

Summary for Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
General Bonding Subcommittee
The Adjutant General of the State of Connecticut
Brigadier General Gerald McDonald

14 March 2019

Good morning, distinguished members of the General Bonding Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present before you today. I am Brigadier General Gerald McDonald, the Assistant Adjutant General for the State of Connecticut. I am joined by LTC Ben Neumon the Military Department's Construction and Facility Management Officer. I am here today to testify on behalf of Major General Fran Evon, the Adjutant General, who is currently overseas visiting Soldiers and Airmen of the Connecticut National Guard who are deployed in support of operations throughout the Middle East. The Department submitted written testimony, which you should have, that sufficiently addresses the three areas of focus of the subcommittee today. I will use my verbal testimony to expand upon those focus areas.

As many of you know, our department operates from a significant number of facilities and sites across the state. Our portfolio includes 17 Readiness Centers, 4 Maintenance Shops, 3 Training Sites, 2 Militia Sites, 2 Army Aviation facilities an Air Guard Base and an Air Guard Station. After the recent acquisition of 17 acres of surplus state land adjacent to the Dempsey Center in Putnam, we now maintain a presence in 35 locations, and over 200 buildings accounting for almost 2.3 million square feet of space. Over the last decade our construction, renovation, acquisition and divestiture programs have gone a long way toward providing our Guardsmen with superior facilities from which to train and operate. Details of our construction program are provided to the legislature annually in our Armory Construction Purchase Project Report, which has also been provided to you.

For more than a decade, Connecticut's military facility modernization and recapitalization program has remained a good news story. It has benefitted not only Soldiers and Airmen, but the state as well, by providing modern, state of the art facilities and hundreds of construction

jobs right here in Connecticut. From recent project completions to those programmed to break ground later this year, the Military Department is executing about \$60M in federal military construction. Our ability to execute this level of Federal funding hinges almost entirely on the ability of the State to meet its statutorily required match. On that point, we are pleased to report that our unallocated balance has been reduced 50% in the last 3 years through the awarding of various types of construction contracts, matched with Federal funds. The remaining balance is to be spent this biennium at our facilities on (1) energy efficiency projects such as window and roof replacements, (2) installation of standby power generation, (3) the general sustainment/upkeep of our buildings and grounds. All of these projects not only maintain readiness of the units but also enable us to receive Federal matching funds.

This past spring we cut the ribbon for our \$11M Windsor Locks Ready Building at Camp Hartell. We have also recently executed approximately \$13M in facility and infrastructure improvements in Enfield, Niantic, Westbrook, Rockville, and Windsor Locks, accounting for everything from new modern HVAC systems, to energy upgrades, to military equipment storage buildings.

Nationally, MILCON funding for the Army Guard continues to provide us with challenges. We have been successful in securing a project in the FYDP for a \$17.5 million new Readiness Center in Putnam in FY 22. The key to future success lies in our ability to submit relevant, competitive projects to Congress that nest with the national facility improvement strategy. In Connecticut, this is a two pronged approach, one focusing on continuous improvement of our training site, and the other on our execution of the ARNG's Readiness Center Transformation and Modernization Plan (RCTMP). This plan provides a way ahead for the Army National Guard to replace antiquated, inefficient and substandard facilities across the nation. Critical to securing these projects is receiving the required State bond matching funds and having buildable property.

The Connecticut Air National Guard officially completed its conversion and just recently its first combat deployment as a C-130H equipped unit. At Bradley in the last 12 months we've completed a \$5.5M renovation converting an aircraft hangar into a supply warehouse. The state of the art \$6.4M Small Air Terminal, will be completed in March 2019. Two construction contracts were awarded this year: an \$8.5M new Entry Control Facility eliminating previous BRAC and ATRP discrepancies and a \$5.5M Addition and Alteration of Building 18, transforming a former Squadron Operations building into the new Security Forces Facility. Both projects are scheduled to break ground in the first quarter of 2019. Finally, the CTANG was issued design funding for a \$15.5M Aerospace Support Equipment and Vehicle Maintenance Repair Composite Facility, presently scheduled for construction in 2024. Our Installation Development Plan consists of approximately \$52M in facility construction and improvements projected 10 years into the future.

As our Guardsmen and their units continue to support the needs of the nation, we continue to view the federal capital funding environment as one still filled with opportunity. Improving the facilities from which Soldiers and Airmen train and operate is key to sustaining member and unit readiness. Readiness equates to greater mission success and the ability to better control our own destiny. Our commitment therefore is to provide the best for our Connecticut National Guard so they can continue to effectively respond to any state or federal mission.

Thank you all for this opportunity to appear before you today. I stand ready to address your questions.