



# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Joint State, Military,  
and Veterans Affairs  
Hearing

16 December 16



# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS



Division of the National Guard



Division of Veterans Affairs



Division of Civil Air Patrol



# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

## Performance Plan

### Department Strategic Policy Initiatives:

1. Improve Disaster Response Coordination –  
Division of the National Guard
2. Expand Services Provided to Underserved  
Veterans Through Planning and Outreach –  
Division of Veterans Affairs
3. Provide Low-Cost Disaster Mitigation Services –  
Division of the Civil Air Patrol
4. Provide STEM Education for Future Leaders –  
Division of the Civil Air Patrol



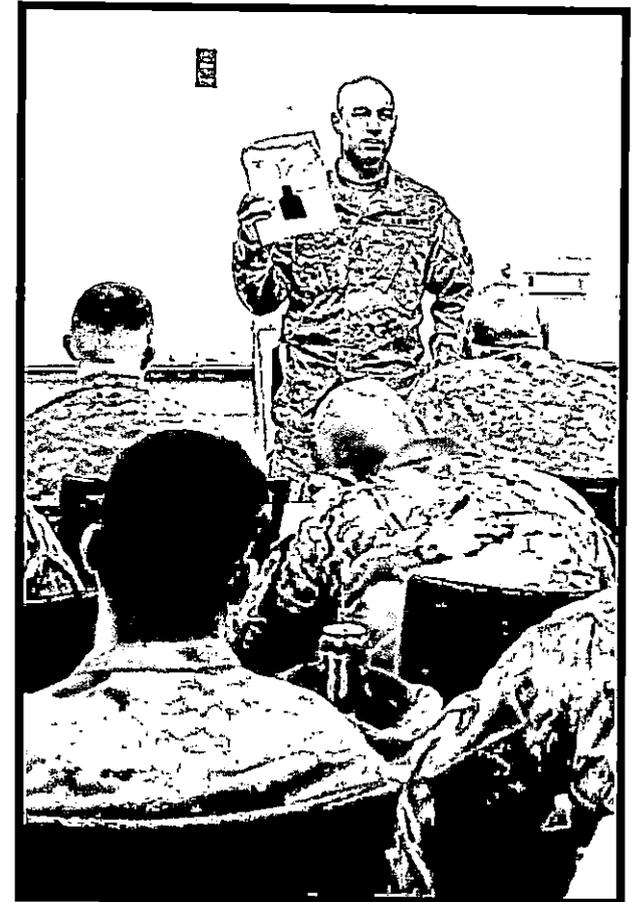


# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

## Department Performance Measurement

Example: SPI1 – Improve Disaster  
Response Coordination

1. Action – Are we working, through our Joint Staff to improve coordination with outside entities?
2. Capacity – Do we have the trained and ready forces to meet the needs of Colorado in an emergency?





# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS



Regulatory  
Agenda: None

Legislative  
Agenda: None



# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

## Budget Proposals

### Decision Items:

1. State Tuition Assistance (\$300,000)
2. FTE for Cooperative Agreement Oversight (\$80,628/0.9 FTE)
3. Division of Veterans Affairs Lease (\$13,220)

### Capital Development Requests:

1. Grand Junction Veterans One-Stop Shop (\$3.5M)





## COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

### FY 2017-18 Budget Request

- \$9.3M 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).
- \$1.2M 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.
- \$205.6M Federal Funds comprised of the Air and Army National Guard federal mission (Training, Salaries, Equipment Maintenance) and \$9.7M for Air and Army Cooperative Agreements with the Department.

**\$9.3M in General Fund generates \$215.3M in Federal Funds**



# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

## Army National Guard Highlights

### Army National Guard Deployments

**Past:** Since 2001, the Colorado Army National Guard has mobilized over 5,400 Soldiers in support of Overseas Contingency Operations.

**Present:** The Colorado Army National Guard's overseas presence consists of 14 individually deployed Soldiers as well as a unit deployment of 58 Soldiers from Headquarters, Headquarters Company 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion 19<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) and 120 Soldiers from 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 157<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment. Colorado's Soldiers are serving in locations including Germany, Slovenia, the Middle East, and South Korea.

**Future:** The Colorado Army National Guard is currently preparing to deploy 206 Soldiers in support of several operations throughout the middle east. This includes elements of the 169<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 157<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment and the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 19<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group.



# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

## Air National Guard Highlights

### Air National Guard Deployments

**Past:** Since 2001, the Colorado Air National Guard has mobilized over 3,200 Airmen in support of Overseas Contingency Operations

**Present:** The 140th Wing recently redeployed nearly 230 personnel from Eastern Europe in support of the European Re-assurance Initiative. Seven personnel are currently deployed in support of Overseas Contingency Operations.

