



Communications Office

# The City of Morgantown

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March 16, 2012

## Details of W.Va. National Guard Readiness Center Groundbreaking Updated

*Work is still on schedule, and the project remains on schedule for completion in May 2013.*

MORGANTOWN – The City of Morgantown and the West Virginia National Guard have coordinated to hold the West Virginia National Guard Groundbreaking Ceremony on March 19, 2012, at the Morgantown Municipal Airport.

Many local officials are invited to attend, including Morgantown City Council and Mayor Jim Manilla, Morgantown City Manager Terrence R. Moore, and Monongalia County Commissioner Asel Kennedy. West Virginia Joint Forces Adjutant General, Major General James A. Hoyer, and Governor Earl Ray Tomblin round out the Distinguished Party speaking at the Groundbreaking. Representatives from Congressman David McKinley and Senator Joe Manchin’s offices are also expected.

This event is not open to the public, but press is encouraged to attend. In order to follow the attached schedule as closely as possible, please plan on arriving at the Morgantown Municipal Airport ARFF Reception Area no later than 3:15 p.m. (The ARFF Reception Area is the conference room on the first floor of the Airport Directors Office Building.) Guests will be ferried a la ground bus from the ARFF Reception Area, across the tarmac, and to the Groundbreaking Site starting at 3:15 p.m. The Distinguished Party will be on the last trip from the ARFF Reception Area to the Groundbreaking Site at approximately 3:45 p.m.; *after the Governor arrives and is shown to the Groundbreaking Site, the bus will not make a return trip until after the ceremony is over.*

Following the groundbreaking, a Press Opportunity with the Local Official Party will be made available at the ARFF Reception Area.

The readiness center itself will be built on approximately 35 acres of land and serve to house elements of the West Virginia Army National Guard and support training and logistical missions for the 249<sup>th</sup> Army Band, Battery B, 1201<sup>st</sup> FA Battalion and elements of the 1201<sup>st</sup> FSC.

State additions include office space for the Veterans’ Administration and a performance auditorium for the band.

City Manager Terrence R. Moore gave an update on progress at the Readiness Center site this week after speaking with leadership from the WVNG and the project contractor, Massaro, Inc.: “Work continues to satisfy West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection permit requirements for stormwater control and

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(con't.)

management activities, [and] the City of Morgantown has been advised that the project remains on schedule for completion circa May 2013.”

The Readiness Center is being built to replace the 1970s-era National Guard site that is currently operating on Mileground Road. It is said to lack adequate administrative storage, and training areas, and is also landlocked, which offers no room for expansion.

*If you have questions, please contact Morgantown Municipal Airport Director Michael Clow in his office Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 291-7461, or Public Communications Manager Susan Sullivan Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at 290-5274.*

