

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS  
FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD

# Focused on the Future

Florida's Department of Military Affairs and National Guard are committed to emergency preparedness and community service missions



A STRATEGIC DETERRENT, AN OPERATIONAL FORCE AND AN IMPORTANT PART OF  
THE STATE'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM SERVING THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S REPORT  
F I S C A L Y E A R **2007**

# ADJUTANT GENERAL'S REPORT

# 2007



*Members of the Florida Air National Guard's 114th Range Operations Squadron, based at Patrick Air Force Base, prepare for a Minotaur 1 rocket launch during a recent U.S. Air Force Space Command satellite launch mission at Wallops Island, Va. The 114th provides mobile range safety, telemetry tracking and satellite communications for Air Force launch missions.*

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Florida Department of Military Affairs  
Florida National Guard



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**Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett**  
**Adjutant General of Florida**

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS  
FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD  
82 Marine Street  
St. Augustine, Florida 32084

The Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor of Florida  
The Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist:

It is my honor and pleasure to submit the Adjutant General's Report for Fiscal Year 2007 on behalf of both the Florida National Guard and the Department of Military Affairs. Together, we continue to provide for the defense of our homeland, fight the continuing war on terrorism, and supply vital assistance to our citizens and the state. The accomplishments described reflect the readiness, dedication, and professionalism of our citizen-Soldiers, Airmen, and employees.

This Report highlights our response to tornadoes which devastated the state in February 2007. It describes our efforts to provide assistance and support during the summer wild fires of 2007. We are also providing information on the exciting new construction projects underway at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. Finally, the Report contains a summary of both state and federal appropriated fund expenditures.

We stand ready to answer your call as our Commander-in-Chief and to assist in the defense of our nation. Your leadership and the support of Florida's Legislature are much appreciated. The entire Florida National Guard, our Families, and I say "thank you."

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas Burnett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DOUGLAS BURNETT  
Major General  
Florida National Guard  
The Adjutant General



## About the Department of Military Affairs

The department continues serving our state's military and their families. The department represents nearly 12,000 Florida National Guard members in the state and thousands more active duty and reserve military members and their families residing in our state. From military family readiness programs to services and support for Florida's reserve and National Guard military members, the Department of Military Affairs is a military member's advocate in Florida state government.

### Vision...

The Department of Military Affairs and the Florida National Guard: A high-performing organization, ready to meet the nation's call, committed to serve Florida's citizens.

### Mission...

The Florida National Guard and the Florida Department of Military Affairs provide highly trained military units and personnel to support national security objectives; to protect our citizens; and to support programs and initiatives which add value.

