



## **FORT GEORGE G. MEADE NEWS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Fort Meade Bolsters ‘Front Line Fort’ Identity**

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE: -- Fort Meade Garrison Commander Colonel Tom Rickard joined Maryland governor Larry Hogan, U.S. Cyber Command Commander Adm. Michael Rogers, and Maryland Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Linda L. Singh, today in officially breaking ground on the latest major construction project at Fort Meade.

Gov. Hogan was the keynote speaker at the event which signified the commitment to build a state of the art facility from which the Maryland National Guard's 175<sup>th</sup> Cyberspace Operations Squadron will execute its mission.

"Today, we are bolstering Maryland's leadership even further as we break ground on this much needed and much anticipated facility to support the state of Maryland and the cyber mission force," said Hogan. "Now, it's a unit [the 175<sup>th</sup>] of 284 individuals charged with the critical mission of protecting our country's infrastructure against cyber attack."

The new building is designed as a single story, 9,000-square foot facility providing operational and command space for missions aligned to the state of Maryland, the National Security Agency, and the United States Cyber Command, according to the Maryland National Guard. The 175th Wing Contracting Office is responsible for contract execution and administration of the project. Ritz Construction of Maryland will construct the \$6.6 million facility, with POND of Norcross, Ga., as the principal architect and design-build partner.

The 175th Cyberspace Operations Squadron's federal mission will be to defend and protect Air Force and U.S. critical infrastructure against cyber attacks and conduct cyber exploitation and attack operations. In addition, the 175<sup>th</sup> will execute their state mission which is to be available to assist the state and local government agencies at the direction of the Governor.

Col. Rickard, whose garrison engineering and transformation operations are central to efficient construction of the project, explained that "the 175th location here reinforces our [Fort Meade's] role as a front line fort. The men and women who serve in 175th and Fort Meade do their missions from here."

The construction project is currently scheduled for completion in the fall 2018. Once completed, the facility will be home to about 284 unit members who currently serve in the 175<sup>th</sup> Cyberspace Operations Squadron.

## **BACKGROUND**

Fort George G. Meade, established in 1917, is the largest employer in the state of Maryland and with more than 55,000 employees, is the third largest Army installation in the continental United States in terms of personnel. We are the home to all branches of military service; Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine and Coast Guard and serve as the home for 118 partner organizations including U. S. Cyber Command, the National Security Agency, the Defense Information Systems Agency, the Defense Information School as well as federal agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Science Center.

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**For more about Fort Meade, visit the Fort Meade website at [www.ftmeade.army.mil](http://www.ftmeade.army.mil). You can also check out Fort George G. Meade on Facebook and Twitter.**