

General Information

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Statutory Reference: Title 19, Defense Forces and Affairs
Clients Served: The residents of Wyoming, the citizens of the United States, National Guard Bureau and the Department of Defense
Expenditures: \$35.3 million within the state budget of which \$10.9 million were state funds. And, direct federal spending of approximately \$69 million.

Wyoming Military Department

Report Period: FY 15

Wyoming Quality of Life Result:

The Wyoming Military Department is a responsible steward of state assets and effectively responds to the needs of residents and guests. Students are successfully educated and prepared for life's opportunities.

Contributions to Wyoming Quality of Life:

This agency contributes to Wyoming's wellbeing by: Generating ready forces to safeguard Wyoming and protect the nation while adding value to our communities. One team of dedicated professionals, structured, resourced and always ready to respond as the state and nation's best.

Basic Facts:

This agency has 3,068 employees: 1,585 Army and 1,181 Air National Guard personnel, 70 non-military federal employees and contractors, and 232 state employees. It operated on a \$35.3 million budget of which \$10.9 million were state funds. These budget figures do not include federal funds for the biennium in the approximate amount of \$69 million, which were executed for the Military Department directly by the United States Property and Fiscal Officer. Additionally, federal funds paid directly by the Department of Defense for personnel of the 30th Airlift Squadron, an active duty associate of our Air National Guard, and for federal deployments of Wyoming units or personnel are not shown in any of these amounts.

Our clients are the residents of Wyoming, the citizens of the United States, National Guard Bureau and the Department of Defense. Our six most important programs and the number of customers they served are:

Providing a military force for state and federal missions	86 state missions
Training facilities	113,686 Camp Guernsey and 66,792 Unit mandays
Community facilities.....	55 community events
Community programs	1,882 students and 17 families
Civil Air Patrol.....	22 state missions
Veterans	1285 veterans

Together these programs serve Wyoming residents in 17 communities in 15 counties, by providing an augmenting force for natural disasters, community gathering areas, training for civilian and military personnel from Wyoming and the region, education of 1,882 students, assistance to 17 military families and 1285 Wyoming veterans.

Information on our previous year’s performance measures follow.

NATIONAL GUARD STRENGTH AND GROWTH

Story behind the last year of performance: The Wyoming National Guard maintained its force during FY 15, with Army National Guard and Air National Guard strength averaging 92 percent. The stability of the two organizations’ manning is the key indicator in the health of the agency and ensures a ready and reliable force to absolutely satisfy state missions.

What has been accomplished: In FY 15 Wyoming National Guard members continued to train to protect and defend Wyoming, its residents and infrastructure by partnering with a variety of state agencies to exercise capabilities. The Wyoming Air National Guard’s summer firefighting season in 2014 was not as active as previous years, but still kept the C-130 crews busy. The Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) mission flown by the 153rd Airlift Wing contributed most of the 250,000 gallons of retardant dropped by MAFFS that summer. In August one of the unit’s C-130 had an emergency landing at Hill Air Force Base, Utah due to a landing gear malfunction. No one was injured and the C-130 experienced minimal damage. The Wyoming Army National Guard responded with 12 individuals to Niobrara County to support flash flood recovery efforts in Lusk in June. In FY 15 the Wyoming National Guard continued to support military operations around the world; however, the number of deployed soldiers and airmen was less than previous years, and, for about five months, no Wyoming National Guard personnel were deployed overseas.

TRAINING FACILITY USE

Story behind the last year of performance: Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center continues to be one of the nation’s premier training sites for military personnel. In FY 15 the Wyoming Military Department continued to host local, national and international

customers at the camp, logging 113,686 mandays. A manday equals use by one person for one day.

What has been accomplished: FY 15 aircraft training continued to be a focus at the camp. Military aircraft, including C-17s completed 248 equipment drops and 552 personnel drops at Camp Guernsey. In May the camp hosted legislators and members of the public to view one of the drops, an infantry company dropped more than 200 personnel into the North Training Area using C-17s and C-130s.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Story behind the last year of performance: The Wyoming Military Department has 24 community facilities in Afton, Casper (3), Cheyenne (7), Douglas, Evanston, Gillette, Guernsey, Lander, Laramie, Lovell, Powell, Rock Springs, Sheridan, Torrington, Wheatland, and Worland. Those buildings continue to be heavily used by National Guard personnel, community organizations and, when needed, as emergency shelters. Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center includes more than 78,000 acres of military training land and facilities.

