



Alaska

Department
of
Military
&
Veterans Affairs

Annual Report
2003



***Governor
Frank H. Murkowski***



***Brigadier General
Craig E. Campbell***



**DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS, ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD
P.O. BOX 5800, CAMP DENALI
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Frank H. Murkowski
Governor, State of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska

1 January 2004

Dear Governor Murkowski:

It is my pleasure to present the **Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA)** Annual Report for 2003.

This past year proved to be one of the most challenging for the DMVA in recent memory. We established a new Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management to aggressively implement plans and procedures to deal with both natural disasters and security threats to Alaska. In 2003, Alaska received authorization to distribute over \$41 millions in Federal Homeland Security Grants. In addition, the Alaska State Defense Force was realigned to provide security to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, the Alaska Railroad, and the Port of Anchorage, in partnership with industry.

The DMVA initiated a major transformation, establishing a Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska on October 1, 2003. This new organization replaces the Army National Guard State Area Command (STARC) and the Air National Guard Headquarters, with a new integrated organization better aligned to respond to the rapidly changing state and national demands.

In 2003, the Army and Air National Guard deployed over 300 soldiers and airmen overseas. The year also marked the beginning of the missile defense mission for the Alaska Army National Guard, with the first cadre of Army National Guard soldiers arriving at Ft Greely in September 2003. The Alaska Air National Guard also initiated transfer of the space surveillance mission at Clear Air Force Station from the US Air Force. And, as the year came to a close, over 150 soldiers and airmen of the DMVA were activated at key points within the state to protect critical infrastructure in response to potential homeland security threats.

Our Alaska Military Youth Academy had the most successful year to date, graduating over 200 cadets. We are also very proud of the success of our STARBASE program, which served nearly 1,000 students, of which over 700 received diplomas for completing the four day course.

The DMVA is a powerful economic factor in Alaska. We bring significant federal dollars to the state. In 2003, DMVA expended over \$200 million in Federal dollars in Alaska. We accomplished this while concurrently reducing our state general fund requirements to meet your goal of controlling state spending.

We appreciate your leadership and support. The DMVA stands ready to serve Alaska; whether through the actions of our National Guard, responding to emergencies and threats to our state security, or in serving our youth and veterans. We invite you to review our 2003 annual report.

Sincerely,

Craig E. Campbell, Brigadier General
The Adjutant General

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Preparing for Kosovo Peace-Keeping duties. A UH-60L Blackhawk helicopter crew trains for one-year peace keeping mission to Kosovo. Nearly 70 members of the Alaska Army National Guard's 1/207 Aviation Regiment took eight Blackhawks along for the assignment. DMVA Photo by Mark Farmer.

Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management provides critical services to the State to protect lives and property from terrorism and all other hazards, as well as to provide rapid recovery from all disasters. The following specific accomplishments highlight some of our successes.

Major Accomplishments

- Combined the Division of Homeland Security with the Division of Emergency Services to establish the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, resulting in better services to local jurisdictions, efficiencies in staff resources, and personnel cost savings of \$100,000 in general funds.
- Established and combined the Governor's Homeland Security Task Force with the U.S. Attorney's Anti-Terrorism Task Force to form a Joint State and Federal Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council to streamline antiterrorism efforts.
- Currently managing \$41.7 million in Federal Homeland Security Grants.
 - 80 Grants distributed to 30 Local Communities.
 - 11 Grants distributed to nine State Agencies.
 - Increased staffing to achieve Homeland Security Grant objectives.
 - Applications for additional State and Local FY04 Grants to be distributed by 12/15/03.
- Established the State's Homeland Security Threat Level Procedures.
- Developed Critical Infrastructure Security Plans in partnership with Industry, the Alaska National Guard and the Alaska State Defense Force.
- Installed a Secure Video Teleconference Capability in the Governor's Office and DMVA Headquarters.
- Developed a comprehensive Federal, State and Local three year Statewide Homeland Security Exercise Program.
- Responded to five events in FY03 which resulted in three Federal and two State Disaster Declarations.
- Managed \$42.2 million in disaster grants for these events.
- Responded to three emergencies and events not resulting in disaster declarations.
- Supported the Division of Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service with wildland fire operations on 14 occasions.
- Conducted our annual Emergency Management Conference, *Flooding*, in April 2003, with 145 conferees attending from 59 communities and 19 State and Federal agencies.
- Provided Emergency and Mitigation Plans assistance to communities/LEPCs in Nome, Port Alexander, Sitka, Juneau and Valdez.
- Coordinated support for Port Heiden, among multiple State and Federal agencies, to assist with aftermath of severe storm.



