

AirScoop



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Massachusetts Air National Guard

104th Fighter Wing

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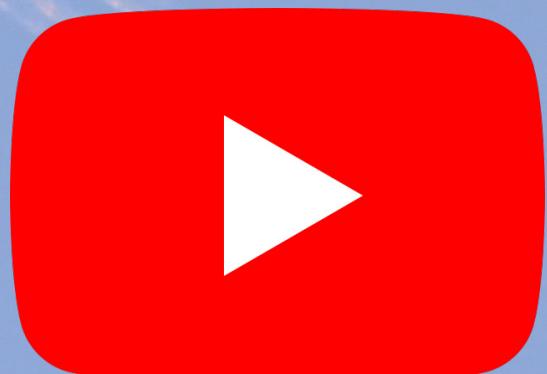
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From the MXG Commander

Happy New Year Barnstormers,

The 104th Maintenance Group had an outstanding year in 2025 and is well positioned to capitalize on the opportunities ahead in 2026.

Our No. 1 priority remains people. This focus aligns with the 104th Fighter Wing's mission and vision: "Preparing our Airmen for their worst day" and "Forging leaders in defense of our nation."

We emphasize developing expertise in assigned AFSC's, training, Airman development, fitness, professional military education and work-life balance. Together, these efforts drive overall readiness. As we continue to develop outstanding, ready Airmen, the result will remain outstanding mission execution.

Conversion to the F-35 is a team effort, and the 104th Fighter Wing Barnstormers have been aggressively preparing for the arrival of our first aircraft in June 2026.

The 104th Maintenance Group has sent core cadre maintainers to multiple F-35 bases for up to two years to gain proficiency on the platform. An additional group of maintainers, the initial cadre, is scheduled to depart in February 2026 for further training.

In July 2026, field training teams will arrive at Barnes Air National Guard Base to train the remaining Maintenance Group personnel, followed by on-the-job training on the F-35.

I am excited and fully confident our Barnstormers will rise to the challenge and seize the opportunities the F-35 conversion will bring.

"Readiness is our first responsibility." — Gen. David W. Allvin, Chief of Staff of the Air Force

*Colonel Steve Reynolds,
104th Fighter Wing Maintenance Commander*



104th Fighter Wing Flies into the Future with a New Commander and F-35 Conversion Underway

STORY BY Cpt. Julie Culbertson, 104FW/ PA

BARNES AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Westfield, MA – The 104th Fighter Wing of the Massachusetts Air National Guard welcomed a new commander in a change of command ceremony held at Barnes Air National Guard Base on Saturday, December 6th. Col. Michael 'Shot' Glass assumed command of the 104 Fighter Wing from Col. David 'Moon' Halasi-Kun.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve alongside Col. Halasi-Kun, who has been an outstanding leader and exceptional wing commander over the past three years. He was a superb pilot, and it was truly a pleasure to have flown with him," Glass said. "I am incredibly excited to take on the role of wing commander with the 104th Fighter Wing and bring them into the future as we transition to the F-35."

In his new position, Glass will take charge of more than 1,000 military and civilian personnel of the Massachusetts Air National Guard during an unprecedented time, as the 104th transitions from flying the F-15 Eagle to the F-35 Lightning II, a fifth generation fighter.

"I have been fortunate enough to be mentored by some of the best officers in the Air Force. The time and effort they have provided me is why I am here today," Glass said.

Outgoing wing commander Halasi-Kun, who will next serve as the Air Component Commander, reflected on his time leading the 104th Fighter Wing.

"It has been an honor to lead this wing through such transformative years and to have witnessed the dedication and professionalism put forth every day by each and every Barnesstormer," Halasi-Kun said. "I am proud to see new leadership step forward, and I am eager to see what the future holds for this wing."

The change of command is a time-honored tradition, symbolizing the seamless transfer of authority, accountability and responsibility from one commanding officer to another, reinforcing the continuity of mission and trust within the unit. Maj. Gen. Gary Keefe, the Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard, presided over the ceremony, transferring command from Halasi-Kun to Glass.