What has been accomplished: In FY 15 construction was winding down on the Wyoming Air National Guard's Building 16, the 153rd Airlift Wing's headquarters. That project, the largest renovation project ever undertaken by the National Guard Bureau, will have its ribbon cutting in November 2015. Additionally, a new Wyoming Army National Guard readiness center (armory) in Afton that broke ground in FY 14 was nearing occupancy. That \$13 million project will have its dedication in September 2015. It is funded with state and federal dollars and will house soldiers for many years and marks the first time a Wyoming National Guard project was added to the federal budget by Congress. Community events featuring National Guard assets continued in the state, even with stricter regulations from the Department of Defense. We were able to still engage with the communities for speaking engagements, displays and tours more than 50 times.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Story behind the last year of performance: Continual concentration on Wyoming's youth and the families of military personnel was a priority in FY 15. The Wyoming Cowboy ChalleNGe Academy, STARBASE and the Military Assistance Trust Fund touched the lives of thousands of Wyoming residents.

What has been accomplished: The Wyoming Cowboy ChalleNGe Academy (WCCA) reached several new milestones and performance highs in FY 15. The program set a new record, graduating 241 cadets, 73 percent of whom received high school equivalency certificates and 13 of whom received high school diplomas. WCCA is a 22-week in-resident program followed by a one year Post-Residential phase to help at-risk youth 16-18 years old get their lives on track and discover hidden potential. The academy offers four classes per year beginning in January, April, July and October. During the 2014-2015 school year, STARBASE saw 1,442 students from 54 classes in Laramie County School Districts #1

and #2, and via its STARBASE 2.0, summer school camps and short programs. STARBASE also celebrated its 20th anniversary in Wyoming in April. Former instructors and students, as well as retired Maj. Gen. Charles Wing, who was the agency director when STARBASE began, were on hand to commemorate the occasion. The Wyoming Military Assistance Trust Fund allowed 17 families peace of mind for emergency financial matters while their soldier, airman, or sailor was deployed. More than \$48,235 went to families in need.

CIVIL AIR PATROL MISSIONS

Story behind the last year of performance: The Wyoming Civil Air Patrol (CAP) puts aviation to its most noble use – helping people during emergencies, relieving human suffering and saving the lives of downed aviators.

What has been accomplished: In FY 15 the CAP performed 22 missions including high-profile search and rescue missions, joint agency exercises, and aerial reconnaissance missions, including aerial reconnaissance for Wyoming State Forestry and the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security. Aerial reconnaissance missions of potential fire or flood areas has become a standard request from other state agencies for the CAP.

VETERANS

Story behind the last year of performance: The Wyoming Veterans Commission has made tremendous strides to enhance services to Wyoming Veterans. Staffing for Veteran's service is now complete with a Program Manager and seven State Veterans Service Officers covering 17 of the 23 counties not covered by county or private/state programs. Contracts with the three major Veterans Service Organizations (VFW, American Legion, and DAV) were modified to ensure a performance based agreement to provide essential services in the disability and pension claim process for Wyoming Veterans. We coordinated enhanced support with the American Legion to provide additional services. Automated systems are in place to comply with U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs transformation. Ongoing transformation actions are streamlining processes while improving quality.

The Wyoming Veterans Memorial Museum, the Wyoming National Guard Museum, and all exhibit space within the Wyoming Military Department are now supervised by the Director of Museums. This provides a unified and coordinated effort in this important work. Cataloging and archiving remain important while these facilities expand their inventories. Attendance at the Veterans Museum has increased to 2,885 this year. The National Guard Museum spent much of the year preparing for a major facility renovation and remains closed to complete that work. The Adjutant's General Heritage and History Council has been formed to provide oversight to these areas and ensure coordination of all related actions. The Council was consulted as the RFP was prepared and assisted with the hiring process to fund a Researcher/Writer to prepare the history of the Wyoming National Guard from 1870 to present.

Major construction is now complete at the Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery to repair the road and bridge, raise and level headstones, build a new storage building, build a new 800 niche columbarium, replace irrigation systems, and expand parking. This work was accomplished with state and VA funding of more than \$3 million dollars.

What has been accomplished: Service Officers are responsible for \$4.8 million year to date and \$6.8 million cumulative total for VA disability compensation and pension benefits to Wyoming veterans. The total served for these benefits is 1285 veterans in FY15. Statewide outreach continues to be accomplished on a regular schedule with coordinated marketing and advertisement. The Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery continues to honor deceased Wyoming veterans and their dependents, interring more than 180 Veterans and family members in FY 15. The Commission led in the efforts to honor Wyoming's Vietnam Veterans with a statewide "Welcome Home" reunion June 4-7, 2015 in Casper. More than 1,100 Veterans and their family members attended the BBQ following the Welcome Home Parade on Saturday, June 6, 2015. The Veterans Museum opened their Vietnam War – The 10,000 Day War exhibit in April 2015 and it was very well received.

