

**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
FY 2014-15 JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING AGENDA**

**Wednesday, November 13, 2013
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

1:30-1:45 INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING COMMENTS

1:45-2:00 WESTERN SLOPE VETERANS' CEMETERY

1. Please identify the sources of gifts, grants, and donations received by the Western Slope Veterans' Cemetery Fund including details on the cause of decreased revenues in recent years and any efforts the Department has made to solicit donations from private sources.

The primary funding source of gifts, grants, and donations is private/local donations and the tax check-off. This funding source has decreased in recent years. The Department believes that several factors are responsible including the passing of WWII veterans and their family members, the drawdown in public awareness of current military efforts and the slow-down of the economy.

The Department does not solicit donations at this time. The Department is contemplating working with community stakeholders to develop a "Friends of the Cemetery" type group to attempt to increase gifts, grants and donations.

2. Please provide an overview of the policy of the Department regarding burial of veterans, spouses, dependents, and non-veterans at the Western Slope Veterans' Cemetery. Include details on the number of non-qualifying veterans that have applied to be buried at the Cemetery. Also, indicate how this policy relates to other Veterans Administration policies regarding veterans' cemeteries and if the policies are consistent to all facilities.

"Cemeteries established under the grant program must conform to the standards and guidelines pertaining to site selection, planning and construction prescribed by VA. Cemeteries must be operated solely for the burial of service members who die on active duty, veterans, and their eligible spouses and dependent children. Any cemetery assisted by a VA grant must be maintained and operated according to the operational standards and measures of the National Cemetery Administration." (SOURCE: www.cem.va.gov)

The Department has not interred any person not meeting the requirements stipulated by the federal VA. No data is available on "non-qualifying veterans that have applied to be buried at the Cemetery" as this policy is consistent nationwide, has been longstanding and is understood by funeral homes and other entities that would advise a family during the loss of a loved one.

2:00-2:15 FLOOD RESPONSE EFFORT

3. Please provide an overview of the National Guard response to flood events including a description of the Guard units that assisted from other states, how additional resources helped the recovery efforts, and any feedback about the coordination process.

The Colorado National Guard's flood response can be separated into two phases, namely immediate response and recovery. Additional personnel and equipment for the first phase were provided by Wyoming Army National Guard (via the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, or EMAC) and the active duty component at Fort Carson (via immediate response authority). These forces consisted primarily of rotary wing aircraft and crew members who conducted rescue operations.

The EMAC assistance utilized in the recovery phase of the operation involved National Guard engineering elements from the states of Utah, Montana and Kansas. These states provided both equipment and personnel to allow for road repair while allowing Colorado National Guard members the opportunity to return to their jobs and families.

The EMAC process has existed since 1966 and this is a well-understood and successful process. The Department believes the process worked well during this emergency as it has during the previous two summers of wildfire activity, the blizzard of 2006, and during other significant incidents throughout Colorado's history.

2:15-2:30 DEPARTMENT UPDATES

4. Please provide a status update on the \$1.0 million General Fund appropriation for grants to veterans' organizations in FY 2012-13 and FY 2013-14. Include information on grant recipients, the amount available for administration of the grant program, and if that amount was sufficient in FY 2013-14.

The Veterans Assistance Grant has provided 18 grants in the last budget cycle that meet the intent of the General Assembly's footnote. The Department has requested this amount in FY 2015. The increase to the administrative percentage (3.0%, or \$30,000 for FY 2013-14) was necessary and sufficient to fund the FTE associated with this grant. The amount requested has exceeded the amount appropriated for the last two years.

Grant information is provided on the following page.

<i>FY2013-14 GF Grantee Information</i>	
<i>Grantee Organization</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Alamosa County</i>	<i>\$20,200</i>
<i>Sobriety House</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>
<i>Pikes Peak Work Center</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>
<i>CO VET (Crawford House)</i>	<i>\$164,505</i>
<i>DAV Chapter 48</i>	<i>\$45,375</i>
<i>Providers Clearing House</i>	<i>\$34,800</i>
<i>DAV Chapter 44</i>	<i>\$32,120</i>
<i>Am Legion Post 203</i>	<i>\$12,000</i>
<i>American Military Family</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>
<i>Denver Options</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>
<i>Comitis Crisis Center</i>	<i>\$48,500</i>
<i>Catholic Charities</i>	<i>\$76,850</i>
<i>Bo Matthews Center</i>	<i>\$200,000</i>
<i>La Puente Home, Inc.</i>	<i>\$9,450</i>
<i>Providence Bible Chc, Inc.</i>	<i>\$37,200</i>
<i>Governor's Office</i>	<i>\$150,000</i>
<i>Park County Sr. Coalition</i>	<i>\$29,000</i>
<i>Am Legion Post 143</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$970,000</i>

