

**New York National Guard
Priority Issues**



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The Adjutant General**

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**THE NATIONAL GUARD'S PRIORITIES
FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
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As we celebrate the 358th anniversary of the National Guard, we should take pride in the countless achievements of our soldiers and airmen. As we move into the 21st century, we can truly say that today, the National Guard is better equipped, better trained and better led than at any time in America's history.

More than ever before, the National Guard is a full participating partner in the Total Force of the world's only superpower: Our participation in the Persian Gulf War; deployments to Somalia, Bosnia and the Sinai; our other federal missions; plus our superb performance responding to floods and fires and other domestic emergencies testify to our dedication and capability. There is no doubt that the National Guard is an excellent investment for America. For every dollar spent, our country receives a force well-trained for its federal mission and prepared to respond to the needs of our communities and our states.

As we face the demands of an ever-changing, post-Cold War world, just being a good investment will not be enough. The days of plenty are behind us. We have to make every defense dollar count toward readiness.

We must be able to demonstrate our ability and willingness to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow if we are to remain an integral part of our nation's defense capability. And we must work together to clearly define and articulate our needs. This means identifying our top priorities, maintaining a clear focus on the mission and providing the best possible leadership.

STABILIZING FORCE STRUCTURE

Since the late 1980s, the entire Department of Defense (DoD) has been involved in massive downsizing. While much of this is a necessary response to the end of the Cold War, it has, nonetheless, created turmoil in our force.

One bright spot has been the Off-site Agreement that gives the Army National Guard a road map for future force structure actions. While it has involved painful cuts, it is important that we preserve the Off-site Agreement. Maintaining the agreement will minimize force structure battles that would drain our resources, our energy and our talent, all of which would be better used to further our national defense.

We need to remain steadfast in our resolve to retain our divisions. They are the core for future expansion, if needed, and have the imbedded capability to support our domestic missions. To protect their future, we must ensure they have relevant wartime missions.

For the Air National Guard, we must hold the line of further cuts. We have avoided closing flying units by reducing the number of aircraft assigned. But we are painfully close to the line where it is no longer cost-effective to follow this path.

FULL TIME SUPPORT

Over the years, we have seen an erosion in full-time support to where the Army National Guard is only funded at 60 percent of its full-time requirements. This problem is magnified by our need to manage readiness levels. With the requirement for greater full-time support in early deploying units, the percentage in later deploying units will fall further below acceptable levels.

Language in the FY95 Appropriations Act exempted the National Guard from arbitrary military technician cuts this year; but we expect that there will be further efforts to reduce our full-time support levels. We must make sure that everyone understands the impact of these cuts on the entire National Guard. Not only will jobs be lost, but we will face a serious challenge to our ability to perform both our national defense and our domestic missions.

FUNDING EQUAL TO THE REQUIREMENT

We must secure adequate resources to do all the things we are required to do as a vital partner in the Total Force. This means having enough operations and maintenance (O&M) dollars for training, readiness and operations.

O&M funding becomes especially critical in light of increased reliance on the National Guard for current real-world operations. The Air and Army National Guard are supporting contingencies and global national commitments at a record rate. All indicators point to even greater reliance on the National Guard.

Now is the time to focus on funding equal to our requirements so that we do not continue to mortgage our future. We can no longer "do more with less."

SUMMARY

We will be able to achieve our objective if we speak with one voice by clearly enunciating our critical priorities. Stabilizing our force structure, full-time support and funding requires our undivided attention and unified action. Each requires defense resources that are increasingly scarce. As the defense budget is reshaped, the competition for the resources will be intense.

The Guard has the advantage in this process, because we truly represent the best investment for America. We must make sure this message is understood. As friends of the Guard, you know best the return on investment our nation enjoys from our support to our communities, states and nation. If we focus our energy and speak with one voice, we will be successful.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION **NEW YORK AIR NATIONAL GUARD**

Action Sought:

Congressional authorization and appropriations for critical military construction projects at NYANG installations. Top priorities for the State are:

- **Stewart C-5 Flight Simulator Building - \$3,000,000**

The Department of Defense has directed that more flying training be moved into simulators. Through the use of simulators in lieu of some local proficiency flying, aircraft maintenance, fuel and mandays are reduced. Currently, the Stewart facility does not have a simulator. Crewmembers must travel out of state to a C-5 simulator that is already being used to its maximum. Construction of a simulator facility would pay for itself in a few years by lowering C-5 flying hours (at \$16,000 per hour) and reducing personnel costs associated with traveling to another facility. Considering the importance of the C-5 aircraft at Stewart in performing the strategic military airlift missions of the nation, the small investment requested will be highly cost effective.

