COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD

MG JAMES W. RING
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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October 30, 2026

The Honorable Abigail Spanberger
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia

The Honorable Timothy P. Williams
Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs

The Honorable Jeremy S. McPike
Senate Chair of General Laws and Technology Committee

The Honorable Marcus B. Simon
House Chair of Public Safety Committee

Delivered Electronic Mail

RE:: 2026 Annual Report -Virginia National Guard

Dear Governor Spanberger, Secretary Williams, Chair McPike and Simon:

The Virginia National Guard is required under Code of Virginia §44-15.1 established in 2026 to submit an annual report that provides information on all federal and state deployments of the National Guard, retention and readiness within the National Guard and the impact on readiness of federal deployments, a comprehensive overview of yearly federal funding, and use of National Guard resources by federal authorities.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact the undersigned at (804) 236-7880.

Sincerely,

James W. Ring
Major General, VaARNG
The Adjutant General

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

Annual Report

Reporting Period: October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026

Submitted to: The Chairs of the House Committee on Public Safety and the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology, Virginia General Assembly

The Adjutant General shall submit an annual report to the Chairs of the House Committee on Public Safety and the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology detailing:

1. All federal and state deployments of the National Guard since the last day of the period covered by the previous annual report, including the date the deployment began, the end date or anticipated end date of such deployment, circumstances, scope, legal authority, goals, cost to the Commonwealth, and cost to the federal government;

2. Retention and readiness within the National Guard and the impact on readiness of federal deployments;

3. A comprehensive overview of yearly federal funding, detailing the appropriations for key areas such as operations and maintenance, pay and allowances, and military construction projects, while also identifying any existing unfunded requirements; and

4. Use of National Guard resources by federal authorities.

Submission Deadline: September 30, 2026

REPORT CONTACT INFORMATION

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Virginia National Guard (VNG) sustained high operational readiness and stable personnel strength in FY2026, maintaining 101.56% of authorized Virginia Army National Guard (VaARNG) strength (6,896 personnel) and 96.31% of authorized Virginia Air National Guard (VAANG) strength (1,278 personnel). Operating under dual-state and federal framework, the VNG executed a diverse set of missions in support of the Commonwealth. Concurrently, the Virginia National Guard deployed multiple units globally under federal authority to support U.S. Central, Africa, Pacific, and Cyber Commands, as well as Southern Border operations. These routine federal mobilizations systematically build seasoned leadership, modernize equipment, and elevate the unit readiness available to the Governor during domestic emergencies at little to no cost to Commonwealth taxpayers.

This dual-mission structure serves as an economic driver, bringing hundreds of millions of federal defense dollars directly into Virginia's local communities. In FY2026, the federal government allocated $394 million to VNG operations, which included $235 million for operations and maintenance, $145 million in military pay, and $14 million in military construction. Additionally, the VNG manages over $4.6 billion in total federal assets and equipment, ensuring immediate access to life-saving resources. Through VNG cooperative agreements, the Commonwealth has achieved an outstanding 7-to-1 rate of return since 2014, securing $899 million in federal financial assistance against a state contribution of only $116 million.

To support the Virginia National Guard's dual mission to the Commonwealth and the Nation, continued General Assembly investment in state-level benefit programs is essential to bolster recruiting and retention, while timely state matching funds will unlock critical federal military construction investments to ensure long-term operational success. The sustainment of military readiness centers throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia is a joint responsibility requiring a cost-share between federal and state partners. Under statutory cost-sharing requirements, securing federal funding for future military construction is directly contingent upon the timely allocation of matching state funds.

