



ANALYSIS OF THE NEW JERSEY BUDGET

**DEPARTMENT OF
MILITARY AND
VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

FISCAL YEAR

2009 - 2010

NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE

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This report was prepared by the State Government Section of the Office of Legislative Services under the direction of the Legislative Budget and Finance Officer. The primary author was Kimberly McCord. Tracey Pino Murphy was the primary author of the background paper entitled "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder" with contributions by Raysa Martinez Kruger. Tracey Pino Murphy also was the primary author of the background paper "The World War II Memorial".

Questions or comments may be directed to the OLS State Government Section (609-292-9106) or the Legislative Budget and Finance Office (609-292-8030).

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Budget Pages..... C-7, C-16, C-24 to C-25, C-28, C-30
D-283 to D-296

Fiscal Summary (\$000)

	Expended FY 2008	Adjusted Appropriation FY 2009	Recommended FY 2010	Percent Change 2009-10
State Budgeted	\$101,861	\$94,725	\$91,292	(3.6%)
Federal Funds	65,583	44,316	47,741	7.7%
<u>Other</u>	<u>857</u>	<u>3,927</u>	<u>2,923</u>	<u>(25.6%)</u>
Grand Total	\$168,301	\$142,968	\$141,956	(0.7%)

Personnel Summary - Positions By Funding Source

	Actual FY 2008	Revised FY 2009	Funded FY 2010	Percent Change 2009-10
State	1,362	1,327	1,327	—
Federal	160	155	155	—
<u>Other</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>—</u>
Total Positions	1,522	1,482	1,482	—

FY 2008 (as of December) and revised FY 2009 (as of January) personnel data reflect actual payroll counts. FY 2010 data reflect the number of positions funded.

Key Points

Military Services

- In late Spring 2009, nearly one year after being deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the New Jersey National Guard 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team will be returning to Fort Dix, where they will begin the demobilization/reconstitution process. This has been the largest single deployment of the New Jersey National Guard since World War II. The troops have provided detainee operations and facilitated the structuring of government services.
- Federal recovery funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the states' Army and Air National Guards totals \$400 million. The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs expects to receive a portion of this funding for reconstitution and reintegration efforts for New Jersey's returning National Guard and for the repair of deployed Army National Guard equipment. At this time, the U.S. National Guard Bureau has not yet determined the State's allocation.

Key Points (Cont'd)

- On November 11, 2008, approximately 2,000 World War II veterans and their families celebrated the dedication of the New Jersey World War II Memorial. Planning for the project began in 1999 and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has spent a total of approximately \$7.5 million for its construction to date. However, the memorial is not yet fully completed. According to the department, the last remaining project to complete the memorial is the purchase and installation of the bronze bas-relief for the waters walls.
- The FY 2010 Governor's Budget recommends completely eliminating \$2.9 million in funding for the New Jersey National Guard security detail at the State's three nuclear power plants. On January 1, 2009, the New Jersey National Guard (and State Police) security detail was withdrawn and energy companies assumed complete control of security at their nuclear plants. These manned security details had been in place since 2001 in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington D.C. Approximately \$82 million has been expended by the energy companies to upgrade and improve the security systems with advanced technology, private patrols, and security programs monitored by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The special assessment on operators of nuclear power plants that financed the National Guard and State Police security detail was also terminated.
- The FY 2010 Governor's Budget recommends a \$1,140,000 appropriation to the New Jersey National Guard Youth Challenge Program, a reduction of \$130,000. The Administration does not expect the reduction to have a significant effect on the New Jersey National Guard Youth Challenge Academy (NJYCA) program because it expects the reduction to be offset by funding from other sources as part of the Master Cooperative Agreement with the US National Guard Bureau.
- The FY 2010 Governor's Budget recommends an appropriation of \$80,000 to the Nursing Initiative Program, which reflects a reduction of \$170,000. This proposed reduction eliminates the funding for tuition assistance, continuing education credits, and financial incentives provided to the nurses at the State's Veterans Memorial Homes. The remaining funding supports the professional nursing coordinator. The Nursing Initiative strives to reduce the nursing shortage at the State's Veterans Memorial Homes by enhancing recruitment and retention efforts.

Veterans Memorial Homes

- Federal recovery funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for states' veterans affairs totals \$1.4 billion. The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs expects to receive approximately \$1.9 million in federal recovery funding for the construction of a multi-purpose room at the Paramus Veterans Memorial Home (\$1.4 million) and for the new heating and air ventilation system also at the Paramus Veterans Memorial Home (\$475,000).
- The FY 2010 Governor's Budget recommends a reduction of \$123,000 in funding for each of the three Veterans Memorial homes. These reductions represent a recurring supplemental appropriation for prior year revenues from US Department of Veterans Affairs per diems, resident contributions, and Medicare Part A receipts. Budget language provides that the department may receive forty percent of the receipts from

Key Points (Cont'd)

these sources that are in excess of the amount anticipated in the preceding fiscal year. The department uses the supplemental appropriation for veterans' program needs, mostly medical supplies and equipment, at the three veterans homes.

- The FY 2010 Governor's Budget recommends a new \$175,000 capital appropriation for the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home to fund an emergency generator for the administration building. This project has a federal funding match of 65 percent from the Federal Veterans Administration.