<i>FY 2012-13 GF Grantee Information</i>	
<i>Grantee Organization</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Veterans Helping Veterans</i>	<i>\$44,980</i>
<i>DAV 48</i>	<i>\$24,192</i>
<i>Am Legion Post 108</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>
<i>Providers Clearing House</i>	<i>\$26,920</i>
<i>County VSO Training</i>	<i>\$16,000</i>
<i>DAV Chapter 44</i>	<i>\$10,400</i>
<i>Catholic Charities</i>	<i>\$64,470</i>
<i>El Paso Homeless Coalition</i>	<i>\$8,000</i>
<i>JeffCo Center Mental Health</i>	<i>\$99,500</i>

<i>Alamosa County</i>	<i>\$20,600</i>
<i>CO VET (Crawford House)</i>	<i>\$113,187</i>
<i>VFW Post 2461</i>	<i>\$10,005</i>
<i>Project Sanctuary</i>	<i>\$79,555</i>
<i>Am Legion Post 143</i>	<i>\$7,800</i>
<i>Park County Sr. Coalition</i>	<i>\$15,800</i>
<i>Am Legion Post 113</i>	<i>\$3,000</i>
<i>Denver Human Services</i>	<i>\$24,121</i>
<i>Sobriety House</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>
<i>Phoenix Multi-Sport</i>	<i>\$5,400</i>
<i>Denver Options</i>	<i>\$44,460</i>
<i>American Military Family</i>	<i>\$37,750</i>
<i>Freedom Service Dogs</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>
<i>Housing Solutions SW</i>	<i>\$43,235</i>
<i>Am Legion Post 1</i>	<i>\$19,000</i>
<i>VFW Post 1</i>	<i>\$66,000</i>
<i>VFW Post 4265</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>
<i>CO Judicial Department</i>	<i>\$107,625</i>
<i>Pikes Peak Work Center</i>	<i>\$8,000</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$980,000</i>

5. During the FY 2013-14 budget cycle, a Long Bill amendment added \$100,000 General Fund and 2.0 FTE to the Division of Veterans Affairs. Please provide an update on how these additional resources are being utilized, including any efficiencies in workload or response times.

Three of the four FTE (total) provided to the Division of Veterans Affairs have been hired as of this writing (the hiring of the final position is imminent). The addition of these personnel have allowed for a more efficient response to the consistently increasing workload within the Division (the Division saw a 47% increase in client visits in the last calendar year). These personnel have allowed the Department's intermittently staffed office at the Denver VA Regional Office to be staffed full time, providing greater support to the western metro region of Denver.

6. Could the Department assist retired veterans in Custer County to obtain access at the Community Health Center? Can the Department provide any assistance in securing funding for EMT transport services for this community?

The Division of Veterans Affairs has met with Senator Aguilar and will engage the constituent group she met with in order to assist them in exploring what avenues of support can be provided by the federal government.

ADDENDUM: OTHER QUESTIONS FOR WHICH SOLELY WRITTEN RESPONSES ARE REQUESTED

1. Provide a list of any legislation that the Department has: (a) not implemented or (b) partially implemented. Explain why the Department has not implement or has partially implemented the legislation on this list.

N/A

2. Does Department have any outstanding high priority recommendations as identified in the "Annual Report of Audit Recommendations Not Fully Implemented" that was published by the State Auditor's Office on June 30, 2013? What is the department doing to resolve the outstanding high priority recommendations?

N/A



Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



**Brief to
Joint Budget
Committee
13 November 2013**





Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



National Guard CY 13 Highlights

Army National Guard Deployments

Past: Since 2002, the Colorado Army National Guard has mobilized over 4,783 Soldiers in support of Overseas Contingency Operations

Present: The Colorado Army National Guard currently has 151 Soldiers deployed in support of operations in Kuwait, Afghanistan, Horn of Africa, Bahrain and Europe

Future: During the next 18 months, the Colorado Army National Guard is scheduled to mobilize and deploy over 324 personnel in support of Overseas Contingency Operations



Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



National Guard CY 13 Highlights

Air National Guard

Past: Since 2002, the Colorado Air National Guard has mobilized over 2,918 Airmen in support of Overseas Contingency Operations

Present: 4 personnel are currently deployed as part of individual taskings in Afghanistan and Kuwait.