Commonwealth Support in FY2026							
Mission	**Unit**	**Authority**	**Period**	**Army**	**Air**	**VDF**	**Personnel Cost**
National Guard Civil Support Readiness Training	Joint Task Force - Virginia	Title 44, Code of Virginia	10/17/2025-10/19/2025	119	10	7	$106,418.26
Alaska EMAC	Joint Task Force - Virginia	Emergency Management Agreement Compact	10/31/2025-11/12/2025	1	0	0	$3,054.74
Cyber Security Assessment in support of Henry County	Joint Task Force - Virginia	Title 44, Chapters 1 and 2, Code of Virginia	11/16/2025-11/21/2025	2	0	3	$7,840.56
Cyber Security Assessment in support of Louisa County	Joint Task Force - Virginia	Title 44, Chapters 1 and 2, Code of Virginia	12/8/2025-12/12/2025	3	0	0	$5,566.50
Nelson County HART Aircraft Rescue Mission	Joint Task Force - Virginia	Title 44, Code of Virginia	12/14/2025-12/14/2025	6	0	0	$3,287.14
Winter Storm - January 2026	Joint Task Force - Virginia	Governor State of Emergency Declaration, January 22nd, 2026	01/22/2026-2/02/2026	322	59	31	$523,903.78
Cyber Security Assessment in support of the City of Fairfax	Joint Task Force - Virginia	Title 44, Chapters 1 and 2, Code of Virginia	03/01/2026-03/06/2026	5	0	0	$8,673.12
Cyber Security Assessment in support of Frederick County	Joint Task Force - Virginia	Title 44, Chapters 1 and 2, Code of Virginia	05/11/2026-05/15/2026	4	0	0	$5,854.50
Title 32 Support in FY2026							
Mission	**Unit**	**Authority**	**Period**	**Army**	**Air**	**VDF**	**Personnel Cost**
Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Support	Joint Task Force - Virginia	Title 32, Section 502(f)	09/15/2025-1/16/2026	43	13	-	Federal Funding

Table 1, Commonwealth Support in FY2026

Federal Mobilizations in FY2026							
Mission	**Unit**	**Authority**	**Period**	**Army**	**Air**	**-**	**State Personnel Cost**
U.S. Central Command Mission	229th Military Police Company, VaARNG	Title 10, U.S. Code, § 12302	05/2025-06/2026	140	0	-	Federal Funding
U.S. Africa Command Mission	180th Engineer Support Company, VaARNG	Title 10, U.S. Code, § 12302	9/2025-07/2026	125	0	-	Federal Funding
U.S. Southern Border Mission	Bravo Company, 2-224 Aviation, VaARNG	Title 10, U.S. Code, § 12302	08/2026-06/2027	60	0	-	Federal Funding
U.S. Central Command Mission	Detachment 1, 2-245 Aviation, VaARNG	Title 10, U.S. Code, § 12302	07/2026-5/2027	4	0	-	Federal Funding
U.S. Southern Border Mission	Detachment 1, Alpha Company, 2-151 Aviation, VaARNG	Title 10, U.S. Code, § 12302	09/2026-07/2027	35	0	-	Federal Funding
U.S. Central Command Mission	116th Mobile Brigade Combat Team, VaARNG	Title 10, U.S. Code, § 12302	09/2026-07/2027	900	0	-	Federal Funding
Various	192 Wing, VAANG	Title 10, U.S. Code, § 12302	04/2026-10/2026	0	40	-	Federal Funding
U.S. Pacific Command	203 REDHORSE Squadron, VAANG	Title 10, U.S. Code, § 12302	04/2026-10/2026	0	70	-	Federal Funding
U.S. Central Command Mission	192 Wing, VAANG	Title 10, U.S. Code, § 12302	04/2026-10/2026	0	15	-	Federal Funding
U.S. Cyber Command	91st Cyber Brigade, VaARNG	Title 10, U.S. Code, § 12302	08/2026-06/2027	10	0	-	Federal Funding

Table 2, Federal Mobilizations in FY2026



Figure 1. Virginia National Guard Strength and Personnel Report: FY26

Virginia National Guard FY26 Strength and Personnel Report

As of September 17th, 2026, the VaARNG has 6,896 assigned personnel out of 6,790 authorized, which is 101.56% of authorized strength. The VAANG has 1,278 assigned personnel out of 1,327 authorized, which is 96.31% of authorized strength.