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

**Future:** In 2017, the 140th Wing will deploy approx. 150 personnel to Nellis AFB, NV to participate in Red Flag Combat Training Exercises, approx. 240 personnel to Asia in support of Pacific Air Forces' Theater Security Package; and approx. 110 personnel in support of Reserve Component Period 6 Agile Combat Support taskings. Individual deployments will continue to be tasked as needed by higher headquarters.



# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

## Front Range Blizzard

**Who:** 4 Small Unit Support Vehicle, 5 HUMMV, 1 UH-60, 30 members  
**What:** Blizzard response  
**When:** 23MARCH16

## Presidential NSSE AF Academy

**Who:** 22 Civil Support Team members, 1 UH-60 w/ crew of 4, 2 F-16 Fighting Falcons  
**What:** US Secret Service support (Immediate Response to Thunder Bird F-16 crash)  
**When:** 2JUNE16

## Cold Springs Wildfire Support

**Who:** 261 man days; 87 members; 2 UH-60 Black Hawk; 1 CH-47 Chinook; 1 LUH-72 Lakota; 3 HUMWV; 2 fuel trucks  
**What:** Assist with aerial firefighting and security operations in support of Boulder County  
**Total Flight Hours:** 50.5  
**Total Bucket Drops:** 166  
**Total Water Dropped:** 156,050 gal.  
**When:** 10JULY16 – 13JULY16

## Junkins Wildfire Support

**Who:** 246 man days; ~45 members; 3 UH-60 Black Hawk; 2 fuel trucks; 1 HEMTT  
**What:** Assist with aerial firefighting and search and rescue in support of Custer and Pueblo counties  
**Total Flight Hours:** 74.6  
**Total Bucket Drops:** 226  
**Total Water Dropped:** 111,910 gal.  
**When:** 18OCT16 – 25OCT16

### FY 2015 Search and Rescue Missions

Missions	Lives Saved	Crews
34	28	75

### FY 2016 Search and Rescue Missions

Missions	Lives Saved	Crews
19	31	57 10

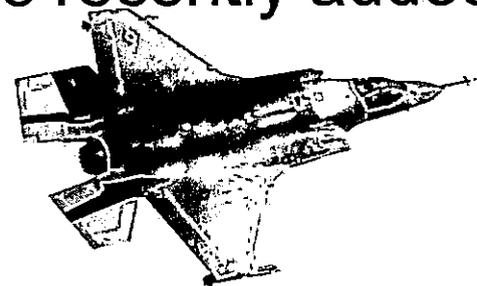


## COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Future of the Colorado National Guard

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

Cyber – The CONG has been conducting cyber operations since 1999 with the Defense Cyber Operations Element. 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 and has recently added a Cyber Protection Team to its cyber force.





# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

## CYBER IN COLORADO

*OIT is the cybersecurity lead for the State of Colorado*

- Colorado National Guard Cyber Teams
  - Cyber Protection Team (FEMA Region 8)
  - Defense Cyber Operations Element (since 1999)
- CONG Cyber teams operate to defend DoD or respond to unforeseen and dynamic cyber situations
- We partner with universities and cyber entities to include:
  - National Cybersecurity Center
  - Regis University
  - Homeland Security and All Hazards Committee (HSAC) – Cyber Subcommittee
  - NG Region 7 Cybersecurity Committee
  - NORTHCOM



## COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

### National Guard Family Programs

- 28 (Federal Funds) staff members as part of Family Programs. This includes a recently hired personal financial counselor who offers assistance to all Service Members and their Families.
- Conducted 25 Yellow Ribbon pre-deployment and post-deployment events for service members and their families.
- Received \$197,005.28 from the 2015 Tax Check-Off for Military Relief Fund.
  - Since 2005 the fund has received a total of \$2,046,517.07 and provided \$1,693,223.31 in grants to service members and their families.





# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

## Division of Veterans Affairs Highlights

- 14,667 in SFY 15 Client visits.
- 26,883 DVA-assisted claims submitted to the federal VA .
- \$43 million in previous claims completed by US Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Administered Referendum E (Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption).
  - 794 validated applications, 6,334 veterans are currently using this benefit.

