commemorative certificates, coins, and medals honoring Maine's veterans serving in different conflicts. Includes specific recognitions for: <u>WWII</u>, <u>Korea</u>, <u>Vietnam</u>, <u>Women Veterans</u>, and <u>Forever Coin</u> (*post Vietnam conflicts*).

# Gold Star:

 This medal is presented to the surviving family of Maine servicemembers who died while serving their country.

# Silver Star:

 Medal awarded to members of the Armed Forces that were authorized the Purple Heart for wounds received while serving in a combat theater and meet the criteria for receiving a Purple Heart or they were a POW.



# 2022 Notable Accomplishments:

## **Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant:**

\$750,000 from U.S. Veterans Affairs to support local veterans.

## Maine Veterans Dental Network (MVDN):

- Recent \$200,000 Grant from Northeast Delta Dental.
- VA Abraham Lincoln Pillar of Excellence Award for Innovative State Program for connecting underserved veterans to oral healthcare.

# Veterans and Family Outdoor Expo:

 National Governor's Challenge focused on reducing veteran suicide by connecting veterans and their family members to their benefits, screening, connection to clinical service and promoting safe storage of firearms and medications.



## **Maine Veteran Population Statistics**

Veteran Population (as of 9/30/2022)	Maine	National
Number of Veterans	107,750	18,592,457
	107,730	10,332,437
Percent of Adult Populations who are Veterans	7.78%	5.56%
Number of Women Veterans	10,290	2,049,469
Percent of Women Veterans	9.55%	11.02%
Number of Veterans age 65 and Over	55,011	8,542,614
		0,072,017
Percent of Veterans age 65 and Over	51.05%	45.95%



# Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services | 2022 Year In Review



OUR DEDICATED TEAM WORKED HARD LAST YEAR TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO OUR VETERANS. HERE'S A RECAP OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED IN 2022.