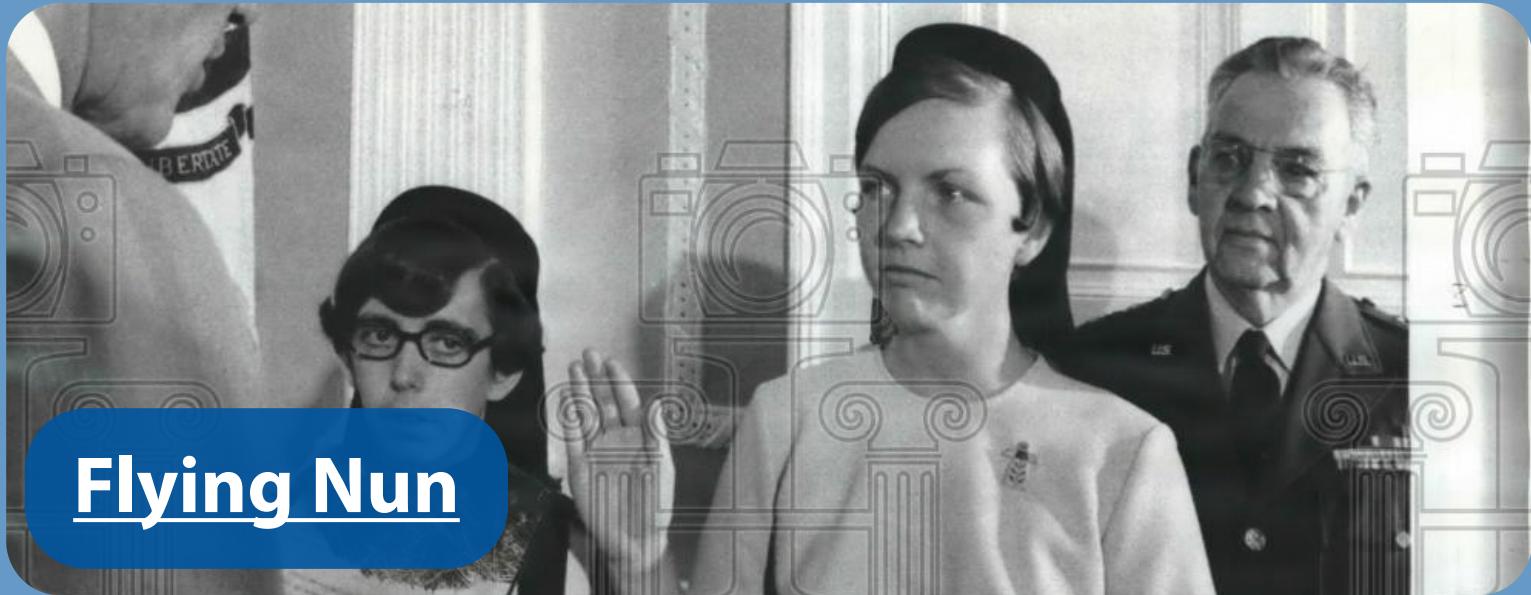
"The commander sets the tone, and Col. Halasi-Kun set it at the highest level," Keefe said. "His effectiveness, dedication, and drive have strengthened the 104th and prepared it for the future. As Col. Glass steps into command, I am confident he will not only maintain that momentum, but also elevate it, guiding the wing with the same commitment to excellence our mission demands."

Glass joined the Air Force in 2003 after graduating from the Air Force Academy. He became an F-15 pilot and served as an aircraft commander, instructor pilot, Weapons School instructor, commander of the 131st Fighter Squadron, 104th Operations Group, and most recently, as the 104th Fighter Wing deputy wing commander prior to assuming command of the wing. He has accumulated more than 2800 flying hours and served during operations ENDURING FREEDOM, ATLANTIC RESOLVE, and NOBLE EAGLE.

"The 104th has a simple mission: provide combat ready forces for Combatant Commanders at a time and place of their choosing," Glass said. "My goals are to make the 104th combat ready in the F-35A, deploy or mobilize as directed, execute the commander's intent and come home safely."



HEADLINES & HIGHLIGHTS



Flying Nun



Holiday Magic



Veterans Cemetery

CADRE'S CORNER

Happy New Year!

