

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN TIM CALLAHAN**, on February 7, 2005 at
9:00 A.M., at Fort Harrison.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Tim Callahan, Chairman (D)
Sen. Keith Bales (R)
Sen. Steven Gallus (D)
Rep. Ray Hawk (R)
Rep. Cynthia Hiner (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: Sen. Trudi Schmidt, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. John E. Witt (R)

Staff Present: Brent Doig, OBPP
Shannon Scow, Committee Secretary
Taryn Purdy, Legislative Branch

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion
are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 2; Department of Military
Affairs, Overview
Executive Action: None

Comments: No tapes are available for this meeting. The meeting
took place at Fort William Henry Harrison in Helena, Montana.

Hearing: Department of Military Affairs

The committee received a helicopter ride courtesy of the Air National Guard from 7:00 A.M. until 9:00 A.M.

CHAIRMAN CALLAHAN called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. at Fort William Henry Harrison (Fort Harrison), Montana Army National Guard Headquarters.

General Moseley, Adjutant General of the Army National Guard, introduced the organizational structure of the Department of Military Affairs on Exhibit 1, Page 1. The Department includes Disaster and Emergency Services, Montana Youth Challenge, the Army National Guard, the Air National Guard, Centralized Services and Veteran Affairs. He emphasized that the Department has an impact in Montana not only in the mission it portrays, but also with their economic impact, shown in Exhibit 1, Page 2. He then introduces staff that will be presenting today on various Military Affairs programs. He also distributed Exhibit 2, a Military Affairs impact brochure, 2005.

EXHIBIT(jch30a01)

EXHIBIT(jch30a02)

Montana Army National Guard

Colonel Stan Putnam, Colonel of Montana Army National Guard, Assistant Adjutant General, gave an overview of the Army National Guard, beginning on Page 2 of Exhibit 1. He noted that strength of this force is very important. Montana currently has 2,460 soldiers, which is approximately 700 short of the State's authorization. He stated that recruitment is tough, but important to maintain strength.

General Moseley reaffirmed the importance of successful recruitment. He added that State and Federal reserve soldiers work closely and share responsibility. He stated that Federal funds support most of Montana's Army National Guard because the soldiers are primarily trained for this purpose. The only time they are paid by the State is if they are called for state active duty. Therefore, Federal funds pay for much of facility construction cost, sometimes with a State match in funding. He emphasized that the primary funds from the State are not for soldier and helicopters, but for facilities mainly used to house training.

Colonel Putnam explained that since May 2004, there has been a huge jump in active duty. Currently, 1,362 soldiers are

deployed, which is 56% of the Army National Guard force. Exhibit 1, Page 4 shows where these soldiers are stationed. He stated that Montana National Guard used to be a strategic reserve force, but is now engaged in active duty. The four components within the Army National Guard program listed on Exhibit 1, Page 5 will also be presented to the Committee today.

Ralph DeCunzo, Army National Guard Facilities Program

Administrator, distributed Exhibit 3 to outline his presentation. The duties and program overview are shown on Exhibit 3, Pages 1 and 2. He stated that this program is responsible for managing construction projects for the Department of Military Affairs statewide. This is approximately a \$160 million program, funded mostly with Federal funds with a small match from the State Legislature.

EXHIBIT(jch30a03)

General Moseley added that law enforcement officials cooperate with the National Guard for the use of their facilities for training.

Mr. DeCunzo stated that the Billings Reserve also houses the Marines. He then explained the National Guard facilities as shown in Exhibit 3, Pages 3 through 14. He emphasized that this program is embarking on an aggressive building program because most buildings are over 40 years old and are quickly deteriorating. The new building will save the Department money over the long-term because of sophisticated heating and technology.

Chris Denning, Facility Maintenance Division Administrator, explained that the Facility Maintenance Division is responsible for care of the buildings after they are constructed. Exhibit 4 shows facility maintenance offices and FTE. He explained that the newly constructed buildings have direct digitally controlled heating. This new technology tells maintenance personnel the temperature and duct pressure of a building. The buildings also have high efficiency motion lighting.