Background Papers

State Military and Veterans Affairs Funding Expected from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009	p. 17-19
The World War II Memorial	p. 20-21
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder	p. 22-25

Fiscal and Personnel Summary

AGENCY FUNDING BY SOURCE OF FUNDS (\$000)

	Expended FY 2008	Adj. Approp. FY 2009	Recom. FY 2010	Percent Change	
				2008-10	2009-10
<u>General Fund</u>					
Direct State Services	\$95,046	\$91,551	\$87,943	(7.5%)	(3.9%)
Grants-In-Aid	2,566	3,174	3,174	23.7%	0.0%
State Aid	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Capital Construction	4,249	0	175	(95.9%)	N.A
Debt Service	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Sub-Total	\$101,861	\$94,725	\$91,292	(10.4%)	(3.6%)
<u>Property Tax Relief Fund</u>					
Direct State Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Grants-In-Aid	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
State Aid	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Sub-Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Casino Revenue Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Casino Control Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
State Total	\$101,861	\$94,725	\$91,292	(10.4%)	(3.6%)
Federal Funds	\$65,583	\$44,316	\$47,741	(27.2%)	7.7%
Other Funds	\$857	\$3,927	\$2,923	241.1%	(25.6%)
Grand Total	\$168,301	\$142,968	\$141,956	(15.7%)	(0.7%)

PERSONNEL SUMMARY - POSITIONS BY FUNDING SOURCE

	Actual FY 2008	Revised FY 2009	Funded FY 2010	Percent Change	
				2008-10	2009-10
State	1,362	1,327	1,327	(2.6%)	0.0%
Federal	160	155	155	(3.1%)	0.0%
All Other	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Total Positions	1,522	1,482	1,482	(2.6%)	0.0%

FY 2008 (as of December) and revised FY 2009 (as of January) personnel data reflect actual payroll counts. FY 2010 data reflect the number of positions funded.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION DATA

Total Minority Percent	60.5%	57.4%	57.4%	---	---
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Significant Changes/New Programs (\$000)

<u>Budget Item</u>	<u>Adj. Approp.</u> <u>FY 2009</u>	<u>Recomm.</u> <u>FY 2010</u>	<u>Dollar</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>Page</u>
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MILITARY SERVICES**Direct State Services**

Nuclear Facilities					
Security Detail	\$2,930	\$0	(\$2,930)	(100.0%)	D-286

This proposed elimination in funding represents the withdrawal of the New Jersey National Guard security detail at the State's three nuclear power plants that occurred in January 2009. The State Police security detail was also withdrawn. These manned security details had been in place since 2001 in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington D.C. In January 2009, energy companies assumed complete control of security at their power plants after expending approximately \$82 million to upgrade and improve the security systems with advanced technology, private patrols, and security programs monitored by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission. A special assessment on operators of nuclear electric generating facilities financed the National Guard and State Police security details pursuant to P.L.2006, c.35. With the withdrawal of the security detail, the State anticipates a corresponding elimination of revenue (page C-7). In FY 2008, the assessment generated \$7.6 million in revenues to pay for 12 months of security detail services provided by the National Guard (\$5 million) and State Police (\$2.6 million). In FY 2009, the assessment generated only \$3.8 million, reflecting the end of the service delivery six months into the fiscal year.

New Jersey					
National Guard					
Challenge					
Youth Program	\$1,270	\$1,140	(\$130)	(10.2%)	D-286

The department does not expect this proposed reduction in State funding to have a significant effect on the New Jersey National Guard Youth Challenge Academy (NJYCA) program because it expects the reduction to be offset from other sources as part of the Master Cooperative Agreement with the US National Guard Bureau. 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. Academics are an integral component of the program. The cadets are tested and are able to earn their New Jersey State High School diploma. The NJYCA has been reported as a highly successful program, earning various national awards for the most progressive program, for health and hygiene, and for academic excellence over the years.

Nursing Initiative	\$250	\$80	(\$170)	(68.0%)	D-286
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This proposed reduction eliminates the funding for tuition assistance, continuing education credits, and financial incentives provided to nurses at the State's Veterans Memorial Homes. The remaining funding supports the professional nursing coordinator. The State initiated this

Significant Changes/New Programs (\$000) (Cont'd)

<u>Budget Item</u>	<u>Adj. Approp.</u> <u>FY 2009</u>	<u>Recomm.</u> <u>FY 2010</u>	<u>Dollar</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>Page</u>
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program in response to the recommendations set forth in the 2003 Nursing Task Force Study, which was conducted to assess the nursing shortage at the States' Veterans Memorial homes. The Task Force recommended that the State improve its recruitment efforts by hiring a professional nursing coordinator and improve its retention efforts by providing incentives for nurses to stay, such as continuing education reimbursement, tuition assistance, and financial incentives.

Federal Funds**New Jersey National****Guard Support****Services**

	\$29,466	\$31,786	\$2,320	7.9%	D-287
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This budget line aggregates several changes in federal funding for New Jersey National Guard Support Services. The most significant changes total \$1.3 million in increases to the McGuire Airbase Service Contracts (\$834,000) and to the National Guard Facilities Support Contract (\$453,000). There are numerous other increases and decreases.

Other Funds**New Jersey National****Guard Support****Services**

	\$2,590	\$1,630	(\$960)	(37.1%)	D-287
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This proposed reduction in funding from other sources represents the elimination of amounts received from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for the provision of National Guard security detail inside and outside of PATH train stations. The National Guard will cease to provide the security services.

PATH trains provide mass transportation service to commuters between New Jersey and New York. The deployment of 40 National Guardsmen in May 2007 was the result of a cooperative effort between the Port Authority and the homeland security offices of New Jersey and New York in the development of a pilot project to enhance security measures. The Port Authority invested nearly \$3 billion to improve security at its facilities, including hiring 675 police officers and spending approximately \$300 million on security investments for the PATH system. The security detail has been terminated because it has been determined that the enhanced PATH security system was sufficient.

Significant Changes/New Programs (\$000) (Cont'd)

<u>Budget Item</u>	<u>Adj. Approp. FY 2009</u>	<u>Recomm. FY 2010</u>	<u>Dollar Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>Budget Page</u>
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MENLO PARK VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME

Direct State Services

**Additions,
Improvements and
Equipment**

\$237 \$114 (\$123) (51.9%) D-292

This reduction represents a recurring supplemental appropriation for prior year revenues from US Department of Veterans Affairs per diems, resident contributions, and Medicare Part A receipts. Budget language provides that the department may receive forty percent of the receipts from these sources that are in excess of the amount anticipated in the preceding fiscal year. The department uses the supplemental appropriation for veterans' program needs, mostly medical supplies and equipment, at the three veterans homes.

