

Adjutant General

Budget information

Wyoming Army National Guard	\$ 35,383,973
Wyoming Air National Guard	\$ 31,882,282
Administration	\$ 1,959,382
Wyoming Emergency Management Agency	\$ 3,461,226
Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery	\$ 138,518
Starbase	\$ 230,000
Education Assistance Program	\$ 665,000
Veterans Education	\$ 42,888
Veterans Affairs Commission	\$ 137,535
Total	\$ 73,900,804
Federal Funds	\$ 69,189,671
State Funds	\$ 4,244,384
Other Funds	\$ 466,749

Mission and philosophy

To defend and serve America and Wyoming.

Results of outcomes

The year began with a bang. The Wyoming Army National Guard hosted the first firing of the Multiple Launch Rocket System in the state at Camp Guernsey in July. The firing was part of Golden Thunder, a multi-state, multi-force training exercise coordinated between the Wyoming Army National Guard and the South Dakota Army National Guard. More than 3,000 troops from 33 units in 12 states trained for two weeks at Camp Guernsey during the exercise. The exercise successfully tested the abilities of the Wyoming Army National Guard to work with other Guard units, as well as active duty and reserve components.

The exercise illustrated the Wyoming Military Department's primary goal: Readiness. Providing a qualified workforce to meet community, state and federal missions remains of paramount importance to the departments within the agency.

The importance of readiness was further highlighted when the agency was tasked to serve Wyoming, its communities and the nation after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Wyoming National Guard personnel were activated for force protection missions in the 17 communities where the department is located.

The Wyoming Emergency Management Agency activated and staffed the State Operations and Coordination Center for 36 hours to better coordinate state agency efforts if the need to do so occurred.

C-130 aircraft from the Wyoming Air National Guard were the first to fly after the terrorist attacks to support national efforts to supply donated blood to

General information

Agency contact

Maj. Gen. Ed Boenisch, the adjutant general,
Wyoming National Guard
307/ 772-5234
5500 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82009-3320
ed.boenisch@wyngb.army.mil
<http://wyoguard.state.wyus>

Other locations

Armories are located in Afton, Casper, Cheyenne, Cody, Douglas, Evanston, Gillette, Guernsey, Lander, Laramie, Lovell, Powell, Rock Springs, Sheridan, Torrington, Wheatland and Worland.

The Wyoming Air National Guard base is in Cheyenne.

The Wyoming Emergency Management Agency (WEMA) has a calibration and maintenance facility in Cheyenne.

The Oregon Trail Veterans Cemetery is in Evansville.

The Veterans Affairs Commission is in Casper.

Year established and reorganized

The Wyoming Army National Guard, 1870; The Wyoming Air National Guard, 1946; The Wyoming Emergency Management Agency, 1950. The Wyoming Military Department was reorganized in 1986 and 1998.

Statutory references

Wyoming Statutes Title 19

Number of authorized personnel

Total: 2,976. 2,781 Wyoming Army and Air National Guard personnel, 195 state employees including 23 at WEMA, two at the Oregon Trail Veterans Cemetery and three at the Veterans Affairs Commission.

Organizational structure

Adjutant General's Office, Wyoming Army National Guard, Wyoming Air National Guard, Wyoming Emergency Management Agency, Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery, Veterans Affairs Commission

wounded New York City and Washington, D.C. victims. The aircraft continued to deliver mission essential items around the country until civilian aircraft again were cleared to fly.

Shortly after the terrorist attacks, Wyoming Army and Air National Guard personnel began augmenting security efforts at Wyoming's 10 commercial airports. The eight-month mission was in response to President Bush's request to the nation's governors to activate National Guard personnel to provide extra security for the traveling public. As a part of Operation Noble Eagle, the country's homeland security effort, more than 120 soldiers and airmen received specialized training to serve as part of the Cowboy Sky Guard mission at airports in Casper, Cheyenne, Cody, Gillette, Jackson, Laramie, Riverton, Rock Springs, Sheridan and Worland.

In December 2001, the Wyoming Air National Guard received its largest activation order since the Korean War. That order required five of its eight C-130 aircraft, aircrews, maintenance and support personnel to deploy to the Afghanistan area of operations as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Through June 2002, the group had successfully flown 4,221 hours and transported 8,871 people and 11.4 million pounds of equipment and supplies. Those six-month totals are higher than previous calendar year totals for all eight Wyoming Air National Guard C-130s.

In addition, seven members of the 243rd Air Traffic Control Squadron were deployed to Jacobabad, Pakistan for seven months to set up an airfield and provide air traffic control and radar operation for forces in the area.

The Wyoming Air National Guard also deployed 26 of its 153rd Security Forces Squadron personnel to McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas to augment security forces there. That mission was part of Operation Noble Eagle, America's homeland defense effort. Although only 26 members went to Kansas, the entire squadron was placed on active duty orders for at least one year.

A variety of other Wyoming Air National Guard personnel with backgrounds in communications, fuels, intelligence, supply, medicine and finance also deployed to support America's "Global War on Terrorism."

Although tasked heavily with America's response to Sept. 11, 2001, the Wyoming National Guard continued to meet its responsibilities to other areas of the world. The 153rd Civil Engineer Squadron sent 11 of its firefighters for 90 days to Kuwait as relief for active duty personnel participating in Operation Southern Watch. The 1022nd Medical Company completed a successful six-month rotation in Bosnia as part of the peacekeeping force there. That unit returned to Cheyenne in October.