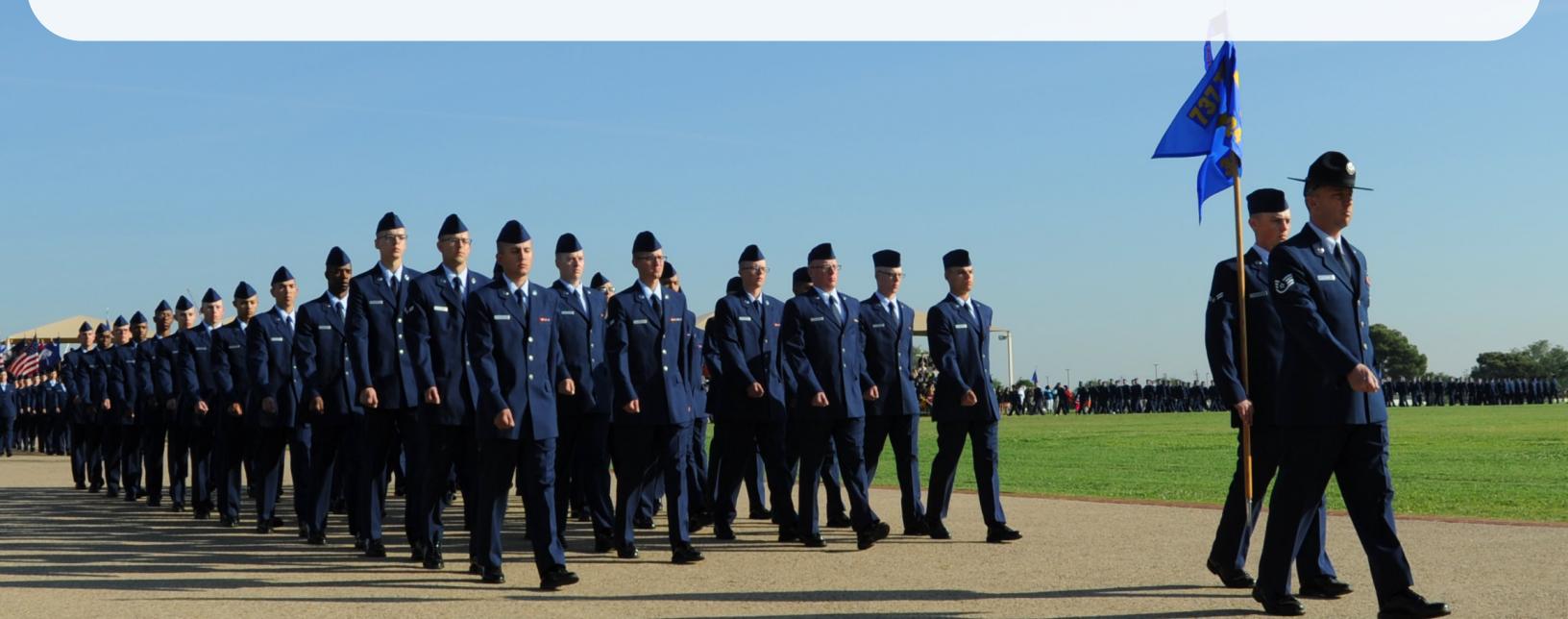
We are continuing to send off recruits!

Best Wishes to our Barnestormers who are
headed to BMT in January:

Jake Burnett
Mark Aboagye

Jayshon White

Aim High!



PROMOTIONS

<u>SSgt.</u>	<u>TSgt. Patrick Harrington</u>	<u>CES</u>
<u>SrA</u>	<u>SSgt. Nicholas Lakata</u>	<u>AMXS</u>
<u>SrA</u>	<u>SSgt. Joseph Ruffo</u>	<u>AMXS</u>
<u>SrA</u>	<u>SSgt. Abigail Lozada</u>	<u>FSS</u>
<u>SrA</u>	<u>SSgt. Jose AliceaGonzalez</u>	<u>CES</u>
<u>A1C</u>	<u>SrA. John Ryan</u>	<u>CES</u>

Congratulations!