- Aerospace Control Alert at Buckley AFB: 71 Personnel, 3 F-16s (24/7mission) including approximately 90 sorties.

Future: The 140th Wing's next window for a large group tasking is in October 2015. Individual deployments will continue to be tasked as needed by higher headquarters.



Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



State Partnership Program

Slovenia since 1993

Jordan since 2004

Colorado is one of 7 states with two state partners and the only state with a Middle Eastern partner.



Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



Colorado National Guard Joint Operations FFY 13 Highlights

Centennial Raging Waters (Flood Response):

Who: 438 x PAX, 49 x UH-60, 11 x LUH-72, 6 x CH-47

When: 12SEP13-03OCT13

Why: Save lives imperiled by historic flooding

365.1 flight hours

West Fork Fire:

Who: 6 x PAX, 2 x UH-60 with Bambi bucket (standby mission)

When: 26JUN13-12JUL13

Why: Assist in firefighting efforts to protect private property and ensure public safety

East Peak Fire:

Who: 154 x PAX, 36 x UH-60, 2 x LUH-72, 5 x CH-47

When: 20JUN13- 12JUL13

Why: Assist in firefighting efforts and protect private property and ensure public safety

76.7 flight hours, 174 bucket drops, 131,058 gallons of water dropped

Lime Gulch Fire:

Who: 4 x PAX, 1 x UH-60 (standby mission)

When: 20JUN13-25JUN13

Why: Conduct rescue operations as needed

Black Forest Fire:

Who: 57 x PAX, 13 x UH-60, 8 x LUH-72,

When: 11JUN13- 15JUN13

Why: Assist in Firefighting efforts and checkpoints and ensure public safety

100.8 flight hours, 383 bucket drops, 176,160 gallons of water dropped

Search and Rescue Missions Conducted in FFY 2013

Missions	Saves	Crews
34	18	87



Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



Colorado National Guard Joint Operations State Emergency Response and EMAC

“EMAC is the first national disaster–relief compact since the Civil Defense and Disaster Compact of 1950 to be ratified by Congress. Since ratification and signing into law in 1996 (Public Law 104-321), 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have enacted legislation to become EMAC members.

EMAC offers assistance during governor-declared states of emergency through a responsive, straightforward system that allows states to send personnel, equipment, and commodities to help disaster relief efforts in other states. Through EMAC states can also transfer services, such as shipping newborn blood from a disaster-impacted lab to a lab in another state.” (SOURCE: www.emacweb.org)

External state response via EMAC:

Operation Centennial Raging Waters (Flood response): Wyoming

Operation Sapper Fury (Flood infrastructure recovery): Utah, Montana and Kansas



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

CIP-MAA: (Critical Infrastructure Protection-Mission Assurance Assessments) 10 Army and Air full-time personnel; One of three Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) certified CIP-MAA teams in nation conducting nationwide Defense Industrial Base (DIB) assessments; assessed State Capitol

Counter Drug: est. 1990; Supports drug seizures; surveillance; educates Colorado youth

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



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



CY 13 National Guard Family Programs

- 33 (Federal Funds) staff members as part of Family Programs. This includes 1 Personal Financial Consultant and 2 mental health counselors.
- Conducted 20 Yellow Ribbon pre-deployment and post-deployment events for service members and their families.
- Received \$155,866.00 from the 2012 Tax Check-Off for Military Relief Fund. Since 2005 the fund has received a total of \$1,574,148.66.



Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



CY 13 Division of Veterans Affairs Highlights

- 14,907 Client visits, a 47% increase over CY12.
- 17,715 DVA-assisted claims submitted to the federal VA .
- \$106 million in previous claims completed by US Department of Veterans Affairs (State FY11-12).
- Administered Referendum E (Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption).
 - 518 validated applications, 5,011 veterans are currently using this benefit.

Veterans Trust Fund

- 39 grants totaling \$867,808 have been awarded from the Veterans Trust Fund in SFY 2012-13.



Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



CY 13 Division of Veterans Affairs Highlights

Veterans Assistance Grant

- 18 grants totaling \$970,000 have been awarded by the Department from general fund for veterans services to non-profit and veteran service organizations.
- The improved administrative funding has been adequate to support grant-related salary and operations costs.
- Grants (as listed in Staff Budget Briefing Document) 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



CY 13 Division of Veterans Affairs Highlights

Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Located in Grand Junction, CO, this facility is the only State Military Veterans Cemetery (by federal VA definition) in the state.