- **Gabreski Airport Composite Support Facility: \$7,100,000**

A properly configured facility is required to house medical, dining and operation and training functions. Currently, the medical clinic has become so congested that excessive time is wasted in performing routine medical examinations and training. The dining facility has exceeded its design capacity, resulting in long lines for service. The kitchen equipment is also outdated. The operations and training functions on base are not centralized so that unit members must go to several locations to accomplish their military personnel affairs. Consolidating all these functions into a new facility would allow the base to operate more efficiently and permit the demolition of 17,300 SF of antiquated facilities.

- **Stratton Composite Maintenance Hangar and Shops: \$19,500,000**

This unit presently supports National Science Foundation operations in the polar regions with its four LC-130H snow ski equipped aircraft. In the near future, base officials anticipate that it will be designated the single point manager for transport flights in both polar regions. The Navy is now designated as the main support organization for flying in Antarctica. With the expanding role for Stratton, additional hangar and maintenance space are needed to perform intermediate and unscheduled maintenance for the eight aircraft assigned. Also, two additional LC-130H aircraft are expected to be delivered to the base in the next two years for NSF mission support.

- **Niagara Falls Infrastructure Improvements: \$1,575,000**

The 107th Air Refueling Group is just completing a \$34 million construction effort required to convert the unit from fighter to KC-135 tanker aircraft. However, funding was not available to upgrade 40 year old water, sewer, and electrical distribution systems. In effect, new facilities will be connected to very old utility services which were originally designed to support only four buildings. This situation, if left uncorrected, will lessen the readiness capability of this base.

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD: SENECA ARMY DEPOT

Action Sought:

Congressional support for the operation and maintenance of certain facilities at Seneca Army Depot for use by the Army National Guard.

Background:

The recent downsizing of the active mission at Seneca Army Depot (SEAD) in Seneca County has made available extensive facilities, including administrative, logistical and training infrastructure. The New York Army National Guard (NYARNG) seeks to use the Depot as a training site and operations base. The NYARNG has begun to develop a plan, along with the National Guard Bureau, to establish an equipment storage facility utilizing the state of the art Controlled Humidity Prevention technology. The success of our efforts to secure the use of SEAD will greatly enhance NYARNG operations and readiness, as well as provide savings through reduced training related expenses.

A major presence in western New York would provide the NYARNG with several significant benefits. SEAD would provide an excellent training area close to the NYARNG's heavy forces (such as M1 tanks, personnel carriers, and heavy engineering equipment), 70% of which are located in central and western New York. This would lead to projected savings for the federal government of over \$500,000 per year in training and travel expenses. SEAD is an ideal location for several training activities, including a full scale tank range using laser simulation technology, sufficient maneuver area to conduct ground tactical training for heavy forces, and small arms ranges that meet current Army standards.

SEAD would also provide a valuable western base of operations for state emergency management needs. This facility would provide New York with an assembly point for appropriate forces needed for a state emergency, similar to our capacity in downstate New York at Camp Smith.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Action Sought:

Congressional authorization and appropriations for critical military construction projects at military installations in New York State. Top priorities for the State are:

- **Camp Smith Improvements:**

Camp Smith is the primary training and individual readiness center in New York for the Army National Guard. It also serves as a cost effective conference site for numerous state and federal organizations and as a base of state emergency operations for the greater New York City area. Camp Smith is utilized by numerous military, law enforcement and civic organizations (such as Boy Scouts) and serves as home to the New York National Guard's ChalleNGe program for at-risk youth.

Camp Smith currently suffers from an inadequate sanitary system with frequent breakdowns, a deteriorated water system at risk of being shut down, and insufficient and inadequate housing. Although New York has obtained 2.5 million dollars to rehabilitate the wastewater collection and treatment plant and repair the water supply system, an additional 7.79 million dollars is needed to upgrade the deteriorating and substandard Bachelor Officer Quarters.

