



THE DISPATCH

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Holding the environmental frontline

Parker White, DMVA Public Information Officer & Legislative Liaison

Mike Speth's relationship with the DMVA began in 1979, shortly before his 18th birthday when he enlisted in the Colorado Army National Guard.

Initially starting out in the 140th Signal Company in Fort Collins, Speth soon moved to a medical unit before finishing college, attending officer candidate school, and earning a commission. Upon commissioning he was assigned to the 135th Aviation Battalion as a 2nd Lieutenant.

As a part-time soldier, Speth began working full time as a state employee with the precursor to the DMVA in 1994 in the environmental section of Buckley Space Force Base. A funding change saw Speth shift his career back to wearing a uniform. He accepted a Title-10 Active Guard Reserve Position in Arlington, Virginia where he put his environmental protection skills to use at the federal level.

Over the next 14 years, Speth would work in nearly every National Guard and Army environmental protection program in existence. He retired from military service in 2015.

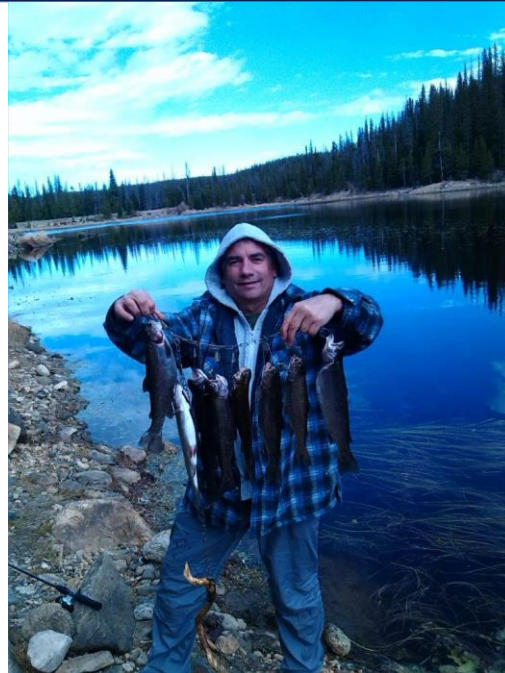
"But I wasn't done yet," said Speth.

In 2015, Speth took a position as a state employee in the G9, Installations and Environmental Division, formerly CFMO, working on environmental compliance and energy programs.

In March, he began in a new DMVA position as the Sustainability and Environmental Management System Program Manager.

"A majority of my efforts involves understanding our facilities' energy and water systems with the objective to reduce consumption and improving our resiliency," Speth explained.

Speth went on to explain that the Army published a significant document for Climate Change Strategy just last year with many installation near and long-term goals. Thanks to the work Speth, and the rest of the G9, are doing many of those goals were ones that DMVA is already working on successfully.



"I love being outdoors, the Colorado culture, and I enjoy fishing with my father and sons. We have visited all but four of the US National Parks and expect to complete those in the next several years," Speth said.

Pictured left is Mike with a haul of fish from one such trip.

One of those goals involves the modernization and transformation of fleets to Zero-Emission vehicles.

"You may have already noticed the Chevy Bolts in use on the front range as well as new Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment being installed at many of our facilities," Speth pointed out.

These changes will reduce operational costs and improve the environment by reducing carbon pollution.

Speth's home and hobby farm is in Loveland, where he and his wife have a small orchard of fruit trees and a large flock of chickens, ducks and turkeys. The two of them often travel domestically to discover and enjoy the very natural beauty that Speth has dedicated a career to protecting.

Mike Speth has served the state of Colorado, the country, and indeed the world for his entire life. The positive effects of his work will be felt by the Army, and humanity as whole, for generations to come.

"I've seen a lot of changes in Colorado over the years, including my time in the National Guard and Department of Military Affairs," concluded Speth. "It is my honor to serve and continue providing for opportunity and a better future for our Service Members, Veterans and Citizens."

Check Page 3 for JFHQ Yoga Class and Job Openings!

3 new charging stations open at JFHQ

Parker White, DMVA Public Information Officer & Legislative Liaison

Developing environmentally sustainable practices is a key initiative for the DMVA. State employees in the G9 have been instrumental in moving these initiatives forward.

The Colorado National Guard's commitment to environmental sustainability has not gone unnoticed.

In 2020, the Colorado National Guard was awarded the Secretary of Defense Environmental Award for Sustainability. Additionally, the National Guard has been recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for its environmental initiatives.

The G9 recently opened three new charging stations for state and federal vehicles at Joint Force Headquarters. This is yet another example of how state employees at DMVA are having an impact in Colorado!

