

Discussion Points

1.a. According to the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs, National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (NCPTSD), PTSD is an anxiety disorder that can occur following the experience or witnessing of a life-threatening, traumatic event. In the military, PTSD in veterans is a result of engaging in combat. Prior to its designation as a mental health disorder, PTSD was known as "soldier's heart" in the United States Civil War, "shell shock" in World War I, and "combat fatigue" in World War II. Other terms used to describe PTSD include "war neurosis" and "operational fatigue."

From 1986-1988, the National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Survey (NVVRS) was conducted to assess how prevalent PTSD was among Vietnam veterans. The NVVRS estimated that "the lifetime prevalence of PTSD among American Vietnam theatre veterans is 30.9 percent for men and 26.9 percent for women. An additional 22.5 percent of men and 21.2 percent of women have had partial PTSD at some point in their lives. Thus, more than half of all male Vietnam veterans and almost half of female Vietnam veterans - about 1.7 million Vietnam veterans in all - have experienced clinically serious stress reaction symptoms." NCPTSD estimates that 10 percent of the veterans of the Gulf War, 6 to 11 percent of the veterans of the war in Afghanistan, and currently 12 to 20 percent of the veterans who served in Iraq had or have PTSD.

- **Questions:** What is the number of veterans in New Jersey and how many served in each of the following: World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam Conflict, the Gulf War, the War in Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror? How many New Jersey service members are on active duty in each branch of the Armed Forces? What percentage of New Jersey veterans are being treated for PTSD? Of the number of veterans being treated for PTSD, how are these veterans distributed by war-time service? What percentage of current active servicemen and women does the department estimate will need and seek PTSD counseling services when they return from the current theater of operation?

- **Responses:**

- **What is the number of veterans in New Jersey and how many served in each of the following: World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam Conflict, the Gulf War, the War in Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror?**

Based on the most recent data available from the US Department of Veterans Affairs (Veteran Pop 05), there are 592,307 veterans in New Jersey; 431,124 saw war-time era service. The break-down, is as follows: Vietnam Era – 167,895; World War II – 110,844; Korean Conflict – 80,677; Gulf War – 58,244; other (Panama, Granada, etc.) 13,464. An accounting of Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom is not yet available. There are approximately 161,183 peacetime veterans in New Jersey.

- **How many New Jersey service members are on active duty in each branch of the Armed Forces?**

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Although the Department of Defense tracks the State of Record for each member of the active duty armed services, these numbers are not readily available and must be obtained through a Congressional Inquiry. Currently, there are 180 NJ Army National Guard soldiers deployed in the combat theater. Since inception of Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom some 6,000 NJ Army and Air National Guardsmen and Women have been deployed overseas, out of the combined troop strength of 8,300 for both units.

- **What percentage of New Jersey veterans are being treated for PTSD? Of the number of veterans being treated for PTSD, how are these veterans distributed by war-time service?**

While promising to be more forthcoming with such data, neither the US Department of Veterans Affairs, nor the Department of Defense, can provide the total number of New Jersey veterans being treated for PTSD or federally recognized and receiving compensation for having PTSD. We can only provide the data generated by the services provided and monitored by our Department. We are starting to see an influx of patients with our Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom soldiers. In addition, since March 2004 over 4,500 veterans have contacted the USDVA Vet Centers in New Jersey; 12% of those reporting symptoms consistent with psychological trauma.

Prior to FY07, our data base could not track the war era of the PTSD program participants. Since updating our data base to include such information, the program has accepted 490 new clients, whose service eras break down as follows: Vietnam (325), OIF/OEF (106), WWII (38), Korea (18), Gulf (3) veterans and their families.

- **What percentage of current active servicemen and women does the department estimate will need and seek PTSD counseling services when they return from the current theater of operation?**

Predicting how many troops might require PTSD counseling services is nowhere near an exact science, as the answer is dependent on what trauma they may, or may not, experience in the field. As indicated above, the NCPTSD estimates 12-20% morbidity for Iraq/Afghanistan nationally.

1. b. The proposed FY 2008 Governor's Budget recommends an additional \$500,000 to fund an increase in the demand for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) counseling. According to the Governor's Budget, over the past three years, New Jersey has experienced an increase of 161 percent in the demand for these services. The department indicates that the increase in the demand for services reached 40 percent in FY 2007. PTSD counseling sessions have increased from 6,446 in FY 2005 to an estimated 16,848 in FY 2008. At the same time, funding to support the higher demand increased from \$300,000 in FY 2005 to \$800,000 in FY 2006 and FY 2007, and is proposed to increase to \$1.3 million in FY 2008.

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- **Questions:** What are the principal causes of the increase in the demand for PTSD services over the past three years? What level of service will the \$1.3 million proposed appropriation fund? Is the level of State funding sufficient to meet the anticipated demand? What portion (in dollars and percent) of the Federal Mental Health Veterans' Affairs budget is allocated to the State for PTSD? Is the State maximizing its access to federal funding for PTSD? If not, what does the State have to do to increase its share of available federal funding? Are any federal funds in jeopardy due to federal budget constraints? What are the greatest barriers to access for PTSD services for New Jersey service personnel?

- **Responses:**

- **What are the principal causes of the increase in the demand for PTSD services over the past three years?**

The Global War on Terrorism is the main reason for the large increase in demand for PTSD services over the last three years. The New Jersey Army and Air National Guard have deployed over 6,000 servicemen overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Noble Eagle. In addition, the current hostilities and focus on possible terrorist attacks on the Homeland have brought to the surface and exacerbated previously undiagnosed or unrecognized conditions in soldiers of past conflicts, principally Vietnam.

