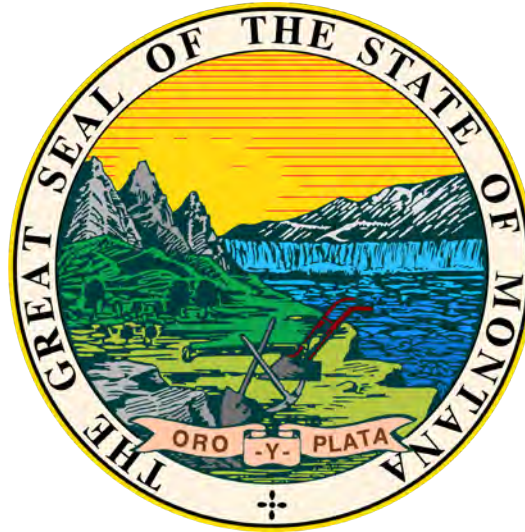


Department of Military Affairs

State Administration Veteran's Affairs Interim Committee Agency Update



Brigadier General Trenton Gibson

The Adjutant General

July 9, 2026



Department of Military Affairs Leadership



DIRECTOR – THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Brigadier General Trenton G. Gibson



DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Brigadier General Renea Dorvall

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



Chief Financial Officer
Janae Grotbo



Chief Human Resource Officer
Damien Maricich



Chief Information Officer
Mike Paulsen-Fuller

DIVISIONS



MTNG Youth Challenge
Melissa Robbins



STARBASE
Kara Tangedal



Disaster & Emergency Services
Delila Bruno



MT Veteran Affairs
Matt Young



**Army National Guard
Construction & Facilities Management Office**
Matthew Dorrington



**Air National Guard
Base Civil Engineer**
Lt Col James Miller





Montana National Guard Leadership

Montana National Guard Command Team



Brigadier General
Trenton Gibson



Command Sergeant Major
Keith Deboo

Montana Air National Guard Command Team



Brigadier General
Trace Thomas



Chief Master Sergeant
Amber Westie

Director of Joint Staff



Brigadier General
Michael Moreni

Montana Army National Guard Command Team



Brigadier General
Renea Dorvall



Command Sergeant Major
Dennis Mora



Disaster & Emergency Services

Operational Mission: Serving Montanans before, during, and after disasters



Currently Managing
19
Mitigation Projects



24/7

Coordination through the State
Emergency Coordination Center
(SECC) and Duty Officer Call Line

50 Average Calls/Month
25% Result in Incident Reports



In 2026, the SECC was
Activated 80+ Days
for
6+ Incidents



4 Missions

Preparedness

Response

Mitigation

Recovery



Currently
administering
\$125M
in federal grants



48 Flood
40 Wind

Disaster recovery
projects from
December storms



Montana Veteran Affairs Division

Montana Serving Veterans

Values: Advocacy, Guidance, Respect, Access, Honor

- ★ Administration Office
 - ★ 5 Employees
 - ★ Handles accounting, budgeting, marketing, strategic planning, and oversight.
- ★ Veteran Services Bureau
 - ★ 31 Employees
 - ★ Provides veteran advocacy, resource connections, statewide outreach, and obtaining benefits.
- ★ Veteran Cemetery Bureau
 - ★ 10 Employees
 - ★ Provides dignified burial services and the perpetual care of gravesites.

Established in 1919



Outreach conducted to 43 counties in fiscal year 2026



Estimated 85k veteran population in Montana





Montana Youth Challenge Academy



YEARS OF
OPERATION

27

TWO SESSIONS
PER YEAR

50+
STAFF

LOCATED ON
UMW
CAMPUS
DILLON, MT

12 MONTH
FOLLOW-UP

GRADUATES TO DATE

4,501



24/7 OPERATION



MISSION

ASSISTING MONTANA'S AT-RISK YOUTH, 16-18, WITH DEVELOPING THE PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND EDUCATIONAL SKILLS NEEDED TO BECOME PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS



VISION

TO BE THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL SETTING FOR PROMOTING THE SUCCESS OF MONTANA'S AT-RISK YOUTH



15 CREDIT COLLEGE
LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE

INCREASED PARTNERSHIPS

Beaverhead Co. Chamber
Bee Havin Community Garden
Butte Native Wellness Center
Confederated Salish &
Kootenai Tribal Affairs
Early Childhood Coalition
iFlyBigSky
Outdoor Learning & Growing Assoc.
Montana Red Cross



OVER
10

JOB/TRADE SKILLS
AND VOCATIONAL
OFFERINGS PER YEAR

11,544

SERVICE HOURS
COMPLETED BY CADETS
IN SFY 2026





STARBASE Montana Program

VISION

To be Montana's premier STEAM outreach program, building confidence, curiosity, and career readiness among future generations.



