



THE DISPATCH

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One Family, One Fight

Parker White, DMVA Public Information Officer & Legislative Liaison

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs serves as a part of the Governor's administration and has over 5,000 members. Interestingly, it may be the only department in the state in which most of those members, if asked, wouldn't know they were in fact members of their own department.

Sounds hard to believe right? Well, we're here to set the record straight. The DMVA is an umbrella organization that enables, oversees, and supports three different divisions.

The first is the Division of Veterans Affairs. The DVA advocates for veterans and their families throughout the state of Colorado. They manage the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado, Western Region Once Source, and oversee each county's Veterans Service Office.

The second is the Colorado Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. CAP is made up of both cadets and senior members. One of the key functions of Civil Air Patrol is as a youth development program. Cadets are given the opportunity to develop leadership skills, build their moral character, and learn about aerospace sciences and career fields. Senior members work to serve their local community through conducting search and rescue missions, locating downed aircraft, and transporting emergency personnel and supplies. All members of the Civil Air Patrol volunteer their time and are unpaid.

The third and final division of the DMVA is the Colorado National Guard, which includes members of two branches of the US military, the US Army and the US Air Force. The Colorado National Guard acts as a reserve component to both services and thus its members maintain civilian occupations and conduct their military service on weekends through the year.



Mark Hague (middle), Chief of the Environmental Branch for the DMVA, accepts his award as the 2022 State Employee of the Year. Between his Colorado National Guard service and time as a state employee, Mark has worked for the DMVA for over 20 years.

The Colorado National Guard stands ready to respond to domestic natural disasters and civil unrest as well as to deploy at a moment's notice to project combat power overseas in support of national policy objectives.

Remember that fact from earlier? Most National Guard members are unaware that they serve two different organizations. While few in the Army and Air Guard would doubt their membership to their respective services, many *don't* know that they are also members of the DMVA.

The takeaway is that no matter what your role is in the DMVA, we are all a part of the same family. One organization, working together, and serving the State of Colorado and the United States of America.

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Jose Meza: Serving Those Who Serve

Parker White, DMVA Public Information Officer & Legislative Liaison

When asked about what he did in a day, the first words out of Jose Meza's mouth were that he didn't do his job alone. "Without my team I'm nobody," he says. Pictured below, Jose is shown shoulder to shoulder with the rest of the team that keeps the offices at Joint Force Headquarters running.

Jose works as a Structural Tradesman at JFHQ and - alongside his team - provides a variety of services to the DMVA from changing lightbulbs and moving office equipment, to landscaping and plumbing.

A familiar face, Jose combines hard work with a smile and a hearty laugh, he never fails to raise the spirits of anyone who takes the time to stop and say hello.

Originally from Los Angeles, California, Jose has a background in a variety of industries from framing to crane handling. He moved to Colorado in 2013 to continue his work as a crane hand, and four years into the job he learned about an open General Laborer position at the DMVA.

Jose saw it as an opportunity to give back to his nation and community, and he took the position. Since starting, Jose's dedication and hard work have seen him promoted from General Laborer to Structural Tradesman II.

"In the Hispanic community we take massive pride in our work. It's how I provide for my family. I've always wanted to serve; it's always been in my heart. I'm proud of this job because I get to serve those who are serving this country."

One of the largest sources of pride for Jose was the construction of the Slovenian Kozolec at JFHQ commemorating the military partnership between the Colorado National Guard and the Republic of Slovenia.

"When we had finished the memorial, they did a ceremony with the Slovenian military. One of the men came and thanked me," recalls Jose. "He had tears in his eyes, I don't think I'll ever forget that."

Some of the other projects that Jose and his team have completed around the JFHQ campus include building out a yoga room, creating a lactation room, and increasing the interior space of the TAG's office. They are currently working to remodel the kitchen in the TAG Suite.

"We've gotten to see this campus develop over the last years as a result of our hard work," he says.

Outside of work Jose has a wife and two children, a 12-year-old son and a 7-year-old daughter. Tacos on Saturday mornings are a weekend family tradition and afterwards they often stroll through flea markets or go on an afternoon hike.

