

Department of Military and **Veterans Affairs**

Division of Administrative Services

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To:

Representative Bart LeBon

Chair, House Finance DMVA Budget Subcommittee

From: Stephanie Richard SAR

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Date:

January 24, 2010

Re:

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House Finance Subcommittee FY20/21 Key Issues: DMVA

TRANSFER OF ALMR/SATS

How do these programs fit DMVA's mission?

Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR)'s purpose is to communicate emergency notices with outlying communities. State of Alaska Telecommunications System (SATS)'s purpose is to communicate emergency notices with the public and government. These functions align with DVMA's mission to provide homeland security and defense and emergency response.

What additional resources will be needed?

DMVA will attempt to absorb any additional work with existing staff, and will make a determination on additional resources after the components are transferred over and we can adequately assess the needs of the component. As we continue to evaluate any potential additional resources and needs, a request could be considered through the Governor's Amended budget process if necessary. Additional resources may be requested in the future in support of public safety communications lifecycle projects and evolving capabilities and technologies.

What will running these programs entail?

The program staff under DMVA will continue to work closely with the Department of Public Safety, the ALMR Executive and User Councils, and the 128 state, local, federal and Department of Defense (DoD) user agencies.

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS

What areas for improvement have been identified?

Training: Veterans Services is currently negotiating with the National Association of County Service Officers (NACVSO) to hold a training class in Alaska. This class will provide all service officers with the most advanced training and will ensure all service officers are trained to the same level. The savings for holding the class in Alaska vs. all Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) traveling to a NACVSO training center will be significant.

Claims Management Software Systems (CLMMS): After training is completed all VSOs will be required to utilize the same Claims Managements Software Systems (CLMSS). Currently, half of our VSOs utilize VETRASPEC and this is completely compatible with the Veterans Administration and has a proven track record as a CLMSS. The benefits from standardizing this system is:

- Improved speed of claims processing
- Improved quality of claims through automatic verification of medical contingency
- Increased efficiencies for the VSOs in the field (claims can be submitted on the spot and data for the claims available in minutes vs. days).

DISASTER RESPONSE

What is the status of 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake (CIE) response?

Summary of upcoming, projected work and associated expenditures for the 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake:

Projects:

- 50 Public Assistance (PA) Applicants
- 498 projected PA Disaster restoration projects
- 152 projects currently established by the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA)
- 138 projects currently funded by FEMA

Associated expenditures:

- \$19.5M in funded projects
- \$305M current estimate for all PA projects

Upcoming:

- 346 PA projects remaining to be developed
- 14 currently established projects yet to be funded

The pace of projects reaching final development and being funded is expected to increase in the coming months because of simultaneous progress on many projects spread amongst all applicants. FEMA and the State of Alaska are conducting frequent progress meetings with applicants, and applicants are being responsive by providing requested information to FEMA to facilitate the project development phase. FEMA staff dedicated to the 2018 CIE are expected to be in Alaska through the majority of the project development process (May-June 2020 timeframe).

What are the current 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake expenditures and encumbrances?

Federal: \$1,962,777.29 expended

\$10,234,070.43 encumbered TOTAL: \$12,196,847.72

UGF: \$8,044,168.19 expended

\$4,141,163.25 encumbered TOTAL: \$12,185,331.44

TOTAL \$24,382,179.16

DIVESTITURES

What progress has the department made in its efforts to divest of unused facilities? To date, DMVA has divested 24 properties.

How much money has the department saved through this process so far?

Savings achieved through divesting a property are not huge due to the facilities being in preservation maintenance status. The main savings from divestiture will be realized in avoiding major maintenance costs in later years. From 2016-2019 there was around a \$4,000.00 savings based on data put together by Army Guard Facilities Maintenance team (state and federal program managers), however, that cost is outweighed by environmental requirements to have tank monitors installed on facilities with tanks greater than 1,320 gallons.

What challenges does the department face in this process?

There are varying land status and environmental issues that complicate the divestiture process. While attempting to navigate the bureaucracy and regulations to dispose of a site, DVMA also must handle public relations and numerous requests from entities that want the facilities. National Guard Bureau (NGB) is involved, as well as State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC). Additionally, the remaining sites are predominately federal, which requires divestiture to be finalized by United States Army Corps of Engineers in some cases and General Services Administration in others. The process is cumbersome and can span multiple years. There is also the need for units/directorates to complete cleanup of the site prior to being able to divest of it.

What are the department's goals going forward?

DMVA continues to divest Alaska National Guard (AKARNG) land, facilities and property which is no longer necessary to meet mission requirements. Future goals include disposing of approximately 40 remaining AKARNG armory sites throughout Alaska. Army Guard Facilities Maintenance strives to divest ten properties per year.