AS OF JULY 2026,
STARBASE HAS SERVED
33,279
MONTANA YOUTH
SINCE 2007

STARBASE MONTANA
SITES INSTRUCT AN
AVERAGE OF
2,000
STUDENTS EACH YEAR

OF 306 GRADUATING SENIORS IN
GREAT FALLS & HELENA 2025

90%
STILL FEEL THEIR TIME IN
STARBASE WAS
VALUABLE

32%
PLAN TO PURSUE A STEM
OCCUPATION DIRECTLY BECAUSE
OF THEIR TIME AT STARBASE

MISSION Inspire Montana youth through hands-on STEAM education, exposing students to science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics while connecting them with positive civilian and military role models.



Montana Army National Guard



- Diverse Force Structure – 41 units stationed in 14 communities across Montana
- Army Transformation Initiative: 1st Battalion, 163rd Cavalry is now 1st Battalion, 163rd Infantry
- A tank crew from C Company, 1-163rd INF placed 3rd in the Sullivan Cup
- Combat and other Training Center Exercises in 2026
 - 260th Engineer Company / 230th Engineer Company Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) project at the American Legion Park Culbertson, MT
 - A Company, 372nd Division Sustainment Support Battalion and 631st Chemical Company to Northern Strike joint exercise in Camp Grayling, MI
- Deployments:
 - 190th Chemical Reconnaissance Detachment
 - 1 Team – PACIFIC COMMAND (Returned in June)
 - 1 Team - EUROPEAN COMMAND (Fall 2025)
 - 1052nd Fire Fighting Group - EUROPEAN COMMAND (2026)
 - Detachment, 1-189th AVN – NORTHERN COMMAND (2026)
 - Freedom 250 – Logistics Support Team (2026)
- Search and Rescue (SAR) – Aviation units conducted 4 SAR in 2026
- Transported and provided MT State Prison 830K gallons of water
- Counter Drug supported Anaconda Manhunt and Law Enforcement seizures (drugs, cash, weapons, vehicles) \$14.5M





State Partnership Program



- Montana National Guard has partnerships with 4 nations:
 - Kyrgyzstan – since 1996
 - Turkmenistan – since 2021
 - Sri Lanka – since 2021
 - Maldives – since 2022
- The State Partnership Program (SPP) conducts 40+ security cooperation events annually across two combatant commands.
- The MTNG SPP is lead planner and implementor for several Component Command (3-star command) exercises. Black Marlin in Maldives (May)
Ak Shumkar in Kyrgyzstan (JUN)



MTNG conducts military firefighting engagement in Sri Lanka



TAG signs official SPP MOU with Sri Lanka



MTNG conducts Urban SAR training



MTNG conducts CBRN engagement in Kyrgyzstan



Montana Air National Guard



• 120th Airlift Wing

- As of 1 June 2026, officially in conversion status: converting from 8 C-130H Hercules to 8 C-130J models with first A/C estimated to arrive Feb. 2027
- 95% of aircrew in training or completed training
- Maintenance training to start October 2027
- Air Mobility Command (AMC), Combat Readiness Inspection (CRI): 23 June - 1 July 2026
- 15 personnel currently deployed to CENTCOM
- Operating at 99% end strength: 816 of 825 Airman assigned
- Missions: Tactical Airlift, Aeromedical, Base Operating Support, Natural disaster relief, Wildland firefighting



• 219th REDHORSE

- Construction and Engineering capabilities/equipment
 - Horizontal (Asphalt / Concrete)
 - Vertical (Structural construction)
- DRBS – Disaster Relief Bed-Down System
- Operating at 112% end strength at 140 personnel assigned with a projected increase to 178 by FY27
- \$100M Military Construction project programmed to support construction of new compound on Malmstrom AFB



Questions?