State Legislature passes Long Bill: Here's what's coming to DMVA

Parker White, DMVA Public Information Officer & Legislative Liaison

Over the last 2 months, the State Legislature has undergone the arduous process of determining the state's budget. These discussions and committee hearings culminate in the passing of what is called "The Long Bill".

This process begins in the Joint Budget Committee (JBC). Made up of 3 Representatives and 3 Senators, the JBC hears items and requests from all departments of State government and then votes to accept or deny requests. From these committee hearings, the Long Bill is produced.

From there, the Long Bill is introduced on the floors of both the House and Senate.

It is on the floors of these two chambers that the General Assembly debates amendments to the Long Bill. Each chamber makes changes based on their members requests.

Once each chamber has debated and made their respective amendments, the JBC acts as a conference committee and votes, once again, to either approve or deny the General Assembly's changes.

The Long Bill passed officially on April 13th. The DMVA received significant resources this year compared to years past. To the right, you will see what changes are coming to the department starting July 1!

Division of Veterans Affairs FTE:

- Appeals Specialist
- Grant Administrator
- Training Officer
- 2x Veteran Service Officers
- 1x Veteran Service Officer Liaison
- 2x Veterans Cemetery Employees

Civil Air Patrol Budget Increase:

- The CAP's budget was increased by \$11,000
- DVA One Time Appropriations**
- \$500k for Veterans Clearing House

Yoga Classes will continue!



Comeback Yoga Classes are back at the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs!

**EVERY THURSDAY AT 12:00
STARTING APRIL 6TH!**
the Drill Floor of the
JFHQ One-Story

All abilities welcome!
Wear comfortable clothes.

WHY YOGA?

Increase Strength & Balance
Relieve Stress & Back Pain
Sleep Better

WHY COMEBACK YOGA?

Our classes are specifically designed to support veterans, active military, and DMVA employees. *This includes awareness of seen and unseen injuries.*

For questions email Nick Severn nicholas.severn@dmva.state.co.us or call ext. 1541

Job Listings

The DMVA currently has multiple job openings, and we are always looking for amazing people to join our family.

See below for current openings:

-Hotel General Manager

Colorado Springs, CO

-Air National Guard Patrol Officer I

Greeley, CO

-Airfield and Facility Ground Maintenance

-Arapahoe County, CO

-Design and Construction Project Manager

Arapahoe County, CO

-Facility Craftsman

Fort Lupton, CO

-Facility Craftsman

Fort Carson, CO

-Heavy Equipment Shop Mechanic

Arapahoe County, CO

-Licensed Electrician

Arapahoe County, CO

-Pipe Mechanic

Arapahoe County, CO

-Real Property Specialist

Statewide, CO

Past Events

Division of Veteran Affairs:

- Leadership of the Division of Veterans Affairs met with the Veterans Caucus in the State Legislature on Monday, March 20.

Civil Air Patrol:

- CAP Division Administrator and Colorado Wing ES Officer Lt Col Hank Eng attended the quarterly meeting of the Colorado Volunteers Active in Disaster in Aurora, March 16.

-Denver metro area CAP cadets performed the first of three scrimmage events for their in-house digital combat simulator competition series at CONG Joint Force Headquarters, in Centennial, April 8. Each team was made up of two cadets "flying" their own aircraft, and each battle is 2v2 in a double elimination style tournament.

CO National Guard:

- The COARNG and COANG participated in the Jordan Shield Exercise, in Jordan, March 5-17. Jordan Shield is a Jordanian-led, Defense Threat Reduction Agency/CONG-facilitated national-level exercise including a response to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear events.

Upcoming Events

Division of Veteran Affairs:

-The Honor Flight of Southern Colorado will be conducting the first ever all Women Veterans Honor Flight to Washington, DC. They are departing from the Colorado Springs on April 20th and returning on Saturday April 22nd

Colorado Innovation Conference

Civil Air Patrol:

-The Colorado Wing Emergency Services team is performing ground school training for the entry level aircrew position of a Mission Scanner at the South Metro Fire Authority HQ in Centennial, April 15-16. A Mission Scanner is the backseat operator in a Cessna aircraft

CO National Guard:

-The Wing will celebrate the 100th anniversary of aviation in Colorado by hosting a family day for its members May 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Buckley SFB.



The Colorado Innovation Conference, running from May 2, 2023, through May 4, 2023, aims to inspire and increase State employees' ability and willingness to share and try bold new ways of doing their work.

May 2-4 will be the first ever Colorado Innovation Conference and registration is open on their site. The goal of this conference is to inspire, provide tools, and educate state employees about innovation, project management and change management.

<https://sites.google.com/state.co.us/coloradoinnovationconference/home?authuser=0&pli=1>