Violent storms in December of 2003 caused heavy erosion of the beach at Port Heiden, threatening homes and a cemetery. Photos courtesy of Gerda Kosbruk, Community of Port Heiden, and George Coyle Alaska DES



DES coordinated state and federal resources in an effort to aid the community and move the cemetery to a new location to prevent the loss of the graves.

Alaska Army National Guard (AKARNG)

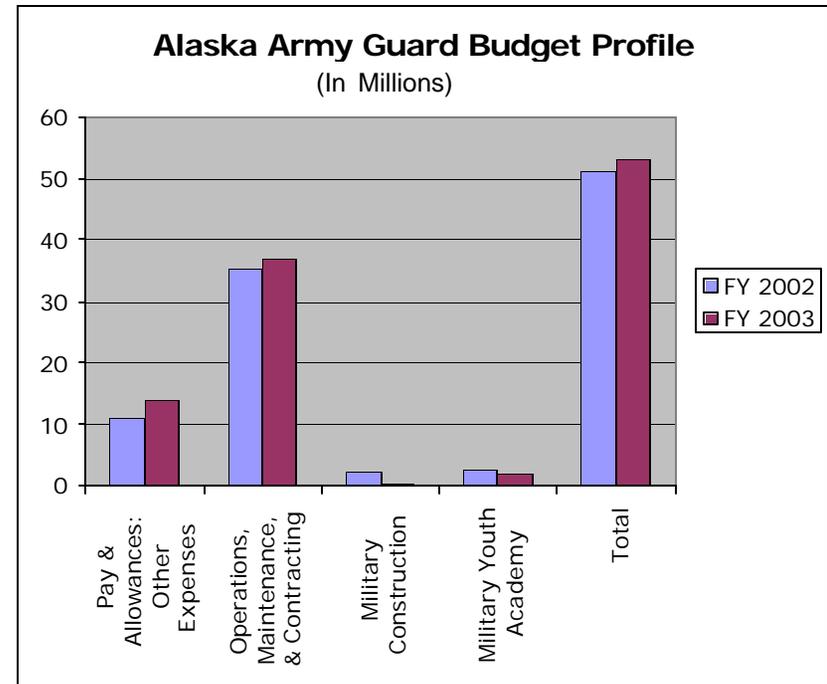
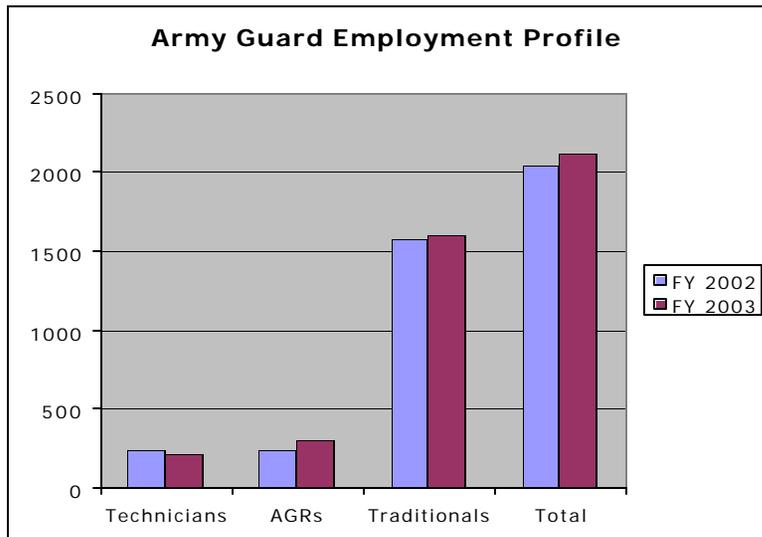
The Alaska Army National Guard, includes a headquarters element of the Joint Forces Headquarters-Alaska; a Scout Group that includes three Scout Battalions, an Aviation Battalion, Missile Defense Battalion, and Civil Support Team. A Regional Training Institute, and a Public Affairs Detachment are among the diverse units that home to 1,800+ soldiers. In 2003, they fulfilled all state and Federal missions, while maintaining 245 facilities in 76 locations throughout the state.

