

Department Narrative

The state mission of the Vermont National Guard is "Soldiers and Airmen of the Vermont National Guard serve, protect, and defend the citizens of our Communities, State and Nation; ensuring our security and preserving our freedoms." The State of Vermont Military Department commands and supports the National Guard as mandated by state and federal constitutions. The department is also required by State law to provide support to Vermont Veterans. The Department is administered by the Adjutant General and includes the Vermont Army and Air National Guard as well as a State work force integrated into these organizations. The Vermont National Guard serves as a military force available to the governor in the event of state emergencies which exceed the capability of civil authorities and as a federal force, providing an immediate operational force for both the US Army and US Air Force in times of national emergency or war.

The Military Department is made up from 5 components: Administration, Air Service, Army Service, Building Maintenance and Veterans Affairs. As a State force, the Military Department has provided relief services to citizens of Vermont and other states on numerous occasions. This support ranges from providing water storage units in time of drought, helping to bring power and services to storm ravaged areas, to road repair and evacuation in time of flood and other natural disasters.

During the last 10 years, the Military Department has also been tasked with providing support to over 2,500 deployed Vermont Army and Air National Guard members during their participation in combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as other theaters of operations worldwide. This support includes maintenance support for the armories throughout the State, assisting with implementing additional security measures as required at Camp Johnson, Vermont Air National Guard Base and the Aviation Flight Facility; and providing facilities for the feeding and housing of soldiers and airmen called to duty for homeland security missions throughout the country.

Concerned about the Military Leave reimbursement cap imposed by the federal program. This could impact the General Fund by up to \$50,000. Labor relations is currently negotiating with VSEA to change how military leave is charge form a "per shift" charge to an "hourly" charge. This would mitigate the need for general fund dollars for cover ineligible federal reimbursements.

Concerned about the classification of the Airport Firefighter Assistant Chiefs. They are currently categorized so that they are paid on a 40-hour work schedule and receive 20% guaranteed pay. The federal government in a recent audit/program review made the determination that the 20% guaranteed pay is not reimbursable. The federal government will only reimburse for actual hours reported. The Assistant Chiefs actually work 48.75 hours per week. This could impact the General Fund by up to \$70,000. Labor relations is currently negotiating with VSEA to change how the Assistant Chiefs report their time to actual hours worked. This would mitigate the need for general fund dollars for cover ineligible federal reimbursements.

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Administrative Component has 7 employees which makes up the Adjutant General's Office to include the Adjutant General, Deputy Adjutant General, Administrative Support staff, Financial Manager, Legal Assistant and Personal Services Coordinator. The Financial Manager provides financial services for the Military Department, through the budgeting process, securing funding for employees' salary and benefits; along with operating funds to maintain the Vermont National Guard and state owned buildings. The Legal Assistant provides coordination with the Attorney General's office to ensure the Military Department is in compliance with all statutory and regulatory policies and guidelines.

Coordination of State Active Duty when called to order by the Governor for a state of national emergency is accomplished in this component.

To support the VT Adjutant General's State Mission of the Vermont National Guard; which is to serve, protect, and defend the citizens of our communities, State and Nation.

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Fire prevention services to include code enforcement, inspection and building code enforcement. Provide heavy rescue services for the city of Winooski and first response for the Northeast area of the City of South Burlington. Provide hands-on education for at-risk, disadvantaged youth and their schools in Vermont. Inspire greater student interest, knowledge and skills in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) to address educational standards and economic security for our state and nation. Develop and maintain successful educational partnerships with Vermont schools, giving highest priority to schools with the greatest need (Title I status). Vehicle and personal identification checks prior to entry on to VTANG Base. 24-hour perimeter and buildings checks. Respond to alarms and incidents when required. Operation and Maintenance support on approximately 450,000 sq. ft. of VTANG Facilities and infrastructure in accordance with mandated and inspected standards.

Maintaining Facility systems to have the ability to complete federal flying missions. 24-hour mission for snow removal on VTANG taxiways to be able to complete federal flying missions. Maintenance at Air Force and Industry standards of buildings that house specialized equipment. Provide resources to sustain utilities at all VTANG facilities that houses over 300 full-time Guard staff and over 1,000 part-time guard staff. Airfield mowing to dissuade bird habitat in order to prevent bird strikes in moving aircrafts; impacts flight safety. Life cycle day to day maintenance and repair of facilities at base. The mission is supported by approximately 65 state employees (with a combination of 5% state funds and 95% federal funds).

