

**DEPARTMENT
OF
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR
2009 – 2010**

1.Executive Director Letter

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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Bill Ritter Jr.
Governor

Major General
H. Michael Edwards
The Adjutant General

Executive Director's Letter

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has been largely focused on the primary mission of the largest Division within the Department, the Colorado National Guard. That primary mission, of course, is to augment the active duty military forces when so ordered by the President. Since 9/11, the Colorado National Guard has had personnel and equipment continuously deployed in support of Homeland Security and overseas in the prosecution of the Global War On Terrorism. Over 1700 members of the Army National Guard and 2200 from the Air National Guard have been deployed at least once—and many have deployed three or

four times. While Air National Guard deployments have remained about 60 days in length about every eighteen months, the Army National Guard deployments were 15-18 months. A change in Department of Defense Policy has now limited this to 12 months, which has somewhat eased the burden on the families. Of the nearly 5,200 members of the National Guard, about 600 are deployed at any one time. The available personnel within the state have been able to respond to their second mission, that of responding to disasters when called by the Governor. Over 800 personnel and 200 vehicles deployed to support Hurricane Katrina recovery, and more recently 150 assisted with the Windsor Tornado recovery and another 25 assisted with the water distribution in Alamosa, and 5 helicopters and crews helped control the Pinion Canyon fire. For the Democratic National Convention, over 1714 personnel and 200 vehicles were on standby to assist local authorities as necessary. I point this out to assure the citizens of Colorado that in spite of the War, we are able to respond to the needs of the State. While some states have fallen a bit short on equipment to deal with state missions, Colorado has remained relatively well off, with about 65% of its major equipment available for state emergency missions. As an economy measure, the Department of Defense only provides about 75% of the equipment the Guard is authorized and I am pleased to note that at the National level there is movement to fully equip the National Guard.

In spite of the frequent deployments and family and career disruption, our recruiting efforts have managed to keep the force structure at or above 100 percent of the authorized strength. Army Guard recruiting success has resulted in the addition of an 800 plus man Infantry Battalion which is now forming in Grand Junction, Colorado Springs and soon Ft. Lupton. We are also considering locations near Alamosa and Erie. By spreading this force to these new locations, we gain a greater community presence and improve our ability to respond to state emergencies.

Personnel and equipment must come together with a place to train. For the Air National Guard, the federally owned and operated facilities at Greeley Air Station, Buckley AFB and Peterson AFB meet the need. The Army National Guard, however, is spread throughout the state—it is a community based defense force. As the Colorado economy lagged in 2002 and 2003, the Department was forced to close and sell several of the state owned Army National Guard

armories and to curtail all but emergency repairs in those that remained. I am pleased that we have been able to address most of that maintenance backlog and hope, particularly as we gain this new infantry battalion, that we can restore our unit presence in the Arkansas and San Luis valleys and strengthen our presence on the western slope.

The Division of Veterans Affairs has also felt the impact of the Global War on Terrorism as the number of new veterans, many of them Guardsmen and Reservists, qualify for benefits. In addition to this growing caseload, they have been participating in transition assistance programs to explain veteran benefits to those returning from deployments. This workload is added to one that was already growing from the health problems experienced by our aging Korean and Vietnam era veterans. The Divisions antiquated and obsolete caseload management system is overwhelmed, and we are hopeful of replacing it with one that meets the expanding needs of our case officers. Beyond just the Division however, there is a greater awareness and concern with the health care issues of our returning veterans, and while the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is the responsible agency, they are in some cases ill-equipped to deal with new problems. I am pleased with several of the initiatives from the General Assembly as well as the many non-profit organizations seeking to help our deserving veterans.

The Division of the Civil Air Patrol is somewhat similar to the National Guard in that its 15 (soon to be 16) powered aircraft, two gliders, and 20 vehicles are all provided through the National CAP; but the State provides important financial support for aircraft maintenance and operations. Since it is an all-volunteer organization, the State also provides one full-time paid employee. In Fiscal 2007, the Colorado Civil Air Patrol flew 3000 hours in support of Search and Rescue, Cadet Programs, and Aerospace Education in Colorado. Furthermore, Colorado was among the leading Wings in the Nation with 14 lives saved in 2007. The more than 1600 volunteers of the Colorado Civil Air Patrol proudly serve their communities and the State of Colorado by attending regular training events and meetings, as well as conducting self-guided proficiency flights in preparation for Emergency Services missions. Colorado Wing was recognized as the 2008 Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) Wing of the Year for outreach efforts that have touched more than 100,000 citizens across Colorado. Citizen volunteers of the Civil Air Patrol also participate in Homeland Security Exercises and work together with State and

County authorities in Counter Drug missions, helping to stem the trade of illicit drugs in the state of Colorado.

