

Final
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

COMMITTEE ON JOINT STATE VETERANS & MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Date: 12/01/2015

ATTENDANCE

Time: **10:37 AM to 12:22 PM**

Place: RM 271

This Meeting was called to order by
Senator Scott

This Report was prepared by
Julia Jackson

Foote	E
Hill	E
Humphrey	E
Jones	X
Lontine	X
Neville P.	E
Primavera	X
Salazar	E
Sonnenberg	E
Tate	X
Thurlow	X
Tyler	X
Ulibarri	X
Willett	E
Scott	X
Ryden	X

X = Present, E = Excused, A = Absent, * = Present after roll call

Bills Addressed:	Action Taken:
Department of State SMART Act Presentation	Witness Testimony and/or Committee Discussion Only
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs SMART Act Presentation	Witness Testimony and/or Committee Discussion Only

10:38 AM -- Department of State SMART Act Presentation

Secretary of State Wayne Williams provided an overview of the Department of State. Committee members received a summary of the department's work (Attachment A). Secretary Williams discussed registered voters, licensed businesses, and other registrations and filings managed by the department. He emphasized the department's online presence.

Secretary Williams discussed business and licensing, and the department's work to improve data security. He noted awards the department has received and spoke about the Go Code Colorado application challenge.

Secretary Williams discussed the department's preparations for the 2016 elections, noting that he has been visiting with new county clerks across the state. He spoke about the watcher committee convened to recommend changes to the state's election watcher laws. He further discussed the pilot election review committee that will be recommending a new uniform voting system for the state. He responded to a question from Representative Thurlow about the types of voting systems being considered.

10:55 AM

Secretary Williams explained the role of the department's information technology (IT) division.

Representative Ryden and Secretary Williams discussed U.S. Postal Service (USPS) processing and how the USPS delivers mail ballots. Secretary Williams noted that the department would be requesting a legal change to allow county clerks to mail out ballots a few days earlier in the election cycle. He further discussed the role of 24/7 ballot drop boxes in conducting elections, noting that a bill on this issue would be forthcoming.

11:07 AM

Discussion between Representative Ryden and Secretary Williams continued. Representative Tyler and Secretary Williams discussed the department's bipartisan election advisory committee.

Senator Jones discussed mail balloting with Secretary Williams, particularly the recommended deadline for mailing in ballots before an election. Discussion ensued on this issue.

11:22 AM

Representative Ryden questioned Secretary Williams about ballot drop box security. Secretary Williams noted that counties are required to provide video surveillance for ballot drop boxes, and he discussed the benefits of this level of security.

Representative Tyler and Secretary Williams discussed the department's efforts to improve transparency of lobbyist registrations and campaign finance reports.

11:28 AM

Secretary Williams discussed the department's 2016 regulatory and legislative agendas and budget request. Senator Jones commented on the budget request.

Senator Scott and Secretary Williams discussed issues regarding registrations for businesses and campaign committees that have closed. Representative Tyler commented on this.

11:37 AM

No witnesses testified on the presentation.

11:38 AM -- Department of Military and Veterans Affairs SMART Act Presentation

Maj. Gen. H. Michael Edwards, Adjutant General of the State of Colorado, provided an overview of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA). He introduced key staff members from the department. Committee members received a copy of DMVA's briefing (Attachment B). Gen. Edwards noted that the department has no legislative or regulatory agenda for 2016, nor any budget decision items. He discussed DMVA's three capital construction requests for Fiscal Year 2016-17.

Gen. Edwards commented on DMVA's FY 16-17 budget request and its strategic policy initiatives. He discussed National Guard deployments in 2015 and 2016. He clarified these figures with Representative Ryden.

11:49 AM

Gen. Edwards described joint operations and emergency response conducted by the Colorado National Guard.

Gen. Edwards noted the federally funded construction projects currently underway in Colorado. He highlighted the Buckley P-4 initiative, which received \$5 million of state funding.

11:59 AM

Gen. Edwards discussed future National Guard projects and ongoing National Guard family programs. He highlighted initiatives undertaken by the Division of Veterans Affairs.

Gen. Edwards discussed the work of the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs and the Civil Air Patrol. He also noted statewide military issues and trends.

12:10 PM

At Representative Ryden's request, Mickey Hunt, Deputy Director of DMVA, provided an overview of the Buckley P-4 project. He noted that the project is a partnership between the federal government, the state, Arapahoe County, and the city of Aurora. He explained that land surrounding Buckley Air Force Base will be preserved as open space through conservation easements.

Representative Primavera and Mr. Hunt discussed homeless veterans in Colorado. Dana Nimela, chair of the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs, came to the table to respond to this question. Representative Primavera continued to discuss data collection with Ms. Nimela.

Representative Ryden and Gen. Edwards discussed efforts to meet the mental health needs of National Guard members and their families.

12:19 PM

Representative Ryden and Mr. Hunt discussed implementation of changes to the county veterans' service officers program.

12:22 PM

No witnesses testified on the presentation.

The committee adjourned.

