

S B

5 0 7

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

*Juneau*  
BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

FRONTIER BUILDING  
SUITE 620  
3601 C STREET  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503-5989  
PHONE: (907) 243-0656  
AUTOVON: 626-1444

19 December 1985

Honorable Arliss Sturgulewski  
Alaska Senate  
2957 Sheldon Jackson  
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Senator Sturgulewski:

I would like to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on what the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) is doing for the State and more specific, your election district. The benefits and fiscal impacts which are realized from this Department are very significant and the best part is, that the State only contributes about 10% of the overall cost.

The DMVA provides employment for more than 800 full-time employees and 3,500 part-timers or National Guard personnel throughout Alaska. The combined annual payroll is \$42.3 million. DMVA spent more than \$37 million during FY 85 within the Anchorage Bowl area.

Although the Army and Air National Guard participate in numerous community projects, they are most visible in times of state crisis--particularly natural disasters. During 1985, this Department rendered disaster assistance to 35 Alaska communities. The National Guard and Naval Militia continually train for their federal military mobilization missions and this federally funded training and discipline they receive adequately prepares them to assist in natural disasters. The Alaska Division of Emergency Services (ADES), within the DMVA, is the overall State coordinating office to professionally address State emergency situations. ADES stands ready to help communities with response and recovery assistance to natural and man-made disasters, and also in local training and planning for disaster response and recovery. In the past year 3,500 people were trained in disaster management by this DMVA division. This local training program has paid large dividends in the form of relatively low property damage (and no loss of life) as witnessed in the 1985 spring floods which occurred along rivers in interior Alaska. It was comforting to see the positive results of this disaster management training. Our communities were considerably better able to prepare themselves due to our flood control watch and warning training programs.

*10201*

The weekend training that our National Guard and Naval Militia personnel receive is nearly always valuable to the member's civilian employer. The specialized training that many of them receive would cost thousands of dollars to obtain in the private sector. In 1985, the Army Guard will have spent \$15,000 and the Air Guard will have spent \$23,000, on an average, to support the training of each of its members. Most of these dollars go directly to job skill training.

A little known fact regarding the number of veterans residing in Alaska is that Alaska has the highest per capita veterans population in the nation--67,000. DMVA has undertaken an effective service program of "veteran advocacy and assistance," which has served 3,500 veterans in the last two years many of whom had wide-ranging concerns and problems.

For a small Department, you will probably agree that the economic impact and benefits to the State are substantial. DMVA records for your election district have been reviewed. You should find this information very interesting and revealing.

Sixteen hundred forty-five part-time Guardsmen and 565 full-time individuals were employed during FY 85 in Senate District F. Additionally, \$490,000 was spent on armory construction/improvements and an additional \$539,000 was paid for other construction projects. Further expenditures were over \$496,000 on utilities, \$275,000 on communications, \$90,000 for veterans death benefits, \$1.4 million on contracts, \$219,000 on commercial transportation, and \$3.2 million on vehicle fuels and AVGAS. Another \$2.5 million was spent on other projects and benefits within the Department.

DMVA made 15 equipment loans to non-profit agencies and civic groups in support of their activities during FY 85. The National Guard was a key support agency during the Walk for Hope, provided administrative storage at Camp Carroll during the Bartlett High School asbestos removal project, constructed a salmon viewing platform on Eagle River and aided the Boy Scouts at Camp Carsuch.

In conclusion, I hope this letter has better informed you to see the DMVA as a very necessary public service necessity which is tied to Alaska's heritage, our national defense and betterment of people in general. If the contents of this letter generates any further questions or the DMVA can provide any further service or information to you, please let us know. In the meantime I would like to wish you a very Happy Holiday Season, and a smooth, productive, and rewarding 1986 legislative session.

Sincerely,



EDWARD G. PAGANO  
Major General, AK NG  
The Adjutant General