For FY26 accessions, the VaARNG assessed 793 Soldiers from October 2025 to August 2026, with 25 projected for September 2026. For FY26 retention, the VaARNG retained 815 Soldiers with 60 projected for September 2026, exceeding the NGB mission of 834 Soldiers by 4.91%.

For FY26 accessions, the VAANG assessed 174 Airmen from October 2025 to August 2026, with 9 projected for September 2026. For FY26 retention, the VaANG retained 137 Airmen with 46 projected for September 2026, expecting to exceed the NGB mission of 181 Airmen by 1.10%.

As the federal fiscal year has not concluded, personnel recruiting and retention metrics continue to change until September 30, 2026.

Virginia National Guard: Dual-Mission Readiness Through Federal Mobilizations

Federal mobilizations increase the Virginia National Guard's capacity to protect communities within the Commonwealth by increasing operational readiness. Routine participation in federal overseas and domestic missions systematically strengthens the National Guard's dual-mission capability, guaranteeing that the Commonwealth maintains a modernized, highly trained, and experienced force prepared to respond to domestic emergencies at little to no cost to the Commonwealth.

Equipment: During federal mobilizations, Virginia National Guard units gain direct access to increased federal funding. These federal resources fully fund modernization, depot-level maintenance, and next-generation technological upgrades across tactical vehicle fleets, command-and-control communication systems, and medical equipment. Upon completion of their federal mission, units return with fully modernized equipment prepared to support communities across the Commonwealth. As a result, state emergency managers gain access to premier tactical equipment for flood response, winter storm operations, and search-and-rescue missions and other response operations.

People: Operational deployments of citizen-Soldiers and Airmen to high-demand operating environments produce exceptional leaders that excel in complex environments. Soldiers and Airmen routinely manage contested supply chains and complex systems in and joint and interagency operations. When domestic events affect the Commonwealth, the leaders directing response efforts are not managing a crisis for the first time. They apply seasoned operational discipline, rapid problem-solving, and cross-functional coordination refined during federal deployments in response to the call of the Commonwealth.

Economic Impact: The service of modern citizen-Soldiers and Airmen generates substantial economic and workforce benefits throughout the state. During federal deployments, service members receive advanced technical training in mission-critical disciplines to include leadership, enterprise logistics, and cyber operations. These highly marketable proficiencies transfer directly into Virginia's civilian economy upon demobilization, bolstering the state's technology, aerospace, and defense contracting sectors. Federal mobilizations shift training, medical readiness, and other costs to federal funding streams while channeling millions of federal defense dollars directly into local communities through community-based readiness centers.

Retention Impact: Purposeful operational missions drive personnel retention and long-term force stability. Deployments provide service members with meaningful service and career progression. In turn,

periods of federal active duty unlock long-term benefits, including comprehensive TRICARE healthcare coverage, VA home loan eligibility, and Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits. By combining dedicated service with tangible financial and educational security, the Virginia National Guard retains best in class talent and proven leaders who remain ready to answer the call.

These positive readiness, resourcing, and retention outcomes must be supported by predictable deployment schedules, State-supported benefit programs, and robust employer support programs. Safeguarding a healthy balance between federal service, family life, and civilian careers ensures the force remains resilient as it navigates structural and digital transformations. Federal mobilizations enrich the National Guard and the Commonwealth by returning an experienced and modernized force uniquely prepared to safeguard the Commonwealth and the nation.

Use of National Guard Resources by Federal Authorities

The state and federal missions of the Virginia National Guard are operationally and structurally inseparable. Because VNG personnel, infrastructure, and equipment are integrated under a dual-status framework, federal investments in national readiness directly sustain the Commonwealth's domestic emergency response capabilities. The unique dual-status framework of the Virginia National Guard (VNG) serves as a powerful economic driver for the Commonwealth of Virginia. This structure ensures that the federal government bears the vast majority of equipment, training, and infrastructure costs, leaving Virginia with a fully-equipped emergency response force at a fraction of the cost to taxpayers.

