



Alaska Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA)



FY2016 DMVA Budget

Presenters:

BG Leon "Mike" Bridges, Director, Alaska Army Guard

Col (R) Robert Doehl, Deputy Commissioner

Susan Colligan, Director of Administrative Services

Mike O'Hare, Deputy Director, Division of Homeland Security
and Emergency Management

Verdie Bowen, Director, Office of Veterans Affairs

House Finance Subcommittee

February 5, 2015



Office of the Commissioner



- Mission: *Provide executive management and policy direction to the divisions within the department.*
- Commissioner serves two roles as the civilian head of the department, and as The Adjutant General (TAG) commanding the Alaska National Guard.
- Support approximately 4,000 uniformed and over 300 non-uniformed members of the department.
- The Division of Administrative Services provides technical support to accomplish the missions of the divisions, from emergency response to serving Alaska's veterans.



FY2016 Budget



Office of the Commissioner

	FY2015 Management Plan	FY2016 Work in Progress Budget	FY2016 Governor's Amended	Change from FY2016 Work in Progress	
All funds	6,405.0	6,505.0	6,805.0	300.0	4.6%
General funds	2,898.6	2,942.9	2,642.9	-300.0	-10.2%

FY2016 decrease in general funds is attributable to the elimination of \$300.0 GF for the Base Realignment and Closure Impact Assistance.



Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management



Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management



Michael O'Hare
Deputy Director



Mission



“...to protect lives and property from terrorism and all other hazards and provide rapid recovery from all disaster events.”





Objectives



- Identify, analyze and plan for all hazards
- Improve community, agency and individual readiness
- Improve community and state resiliency
- Respond timely to threats
- Support community, agency and individual recovery





AS 26.23, ARTICLE 1

THE ALASKA DISASTER ACT



AS 26.23.020 The governor and disaster emergencies

Provides:

- The governor is responsible for meeting the dangers presented by disasters
- The governor shall declare a disaster if one has occurred or is imminent
- The governor is commander in chief of forces available for emergency duty, can delegate/assign command
- May expend up to \$1 million without legislative approval



In addition, the governor may:



- Suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute
- Use all available resources of State and each political subdivision of the State
- Transfer personnel or alter the functions of State agencies
- Commandeer or use any private property
- Direct and compel relocation
- Prescribe routes, modes of transportation and destinations in connection with relocation
- Control ingress and egress of a disaster area
- Suspend or limit sale and dispensing of alcohol, explosives or combustibles
- Provide for use of temporary housing
- Allocate/redistribute food, water, fuel, clothing, medicine, and supplies
- Use funds from the oil and hazardous substance release fund



Division Disaster Response



- Provide emergency response to save lives and property
- Coordinate multi-agency and NGO response
- Perform damage assessment of area
- Provide analysis of disaster impacts
- Convene Governor's Disaster Policy Cabinet (DPC) for recommendations
- Provide disaster documents based on DPC meeting
- Prepare federal disaster request if warranted



Open Disasters



Federal disasters

- 2006 South Central Flood
- 2006 October Storm
- 2008 Tanana Flood
- 2009 Spring Flood
- 2009 Kodiak Flood
- 2011 Spring Flood
- 2011 West Coast Storm
- 2011 KPB Wind Storm
- 2012 September Storm
- 2013 Spring Flood
- 2013 October KPB Flood
- 2013 November Storms

State disasters

- 2012 Birch Creek Fire
- 2012 Prince William Sound Storm
- 2012 Kivalina Storm
- 2012 Kuskokwim Storm
- 2013 Diomedede Power Outage



Planning Focus



- State Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) development
- Large community EOP support
- Small community emergency response plan support
- Security vulnerability assessments
- Continuity of operations plan
- Catastrophic disaster plan
- Long-Term recovery plan
- Mitigation plans: State and local
- Alaska assessment – capability gaps