H. Michael Edwards
Major General, Colorado Air National Guard
The Adjutant General and Executive Director

2. Introduction

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs consists of three functionally related but separate divisions:

1. National Guard, the federally recognized state military force comprised of 3700 Army National Guard and 1500 Air National Guard personnel.
2. The Division of Civil Air Patrol consisting of one state employee to provide support to the more than 1600 volunteer members of the Colorado Wing, Civil Air Patrol which is under the operational and administrative control of the National Civil Air Patrol.

3. The Division of Veterans Affairs which consists of State Veterans Service Officers and the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado. The Division supports the Board of Veterans Affairs, a seven member board appointed by the Governor and reporting through the Adjutant General.

The National Guard exists primarily to augment the national active duty forces when so ordered by the President. It is this federal mission that generates the equipment, manpower authorizations and training provided by the federal government. From the perspective of Colorado citizens, these trained people living in the community provide the State with an important resource to respond to natural disasters or other State needs for security and protection. However, when they serve in this State capacity, the State must fund the pay and must “rent” the equipment from the federal government. The State also has a responsibility to provide, operate, and maintain readiness centers (armories) and other facilities for the units. The federal government assists in these functions by means of a Master Cooperative Agreement that specifies State and Federal funding shares for construction, operations and maintenance. About eighty percent of all Guardsmen train one weekend per month and 15 days in the summer. (However, as noted in the Executive Director’s letter, most have been deployed in support of the federal mission at least once in the past five years.) The remaining twenty percent are all full time federal employees—charged with planning training, doing administration and maintaining equipment. They provide an important, but very limited, nearly immediate response capability. While the Army National Guard is spread out in armories/communities literally across the State, the Air Guard is primarily located at Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora (F-16 fighter mission), Greeley Air Station (space warning mission) and Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs (executive airlift mission).

The Division of Veterans Affairs serves as the “hub” of a network of Veterans Service Officers and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. They provide training and certification for County Veterans Service Officers who then assist veterans in the counties to obtain benefits they have earned from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The network thus has responsibility for providing claim support services to the over 427,000 veterans, registered with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs residing in the state of Colorado. The division has five Veterans Service Officers and monitors and supports the activities of over sixty County Veterans Service Officers. The Division also manages the Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado located in Grand Junction. The Cemetery was inaugurated on 17 July 2002. The cemetery conducts on average five interments per week and has nearly 1400 veterans, spouses and dependents interred. The Division also supports the activities of the State Board of Veterans Affairs. The Board provides advice on veterans’ needs and issues to the Adjutant General and the General Assembly. It also administers the grants program derived from funds in the Veterans Trust Fund which derives its annual funding from the Master Tobacco Settlement.

The Division of Civil Air Patrol supports the Colorado Wing which has 14 Cessna search aircraft, ground vehicles, senior squadrons and the Cadet program for 12-21 year olds. The senior squadrons provide trained volunteer pilots and observers across the State who can respond to national and state missions for search and rescue, transport and homeland security missions. The Cadet Squadrons provide aerospace education and activities in a structured “military” environment and exist all over Colorado. The Division provides important financial support to the activities of the Wing.

3. Federal and State Statutory Authority:

The Department functions under the authority of Title 28 Colorado Revised Statutes (2008) and Title 32, United States Code (2008).

Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
November 2008

Executive Directors Office
Maj Gen H. Michael Edwards
FTE: 34.3
Funds: \$6,941,045

State Board of
Veterans Affairs
7 Members

Division of the National Guard

Army Guard
Commander: BG Tom Mills
FTE: 51.5
Funds: \$3,436,537

Air Guard
Commander: BG William Hudson
FTE: 48.6
Funds: \$3,261,284

Federal Programs *
Federal FTE: 1,239.0
Fed Funds: \$187,643,986

Division of Veterans Affairs
Director: William Conroy
FTE: 12.5
Funds: \$1,836,839

State Veterans Cemetery
(Grand Junction)

Division of Civil Air Patrol
Commander: Col Ed Phelka
FTE: 1
Funds: \$127,341

5. Mission:

To provide day-to-day command and control, guidance, policies, and administrative and logistics support to the Division of the National Guard, the Division of Veterans Affairs and the Division of Civil Air Patrol. By statute, that support includes safekeeping and management of military real estate, veterans' cemetery, equipment, facilities and buildings; publishing necessary regulations, orders and reports; maintaining records; and hiring personnel to carry out those missions.

6. Five Year Vision:

As the Department moves through the next five years, the needs of the three divisions are fairly clear. Within the National Guard, needs will focus on facilities and increasing manpower. In Veterans Affairs, the growing health needs of an aging veterans' population and the needs of the new generation of veterans from the Global War on Terrorism will be a focus. The Civil Air Patrol will focus on restoration of their 2001 support levels.

National Guard

A key Department statutory requirement is to build and maintain armories. The average age of the Department's armories is approaching fifty years and many do not meet current safety code requirements. While some of these requirements are being addressed through controlled maintenance, many of the facilities are no longer suitable for unit training. In many cases, this is because what was outside the city fifty years ago is now surrounded by urban growth.

The Army and the Colorado Army National Guard (COARNG) are expanding to meet future needs of the Global War on Terrorism. The COARNG has begun staffing a light infantry battalion of 809 personnel in six companies. This will bring about \$8 million in income and \$380,000 in additional income tax revenue to the state. However, armories/facilities for this battalion create both opportunity and challenge.

The opportunity is to reestablish or reinforce the Department's presence in key Colorado communities by building new facilities. The challenge will be funding. The federal government will provide nearly \$83 million in funds during the next four years. Depending upon the location (state or federal property), the state share could be as high as \$43 million. In the past, the Department has used proceeds from sales of existing property for the state share. There is no surplus property remaining to sell, and the properties sold

recently do not begin to make up the 25% state share for construction of a new facility. Thus, the Department must compete for scarce Capital Construction funds. Last year, the Department was able to secure federal and state funding for a new infantry armory in Grand Junction.

Division of Veterans Affairs

The state's veterans' population is declining. (This is a result of the passing of the large numbers of WW II veterans). However, the remaining veterans are aging and experiencing more health care problems. Those with access to federal veterans' health care will place increasing demands on the system. Many of those that have not qualified for health care will seek access by trying to establish a service connection for the health issue. These cases are very difficult and time consuming to establish and it will add greatly to the time workload of the Department's network of county and state veterans service officers. Increasingly, the Division is called upon for "outreach" programs for new veterans returning from overseas. The five certified service officers often have difficulty meeting these new and growing demands.

Division of Civil Air Patrol

This volunteer organization was dealt a severe blow in 2003 when one of the two FTE positions provided by the state was eliminated. Since the Civil Air Patrol is all volunteers, this loss had a tremendous impact. The remaining FTE has focused on key areas of administration and tracking State funds and property, and has not been generally available for development of programs. Particularly in the areas of homeland security and the cadet program, the lack of full time support and planning has had an adverse impact, and while both programs continue, they struggle. While the Department has been provided a modest budget increase for maintenance, it has not been able to keep pace with rising operations costs. These issues provide the focus for the Civil Air Patrol.

7. Department Objectives:

Respond to State Emergencies and Search and Rescue Operations:

- Provide a 24-hour year round rapid response capability for State emergencies
- Provide rapid response from both Civil Air Patrol and Army National Guard in search and rescue operations.

Maintain Infrastructure Support for the Army and Air National Guard:

1. Acquire or construct the required training and support facilities to DOD and State Standards.
2. Maintain all facilities to DoD and State standards.

Provide responsive service to veterans and County Veterans Service Officers statewide:

- 1) Maintain a dignified and well maintained Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado.
- 2) Decrease Division of Veterans Affairs processing time for veterans claims.
- 3) Increase County Veterans Service Officer Certification and outreach.
- 4) Maximize the federal funding for veterans in Colorado.