- **What levels of service will the \$1.3 million proposed appropriation fund? What portion (in dollars and percent) of the Federal Mental Health Veterans' Affairs budget is allocated to the State for PTSD? Is the State maximizing its access to federal funding for PTSD? If not, what does the State have to do to increase its share of available federal funding? Are any federal funds in jeopardy due to federal budget constraints?**

On July 1, 2005, UMDNJ and NJDMAVA initiated a 24/7 "Hot Line" which, since inception (through 1/07), has assisted 2,140 veterans and family members. NJDMAVA is contracted with UMDNJ to provide administrative services as well as counseling services until 30 June 2007. The cost of providing administrative and hotline services are \$100,000 for the annual contract period. All counseling services are billed on an hourly basis.

Unfortunately, with the influx of PTSD cases, the Federal VA is unable to provide consistent counseling services to our veterans. They are referred to the state program which has the capability to provide the amount of services needed to our veterans, in a timely manner. This program is making a difference in our veteran's lives. Since the receipt of an additional \$500,000 (as of July 1, 2005) to expand the program's budget to \$800,000 we have been able to remove over 300 veterans from the waiting list. Currently the program provides services ranging from individual counseling, group counseling, biofeedback and medication dispensing to 3,494 New Jersey veterans and their families.

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The additional \$500,000 appropriation (for FY2008) will defray the costs of anticipated increases in both the number of new clients enrolled and the number of counseling sessions given.

- **What are the greatest barriers to access for PTSD services for New Jersey service personnel?**

Still, perhaps the greatest single barrier to providing these services is the stigma attached to any mental health issue. Whatever trauma a combat veteran may have experienced or confronted, and notwithstanding the current issues they may be confronting, he or she may be loath to acknowledge the problem and to seek help.

1.c. According to the NCPTSD the length and duration of PTSD varies. It can start immediately following a traumatic incident or it can be delayed. Some people experience waves of PTSD symptoms that come and go while others have continuous and severe symptoms. There are effective treatments for PTSD such as psychotherapy, pharmacotherapy (medication), and cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT). Early detection and treatment of symptoms may prevent PTSD from becoming a long-term chronic issue for people.

- **Questions:** What are the State's diagnosis and treatment guidelines? Are federal PTSD diagnosis and treatment guidelines more or less stringent than the guidelines in New Jersey? Please describe the principal differences between the federal and State PTSD diagnosis and treatment guidelines. How long is the average PTSD treatment period and are there any periodic follow-up treatments? What is the average PTSD counseling cost per participant and per session? What are the costs to New Jersey for untreated PTSD?

- **Responses:**

- **What are the State's diagnosis and treatment guidelines? Are federal PTSD diagnosis and treatment guidelines more or less stringent than the guidelines in New Jersey? Please describe the principal differences between the federal and State PTSD diagnosis and treatment guidelines.**

A diagnosis of PTSD requires that four criteria be met. First, the service member must have been exposed to an extremely stressful and traumatic event beyond the range of normal human experience. Second, the service member must periodically and persistently relive the event. Third, there is a persistent avoidance of events relating to the trauma, and psychological numbing that was not present prior to the trauma. Lastly, enduring symptoms of anxiety are present. There is no difference between the Federal and State diagnosis definitions of PTSD.

PTSD is treated by a variety of psychotherapy (talk therapy) as well as pharmacotherapy (medication) methods. There is no single best treatment, but

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the employment of individual and group therapy sessions, cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT), exposure therapy combined with medications have been the most successful.

The difference between the federal and the State treatment of PTSD is that the State program treats the service member in his community, whereas while receiving treatment through the federal programs the service member must travel to a VA regional office. Additionally, in NJ there is no limit on the number of visits; they are based on need of the service member. Lastly, the State PTSD program includes family members in the treatment process.

- **How long is the average PTSD treatment period and are there any periodic follow-up treatments?**

During FY2005, the program serviced 245 clients in 6,446 counseling sessions, while in FY 2006; the program serviced 342 clients in 9,591 counseling sessions. The need for service is steadily increasing as more combat veterans return to New Jersey; as evidenced by the 5,524 counseling sessions held from July 2005 – February 2006. Consequently during the same period from July 2006 to February 2007, there is already evidence of a significant jump in new clients (479) with 7,599 funded counseling sessions.

The state PTSD program provides counseling services for up to 84 months (7 years) of services. In the first year of enrollment, a typical veteran, and their family, attends counseling at least four times per month. Representatives from the Veterans Benefits Bureau attend the reconstitution processing of each and every returning NJ Army and Air National Guard unit. All soldiers and airmen are screened for PTSD at this time. In addition, PTSD counselors attend the unit's first drill weekend, following their terminal leave. The Department, through outreach, is extending such services to all other reserve units stationed within New Jersey.

- **What is the average PTSD counseling cost per participant and per session?**

Counselors are paid on a per session basis, whether they are moderating a group or treating an individual. The maximum amount paid to a provider per individual session is \$100 and decreases on a sliding scale over the 84 months of counseling. The estimated cost of individual counseling (to the public) is \$160 per hour. For Group counseling, our maximum cost is \$80 per hour. We are involved in discussions with the NJ Army National Guard and National Guard Bureau, toward having them absorb some or all of our current administrative costs, using federal dollars.

- **What are the costs to New Jersey for untreated PTSD?**

Left untreated, the effect on a formerly healthy individual and their family, as well as the social and economic impact on the state of New Jersey, is incalculable. Someone suffering from PTSD may well experience profound mental health problems, loss of job productivity or employment, disintegration

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of family, medical health problems, substance abuse as well as other addictions, domestic violence, and other violent behavior. As these secondary symptoms manifest themselves, the need for interdiction by social service agencies, law enforcement and the courts becomes necessary and the potential for homelessness increases.