By hosting federal training operations, the VNG secures funding, training, and modernized equipment necessary to protect Virginia's citizens and bolster its local economies, demonstrating that national readiness translates into state resilience. During Fiscal Year 2026, federal military services heavily utilized VNG physical infrastructure, directly funding the continuous modernization of Virginia-owned installations. Federal operations at the Fort Pickett Maneuver Training Center, the Army Aviation Support Facility, Blackstone Army Airfield and the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach ensure that these training sites are continuously maintained and remain accessible to Virginia emergency management agencies. High-volume federal utilization directly supports the local economy across the Commonwealth.

Annual Federal Funding

Federal Fiscal Year 2026: The financial partnership between the VNG and federal authorities attracts hundreds of millions of dollars directly into the Virginia economy annually. In FY 2026, the federal government allocated $394 million to VNG operations, including $235 million for operations and maintenance that supports local state contractors, $145 million in military pay that directly supports National Guard Soldiers and families, and $14 million in military construction projects.

FY 2026 Federal Funding to the Virginia National Guard
Annually, the Virginia National Guard is in custody of over $4.6B in Federal assets
• $394M: Federal funds provided to the Virginia National Guard (VNG) during FY2026
▪ Operations and Maintenance: $235M
▪ Pay and Allowances: $145M
▪ Military Construction: $ 14M
• $1.8B: Value of Federal equipment/supplies issued to the VNG
• $2.4B: Value of real property the Federal government has out-granted to the VNG

Table 3, FY 2026 Federal Funding to the Virginia National Guard

Historical Data: Managed under the oversight of the United States Property and Fiscal Officer (USPFO) per 32 U.S.C. § 708, the VNG has custody of over $4.6 billion in total federal assets. Furthermore, through VNG Cooperative Agreements under 31 U.S.C. § 6305, the Commonwealth achieves an outstanding 7-to-1 rate of return, securing $899M in federal financial assistance since 2014 against a state contribution of only $116M.

Cooperative Agreements
Virginia achieves a 7X rate of return via VNG Cooperative Agreements • $899M: Federal financial assistance awarded to the VNG via 141 cooperative agreements since 2014. • $116M: Matching contributions Virginia reported since 2014 • $792K: Program income reported by Virginia since 2014 • 33: Open cooperative agreements supporting programs such as facilities operations and maintenance, construction projects, environmental, security, Commonwealth Challenge and Starbase.

Table 4. Cooperative Agreements

Unfunded Requirements:

The Virginia National Guard maintains a pipeline of future military construction requirements positioned for federal funding. Swift allocation of necessary state matching funds is vital to unlocking significant federal investment, mitigating severe cost escalation, and eliminating readiness deficiencies across the Commonwealth.

- **Completion of the Army Aviation Support Facility in Sandston, VA**
  - Estimated Federal Investment: $210M
- **Construct the 29th Infantry Division Headquarters at Fort A.P. Hill, VA**
  - Estimated Total Investment: $129M Total ($89M Federal | $40M State Match).
- **Construct the 192d Wing Headquarters at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA**
  - Estimated Federal Investment: $25M+ Federal (requires a $400,000 State Match).

Conclusion

During the reporting period, the Virginia National Guard successfully maintained stable personnel strength and leveraged substantial federal funding to support the Commonwealth. To maintain operational readiness and maximize federal matching opportunities, the Virginia National Guard requires consistent state support to address outstanding resource gaps in National Guard facilities sustainment and construction. Increased General Assembly support for state-level benefits to increase recruiting and retention will ensure the Virginia National Guard remains positioned to execute its dual missions to the Commonwealth and the nation.