AIR NATIONAL GUARD: 174TH FIGHTER WING

Action Sought:

Upgrade of the 174th Fighter Wing of the New York Air National Guard from F-16C aircraft to “Block40/50” aircraft. The 174th, located at Hancock Field in Syracuse, requires “Block 40/50” aircraft in order to increase combat effectiveness and align the 174th with active duty Air Force units. The 18th Airborne Corps includes the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum. This Corps is supported by the 23rd Composite Wing at Pope AFB. Alignment of the 174th FW with the 23rd Wing would significantly improve integration with support forces for the 18th Airborne Corps.

Background:

“Block 40/50” provides overall increased combat effectiveness:

- Global Positioning System (satellite-based) navigation
- Autonomous day/night laser guided bomb capability
- APG-68(V) radar with increased electronic counter-counter measures
- Night low level flight and night attack capabilities (Block 40)
- Enhanced aircraft computer
- Powered by General Electric 110 jet engine
- Increased maximum take-off weight
- Digital flight controls

POLAR PROJECTS

Action Sought:

Appointment of the 109th Airlift Group of the New York Air National Guard as the single point manager for transport flights in support of National Science foundation (NSF) operations in the polar regions. The expanded mission responsibilities will entail the operation of additional aircraft, thereby necessitating some initial military construction funding and increase in staffing.

Background:

The 109th Airlift Group, located at the Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, currently supports National Science Foundation's activities in both polar regions. The Navy provides additional support in the Antarctic only. NSF has expressed a desire for a single point manager, and has stated that it prefers the Air National Guard for this purpose. We support the appointment of the 109th Airlift Group as single point manager in support of NSF polar operations, which would bring hundreds of jobs to New York (potentially 160 full-time jobs and an additional 100 part-time.)

The 109th has been assisting in the Antarctic for six years. Since the Navy rotates flight personnel through the assignment on a 3 year basis and the 109th has a more constant staffing situation, the individual experience levels of 109th flight crews in the Antarctic equal, and in some cases, exceed, those of Navy personnel. The Navy has little or no aviation experience in the Arctic. With military resources being operated in support of and partially funded by a civilian organization, the military gains a large and highly proficient flying organization and NSF gains highly capable and professional aviation support, at reduced overall cost and improved economy of effort.

Update:

The Navy has developed a withdrawal plan from the Antarctic program and through SECDEF has asked the Air Force to consider having the Guard and the 109th take over the mission. Your support, through the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, may help put this project over the top.

NATIONAL GUARD COUNTERDRUG PROGRAM

Action Sought:

Return the Counterdrug budget to its FY 93 level.

Background:

The Threat Assessments for New York prepared by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Customs Service paint a grim picture. New York City is home to over half of the nation's 750,000 heroin addicts, is the most significant heroin importation and distribution center, is one of the top cocaine retail and wholesale markets, and is the money laundering capital for drug-related profits.

Since the New York National Guard began its counterdrug efforts in FY 89, it has assisted law enforcement in the seizure of over \$3 billion worth of illegal narcotics and \$113 million in cash and negotiable securities. The New York National Guard helped get off our streets over 25.7 tons of cocaine; 25 tons of marijuana; 117,634 marijuana plants; 3 tons of steroids; 2.1 tons of heroin; 1.5 tons of hashish; and 91 pounds of opium. While California and Texas each have four times our budget, we surpassed them on heroin, cocaine, and money seizures in FY 93.

Recent budget cuts in the Counterdrug program in New York have forced us to reduce staffing from 160 to 123 personnel to support over 100 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. Since FY 91 we have had over 450 documented requests for personnel we could not fill due to funding shortfalls. We strongly support restoration of National Guard Counterdrug funding to FY 93 levels.

NATIONAL GUARD COMMUNITY INITIATIVES: YOUTH PROGRAMS

Action Sought:

The New York National Guard operates several community initiatives that maximize the Guard's diverse assets. These include youth and drug demand reduction programs and community coalitions. We advocate continued support of these programs, particularly the ChalleNGe Youth Opportunity Program, the Corps of Cadets Program, and support for the New York National Guard's newest program, GALAXY.