2. a. The proposed FY 2008 Governor's Budget recommends a continued State appropriation of \$590,000 for Veterans Haven, a transitional housing program for homeless New Jersey veterans designed to reintegrate them back into society. Last year, the FY 2007 Annual Appropriations Act provided \$2 million to fund renovations to Veterans Haven that would increase its capacity from approximately 54 to 84 beds.

- **Questions:** How will the proposed FY 2008 \$590,000 continuing appropriation be allocated? What are the increased operating costs to support the increased capacity? Please discuss the status of the \$2 million capital improvements to the Veterans Haven program provided for in the FY 2007 Annual Appropriations Act. Has the facility increased its resident population to 84?

- **Responses:**

- How will the proposed FY 2008 \$590,000 continuing appropriation be allocated?

The \$590,000 continuing appropriation (for FY2008) will be utilized for direct operational costs (salaries, professional services, transportation, utilities, etc.) necessary to sustain the program. In addition to substance abuse and vocational counseling, transportation for medical appointments, public transportation, recreation and job interviews are provided. The program is partially funded through a per diem payment of \$29.31 per resident, per day, through the US Department of Veterans Affairs in addition to a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant of \$330,372. We anticipate only marginal increases in costs with the addition of 36 veterans to the program that will be largely offset by the USDVA per diem.

- Please discuss the status of the \$2 million capital improvements to the Veterans Haven program provided for in the FY 2007 Annual Appropriations Act. Has the facility increased its resident population to 84?

Currently, there are 55 residents in the Transitional Housing program. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs proposed expanding the Veterans Transitional Housing Project at Veteran's Haven through the construction a 20,000 square foot addition to the current facility.

Recognizing that the \$2 Million FY2007 appropriation would be insufficient to fund this construction project; a US Department of Veterans Affairs Grant (for \$2.6 Million of a then \$15 Million fund) was applied for. In late November 2006, we were advised that our grant application had not been favorably considered. Subsequently, the Department entered into discussions with the Department of Community Affairs who agreed to provide a total of \$2.6 Million

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towards this initiative; allowing the proposed addition to be built, outfitted and furnished. As a result, requests for design and engineering proposals were issued and are currently being reviewed with anticipation of a contract award being issued shortly. Plans call for the expanded facility to have 36 additional beds (for a total of 91), bathrooms, public space and offices.

2. b. The United States Department of Veterans' Affairs estimates that there are between 7,000 and 8,000 homeless veterans in New Jersey.

- **Questions:** Please describe the service background of the homeless veterans in New Jersey. What factors led to veteran homelessness in New Jersey? What other non-State programs and services (private sector, not for profit, local) exist with the mission to reduce the number of homeless veterans in New Jersey? How many of the State's 7,000 to 8,000 homeless veterans are served by these programs? Are there any federal funds or programs available to supplement the State's efforts? If yes, what is the federal funding formula?
- **Responses:**
 - Please describe the service background of the homeless veterans in New Jersey. What factors led to veteran homelessness in New Jersey?
 - What other non-State programs and services (private sector, not for profit, local) exist with the mission to reduce the number of homeless veterans in New Jersey?

Generally, exposure to the stress of operating in a combat environment and subsequent affliction of PTSD and possible issues of alcohol and drug abuse are the main reasons behind veterans becoming homeless.

The Homeless Network Planning Committee, Camden County's Comprehensive Emergency Assistance Strategy Committee, is a coalition of providers, advocates, and consumers that develops and implements a comprehensive plan providing for a continuum of services to decrease homelessness and maximize self-sufficiency. Members of the HNPC are as follow:

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Camden
 Cathedral Kitchen
 Community Planning & Advocacy Council
 Project Hope
 Respond, Inc.
 Volunteers of America Delaware Valley, Inc.
 Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council

- **How many of the State's 7,000 to 8,000 homeless veterans are served by these programs?**

Clearly, the homeless veterans' problem is far greater than can be served by a single Veterans Haven even with its impressive success rate of reintegrating 74% of the program members back into society.

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In addition to the Transitional Housing Program, the Department participates in two "Stand Downs" (in North and South Jersey), providing direct intervention to homeless veterans living on the streets. At these two annual events, we serve 600 to 700 men and women, providing medical screenings, clothing, counseling and serve as a portal to other government services.

- **Are there any federal funds or programs available to supplement the State's efforts? If yes, what is the federal funding formula?**

DMAVA receives a per diem payment of \$29.31 per resident, per day, from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and a \$330,372 grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development that helps defrays our direct operating costs for running Veterans' Haven. The funds are derived from a large grant that is allocated to the County of Camden and distributed to a consortium of social service programs involved in the effort to combat homelessness.

2. c. The Veterans Haven program is comprised of three phases: treatment, self-reclamation, and community reintegration. Each phase takes approximately three to six months to complete. During their stay, the veterans receive counseling, vocational training assistance, and job search assistance (resume workshops, computer training, etc). According to the department, the Veterans Haven program has experienced a 73 percent success rate since its inception in 1995. This means that 73 percent of the veterans who entered the program graduated and went on to permanent housing. Over the past year, 86 percent of the veterans who entered the program, graduated and went on to permanent housing.

- **Questions:** Does the State provide transportation services for the veterans in the Veterans Haven program? What processes, programs, and services were not available in the past to capture and prevent veterans from becoming homeless? What processes, programs, and services have been implemented more recently to identify those with a propensity to become homeless and to prevent it? What additional processes, programs, and services should be established?

- **Responses:**

- **Does the State provide transportation services for the veterans in the Veterans Haven program?**

The Veterans Haven program provides transportation for medical appointments and monies for public transportation to job sites.

