



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**DMVA: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 8, 2017**

**Contact: Jeremy Zidek [907-441-2337](tel:907-441-2337)**

### **State of Alaska Potential Shutdown Impacts on the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs**

**Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska** — The Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) has identified the following potential risks to services provided to the public if a state government shutdown occurs.

#### **Alaska National Guard**

Uniformed Guard members will continue their duties as normal. Some state personnel may remain on duty to provide required services and repairs for National Guard facilities, but most will likely be laid off.

#### **Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM)**

During duty hours, phones for the State Emergency Operations Center will be forwarded to the Joint Operations Center. After duty hours, calls will be forwarded to a contractor answering service. If a disaster event necessitates response activities, essential DHS&EM and other state government emergency response personnel will be recalled to address the immediate life, health, and safety needs of affected Alaskans. The recalled staff will be funded through the Alaska Disaster Relief Fund. During the course of a shutdown, DHS&EM will likely have to cease disaster mitigation and preparation activities and would no longer process recovery grants for individuals and communities.

#### **Office of Veterans Affairs**

All Office of Veterans Affairs staff will likely be laid off. Additionally, grants to veteran organizations for 17 Veterans Service Officers could be impacted. If that happens, Alaska's approximately 75,000 veterans and their 120,000 family members will have no professional assistance in negotiating the complex processes to claim the benefits they have earned.

#### **Division of Administrative Services**

The Division of Administrative Services will likely retain staff sufficient to support ongoing operations by the Alaska Military Youth Academy while it has a class in progress and likely recall necessary staff for federal reimbursement processing and emergency procurements for facility repairs.

-more-

The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs is dedicated to the mission of securing the state and defending the nation. More than 4,300 professionals within the Army National Guard, the Air National Guard, Homeland Security & Emergency Management, the Alaska Military Youth Academy, Office of Veterans Affairs, the Alaska State Defense Force, and the Alaska Naval Militia all work diligently to ensure the safety, security and future success of Alaska and its people.

This year's preparations for a government shutdown are different than in 2015, when the legislature had passed a partially funded budget. This year, money has not been appropriated for any government services. As a government shutdown in Alaska is unprecedented, Department of Law is examining what money could be spent to continue vital state services if the legislature has not fulfilled its constitutional obligation to pass a budget.