STATE OF COLORADO
Department of State

1700 Broadway
 Suite 200
 Denver, CO 80290



Wayne W. Williams
 Secretary of State

Suzanne Staiert
 Deputy Secretary of State

SMART Act Briefing
 Secretary of State Wayne Williams
 December 1, 2015

The Department of State at a glance:

- 3,542,656 registered voters
 - 30,360 preregistered voters
 - 20,692 UOCAVA voters
- Over 600,000 business entities in good standing
- Over 12,000 registered charities
- Approximately 50,000 registered nonprofits
- We have issued over 1,198 bingo-raffle licenses this year
- Over 80,000 commissioned notaries public
- 99.5% of our transactions occur online with an average of 2,300 filings per day

Performance Plan (FY15-16)

- **Business & Licensing Division**
 - 600,000 entities in good standing in the state.
 - Joined with the Colorado Better Business Bureau to promote security for Colorado businesses through the Secure Business Filing option.
 - The second year of the Business Intelligence Center and the Go Code Colorado app challenge was a tremendous success. Recognitions included International Association of Commercial Administrators (IACA) Merit Award, the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) IDEAS Award, the Colorado Technology Association's Technology Project of the Year Award, *CIO Magazine's* CIO 100 Award, and recognition as a "Bright Idea" by Harvard's Kennedy School through its Innovations in American Government Awards competition.
 - Expanded the use of eLearning modules for nonprofit board members.
 - Released the first ever Bingo-Raffle quarterly reporting online.
 - Conducted nonprofit workshops to help strengthen and educate leaders in Colorado's charitable community.
- **Elections Division**
 - Colorado maintained its place as a national leader in the conduct of elections
 - We have made extensive preparations for the 2016 presidential election, drawing on advice from stakeholders and experts from across Colorado.
 - Watcher Committee
 - Pilot Election Review Committee
 - SCORE User Panel
 - Further professionalized Colorado's elections by conducting training for county clerks in every region of the state and expanding the number of online classes offered for various certifications and trainings.

- Expanded the Accountability in Colorado Elections (ACE) website, making public data available and useful, ensuring transparency, and helping enforce election laws
- Protected voting access for Colorado's 20,692 UOCAVA voters.
- Promoted use of the Department's online sample ballot tool.
- Conducted campaign finance training across the state for candidates, committees and interested citizens.
- Secretary Williams was named co-chair of the National Association of Secretaries of State Elections Committee.
- IT Division
 - Guaranteed a smooth transition to the mail ballot election system.
 - Ensured security for all the data collected by the office.
 - Working closely with Department of Revenue on the DRIVES project to guarantee integrity of voter registration records as CDOR modernizes its systems.
 - Completed work on the Elections Ballot Access program, which tracks candidates for each race and coordinates election outcomes post-election.
 - Colorado became the first state in the country to offer business certification services online.
- Administration Division
 - Continued expanding eLearning modules that provide professional development opportunities.
 - Created an office intranet to ensure a common operating picture.

Regulatory Agenda

- We strive to apply common sense solutions that will empower our customers, based upon tested "best practices."
- Established a Bipartisan Election Advisory Committee that will conduct a full review of our election process and ensure elections are fair, accessible, and impartial.
- Issued rules to reduce the burden of regulations on charities and charitable gaming.

Budget Request and Legislative Agenda

- Significant legislation: 2015 Session
 - SB15-060 (Holbert/Everett): which helps to prevent duplicate registrations.
 - HB15-1130 (Hill, Garcia/Nordberg, Ryden): which protects UOCAVA voters in municipal elections.
- 2016 Legislative Agenda:
 - Municipal Signature Verification
 - List Accuracy
 - Voter Registration Drives
 - Rights of Watchers
 - Election Cleanup Bill
 - Voter Choice Act
 - Business Intelligence Center Authorization for Gifts, Grants, and Donations
 - Wills & Trusts
 - Colorado Charitable Solicitations Act enforcement
- Budget Request
 - FY 16-17 budget request \$22.3 million focused on maintaining a compliant budget while keeping fees low-reducing expenses for Colorado businesses.



**Colorado Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs**



**Brief to
Joint State,
Military, and
Veterans Affairs
Committee**

01 December 15





Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



Agenda

- SMART Act
- Department Overview
- State Military Overview





Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



SMART Act

Legislative Agenda:

- The Department does not have a legislative agenda.

Regulatory Agenda:

- The Department does not have a regulatory agenda.





Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



SMART Act

Key budget requests

Decision Items:

- N/A

Capital Development Requests:

- Grand Junction Veterans One-Stop Shop (\$2.7M)
- JFHQ Expansion Property (\$1.2M)
- Long Range Construction Plan (\$2.5M)





Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



FY 2015-16 Budget Request

- \$8.3M General Fund for Personal Services, Common Policies, Tuition Assistance, Civil Air Patrol, County Veterans Service Offices, Veterans Assistance Grant, and Operations and Maintenance for Army National Guard (Armories).
- \$1.3M Cash Funds for Veterans Trust Fund Grants, Veterans Cemetery in Grand Junction, and Local Armory Incentive Program.
- \$0.8M in Re-appropriated Funds from Higher Education for National Guard Tuition Assistance.
- \$205.6M Federal Funds comprised of the Air and Army National Guard federal mission (Training, Salaries, Equipment Maintenance) and \$9.3M for Air and Army Cooperative Agreements with the Department.

