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Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee  
General Bonding Subcommittee

Connecticut Military Department

Major General Francis J. Evon, Jr.  
The Adjutant General

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Good afternoon, Co-Chairpersons Senator Billie Miller and Representative Napoli, Ranking Members Senator Hwang and Representative Piscopo and members of the Bonding Subcommittee. I am Major General Francis J. Evon, Jr., the Adjutant General of the Connecticut Military Department. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today to discuss the department's budget and need for bonding. However, I will first provide you with some brief information on the state of your military.

Your Connecticut National Guard is currently preparing for the deployment of over 1,000 Soldiers and Airmen over the next two years. The Military Department faces unique challenges brought upon by the evolving geo-political landscape. Meeting these challenges includes a return to prioritizing individual and unit training so that our members are fully prepared to respond effectively to emergencies in the state and the possibility of large-scale combat with near-peer nations. This training requires a concerted effort on the state and federal level to ensure the Connecticut National Guard has the facilities and resources to safely and successfully accomplish our assigned mission.

Recruiting and retention remains a top priority for the Connecticut National Guard. Our ability to fill our authorized force structure with qualified citizens and provide our members with modern facilities that meet current training, maintenance, and administrative requirements will best position the Connecticut National Guard during the forecasted Department of Defense budget cuts. Fully manned and ready units will help avoid reductions to the Connecticut National Guard and even posture us to add units that other states cannot effectively manage thereby ensuring the Connecticut National Guard can continue to live up to its motto, "Always Ready, Always There."

The Military Department operates from a significant number of facilities and sites across our state. Our portfolio includes 18 Readiness and Reserve Centers, 4 Maintenance Shops, 4 Specialty Sites, 3 Training Centers, 2 Militia Sites, 2 Army Aviation facilities, an Air Guard Base, and an Air Guard Station. We maintain a presence in 35 locations across the state. This includes 201 buildings totaling over 2.3 million square feet of space. Our construction, renovation, acquisition and divestiture programs reflect our continuous goal of providing our Guardsmen with the best facilities from which to train, operate, and support our state in times of emergencies. Details of our construction program are provided to the legislature annually in our Armory Construction Purchase Program Report.

I am pleased to report the Connecticut National Guard administers one of the top facility programs in the nation. This fact not only benefits our Soldiers and Airmen, but the state as well, by contributing new physical infrastructure and hundreds of construction and skilled trades jobs throughout the state. From recent project completions to those programmed to break ground in the future, the Military Department will execute about \$50 million dollars in federal military construction over the next two fiscal years. Our ability to execute this level of federal funding is dependent upon the ability of the state to provide the required matching funds. Through the continued support of this committee and the State Bond Commission, the Military Department has been able to effectively leverage its substantial federal military construction and sustainment funding to continuously improve the facilities our Soldiers and Airmen train in and stage to support emergency response across the state.

I would like to highlight some recent accomplishments funded with federal sustainment dollars. Utilizing more than \$10 million in federal funding over the last 4 years, matched with \$2 million of State bonding, the Connecticut National Guard has conducted energy audits, designed, and constructed the numerous energy efficiency projects such as lighting, replacement of steam HVAC systems, and exterior energy code improvements, as well as implementing energy resilience measures to ensure continued support to the State during outages and natural disasters. In 2025, we completed our first PV solar installation on the Norwich Readiness Center.

Nationally, the Connecticut Army National Guard secured a \$19.5 million dollar project in the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act for a new Readiness Center in Putnam, CT. Construction on that project began during the fall of 2023 and will likely be completed this year. Due to inflation and increased construction costs, utilization of existing state bond allocations became necessary to ensure both the timely award of the contract and the beginning of construction. This highlights the role of the State of Connecticut in ensuring the Military Department's flexibility to execute valuable federal military construction dollars through execution of required matching state funds, as well as funding for early design contracts and buildable real property.

