
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2020

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Department of Public Defense Military Division

Purpose and History

The Department of Public Defense Military Division is organized under the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. The State mission is the same for both the Army and Air National Guards and requires both to be trained and equipped to protect life and property, and to preserve peace, order, and public safety within Iowa borders. The federal mission of the Army National Guard is to provide units of the reserve components of the Army that are capable of participating in combat operations in support of the Army's war plans for mobilization in the event of national emergency or war. The federal mission of the Air National Guard is to provide trained units available for active duty in the United States Air Force in time of war or national emergency. The Iowa National Guard is subject to either federal or State authority, but not both at the same time.

The Air National Guard began in Iowa in 1941 and has three locations: Des Moines Air National Guard Base (132nd Wing), Sioux City Air National Guard Base (185th Air Refueling Wing), and the Fort Dodge Air Guard Station (133rd Test Squadron). The Army National Guard began in Iowa in 1838 as the Iowa Territorial Militia and is headquartered at Camp Dodge in Johnston.

Funding

Approximately 97.0% of the funding received by the Military Division is provided from the federal government, and the remaining 3.0% is provided from State funds. The federal-to-State ratio of money spent is \$33 to \$1. The General Fund appropriation for the Military Division provides for units and equipment to protect life and property, to preserve peace and order, and to ensure public safety for the citizens of Iowa. State General Fund appropriations are used to match federal funds at several different rates (25.0%/75.0%; 15.0%/85.0%; 50.0%/50.0%).

Home Base Iowa

Home Base Iowa is a project to connect returning veterans and transitioning service members with job opportunities, education opportunities, or continued service through the National Guard or Reserves in Iowa. The Home Base Iowa Act (enacted during the 2014 Legislative Session) included the following provisions:

- Military Pension Tax Exemption (military pensions exempt from State income tax).
- Military Homeownership Assistance Program (provides \$5,000 in down payment or closing cost assistance).
- Veterans hiring preference (clarifying legality for State government as well as private employers).
- Streamlined occupational licensure (credit for military training and experience as well as spousal licensure).
- Education grants (resident tuition provided to veterans and their spouses and dependent children at Regents institutions; resident tuition rates have been requested at Iowa's community colleges).

More Information

Department of Public Defense: www.iowanationalguard.com/SitePages/Index.aspx
LSA Staff Contact: Christin Mechler (515.281.6561) christin.mechler@legis.iowa.gov

- License plates (free for those eligible for veteran-related plates).

Federal Cooperative Funding Agreements for Service Operations and Maintenance Agreements

These agreements between the federal government and Iowa provide for maintenance and operation of authorized facilities. The agreements provide for the joint sharing of annual costs at various rates ranging from 10.0% to 50.0%, for the Iowa portion. Under the terms of the agreements, Iowa pays the costs and is reimbursed a percentage ranging from 50.0% to 100.0%. Service agreements provide reimbursements to Iowa for operations and maintenance costs incidental to the following installations:

- Des Moines Air National Guard Base.
- Sioux City Air National Guard Base.
- Fort Dodge Air National Guard Base/Communications Site.
- Armories constructed on federal land.
- Facilities in support of the federal mission.

Training site facilities for operation and maintenance receive federal reimbursement for costs in connection with annual field training and weekend training for the Iowa National Guard.

The Air National Guard Security Guard contract authorizes Iowa to provide security and law enforcement for Air National Guard facilities located at Des Moines and Sioux City. Expenses are paid by the State and reimbursed 100.0% by federal funds.

Military Division Standing Unlimited General Fund Appropriation

Iowa Code section 29A.29 provides for payment of compensation to Iowa military personnel and expenses of Iowa military forces, as authorized in Iowa Code section 29A.27, from the State treasury if not otherwise appropriated.

National Guard Facilities Improvement Fund

The Fund was established effective July 1, 1981 (FY 1982). Revenue in the Fund includes receipts from the operation or leasing of facilities located at Camp Dodge and the sale of real estate belonging to the Department of Public Defense. The Fund can only be used for construction, improvement, modification, maintenance, and repayment of costs related to National Guard facilities. The Fund cannot be used for the construction of new armories without prior approval of the General Assembly.

Military Operations Fund

The Fund was established effective July 1, 1981 (FY 1982). Revenue in the Fund includes rental proceeds from leasing armories when the lease does not interfere with the use of the armory for military purposes. Each armory has an account for deposit of armory rent revenue. The revenue credited to each account is for maintaining, improving, and repairing the armory facility and utility payments.

Major Maintenance Fund

The Fund receives appropriations from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund and is used for facilities as major maintenance needs arise.

Capital Improvement Requests

Capital requests are for specific projects not handled by funds appropriated to the Major Maintenance Fund, such as a completely new facility or major renovation of a specific facility. Funds have been appropriated from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [29A](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [611](#)

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