PARAMUS VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME

Direct State Services

**Additions,
Improvements and
Equipment**

\$164 \$41 (\$123) (75.0%) D-293

This reduction represents a recurring supplemental appropriation for prior year revenues from US Department of Veterans Affairs per diems, resident contributions, and Medicare Part A receipts. Budget language provides that the department may receive forty percent of the receipts from these sources that are in excess of the amount anticipated in the preceding fiscal year. The department uses the supplemental appropriation for veterans' program needs, mostly medical supplies and equipment, at the three veterans homes.

VINELAND VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME

Direct State Services

**Additions,
Improvements and
Equipment**

\$247 \$124 (\$123) (49.8%) D-295

This reduction represents a recurring supplemental appropriation for prior year revenues from US Department of Veterans Affairs per diems, resident contributions, and Medicare Part A receipts. Budget language provides that the department may receive forty percent of the receipts from these sources that are in excess of the amount anticipated in the preceding fiscal year. The department uses the supplemental appropriation for veterans' program needs, mostly medical supplies and equipment, at the three veterans homes.

Significant Changes/New Programs (\$000) (Cont'd)

<u>Budget Item</u>	<u>Adj. Approp.</u> <u>FY 2009</u>	<u>Recomm.</u> <u>FY 2010</u>	<u>Dollar</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>Page</u>
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Capital Construction

Back up Generator	\$0	\$175	\$175	—	D-295
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This proposed increase would fund an emergency generator for the administration building at the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home. The administration building serves as a command center during emergencies and is the hub of the communications network. This project has a federal funding match of 65 percent from the Federal Veterans Administration.

Language Provisions

2009 Appropriations Handbook

2010 Budget Recommendations

p. B-150

The unexpended balance at the end of the proceeding fiscal year in the Jersey City Armory account is appropriated for the same purpose.

No comparable language.

Explanation

This language provision is no longer necessary because funds in the Jersey City Armory account have been fully expended. It permitted a carry forward of funds not expended that were originally appropriated in FY 2005 to fund the completion of upgrades to the indoor track and lighting at the Jersey City Armory, including the installation of a center court scoreboard, construction of new men's and women's locker rooms, and rehabilitation of the existing men's and women's restrooms on the second floor.



Discussion Points

1. The FY 2010 Governor's Budget incorporates an estimated \$5.183 billion over two fiscal years in federal stimulus funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. According to a table on page 42 of the Governor's abbreviated budget, the State will use \$3.074 billion (\$854 million in FY 2009 and \$2.220 billion in FY 2010) from ARRA for budget relief. In addition to these funds which will offset revenue shortfalls, \$2.109 billion will be used for new or expanded programs or initiatives. The ARRA allocates funds to states both by formula and by competitive awards. Most executive departments anticipate stimulus funding in either FY 2009, FY 2010 or both.

- **Questions:** Please itemize the federal stimulus funding, if any, other than portions of the \$3.074 billion allocated for budget relief, included in the department's budget, by fiscal year and federal program, setting forth program goals and eligible uses together with the amount for state administrative expenses and the amount for allocation to local public and private recipients, respectively. Please identify intended and actual recipients and the process by which the department determines recipients and funding awards. Are there ARRA funds that flow through the department for which the State has no discretion? Please also set forth the timetable for obtaining federal approval of funding, obligation and allocation of funding to recipients, and use by recipients. Could any of this funding be used to offset other State appropriations, and if so, what programs and in what amount? What additional positions, if any, have been and will be hired with these funds? Does any ARRA-driven expansion of staffing levels conflict with the hiring freeze, and if so, how is the conflict being resolved and on which grounds? If this money is being used for new or expanded activities, will the new or expanded activities be continued in FY 2011? If so, how will they be funded?
- In addition to funding incorporated in the FY 2010 Governor's Budget, what specific competitive grant opportunities has the department identified that it is eligible to pursue, has applied for, and has been awarded, respectively?

2. Over the past several years, the overall staffing level in the executive branch has been reduced through restrictions on hiring and an early retirement program. The Governor's FY 2010 budget proposal envisions continuation of the hiring restrictions coupled with possible furloughs or layoffs.

- **Questions:** How has the reduction in staffing affected the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs? What strategies has the department employed to deal with staff reductions? What projects, work products or functions has the department scaled back, discontinued, or deferred because of staffing levels? Will the department be able to accommodate furloughs or layoffs in FY 2010 without increasing spending for overtime?

3. The FY 2009 appropriations act anticipated that \$25 million in procurement savings would be achieved by executive departments. A chart on page 75 of the Budget in Brief categorizes those savings and indicates they will continue into FY 2010. The Governor's FY 2010 budget proposal includes another \$25 million from procurement savings (Budget in Brief, Appendix I, page 8).

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

- **Questions:** Please indicate the FY 2009 amount of procurement savings achieved by the department, by the categories set forth in the referenced table, and the sources of those savings by department program. What is the annual amount of these savings as continued into FY 2010? How have these reductions affected the department? What projects, work products or functions has the department discontinued or deferred in order to achieve these savings?
- Please list the projected contributions of the department to the additional \$25 million in procurement savings included in the Governor's FY 2010 budget proposal. How would these reductions affect the department? What projects, work products, work products, or functions would the department scale back, discontinue, or defer in order to achieve the savings?

4. In September 2008, approximately half of the New Jersey Army National Guard was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This was the largest single deployment of the New Jersey National Guard since World War II, comprising 2,875 soldiers of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat team, a Military Police Company, and Water Purification and Chemical units. At the February 26, 2009 Assembly Military and Veterans Affairs Committee meeting, the department testified that the 50th Brigade Combat Team would be returning to Fort Dix in June 2009, where they would begin the demobilization/reconstitution process.

- **Questions:** Please outline the elements of the demobilization/reconstitution process that will occur at Fort Dix. Are there any benefit enhancements or new programs for newly returning troops at the federal level that will either facilitate benefit coordination with the State of New Jersey or relieve the need for State expenditures? How long will the demobilization/reconstitution process take? How much is budgeted for the process?