### Values...

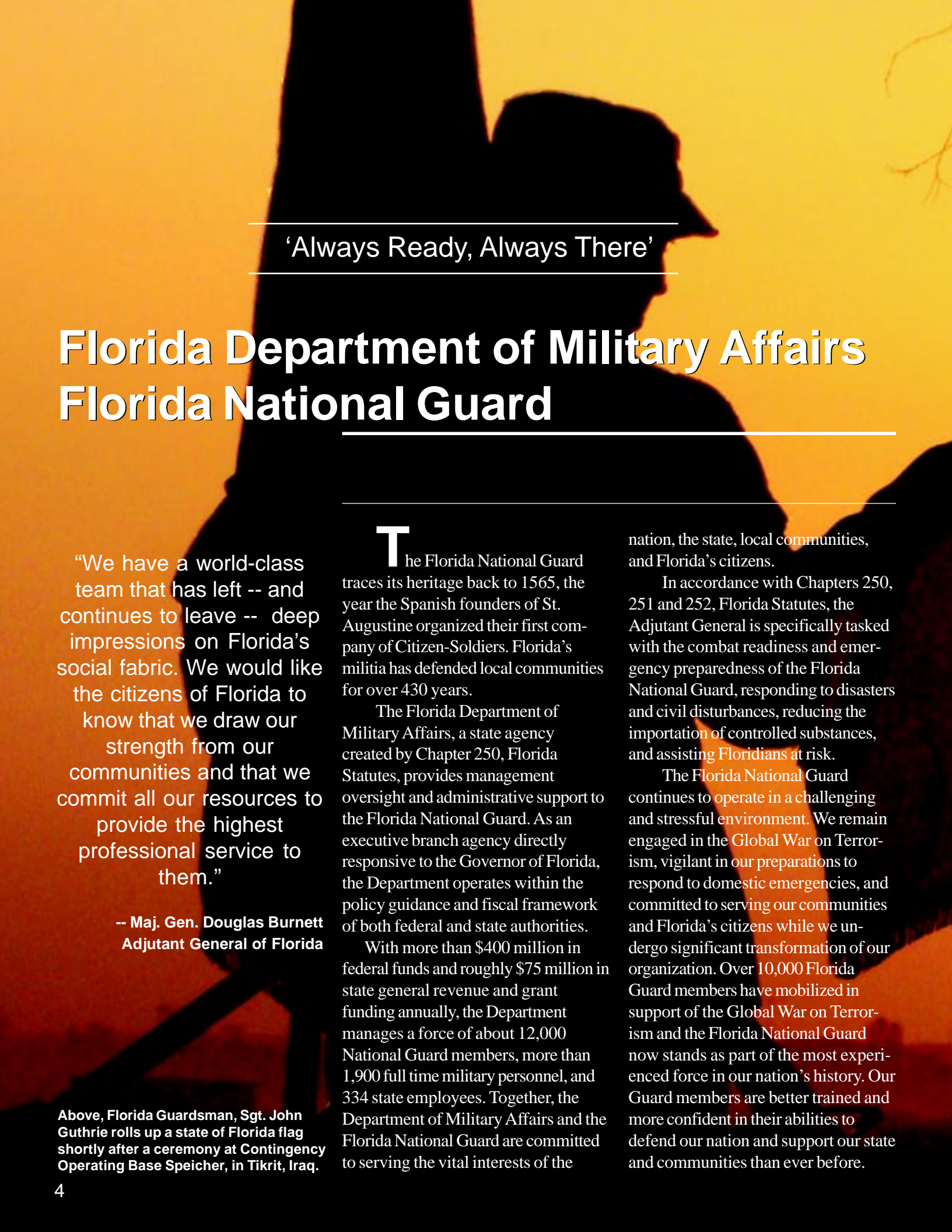
Our enduring values are aligned with those of the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force. Our values are:

Loyalty  
Duty  
Respect  
Selfless Service

Honor  
Integrity  
Personal Courage  
Excellence

...And commitment to our citizen-Soldier heritage.





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‘Always Ready, Always There’

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# Florida Department of Military Affairs Florida National Guard

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“We have a world-class team that has left -- and continues to leave -- deep impressions on Florida’s social fabric. We would like the citizens of Florida to know that we draw our strength from our communities and that we commit all our resources to provide the highest professional service to them.”

-- Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett  
Adjutant General of Florida

**T**he Florida National Guard traces its heritage back to 1565, the year the Spanish founders of St. Augustine organized their first company of Citizen-Soldiers. Florida’s militia has defended local communities for over 430 years.

The Florida Department of Military Affairs, a state agency created by Chapter 250, Florida Statutes, provides management oversight and administrative support to the Florida National Guard. As an executive branch agency directly responsive to the Governor of Florida, the Department operates within the policy guidance and fiscal framework of both federal and state authorities.


With more than \$400 million in federal funds and roughly \$75 million in state general revenue and grant funding annually, the Department manages a force of about 12,000 National Guard members, more than 1,900 full time military personnel, and 334 state employees. Together, the Department of Military Affairs and the Florida National Guard are committed to serving the vital interests of the

nation, the state, local communities, and Florida’s citizens.

In accordance with Chapters 250, 251 and 252, Florida Statutes, the Adjutant General is specifically tasked with the combat readiness and emergency preparedness of the Florida National Guard, responding to disasters and civil disturbances, reducing the importation of controlled substances, and assisting Floridians at risk.