Major Accomplishments

- Mobilized one officer in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to Afghanistan, and one officer to Fort Wainwright.
- Mobilized 33 soldiers in support of Operation Noble Eagle to Kulis Air National Guard Base.
- Mobilized 67 soldiers in support of Kosovo Peacekeeping Force to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.
- Mobilized four soldiers in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to Kuwait and Iraq.
- Assumed 24/7 security mission for the Ground Based Mid-Course Defense system at Fort Greely, Alaska.
- Received perfect scores at an annual evaluation of the Civil Support Team, as evaluated by the 5th Army.
- Initiated actions for future Aviation and Scout missions in the Republic of Korea.
- Disbursed \$278,500 in state funds, and \$120,000 in Federal funds for tuition assistance.
- Flew nine medical evacuation missions at 15.8 hours saving 10 lives.
- Flew 10 search and rescue missions at 31.8 hours saving 14 lives.
- Initiated a Memorandum of Agreement with Space & Missile Defense Command, the Colorado Army National Guard and California Army National Guard, assigning operational control of Title 32 Alaska Army National Guard soldiers to an active duty component.
- Placed 14th out of 42 teams in the Rhode Island National Guard's International Leapfest.
- Enlisted 291 new soldiers into the Alaska Army National Guard.
- Disbursed \$853,500 in military occupation skill training funds, and \$455,100 in professional development training funds, with a total of 440 soldiers completing training.
- Competed in the Winston P. Wilson national marksmanship matches.
- Completed 100% of our planned Annual Training exercises, and improved military occupation skill qualification from 76% to 79.8%.
- Facilities maintenance accomplished 84% of the facility maintenance required.
- Aforementioned items were completed using 99% of programmed budget, in coordination with National Guard Bureau.



On the lookout at Fort Richardson. Blending with his environment. Alaska Army National Guard Staff Sergeant Carl White Jr., of Eek, trained with other members of the Guard's 2nd. Battalion (Scout) of the 297th Infantry on Fort Richardson. More than 160 soldiers and officers, mostly from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, underwent six days of training in November. Thirty-four were tested and rated as combat lifesavers. Associated Press photo by Mark Farmer (used by permission).



Alaska Air National Guard (AKANG)

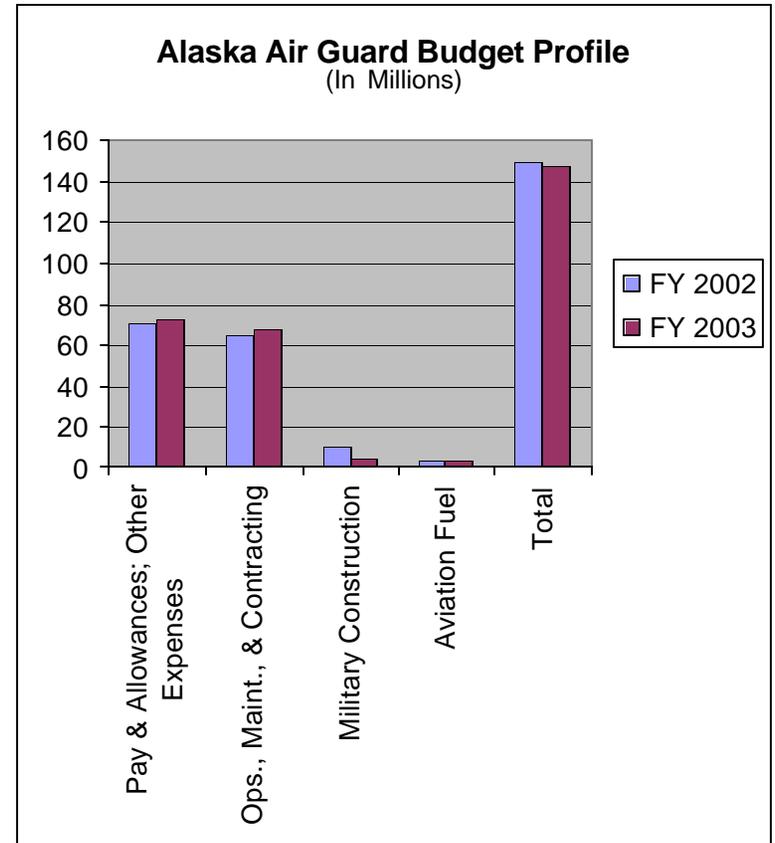
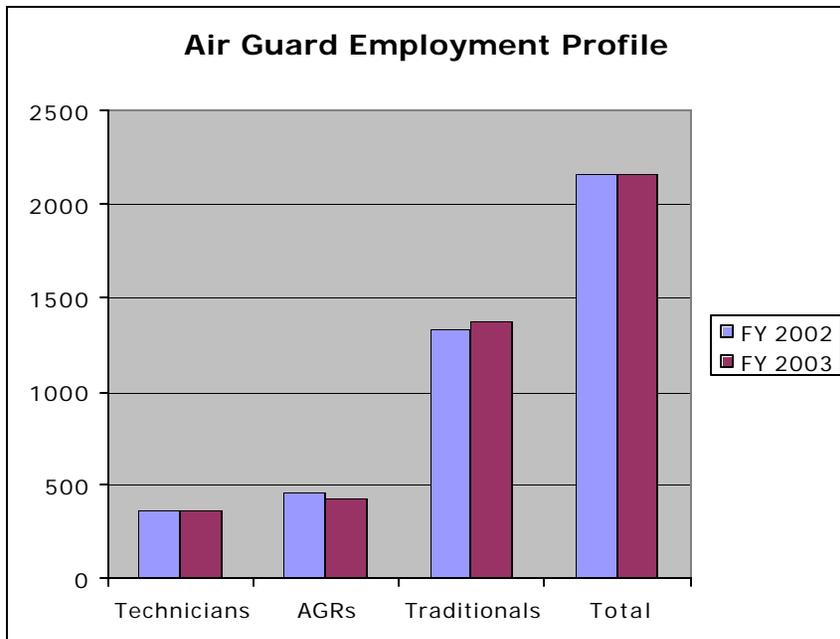
The Alaska Air National Guard consists of a headquarters detachment - an element of the Joint Forces Headquarters- Alaska, two major flying wings with four flying squadrons, the Rescue Coordination Center, and a radar control squadron. Our 2,000+ members spent much of last year performing federal missions both at home and deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and Noble Eagle homeland defense.