5. According to a 2008 study conducted by the Center For Military Health Policy Research at the RAND Corporation, entitled Invisible Wounds of War, Psychological and Cognitive Injuries, their Consequences, and Services to Assist Recovery, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and major depressive disorder (MDD) have emerged as the predominant post-deployment health care issues for returning soldiers and the military. The proposed FY 2010 Governor's Budget recommends an appropriation of \$1.3 million to fund the demand for PTSD counseling which is the same level of funding provided for these services over the past two years. The chart below illustrates the demand, the cost, and the funded level of the program from FY 2005 through FY 2010.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) FY 2005 through FY 2010							
Fiscal Year	Number of Cases	Number of Counseling Sessions per Year	Number of Counseling Sessions per Month per Case	Average Cost per Counseling Session	Program Cost per Year	Annual Appropriation	Funded Level
2005	245	6,446	2.19	\$100	\$ 646,600	\$ 300,000	46%
2006	342	9,591	2.33	\$100	\$ 959,100	\$ 800,000	83%
2007	575	12,701	1.80	\$100	\$1,270,100	\$ 800,000	63%
2008	624*	17,380	2.32	\$100	\$1,738,000	\$1,300,000	75%
2009		24,128*			\$2,412,800	\$1,300,000	54%
2010		33,774*			\$3,337,400	\$1,300,000	39%

Source: Governor's Budget and Responses to Office of Legislative Services Discussion Points.

* Estimate

- **Questions:** Please update and make any changes or corrections to the chart for FY 2005 through FY 2010. What is the estimated increase in demand for PTSD services in FY 2011, given the return of approximately 3,000 National Guard service members in June 2009?
- How is the \$1.3 million State appropriation for PTSD services allocated? Please discuss why the flat funding level will be sufficient to meet the increase in the demand for services in FY 2010? How is the difference in the program cost per year and the funding level going to be resolved?

5a. In response to an Office of Legislative Services Discussion Point in the FY 2008-2009 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Budget Analysis, the department noted that the State PTSD program filled a void left in services provided by the US Department of Veterans Affairs.

- **Questions:** What void does the State's PTSD program fill that is left by PTSD treatment services offered by the US Department of Veterans Affairs? Is, or was, it more difficult to obtain a PTSD diagnosis at the federal level than at the State level? If so, why?

6. On July 1, 2005, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs initiated a 24/7 hotline to provide assistance and counseling services to veterans and their families. Since its inception, the "Vet to Vet" hotline has fielded over 5,000 calls from veterans and their family members requesting help for anxiety, depression, marital discord, phobias, sleep disorders, flash backs, anger, changes in personality, alcohol and drug abuse, and suicide, which are all symptoms of PTSD and other mental health disorders resulting from combat trauma. The calls in 2008 resulted in over 175 referrals for the treatment of PTSD.

- **Questions:** How is the "Vet to Vet" hotline funded? Please detail the costs of the hotline service for the current annual contract period indicating the service's

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

administrative and counseling costs. How have the program expenditures grown since 2005? How many calls were fielded in each fiscal year since the beginning of the program and how many referrals made? What is the estimated increase in demand for hotline services in FY 2010 and will this increase result in higher program costs? If so, what is the expected increase in costs to administer and provide counseling services in FY 2010 and how will the increase be funded? Who staffs the hotline?

7. In FY 2008, the State spent \$221,000 on Support Services to Returning Veterans to fund the State's Yellow Ribbon Commission (YRC). The YRC funds healthcare, outreach, and family support services to returning veterans and their families. With a portion of this funding, the department commissioned Rutgers University to study the medical and psychological needs of its returning service members so that the department could understand and serve better the needs of returning service members.

- *Questions:* What were the findings, recommendations, and conclusions of the study? How has the department changed, or intends to change, its demobilization/reconstitution process as a result of the study?

7a. In FY 2009, the State appropriated \$1 million, in addition to an opening balance of \$515,000, for Support Services to Returning Veterans to fund the State's Yellow Ribbon Commission.

- *Questions:* Please describe how the \$1.5 million available in FY 2009 was allocated. Specifically, how much was allocated to healthcare, outreach, and veteran family support services?
- Does the State expect to receive any funding in FY 2010 from the federal Yellow Ribbon Commission to supplement the State's YRC programs, specifically, the family support services grant program? If so, how much will be received and how will it be allocated?

8. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs works with the State Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) to find jobs for returning service members and protect those of deployed service members.

- *Questions:* What percentage of returning National Guard service members are fully employed upon return? What percentage of returning National Guard service members have to find employment upon return due to job loss while serving or are first time job seekers? What barriers do unemployed returning service members encounter in their job search? Is there any State, federal, or private financial assistance available to these individuals while they are job seeking? Does the department have a role in assisting job seeking returning service members?

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

9. In December 2008, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner announced the creation of the Veterans Assistance Project, which is a pilot project to assist military veterans who enter the court system. The Veterans Assistance Project is a combined effort of the Judiciary, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health Services, to provide mentors and referrals to existing community services for veterans.

- **Questions:** Please describe the Veterans Assistance Project in detail. How will the project assist a typical veteran? What was the genesis for the pilot project? What role does each department and the Judiciary play in its administration and operation? How many veterans have been assisted through the pilot project since its inception? Is participation automatic, required, or optional? Is there a backlog of veterans waiting for assistance? How long is the wait list for services?
- Is the project expected to be temporary or permanent? What is the plan to expand the project if it is deemed successful? What is the cost of the pilot project? How is it funded? How will it be funded in the future?

10. On November 11, 2008, approximately 2,000 World War II veterans and their families gathered to celebrate the dedication of the New Jersey World War II Memorial. Planning for the project began in 1999 and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has spent a total of approximately \$7.5 million for its construction to date. However, the memorial is not yet fully completed. At the March 12, 2008 Assembly Military and Veterans Affairs Committee meeting, the department testified that it did not have enough money to buy the bronze bas-reliefs for the water walls. Once these bronze bas-reliefs are installed, the memorial should be fully complete.

- **Questions:** How much do the missing bronze bas-reliefs for the New Jersey World War II Memorial cost? How does the department plan to fund their purchase? When does the department anticipate their purchase? Are the water walls operational? What is the most recent total projected cost of constructing the memorial? How much will the ongoing maintenance and support of the memorial cost and how will it be funded?

10a. Schedule 2 of the FY 2010 Governor's Budget shows anticipated World War II Memorial dedications of \$91,000.