We are so grateful for all the work that Jose and the rest of his team at JFHQ do every day. Their years of hard work have kept the grounds and facilities in Centennial pristine and in good condition. These silent heroes keep the JFHQ running smoothly and provide all employees with a clean and well maintained workplace.

Thank you for your years of service. We look forward to working with you for years to come and watching your careers grow with the DMVA!



**Pictured from Left to Right:
Daphny Lorena, Llanet Ortiz,
Jose Meza, Jose Antonio Rios-
Orozco**

Professional Development Opportunities

The modern-day workplace is a competitive environment, and it can be difficult to find the resources to craft an effective resume.

But if you've decided to take the next step in furthering your career, this is the place to start.

All full-time employees of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs are Colorado State Employees. As an earned benefit, State Employees have access to a series of free or discounted education programs through the Colorado Center for Organizational Effectiveness.

Below are some options for courses offered at no cost to State Employees:

- Customer Service Certificate Program
- State Supervisor Certificate Program
- Time Management Course
- Sustaining Online Teams
- Coaching Skills for Supervisors and Managers
- Performance Management 101

These and many more options are available to State Employees at:

<https://dhr.colorado.gov/state-employees/center-for-organizational-effectiveness>

There are over 1,300 additional available courses through the COE. In addition to free courses, the State of Colorado has negotiated significant price reductions with vendors for its employees to take advantage of.

Furthermore, if you find a course that is not from COE or from a vendor under price agreement, you may submit a Training Waiver and upon approval the State will subsidize that course!



A look at the newly expanded Western Slope Cemetery in Grand Junction

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:

-Airfield and Facility Ground Maintenance

\$3,755.00 Monthly

-Custodian

\$2,860.00 Monthly

Lodging Business Manager

\$3,858.00 Monthly

Airfield and Facilities Maintenance TRAINEE

\$3,411.00 Monthly

-Equipment Mechanic II

\$3,851.00 Monthly

-HVAC Journeyman Technician

\$4,895.00 Monthly

-Webmaster

Salary Pending

We are excited to announce the launch of our LinkedIn Page!

Follow our page at the link below to stay up to date on training opportunities, job openings, and current events in the DMVA!



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/colorado-department-of-military-and-veterans-affairs>

Major Events Last Month

Division of Veteran Affairs:

-Division of Veterans Affairs Director David Callahan spoke to the Aurora Defense Council Executive Committee on July 29

-Dave Callahan met with Southern and Mountain Ute leadership to further advance our partnership and collaboration in serving and assisting the tribes on Aug. 31

Civil Air Patrol:

-Cadets from Group 4 Colorado Wing, Civil Air Patrol, got some expert training from Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Jason Pratt and Maj. Joe Visalli on air combat maneuvers in a digital simulator Aug. 27

-The CO Wing held its annual Encampment at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. The event enabled cadets to receive leadership training, fitness, and STEM instruction.

CO National Guard:

-An Army and Air Force Non-Commissioned Officer development exchange with the Jordanian Armed Forces took place in Colorado, Aug. 7-14.

-The COARNG Chaplain team hosted a family Strong Bonds event at the Great Wolf Lodge, Colorado Springs, Aug. 19-21.

-The Colorado Hoist Rescue Team, including one UH-60 Black Hawk aircrew with four CONG Soldiers hoisted to safety an injured hiker in the vicinity of Mountain Wilson, Aug. 27.

Upcoming Events September

Division of Veteran Affairs:

-The Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado in Grand Junction will perform military honors for U.S. Army Private Jose L. Archuleta Sept. 9. Private Archuleta is a Korean War Soldier declared missing in action in 1950, and in 1953, declared deceased by the Department of the Army.

Civil Air Patrol:

-Congressman Neguse will be presenting an award to a cadet at Rocky Mountain Metro Airport, Sept. 27.

CO National Guard:

-A CONG Chaplain and Bugler from the 101st Army Band will support the Colorado Remembers 9/11 Commemoration and National Security Forum at the University of Denver, Denver, Sept. 8.