Establish and maintain efficient responsive administrative services in support of Department Programs:

- Provide a budget analysis and review capability, to identify efficiencies, prioritize resources, and recommend budget priorities
- Provide efficient and effective purchasing/contracting support to all customers by continuously improving processes and complying with State rules
- Provide a reliable and interconnected computer network to all staff within divisions.
- Possess, an efficient and effective Personnel section that hires, retains and provides service to the most qualified individuals available while adhering to State and federal human resource laws.

- Provide efficient and accurate accounting for and payment of bills to include prompt/accurate/ reports to all agencies.

8. Department-wide Performance Measures and Benchmarks

The Divisions of the Department have many parameters that can be and are measured. The selected Department level measures are the most comprehensive and wide ranging measures related to one or more Divisions.

Performance Measure #1	Outcome	FY 2006-07 Actual	FY 2007-08 Actual	FY 2008-09 Appropriation	FY 2009-10 Request
Deploy initial National Guard forces and equipment within 4 hours of declaration of state emergency	Benchmark	<6 hrs	<4 hrs	<4 hrs	<4 hrs
	Actual	<6 hrs	<6 hrs	Unknown	Unknown

The total time starts with the notification of the National Guard Emergency Operations Center by the State's Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) that an authorization for Guard assistance has been received from the Governor's Office.

Performance Measure #2	Outcome	FY 2006-07 Actual	FY 2007-08 Actual	FY 2008-09 Appropriation	FY 2009-10 Request
Provide sufficient number of trained and equipped National Guard forces for state and federal emergencies.	Benchmark	5000	5114	5227	5227
	Actual	4992	5036	Unknown	Unknown

The Benchmark is the number of positions authorized for Army and Air Guard members. The Actual is the number of Army and Air Guard members in the available positions. The Army Guard is authorized to go 10% above authorized positions so the Actual number could be higher than the Benchmark. State appropriated funds impact this performance measure in that construction and maintenance

of Armories has an impact on the conditions under which the members train. This has an impact on recruiting and retention of members. Availability and funding levels for State Tuition Assistance is also an important contributor to both recruiting and retention.

Performance Measure #3	Outcome	FY 2006-07 Actual	FY 2007-08 Actual	FY 2008-09 Appropriation	FY 2009-10 Request
Provide search and rescue aircraft response, Army Guard and Civil Air Patrol (CAP) within 90 minutes – weather permitting	Benchmark	<90 mins	<90 mins	<90 mins	<90 mins
	Actual	80 mins	140 mins	Unknown	Unknown

Search and rescue missions reach the Department through two channels. 1) The County Sheriff can request search and rescue support through the State Division of Emergency Management (this is usually for Army National Guard helicopter support). 2) County Sheriffs can call the Armed Forces Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) which then send search and rescue missions to the Civil Air Patrol or National Guard. The time is measured from notification of the Army National Guard or CAP asset until launch of the Helicopter or Aircraft.

Performance Measure #4	Outcome	FY 2006-07 Actual	FY 2007-08 Actual	FY 2008-09 Appropriation	FY 2009-10 Request
Enable Veterans to receive the benefits to which they are entitled from the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs (\$/Veteran/year)	Benchmark	N/A	\$1600	\$1780	\$1960
	Actual	\$1558	\$1727	Unknown	Unknown

This performance measure is a composite of all the possible parameters that could be measured for service to veterans. It measures a combination of the number of veterans that the County Veteran Service Officers and the State Veteran Service Officers help get into the system and the amount of benefit (based on transfer payments to Colorado veterans) that the same Officers help those veterans obtain. The data is published by the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs on their web site and is available approximately 6 – 9 months after the end of the federal fiscal year.

Performance Measure #5	Outcome	FY 2006-07 Actual	FY 2007-08 Actual	FY 2008-09 Appropriation	FY 2009-10 Request
Achieve a Satisfactory (Category II) rating for each National Guard facility as measured by the Installation Status Report	Benchmark	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Actual	66%	67%	Unknown	Unknown

All State Armories are reflected on the federal Installation Status Report. The Armories are rated based on age, condition and authorized square footage. There are three possible categories – I, II & III. Category I meet or exceed the standard. Category I do not meet the standard but are Satisfactory for use by National Guard Units.