- **Questions:** What is the total amount of World War II Memorial dedications pledged to date and the amount received to date? Does the \$91,000 reflect pledges or actual contributions?

11. In October 2001, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs completed a master plan revision for a multimillion dollar expansion and improvement program at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery in North Hanover Township. Full funding for the expansion is provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, State Cemetery Grant Service. The project is expected to take 10 to 15 years to be completed. Many improvements, including the Administration Maintenance Complex and the Section R Crypt field, have been

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

completed. Replying to an Office of Legislative Services Discussion Point in the FY 2008-2009 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Budget Analysis, the department stated that the future plan called for the development of more gravesites on cemetery acreage including: Section O cremain sites, the Section P columbarium, Section M crypts and in-ground 707 cremain sites, Section Y columbarium niches, Section Z crypts and rough box sites, Section C crypts, Section F cremain sites, and Section G cremain sites.

- **Questions:** What is the current capacity of the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery? What is the total cost to the federal Veterans Affairs, State Cemetery Grant Service to expand the cemetery under the expansion plan? What is the expected completion date of the planned expansion? What percentage of the expansion plan is complete and what have the costs been to date? What are the cost estimates for the remaining projects listed above?

11a. According to testimony given at the September 22, 2008 Assembly Military and Veterans Affairs Committee meeting, the cemetery expansion plan includes the deforestation of approximately 30 acres of existing cemetery land. However, P.L.1993, c.106 requires a State entity to submit for review and approval by the Department of Environmental Protection compensatory reforestation plans for areas at least one-half acre in size that are owned or maintained by that State entity and are scheduled for deforestation. This means that the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs would have to pay \$1.8 million for reforestation to be authorized to cut down 30 acres of trees to accommodate the cemetery expansion plan.

- **Questions:** How has P.L.1993, c.106 affected the progress and funding of the expansion of the cemetery? Is there a plan or proposal to exempt the cemetery expansion plan from P.L.1993, c.106? Has the department already drawn up reforestation plans? If so, please provide details on the reforestation plan.

12. In the FY 2010 Governor's Budget, the evaluation data for the veterans memorial homes provide capacity of each home (beds) and the annual per capita costs (cost per resident) for each home. The chart below compares the operating efficiency of each home.

FY 2010 Operating Efficiency of Veterans Memorial Homes			
Veterans Memorial Home	Number of Beds	Annual per Capita Costs	Direct State Services Proposed Appropriation
Menlo	312	\$83,836	\$23,255,000
Paramus	336	\$77,843	\$22,562,000
Vineland	300	\$91,915	\$24,637,000

Note: Federal Funding for each Veterans Memorial Home totals \$2.1 million.

- **Questions:** Why does Paramus, the largest veterans home, have the lowest annual per capita costs? Does Paramus provide a different level of care from the other homes? What factors account for the relative operating efficiencies at Paramus? Why does Vineland, the smallest veterans home, have the highest annual per capita costs?

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

13. Veterans Haven, also known as The Veterans Transitional Housing Program, is a program based in Winslow that provides temporary housing, counseling, and occupational training for homeless veterans to assist them in their transition back to society. The program focuses on treatment, self-reclamation, and community reintegration through counseling, vocational training assistance, and job search assistance. The program has had a success rate of 86 percent and currently has a resident population of 55 veterans.

- **Questions:** Are there any plans to expand the program at Veterans Haven? If so, what are they and what factors drive the need for expansion? How much would an expansion cost and how would it be funded?

14. In the FY 2010-2016 capital planning process, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs requested \$7.7 million for 10 capital projects in FY 2010, including roof replacements, security enhancements, renovations, energy improvements, and other infrastructure projects. Federal funding for seven of those projects was projected to be \$5.7 million, for a total projected spending need of \$13.4 million. The Governor's proposed FY 2010 budget only includes \$175,000 in capital construction funding for an emergency generator at the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home.

- **Question:** Will any of the requested capital projects that did not receive funding in the Governor's FY 2010 budget proposal qualify for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009?

Background Paper: State Military and Veterans Affairs Funding Expected from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 into law. The ARRA is an economic recovery package that provides \$787 billion in stimulus funding for government programs and tax cuts. Under ARRA, a total of approximately \$1.8 billion was provided for Army and Air National Guard Military Affairs and Veterans Affairs in the United States that would flow through the states' departments of military and veterans affairs. Of this amount, about \$400 million was provided for Army and Air National Guard Military Affairs and \$1.4 billion for Veterans Affairs.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Military and Veterans Affairs Funding for States		
Program	Funding (\$ Millions)	
	ARRA	New Jersey
<i>Department of Defense – Military Army and Air National Guard (NG)</i>		
• Operations/Maintenance-Army NG	\$ 266	unknown
• Operations/Maintenance-Air NG	\$ 26	\$0
Sub-total	\$ 292	
<i>Military Construction</i>		
• Military Construction-Army NG	\$ 50	\$2
• Military Construction-Air NG	\$ 50	\$0
Sub-total	\$ 100	\$2
<i>Department of Veterans Affairs</i>		
• Medical Facilities Non-Recurring Maintenance and Energy Projects	\$1,000	unknown
• National Cemeteries	\$ 50	\$0
• General Operating Expenses (Admin)	\$ 150	\$0
• Administration Information Technology	\$ 50	\$0
• Grants for Construction of State Extended Care Facilities	\$ 150	\$1.9
Sub-total	\$1,400	\$1.9
Total	\$1,792	\$3.9

Source: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Under ARRA, recipients of federal recovery funds are subject to substantial oversight, certification, reporting, and transparency procedures. As such, prior to receiving any recovery funds, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) is required to submit a letter of certification to the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), the U.S. National Guard Bureau, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that includes a description of the investment, the estimated total cost, and the amount of covered funds to be used. These letters of certification must be posted on a State website that is linked to a federal website for transparency purposes. Each calendar quarter, DMAVA is required to submit a report to the requisite federal agency that contains: (1) the total amount of recovery funds received from that agency; (2) the amount of recovery funds received that were expended or obligated to projects or activities; and (3) a detailed list of all projects or activities for which recovery funds were expended or obligated. In order to comply with the transparency and accountability

