

**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
FY 2013-14 JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING AGENDA**

**Monday, December 17, 2012
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm**

1:30-1:45 INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING COMMENTS

1:45-1:55 QUESTIONS COMMON TO ALL DEPARTMENTS

1. The JBC occasionally hears complaints that base personal services reductions to capture vacancy savings result in more vacancy savings as managers reduce staff to absorb the reduction and then still experience turnover. Some departments refer to this as the "death spiral." Has your department experienced this problem? How does your department attempt to minimize and avoid the "death spiral?"

Answer: Vacancy savings negatively impacts the Department by incrementally removing authorized FTE without accounting for steady state operations. The Department already operates with a small FTE footprint, so funding that is removed through this process has a significant impact on the Department. The Department attempts to mitigate this impact by seeking new FTE through decision items.

1:55-2:00 VETERAN'S CEMETERIES

2. Are there any federally run veterans' cemeteries in the State of Colorado? If so, is there coordination between the Department and the federal government for funding and protection of these cemeteries?

Answer: There are two existing federal veterans cemeteries in Colorado (Fort Lyon and Fort Logan) with an additional cemetery being developed in El Paso County. The Department does not play a role in the maintenance and operation of these federal entities.

3. Are there any formal or informal gravesites from military battles or events that need protection in Colorado? If so, what funding is used to maintain protection of these sites?

Answer: Gravesite and battlefield preservation are the purview of the State Historical Preservation Office. The Department does not participate in direct historical preservation or funding thereof.

2:00-2:10 NATIONAL GUARD TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

4. How do benefits from the National Guard Tuition Assistance Program interact with the College Opportunity Fund? Do the requirements for the College Opportunity Fund mandate

residence? Are College Opportunity Fund moneys or National Guard Tuition Program moneys applied first to a member's institution account?

Answer: Benefits from the College Opportunity Fund are separate from the National Guard Tuition Assistance Program.

Residence requirements for the College Opportunity Fund are defined in CRS 23-18-102 et seq. as follows:

(5)(a)(II)(A) Is classified as in an in-state student for tuition purposes;

(5)(a)(II)(C.5)(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection (5), a student shall not be considered an "eligible undergraduate student" during the first year the student attends a Colorado institution of higher education if the student receives status as an in-state student for tuition purposes pursuant to section 23-7-111.

While the Department does not regulate how individual institutions manage tuition dollars, when a National Guard student receives grants in excess of tuition costs, the difference is returned to the National Guard Tuition Program.

5. Does the Department interact with on-base education resources offered at military bases in Colorado? Please provide details on what functions are shared between the Department and base resources, and how the two may interact.

Answer: The Department has a federally funded office which supports the federal tuition assistance program for Colorado Army National Guard Soldiers. This office is familiar with the programs offered on Active Component bases, but those programs are separate from those offered to National Guardsmen.

6. Has the Department experienced individuals who forfeit G.I. Bill benefits by transferring the benefits to a family member, then use Colorado's Tuition Assistance Program to pay their own tuition? Please provide examples.

Answer: The number of National Guardsmen who are eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill is limited (6 of 235 for the upcoming semester). To date, there is no evidence that any member of the Colorado National Guard has transferred their benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and then utilized the Colorado National Guard Tuition Assistance Program.

2:10-2:20 ARMORIES

7. Please provide estimates on how much energy savings the new armories will provide as LEED Silver certified structures. Also, provide a list detailing which armories are 100.0 percent new construction versus replacements of armories that had existed in the same location.

Answer: All five new armories that have been, are being or will be constructed (Fort Lupton, Grand Junction, Windsor, Alamosa and North Colorado Springs) are new construction for the “Grow the Army Initiative” of 2009 which allotted a new infantry battalion to the Colorado Army National Guard. None are “replacements.”

These new facilities will all meet LEED Silver at a minimum. While this provides a per square foot cost savings in energy cost over legacy facilities, the larger size of the buildings will generate a net increase in utility costs.

8. Please provide an estimate of operating and maintenance costs associated with the five armories, related to the new National Guard battalion in Colorado, from FY 2013-14 to 2016-17. Please provide details on the line-item that pays for these costs, and how these costs have been paid within existing resources.

Answer: Operations and Maintenance costs are estimated as follows:

	SFY 13-14	SFY 14-15	SFY 15-16	SFY 16-17
Grand Junction	\$38,202	\$38,202	\$38,202	\$38,202
Fort Lupton	\$37,485	\$37,485	\$37,485	\$37,485
N. CO Springs	\$0*	\$33,379	\$33,379	\$33,379
Windsor	\$32,558	\$32,558	\$32,558	\$32,558
Alamosa	\$18,996**	\$28,782	\$28,782	\$28,782
Total O&M	\$127,241	\$170,407	\$170,407	\$170,407

*This facility has been moved to the right and will not be complete until May 2014

**This facility will not be open this entire SFY, hence the lower number compared to subsequent SFY's

The Department has covered the increased costs of the new facilities by conducting less maintenance as increased utility bills have necessitated a new allocation strategy within the O&M fund line.

2:20-2:30 VETERANS’ COURTS SYSTEM

9. Please provide information on the relationship between the Department and the Veterans’ Courts System in the State, specifically, how the Judicial Department and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs coordinate resources and associated funding to provide services.

Answer: The Veterans Treatment Court programs within the State are within the Judicial Department and are not affiliated with the DMVA.

ADDENDUM: OTHER QUESTIONS FOR WHICH SOLELY WRITTEN RESPONSES ARE REQUESTED

1. The Joint Budget Committee has recently reviewed the State Auditor's Office *Annual Report of Audit Recommendations Not Fully Implemented* (October 2012). If this report identifies

any recommendations for the Department that have not yet been fully implemented and that fall within the following categories, please provide an update on the implementation status and the reason for any delay.

- a. Financial audit recommendations classified as material weaknesses or significant deficiencies;

Answer: N/A

- b. Financial, information technology, and performance audit recommendations that have been outstanding for three or more years.

Answer: N/A