The Florida National Guard continues to operate in a challenging and stressful environment. We remain engaged in the Global War on Terrorism, vigilant in our preparations to respond to domestic emergencies, and committed to serving our communities and Florida’s citizens while we undergo significant transformation of our organization. Over 10,000 Florida Guard members have mobilized in support of the Global War on Terrorism and the Florida National Guard now stands as part of the most experienced force in our nation’s history. Our Guard members are better trained and more confident in their abilities to defend our nation and support our state and communities than ever before.

Above, Florida Guardsman, Sgt. John Guthrie rolls up a state of Florida flag shortly after a ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, in Tikrit, Iraq.



However, this increased capability has come at a cost in terms of increased stress on the part of our families and employers. We remain dedicated to ensuring our forces are trained, equipped, and ready to support our citizens while we are committed to meeting the reasonable expectations of our Guard members and families during these challenging times.

We believe our key strengths include our grass roots connection to Florida's communities and the U.S. Army's and Air Force's increasing reliance on the National Guard. The continued threats of international and domestic terrorism, coupled with Florida's geographic exposure to natural disasters, will likely keep the Florida National Guard in a state of high operational tempo.

Our greatest opportunities are in providing better, more responsive service to Floridians in crisis.

The Department of Military Affairs and the Florida National Guard focus on military readiness to support the constitutional mission to provide ready forces for national service during peacetime and wartime.