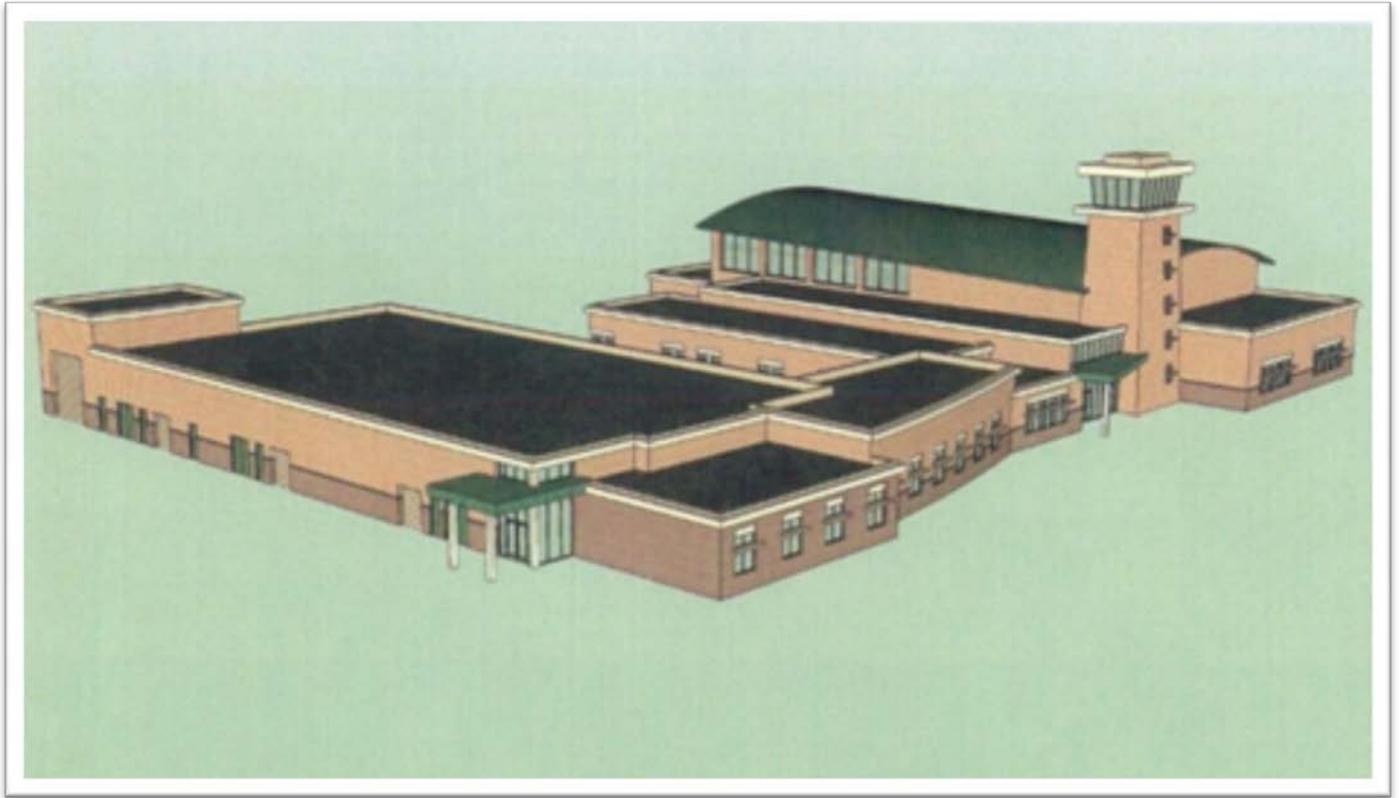
**Attached:**

**Morgantown Readiness Center Fact Sheet**

**Distinguished Speaker Biographies**

**Groundbreaking Schedule**

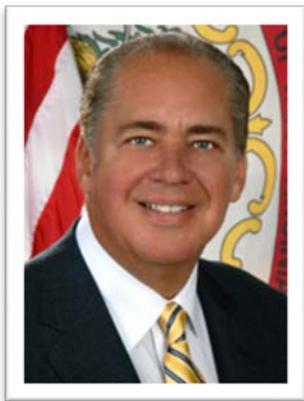
## ***Morgantown Readiness Center Fact Sheet***



- **Location:** Morgantown Municipal Airport Airfield
- **Cost:** \$20.5 million
  - \$1.6 million paid by State
- **Size:** 58,520 square feet
- **Units Supported:**
  - B Battery, 1/201<sup>st</sup> FA
  - Det 2, 1201<sup>st</sup> FSC
  - 249<sup>th</sup> Army Band
- **Drilling Personnel:** 111
- **Estimated Completion Date:** Spring 2013
- **Architecture and Engineering:** ZMM of Charleston, WV
- **General Contractor:** Massaro, Pittsburgh, PA
- The Morgantown Readiness Groundbreaking is just one of two that occur on March 19. The Governor and the National Guard will attend the Moorefield Readiness Center Groundbreaking before flying to Morgantown.
- The Readiness Center will house elements of the West Virginia Army National Guard and support training and logistical missions for the 249<sup>th</sup> Army Band, Battery B, 1/201<sup>st</sup> FA Battalion and elements of the 1201<sup>st</sup> FSC
- State additions include office space for the Veterans' Administration and a performance auditorium for the band.
- Architecture is designed to reflect its location at a regional airport and gateway to Camp Dawson.