- **What processes, programs, and services were not available in the past to capture and prevent veterans from becoming homeless? What processes, programs, and services have been implemented more recently to identify those with a propensity to become homeless and to prevent it?**

Programs such as early intervention and our current reconstitution and reintegration programs were not previously available. There are a myriad of public and private social services that are geared to the homeless population. The Department coordinates its efforts through a consortium sponsored by the County of Camden.

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To the extent that homelessness is a result of service connected PTSD, our Stand Down Programs provide screening for those afflicted at a time when the condition was not generally recognized. Our efforts at Reconstitutions and continuing outreach should lessen this symptom of PTSD in the future.

The service background of the homeless veterans enrolled in our program is varied. They come from all of the armed service branches and have served in both combat and during peacetime. Some common contributing factors include histories of alcohol abuse, substance abuse, mental health issues and physical injuries. Veterans enrolled in the program come from differing socio-economic circumstances and have different educational backgrounds. It has become evident, that continuing education, counseling and job training are the keys to preventing the majority of homelessness in this country.

- o **What additional processes, programs, and services should be established?**

In an effort to service the Northern New Jersey Homeless Veterans population, the Department has submitted a Notice of Interest for facilities that will become available as a result of the closing of Fort Monmouth. The former Patterson Army Health Clinic and the US Military Academy Prep School are among the facilities that have been discussed. It would be our intent to acquire and renovate (as necessary) a building on the post, to establish a Veterans Haven II and create a service presence in the northern part of the state. The initial funding for this transformation, if approved, would be through Federal dollars.

3. a. Upon discharge from active duty a service member goes through a process to assist their transition back into civilian life. Prior to returning to their "home of record" in New Jersey, an active duty service member including those in the New Jersey Air and Army National Guard, go through the federal demobilization/redeployment process. It provides medical screening, personnel administration, and briefings on federal health and employment benefits and services.

After completing federal demobilization, a new veteran is released to go "home." If the new veteran is a member of the New Jersey Air or Army National Guard, then the released new veteran is required to go through the New Jersey reconstitution process. The State's reconstitution process provides medical screening, job placement, and extensive education about the benefits and services available to New Jersey veterans in addition to federal benefits.

However, if the new veteran is not a member of the New Jersey Air or Army National Guard but is from New Jersey, there are no federal/State communication and notification procedures in place for the State to capture and process these New Jersey veterans through the our reconstitution process.

Hence, a large population of New Jersey veterans is lost and not able to access the services and benefits they need in order to reintegrate into civilian life successfully unless the State's Outreach Program finds them.

- **Questions:** Please discuss the "Reconstitution Process" in detail. Are there any barriers to accessing state and federal healthcare and employment benefits and

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services? How does the department work with the federal Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide new veterans with information about accessing healthcare benefits and services? How does the department work with the State Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Labor and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) to create and protect jobs for returning veterans? Once reintegrated into community, are there any periodic follow-up meetings with veterans to ensure long term reintegration? What steps are the State taking to find unidentified New Jersey veterans?

- **Responses:**

- **Please discuss the "Reconstitution Process" in detail.**

The Department has developed and initiated our own state reconstitution process. National Guard Bureau has recognized our program as one of the country's "best practices". We have integrated veterans service officers, ESGR, medical and legal personnel, and chaplains into the reconstitution process, which occurs upon the immediate return of Soldiers and Airmen from federal mobilization. In addition, we are available when they report to their first drill 60 to 90 days post-deployment, a point at which they may need services such as counseling or medical assistance. While our National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are easily accessible to DMAVA, we want to extend these services to all branches of the military, both active and reserve.

- **Are there any barriers to accessing state and federal healthcare and employment benefits and services?**

Through the Department's reconstitution process National Guard members are provided with detailed information for accessing all benefits, services and healthcare that they may require. Unfortunately, DMAVA cannot provide the same comprehensive information to returning service members from active duty and reserve units. Under the current system, DoD does not provide notification to individual States when an active duty or reserve member is discharged resulting in a limited ability for the Department to interact with these veterans.

- **How does the department work with the federal Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide new veterans with information about accessing healthcare benefits and services? DMAVA provides returning National Guards members with detailed information about the healthcare services provided by the Federal Veterans Administration.**

Veterans returning to New Jersey from Active Duty or Reserve Units are provided basic information through the Department of Defense's reconstitution process. We have increased outreach programs aimed at all reserve units in New Jersey. Many recent returning veterans have noted that there is a lack of connectivity between DOD Healthcare and the Federal Veterans Administration.

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- **How does the department work with the State Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Labor and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) to create and protect jobs for returning veterans?**

Representatives of the State Department of Labor are invited to attend our Army and Air National Guard reconstitutions to disseminate information regarding existing job training programs and employment opportunities for veterans. Additionally, the Department has partnered with the State and US Departments of Labor in initiatives such as "Helmets to Hardhats" and with the US Department of Education in the "Troops to Teachers" initiative. DMAVA also supports Job Fairs and Job Symposiums held by NJ DOL and Workforce Development at the One-Stop Career centers.

The Department also has a staff of three individuals assigned to ESGR issues and whose duties include veteran advocacy and insuring compliance to applicable federal employment laws (pertaining to returning troops) by both public and private sector employers. The Department also insures that returning veterans are fully apprised of, and duly certified for, their entitlement to veterans preference under state civil service guidelines. Lastly, the Department insures that returning veterans are fully briefed on the educational benefits to which they are entitled under the Montgomery GI Bill.