RETIREMENTS AND DEPARTURES

TSgt. Aric Lunde
MXS | 23 Years

SSGT. Madelyn Lonczak
6 Years

SSGT. Tenzin Dakar
6 Years

SrA Dylan Sliech
6 Years

Best Wishes!

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

A REGULAR COLUMN BY KINDA-HISTORIAN
MELANIE J. CASINEAU

The annual ATD "All Call" happens every December on base. Do you know what ATD stands for? Air Technitian Detachment

National Guard Technician Program Turns 50

Published Jan. 28, 2019

By Tech. Sgt. Erich B. Smith

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – This month marks the 50th anniversary of the National Guard's technician program, which provides for a full-time element to maintain readiness in units throughout the Guard.

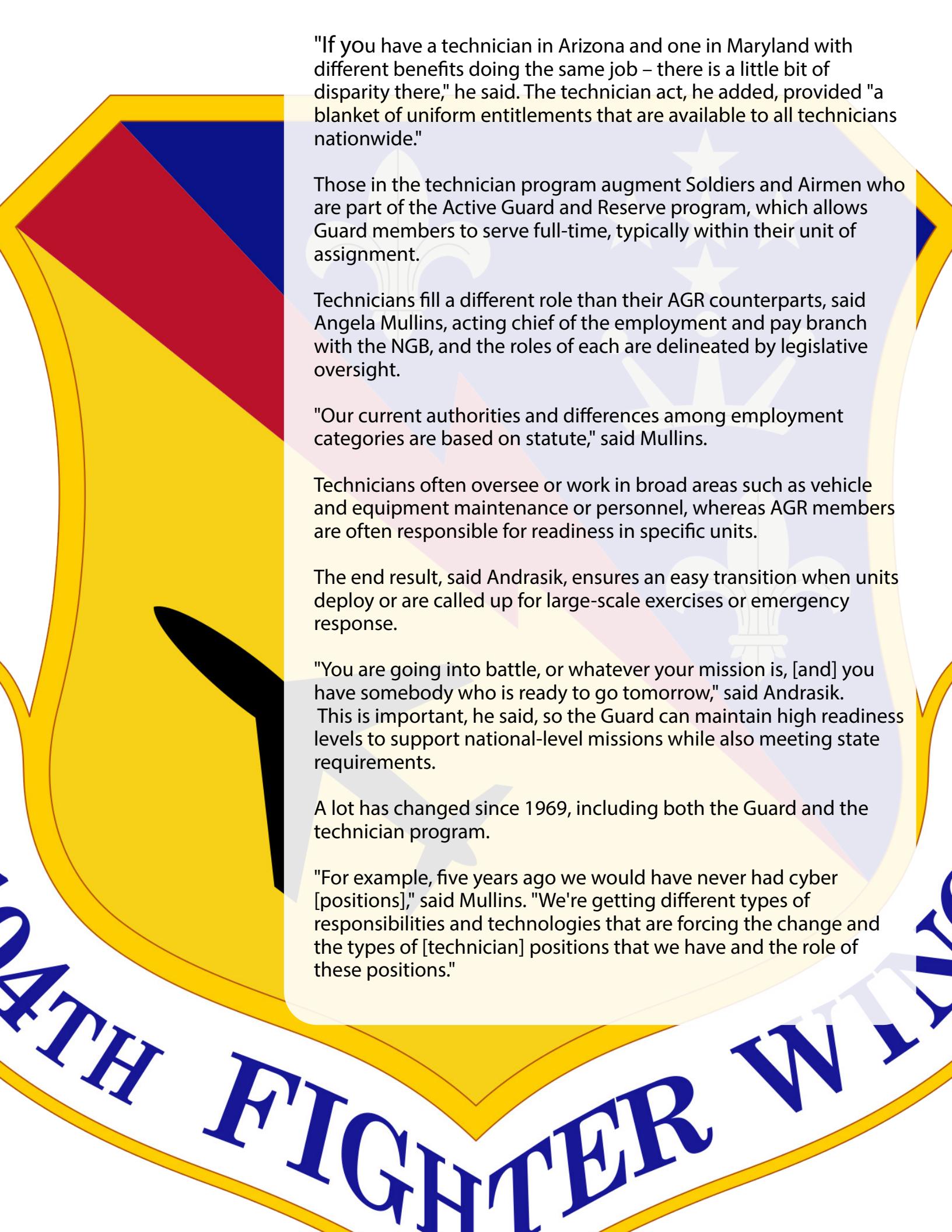
"The program is important to the National Guard because of readiness, which in our business, can easily mean life or death for those in the community," said Army Maj. Benjamin Andrasik, a human resources specialist with the National Guard Bureau's Technician Personnel Division. "It really ties military life to civilian life, which is what the National Guard is all about at the end of the day."