The Air Service Component's Mission is to provide fire protection and medical services through the Air Fire Department. The Air Security's mission is to provide security for the VT Air National Guard Base. The Air VT STARBASE Youth Program's mission to support VT's community service. The Air Facilities Office's mission is to support the infrastructure of the Vermont Air National Guard Base.

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Provide access control for Camp Johnson and the Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF). Deny access to unauthorized personnel. Log in visitors and issue visitor badges when required. Conduct vehicle searches. Inspect all deliveries to Camp Johnson and the AASF. Report suspicious activity to the Joint Operations Center and the Director of Military Support for follow-up. Conduct patrols of Camp Johnson Property to include motor pools and the Ammo Supply Point. Conduct building checks at Camp Johnson and the AASF. Write incident reports when necessary. Respond to alarms and incidents when required. Construction and maintenance of all facilities and land at over 30 locations throughout the state; to include 20 armories, 1 Army Aviation Support Facility, 5 Field Maintenance Shops, Ethan Allen Firing Range, Camp Johnson and Ethan Allen Air Force Base in support of the Vermont Army National Guard (2900+/- soldiers) and their mission for readiness, operations and training, as well as state emergency response capabilities. Provide resources to sustain utilities at all facilities and to employ approximately 50 state employees (with a combination of 15% State funds and 85% Federal funds) to accomplish the mission. Maintain community based installations with favorable demographics for the Construction Facilities Maintenance Office mission, geographically disbursed, sufficient land areas, good access and good proximity to training areas, adequate infrastructure, and the capability for expansion.

The Army Service Component's mission is the construction and maintenance of all facilities and land at over 30 locations throughout the state; to include 20 armories, 1 Army Aviation Support Facility, 5 Field Maintenance Shops, Ethan Allen Firing Range, Camp Johnson and Ethan Allen Air Force Base in support of the Vermont Army National Guard (2900+/- soldiers) and their mission for readiness, operations and training, as well as state emergency response capabilities.

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2. Provide resources to sustain utilities at all facilities and to employ approximately 50 state employees (with a combination of 15% State funds and 85% Federal funds) to accomplish the mission. Maintain community based installations with favorable demographics for the Construction Facilities Maintenance Office mission, geographically disbursed, sufficient land areas, good access and good proximity to training areas, adequate infrastructure, and the capability for expansion. Provide accessibility of armories to community organizations for various functions such as: law enforcement agencies for training, wedding receptions, auctions, tool shows, Red Cross, etc. Also for use as polling places and shelters in times of emergency situations.

The Building Maintenance Component's Mission is Construction and maintenance of all facilities and land at over 30 locations throughout the state; to include 20 armories, 1 Army Aviation Support Facility, 5 Field Maintenance Shops, Ethan Allen Firing Range, Camp Johnson and Ethan Allen Air Force Base in support of the Vermont Army National Guard (2900+/- soldiers) and their mission for readiness, operations and training.

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Advocacy for Veterans Seeking Federal Benefits - Takes power of attorney to legally represent veterans seeking benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, primarily Disability Compensation. As a result of advocacy work, program annually generates approximately \$3M in new benefits to veterans each year, which benefits the veteran, as well as ensuring disabled veterans are supported by federal programs instead of state programs. Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery - The state is responsible for maintaining the cemetery for perpetuity. Failure to meet minimum standards would not only result in loss of confidence of the veteran community but would result in the removal of our veteran cemetery status, requiring the state to return construction grant funds to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Vermont Military Records Repository - Maintains over 160,000 military discharge records used to verify eligibility for state and federal benefits. As a result of a fire in 1973 at the national archives, many of these records are unique. Receipt of new records are the driving force behind marketing of federal benefits. Recognition Programs for Veterans - Operates various programs to express the state's appreciation for the service of veterans, including the Vermont Medals Program, High School Diplomas, Veteran License Plate verifications, coordinating the state's annual Memorial Day Ceremony, etc.

Veterans Affairs advocates for the 52-54,000 Vermont Veterans.

N/A