EXHIBIT(jch30a04)

General Moseley reiterated that there has been Federal money to leverage the new buildings. The Department works to help minimize State money that goes towards maintenance and upkeep by installing high technology in the facilities.

Mr. Denning emphasized facility statistics on Exhibit 4, Page 3, explaining that the National Guard has the fewest maintenance staff per square footage than any other similar facility. He explained that the building use and ownership determines how a facility is funded.

General Moseley added that the Federal Government provides maintenance through a State appropriation.

Mr. Denning stated that the buildings have grown in square footage but decreased in the number of sites in the state. They have also become more energy efficient.

General Moseley explained that the number of buildings has decreased because the Department of Military Affairs committed to the Legislature that all buildings no longer occupied will be demolished or transferred.

Mr. Denning concluded by pointing to Exhibit 4, Page 4. He emphasized that the Facility Maintenance Division works to eliminate the largest amount of future maintenance.

John Wheeler, Army Environmental Program Administrator, stated that the mission of the Army Environmental Program is to comply with all environmental regulations. How the program works to achieve this mission and subject areas are shown on Exhibit 5, Page 2. He then explained DP 13, which requests additional Federal authority for environmental program operations.

[EXHIBIT \(jch30a05\)](#)

Disaster and Emergency Services

Dan McGowan, Administrator of Disaster and Emergency Services, stated that September 11, 2001, changed the way Disaster and Emergency Services respond. This program now must comply with the Homeland Security Strategic Plan, shown in Exhibit 6, Page 2. The vision and mission of the service is to provide proactive safety measures at the state, national and tribal level. All of the constituents protected by Disaster and Emergency Services are shown on Exhibit 6, Page 6; their area of service includes 63 jurisdictions. He then distributed Exhibit 7 to show all the people who are affected by the service.

[EXHIBIT \(jch30a06\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(jch30a07\)](#)

Disaster and Emergency Services is funded by the State General Fund and Homeland Security grants. They have obtained \$60 million in federal grants since 1999. These funds support 23 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE). The executive summary of the Disaster and Emergency Services Plan is outlined on Exhibit 6, Pages 10 through 12 and in Exhibit 8. The accomplishments and challenges are on Exhibit 6, Pages 13 and 14. He highlighted that the Disaster and Emergency Services now has shared assistance from other states. However, a challenge is in the continuity of service.

EXHIBIT (jch30a08)

Montana Youth Challenge Program

Reid Lund, Montana Youth Challenge Program Administrator, informed the committee that an at-risk youth has a 70% chance of entering the adult correctional system. The Youth Challenge Program focuses on turning these youth into productive community members. This is a cost-productive program because tax dollars are saved by stopping the youth from entering the adult prison system. The funding of this program has been flatlined since 1993. There is a bill in motion to reinstate a State-Federal matching rate of 25-75.

The eligibility standards of this program are on Exhibit 9, Page 2. He emphasized that it is a military model program and not boot camp. He explained that the program is a 20-week residential program on the University of Montana Western campus in Dillon. No education dollars are used for the program; it is funded through the State General Fund. Under core components on Exhibit 9, Page 4, he emphasized that each participant is required to serve 80 hours of community service.

EXHIBIT (jch30a09)

The budget overview of this program states that the cost-per-youth is \$14,000 with 200 youth participating annually. The State share in the \$2.8 million total cost is \$1,120,000. This current rate amounts to 40% of the total.

According to **Mr. Lund**, the biggest benefits to the youth are in self-esteem and self-image. Eighty-five percent of participants graduate with a GED, and 97% of successful candidates will get a GED. He stated that many parents have expressed desire for a class on parenting skills to cope with their child's change. The cadet overview and attrition rates are on Exhibit 9, Page 7. Once a candidate has graduated he or she receives continued

community support. Over 100 graduates are currently in Iraq. Many become associated with Jobs for Montana Graduates. There is also a mentoring program that matches a graduate with a local mentor, with whom they check in on a weekly basis. These mentors have reported that 80% of graduates are still on a positive growth line. A performance audit on this program will be distributed tomorrow.