- **Once reintegrated into community, are there any periodic follow-up meetings with veterans to ensure long term reintegration?**

Following post-deployment leave (which generally lasts from 60 to 90 days, the Department, in concert with UMDNJ, has counselors attend the first weekend drill of each of the state's Army and Air National Guard units. While primarily geared toward detecting PTSD and TBI issues, these counselors are fully apprised of the full gamut of services available and where to direct veterans to receive them. In addition, the Department maintains and publicizes two toll free numbers, exclusively to provide veterans with assistance: A Counseling Hotline-**1-866-VET-NJ4U** and a Benefit Hotline: **1-888-8NJ-VETS**

- **What steps is the State taking to find unidentified New Jersey veterans?**

In order to inform our veterans of their benefits and entitlements DMAVA instituted an aggressive Veterans Outreach program, some of the initiatives include:

- Information kiosks, detailing veteran's benefits and entitlements on a monthly basis at shopping mall around the State.
- A toll free Veterans Hotline – 1-888-8NJ-VETS - established to provide benefit information to veterans and their dependents.
- Public service announcements, aired on a series of radio and television stations, provide contact numbers and specific information about the services available to New Jersey veterans and their eligible family members.

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- Additionally, we are working with our federal legislators on legislation that would require the Department of Defense to notify us on a monthly basis when active duty Service members return to New Jersey so we can ensure they are aware of all programs available.

The goal of the Outreach Program is to encourage veterans and their family members to contact the nearest veteran's service officer for assistance in filing appropriate claims and applying for every benefit they are eligible to receive.

3. b. The proposed FY 2008 Governor's Budget states that the number of New Jersey military veterans served has increased from 37,000 to an estimated 85,000 in FY 2008. The proposed Governor's Budget recommends an increase of \$1 million for support services for returning veterans "to assist their transition from the battlefield back into the community."

- **Questions:** Please discuss how the proposed \$1 million increase will be allocated. With an increased number of veterans returning from service in the Global War on Terror, which programs in the Support Services for Returning Veterans Program are experiencing higher levels of demand? Is this increase an estimate of the amount necessary to meet the demand for services for New Jersey Air and Army National Guard or does it include sufficient funding to provide services to all New Jersey veterans?

- **Responses:**

- Please discuss how the proposed \$1 million increase will be allocated. With an increased number of veterans returning from service in the Global War on Terror, which programs in the Support Services for Returning Veterans Program are experiencing higher levels of demand? Is this increase an estimate of the amount necessary to meet the demand for services for New Jersey Air and Army National Guard or does it include sufficient funding to provide services to all New Jersey veterans?

The State of New Jersey recognizes the sacrifices the veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle have made through their service to our nation. New Jersey citizens currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan include 3,169 active duty soldiers, 862 federal reserve troops who had been on inactive status but were called up, and 898 New Jersey Army and Air National Guard, for a total of nearly 5,000. As of April 2007, we have lost 84 New Jerseyans killed in those wars.

Our soldiers serve our country honorably, and new programs are being created at the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) to provide support to them and their families. This initiative will provide \$1 million that will be made available through grants. The funds will be used to specifically aid veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and give them priority service in order to assist their rehabilitation and get them to the point where they are functioning in the community. Outreach for National Guard personnel is easier,

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but our goal is to get the information out to all veterans. Our toll free help-line numbers are widely publicized and distributed to all veteran organizations.

3. c. According to the department, a Yellow Ribbon Commission will examine the increased needs in Services to Veterans and how to meet those needs.

- **Questions:** What is the Yellow Ribbon Commission? Has it been established and under what authority? What is the mission of the commission and how is it funded? Will the commission work to resolve the disconnect between the State and federal government with regard to sharing personnel information?

- **Responses:**

In order to determine, the most efficient ways to reach these soldiers and the programs most important to their successful community reintegration the DMAVA will be assembling a "Yellow Ribbon Commission". The Yellow Ribbon Commission (YRC) will be comprised of stakeholders and veterans from throughout the State who are involved in some aspect of veteran's reintegration. Members of the Commission will be charged with the task of recommending the best means to conduct outreach to returning combat veterans and what services would provide the greatest assistance. These findings will be filed in a report to the Governor and Adjutant General for determination of the allocations of the \$1m in grant opportunities.

4. The cost of the World War II memorial was originally estimated to be \$5 million, with a projected opening date of Veterans' Day 2005. To fund the memorial, \$2 million was appropriated by the State in FY 2005. The Casino Reinvestment and Development Authority (CRDA) was expected to contribute \$1 million. However, the CDRA has stated that its portion of the funding is no longer available. Additional funds from private donors total \$65,000. Due to rising costs, the total cost of the memorial may be as high as \$6.5 million. As a result, the projected opening of the memorial has been delayed. The FY 2008 Governor's Budget proposes an increase of \$1 million in funding for capital construction of the World War II Memorial in Trenton, "bringing the State's total commitment to this project to \$3.6 million."

- **Questions:** How much additional funding is currently needed before ground can be broken on this project? What phase of development is the project in? How much of the appropriated funds has been expended and for what purpose? How will the department acquire the remaining funds needed to start the construction phase of the project? When does the department anticipate construction to begin?

- **Responses:**

- How much additional funding is currently needed before ground can be broken on this project? What phase of development is the project in? How much of the appropriated funds has been expended and for what purpose? How will the department acquire the remaining funds needed to start the construction phase of the project? When does the department anticipate construction to begin?

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Based on a March 1, 2007 projection done by our design/engineering firm, the total construction cost of the World War II Memorial is estimated to be \$6,136,255. Of that amount, \$2,972,463 in additional funding is needed before ground can be broken. To date, the design phase has been completed, construction drawings are in hand and all necessary permits and clearances have been obtained. Under the auspices of the Department of the Treasury (who will serve as construction manager) contracts have been awarded, and fabrication has begun, on three bronze sculptures that are an integral part of the memorial. In an effort to rejuvenate private fundraising efforts, Governor Corzine appointed four new members to the World War II Memorial Commission on December 8, 2007. The new Commissioners are recognized philanthropists who have significant fundraising experience and expertise.

