

# *STATE OF COLORADO*

## DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS



## BUDGET REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

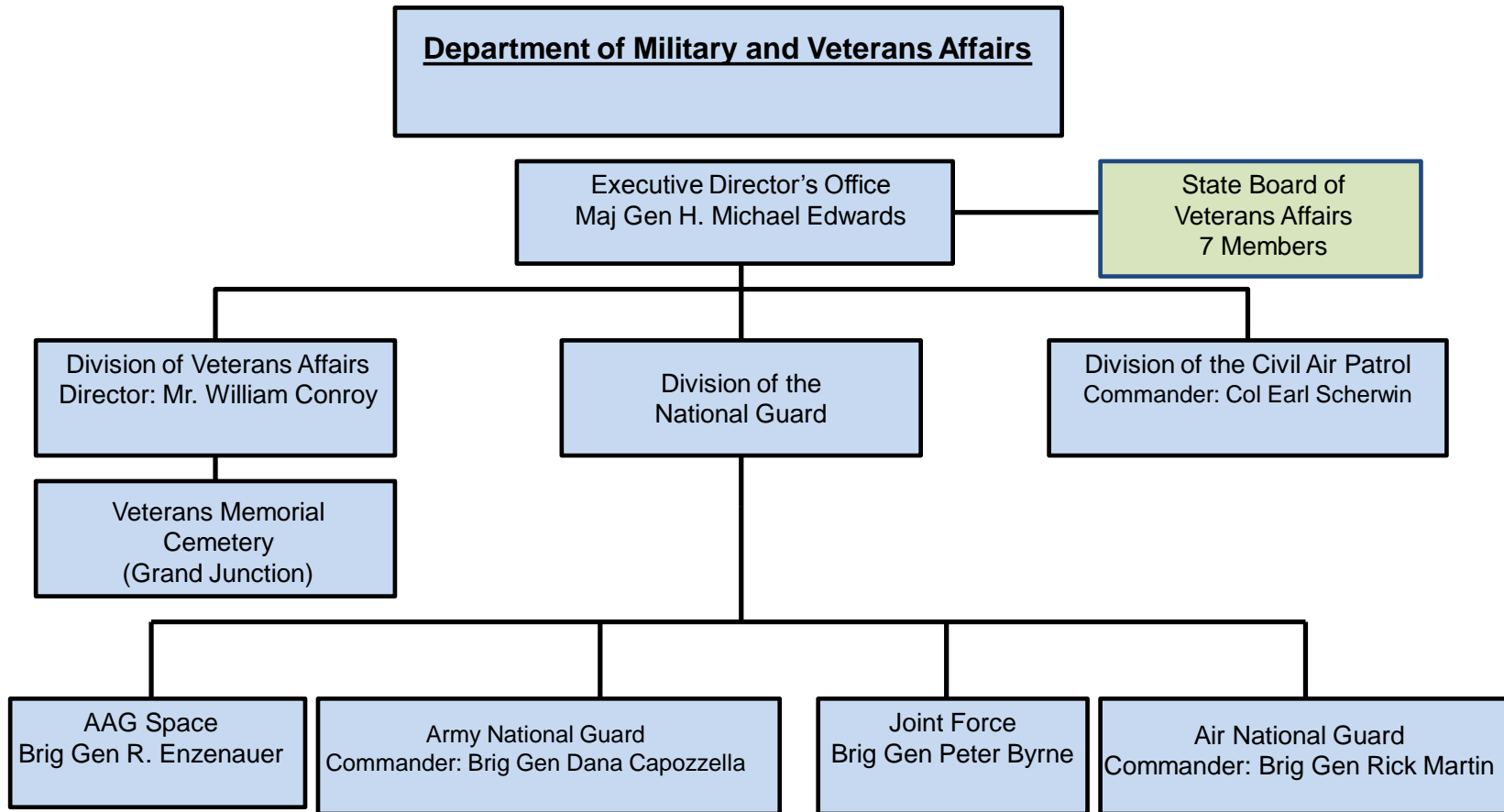
*H. Michael Edwards*

Major General, Colorado Air National Guard  
The Adjutant General and Executive Director