In doing so, the Department

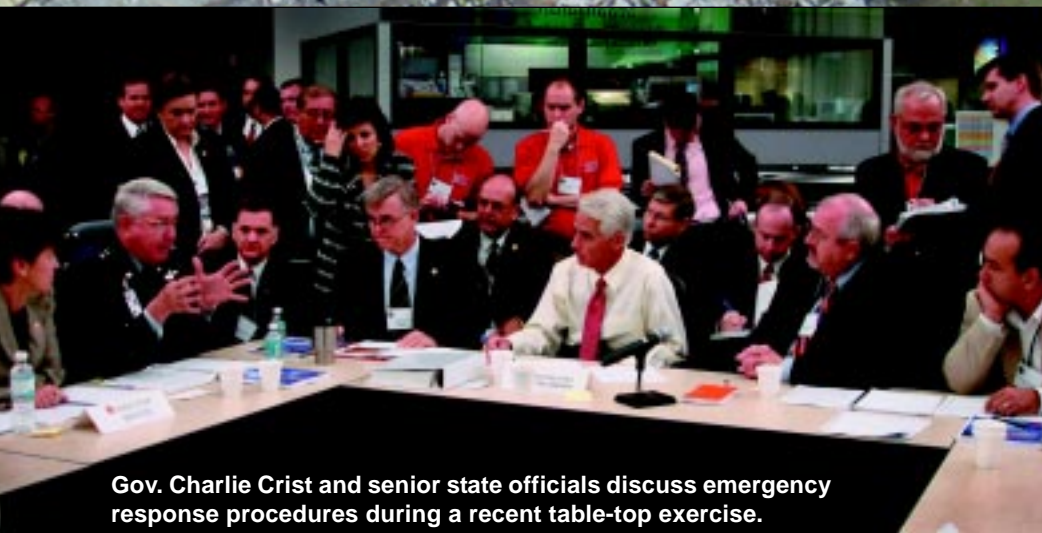
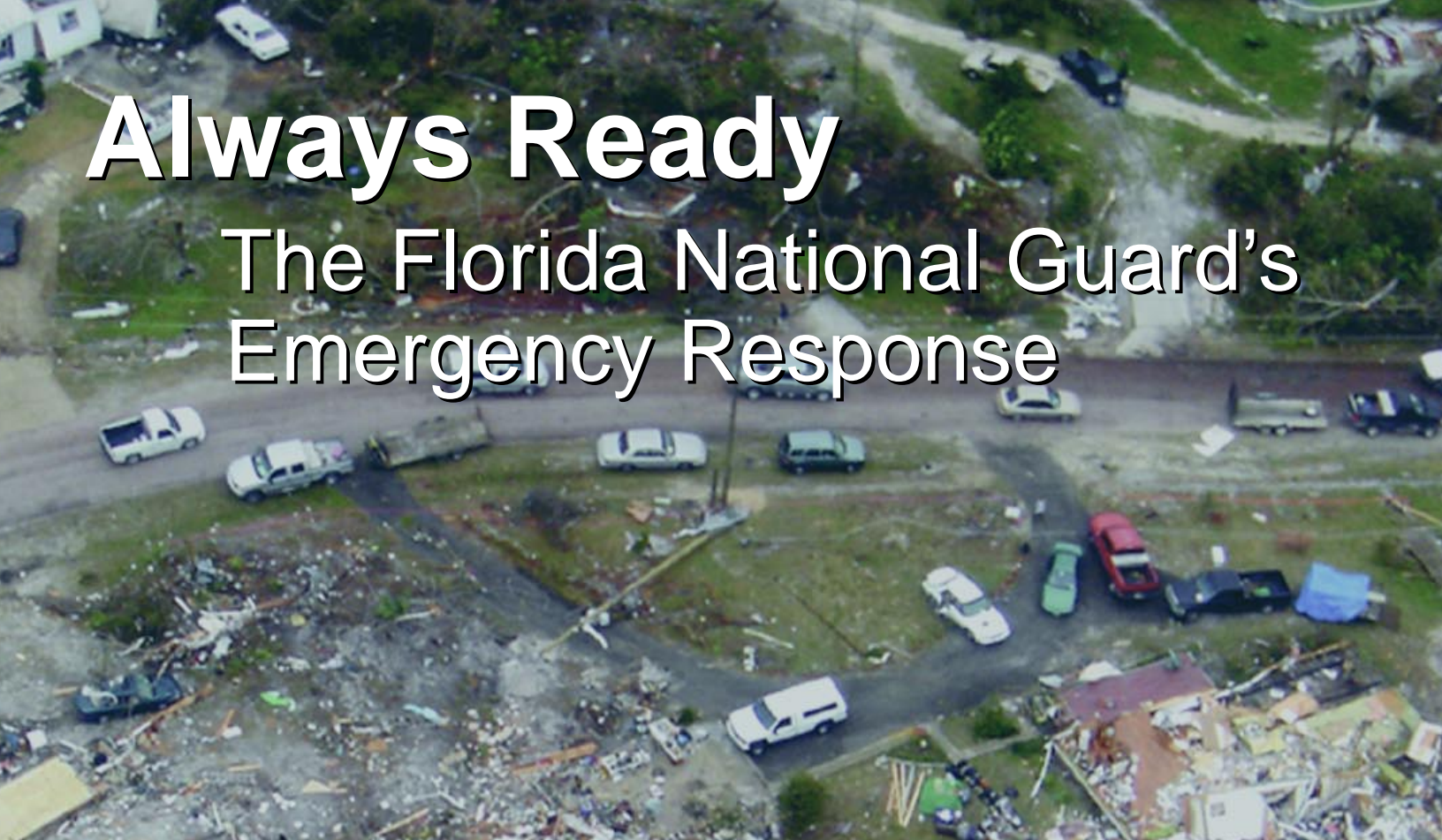
remains well-positioned to provide responsive assistance to state and local authorities in times of public need or crisis. In addition, the Department aggressively supports drug interdiction and demand reduction, and other programs that add value to the state and local communities. The Department's emphasis on readiness, response, and programs that contribute to Florida's communities provides the basis for the Department's long range plan which also directly and indirectly support the Governor's priorities.

In the following pages we describe the activities of the Department over the past fiscal year. We hope

this publication will provide some insight into the character of the men and women of the Florida National Guard. With our strong ties to an historic past, we will continue to focus on responsiveness to federal, state and local authorities, and our goal of being recognized as the best National Guard in the nation.

# Always Ready

## The Florida National Guard's Emergency Response



Gov. Charlie Crist and senior state officials discuss emergency response procedures during a recent table-top exercise.



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hile Florida experienced a relatively passive hurricane season in 2007, other disasters such as tornadoes and wildfires required the response of the Florida National Guard to assist state and local emergency responders.