Major Accomplishments

- Approximately 200 members of the Alaska Air National Guard were deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and Noble Eagle (homeland defense).
- Deployed two senior Colonels to serve as Wing Commander for two Air Expeditionary Refueling Wings in Bahrain and Qatar in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for nine months; and, serve with Forces in Pakistan.
- Prepared to assume Ballistic Missile Warning mission at Clear Air Station, hired 28 of 39 full-time people and six traditional Guardmembers to be brought on board in FY 04.
- 244 Guard members attended college through State-funded, Alaska National Guard managed, Tuition Assistance Program.
- 144 Airlift Squadron (AS) flew 104 Federal, 23 State, and nine Homeland Defense support missions.
- 168 Air Refueling Wing (ARW) tankers flew 720 sorties and off-loaded 16 million pounds of fuel to 1,300 receivers.
- 168 ARW supported Joint Chiefs of Staff global strategic reconnaissance - 16 sorties, 70 hours, 882,600 lbs. of fuel off-loaded.
- Brought the first Japanese F-15's to Alaska to participate in Cope Thunder.
- 210 Rescue Squadron (RQS) flew 44 rescue missions in Alaska, saving 29 lives and assisting in 14 other saves.
- 210 RQS flew 23 combat rescue missions overseas with 21 saves and 2 assists.
- Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) directed 236 state missions with 72 saves and 42 assists.
- 611 Air Control Squadron (ACS) controlled over 3,500 fighter / tanker missions; three real-world Homeland Defense missions.
- 176 Wing support members won 17 national awards including the Air National Guard Military Personnel Flight of the Year.
- 176 Medical Squadron received the 2002 Governor's Trophy.
- 176 Wing received the State Excellence Award for their Air National Guard Substance Abuse Program.
- Recruited 266 new Alaska Air Guardmembers (while understaffed). Lost 287 airmen (30% retirement, 25% voluntary separation).
- Added a \$13 million Corrosion Control Facility at Kulis and \$3.2 million Combat Communications Facility at Elmendorf.
- Operations and Maintenance spending was \$68.9 million.
- Facilities Operations and Maintenance Agreement spending was \$3.85 million.
- Only 1.5% of the \$75.74 million was state funded.
- Accomplished \$1 million in deferred maintenance, meeting the five percent goal.