A result of the National Guard Technician Act of 1968, the program went into effect Jan. 1, 1969, and created dual-status technicians – federal, civilian employees required to maintain a military membership with a Guard unit as part of their employment. Though they fill a civilian-status role, technicians are required to wear a military uniform and adhere to military customs and courtesies.

"The technician program is a full-time cadre that organizes, administers, instructs or trains National Guard [members]," said Adriene Dallas, head of the NGB's labor branch, adding that recognizing "the military requirements and the state characteristics" of the Guard was instrumental in creating the law.

Before the program's creation, most technicians were state employees, which often meant different standards in different states, said Andrasik.





"If you have a technician in Arizona and one in Maryland with different benefits doing the same job – there is a little bit of disparity there," he said. The technician act, he added, provided "a blanket of uniform entitlements that are available to all technicians nationwide."

Those in the technician program augment Soldiers and Airmen who are part of the Active Guard and Reserve program, which allows Guard members to serve full-time, typically within their unit of assignment.

Technicians fill a different role than their AGR counterparts, said Angela Mullins, acting chief of the employment and pay branch with the NGB, and the roles of each are delineated by legislative oversight.

"Our current authorities and differences among employment categories are based on statute," said Mullins.

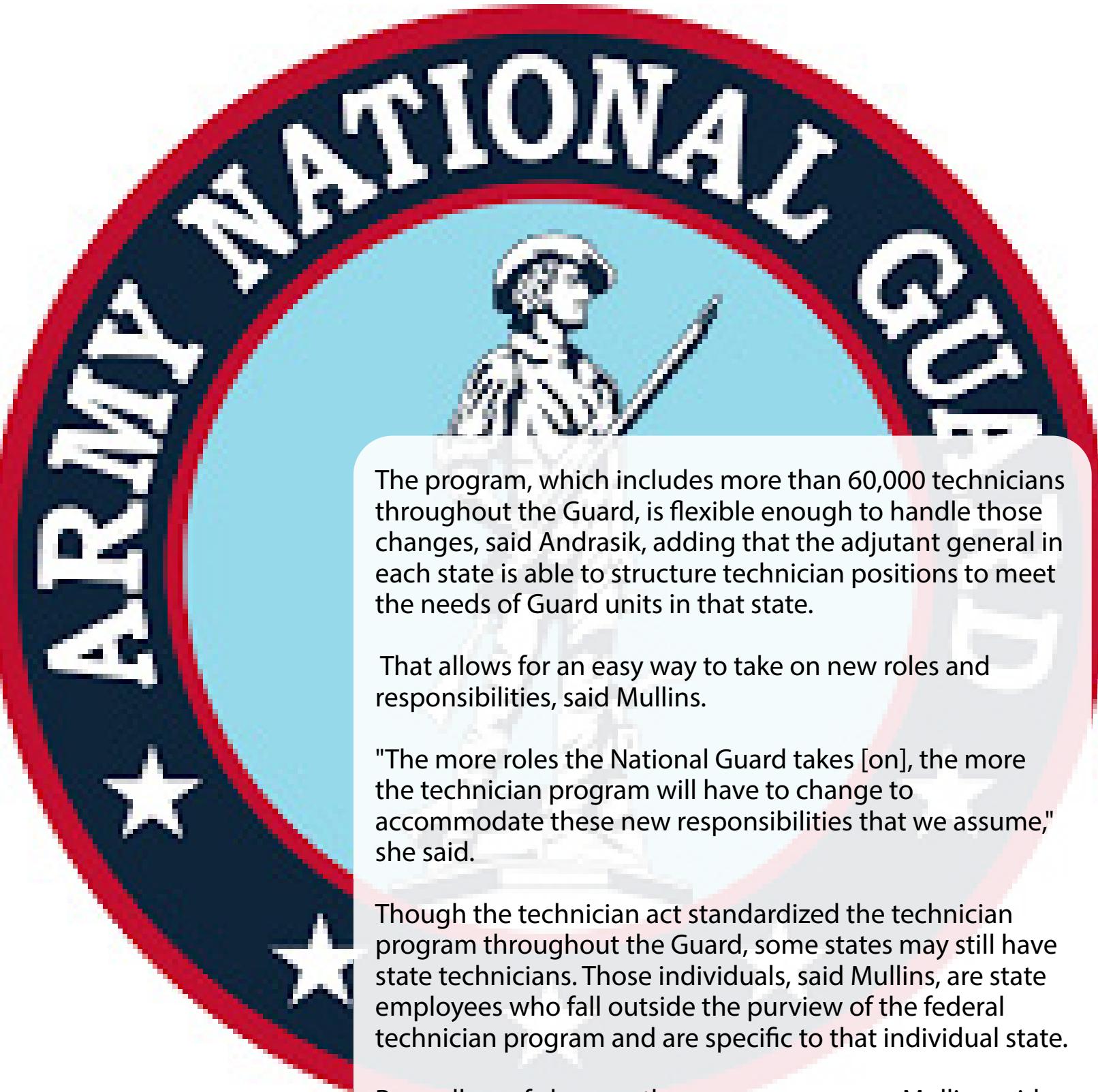
Technicians often oversee or work in broad areas such as vehicle and equipment maintenance or personnel, whereas AGR members are often responsible for readiness in specific units.