On Feb. 2, tornadoes struck Lake, Sumter and Volusia Counties, killing 21 people and causing an estimated \$270 million in damage. Governor Charlie Crist declared a state of emergency in the affected counties, and the next day rode in a Florida National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to survey the damaged areas from the air. He also toured the devastated areas with Adjutant General of

“Our most important strength is our grass roots connection to Florida’s communities...and the state’s reliance on the National Guard because of the threats of international and domestic terrorism, coupled with Florida’s geographic exposure to natural disasters, will keep the Florida National Guard engaged in planning and training for every potential.”

-- Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett, Adjutant General of Florida





Above, Gov. Charlie Crist and Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett meet with local officials in the aftermath of the February tornadoes in Central Florida, as Florida Guard members provide assistance, left and below.



Florida, Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett and Federal Emergency Management Agency Director David Paulison.

“We’ve had a lot of hurricanes in the past few years in our state, but the intensity of these tornadoes is remarkable,” Gov. Crist said during a press briefing after touring the damaged sites.

The Florida National Guard dispatched more than 40 Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment, to assist in the recovery efforts by operating three ice and water distribution points in Lady Lake and Paisely, Fla. During the 11-day mission to support the recovery efforts, 172 Florida National Guard





The crew of a Florida National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter scoops up water from a pond while fighting the Bugaboo wildfire in northeast Florida in May.



personnel were activated for the emergency, totaling more than \$201,000 in operational costs.

In early May severe drought conditions created situations for wildfires to spread across the state, eventually burning more than 583,000 acres and affecting nearly every county in Florida. Beginning on June 6, the Florida National Guard assisted emergency responders in the fire suppression efforts; 152 personnel were activated for the wildfire mission, which lasted until June 15 and totaled more than \$2 million in operational costs.

During the response efforts, more than 60 volunteers from the 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade were activated to assist in wildfire suppression in north Florida by helping the Florida Division of Forestry and local firefighters battle spreading blazes. Additionally, helicopters from the Florida, Georgia and South Carolina National Guards were called in to help suppress raging wildfires near Daytona Beach.

The Soldiers on the ground crews assisted firefighters by searching for and dousing “hot spots,” areas still smoldering after a wildfire that could re-ignite if left unattended. Using hand tools and water, the Soldiers patrolled charred forests in



Members of the Florida National Guard trained as fire fighters at Camp Blanding to assist on the ground with “mop-up” operations in Northeast Florida.



north-central Florida and extinguished numerous hot spots during their state active duty missions.

After visiting wildfire sites on May 9, Gov. Crist lauded the Florida National Guard for its role in responding to the wildfires: “We’ve got a great team that is responding to this situation. I can’t emphasize enough how important that is, they are just tremendous heroes.”

National Guard Soldiers, on the other hand, considered the hazardous work as just another part of their duties to serve the citizens of Florida.

“This is the National Guard’s role; to help where we can,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Waudby, a non-commissioned officer in charge of one of the fire teams.

The Florida National Guard also supported other federal and state missions in Florida and the U.S. in 2007 in addition to state emergency operations.

The elite 44th Civil Support Team based at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center assisted throughout the year at professional sports games and NASCAR races in Florida, helping boost security efforts. The joint 22-person team has the equipment and expertise to identify chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive agents or substances.



They are trained to help incident commanders on site determine what to do in the event of an attack or disaster.

In February the 44th were part of security efforts at Super Bowl XLI in Miami, working with the Miami-Dade Police Department bomb squad, the FBI and other local, state and federal agencies.

“The mission is to support civil authorities,” explained Commander of the 44th CST Lt. Col. William Spengler. “Our normal mission is in response to domestic incidents involving chemical biological or

radiological materials. In this case we’ve got the NFL Super Bowl. It is a very high visibility event — a very lucrative target.”

Other missions included ongoing Counterdrug missions and support of the border security mission in the Southwest U.S. known as “Operation Jump Start.”



## ‘World-Class Training’ at Florida’s premier military training center



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Camp Blanding’s training environment is constantly improving as renovations continue on major facilities and construction is nearing the half-way point at the post’s Regional Training Institute

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“The brave men and women of the Florida National Guard are ready and willing to answer the call to serve at a moment’s notice here in Florida, or abroad protecting our freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan and this world-class facility enables Florida’s Army and Air National Guard to continue to protect freedom and the way of life we all enjoy.”

