

State of Alaska FY2009 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Educational Benefits Component Budget Summary

Component: Educational Benefits

Contribution to Department's Mission

Increase recruitment and retention by offering improved educational benefits to members of the Alaska National Guard and Naval Militia.

Core Services

After becoming a guard member, advancement and promotion within the ranks is heavily dependent on education. Officers must have 90 college semester hours completed prior to commissioning and have obtained a Bachelor's degree within 2 years after commissioning. Failure to complete a degree impacts the officer's promotional opportunities. Enlisted personnel who enlist with less than a 9th grade reading level are very likely not to be promoted to Sergeant/E-5 due to mandatory military schools that require 9th grade level reading skills. These funds assist members of the Alaska National Guard and Naval Militia by paying 100% of tuition and/or fees if they successfully complete classes to obtain post-secondary degrees or training in order to promote careers in the National Guard.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs lists as one of its major goals and strategies for the Alaska Army and Air National Guard as "improved recruitment and retention." The Alaska Army National Guard is critically short of junior officers and senior grade enlisted personnel 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.

Major Activities to Advance Strategies

- Payment of guard members tuition costs to University of Alaska
- Reimbursement of Tuition and Fees to Guard Members

FY2009 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2009 Component Budget: \$408,500	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Personnel:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Full time</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Part time</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">0</td> </tr> </table>	Personnel:		Full time	0	Part time	0	Total	0
Personnel:									
Full time	0								
Part time	0								
Total	0								

Key Component Challenges

UA Tuition Scholarship Program:

In FY07, 190 guard members used the University of Alaska Tuition Assistance Waiver Program to obtain their education. By comparison, 166 guard members used this program in FY06. In October 2003, 1 undergraduate credit was \$82. In October 2007 that same credit cost \$128. All of the FY07 funds for this program were exhausted before the 2007 summer semester. In addition, the number of guard members applying for educational assistance under this program continues to increase by approximately 10% annually.

State Tuition Assistance Program (Non-UA Schools):

In FY07, 18 guard members utilized this program. Rising costs of tuition and increased demand for educational benefits continue to occur.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2009

No changes in results delivered.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2007

In FY07, 190 guard members used the University of Alaska Tuition Assistance Waiver Program to obtain their education.

In FY07, 18 guard members utilized the Non-University of Alaska Tuition Assistance Program.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 26.05.295-298 Educational assistance for enlisted personnel

Contact Information
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**Educational Benefits
Component Financial Summary**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0
73000 Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
74000 Commodities	0.0	0.0	0.0
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	376.6	408.5	408.5
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	376.6	408.5	408.5
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	376.6	408.5	408.5
Funding Totals	376.6	408.5	408.5

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2008 Management Plan to FY2009 Governor***All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2008 Management Plan	408.5	0.0	0.0	408.5
FY2009 Governor	408.5	0.0	0.0	408.5