Category III are Marginally Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory for use by National Guard Units due to their age, condition or health and safety problems.

9. Strategies

Performance Measure #1, deploy National Guard resources within four hours and Performance Measure #2, provide sufficient number of trained and equipped forces go to the heart of the State missions/expectations for the Division of National Guard. The Department's ability to meet those benchmarks is a function of many variables such as manpower authorizations, full-time manning, individual and unit level training, condition of training facilities, equipment on hand, location of units, number of units deployed (or the converse- - number of units available) and recruiting. Many of these variables are outside the Department's direct control, but others, particularly location and condition of facilities, recruiting and retention are directly impacted by the Department's budget programs.

In 2003, the Department was forced to dispose of several armories to meet budget constraints. This reduced Guard presence in several communities (Monte Vista, Trinidad, Craig, Greeley and Lamar). That in turn increased response time and the number of available forces. The budget constraints also limited the Department's readiness center maintenance to almost the level of emergency only due to the long lists of deferred maintenance. Working with the governor's office and the General Assembly, we have worked a successful strategy that sought to "buy back" the maintenance backlog. In addition, due in part to the success of the National Guard recruiting and retention, the Army national Guard maintained manpower strength that resulted in a new infantry battalion with over 800 personnel to be stationed in several new locations. The infantry battalion is part of a "grow the force" initiative that includes prioritized federal funding for 75% of the cost of construction for new readiness centers. Of course, the State must provide the other 25% as well as the land and infrastructure. This provides an opportunity to expand the Department's presence throughout the State (Alamosa, Ft. Lupton and Grand Junction) thus providing more ready forces and decreased response time (about 21 additional full-time personnel). This opportunity, however, is dependent on meeting several challenges, not the least of which is the State and federal budget cycles. Federal Construction dollars are part of a five year defense spending plan that may make federal dollars available in a year when the State's capital budget is severely constrained- -and the Department can potentially lose the project. Last year, the Department was able to get legislative approval for the State share of a readiness center in Grand Junction, but there were no capital

funds available for Ft. Lupton. The Ft. Lupton project was approved with no State funds, but it is incumbent upon the Department to get the State funds appropriated this year.

One of the additional challenges generated by the cooperative effort by the State and federal government in building and maintaining armories is management. Federal employees, federally reimbursed State employees and State funded employees work side by side to manage maintenance and construction. Federal employees have little experience with State rules and procedures on personnel, contracting, procurement and purchasing- -and they change positions on average of every 3 years. The Department suffers from a lack of continuity in these important multi-year programs (capital construction, controlled maintenance and routine maintenance). Included in this request is a new State funded position, that of Deputy Facility Director. This FTE would provide essential high level continuity and expertise in State systems and rules, greatly improving the planning and execution of State funded projects and protecting State financial interests. This will have a great impact on Performance Measure #5; achieve a satisfactory rating for each National Guard facility.

The State sponsored Tuition Assistance Program for members of the National Guard has been an important recruiting and retention tool as many of the service members seek to complete or further their education. Members have signed up for higher education in record numbers (an increase of 48% in the past five years)and the Department anticipates a shortfall in tuition assistance funding in FY2008-09 which will result in a reduction from the Department's ability to pay100% of the tuition expenses. The growth in authorized manpower, (about 100 personnel in the Air Guard and 800 in the Army Guard) has further increased demand for tuition assistance. Included in this budget request is an increase in general funds for that program.

Another request in this year's budget is for the procurement of an automated pay system for National Guardsmen called to duty by the governor. Last year, the governor activated about 140 personnel for different State emergencies, the largest being 119 called for the Windsor tornadoes. (The 2100 on standby for the Democratic National Convention were paid through the federal system). When called to state active duty by the governor, the Guardsmen are paid as State employees but at their federal pay rate. The process for accomplishing this is largely manual, is cumbersome and very time consuming. This results in long delays for pay, which in turn works a real hardship on Guardsmen who leave their civilian jobs (and pay) to answer the call. A bad experience reduces the number of willing volunteers for the next call. Included in the Department's request this year is the purchase of an automated pay system (developed in Florida) that allows the federal pay data to be translated/transmitted into the State pay system resulting in about an 85% decrease in processing time and administrative effort.