Preparedness Focus



- Emergency Management Training – state/local events
- Statewide Alaska Shield exercises
- Local exercises – test local EOP
- Bi-Annual statewide Preparedness Conferences
- Public Emergency Management Information – coordination before, during and after disasters
- Public Outreach Campaigns – Alert/Warning, Family Preparedness, and Recovery



Disaster Recovery Focus



Recovery Programs

- Emergency Protective Measures
- Public Assistance –Infrastructure damages
- Individual Family Grant – Personal and real property damages, temporary housing

Mitigation Programs

- Disaster Mitigation Grants – Post disaster projects improve resiliency, funding cap set by disaster
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants – National competitive grants for resiliency



Community Grants Focus SFY2015



- FY2013 State Homeland Security Program Grant (SHSP)– 20 Communities for \$2,767,491
- FY2013 National Oceanic Atmospheric Grant (NOAA) – 5 Communities for \$162,722
- FY2014 Emergency Preparedness Grant (EMPG) – 13 Communities for \$706,000
- FY2014 SHSP – 16 Communities for \$2,986,400
- FY2014 NOAA – 2 Communities for \$347,939
- FY2015 State Local Emergency Planning Committee Grants (LEPC) – 21 Communities for \$272,289



Innovative State Emergency Management



- Disaster Relief Fund program/process
- Statewide Community Preparedness – Grants, technical support, gap analysis
- Resiliency and Innovative Mitigation – Relocations/elevations, partnerships
- State Capital Investment in Catastrophic Plans – Generators/water purifiers/food
- Interagency Planning and Response to Disasters



FY2016 Budget



Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

	FY2015 Management Plan	FY2016 Work in Progress Budget	FY2016 Governor's Amended	Change from FY2016 Work in Progress	
All funds	9,616.5	9,743.6	9,534.5	-209.1	-2.1%
General funds	2,646.9	2,681.0	2,547.4	-133.6	-5.0%

The FY2016 budget contains a reduction of \$133.6 in general funds for pre-disaster mitigation activities within the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.



Office of Veterans Affairs



Office of Veterans Affairs Overview



Verdie Bowen
Director, Office of Veterans Affairs



Veterans Affairs



Our Promise to Alaska's Veterans

We will ensure that all veterans, active duty, guard/reserve components, their dependents, and survivors understand and receive all the benefits, support, care, and recognition they have earned and are entitled to, by expertly administering all current programs, anticipating future needs and taking appropriate action to meet those needs.

We will promote awareness, assist eligible members to receive from the U.S. federal and state governments any and all benefits to which they may be entitled under existing or future laws.



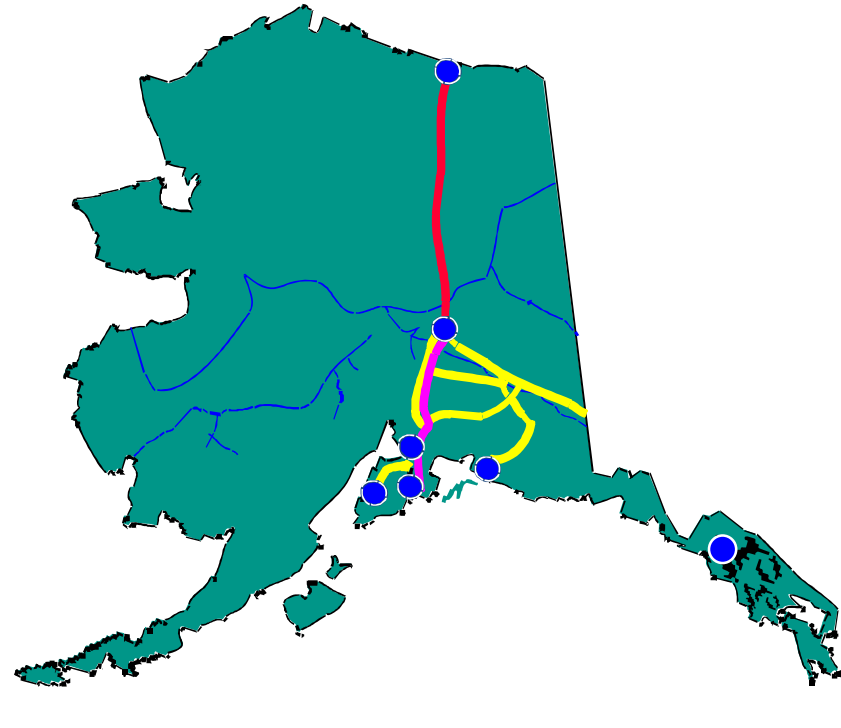
Veterans Affairs Motto



“Serving Alaska one Veteran at a Time”