**Department Description**

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The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is a cabinet level department that has three main divisions. The first is the Division of the Colorado National Guard comprising the approximately 5,535 members of the Colorado Army and Air National Guard that are prepared to respond to the Governor's requirements for emergency service or to support the Department of Defense when called to duty by the President. The second is the Division of Veterans Affairs that is responsible for providing advocacy services to the approximately 420,000 Veterans and their families living in Colorado. In addition the Division also supports the Colorado State Board of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Memorial Cemetery located in Grand Junction. The third Division is the Colorado Wing of the Civil Air Patrol that provides search and rescue, support to law enforcement, cadet programs for youth and aerospace education.

**The Executive Director's Office** is responsible for the overall administration of the Department. It provides leadership and support to the Divisions by managing the general administrative functions. These functions include:

- Leadership and Policy Development – The Adjutant General is both the Executive Director of the Department and the military chief of staff for the Governor. The Governor is the Commander in Chief of the Colorado National Guard. The breadth of The Adjutant General's responsibility includes the Colorado Army and Air National Guard, the Division of Veterans Affairs, the State Board of Veterans Affairs as well as the Division of the Civil Air Patrol. The Army and Air National Guard are each separately managed and funded entities staffed by Federal Civil Service employees and Active Guard Reserve (AGR) members totally funded by the federal government.
- Legislative Affairs – The Department frequently interacts with state, local and federal legislators in order to educate them as to the role, capabilities and needs of the Department's divisions. The Department also provides responsive support to information requests and constituent concerns from legislative offices.
- Real Estate – The EDO facilitates the acquisition and disposal of state-owned, Department-controlled property, primarily Army National Guard Readiness Centers.
- Human Resource Management – The EDO oversees the State HRO office serving State classified and temporary employees, the Army Guard military personnel office serving the traditional part time Army Guard military members, the Air Guard military personnel office serving the traditional part time Air Guard military members and the Joint Army/Air HRO office serving the federal civil servants and AGRs.
- Accounting – The State accounting function that handles all State funds and limited federal funds used to support infrastructure activities (approximately \$15 million annually). There is an Army Guard accounting section that accounts for all the federal funds in support of the Army Guard and an Air Guard accounting section that accounts for all the federal funds in support of the Air Guard.

- Purchasing/Contracting – There are three purchasing/contracting operations in the Department. The State purchasing/contracting office handles all State funded contracts/purchases for the Department. The Army and Air National Guard federal purchasing/contracting offices handle all federally funded contracts/purchases.
- Budgeting –State budgeting office generates the budget that is appropriated in the annual Long Bill by the State's General Assembly. The Army and Air Guard each have their separate budgeting operations that generate budget requests for the following federal fiscal year.
- Information Technology – The EDO manages interaction with OIT and functional operation across Department of Defense IT platforms.
- Archives – The Department maintains an archive of service records to facilitate access for Guardsmen and their family members for the purposes of verifying service and claiming veterans benefits. Additional Department documents are stored as required (HR, accounting, etc.).

**Division of the Army & Air National Guard:** The National Guard's origins go back to 1636 with the establishment of a militia by the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The state militias formed the bulk of the nation's response to wars. The militias were equipped and trained by the individual states. In 1903, learning from the experience of the Spanish American War, Congress agreed to provide the equipment and funds for training the militias for federal missions. (Title 32 United States Code.)

The Colorado National Guard (CONG) is a multi-mission force: a reserve component of the federal armed forces when called by the President, a State force when called by the Governor and a partner in many local communities. Virtually all equipment, all maintenance and all personnel (pay) costs are provided by the federal government for the primary (federal) mission. Thus, if the Governor directs the Guard to perform a state mission, he must rent the equipment and pay the Soldiers and Airmen.