Performance Measure #3, provide search and rescue aircraft response, is a function of many variables, such as aircraft authorized, maintenance status, location of aircraft, number and training status of pilots and crews. Looking at just the Army National Guard (helicopters), the Department will see greater capability because the Department's aircraft and crews have returned from Iraq. Furthermore, the Department's helicopter authorization and on hand has increased by 6 UH-60s and 4 of the large CH-47s. We also have 7 hoists for the UH-60s which are often vital for mountain rescues. The Civil Air Patrol fleet of 14 Cessna's has presented some challenges. First, the Wing has been given a new "glass cockpit" aircraft that has state of the art instrumentation but requires 10 hours of training and greater frequency of proficiency flights, which in turn generates a need for more operational funds which have not been provided from federal sources. Additionally, National Civil Air Patrol continues to examine consolidated aircraft maintenance. Since the State provides some funding for both operations and maintenance, trying to balance the need in each of those categories has become a real challenge. The potential danger is that because of maintenance or operational funds we may not be able to generate sufficient flight hours per aircraft and crew to retain all 14 aircraft. (Aircraft are allocated among the separate states by National Civil Air Patrol based largely on flying hours- -the more hours a Wing flies, the more aircraft they get.) In the FY2008-09 Long Bill the JBC separated the CAP lines thus severely restricting our flexibility with operations and maintenance funding. As a general statement the Department needs more flexibility in these lines.

Performance Measure #4, enable veterans to receive the benefits to which they are entitled is a real challenge. Key elements of the equation are beyond the Department's control- -the number of eligible veterans, the number who submit a claim, and the decision on each claim (the US Department of Veterans Affairs--not the State--makes the decision). The Board of Veterans Affairs conducted a survey of veterans and discovered that as many as 25% of the veterans in Colorado had never submitted a claim or even contacted the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This means that they are not counted by the Department in the decisions they make regarding locations of facilities. The Department's benchmark, the dollars generated by each veteran (as a result of successful claims) could be improved if the Department were to contact and register more veterans. To the extent the Department can encourage counties to increase outreach to their "non-registered" veterans, the Department will increase the accuracy of the veterans' demographics and gain more federal resources. The Department hopes to continue its pilot program to give counties the incentive to do this outreach through their County Veteran Service Officers. Included in this year's Long Bill are funds for five counties to increase outreach to see if in fact, by registering more veterans and more claims, the total dollars coming into the county from the US Department of Veterans Affairs will increase. If this test program is effective, the Department will recommend expansion to the other counties.

10. Evaluation of Success in Meeting Benchmarks

Performance Measure #1 Benchmark - “Deploy initial National Guard forces and equipment within 4 hours” actually slipped somewhat in FY 2007-08. The Department did very well with the Windsor tornadoes, but requests for helicopter support for fires and search and rescue were hampered a somewhat by helicopter and crew availability—many were deployed to Iraq. This is no longer the case.

Performance Measure #2 Benchmark – “Provide 5114 trained and equipped National Guard forces” was not met. About 600 personnel were deployed in support of federal mission. Additionally, the Air National Guard was unable to meet recruiting goals for their larger force.

Performance Measure #3 Benchmark – “Provide search and rescue aircraft response within 90 minutes” was met, but the Department did not have a large number of requests in FY 2007-08. To improve performance/ time to less than 90 minutes would probably require crews on standby which is something the Department cannot afford. With crews on call, and available aircraft, the Department can probably continue to meet the 90 minute benchmark (weather permitting).

Performance Measure #4 Benchmark – “Enable veterans to receive the benefits to which they are entitled” is confusing. The Department established the dollar per veteran measure last year. The numbers came from the US Department of Veterans Affairs and are available 6-9 months after the end of the federal fiscal year. The data the Department used to benchmark (\$1558 actual and \$1600 benchmark) were rough initial estimates. Now that we have actual data for FFY 2006-07, we can establish more accurate benchmarks which are reported in this year’s table. The initial results of the Department’s test program will not be available until next year, since the program only began in July 2008.

Performance Measure #5 Benchmark – “Achieve a satisfactory rating for each National Guard facility” improved by one percentage point, due largely to the completion and opening of the new maintenance facility in Grand Junction. If the Department is successful with Capital construction and controlled maintenance funding requests, we should show continued improvement in this benchmark.