Alaska's Infrastructure

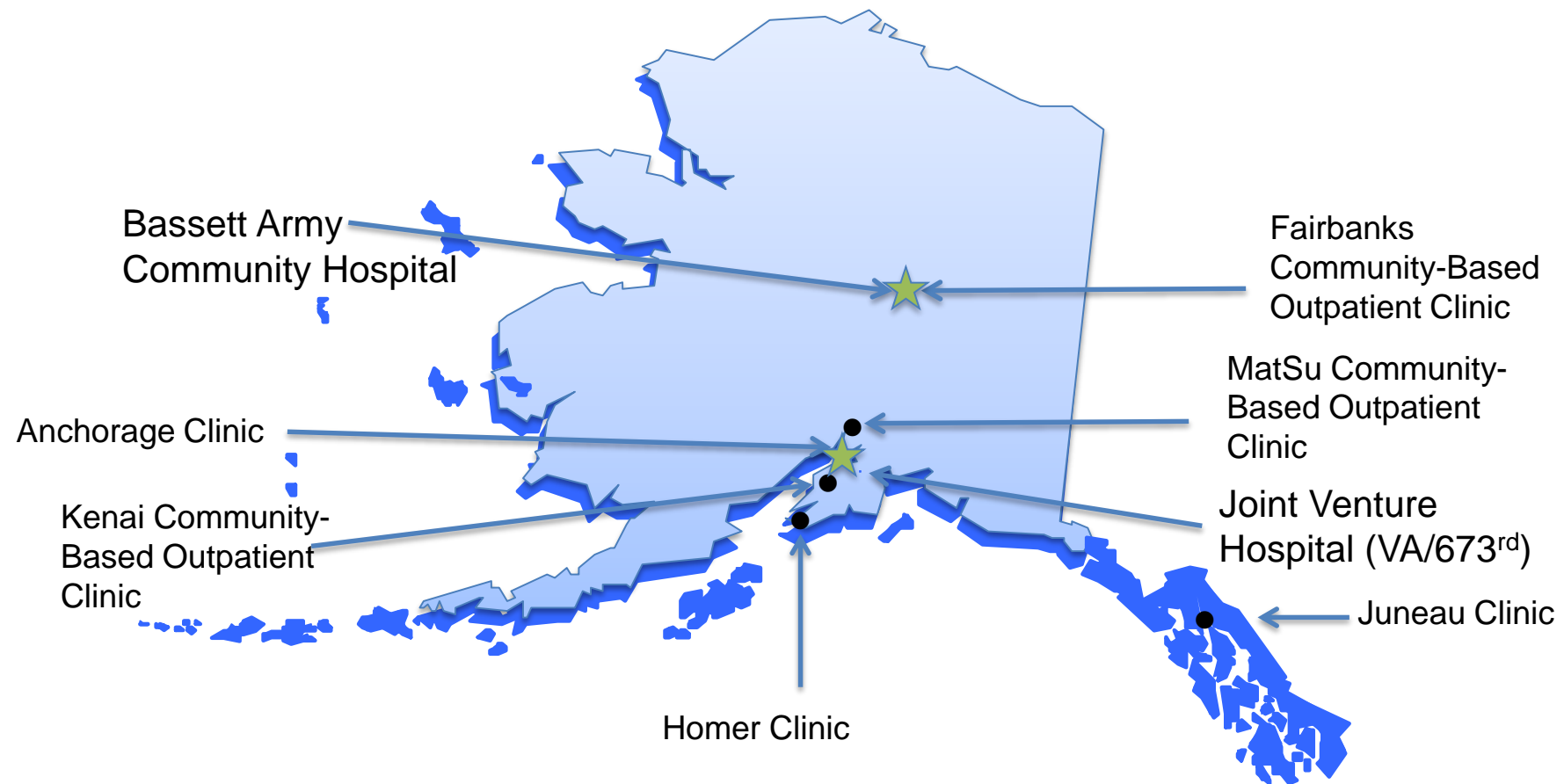


Limited transportation network

- 640 miles of single track railroad
- 2,600 miles of paved roads
- 2,900 miles of gravel roads