5. a. The proposed FY 2008 Governor's Budget recommends a \$350,000 increase in the New Jersey National Guard Youth Challenge Academy (NJYCA) program which would bring the total State funding for the NJYCA up to \$1.27 million. The NJYCA program is part of the United States National Guard Youth Challenge program.

- **Questions:** Please describe how the NJYCA program will be expanded. Please describe the federal funding formula. Is the State required to match any portion of the federal funds? At this time, are we maximizing the federal funding for this program?

- **Responses:**

- **Please describe how the NJYCA program will be expanded.**

The additional \$350,000 will allow the NJYCA to increase its annual target goal from 200 cadets to 300 cadets.

FTE staffing levels will increase as follows; 1 Teacher, 1 Counselor, 1 Recruiter / Placement coordinator, 2 Recruiting / Placement Assistants and 7 cadre personnel. Assets (Uniforms, vehicles, computers) that have been degraded due to a flat-line budget will be upgraded.

- **Please describe the federal funding formula. Is the State required to match any portion of the federal funds?**

Federal funds are matched based upon the allocation of state funds, at the federal to state ratio of 60% to 40%.

- **At this time, are we maximizing the federal funding for this program?**

Additional federal funds are available. FFY07 federal EOY (End of Year) dollars will probably be available to match a state increase.

5. b. The NJYCA states that "the mission of the NJYCA is to provide a highly disciplined environment fostering academics, leadership development, physical training and personal growth to educate and train unemployed youth who ceased to attend high school. The goal of

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this program is to educate and produce youth who will become productive members of society after graduation." To accomplish this, the NJYCA's educational aspect focuses on eight core areas of concentration: academic excellence; life coping skills; job skills; health and hygiene; responsible citizenship; service to the community; leadership/followership; and physical fitness. The program consists of a 22 week residential phase at Fort Dix during which the cadets are taught and trained in the eight core areas of concentration and a 12 month post graduate, post residential phase during which the participants are matched with a mentor who will develop a caring relationship with them and be a constant and positive role model. In order to graduate from the program, each cadet must complete each concentration in the residential phase successfully. Academics are an integral component of the NJYCA program. The cadets are tested and are able to earn their New Jersey State High School diploma by the authority of the New Jersey Department of Education. Cadets are required to take courses in Math, Science, Reading, English, History, and Computer Applications. The NJYCA has been reported as a highly successful program earning three national awards for the most progressive program in 2003, for health and hygiene in 2004, and for academic excellence in 2005 and 2006.

- **Questions:** Please describe some of the benefits of this program: the number and percentage of graduates since 1994 who have earned their New Jersey State High School diploma; the number of graduates who have joined the workforce; the number of graduates who have joined the military; the number of graduates who have continued their education; an estimate of the savings to the juvenile justice system; the number of hours of community service volunteered by program participants; and savings in educational costs. Please describe the role of the mentors who are matched with participants at graduation.

- **Responses:**
 - Please describe some of the benefits of this program.

ChalleNGe is a seventeen-month quasi-military training and mentoring program for at-risk youth that develops the life skills, educational levels, and employment potential of sixteen to eighteen-year-old high school dropouts. The core components of the program are responsible citizenship, academic excellence, life-coping skills, community service, health and hygiene, job skills training, leadership / followership, and physical fitness.

The initial design of the ChalleNGe program remains the same: one class cycle includes a twenty-two-week residential component (the cadet lives in a quasi-military environment on Fort Dix), followed by one year of mentored follow-up to encourage lifestyle changes. Matching each youth with a caring, responsible adult mentor is a critical component of ChalleNGe.

ChalleNGe was designed to produce long-term post-residential success. Programs may celebrate successes along the way such as the educational or physical achievements of their cadets, but the true test of any program is its long-term impact on the lives of its target population. The primary long-term outcome for ChalleNGe is defined as successful placement at the end of the

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Post-Residential Phase. Successful placement means that a graduate of the program is active in the military, enrolled in school, or working.

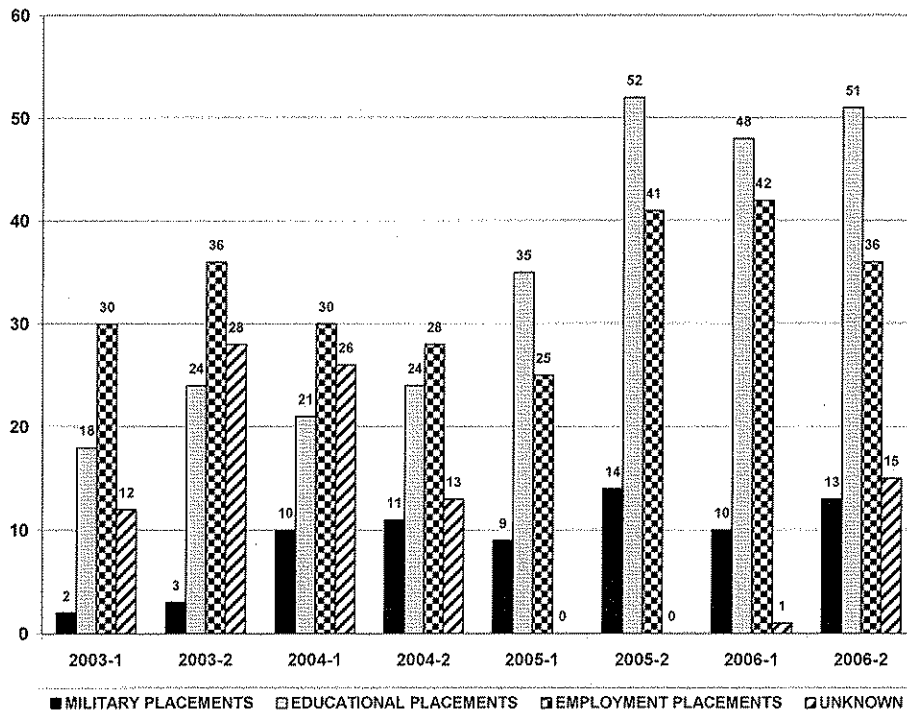
- **The number and percentage of graduates since 1994 who have earned their New Jersey State High School diploma.**

Since 1994, there were 2017 graduates, of which 1245 received the HSD, or 62%. Over the past 5 classes, the percentage has increased to 89%, or 340 diplomas from 384 graduates.