***\$8.3 million in General Fund the State generates \$215.1 million in
Federal Funds***



Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



SMART Act

Performance Plan

Department Strategic Policy Initiatives:

- 1. Improve Disaster Response Coordination**
- 2. Expand Services Provided to Underserved Veterans Through Planning**
- 3. Provide low-cost disaster mitigation services**





Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



Department Overview





Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



National Guard CY 15 Highlights

Army National Guard Deployments

Past: Since 2002, the Colorado Army National Guard has mobilized over 5,258 Soldiers in support of Overseas Contingency Operations

Present: The Colorado Army National Guard currently has 202 Soldiers deployed overseas.

Future: The Colorado Army National Guard is preparing to deploy over 300 Soldiers through the current federal fiscal year.





Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



National Guard CY 15 Highlights

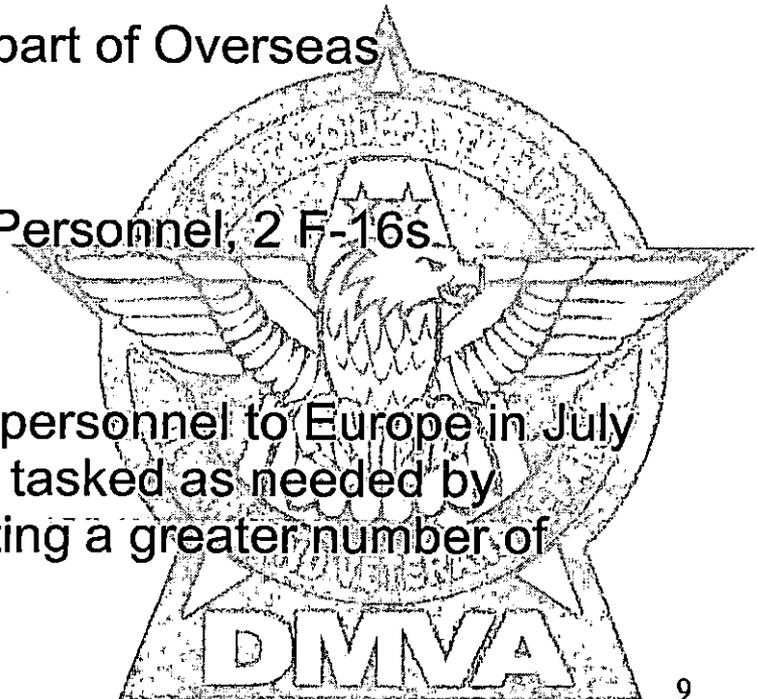
Air National Guard

Past: Since 2002, the Colorado Air National Guard has mobilized over 3,268 Airmen in support of Overseas Contingency Operations

Present: 7 personnel are currently deployed as part of Overseas Contingency Operations

- Aerospace Control Alert at Buckley AFB: 71 Personnel, 2 F-16s (24/7 mission) including approximately 90 sorties

Future: The 140th Wing will deploy approx. 190 personnel to Europe in July 2016. Individual deployments will continue to be tasked as needed by higher headquarters. The 140th Wing is anticipating a greater number of individual taskings in 2016.





Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



State Partnership Program

Slovenia since 1993

Jordan since 2004

Colorado is the only state with a Middle Eastern partner.





Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



Colorado National Guard Joint Operations FFY 15 Highlights

Pueblo County Recovery Support

Who: 48 Man Days; 6 x PAX; 1 x UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter

What: Recover the body of 1 x civilian

When: August 2, 2015

Chelan, WA Wildfire Support (EMAC):

Who: 136 man days; 12 x PAX; 2 x UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopters

What: Assist with aerial firefighting operations in support of the WAARNG & the State of Washington

Total Flight Hours: 65.9

Total Bucket Drops: 156

Total Water Dropped: 71,760 gal.

Total Fuel Used: 7,901.7 gal.

When: August 22, 2015 – September 10, 2015

Prowers County SUSV Mission

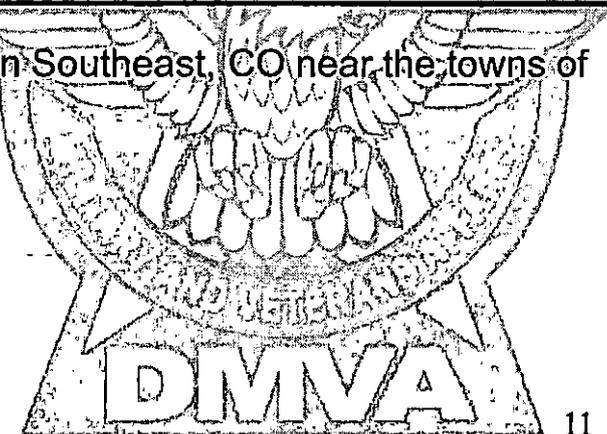
Who: 40 man days; 5 x PAX; 2 x SUSVs; 1 x Prime Mover

What: Assist CSP with recovery of civilians stranded on HWYs 287 and 109 in Southeast, CO near the towns of Lamar and Kim.