**Mission:**

- Federal: To provide trained and ready forces to the active armed services of the United States when called to duty by the President or Secretary of Defense.
- State: To provide trained and ready units, personnel and equipment for the preservation of life and property during natural disasters and civil emergencies when ordered by the Governor.
- Community: To participate as active organizations and contributing citizens in resolving problems facing communities.

**Division of Veterans Affairs:** The Division of Veterans Affairs serves as the “hub” of a network consisting of County Veteran Service Officers (CVSOs) and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. They provide training and certification for CVSOs who then assist veterans to obtain benefits they have earned from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA).

The Division of Veterans Affairs has responsibility for providing support services to the over 420,000 veterans, registered with the USDVA, residing in the state of Colorado. The Division has seven veterans’ service officers and monitors and supports the activities of over sixty County Veterans Service Officers. The Division manages the Western Slope Veterans’ Cemetery located in Grand Junction, CO. The Cemetery was opened on 17 July 2002. The Division also supports the activities of the State Board of Veterans Affairs and the Board’s veterans service grants program out of the Veterans Trust Fund.

The State Board of Veterans Affairs consists of 7 Board Members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Board has advisory and oversight responsibilities for all Veterans related activities within the State of Colorado. The Board provides an Annual Report to the Governor and the General Assembly.

**Mission:**

- To assist all eligible Colorado Veterans in securing their benefits and entitlements under all applicable federal and state statutes.
- To serve as a central source of information on veterans benefits and issues.
- To provide training and support to County Veterans Service Officers.
- To provide veterans’ representation and advocacy in the federal claims appeals process.
- To provide administrative support to the State Board of Veterans Affairs.
- To maintain and operate the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado.

**Division of Civil Air Patrol:** The Civil Air Patrol was established in 1941 as a private nonprofit organization to assist in the defense of the United States. It was incorporated by the U. S. Congress on 1 July 1946 (Title 36, United States Code.) The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is an auxiliary of the United States Air Force with a primary mission of inland search and rescue. Additional missions include operating a Cadet Program and promoting aerospace education. The Colorado Wing aircraft and vehicles are provided by federal funds. Mission search and rescue tasking comes from the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC). Similar to the National Guard, if the Governor tasks the CAP for State missions not coordinated through the AFRCC, the State must pay the costs. A major function of the Division of Civil Air Patrol is to support the Wing and account for State funds (minor aircraft maintenance and operations) and State equipment.

The Division of Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is a three-tiered organization that is made up of approximately 2,100 volunteers who: Perform Colorado’s primary air search-and-rescue mission (available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week throughout the state) and

support the state's ground search teams; facilitate a Cadet program for Colorado's youth; and provide an aerospace education program to public schools statewide. These missions are broken down as follows:

**Missions:**

**Search & Rescue** - Provide skilled volunteers to assist during emergency-service activities, including, but not limited to:

- Search and rescue for missing and downed aircraft.
- Search and rescue for missing and lost persons.
- Airlift of human tissue, blood, drugs, and medical supplies.
- Transport of Red Cross and State Emergency personnel to disaster areas.
- Assist the Division of Emergency Management during natural disasters.
- Provide aerial surveillance, photography and video in support of Homeland Security operations.

**Cadet Programs** - Further develop Colorado youth by centering activities in the CAP cadet program around aviation and space themes by:

- Providing a positive model of self-discipline and ethical behavior.
- Challenging, stimulating and thoughtful leadership and scholarships.
- Instilling a positive sense of identity, direction and purpose.
- Preparing youth with the tools to be successful adults in a drug-free environment.
- Providing high expectations so participants strive for and achieve excellence.

**Aerospace Education** - Encourage study of aerospace education, by:

- Providing the latest in aerospace technology in workshops offered to public schools.
- Offering information to students regarding CAP scholarship programs available for higher education.

**Prior Year Legislation 2013:**

**SB 13-230 – Long Appropriations Bill** – This bill (via footnote) created a one million dollar grant program for non-profit organizations which support veterans.