

# District of Columbia National Guard



## FY 2010 and Beyond: Challenges and Opportunities

### Joint Force Headquarters

**Joint Training Site (JTS)** – The DC National Guard currently has no dedicated training site. A JTS would provide training not only to enhance the war fighting and domestic operations capabilities of our soldiers and airmen, but could serve local and federal first responders for training in a joint environment. The JTS would also provide a Continuity of Operations (COOP) site for Joint Force HQ-DCNG, DC Homeland Security / Emergency Management Agency, and possibly other Departments / Agencies. Given the strategic significance of the NCR and the vital importance of interoperability between our local, state and federal agencies, the JTS would be a key component of our homeland security mission.

**Capital Guardian Youth Challenge Program** – Since its inception in 2007, the Youth Challenge program has been reclaiming the lives of DC's at-risk high school dropouts by providing values, skills, education and self-discipline needed to produce responsible and productive citizens. Unfortunately, the Youth Challenge program does not have a training site located in DC and we are currently partnering with the Maryland National Guard at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. This site is about 71 miles from the DC metro area. One of the key aspects of the program is providing a mentor and job placements for our cadets. However, it is difficult to attract local mentors and job recruiters who are willing to share their valuable resources. Congress recently increased the federal match for the YC program from 60% to 75%. With this increase in funding and the public's awareness of this successful program, we anticipate even more at-risk youth participating and the eventual need to secure a permanent site in or closer to the DC metro area.

### Army National Guard

**Air Ambulance** – The U.S. Army began fielding the UH-72 Lakota helicopter to National Guard and active-duty units in 2008. The approximately \$5.5-million aircraft is replacing the UH-1 "Huey," a Vietnam vintage chopper that was flown by the 121st Medical Co. (Air Ambulance) stationed at Davison Army Airfield, Va. (Fort Belvoir, Va). The DCNG received 6 UH-72s in 2009. The new helicopter is a twin-engine, fully automated aircraft capable of a much higher performance than the UH-1 Huey or the OH-58 Kiowa. These aircraft are among the first of 200 new UH-72s that will be fielded to the National Guard over the next several years. There is a current need to increase the current UH-72A fleet from 6 to 10 in order to fully serve the National Capital Region. The DCNG currently has 9 UH-1 Hueys that carry 10 personnel each for a total capability of 90 personnel. The UH-72 carries 6 personnel, ultimately reducing the DCNG rotary wing capacity to 36 personnel.

### Air National Guard

**Fighters** – 121<sup>st</sup> Fighter Squadron currently has an aging fleet of 22 F-16C Fighting Falcons at Andrews AFB. These fighters continue to support the air sovereignty mission 24/7 for the NCR and Overseas Contingency Operations. These F16Cs must be retired by 2017, and without a replacement fighter the NCR will not be defended from the air. In the meantime and in order to ensure readiness, the F-16s could benefit from the following investments: Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems (HMCS), Center Pedestal Color Display, Integrated Radar Enhancements/Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radar, ALR-69/ALR-56M Radar Warning Receiver (RWR) Upgrades, Electronic Attack (EA) Pod Upgrades, and Advanced Targeting Pods / 4th Generation Upgrades.

**Airlift** – The 201<sup>st</sup> Airlift Squadron at Andrews AFB supports airlift requirements of CODELs, Special Air Missions, NGB and JOSAC. We currently operate 2 C-38s (Gulfstream 100s, 6 pax) and 3 C-40s (Boeing 737s, 34 pax). The C-38s are unreliable and inefficient. A modern, midsized replacement aircraft will significantly increase mission capability. Furthermore, to ensure the current and future readiness of the Air National Guard C-40 fleet, an additional C-40 aircraft will be needed.