“Cemeteries established under the grant program must conform to the standards and guidelines pertaining to site selection, planning and construction prescribed by VA. Cemeteries must be operated solely for the burial of service members who die on active duty, veterans, and their eligible spouses and dependent children. Any cemetery assisted by a VA grant must be maintained and operated according to the operational standards and measures of the National Cemetery Administration.” (SOURCE: www.cem.va.gov)

Tax check-off – The cemetery’s tax check-off has decreased in recent years. The Department believes that several factors are responsible to include the passing of WWII veterans and their family members, the drawdown in public awareness of current military efforts and the slow-down of the economy.

The Department is contemplating working with community stakeholders to develop a “Friends of the Cemetery” type group to attempt to increase gifts, grants and donations.



Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



CY 13 Civil Air Patrol

- Conducted 23 searches for overdue/missing aircraft, lost/missing persons and emergency beacons
 - Located a missing hiker in Larimer County
- Flew 60 counterdrug sorties with county sheriffs and federal law enforcement agencies
- Conducted 49 flights and 55 ground sorties in support of Army UAV operations at Pinon Canyon
- Sent one advisor to North Carolina to support a NORAD-Northcom UAV project at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point
- Flew 3 sorties on the CO Vital Connection Communications Exercise portion of Vigilant Guard
- Flew 1 air defense target mission

- 1848 Volunteers (adults and cadets) – 1 FTE
- 16 Cessna C-182s, 1 Gippsland GA-8, 3 gliders
- 22 vans and 4WD vehicles



Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



CY 13 Civil Air Patrol

Flood Support

- Over 100 cadet and adult members have put in more than 3,000 volunteer hours to the flood effort
- Aerial photography – 77 sorties, 142 flying hours, took nearly 10,000 geo-tagged photos for both CDHSEM and FEMA, all of which were uploaded to a FEMA public website
- Aerial damage assessment – 75 sorties, 112 flying hours, this mission continues, as of 4 November, have flown 100 FEMA, state and Red Cross personnel over the flood area
- Donations support – 50 CAP members provided over 600 volunteer hours to the donation center in Loveland
- City of Colorado Springs Highway 24/Waldo Canyon - flew 6 sorties to photograph damage after heavy rains
- Ground photography – CAP ground teams were used only one day because areas FEMA wanted ground photos of were inaccessible

Wildfire Support

- Douglas County Fire Watch, June through September - 16 sorties, CAP was first to report one fire and monitored others, including the Black Forest Fire
- Black Forest Fire – CAP chaplains were available to provide pastoral care and counseling ; took high resolution, geo-referenced imagery post-fire for a state wildfire mitigation study



Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



Alamosa Readiness Center



Project Cost: \$7.7M (Fed) \$3.6M (State)

Milestones: Construction Completion October 2013

Jobs: Project 335 total badged employees, 40 average workers per day

Area: 27,153 Sq. Ft.

Sustainable initiatives: Will Pursue LEED Certification, Photo Voltaic, Geo Thermal, Transpired Solar, Solar Hot Water

Veterans Trust Fund Supported Land Acquisition



Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



North Colorado Springs



Project Cost: \$21.5M (Fed) \$0 (State)

Milestones: Construction Completion June 2014

Jobs: Project 725 total badged employees, 80 average workers per day

Area: 63,458 Sq. Ft.

Sustainable initiatives: Pursuing LEED Certification, Photo Voltaic, Geo Thermal, & Transpired Solar



Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



Federally Funded Projects (Colorado Army National Guard)

Tactical Unmanned Aircraft System @ Buckley AFB, CO (TUAS)

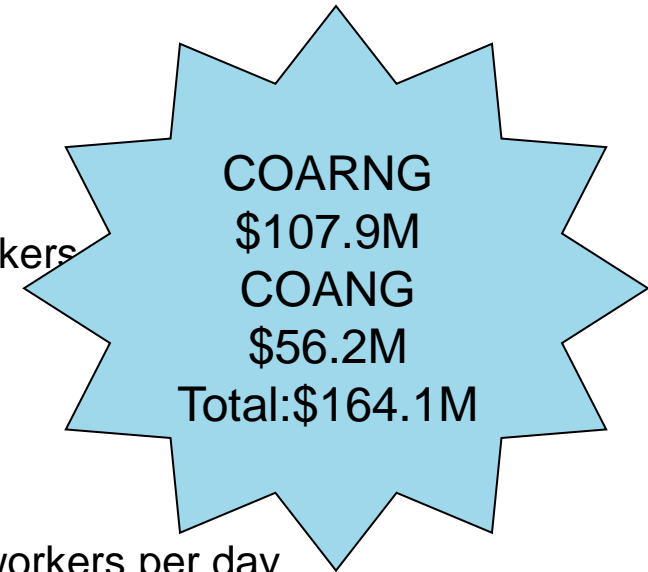
- Status: Design at 100%
- Status: Construction at 61%
- Construction: Oct 12 – Mar 14
- Project Cost: \$4,200,000
- Operation and Maintenance: 100% Federal funded
- Jobs: Project 125 total badged employees, 25 average workers