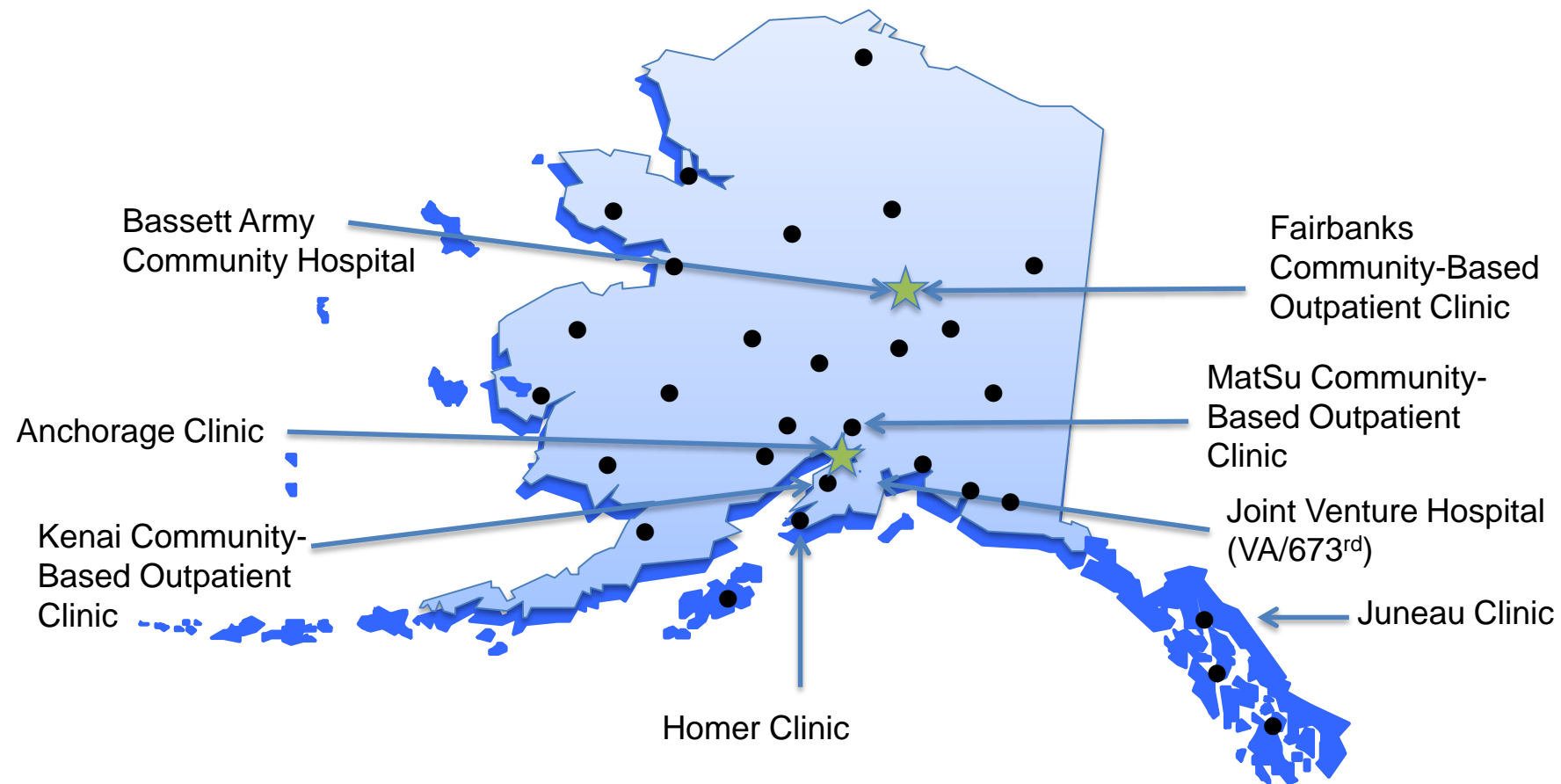


VA and DoD Healthcare Facilities in Alaska





VA, DoD and 26 Native Healthcare Organizations providing care to Veterans





Serving Alaska



- Veteran Demographics
 - 73,397 veterans plus 154,133 dependents
 - 65 and over: 19,581
 - 64 and under: 53, 816
 - War Time Veterans: 58,023
 - Peace Time Veterans: 15,374
 - Female Veterans: 10,192
 - Male Veterans: 63,205



Serving Alaska



- **Major Accomplishments in 2014**
 - Reached a major milestone with over 32,000 enrolled in U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Healthcare. This reflects 44% enrollment of eligible veterans. Alaska is the first in the nation to hit this percent
 - Assisted VA to deliver \$217 million in managed medical care
 - Assisted VA to deliver \$211 million in Disability Compensation & Pension payments
 - Assisted VA to deliver \$61 million in Education/Vocational Rehabilitation/Compensated work therapy
 - Assisted 47,418 with claims processing and benefits questions. An increase of over 15,000 from 2013



Serving Alaska



- Major Accomplishments in 2014
 - Assisted 3,149 veterans in obtaining home loan certificates resulting in over \$912 million in guaranteed loans. The average home mortgage was \$289,853
 - Co-sponsored a Tribal Veterans Representative (TVR) training class for 50 new TVRs bringing our TVR volunteers to 220. This is the largest veterans volunteer corps in the nation under this program model
 - Sponsored Stand Downs in Bethel, Fairbanks, and two in Anchorage providing 2,000 veterans in need with direct assistance from 60 local agencies



Serving Alaska



- Major Accomplishments in 2014
 - Second full year of VA Alaska Native Health Programs agreement:
 - Infused over \$6.1 million back into our Alaska Native Health programs for care provided to veterans