- **The number of graduates who have joined the workforce., the number of graduates who have joined the military and the number of graduates who have continued their education**

The following chart is representative of the placement activities of the graduates of NJYCA currently active in the Post-Residential phase.

NJYCA PLACEMENTS - CLASS 2003-1 to 2006-2



- **An estimate of the savings to the juvenile justice system**

The average cost for incarceration in NJ is \$28,800 and over 65% are high school dropouts.

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In his groundbreaking study "The Monetary Value of Saving a High Risk Youth," Mark Cohen, Professor of Management at Vanderbilt University's Owen Graduate School of Management, calculated the tangible and intangible lifetime costs to society associated with the typical career criminal, drug abuser, and high school dropout. Accounting for the fact that these three categories (crime, drugs, high school dropout) are not mutually exclusive, the lifetime value of saving a high-risk youth is estimated to be between \$1.7 and \$2.3M.

With over 10,000 youths dropping out of high school every year, the long term potential cost to New Jersey is an additional \$ 17B for each year that goes by with no decrease in the dropout rate.

And taking into account the lifetime cost of a high-risk youth, this investment produces a long-term savings to society of over \$1.7M per ChalleNGe graduate, returning an astounding \$63 dollars for every \$1 invested.

These results are achieved with a minimal investment by the state government. It only costs \$14K for the ChalleNGe program to turn the life of a high school dropout around—the lowest cost per capita of similar intervention programs. Of the \$14,000, New Jersey's state share is only \$5,600. per cadet.

- **The number of hours of community service volunteered by program participants**

Challenge cadets are required to perform 40 hours of Service to Community in order to graduate. The average over the past 8 classes (2003) is 68.3 hours.

- **The savings in educational costs.**

Over the past 5 classes, the percentage of graduates who have attained their State of New Jersey High School diploma is 89%, or 340 diplomas from 384 graduates.

- **Please describe the role of the mentors who are matched with participants at graduation.**

A mentor is now required in order to be admitted into ChalleNGe. The mentor is vital in that it supports the mission of Challenge to intervene and reclaim the lives of at-risk youth.

The mentor supports the cadet with sound guidance as the cadet moves from the 6 month residency phase into the 12 month post-resident phase. Such guidance includes placement, accountability for implementation, goals, and communication with NJYCA case managers.

6. The Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery, located in Arneytown, North Hanover Township, Burlington County, was first dedicated on May 30, 1986 by Governor Thomas H. Kean. The facility was funded jointly by the State and federal governments and is managed by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Since then,

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

the cemetery has become the nation's busiest state veterans' cemetery, with approximately fifteen burials occurring each business day. Maintenance of the cemetery, and funding for burials is provided by both State appropriations and the US Department of Veterans Affairs Plot Internment Allowance. There is no cost to an eligible veteran for burial at Doyle Cemetery. According to the proposed FY 2008 Governor's Budget, the department is expected to move into the newly constructed, federally funded, \$6.2 million administrative-maintenance complex located at the cemetery. In addition, the proposed FY 2008 Governor's Budget states that the department will begin construction on the new, federally funded, Section R crypt field, which will provide in excess of 5,000 new gravesites. Within a two year period, expanded operations at the Doyle Cemetery will "bring in over \$11 million of federal dollars into New Jersey's economy."

- **Questions:** What is the total estimated cost of the Section R crypt field? What portion of the total cost to construct the Section R crypt field is funded by the State and what portion is funded with federal funds? How much is recommended to be appropriated in FY 2008? Are any federal funds in jeopardy due to constraints in the federal budget? How will the expanded operations at the Doyle Cemetery "bring in over \$11 million of federal dollars into New Jersey's economy?" Has, or when will, the department take possession of the new administrative-maintenance complex?

- **Responses:**

- What is the total estimated cost of the Section R crypt field? What portion of the total cost to construct the Section R crypt field is funded by the State and what portion is funded with federal funds? How will the expanded operations at the Doyle Cemetery "bring in over \$11 million of federal dollars into New Jersey's economy?"

The full cost of construction of the \$3.7 Million Section R crypt field is being borne by the US Department of Veterans Affairs' National Cemetery Administration, State Cemetery Grants Program. No state funds are being expended on this project and virtually no state funds have been expended building, or expanding, the Doyle Cemetery. The \$6.2 Million Admin-Maintenance Complex was completed, on or about, December 15, 2006, and is now fully occupied and functioning. With initiation of the crypt field project, the direct influx of federal funds into the state's economy (for FY2007 and 2008), will total \$10 Million. With the federal payment of Plot Internment Allowance that is received for each veteran interred (\$300 per), more than \$1 Million additional will accrue to the state during the same period. During calendar year 2006, 1,912 veterans were interred at Doyle.

- How much is recommended to be appropriated in FY 2008? Are any federal funds in jeopardy due to constraints in the federal budget?

