

**State of Alaska
FY2004 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Alaska National Guard Benefits
Budget Request Unit Budget Summary**

Alaska National Guard Benefits Budget Request Unit

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BRU Mission

See specific detail at component level.

BRU Services Provided

See specific detail at component level.

BRU Goals and Strategies

See specific detail at component level.

Key BRU Issues for FY2003 – 2004

See specific detail at component level.

Major BRU Accomplishments in 2002

See specific detail at component level.

Key Performance Measures for FY2004

Measure:

Increase Guard members' educational level.

Alaska's Target & Progress:

Provided \$250,000 tuition assistance in FY 2002 for members attending the University of Alaska and \$28,500 tuition assistance for the Guard and Naval Militia attending institutions in Alaska other than the University of Alaska.

Benchmark Comparisons:

No benchmark exists.

Background and Strategies:

Educational benefits are a successful recruiting and retention tool. Since its inception in the fall of 2000, over 900 Guard members have attended the University (130 in FY 2001, 510 in FY 2002 and 278 FY 2003 first semester) under the tuition assistance program. Both Army and Air National Guard members are actively pursuing educational opportunities. With the availability of the University program, more members in the rural areas are able to take advantage of this benefit. In FY 2002, five from Bethel, one from Ninilchik, one from Nulato, one from Hooper Bay and one member from Nome have enrolled in the program.

In addition, 167 Guard and Naval militia members received tuition assistance from the state (70 in FY 2000, 62 in FY 2001, and 35 FY 2002) for classes taken at institutions other than the University of Alaska.

The strategies to reach our goal of increased educational levels within the Guard are to:

- Improve recruitment, retention and education levels through a partnership with the University of Alaska.

- Fully utilize all military education tools and distance learning capabilities.
- Encourage Guard members to pursue their educational goals by providing information on military and civilian education opportunities available to Guard members.
- Facilitate expansion of Junior ROTC programs into rural schools to instill awareness of and a desire for education while encouraging military and community service.
- Extend use of tuition reimbursement funds to on line courses leading to higher education levels.
- Provide education services, information and counseling.

**Alaska National Guard Benefits
BRU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars in thousands

	FY2002 Actuals				FY2003 Authorized				FY2004 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
<u>Formula Expenditures</u>												
Retirement Benefits	879.8	0.0	0.0	879.8	1,322.5	0.0	0.0	1,322.5	1,322.5	0.0	0.0	1,322.5
<u>Non-Formula Expenditures</u>												
Educational Benefits	16.5	0.0	0.0	16.5	278.5	0.0	0.0	278.5	278.5	0.0	0.0	278.5
Totals	896.3	0.0	0.0	896.3	1,601.0	0.0	0.0	1,601.0	1,601.0	0.0	0.0	1,601.0

Alaska National Guard Benefits

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2004

See specific detail at component level.

Alaska National Guard Benefits

Summary of BRU Budget Changes by Component

From FY2003 Authorized to FY2004 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2003 Authorized	1,601.0	0.0	0.0	1,601.0
FY2004 Governor	1,601.0	0.0	0.0	1,601.0