



VIEW*S* & VISIONS

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Joint Base West Virginia Creates Opportunities for Service to State and Nation

Major General James Hoyer, Adjutant General
West Virginia National Guard

Major General James A. Hoyer assumed the duties as The Adjutant General, West Virginia Joint Forces Headquarters-West Virginia on February 1, 2011. He provides command guidance and vision to the more than 6,500 citizen soldiers and airmen of the West Virginia Army and Air National Guard and supervises the day-to-day operations and management of the agency.

General Hoyer received his undergraduate degree from the University of Charleston and was commissioned in 1983 through a joint Reserve Officer Training Corps program with West Virginia State University. He earned a master's degree in management and public administration from West Virginia Graduate College and a master of science degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

He began his military career in the West Virginia National Guard as a Cavalry Officer. He attended the Special Forces Officer Qualification course and spent more than 14 years with the 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group. General Hoyer led the development of the West Virginia National Guard Counterdrug Task Force and the Joint Interagency Training and Education Center and its Center for National Response, a national-level operational and training capability for critical infrastructure protection and consequence response. General Hoyer's most recent assignment was Director, Joint Staff, West Virginia Joint Force Headquarters.

The April 2013 attack on Boston and the ricin letters sent to elected officials reinforces that threats against our nation are ever present. Our country will always need patriots to step forward and protect our nation and our way of life. The men and women of the West Virginia National Guard trace their history and mission to defend the homeland back to one of the original militia companies that formed the Continental Army. Joint Base West Virginia continues that tradition.

The Joint Base West Virginia concept leverages West Virginia ingenuity and capability to develop cost-effective, timely and capable solutions to address national security and homeland security gaps and needs. It also leverages the "dual mission" capability of the National Guard to meet the nation's security needs at home and abroad in a cost-effective manner. This vision is just what our country needs as we continue to face multiple, unique threats to the United States while, at the same time, we must address our nation's massive deficit.

Joint Base West Virginia is not just an idea, it is a reality. Every day, West Virginia National Guardsmen execute missions at home and abroad that are vital to our nation's defense.

Leading-edge programs are both improving our nation's security and reducing overhead costs. Examples of this unique capability include a state-of-the-art, one-of-a kind tunnel training complex, to train military and civilian first responders, and the Army's largest tire rebuild facility that saved the Department of Defense more than \$15 million in one year and recycled five million pounds of old tires.

Joint Base West Virginia and the West Virginia National Guard have a significant impact on West Virginia, while reducing our nation's defense costs. Recently added Joint Base West Virginia programs have created more than 140 jobs, with an economic increase of \$30 million to communities across the state. The West Virginia National Guard is 6,500 men and women strong, including a full-time staff of more than 2,500 people and an economic impact, in 2012, of \$454 million in payroll, goods, services and military construction.

One key component to the West Virginia National Guard's continued success is our commitment to higher and technical education.





West Virginia Guardsman performing a few of their many valuable duties

The Governor and West Virginia Legislature sponsor a robust tuition assistance program for the Guard that pays full tuition for any member attending qualified college or technical education programs in West Virginia. These Guardsmen are positioning themselves to become leaders in the workforce through a combination of education, military training and experience.

West Virginia National Guard members make up a very small percent of the state's population (less than 0.4 percent), yet they are among the most educated workers in the state. Currently, more than 46 percent of our members have, or are pursuing, a college degree. In addition, another 30 percent of our men and women have technical trade skills. Through education and training, we have created a world-class workforce.

Focusing our efforts on finding unique opportunities to serve our country and reduce costs has made the West Virginia National Guard a great place for men and women to find a lifelong career. Making the West Virginia Guard better for the next generation of patriots who choose to serve is our mission.

I am extremely proud of the dedicated men and women of the West Virginia National Guard who have created a world-class organization and every day make a difference in their nation and state! ▾