The end result, said Andrasik, ensures an easy transition when units deploy or are called up for large-scale exercises or emergency response.

"You are going into battle, or whatever your mission is, [and] you have somebody who is ready to go tomorrow," said Andrasik. This is important, he said, so the Guard can maintain high readiness levels to support national-level missions while also meeting state requirements.

A lot has changed since 1969, including both the Guard and the technician program.

"For example, five years ago we would have never had cyber [positions]," said Mullins. "We're getting different types of responsibilities and technologies that are forcing the change and the types of [technician] positions that we have and the role of these positions."



The program, which includes more than 60,000 technicians throughout the Guard, is flexible enough to handle those changes, said Andrasik, adding that the adjutant general in each state is able to structure technician positions to meet the needs of Guard units in that state.

That allows for an easy way to take on new roles and responsibilities, said Mullins.

"The more roles the National Guard takes [on], the more the technician program will have to change to accommodate these new responsibilities that we assume," she said.

Though the technician act standardized the technician program throughout the Guard, some states may still have state technicians. Those individuals, said Mullins, are state employees who fall outside the purview of the federal technician program and are specific to that individual state.

Regardless of changes the program may see, Mullins said its relevance remains intact.

"Technicians have an important role in the warfight," she said. "They are there to maintain the training and administration. They help maintain mission readiness."

F-35 CONVERSION CORNER

The conversion journey began in Spring of 2023 when the secretary of the Air Force approved Barnes ANGB as the preferred location for a new fleet of F-35s. This selection drove the requirement for favorable completion of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which was achieved in November 2024. Upon favorable completion of the EIS, the Secretary of the Air Force signed and reported to Congress the Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD was approved in December 2024, which means that the decision to station the F-35 at Barnes is official! We completed divesting F-15s with the last to leave September 2025. We are preparing for the arrival of our first F-35s in June 2026.

- Maj. Brian 'Brass' Burke



36

**Personnel currently
off-base training
(2 LRS | 34 Maintainers)**

4

**Fully Qualified Pilots
7 currently in training**

15

**New construction projects
scheduled throughout the
conversion - starting with OPS**

20

**The number of F-35s
scheduled to be delivered
by Summer 2026**