The Cemetery needs Spending Authority for \$8 million in FY08 to cover potential awards of Federal grants for Section P Columbarium, Public Assembly

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Area, Section Z Committal Shelter, and Public Information/Front Entry Renovation. State Cemetery Grant Funding has been flat at \$32 million a year nationally for several years. This amount has not kept pace with existing needs. Although we have no indication of any proposed adjustment, we hope, at the very least, that the amount will not be reduced.

- **Has, or when will, the department take possession of the new administrative-maintenance complex?**

The \$6.2 million Admin-Maintenance Complex was completed, on or about, December 15, 2006, and is now fully occupied and functioning.

7. The Administrative Procedure Act (52:14B-1 et. seq.) and the procedural requirements established by the Office of Administrative Law provide for State agencies to issue rules and regulations to implement legislative enactments. Adopted rules are codified in the New Jersey Administrative Code. According to the proposed FY 2008 Governor's Budget, the department recently updated the New Jersey Administrative Code 5A:5 regarding New Jersey Veterans' Facilities. The proposed Governor's Budget states that "as a result, New Jersey veterans' facilities are expanding services and bringing costs and allowable deductions in line with current fiscal practices."

- **Questions:** Please explain why the Administrative Code needed to be updated. Which sections were revised? How will the revised Administrative Code provide for expanded services and bring cost reductions and allowable deductions in line with current fiscal practices? Please identify which facilities are expanding services, what services are being expanded, and which costs and allowable deductions are being brought into line with current fiscal practices. Please explain the differences in the former and current fiscal practices and quantify any savings associated with the revision of the Administrative Code.

- **Responses:**

- **Please explain why the Administrative Code needed to be updated.**

Last revision was 2003 and parts of the Code were becoming out-dated or not in line with inflation.

- **Which sections were revised?**

The Admin Code has six sections or chapters. Sections 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 were revised. The section six revisions were for grammar/punctuation only.

- **How will the revised Administrative Code provide for expanded services and bring cost reductions and allowable deductions in line with current fiscal practices?**

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Expanded services generally refer to who is now allowed admission to the NJ Veteran Homes. The revision expanded those eligible who were not considered in previous versions as follows: National Guard/Reserve component retirees with 20 years good service and honorable discharge, out of state veterans, increased the percent of eligible others non-veterans into the home from 5% to 20%. Eligible others would include spouses of veterans, gold Star parents and surviving spouse.

- **Please identify which facilities are expanding services, what services are being expanded, and which costs and allowable deductions are being brought into line with current fiscal practices.**

The revision applies uniformly to all three Veteran Homes.

- Explained above-respite care.
- The "look back" period; that is the amount of time for which assets for resident rates are determined was changed from 18 months to 36 months which is in keeping with current Medicare/Medicaid practice.
- Allowable deductions for married veterans (e.g. food, utilities, home maintenance, etc) were uniformly increased in keeping with inflation rates.
- **Please explain the differences in the former and current fiscal practices and quantify any savings associated with the revision of the Administrative Code.**

Difference is in expanding the "look back" period from 18 to 36 months which allows for greater accountability of veteran assets upon admittance.

- Expands the pool for resident population which insures maximum bed capacity even as the World War II veteran population beings to decline.
- Since the revisions went into effect in MAY 06 it is difficult at this time to quantify the savings or gains from the changes. Many changes, like expanding the resident pool will only be discernable after several years worth of data are accumulated.

8. The enacted FY 2007 budget anticipated savings from management efficiencies (\$50 million), information technology efficiencies (\$20 million) and procurement efficiencies (\$15 million). These savings, while reflected in the Interdepartmental Accounts section of the budget, were to be obtained from executive agency budgeted appropriations, presumably in direct correlation with identified efficiency improvements.

- **Questions:** What amount of the department's original FY 2007 appropriations were reallocated to Interdepartmental Accounts as savings from management efficiencies, information technology efficiencies and procurement efficiencies, respectively? What specific efficiencies were achieved by the department that correlates to the reallocations? What adverse impacts, if any, on the output and outcomes of department programs and services resulted or will result from these funding reallocations, in the current fiscal year and as projected for FY 2008?

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

- **Responses:**

- **What amount of the department's original FY 2007 appropriations were reallocated to Interdepartmental Accounts as savings from management efficiencies, information technology efficiencies and procurement efficiencies, respectively?**

DMAVA reallocated \$777,000 to the Interdepartmental Account as part of the FY2007 management efficiencies.

These efficiencies were accomplished by reducing six (6) funded vacancies in various programs and the pending retirement of 2 additional employees. The elimination of these positions will have no adverse impact on programs or services because of reallocation of responsibilities and workload across existing staff. Total cost savings for personnel adjustments was \$277,000 in FY 2007.

- **What specific efficiencies were achieved by the department that correlate to the reallocations?**

The Department reduced the appropriation for the Vietnam Education Center and Memorial account by \$50,000. This cost saving was possible due to shared services within other DMAVA operational accounts. Again, there is no impact to the program or the services it provides.

DMAVA was also able to achieve a cost saving in the Joint Federal State Operations appropriation (JFSOPS) in the amount of \$150,000. The JFSOPS account is used as the required state match portion to programs and services that have significant federal funding. In addition wherever possible, projects will be reallocated to 100% federal funding sources, requiring no state match.

DMAVA reduced the state active duty account by \$300,000. This account provides DMAVA the operational funds required for the National Guard to respond to natural disasters, domestic violence events, etc. DMAVA will retain the balance of the appropriation (\$200,000) providing sufficient funding unless numerous events occur during a fiscal year.

- **What adverse impacts, if any, on the output and outcomes of department programs and services resulted or will result from these funding reallocations, in the current fiscal year and as projected for FY 2008?**

As mentioned above the balance of the state active duty appropriation of \$200,000 will be sufficient unless numerous events occur during a fiscal year.