

## **HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

The Partnership is acutely aware of the critical need to be prepared for, respond to and recover from both natural and human-caused disasters and understands that government cannot carry this burden without active involvement of the private sector. It is imperative that businesses have access to the necessary tools and information for maintaining continuity in the event of a disaster. It is also important for the business community to work with governments at all level to foster active public-private partnerships and develop strategies to protect the nation's critical infrastructure, facilitate information sharing and spur public-private engagement to effectively manage all types of hazards. The Partnership will continue to support the efforts of and engage with the Safeguard Iowa Partnership, the U.S. Chamber National Security, Emergency Preparedness Department and others to continue to develop public-private partnerships with the federal, state and local governments to enhance homeland security and emergency preparedness efforts.

### **U.S. DISTRICT COURTHOUSE EXPANSION**

The Partnership supports the construction of new Federal Courthouse facilities for the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Iowa.

The present U.S. Courthouse in Des Moines is more than 80 years old. In a 2010 Feasibility Study, the General Services Administration (GSA) concluded that construction of a new Courthouse was the most viable option for addressing the current facility's deficiencies. The Judicial Conference of the United States updated its Courthouse Project Plan in 2014, moving the Des Moines courthouse from 13th to 4th place. In late 2015, a federal funding bill was signed by President Obama that included \$950 million to fund eight courthouse projects nationwide, including the Courthouse for the Southern District with a \$137 million budget.

The Partnership will work with the GSA to ensure that a new courthouse in Des Moines will not only better serve the public, but will also serve as an economic catalyst for downtown redevelopment, foster an amenity in the community and incorporate sustainable design principles that will serve Iowans for the next 100 years.

### **IOWA NATIONAL GUARD**

The Partnership supports the Home Base Iowa Initiative and encourages Congress to pass legislation and encourage the Administration to provide greater opportunities for veterans.

In the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), a provision was included to require the conversion of certain Title 32 National Guard military technicians into non-uniformed Title 5 federal civilian employees. This change has the potential to significantly change the availability of the Iowa National Guard to respond to emergencies across the state. The full-time force in the National Guard ensures the readiness of the force. Accordingly, readiness translates to a well-trained and well-equipped organization ready to respond overseas and at home. This public protection is a significant resource to states' Governors in times of great need. The command authorities of these service members must reside in the state, though the change offered in the NDAA changes this structure.

The Partnership supports the Governor and Adjutant General's efforts to modernize the Technician Act for all technicians and minimize those current technicians set to convert to only those that do not greatly impact military readiness.

### **ARMY NATIONAL GUARD**

The NDAA of 2011 directed the Army to conduct a study of the Army National Guard's (ARNG) Readiness Centers, formerly known as Armories. The ARNG conducted a nationwide study that resulted in a master plan submitted to Congress in 2015. The plan, known as the Readiness Center Transformation Master Plan (RCTMP), found that current programmed funding is insufficient to prevent nationwide cumulative failure by 2027. The ARNG is seeking additional funding for FY 2018 as an initial payment towards a fifteen-year implementation plan with a total cost of \$28.48 billion, for which the Iowa portion total is \$458.4 million for Iowa's 38 projects.

The Partnership urges Congress to implement the RCTMP, thus supporting quality infrastructure for the readiness of the Army National Guard.

### **AIR NATIONAL GUARD**

The Partnership supports recruiting technical companies to the Des Moines area that are attracted by the increased STEM expertise that is available at the Iowa Air National Guard 132d Wing (132d Wing). With careers in unmanned aircraft systems, cyber operations, imagery analysis, weather, communications networking and biomedical specialists, the 132d Wing is key in providing superior skills training to high school and college graduates that can be put to use by local businesses.

The Partnership also supports adding both equipment and manpower to the 132d Wing to increase support to government and private emergency management response. Two such capabilities would include basing the MQ-9 Reaper aircraft at the Des Moines International Airport to provide unmatched disaster assessment and awareness to responders, and an Air National Guard Prime Power capability to provide critical generator power during disaster response. These capabilities would complement the existing equipment and training that allow the 132d Wing to provide support in the areas of cyber incident response, debris clearance, fatality search and recovery, urban environment search and rescue, command and control support, mobile kitchen and meal support, civil disturbance support and incident assessment through the use of the RC-26 Metroliner aircraft and imagery analysts.

At an FY 2016 economic impact of \$103.7 million through payroll, expenditures, education and jobs that benefit the Des Moines Metro and the State of Iowa, The Partnership values the 132d Wing and its contributions to the nation.