Background Paper: State Military and Veterans Affairs Funding Expected from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Cont'd)

requirements, the State has established an oversight group and created a website for the public to review and monitor the State's use of federal recovery funds. (<http://www.state.nj.us/recovery>)

Funding for Army and Air National Guard Operations and Maintenance Needs

The ARRA provides \$292 million for the DOD for the Army National Guard (\$266 million) and the Air National Guard (\$26 million) for operations and maintenance needs. At the March 12, 2009 Assembly Military and Veterans Affairs Committee meeting, DMAVA testified that it expected to receive a portion of this federal recovery funding for reconstitution and reintegration efforts for returning National Guard soldiers and for the repair of deployed Army National Guard equipment. As to the Air National Guard, the department does not expect to receive any ARRA operations and maintenance recovery funding because Air National Guard projects for the 108th Air Refueling Wing and the 177th Fighter Wing are already being funded through the regular appropriations process through the Air Force budget. Similarly, new weapons for the Army National Guard are funded through the DOD budget.

Funding for Army and Air National Guard Military Construction Projects

The ARRA provides \$100 million for the Army National Guard (\$50 million) and the Air National Guard (\$50 million) for military construction projects. These recovery funds are dedicated for "shovel ready" projects that would reduce energy consumption or modernize utilities and re-roofing projects. DMAVA has submitted a priority list of requests for roof, boiler, flooring, and major maintenance repairs to New Jersey's armories and is hoping to receive approximately \$2 million for these purposes. The department does not expect to receive any federal recovery funds for Air National Guard construction projects.

Funding for United States Department of Veterans Affairs

Federal recovery funding for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs totals approximately \$1.4 billion for non-recurring maintenance and energy project at veterans medical facilities, national cemeteries, administrative operating expenses, administrative information technology expenses, and grants for the construction of State extended care facilities. While it was originally anticipated that the \$50 million available for veterans cemeteries would be allocated among the states, it was later determined that these funds would be allocated only for national cemeteries. As a result, New Jersey will not receive any recovery funding for its veterans memorial cemeteries, however, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has allocated \$290,000 for national cemeteries located in New Jersey.

The ARRA provides approximately \$1 billion for non-recurring maintenance and energy projects at veterans medical facilities. The department hopes its memorial homes will qualify as medical facilities in order to use federal recovery energy funds to upgrade the memorial homes' energy efficiency with photovoltaic and other energy related projects. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has allocated \$14.5 million for veterans medical facilities but it is not clear if any of the funds will be allocated to the department for its memorial homes.

Background Paper: State Military and Veterans Affairs Funding Expected from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Cont'd)

ARRA also provides \$150 million to states for grants for the construction of state extended care facilities. The department expects to receive a portion of this funding for the construction of a multi-purpose room at the Paramus Veterans Memorial Home (\$1,415,000) and to pay for its new Heating and Air Ventilation System (\$475,000), also at the Paramus Veterans Memorial Home.

The department does not expect to request funds for information technology projects or funds for general administration operating expenses.

Other Provisions under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

The ARRA provides tax incentives to employers for hiring unemployed veterans and social security stimulus checks to disabled veterans. Employers who hire veterans who have been discharged within the last five years, and who have received or are receiving unemployment compensation will qualify for employment tax incentives. In addition, ARRA provides a one-time \$250 Social Security/SSI payment to eligible disabled veterans and their families. According to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, there are currently approximately 51,000 disabled veterans in the State who would qualify for the Social Security/SSI payment. This benefit will provide an additional \$12.8 million in ARRA funds to help disabled veterans in New Jersey. Other provisions that may benefit New Jersey National Guard and Armed Services veterans include various homeowner assistance provisions directed toward mortgage foreclosures and credit issues.

Background Paper: The World War II Memorial

Budget Pages.... C-16, D-287

History

The creation of the World War II (WWII) Memorial began with the inception of the WWII Veterans' Memorial Advisory Commission (commission), originally established on December 8, 1999. P.L.1999, J.R.14 created a commission to undertake a study and advise the Governor and Legislature on a suitable memorial to the veterans of WWII. The commission made recommendations, including recommending the site of the former New Jersey Naval Militia Armory in Jersey City as the site for the memorial. However, due to budget shortfalls, the recommendations were not implemented and the commission eventually expired.

On May 4, 2004, Governor James E. McGreevey issued Executive Order No.107, which established a new WWII Memorial Commission in, but not of, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The Executive Order directed the commission to use, when appropriate, the work of the previous commission to advise on a suitable memorial and its location and design, as well as a method for financing the construction and maintenance of the memorial, and to recommend any legislation essential to the furtherance of the WWII memorial.

On December 8, 2006, Governor Jon S. Corzine issued Executive Order No. 45, continuing the WWII Memorial Commission, increasing its membership and adding the Secretary of State as an ex-officio nonvoting member. The commission recommended the current design and placement of the memorial in Trenton.

Funding

The cost of the WWII Memorial was originally estimated to be \$5 million. Projections fluctuated over time reflecting inflation and design changes. According to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the memorial is now projected to cost \$7.6 million. The State is expected to contribute \$6.5 million to the design and construction of the project. To that end, \$2 million was appropriated by the State in FY 2005 and an additional \$1 million was appropriated in FY 2007. The Department of the Treasury advanced the necessary funds to construct the memorial, with the expectation that it would be at least partially reimbursed through fund raising efforts.

Although Executive Order No. 107 allowed the commission to solicit and accept donations, on March 28, 2005, Governor Richard Codey signed into law P.L.2005, c.59, which created the World War II Veterans' Memorial Fund to hold donations for the memorial and allowed the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to take an active role in raising funds. The Adjutant General and the Deputy Commissioner were authorized to solicit and accept donations or grants of money or property and to use those funds for the memorial's construction. Donations are to reach \$1.1 million, of which more than \$800,000 was already raised by November 2008. The department estimates receiving additional donations of \$91,000 in FY 2010 to help fund the bronze bas-reliefs and any other projects to complete the memorial.