When: November 17, 2015

Search and Rescue Missions Conducted in FY 2014

Missions	Saves	Crews
34	28	140





Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



Colorado National Guard Joint Teams

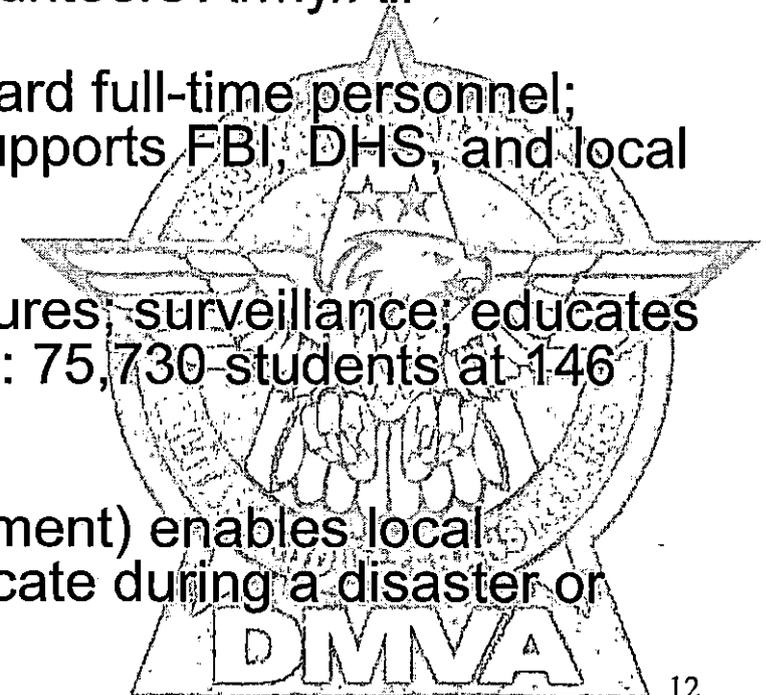
The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, through the Colorado National Guard provides federally funded emergency response teams that fulfill the National Guards' Defense Support to Civil Authority (DSCA) mission. Teams include:

CERFP: (Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear and Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package) 200 volunteers Army/Air

8th Civil Support Team: 22 Army and Air Guard full-time personnel; specialist training in the CBRNE spectrum; Supports FBI, DHS, and local authorities

Counter Drug: est. 1990; Supports drug seizures; surveillance; educates Colorado youth (Red Ribbon program FFY 15: 75,730 students at 146 schools)

NGCE: (National Guard Communications Element) enables local responders and federal agencies to communicate during a disaster or terrorist strike





Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



Federally Funded Projects (Colorado Air National Guard)

Construct Range Control Facility & Fitness Center

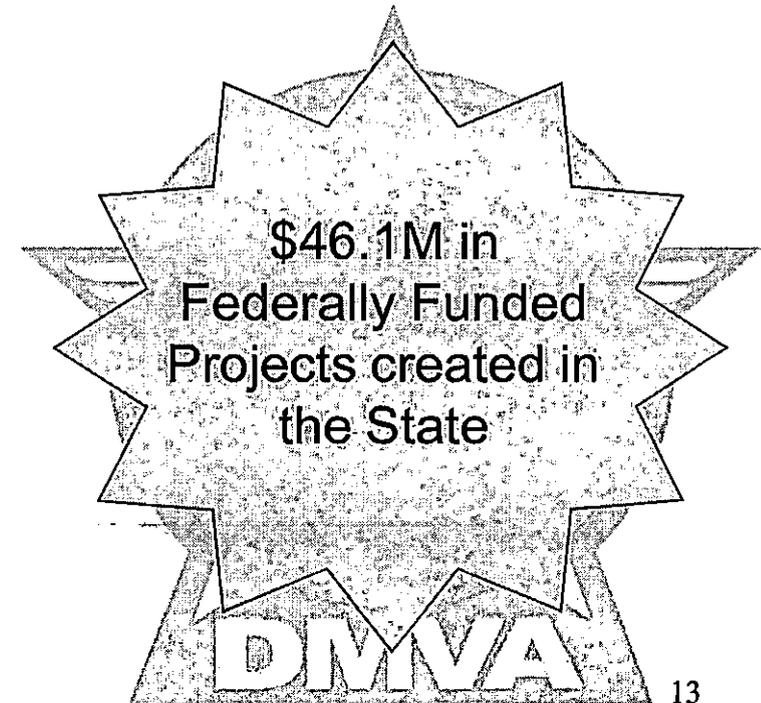
- Status: Awarded for Construction
- Construction: FFY17
- Project Cost: \$1.7M
- Operation and Maintenance: 100% Federal funded
- Jobs: 40 badge employees, 12 per day

Repair Main Apron Access and Alert Pavements

- Status: 30% Construction
- Construction: Sep 2014- Oct 2016
- Project Cost: \$14,250,000
- Operation and Maintenance: 100% Federal funded
- Jobs: 175 badge employees, 45 per day