Helping our neighbors. Alaska Air Guard pararescuemen helped Wade Strahan, center, a battalion chief with Anchorage Fire Department, to safety. The 210th Rescue Squadron averages saving the lives of more than 50 people annually. This year more than 200 airmen and officers from each of the Alaska Air Guard's wings – the 176 Wing in Anchorage and the 168 Air Refueling Wing in North Pole / Fairbanks deployed to several countries in Central Asia and Bosnia supporting both combat and peace keeping missions. Photo by Jim Conley (used by permission).



Veterans Affairs

The Alaska State Veterans Affairs coordinator is dedicated to serving over 71,500 Alaska veterans and their families by developing and sustaining a comprehensive statewide Veterans advocacy program. This includes synchronization, strategic vision, and operational influence exercised by the Alaska Veteran's Advisory Council (AVAC) and taking a leading role in advocating for veterans through veteran's service officers to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

It is also a key state operative for Alaska State Veterans Home, Veteran's Memorials, Veteran's Cemeteries, support and dignity of veteran's families. He has a caring, concerned open ear and provides timely feedback and facilitates resolution to our state veteran's challenges and concerns.

Major Accomplishments

Assisted in planning and / or participated in numerous activities that improved communications with Alaska veterans and their families. They included:

- Independence Day Parades – Fairbanks, Juneau, Nome, Wasilla, Sitka, Kodiak, Kenai, and Anchorage.
- Governor's Picnics in Anchorage and Fairbanks.
- Alaska Federation of Natives Veterans Outreach.
- Memorial Day, Veterans & Remembrance Day, POW-MIA Day, Flag Day ceremonies statewide.
- American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, & Disabled American Veterans Conferences.
- Stand Down (for homeless veterans in Fairbanks and Anchorage).
- Official Federal Certificates of Discharge for Alaska Territorial Guard members.

Appointment of the Alaska Veterans Advisory Counsel by Governor Murkowski

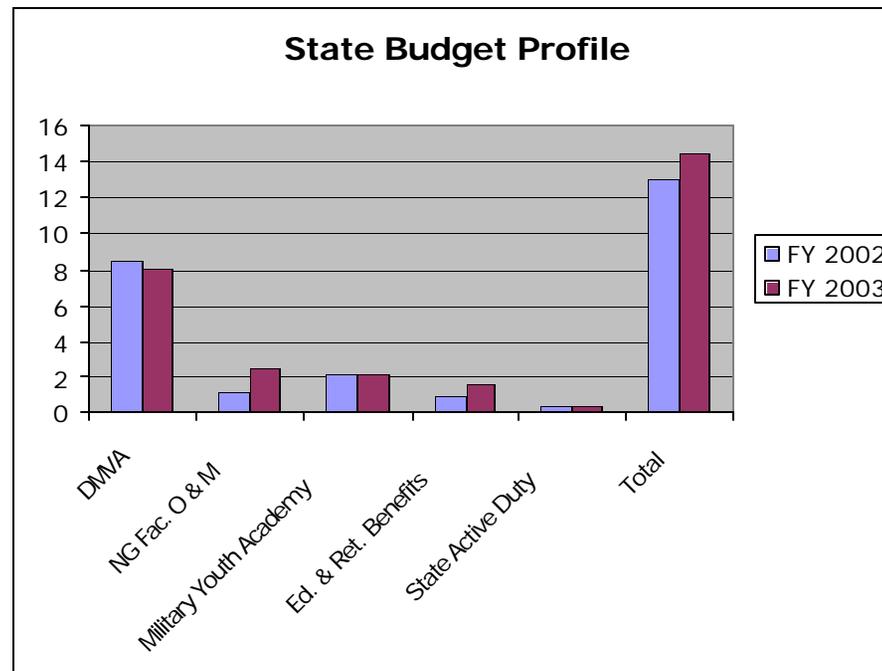
Provided \$500,000 to the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans Joint Venture for Veterans Service Offices programs. These representatives advocated for individual veterans' federal benefits. During 2003, approximately ~~\$27 million was obtained for veterans and their families~~ – a return rate of about ~~\$48~~ Federal for every State dollar spent on this program.