The Connecticut Air National Guard is executing their 2030 Installation Development Plan as approved by the National Guard Bureau. This plan will ensure our Bradley Air National Guard Base is one of the most modern Air National Guard installations in the nation. In 2024, Bradley ANG Base completed work to repaint the entire aircraft parking apron, taxi lanes, and tow-ways to comply with the latest United Facility Criteria and FAA Advisory Circular. The base also completed the sole project, an aircraft maintenance fall protection system installation, identified by a mission assessment team as a requirement for Initial Operation Capability (IOC) with the new C-130J airframe.

Approximately \$28 million dollars of recent state bonding authorizations for the Military Department will enable the Connecticut National Guard to effectively compete for federal construction funds to continue to modernize our facilities statewide.

\$5 million of this bonding authorization will go to the planning and construction of a Medical Readiness Center in Camp Nett at Niantic. This project is unique as it is one of the first instances of a request for bonding for a 100% state funded project by the CT Military Department. This facility will move our medical readiness operations out of a repurposed barracks building and into a dedicated medical facility, thus allowing the Connecticut Army National Guard to better provide for its members and reclaim a barracks building for its original purpose. The agency will seek further bonding in order to complete construction on this project during the FY27-FY28 budget cycle, with a total estimated cost of \$42 million.

Our Theater Aviation Maintenance Facility in Groton, CT (TASMG) has expanded its operations beyond its current physical capacity. The Connecticut Army National Guard submitted proposed projects to the National Guard Bureau that will require funding from the state to secure federally funded projects. Fortunately, the Governor's proposed bonding package fully funds the state's side of this project with \$17 million. We continue to work with the Department of Administrative Services and the Office of Policy and Management on these endeavors.

The agency submitted a request for \$6 million to fund the design and consultant fees for the construction of a state funded CT Army National Guard Property and Fiscal Office warehouse at Camp Hartell in Windsor Locks. The agency also requested \$16 million for construction of the facility. The current failing facility was constructed in the 1940s and the cost of repairs and renovation far exceed the cost of new construction. This new facility will serve as the central receiving and shipping location for the CT Army National Guard. The warehouse will support fielding of the latest equipment for our soldiers. Additionally, this facility will have the ability to augment the receipt of equipment and goods from State and Federal agencies during domestic response operations conducted by the CTARNG. This project has not been funded through the existing bonding package due to its comparable lower priority. The agency will re-submit this request during the next budget cycle.

Finally, the agency requested \$5 million in State matching funds for Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization projects at CTARNG facilities throughout the state. These projects will include building envelope repairs, energy conservation and sustainability projects, emergency repairs, and minor renovation and construction projects to meet current code requirements and extend facility life cycle. This request has been adequately reflected in the Governor's Bonding Package.

As the Soldiers and Airmen of Connecticut's Home Team continue to provide security for our state and nation, opportunities for federal capital funding will also continue. Improving the facilities from which the Connecticut National Guard trains and operates is necessary for maintaining readiness. Readiness equates to greater mission success. Our commitment is to provide the best for our Connecticut National Guard so we can continue to effectively respond to any state or federal mission.

Francis J. Evon, Jr.  
Major General  
The Adjutant General

## Appendix

### **FY 26-27 Bonding in Governor's Budget**

#### **Alterations, renovations and improvements to buildings and grounds, including utilities, mechanical systems and energy conservation. FY26 \$1,000,000. FY27 \$1,000,000.**

1. What is the goal of the program?
  - Alterations, renovations and improvements to buildings and grounds, including utilities, mechanical systems and energy conservation.
2. What stage of the project does the proposed authorization fund? For example, is this design funding only, with a future authorization expected for construction costs, or is this the annual amount of an ongoing program?
  - State Matching funds for various projects. Some have been designed while other projects will be executed as needs arise
3. Are there any other funds (e.g., federal, state, local) that will support the program?
  - Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization program and Energy Resilience Program
4. When is the expected completion date for the program?
  - N/A