-- Governor Charlie Crist

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**C**amp Blanding Joint Training Center operates as a training facility for the Florida National Guard and a support base for statewide disaster response efforts. Federal, state and local training partners including all military branches and reserves components and National Guard units from others states, foreign militaries and law enforcement agencies also utilize the training center.

In addition, state agencies including the Division of Emergency Management, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Department of Management Services, Department of Corrections and the Division of Forestry hold training activities on the base. The base training schedule continues nearly year-round.

Combat skills training in the Florida National Guard has come a long way since the days of Guard members sitting in a small classroom and rehashing Cold War scenarios.

Today Soldiers and Airmen are deploying worldwide for highly technical and often-dangerous missions, so their level of training is increasing to keep them as proficient in their jobs as possible.

At Camp Blanding Joint Training Center that high level of training is being ensured through the construction of a new \$56.8 million Regional Training Institute (RTI).

Serving as the Florida National Guard’s primary in-residence education and training center, the new RTI occupies a 45-acre site with a state-of-



**An artist's rendition of the completed Regional Training Institute on Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. At left, the newly constructed conference center and, inset, the recently updated front entrance to the training center.**

the-art campus including education, housing, dining and administrative facilities.

“Everyone knows that Florida has the best training institute in the country,” said Lt. Col. Michael Calhoun, Commander of the 211th Regiment RTI. “Now with the new construction project and facilities, we will improve our world-class training even more.”

When the four-phase project is complete, the education facilities on Camp Blanding will include classrooms, auditorium, library, training simulation center, distance learning center, and physical fitness center. Dormitory facilities will provide 500-beds, student lounges and laundry facilities.

The construction project which began in the spring of 2006 is already in the middle of its second phase. The first phase, with included construction of more than 64,000-square-foot of classrooms, media center, and some of the dormitories, was completed last fall. Phase 2 will include more than 102,000 square-foot for a dining facility, administration building and a supply area.

According to the Construction and Facilities Management Office, the third phase of the construction project, which includes more classrooms and dormitories, could be completed by mid-2009.



**Above, the urban training site is a sought-after training area for both military units and law enforcement agencies. At left Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett speaks to students in the main class room of the Regional Training Facility.**



Youth ChalleNGe students march in formation at Florida's Youth ChalleNGe Academy at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center.

# Florida Youth ChalleNGe Academy

*Department of Military Affairs helps at-risk youth become productive citizens by providing skills, education and self-discipline in community-based mentoring*

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“Before I was accepted into Florida Youth ChalleNGe Academy (FLYCA), I was on a one way road to prison or worse... I was only in the 9th grade and I had already dropped out. I was taking prescription drugs and ending up in the hospital for overdosing. Since I graduated I have been accepted into Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology. I would like to thank all of the FLYCA staff for all of the help and encouragement that has gotten me this far. If it wasn't for FLYCA I know I would either be in jail or dead...FLYCA gave me a new start in life, and I can't thank them enough for that.”

— Cadet Ty Carson, Class 11

In 1991, the Joint Armed Services Committee directed the National Guard to develop a plan to “add value to America” by providing values, skills, education and self-discipline using a military model. Under Public Law, the pilot program began in 1993.

There are 34 Youth ChalleNGe programs now established in 29 states and Puerto Rico.

Florida's Youth ChalleNGe Academy is run by the Florida Department of Military Affairs and the Florida National Guard. Here, 16- to 19-year-old high school dropouts encounter a rigorous five-and-a-half month residential phase, which is based on a military model.

Youth ChalleNGe is a community-based program that leads, trains and mentors at-risk youth so they become



**Florida Youth ChalleNge Academy students learn technical skills in academy classes as well as meet requirements for high school graduation.**



**Gov. Charlie Crist visited the academy at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center to view the students in action.**

productive citizens in America’s future. The purpose is aimed at promoting adult responsibility, values and basic lifestyle changes.

Each youth experiences a demanding, highly regimented, motivational climate covering the core components of academic excellence, community service, job skills, leadership, life-coping skills, physical fitness and health education.

