



*South Dakota*  
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Joint Committee on Appropriations  
Senator Deb Peters, Co-Chair  
Representative Fred Romkema, Co-Chair  
State Capitol Building  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Joint Committee on Appropriations:

Please find the written summary responses to the questions you posed in your letter dated December 11, 2013.

**1. What activities will your agency eliminate, initiate or significantly change?**

*The federal fiscal year 2014 budget that we are currently executing scales back funding in some areas, however, the cuts imposed will not significantly change how we conduct our business. When the details of the President's 2015 budget are revealed in March, we will gain a much better understanding of the cuts to be imposed in October of this year. At the present time, we believe that our Air Guard budget will not change significantly; however, we are very concerned that the cuts the Army will make could have a major impact on our Army National Guard units here in South Dakota. If some of our units are eliminated due to budget cuts it could result in closure of additional armories across the state.*

**2. What initiatives for improving efficiency of operations are planned in FY 15?**

*I believe that we will become increasingly reliant on technology for a wide array of meetings that have traditionally been conducted face-to-face. This would result in savings to the travel budget. All facility construction projects already require energy efficient design. We continue to make upgrades to existing facilities to take advantage of new heating and lighting products that save energy as well.*

**3. What are the standards of performance or metrics by which you judge the success and efficiencies of your agency's outcomes?**

*Our most critical standards of performance align directly with our ability to respond quickly and professionally to state emergencies as well as being prepared to deploy anywhere in the world to perform our federal mission. We monitor our ongoing preparedness utilizing a set of metrics that are updated monthly and briefed quarterly.*

**4. What funds from FY14 are planned to be applied to FY 15 activities? Are these amounts in addition to amounts contained in the Governor's FY15 budget?**

*We currently have no plans to use FY14 funds for FY15 activities, however, as we get closer to the end of the fiscal year, it may become necessary to execute contract carryovers for construction projects that are in progress but that are not completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>.*

**5. What are your plans regarding amending the FY14 General Bill?**

*As a part of the Governor's proposed budget, the Department's FY14 budget will be amended for costs related to bureau billings and health insurance.*

**6. What programs and services offered by your agency have been, or will be affected by federal budget reductions due to the Budget Control Act of 2011 or other actions by the federal government? Were General Funds and/or Other Funds used to support the continuation of these programs or services?**

*Thus far the cuts imposed by the Budget Control Act of 2011 have not significantly impacted the services offered by the South Dakota National Guard. As you know, however, these cuts are to be levied over a 10-year period of time and we are concerned that the cuts to come in the 2015 budgets and beyond could have a severe impact on your organization. To be specific, we are very concerned about the Army's proposal to cut the Army National Guard's personnel authorization level from the FY 2015 figure of 350,000 to a bare-bones figure of 315,000. If that occurs, the South Dakota Army National Guard could expect to lose between 320 and 400 of our current positions. That could have a dramatic impact on our ability to respond to emergencies within our state's borders. There really is no way to replace the loss of force structure that would occur in such an instance using General Funds or Other Funds. We are working with our congressional delegation to try to minimize the impact of future federal budget cuts on the South Dakota National Guard.*



Timothy A. Reisch  
Major General, SDNG  
The Adjutant General