Training Center Complex @ Fort Carson, CO (TCC)

- Status: Design at 100%, Construction at 29%
- Construction: Dec 12 – Jan 15
- Project Cost: \$49,000,000
- Operation and Maintenance: 100% Federal funded
- Jobs: Project 1400 total badged employees, 150 average workers per day

Regional Training Institute @ Fort Carson, CO (RTI)

- Status: Design is 100%, Construction at 81% (including expanded scope)
- Construction: Nov 11 – Nov 14
- Project Cost: \$54,700,000
- Operation and Maintenance: 100% Federal funded
- Jobs: Project 1350 total badged employees, 150 average workers per day





Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



Federally Funded Projects (Colorado Air National Guard)

Repair Runway 14/32

- Status: 16% Construction
- Construction: Sep 2013 - Sep 2014
- Project Cost: \$39,400,000
- Operation and Maintenance: 100% Federal funded
- Jobs: 250 badge employees, 50 per day

Repair Main Apron Access and Alert Pavements

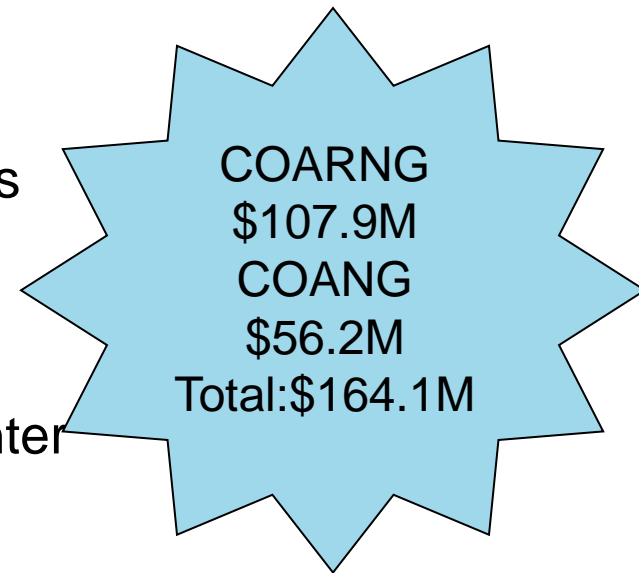
- Status: 100% Designed
- Construction: April 2014- Dec 2014
- Project Cost: \$12,000,000
- Operation and Maintenance: 100% Federal funded
- Jobs: 175 badge employees, 45 per day

Construct Range Control Facility & Fitness Center

- Status: 30% Designed
- Construction: FFY17
- Project Cost: \$830,000
- Operation and Maintenance: 100% Federal funded
- Jobs: 40 badge employees, 12 per day

Refurbish Bldg 700, Security Forces, Buckley AFB, Aurora CO

- Status: 78% Construction Complete
- Construction: May 2013-May 2014
- Project Cost: \$4,000,000
- Operation and Maintenance: 80% Federal funded / 20% State funded
- Jobs: 250 badge employees, 35 per day





Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



FY14-15 Budget Priorities

- Conduct capital construction on the Veterans Memorial Cemetery to serve the Western Slope to 2025 and beyond
- Provide consistent and sustainable funding for Veterans Memorial Cemetery to ensure a continued level of professional service to Western Slope Veterans and their families
- Maintaining appropriate funding to support operations and maintenance



Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



FY 2014-15 Budget Request

- \$7.9M General Fund for Personal Services, Common Policies, Tuition Assistance, Civil Air Patrol, County Veterans Service Offices, and Operations and Maintenance for Air and Army National Guard (Armories).
- \$1.2M 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.
- \$378.6M Federal Funds comprised of \$205.6M for the Air and Army National Guard federal mission (Training, Salaries, Equipment Maintenance) and \$9.1M for Air and Army Cooperative Agreements with the Department. Additionally there are approximately \$164.1M in Federal Funds planned for the construction and improvement of the Colorado Springs Readiness Center, the Regional Training Institute, the Training Center Complex, the Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Readiness Center and repair projects at Buckley AFB.

\$7.9 million in General Fund the State generates \$378.8million in Federal Funds