Frequently Asked Questions Regarding State Budget Cuts

Q. Why is The Citadel implementing budget cuts?
A. Our state appropriation has been substantially reduced.

Q. How much has been cut?
A. To date, we have had to absorb about $2.7 million in cuts in state aid.

Q. How has The Citadel responded to the state aid cuts?
A. In developing this year’s budget, staff anticipated a downturn in the economy and the Board of Visitors approved a budget that was fiscally conservative and included contingency funds. Because of those actions, the initial state aid cuts did not impact The Citadel as profoundly as other institutions. But with more cuts seen on the horizon, Lt Gen Rosa issued a fiscal guidance on 4 September directing restraints on spending. And when the state cut another 2.3 million, Lt Gen Rosa issued another fiscal guidance on 31 October laying out further restraints, including a broad-based hiring freeze.

Q. Who in state government cuts our appropriation?
A. The state Budget and Control Board recommends cuts but they have to be “across the board,” meaning the same for all state agencies. The General Assembly typically takes the board’s recommendation and modifies it to reflect its own priorities, the effect being that some agencies are cut more than others. The governor can veto these cuts, but has not done so during this latest fiscal crisis.

Q. Why is the state making these cuts?
A. All economic indicators point to reduced revenue – meaning taxes – for South Carolina. The state Board of Economic Advisors has projected the state will take in about $1 billion less than was expected – that’s out of a $7 billion state budget.

Q. Were the cuts to all state colleges and universities the same?
A. Just about. All higher education institutions were cut a little under 17 percent.

Q. Are more cuts coming?
A. Unfortunately, that’s highly likely. The state Budget and Control Board directed another seven percent be cut from the budgets of state agencies. And the state Office of Budget has indicated that state agencies should expect their budgets for the upcoming 2009-2010 fiscal year will be reduced further.

Q. Will the state restore the cuts it’s made?
A. Unfortunately that is not likely. Since 1994, state aid as a portion of The Citadel’s budget has dropped from 40 percent to 13.7 percent. With economic recovery not expected for some time, we should not count on any increase in state aid.