Administrative Services

The Division of Administrative Services (DAS) provides a wide range of services to support the department’s mission. These include budget and accounting; payroll; procurement and contracting; property management; postal and distribution services; and technical and analytical oversight of telecommunications, and information technology/capital improvement project. In conjunction with the National Guard’s Educational Service staff the division oversees the administration of the educational benefits programs and funds. And, when the Alaska National Guard’s aircraft and aircrews provide emergency medical evacuation (Medevac) services, they recoup the cost of these missions from the Native Health Corporations

Major Accomplishments

- Medevac - \$92,200 was recouped from the health corporations.
- Procurement/contracting – Administered 60 contracts worth more than \$2.8M.
- Accounting/Finance - collected, and accounted for over \$26M; processed approximately 16,000 invoices in an average of 22 days.



Alaska State Defense Force

The mission of the Alaska State Defense Force (ASDF) is to maintain an organized and trained military force, capable of time and effective response to state emergencies. On other occasions, as deemed appropriate by Governor Frank Murkowski and Brigadier General Craig Campbell, provide military assistance to civil and military authorities in the preservation of life, property, and public safety.

- The Alaska State Defense Force numbers more than 250 soldiers. They're organized in battalions and found across the State.
- ASDF soldiers served in classic security, deterrence, and support roles as part of the Homeland Security team this year.
- ASDF marine contingent worked closely with the U.S. Coast Guard in adjoining waters of Southcentral Alaska.
- The ASDF aviation element provided support for search and rescue missions and observation during emergencies.
- Activated in response to an elevated Homeland Security threat-level increase at both the Port of Valdez, and the Yukon river bridge on the Dalton Highway.
- Conducted field training with the Alaska Railroad to prepare rail system protection plan.
- Developed a written operations plan for the protection of Alaska's critical infrastructure.

Alaska Naval Militia

The mission of the Alaska Naval Militia is to provide individuals or teams to assist and support Alaska in time of emergencies or disasters at the discretion of Governor Frank Murkowski or Brigadier General Craig Campbell, the Adjutant General.

- Nearly 100 Alaskans serve as members of the Alaska Naval Militia.
- Members of the Alaska Naval Militia are trained to work with and through the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.



During operation Winter Talon, members of the Alaska State Defense force were called to service to help protect critical infrastructure throughout the state. About 150 members of the AKNG & ASDF supported this mission.

Photos by SPC Laura Griffin, 117 MPAD

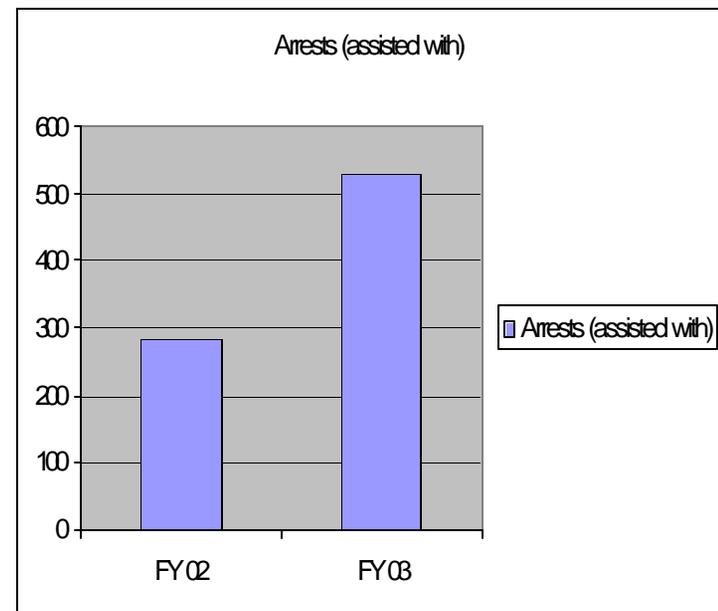
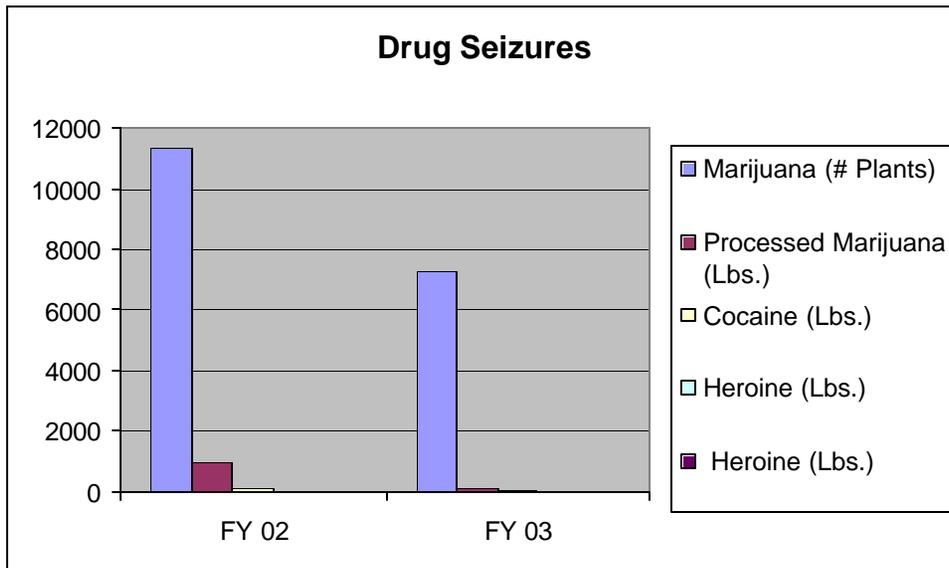