To ensure the continued success of community, state and federal missions, the Wyoming Military

Department remained focused first and foremost on collective and individual training.

Training continued throughout the fiscal year, even though the Wyoming National Guard was heavily tasked with Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 115th Field Artillery Brigade participated in a divisional warfighting exercise in Hawaii in November. The simulated exercise was built around a European front and integrated brigade personnel with soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division (Light).

The 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery Regiment, took its soldiers to Canada for training. Training at an unfamiliar location is important to ensure battle skills remain at a high proficiency level.

The Wyoming Army National Guard ended the fiscal year with the same type of multi-force exercise with which it began the year. Joint Thunder was similar in scope and size to Golden Thunder. June's Joint Thunder exercise brought 2,500 soldiers to Camp Guernsey from U.S. Army, Army Reserve and National Guard units around the country.

The Wyoming Emergency Management Agency coordinated BULLWHIP, a hazardous materials conference in Lander. The September conference, sponsored by the State Emergency Response Commission, educated local and state officials on topics ranging from bioterrorism to hazardous material transport.

Throughout the intense deployment and training schedules, the Wyoming Military Department ensured the responsibility to respond to community needs did not take a back seat.

In February 44 Wyoming National Guard personnel deployed to Salt Lake City to help with security at the 2002 Winter Olympics. The soldiers and airmen were part of the security detail at the busiest Olympic venue, Soldier Hollow.

The Veterans' Affairs Commission successfully implemented a program approved by the Legislature. The program allows qualified veterans of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and Desert Storm to purchase stickers for their vehicle license plates identifying the owner as a veteran. Proceeds help support the efforts of the commission.

Wyoming's lawmakers signed legislation allowing the agency to transfer real property it owns to other governmental agencies. That legislation paved the way for the agency to transfer the Riverton armory, a surplus building, to Fremont County's fair board ensuring community use of the building.

The Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery completed its comprehensive irrigation project and now is using North Platte River water to irrigate the cemetery grounds.

Wyoming Emergency Management Agency personnel trained more than 1,000 people around the state in a variety of emergency management and first responder courses. WEMA personnel also staffed a number of fires around the state, including

the Leroy fire near Wheatland and the Green Knoll fire in Grand Teton National Park.

The agency and the Wyoming Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve Committee recognized employers around Wyoming for their commitment to traditional National Guard soldiers and airmen activated after Sept. 11, 2001. Many employers continued to pay health insurance and offer other benefits to deployed employees. Wyoming state government was recognized in February for offering to pay any difference in salary for activated personnel.

The agency's counter drug personnel aided law enforcement officials in their efforts to curb illegal drug trade in Wyoming. The group flew more than 50 hours in support of local, state and federal law enforcement and community coalitions. Their efforts helped law enforcement personnel seize more than \$12 million in illegal drugs and make more than 100 arrests.

The state's Military Department's missions would be ineffective without appropriate equipment, technology, facilities and real property being ready and available to its personnel. In FY 02 the agency made significant progress in those areas.

The Col. John Zaysoff Combined Maintenance Facility was occupied in August. The \$13 million, 92,651 square-foot facility houses three separate tenants; the Combined Support Maintenance Shop, the Unit Training Equipment Site and the Organizational Maintenance Shop No. 5. The new building is located on the east side of Camp Guernsey, a mile away from the 50-year old 26,000 square-foot building the three maintenance units used to occupy.

The Wyoming Air National Guard's 243rd Air Traffic Control Squadron also received a new home. The unit, which provides air traffic control and radar operations for the Cheyenne Airport moved into a state-of-the-art tower in May. The tower, built for \$1.8 million, \$1.45 million of which was federal dollars, moved the unit to the north side of the airport complex and put them 90 feet in the air. The tower's location ensures future airport developments will not interfere with the unit's ability to be successful in its mission.

Firefighting equipment purchased with money appropriated by the Legislature during FY 01 received its first use in FY 02. The Wyoming Army National Guard's UH-60A Blackhawk helicopter crews were able to fight wildland fires for the first time with three 660-gallon water buckets that hang 50 feet below the helicopters. Crews dropped more than 187,000 gallons of water on the Leroy Fire in August 2001. They also used the buckets to drop more than 100,000 gallons of water on two other Wheatland-area fires in 2002. The crews dropped 90,900 gallons on the Hensel Fire and 19,500 gallons on the Reese Fire. All three operations were carried out 6,000 – 9,000 feet above sea level.

Commitments with Operation Enduring Freedom kept Wyoming's C-130s from flying firefighting

missions during the summer of 2002. Trained Wyoming Air National Guard personnel did deploy to assist crews flying Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems, known as MAFFS, in C-130s assigned to California, Colorado and South Carolina military units. The Wyoming C-130s did fight fires in August 2001 when aircraft and crews deployed to the Channel Islands in California. While there, the two C-130s dropped more than 59,000 gallons of fire retardant on western fires.

Whether deployed as part of Operation Enduring Freedom or for a training exercise, the Wyoming National Guard personnel had an active year. During FY 02, 1,872 personnel deployed. That is a 63 percent increase over the 1,188 soldiers and airmen deployed in FY 01.

Strategic plan changes

Please refer to the Wyoming Military Department's strategic plan dated Sept. 1, 2002 for changes to the previous plan, dated Feb. 1, 2002.

Adjutant General organization chart