Remodel Hangar 909

- Status: 95% Design
- Construction: May 2016- May 2017
- Project Cost: \$11,300,000
- Operation and Maintenance: 100% Federal funded
- Jobs: 100 badge employees, 35 per day





Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



Federally Funded Projects (Colorado Air National Guard)

Repair Airfield Lighting

- Status: 35% Design
- Construction: Jun 2016- Mar 2017
- Project Cost: \$3,700,000
- Operation and Maintenance: 100% Federal funded
- Jobs: 30 badge employees, 15 per day

Construct Aerospace Ground Equipment/Aerospace Support Equipment

- Status: 35% Design
- Construction: June 2016- June 2017
- Project Cost: \$5,500,000
- Operation and Maintenance: 100% Federal funded
- Jobs: 65 badge employees, 20 per day

Repair F-16 Apron

- Status: 35% Design
- Construction: Mar 2017- Mar 2018
- Project Cost: \$9,600,000
- Operation and Maintenance: 100% Federal funded
- Jobs: 50 badge employees, 35 per day





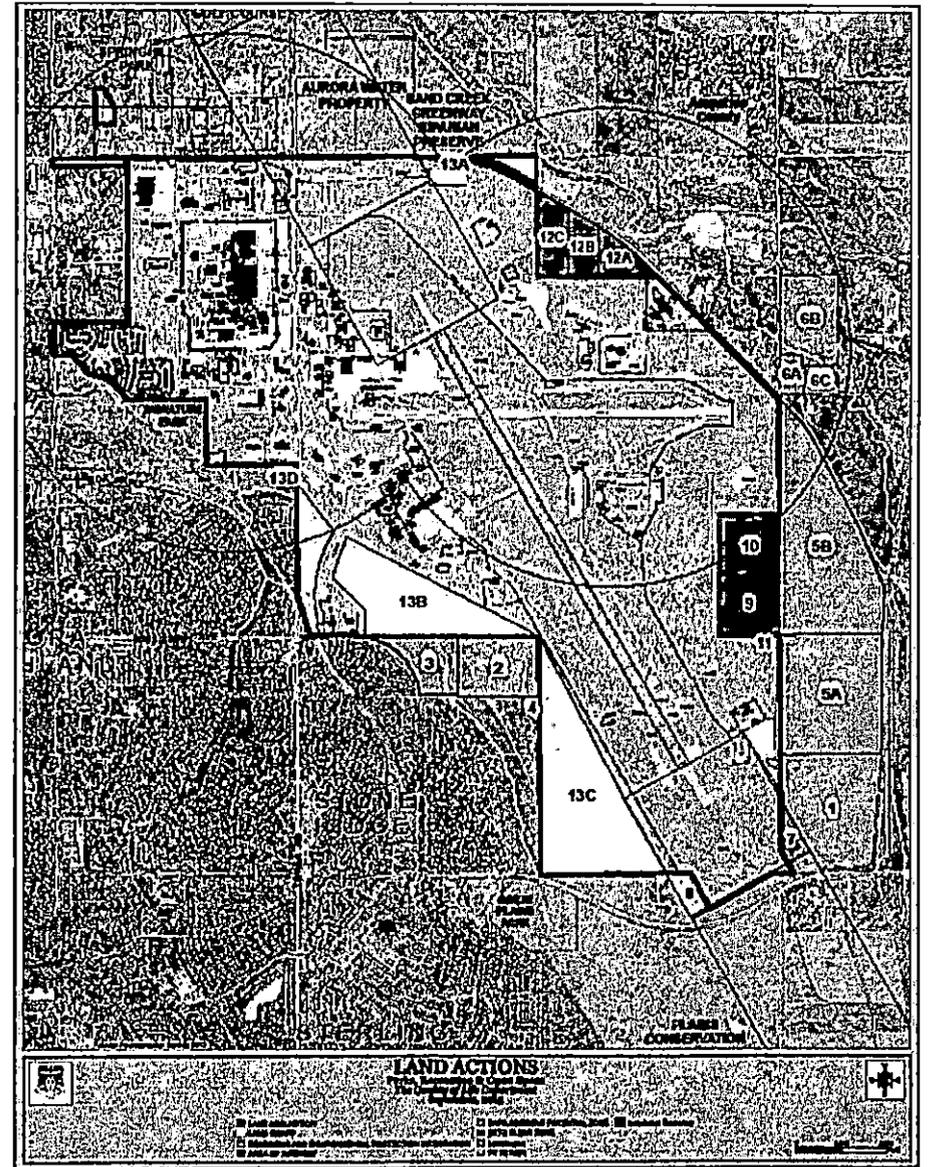
Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



Buckley P-4 Initiative

Total Project Cost: Approx. \$25.5M
Federal Funds - \$3.4M to date
State Funds - \$5M

The purpose of this project is to acquire parcels around Buckley AFB which will prevent encroachment and endanger the future of the vital national security missions conducted at the installation.