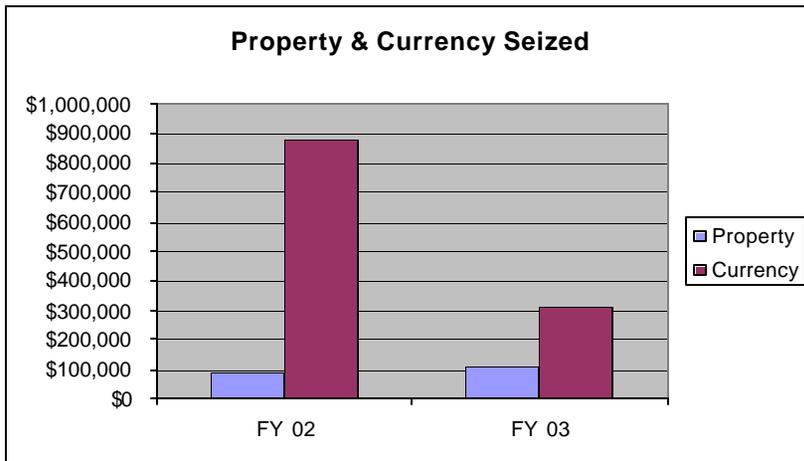
Counterdrug Support (CDSP)

Operates a joint unit comprised of 40 members from both Air and Army National Guard. Established in 1989, CDSP is comprised of traditional guardsmen on Active Duty for Special Work in a Title 32 status. Federal regulations dictate operational parameters while federal funding and drug asset forfeiture monies provide for the program's entire budget. CDSP provides assistance only in response to requests from law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations. CDSP gives this assistance in accordance to the priorities established in the State Plan throughout the entire State of Alaska.

Major Accomplishment

- Assisted law enforcement agencies in 61 law enforcement operations.
- Seized 7,307 cannabis plants, 108.36 lbs. of processed marijuana, 40 lbs. of cocaine, 4 lbs. of methamphetamine, 89 weapons, 506 liters of alcohol, and \$313,185.00 in currency (total value of the interdicted drugs was \$23.1M)
- Assisted in the training of 544 law enforcement officers.
- Reached 25,597 people through the support of 31 community based drug awareness programs.
- Doubled the National Guard Bureau's urinary analysis target of 42%, by testing 80% of the Alaska Army National Guard.





A big help in taking a bite out of crime. The Alaska National Guard Counter Drug Support Program has two dogs and handlers as part of their team. DMVA Photo.



When you live a drug and alcohol free life, you have abundant choices. As one of the primary support organizations in Alaska's fight against the case of illegal drugs, the Alaska National Guard provides essential resources-educating youth is at the top of the list. DMVA Photo.

Alaska Military Youth Academy

ChalleNGe

Contribution to Department's Mission

To use proven military methods and techniques to motivate young men and women to become successful citizens.