 - 96% of all Alaska veterans have access to VA healthcare
 - The Alaska agreement is now the national standard
 - Partnered with the Secretary of the VA for Fully Developed Claims (FDC) making Alaska 1st in the nation cutting claims processing time in half with an average claim processing time of 92 days



Serving Alaska



- Major Accomplishments in 2014
 - Partnered with the VA in providing Care Closer to Home
 - In 2009: 591 Alaska veterans traveled out of state for health care
 - In 2014: 71 Alaska veterans traveled out of state for health care
 - Standard question for all veterans in the VA or Veterans Affairs is “Do you wish to remain in the local area or be referred out of state?” Bottom line: it’s the veteran’s choice
 - This program success provided the VA the baseline for national care after the care issues in Arizona



Serving Alaska



- Major Accomplishments in 2014
 - Partnered with the VA Office of Home Loans - Native Home Loan Program, signing the first Alaskan Native Home Loan program for the community of Metlakatla. This allows native veterans use of this benefit on native trust lands, by utilizing a loan provided through the VA instead of lending establishment (Note: veterans still must qualify)
 - Nine other Alaska community agreements are pending
 - Awarded a three-year Office of Rural Health travel grant of \$750,000 in December 2014



Serving Alaska



- Major Accomplishments in 2014
 - Alaska Territorial Guard (ATG)
 - Processed and received 172 ATG U.S. Army Discharges
 - Henry Neligan of Ketchikan first ATG veteran to participate in the Honor Flight program and the first member to celebrate his 102 birthday while traveling
 - Still finding living ATG members who moved from serving communities