#### **Construction of a Medical Readiness Center. FY26 \$5,000,000. FY27 \$0.**

1. What is the goal of the program?
  - This facility will move our medical readiness operations out of a repurposed barracks building and into a dedicated medical facility, thus allowing the Connecticut Army National Guard to better provide for its members and reclaim a barracks building for its original purpose.
2. What stage of the project does the proposed authorization fund? For example, is this design funding only, with a future authorization expected for construction costs, or is this the annual amount of an ongoing program?
  - This bond proposal will partially fund design. The overall expected cost to the State will be \$42,000,000 upon completion.
3. Are there any other funds (e.g., federal, state, local) that will support the program?
  - No, additional bond funds will be needed for construction. Sustainment and operational costs will be fully Federally supported.
4. When is the expected completion date for the program?
  - Dependent on future funds for construction

#### **State matching funds for anticipated federal reimbursable project at the Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group in Groton. FY26 \$17,000,000. FY27 \$0.**

1. What is the goal of the program?
  - Our Theater Aviation Maintenance Facility in Groton, CT (TASMG) has expanded its operations beyond its current physical capacity. The Connecticut Army National Guard submitted proposed projects to the National Guard Bureau that will require funding from the state to secure federally funded projects.

2. What stage of the project does the proposed authorization fund? For example, is this design funding only, with a future authorization expected for construction costs, or is this the annual amount of an ongoing program?
  - The matching state funding laid out in the bond proposal will be adequate to secure future federal funding.
3. Are there any other funds (e.g., federal, state, local) that will support the program?
  - Yes (Federal) Currently, up to \$5.7M federal design funding. After design, this project will compete for Federal construction funding up to \$91M.
4. When is the expected completion date for the program?
  - Dependent on federal funding availability.

**State matching funds for Sustainment, Restoration and Modernizations projects at CTARNG facilities throughout the state. FY26 \$5,000,000. FY27 \$3,000,000**

1. What is the goal of the program?
  - Request for State matching funds for Sustainment, Restoration and Modernizations projects at CTARNG facilities throughout the state. These projects will include building envelope repairs, energy conservation and sustainability projects, emergency repairs, and minor renovation and construction projects to meet current code requirements and extend facility life cycle.
2. What stage of the project does the proposed authorization fund? For example, is this design funding only, with a future authorization expected for construction costs, or is this the annual amount of an ongoing program?
  - The matching state funding laid out in the bond proposal will be adequate to secure federal funding.
3. Are there any other funds (e.g., federal, state, local) that will support the program?
  - Yes. (federal)
4. When is the expected completion date for the program?
  - Dependent on federal funding availability.

**Unallocated:**

**State matching funds for construction of a warehouse at Camp Hartell in Windsor Locks.**

- PA 17-2 (JSS) 378(d)(2) Funded: \$500,000. Unallocated: \$250,000
1. Do you need the unallocated balance?
    - a. If so, for what purpose?
      - Yes, these funds will be used to cover DAS construction services fees for the construction of a new USPFO warehouse.
    - b. Within what time frame?
      - Timeline is pending federal funds allocated in the MILCON appropriation.
  2. Are the unallocated funds obligated, designated, or otherwise attached to projects, or are funds available for future needs as they arise?
    - Designated and attached to future funding requirements
    - a. If attached to projects, please provide information on the projects.
      - Funds will be used to cover partial DAS Construction Services fees during design and construction.

3. Allocation of funds.
  - a. When was the last time funds for the program were allocated, if ever?
    - Federal design funds were expended in Federal FY 19
  - b. Have the funds been requested for allocation by the bond commission? If so, how much and when?
    - Awaiting Federal funds availability
4. What impediments, if any, have there been in accessing and using the bond funds?
  - Awaiting Federal funds
5. For programs with recent allocations, what portion of the allocation has been spent?
  - a. What is the typical time between allocation and final expenditure of the funds?
    - N/A
6. If increased bond authorizations have been proposed for FY 25, what expansion or increase of projects is expected and how quickly are the new funds anticipated to be needed?
  - a. Do you anticipate a further need for new authorizations past the biennium?
    - unknown
7. For ongoing programs, have the expected annual amounts changed?
  - NA