Core Services

The Alaska Military Youth Academy (AMYA) provides three important core services to the youth of Alaska: 1) Behavior Modification; 2) Academic Education; 3) Employment and/or academic placement after graduation

Major Accomplishments

- Challenge graduated 204 students in SFY 03 that are now productive members of their community.
- The United Service Organizations (USO) honored the AMYA as part of its annual "Volunteer Services to Education" awards program. This award honored the Academy for its outstanding technical and work related training programs.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2005

- The Academy will provide expanded admissions, mentoring, and post-residential to the Interior through the Fairbanks Community Outreach Center.
- Through a federal Workforce Investment Act grant, the academy's successful student training program will expand to include more job-specific training in areas including college preparatory; a military instruction program for those seeking to enter the Armed Forces; and a Private Pilot Ground School course.

STARBASE (Science, Technology & Academics, Reinforcing Basic Aviation & Space Exploration)

Contribution to Department's Mission

STARBASE will “Add Value to America” through educational enrichment programs for Alaska students focusing on technology, science, math, goal setting, team building, and drug-demand reduction.

Core Services

STARBASE is a 100% Federally funded program designed to be a catalyst in the education of Alaskan students by increasing performance and improving attitudes in the areas of Science and Technology.

Major Accomplishments

- STARBASE taught classes to over 1000 Anchorage area students in 2003.
- Instructors traveled to Nome in April to provide rural students with an opportunity to participate in STARBASE classes.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2005

- Plans for a second STARBASE site, to be located in the Fairbanks area, are being developed in cooperation with the Air National Guard. This site would enable cost effective travel to the surrounding rural communities, as well as serving the students throughout the Fairbanks North Star Borough. 100% Federal funds are being sought for this operation.

Commissioners Office

Educational Benefits

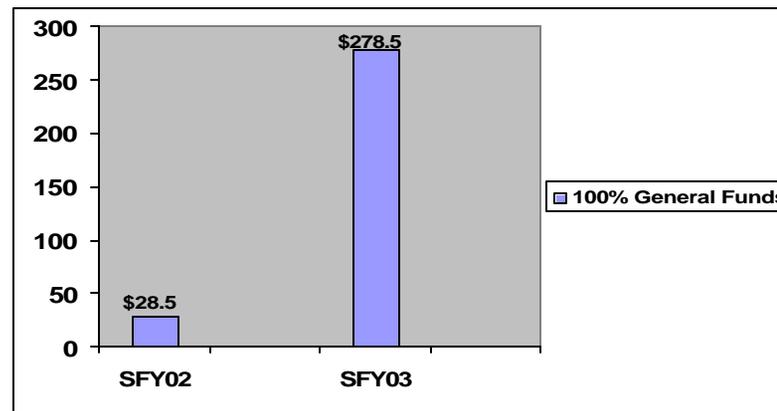
The Department of Military & Veterans Affairs lists, as one of its major goals and strategies for the Alaska Army and Air National Guard, improved recruitment and retention. The Alaska Army National Guard is critically short of junior officers and senior grade enlisted soldiers while the Alaska Air National Guard is behind in personnel strength compared to other like units. States that have 100% tuition assistance are at or near full strength in the officer and enlisted ranks and experience exceptionally high retention rates. In 2003, \$250,000 was used to pay for the tuition of Guardmembers attending classes with the University of Alaska and an additional \$28,500 to reimburse Guardmembers for classes successfully completed at other institutions in Alaska.

Major Accomplishments

- 450 Guardmembers furthered their educations using tuition waiver and reimbursement funds.
- Guardmembers in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Bethel, Ninilchik, Nulato, Hooper Bay and Nome used tuition waiver funds.
- 17 traditional Guardsmen in Bethel received Basic Computer Training through the Y-K Education Project.
- Alaska National Guard partnered with *Troops to Teachers* program to place National Guard members in Alaska classrooms.

SFY 02 and SFY 03 Funding

(In Thousands)





Howling winds, happiness and holidays. Frigid temperatures couldn't stop an arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus in Wales, on the Bering Sea. *Operation Santa Claus* would be "mission impossible" without generous support of hundreds of volunteers, donations from businesses and community organizations and individuals. Airlift and logistical support is provided by the Alaska National Guard. Now in its 47th year, *Operation Santa Claus* delivers books, clothes, food, school supplies, and...yes, toys to many of Alaska's rural communities annually. DMVA Photo by Mark Farmer.



Protecting Alaska's people and infrastructure. As the year ended, Alaska and the nation went to Orange Alert. Members of the State Defense Force, Alaska National Guard, and Alaska State Troopers operated Check-point-One in Valdez and other locations during Operation *Winter Talon*. Photo by PFC John Chriswell, 117 MPAD.

Ready To Serve

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