New Jersey has two major war memorials, the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial and Vietnam Era Educational Center, established with monies raised almost entirely by war veterans, and the

Background Paper: The World War II Memorial (Cont'd)

Korean War Memorial, established using State and local tax dollars as well as a CRDA grant. Funding for the WWII Memorial is similar to that for the Korean War Memorial when private donations were lacking, requiring the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to receive a loan from the State General Fund to complete the memorial. The department agreed to reimburse the State General Fund for the loan. The department, as in prior years, received monies from the General Fund to complete the WWII Memorial.

Current Status

The actual construction of the WWII Memorial began in March 2008 and was expected to last approximately eight months. The dedication ceremony was Veterans Day, November 11, 2008, and the memorial was opened to the general public in March 2009.

The overall theme for the memorial is "Victory" with three core ideas familiar to the WWII generation: service, duty and sacrifice. The central sculptural element is *Lady Victory*. The sculpture is 12-feet high, carrying a wreath (symbol of victory) in one hand and a sword in the other. Encircling Lady Victory are six service markers and two arcing story walls. Each service marker bears a seal that represents the six branches of the military and the respective New Jersey Medal of Honor recipients. The story walls communicate the war effort by both the home front and the front lines, highlighting New Jersey's contribution, with stories told by local veterans. Located along an outer circle are a soldier in an active combat pose and a lone battlefield marker. Four bas-reliefs depicting battle scenes from both the Atlantic and Pacific theatres will be added to complete the concept. An amphitheater with seat-walls

allows for reflection, and individual interpretive kiosks serve to broaden the visitor experience and understanding.



Background Paper: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Budget Pages.... D-290

New Jersey National Guard and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Services

In September 2008, approximately half of the New Jersey Army National Guard was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This was the largest single deployment of the New Jersey National Guard (NJNG) since World War II, comprising 2,875 soldiers of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, a Military Police Company, and Water Purification and Chemical units. The troops have provided detainee operations and facilitated the structuring of government services. At the February 26, 2009 Assembly Military and Veterans Affairs Committee meeting, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) testified that, in late Spring 2009, nearly one year after being deployed to Iraq, the New Jersey National Guard 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team will be returning to Fort Dix, where they will begin the demobilization/reconstitution process.

For NJNG members returning from service, DMAVA conducts a reconstitution program that provides information on all available benefits, services, and healthcare options. All NJNG members returning from combat are screened for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during the reconstitution process and counselors are available at weekend training to help identify and facilitate treatment plans for veterans suffering from PTSD.

According to DMAVA, the State PTSD program fills a void left in services provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The State program provides counseling services for up to 84 months (seven years). In the first years of enrollment, a typical veteran and the veteran's family attend counseling at least four times a month. The frequency of sessions diminish over time with group

sessions substituted for individual counseling. The majority of those enrolled in the State PTSD program utilize the full 84 months of service available.

Funding

The Governor's FY 2010 Budget recommends an appropriation of \$1.3 million for PTSD services provided through DMAVA, the same level of funding as appropriated in FY 2009. The following table details appropriations for PTSD from FY 2005 through FY 2010. There was a 167% increase in funding in FY 2006 from the prior year and a second increase of 63% in FY 2008 from the prior year.

State Appropriations for PTSD

Fiscal Year	Annual Appropriation
2005	\$300,000
2006	\$800,000
2007	\$800,000
2008	\$1,300,000
2009	\$1,500,000 (includes \$200,000 transfer in current year)
2010	\$1,300,000

The following table shows the increase in the number of PTSD cases and counseling sessions offered to veterans in New Jersey from FY 2005 through FY 2010. The data show a 155% increase in cases from FY 2005 to FY 2008 and a 424% increase in the number of counseling sessions from FY 2005 to FY 2010.

NJ PTSD Services

Fiscal Year	Number of Cases	Number of Counseling Sessions (Per Year)
2005	245	6,446
2006	342	9,591
2007	575	12,701
2008	624	17,380
2009	Not Available	24,128 (estimated)
2010	Unknown	33,774 (estimated)

Background Paper: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (Cont'd)

According to DMAVA, the cost of individual counseling provided is \$130 per veteran per session and \$80 per veteran in a group therapy session. Counselors are paid on a per session basis. The payments to counselors decrease on a sliding scale during the 84 months of counseling provided. The estimated total cost of PTSD counseling for an individual for the duration of a seven-year program is \$11,700.

The following table illustrates the actual and estimated costs of the PTSD treatment program. The estimates for FY 2009 and FY 2010 assume maximum utilization and that every counseling session costs the State \$100.

PTSD Funding

Fiscal Year	Actual/Estimated Program Cost (Per Year)	Annual Appropriations
2005	\$434,000	\$300,000
2006	\$812,000	\$800,000
2007	\$1,029,000	\$800,000
2008	\$1,407,000	\$1,300,000
2009	\$2,412,800 (estimated)	\$1,500,000 (includes \$200,000 transfer in current year)
2010	\$3,337,400 (estimated)	\$1,300,000 (proposed)

The estimate suggests that the demand for PTSD services may exert pressure on the budget in FY 2009 and FY 2010. To meet the higher demand without increasing the budget, the department may have to wait list some of the those who are seeking treatment or reduce PTSD treatment services provided. Another possible alternative to defray cost overruns would be for the department to find ways to improve or restructure the coordination of healthcare benefits for PTSD services between the State and the US National Guard Bureau.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Military veterans are at an elevated risk for PTSD because of traumatic combat experiences to which they are exposed in the line of duty. The National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (NCPTSD) defines PTSD as the set of severe psychological consequences that sometimes result from the exposure to, or confrontation with, traumatic events. While it is common to experience a brief state of anxiety or depression after such occurrences, people with PTSD continually re-experience the traumatic event.

A diagnosis of PTSD is made when, for more than a month, an individual experiences each of the four major types of symptoms characteristic of PTSD in connection with a traumatic event. These symptoms are: (1) re-experiencing the traumatic event; (2) avoiding activities, people, and places reminiscent of the event; (3) numbing of emotions and positive feelings; and (4) excessive physiological arousal, such as a sense of being on-guard. PTSD can be manifested as anxiety, substance abuse, flashbacks, irritability, detachment, nightmares, depression, loss of appetite, memory loss, and insomnia. The symptoms of PTSD often begin soon after an individual experiences the traumatic event. In some cases, however, it may be several months or years before symptoms are manifested.