Montana Veteran's Affairs

Joe Foster, Administrator of Montana Veteran's Affairs, informed the Committee that Montana is number two per capita in veteran population nationwide. The mission, as stated in Exhibit 10, Page 2, is to promote the general welfare of Montana veterans and their families. The program works to see that veterans receive the benefits they are due. Current service programs are listed on Exhibit 10, Page 3. He explained that this program has a budget request before the Committee for a "mobile" veteran services office. Veteran cemeteries are also an important service to this office. They strive to meet National Shrine Standards in the listed cemeteries on Exhibit 10, Page 3. He added that the Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery is not listed and that the Division just received a grant to upgrade these cemeteries this summer.

EXHIBIT (jch30a10)

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) transportation service takes veterans to medical appointments and other services. He stated that they are in need of more vans because more clinics will be opening and the current vans have an excessive amount of miles. There is a projected 10-van replacement, which is typically funded through the community. He added that SB 401 is currently circulating which will enhance revenue so more funds are available to support the veteran affairs mission.

The organization is supported by 22 FTE through nine veteran services program. The State Cemetery Advisory Council also works to support the mission of the organization. They support the 108,000 current veteran population, which is growing with the population overseas. The only state with a higher per capita veteran population is Maine.

The economic impact of the Veterans' Affairs division is nearly \$60 million every year (Exhibit 10, Page 8). Exhibit 11 shows that in FY05, \$55,277,602 in benefits were obtained. He

concluded by explaining that the Board of Veteran Affairs is also in place to determine how to respond better to veterans' needs (Exhibit 10, Page 9).

EXHIBIT(jch30a11)

Centralized Services

Karen Revious, Administrator of Centralized Services, explained that centralized services provides support to the five programs listed on Exhibit 12, Page 1. Most of their program budget supports 9.2 FTE in personnel services. Accounting deals with a \$54 million budget for operating and construction budgets. This division has amendment authority to obtain money in the interim. They are asking for more budget authority in order to decrease the amount of amendment authority requested. Authority is granted when there is a significant disaster that impacts the State of Montana. The rest of the Centralized Services duties are explained on Exhibit 12, Pages 3 through 5.

EXHIBIT(jch30a12)

Montana Air National Guard

Colonel Brad Livingston, Air National Guard, informed the Committee that there are over 1,000 members of the Air National Guard, primarily located in Great Falls, Montana. Only 300 employees are full-time during normal status. If an emergency were to occur, they have the capability to put F-16's on alert and to provide support to other states. They are also trained in Explosive Ordinance Disposal. The Air National Guard supports a dual State and Federal mission, which was expanded in 1997 to include air-to-ground in addition to air-to-air combat.

The chart on Exhibit 13, Page 3 shows that the number of days the Air National Guard has been called to active duty has increased. Soldiers, airmen, families, and employers of the reserved services are affected by the increased service time. The locations of Air National Guard forces on active duty are shown in Exhibit 13, Pages 4 and 5. The Air National Guard provides Montana with public safety with their response and firefighting capabilities.

EXHIBIT(jch30a13)

The Air National Guard had an economic impact of nearly \$60 million in FY04 through jobs created, expenditures and payroll.

The funding for the Guard was \$71,840,400 Federal and \$302,347 State in FY04. The State funding level is so much lower than Army National Guard because there is not as much funding match needed for ground facilities. Most of this money is used for utilities. Both DP's for this division are 100% Federal funded. DP 10 is spending authority for Air Guard Firefighter Overtime and DP 12 is for Air Guard Security.

Closing Statement

General Moseley emphasized that care of soldiers and their families is the first and foremost mission of the Department of Military Affairs. The National Guard provides training for these soldiers so they are prepared for their duties. These soldiers are then supported upon return by Veterans' Services. He added that the Youth Challenge Program truly does make a difference, and that Disaster and Emergency Services was ready in 2000 and 2001 when their services were utilized.

The Committee then toured the Fort Harrison facility from 11:40 until 12:30. A map of Fort Harrison is shown in Exhibit 14.

EXHIBIT (jch30a14)

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:40 A.M.

REP. TIM CALLAHAN, Chairman

SHANNON SCOW, Secretary

TC/ss

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([jch30aad0.PDF](#))