Serving Alaska



- Major Accomplishments in 2014
 - Significant veteran event:
 - Partnered with the DoD to Welcome Home our Vietnam Veterans. We held our first event on March 29th 2014 and had all General Officers who serve in Alaska present a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans coin and thank each one for their service. This event was well received and the Office of Veterans Affairs has held this event in Wrangell, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Wasilla, and Sitka with more coming in 2015



Cemetery/Monument Management



- Major Accomplishments in 2014
 - Preparation for the construction of the Interior Alaska Veterans Cemetery continued with the purchase of 317 acres of land, land surveys, and historical property reviews on purchased land. Federal construction funds are anticipated in FY2016
 - Alaska Territorial Guard Memorial Park located at the Bethel Veterans Cemetery is almost complete and is a good example of what a community can do to honor our veterans with limited resources and a big heart to serve



Cemetery/Monument Management



- Major Accomplishments in 2014
 - Developed a new memorial in Soldotna in the new Riverside Park. The Military Order of the Purple Heart had the monument constructed through donated funds and the Office of Veterans Affairs provided the funds for shipping and placement



Serving Alaska



- Established a Partnership with the VA for Delivery of Services to Alaskan Communities:
 - Anchor Point, Barrow, Anderson, Akiak, Barrow, Bethel, Chickaloon, Clear, Cold Bay, Cordova, Craig, Delta Junction, Dillingham, Dutch Harbor, Eagle, Eielson AFB, Elmendorf AFB, Ft. Wainwright, Ft. Yukon, Galena, Glennallen, Haines, Healy, Homer, Hoonah, Huslia, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Klawock, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Kwethluk, Mentasta, Metlakatla, Nenana, Nome, North Pole, Northway, Petersburg, Prince of Wales, Ruby, Seldovia, Seward, Sitka, Soldotna, Stevens Village, Tok, Toksook Bay, Tununak, Valdez, White Mountain, Wrangell.



Goals for 2015



- Push for full federal funding of the Interior Alaska Veterans Cemetery project
- Continue funding veteran outreach projects
- Support one Tribal Veteran Representative (TVR) training course with the goal of 280 trained in the state
- Closely monitor VA/Alaska Native Health Program and export it across the nation
- Expand Veteran Service Officer training by adding eBenefits certification. This will allow our most remote veterans into their military and VA records



Goals for 2015



- In 2015 enroll an additional 5,000 veterans into the VA medical care system
- Complete veterans needs assessment study with a projected completion date of the March 30, 2015. This will establish the baseline data to create a master plan for veterans services in Alaska
- Continue and expand the Veterans Affairs/Department of Health and Social Services' Sitka pilot project video Tele-mental health in two more remote communities utilizing VA funding



Goals for 2015



- Continue developing U.S. Army discharges for those who served in the Alaska Territorial Guard
- Complete, publish, and distribute updated State of Alaska Comprehensive Veterans Benefits Booklet
- Continue to expand the Alaska Stand-down program with holding the first Stand-down in Kotzebue



Goals for 2015



- Continue to partner with the VA's Office of Rural Health and the Office of Tribal Government with the single goal of increasing access to healthcare and expansion of earned veterans benefits
- Pilot a single software program (Veterans Information System) development by the Office of Rural Health for the purpose of accurately counting veterans in the State of Alaska



FY2016 Budget



Office of Veterans Affairs

	FY2015 Management Plan	FY2016 Work in Progress Budget	FY2016 Governor's Amended	Change from FY2016 Work in Progress	
All funds	1,797.5	2,157.7	2,057.7	-100.0	-4.6%
General funds	1,785.3	2,144.9	1,794.9	-350.0	-16.3%

The \$350.0 that appears as a general fund decrease is an increment that was previously approved for operating expenses of the Interior Veterans Cemetery. Due to a delay in the availability of federal construction funds, this increment was not needed in FY2016. The Office of Veterans Affairs was insulated from DMVA's required budget reductions, and will be able to continue the important work they do for Alaska's veterans.



Contacts



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Questions?