**Colorado Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs**



**Colorado National Guard
24/7/365**

**Aerospace Control Alert – 140th Wing at Buckley Air
Force Base (COANG)**

**Ballistic Missile Detection – 233rd Space Group at
Greeley Air National Guard Station (COANG)**

**Ballistic Missile Defense – 100th Missile Defense Brigade
in Colorado Springs (COARNG)**





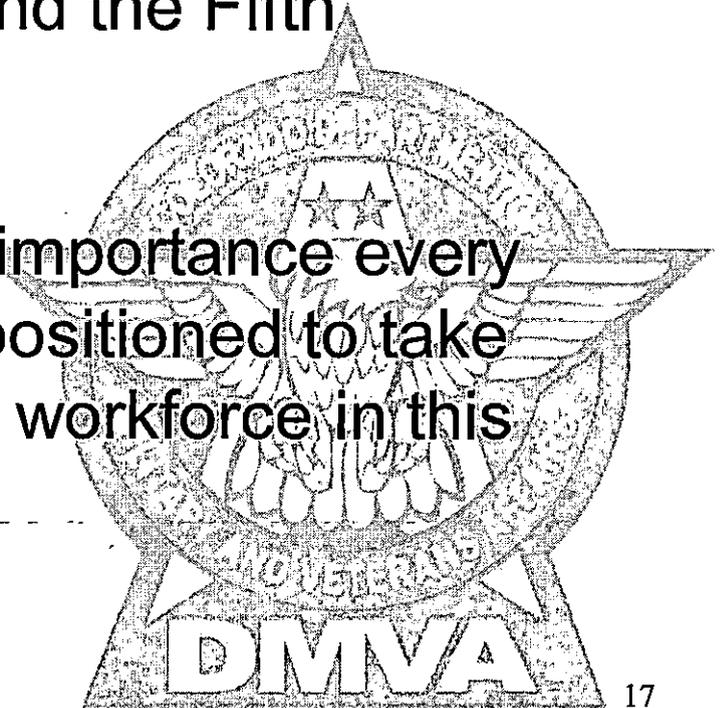
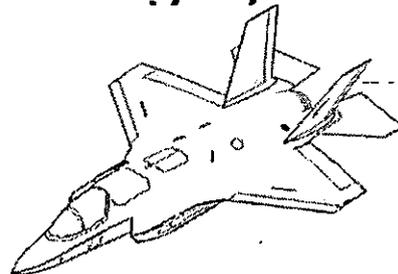
Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



Future of the Colorado National Guard

Fifth Generation Fighter – Bringing the F-35 to Buckley will ensure the future of both the 140th Wing and the installation. This aircraft is key to the continued success of the Aerospace Control Alert mission and the Fifth Generation Enterprise.

Cyber – This critical mission grows in importance every day. The National Guard is uniquely positioned to take advantage of Colorado's highly skilled workforce in this area.



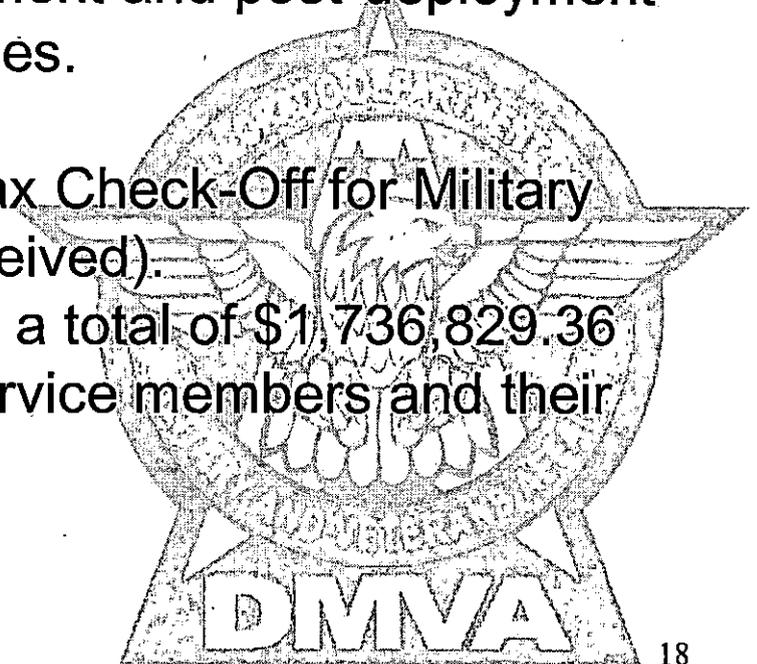


Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



CY 14 National Guard Family Programs

- 26 (Federal Funds) staff members as part of Family Programs. The Family Program lost both mental health counselors and the personal financial counselor due to federal budget cuts in 2014.
- Conducted 14 Yellow Ribbon pre-deployment and post-deployment events for service members and their families.
- Received \$144,492.70 from the 2013 Tax Check-Off for Military Relief Fund (2014 funds have not been received).
 - Since 2005 the fund has received a total of \$1,736,829.36 and provided \$1,588,245.78 in grants to service members and their families.





Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

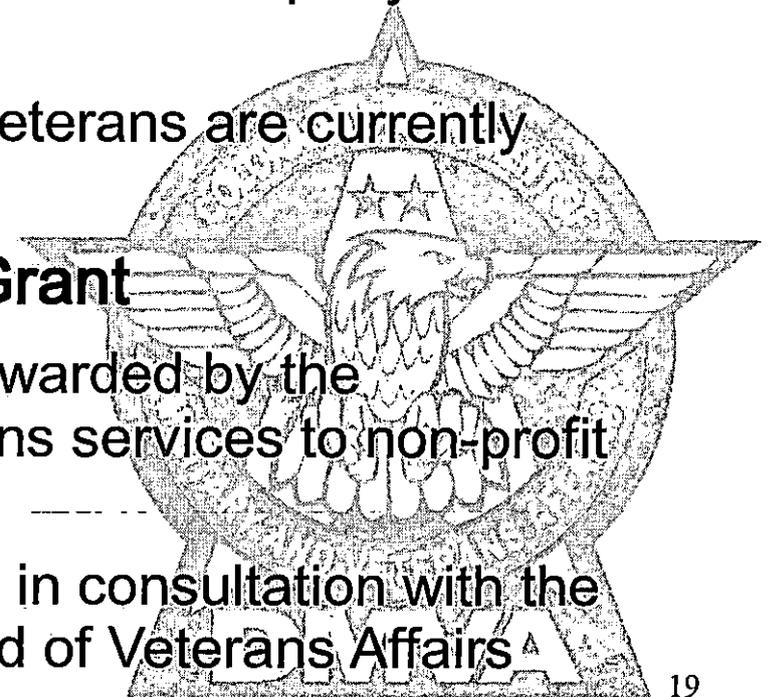


SFY 15 Division of Veterans Affairs Highlights

- 16,603 Client visits, a 6% increase over SFY 14.
- 25,722 DVA-assisted claims submitted to the federal VA .
- \$478 million in previous claims completed by US Department of Veterans Affairs (State FY14-15).
- Administered Referendum E (Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption).
 - 794 validated applications, 6,634 veterans are currently using this benefit.

Veterans Assistance Grant

- 21 grants totaling \$970,000 have been awarded by the Department from general fund for veterans services to non-profit and government organizations.
- Grants were selected by the Department in consultation with the Division of Veterans Affairs and the Board of Veterans Affairs





Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



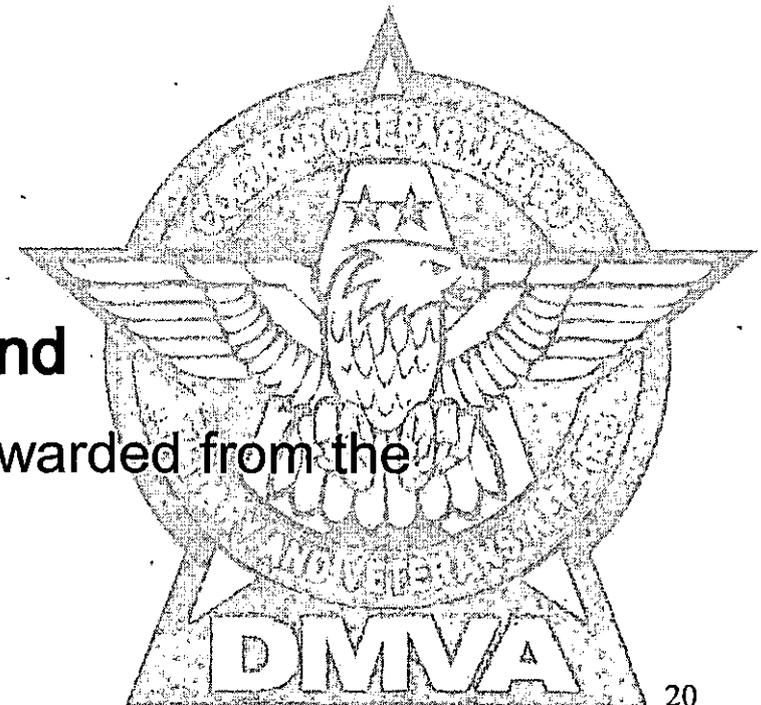
Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs

Key Initiatives:

- Rural veterans access to care
- Student veteran issues
- Veterans homelessness/veterans stand downs
- Veterans transition and employment
- Veterans transportation issues

Veterans Trust Fund

- 37 grants totaling \$792,330 have been awarded from the Veterans Trust Fund in SFY 2014-15.





Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



CY 15 Civil Air Patrol

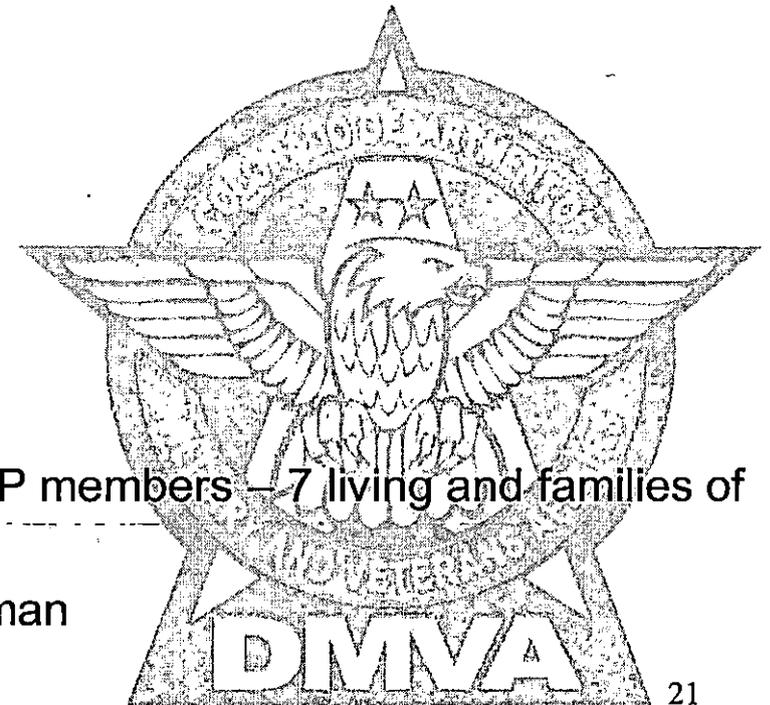
- Conducted 20 searches for overdue/missing aircraft, lost/missing persons and emergency beacons
 - 3 hikers saved – two in Rocky Mountain National Park, one in Grand County
- Flew Washington County Emergency Manager over South Platte River levee break
- Took aerial photos of large landslide in Huerfano County for the county commissioners
- Third year providing chase planes in support of Army UAV operations at Pinon Canyon
- Flew 2 air defense target missions

Equipment

- 1615 volunteers (adults and cadets) – 1 FTE
- 15 Cessna C-182s, 1 Gippsland GA-8, 2 gliders
- 22 vans and 4WD vehicles

National Awards

- Congressional Gold Medal awarded to World War II CAP members – 7 living and families of 10 deceased in Colorado
- CAP Cadet of the Year - Cadet Colonel Benjamin Jakeman





Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



CY 15 Civil Air Patrol

National Awards continued

- CAP Public Affairs Officer of the Year – Maj Bob Wray
- CAP Brewer Memorial Aerospace Award, Senior – Maj William Blatchley
- CAP Balsem Exceptional Achievement Award in Public Affairs – Colorado Wing magazine “Peaks and Planes”
- Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron became the first team to make the finals of the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition – Cyber Patriot five times, 1st place in 2012





Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



State Military Overview





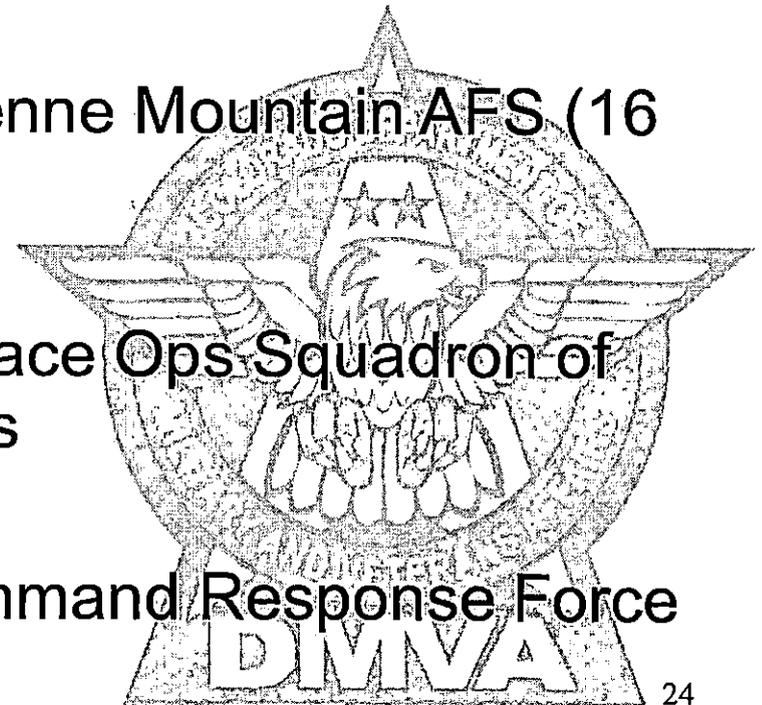
Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



Statewide Military Issues

Trends:

- **Cyber – Air Force Academy Cyber Innovation Center**
- **Homeland Defense – Complex Catastrophe**
- **NORAD - 50th Anniversary of Cheyenne Mountain AFS (16 APR 16)**
- **Space – COANG will stand up a Space Ops Squadron of 100 personnel in the next 18 months**
- **4th Infantry Division - European Command Response Force Headquarters**





Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



Economic Impact

Department of Defense activities in Colorado have a \$27 B economic impact (annually). This is the 3rd largest industry in the State of Colorado (tied with agriculture).

This impact accounts for:

5.5% of State taxes and fees

6.5% of State economic output

7.5% of State labor income