**Alterations and improvements to buildings and grounds, including utilities, mechanical systems, energy conservation.**

- PA 15-1 2(i)(1) Funded: \$450,000. Unallocated \$450,000
  - PA 15-1 21(g)(1) Funded: \$225,000. Unallocated \$225,000
  - PA 21-111 2(f)(2) Funded: \$200,000. Unallocated \$200,000
  - PA 21-111 21(d)(2) Funded: \$200,000. Unallocated \$200,000
  - PA 23-205 2(g)(2) Funded: \$300,000. Unallocated \$300,000
  - PA 23-205 21(e)(2) Funded: \$200,000. Unallocated \$200,000
1. Do you need the unallocated balance?
    - a. If so, for what purpose?
      - Yes
    - b. Within what time frame?
      - Requested for allocation during the April 2025 bond commission meeting.
  2. Are the unallocated funds obligated, designated, or otherwise attached to projects, or are funds available for future needs as they arise?
    - Designated
      - a. If attached to projects, please provide information on the projects.
        - These funds are needed to maintain and renovate the Military Department's facilities to ensure continued energy efficiency and proper mission support for State emergencies. They include but are not limited to; classroom and latrine renovations, creation of lactation stations, statewide energy projects, HVAC upgrades and facility modernization projects which will provide the CTARNG with the ability to continue to meet our State and Federal mission requirements as well as recruit and retain quality soldiers in support of Connecticut.
  3. Allocation of funds.

- a. When was the last time funds for the program were allocated, if ever?
    - N/A
  - b. Have the funds been requested for allocation by the bond commission? If so, how much and when?
    - Requested for April bond meeting
4. What impediments, if any, have there been in accessing and using the bond funds?
  - None
5. For programs with recent allocations, what portion of the allocation has been spent?
  - NA
    - a. What is the typical time between allocation and final expenditure of the funds?
      - NA
6. If increased bond authorizations have been proposed for FY 25, what expansion or increase of projects is expected and how quickly are the new funds anticipated to be needed?
  - a. Do you anticipate a further need for new authorizations past the biennium?
    - No
7. For ongoing programs, have the expected annual amounts changed?
  - No

**State matching funds for anticipated federal reimbursable projects**

- PA 11-57 2(h)(1) Funded \$2,000,000. Unallocated \$257,500
  - PA 11-57 21(g)(1) Funded \$2,000,000. Unallocated \$277,000
  - PA 15-1 2(i)(2) Funded \$3,271,500. Unallocated \$44,500
  - PA 23-205 21(e)(1) Funded \$3,000,000. Unallocated \$3,000,000
1. Do you need the unallocated balance?
    - Yes
      - a. If so, for what purpose?
        - These funds are needed to maintain and renovate the Military Department's facilities to ensure continued energy efficiency and proper mission support for State emergencies. They include but are not limited to; classroom and latrine renovations, creation of lactation stations, statewide energy projects, HVAC upgrades and facility modernization projects which will provide the CTARNG with the ability to continue to meet our State and Federal mission requirements as well as recruit and retain quality soldiers in support of Connecticut.
      - a. Within what time frame?
        - Requested for the April 2025 bond commission meeting
  2. Are the unallocated funds obligated, designated, or otherwise attached to projects, or are funds available for future needs as they arise?
    - Designated
      - a. If attached to projects, please provide information on the projects.

3. Allocation of funds.
  - a. When was the last time funds for the program were allocated, if ever?  
- 6/7/2024
  - b. Have the funds been requested for allocation by the bond commission? If so, how much and when?  
- NA
4. What impediments, if any, have there been in accessing and using the bond funds?  
- NA
5. For programs with recent allocations, what portion of the allocation has been spent?  
- NA
  - a. What is the typical time between allocation and final expenditure of the funds?  
- NA
6. If increased bond authorizations have been proposed for FY 25, what expansion or increase of projects is expected and how quickly are the new funds anticipated to be needed?
  - a. Do you anticipate a further need for new authorizations past the biennium?  
- Yes
7. For ongoing programs, have the expected annual amounts changed?  
- No