## Veterans Assistance Grant

- 25 grants totaling \$966,549 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



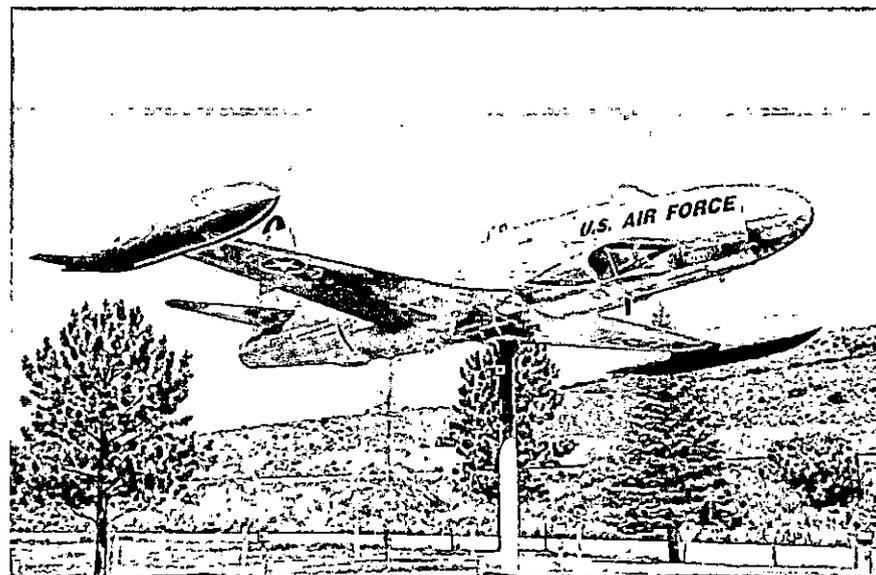
# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

## County Veterans Service Officers

The Department successfully sought an increase in reimbursement to CVSO's in 2014. Outcomes include:

- Counties that have gone to full-time from part-time – 4
- Counties that did not have a CVSO that now have one – 1
- Counties that have added additional staff - 7

State Reimbursement to CVSO's increased from \$1.25/hr. to \$8.00/hr.



### Reimbursement Trends

Year	Counties	Amount
2015	60	\$95,800
2016	62	\$641,058



# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

## Veterans Trust Fund

- 29 grants totaling \$832,931 have been awarded from the Veterans Trust Fund in SFY 2015-16.

### Audit and Oversight

- The VTF was audited in 2014 with 119 original findings. This was pared down to 5 findings based on the aggressive work of the Department to increase transparency and accountability.
- Since the audit, the Department has made the following changes based on findings:
  - Quarterly webinar training for grantees and applicants
  - Clear written guidance/handbook
  - Measuring grantee performance/program success
  - Requiring detailed description and documentation for reimbursement





# 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



## COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

### CY 16 (through 31 October) Civil Air Patrol

- Conducted 14 searches for overdue/missing aircraft, lost/missing persons and emergency beacons
  - 1 hiker saved – in Larimer County; 2 distress finds (assists to sheriffs)
- Flew roads east of the Denver metro area looking for stranded motorists after March blizzard
- Continuing aerial assessment of Waldo Canyon burn area for City of Colorado Springs
- Took aerial photos and provided aerial patrol over Thunderbird crash in Colorado Springs
- Fourth year providing chase planes in support of Army UAV operations at Pinon Canyon
- Received “Highly Successful” rating in USAF Operational Readiness Evaluation

#### Equipment

- 1,707 volunteers (adults and cadets) – 1 FTE
- 15 Cessna C-182s, 1 Gippsland GA-8, 2 gliders
- 22 vans and 4WD vehicles

#### National Awards

- Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron took 3rd place in the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition – Cyber Patriot; only team to make the finals six times
- Cadet CMSgt Victor Griswold became the first and only, so far, Cyber Patriot All-American for making the finals in all four years of high school



# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

## Statewide Military Engagement

The Department actively engages with and for our active duty military installations:

- Current projects with military installations –
  - Joint Land Use Study - Fort Carson/Peterson/Schriever/USAFA
  - Buckley AFB – P-4/Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative
  - Cyber – National Cybersecurity Center and Cyberworx (USAFA)
- The Department is an active member of the following military advocacy groups –
  - Association of Defense Communities (national association)
  - Aurora Defense Coalition (Aurora Chamber)
  - Military Affairs Council/Defense Mission Task Force (Colorado Springs Chamber)
  - Colorado Wants You (statewide advocacy)



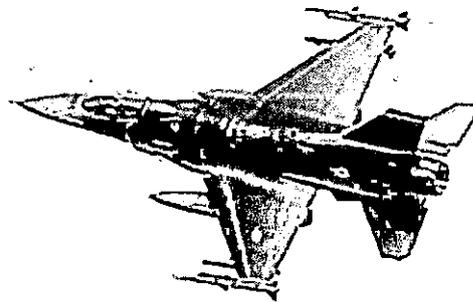
# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

## Statewide Military Issues

Colorado has a unique mix of missions and is primed for growth in national defense.

Colorado's technically skilled workforce is the reason why defense is Colorado's third largest industry.

Colorado is firmly entrenched in high-tech military missions (space) and poised to take on newer areas (cyber).





## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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





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