Since Florida’s program began in 2001, 1,586 cadets from 57 counties have graduated from the residential phase of

the program. Upon graduation all of the students are required to enroll in some form of higher education, working, or serve in the military.

Youth ChalleNge’s budget for 2007 was \$3,500,000. Sixty percent of this amount is provided by federal funding and the remaining forty percent comes from the state of Florida.



Law enforcement agencies from across the state use training facilities at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center.

## ***Serving our Communities***

***The Department of Military Affairs law enforcement training curriculum offers opportunities for law enforcement and public safety officers and outreach programs provide discipline, direction and inspiration for Florida's 'at-risk' youth***

### **Florida National Guard Counterdrug Program**

The Florida National Guard Counterdrug Program is a vital member of a coalition of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and local community partners which are involved in a multi-front battle against the manufacture and distribution of illegal narcotics and narco-terrorist activities. The mission of the Florida National Guard (FLNG) Counterdrug Program is to provide comprehensive, professional and responsive military support to

these anti-drug law enforcement agencies and community based organizations to assist in reducing the supply and demand for illegal drugs within Florida and the nation. The programs three principle elements are Drug Supply Reduction, Drug Demand Reduction, and Training with ancillary oversight of the FLNG internal substance abuse program. The Florida Counterdrug Program is a Joint Forces organization, which in FY07 was staffed with 126 Army National Guard Soldiers and 20 Air National Guard Airmen (of which seven were deployed) utilizing specialized technology and enhanced facilities uniquely paired to their respective areas of operation within the state.

#### **Drug Supply Reduction**

Drug Supply Reduction Support stems the flow of illegal narcotics into the United States and throughout the state of Florida. With its highly diversified assets, the program provides expertise ranging from intelligence analyst case work and language translation to surface, sub-surface and aerial reconnaissance support in a multitude of locations throughout the state. The Florida Counterdrug Program provides support to numerous federal, state and local law enforcement agency locations throughout the state.

Program intelligence analysts and linguists serve at a myriad of law enforcement locations throughout the state. These personnel are specifically positioned to maximize shared benefits of their





uniquely specialized skills and ensure their efforts are focused on the current highest priority threats to our state and nation. The program's "on call" mission to support Drug Supply Reduction assets possesses the ability to operate statewide in support of all federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. These assets can provide the supported agency enhanced reconnaissance and observation capabilities through the use of technologically advanced communications equipment, sensors, and area observation cameras. Counterdrug divers support law enforcement agencies from a unique pool of Special Forces Combat Divers who perform sub-surface surveillance of ships in order to defeat drug trafficking organizations' use of parasitic devices, tow bundles, and other sub-surface concealment methods that may otherwise go undetected. Surface and air reconnaissance assets draw on unique military-oriented skills and equipment that law enforcement agencies typically do not possess. Specially trained reconnaissance personnel and aviators monitor activities in remote drug corridors. Uniquely configured OH-58 helicopters and C-26 fixed wing aircraft, with the latest in thermal imaging equipment, night vision devices, and high-tech communications suites, provide valuable counter-narcotics information and enhanced command and control capabilities to Florida's law enforcement community.

For fiscal year 2007, the Florida Counterdrug Program's Drug Supply Reduction efforts directly assisted local, state, and federal agencies with the location and seizure of cocaine, marijuana, heroin, methamphetamines, and ecstasy, along with various other illegal narcotics, as well as, vehicles, boats, and property used in trafficking or manufacture, resulting in more than \$3.9 billion in



illegal drugs and related assets removed from the streets of Florida.

### **Drug Demand Reduction (DDR)**

Since 1992, the Florida National Guard's Drug Demand Reduction mission has been providing support to community agencies throughout Florida. What began as a five-day prevention education effort directed toward 1,435 Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp Cadets in 10 schools, has expanded into a program that in 2007, reached 108,320 students across the state. Additionally, the mission supports community events with in-kind support through the use of our audio-visual and presentation equipment.



The Multi-jurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force training program provides unique training courses in all aspects of counterdrug law enforcement.