Although the symptoms are common to all PTSD diagnoses, the severity of the disorder may range from a condition that is successfully treated within three to six months for some veterans, to one that leads instead to a declaration of 100% disabled for other veterans.

Treatment of PTSD usually involves a combination of therapy, such as certain types of cognitive behavioral therapy, and medication, such as antidepressants. When left untreated, or when not treated

Background Paper: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (Cont'd)

successfully, a severe affliction with PTSD can leave a veteran unable to function in the workplace, at home, and in the community, eventually resulting in unemployment, detachment from and disruption of family relations, divorce, and homelessness.

For various reasons, not all of the veterans affected by PTSD will receive or seek treatment. Challenges arise in the transition from military service to civilian life, in navigating the process of medical treatment and referral through the United States Department of Defense (DOD) and VA, and in overcoming the stigma that prevents many veterans from receiving services. Research suggests that not all of the veterans who may be at risk of developing PTSD receive a referral for further evaluation from the DOD upon discharge or release from military service.

In addition to problems identifying veterans at risk of PTSD, there are other concerns about the willingness of service members to seek mental health services. A recent study of soldiers returning from Iraq found that 60% of those experiencing mental health problems were reluctant to seek treatment. One primary deterrent to treatment is the stigma associated with mental health services. Veterans fear that accepting treatment will negatively impact their military career and change their personal relationships. To encourage those suffering with PTSD to seek treatment, the DOD has changed its security clearance policy so that service members do not have to report counseling or other mental health services if the treatment was related to combat experience.

Prevalence

According to NCPTSD, it is estimated that PTSD affects or will affect 30% of Vietnam veterans, 10% of Gulf War (Operation Desert Storm) veterans, 6%-11% of veterans from the war in

Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom), and 12%-20% of veterans from the war in Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom).

According to a 2008 RAND report on PTSD and other emotional and cognitive casualties of war, PTSD, traumatic brain injury, and major depressive disorder have emerged as the predominant post-deployment health care issues for returning soldiers and the military. The report suggested that particular characteristics of the current conflicts may be putting troops at an increased risk of PTSD and other emotional problems. That report speculated that multiple, longer deployments, and the use of suicide bombings and Improvised Explosive Devices may put troops at heightened emotional risk. The RAND report also suggested that improvements in medical technology are saving the lives of the severely injured who are at greater risk of developing PTSD.

The demand for PTSD services is growing in New Jersey. The increase is attributable to NJNG deployments to military operations abroad supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and to a heightened awareness by Vietnam veterans still afflicted by PTSD of their eligibility to seek and receive treatment.

Other State Programs

On July 1, 2005, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and DMAVA initiated a 24/7 hotline to provide assistance and counseling services to veterans and their families. Since its inception, the "Vet to Vet" hotline has fielded over 5,000 calls from veterans and their family members requesting help for anxiety, depression, marital discord, phobias, sleep disorders, flash backs, anger, changes in personality, alcohol and drug abuse, and suicide, which are all symptoms of PTSD and other mental health disorders

Background Paper: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (Cont'd)

resulting from combat trauma. The calls in 2008 resulted in over 175 referrals for the treatment of PTSD. The cost of administering the hotline in FY 2008 was \$100,000.

Many veterans with untreated PTSD end up in the criminal justice system as a result of violent activity, substance abuse or other reckless behavior. The New Jersey Judiciary, DMAVA, and the Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health Services (DHS) launched the Veterans Assistance Project (VAP) in December of 2008. The VAP provides referrals to existing community services and mentors for veterans. DMAVA determines which veterans are assigned mentors. The mentors, who are active and retired veterans themselves, work with defendants while their criminal cases are pending and afterward. Mentors ensure that veterans receive assistance and try to ensure that they do not return to the criminal justice system on another offense. Veterans who are charged with indictable and non-indictable offenses, other than minor traffic matters, as well as veterans who are on probation, are eligible to participate in the program. VAP was initially launched in Atlantic County, and based on the results of the pilot program, was extended to Union County in late February 2009.

In addition, The New Jersey Governor's Council on Mental Health Stigma has recently begun a campaign geared toward helping veterans overcome the stigma of accessing mental health services. The campaign entitled, "Life doesn't have to be a battlefield....Don't let stigma stand in your way" was launched in October 2008.

United States Armed Forces Veterans in New Jersey

DMAVA's reconstitution program has been recognized by the federal National Guard Bureau for the service it

provides to veterans, but because of limited communication between the federal and State governments, the State is not always notified when active duty Armed Forces members return to the State. Issues in communication between the federal and State governments have made an accounting of those service members impossible to ascertain. This limits DMAVA's ability to offer services to those individuals. While members of the Armed Forces returning from duty are provided through the DOD reconstitution program, they may not be made aware of the myriad State services available to them.

To address this concern, DMAVA is working with federal legislators on legislation that would require the DOD to share database information or to notify DMAVA of discharged service members from New Jersey. The goal of the legislation is to enable DMAVA to find these veterans and help them access veteran support services.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Office of Legislative Services provides nonpartisan assistance to the State Legislature in the areas of legal, fiscal, research, bill drafting, committee staffing and administrative services. It operates under the jurisdiction of the Legislative Services Commission, a bipartisan body consisting of eight members of each House. The Executive Director supervises and directs the Office of Legislative Services.

The Legislative Budget and Finance Officer is the chief fiscal officer for the Legislature. The Legislative Budget and Finance Officer collects and presents fiscal information for the Legislature; serves as Secretary to the Joint Budget Oversight Committee; attends upon the Appropriations Committees during review of the Governor's Budget recommendations; reports on such matters as the committees or Legislature may direct; administers the fiscal note process and has statutory responsibilities for the review of appropriations transfers and other State fiscal transactions.

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Individuals wishing information and committee schedules on the FY 2010 budget are encouraged to contact:

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