Background:

The ChalleNGe Youth Opportunity Program was initiated in 1993. It is a federally-funded, military style youth corps targeting high school dropouts ages 16-18. It is designed to help unemployed ex-students reenter mainstream society as skilled, involved members of their communities via education and community service opportunities. ChalleNGe consists of two phases. The first is a 22 week residential program at Camp Smith, focusing on the attainment of a High School Equivalency Diploma, life skills development (career choices, health and drug abuse awareness, personal values, skill development, leadership) and community service projects which provide corps members with opportunities for personal growth and the development of work skills, which enhance their sense of civic responsibility.

The second phase, a 12 month post-residential mentoring program conducted in the corps members' home towns, is key to building on the initial successes of the residential program. The mentoring program will help the corps members stay focused on short and long term goals, find and utilize community resources, and continue the development of sound decision making skills.

GALAXY is an innovative approach to address three critical challenges facing our youth today: preparation in science and math; personal goal setting; and substance abuse avoidance. Through a unique partnership of military, industry, and education, GALAXY targets fourth through sixth graders and increases the child's confidence through exciting hands-on education programs and caring, positive role model mentors of the New York Air National Guard (NYANG).

Participating schools are selected based on their geographic proximity to an Air National Guard Base. Guidelines for student selection are based on the participating schools' recommendation. Children of all levels of academic achievement are encouraged to apply. GALAXY emphasizes multiculturalism. In addition to any federal moneys allocated, the NYANG will seek to creatively augment funding by seeking grants from private non-profit, corporate and community foundations.

The Corps of Cadets Program, established in 1991, is active in eight armories and one Air Guard base in New York State. The National Guard members volunteer as cadre and advisors, providing leadership role models for the Corps members, ages 12-17. The goal of the program is to provide youth with improved self-esteem, personal discipline, drug avoidance strategies, and team building skills and to develop a nucleus of young people who are willing and able to assume future leadership roles in their communities.

GRIFFISS AIR FORCE BASE

Action Sought:

Griffiss Air Force Base will continue as a significant military presence in the State of New York. We support initiatives that strengthen remaining missions at Griffiss, particularly Rome Laboratory.

Background:

Griffiss Air Force Base is slated for a major realignment and the loss of over 6,000 direct jobs because of the 1993 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission. Rome Lab and a few smaller missions will remain as part of an Air Force cantonment. Rome Lab, one of the Air Force's four "superlabs," is responsible for technology development in the areas of Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (e.g., photonics, radar, and other information technologies.)

Rome Lab produces excellent value for the federal government, including technologies for defense systems like AWACS and Joint STARS (which was first used during the Persian Gulf War to identify ground movement like Iraqi tanks.) An asset for the entire State, the Lab has over 100 active contracts with New York firms, an economic impact of approximately \$300 million per year, and extensive technology transfer and university-industry partnerships. We support efforts to retain the Lab in New York State, including the maintenance of funding for ongoing activities at the Lab and expanded participation in technology transfer.

The 485th Engineering Installation Group should remain at Griffiss AFB. This unit provides telecommunications, engineering and installation expertise to all Air Force and Air Force Reserve bases east of the Mississippi River and in Europe. Yet, the 1993 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission recommended that the 485th be relocated to Hill AFB in Utah. In addition to reduced geographic proximity to its mission, it has been estimated that the cost to move the unit to Hill AFB includes military construction of approximately \$20-30 million. The unit is also part of the same command as the Rome Lab, and employs mostly civilians with strong ties to the area. It makes economic sense for the 485th to remain at Griffiss AFB.

FORT DRUM

Action Sought:

Congressional support to improve Fort Drum as a premiere military training facility.

Background:

Fort Drum is the most modern military installation in the world and is the home of the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry). It is a state of the art facility that supports training and mobilization for both the active component and the Army National Guard including the 27th Brigade (Enhanced) and the 42d Infantry Division. This 107,000 acre facility also provides training for numerous fighter, helicopter and tactical airlift aircraft. Because of the quality of New York's Military Operating Airspace (MOAs) both above and surrounding Fort Drum, it has become one of the premiere joint/total force training areas. Fort Drum is seeking funding approval for a fully operational radar facility to operate its Approach Control. Support of this initiative would assist air training as well as helping to maintain a positive relationship with the local community.