## ***Biographies***

### **Governor Earl Ray Tomblin**



Earl Ray Tomblin is West Virginia's 35th Governor. He was born March 15, 1952, in Logan County. He received his undergraduate degree from West Virginia University, an M.B.A. from Marshall University and attended the University of Charleston.

A self-employed businessman and former school teacher, Governor Tomblin was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1974 at the age of 22 and held that position until he was elected to the West Virginia Senate in 1980. Governor Tomblin was the longest serving Senate President, a position he has held from 1995 until he was elected Governor of West Virginia in 2011. He was named the state's first Lieutenant Governor in 2000. He has dedicated his professional career to public service for the betterment of West Virginia.

As Lieutenant Governor, he was called upon to fulfill the state's highest office when then Governor Manchin resigned the position to fill the unexpired term of U. S. Senator Robert

C. Byrd. Governor Tomblin won the October 4, 2011 special gubernatorial election to fulfill the remainder of the unexpired term of former Gov. Manchin. Earl Ray Tomblin was sworn in as the 35th Governor of West Virginia on November 13, 2011.

Governor Tomblin enjoys a variety of outdoor activities, including riding ATV trails and gardening. He is a committed family man and has been married for 31 years to the former Joanne Jaeger. They have one son, Brent. (Courtesy: [WV.gov](http://WV.gov))

### **Major General James A Hoyer, Adjutant General, West Virginia Joint Forces Headquarters**



Major General James A. Hoyer assumed the duties as The Adjutant General, West Virginia Joint Forces Headquarters-West Virginia on 1 February 2011. As the Adjutant General, State of West Virginia, he provides command guidance and vision to the West Virginia Army and Air National Guard of more than 6,000 Citizen Soldiers and Airmen. He provides the overall supervision of the day to day operations and management of the readiness, fiscal, personnel, equipment and the real property resources 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. General Hoyer began his military career in the West Virginia National Guard as a Cavalry Officer. He attended the Special Forces Officer Qualification course and spent over 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. (Courtesy: [National Guard Bureau](http://NationalGuardBureau))

***West Virginia National Guard Readiness Center Groundbreaking  
March 19, 2012***

***Pre-Ceremony Schedule***

**3 p.m.** - Invited Guests and media begin to arrive at Morgantown Municipal Airport ARFF Reception Area on the first floor of the Airport Directors Office Building.

**3:15 p.m.** – Invited Guests and media begin to be escorted to the East Side Development Groundbreaking Site via bus.

**3:45 p.m.** – Distinguished Party and Guests escorted to East Side Development via bus for Groundbreaking Ceremony. This is the last trip the bus will make to the Groundbreaking Site until after the Ceremony is over.

***3:50 p.m. - Groundbreaking Ceremony***

Master of Ceremonies Terrence Moore introduces Mayor Jim Manilla

Master of Ceremonies Terrence Moore introduces County Commission President Asel Kennedy

Master of Ceremonies Terrence Moore introduces Major General James A. Hoyer

Major General James A. Hoyer introduces Richie Parsons, representing Congressman David McKinley, and Todd Anderson, representing Senator Joe Manchin

Major General James A. Hoyer introduces Governor Earl Ray Tomblin

Groundbreaking & Photo Opportunities

***Post-Ceremony Schedule***

**4:35 p.m.** – Guests and media escorted back to ARFF Reception Area

**4:40 p.m.** – Press Opportunity with Local Official Party at ARFF Reception Area