Discussion Points

Military Services

National Guard Support Contract

1. In FY 2012, the department received a $2 million increase in federal funding for the National Guard Facilities Support contract.

   Please provide a description of the National Guard Facilities Support contract and how it fits into the US National Guard facilities plan. What projects are currently being supported by this contract? Please discuss the impact that the additional funding will have on military facility construction and ultimately services and operations. The additional Federal funding that we received in the Cooperative Agreement is to support facility Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization SRM. National Guard Bureau recognized that with declining Military Construction funding this would mean that the National Guard would need to remain in its current facilities and this would require more SRM dollars. The average age of the New Jersey’s Army National Guard Armories is approaching 62 years. The increased funding is paying for a new transformer on the Sea Girt Training site, new boilers at the Westfield Armory, and a partial replacement of the Jersey City Armory roof.

2. In FY 2012, $16 million in federal funding was appropriated under the New Jersey National Guard Support contract to fund a new medical clinic at Sea Girt.

   Why is a medical clinic being constructed at Sea Girt? Please describe the genesis, purpose, and scope of the proposed Sea Girt medical clinic and how it fits into the mission of the Joint Training Center. Please describe the master plan for the design, construction, and operation of the clinic. What is the timetable for construction and the projected opening date? What are the total costs for the design and construction of the medical clinic? What are the estimated annual operating costs of the clinic once it is constructed and how will the operating costs be funded? How is the FY 2012 $16 million appropriation being used? The Funding for the Troop Medical Clinic was not received in FY12. The project still remains on the NJ National Guard Long Range Construction Plan and is a priority of the Army Guard. The mission of the Medical Clinic is to provide a state of the art facility for the New Jersey Army Guard to conduct required Annual Periodic Health Assessments, Pre-deployment Soldier Readiness Processing and the Post Deployment Health assessments. We currently conduct most of these activities at Sea Girt in converted World War 2 era buildings that are inadequate and insufficient for the current and future needs. The project if funded will be a 100% federally funded project and not require any state match. While we were not successful in receiving funding for the Medical Clinic we did receive 49 million dollars to design and construct a new Army Aviation Support Facility that will be built on the Lakehurst portion of the Joint Base. This project is being funded completely with federal dollars and thru a federal contract and therefore is not funded through the state budget. When the project is complete it
Discussion Points (Cont’d)

will provide the 150th Aviation Battalion a state of the Art 130,000 square foot aviation maintenance facility.

New Jersey National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program

3. Federal funding for the New Jersey National Guard Youth ChalleNGe (NJNGYC) program was increased by $1.4 million in FY 2012 bringing total federal funding for the program to $3.75 million. State funding for the program in FY 2010 and FY 2011 was $957,500 each year which consisted of an appropriation of $265,000 from the Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs’ budget and an appropriation of $692,500 from the Department of the Treasury’s budget to meet the State’s matching funds requirement. In FY 2012, the State appropriated $265,000 from the Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs budget. Presumably the remaining State/federal matching funds were appropriated from the Department of the Treasury’s budget for FY 2012.

How was the remaining portion of the State’s matching funds requirement made in FY 2012? Why is a portion of the funding for the program coming from the Department of the Treasury? Will the department be able to continue to fund the NJNGYC program? The remaining portion of the state match requirement is attributable to the fringe benefit costs associated with the personnel on the New Jersey National Guard Youth ChalleNGe (NJNGYC) payroll. The fringe benefit costs are not paid directly from Youth ChalleNGe program funding, but are paid for from the Department of Treasury. The fringe benefit costs are still paid by the State of New Jersey and can be claimed as part of the state match requirement for the New Jersey National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program. The department will be able to continue to fund the NJNGYCF program.

Armories

4. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs operates 36 National Guard armories in New Jersey. Of those 36, 30 are active military facilities and 6 are “unoccupied,” meaning there is no military presence at those locations and they are available for rent by DMAVA to other governmental agencies and community organizations. The uses of armory space have ranged from community activities to commercial ventures; a number of public and private sector organizations provide repeat business.

Please describe the current strategy for the use of each of the “unoccupied” armories and any other armories not strictly used for active military function. Please describe how any changes in the plan for armory usage affect rental receipts, federal funding, or departmental expenditures. Please describe any renovations to the armories taking place or planned to take place. Which armories are planned to be or are being renovated and for what purposes? What sources of funds will be used to pay for the renovations? How much will the renovations for each armory being renovated cost? Armories not currently in use by the military do not receive federal funding support. DMAVA strives to ensure these assets do not result in a financial burden to the State until such time as they are disposed of or are reutilized by the military. Of the six Armories that do not currently house military units, four have been declared
excess; namely Bridgeton, Franklin, Newton and Plainfield. The remaining two, Lodi and the DLOGS building in Lawrenceville, are fully utilized by other agencies and generate rental revenue for the department. The following specific information is provided:

- **Bridgeton** – Was declared excess Mar 2011 and currently has three users on the premises; a pallet recycling company, a church, and a greenhouse. Bridgeton nets approximately $45K per year.
- **Franklin** – Was declared excess Apr 2011. Currently there are two users on the site, DOL as well as Franklin/Hardyston Township Recreation. Gross receipts for Franklin are approximately $48,800. There is a National Guard recruiting office and a Veterans Service Office at this site, pending finalization of sale.
- **Newton** – Was declared excess in Dec 2007. The State House Commission approved a sale to town of Newton in Mar 2008. DMAVA vacated facility by end of Oct 2008. Facility has been pickled so that we have virtually no utility costs. We are continuing to work with the town of Newton to finalize the sale.
- **Plainfield** – Was declared excess Apr 2005. The facility was in use by Plainfield Youth Corp until end Jul 2010 when they lost their funding. This facility was also pickled. Public auction resulted in a bid of $926,000 as of Mar 2012. We are awaiting Legislative approval of the sale.
- **Lodi** – Currently in use by Bergen County – Meals on Wheels, storage and animal control office operations, NJOIT, Central Motor Pool Shop and the NJ Naval Militia, as well as the Sea Cadets. Revenue is currently $258,045.
- **DLOGS Building Lawrenceville** – Currently in use by NJSP & US Federal Marshalls, Gross revenue $58,000.

At active armories, where units are stationed, federal dollars match state dollars to offset operations costs. To comply with federal requirements in NGR 420-10 the use for revenue generating rentals cannot interfere with the military mission and must be offered to interested parties on a non-interrupt basis. Use granted under the terms of these Use Agreements can be cancelled at any time by DMAVA. Use is generally offered on a first come first serve basis and use fees are based on a sliding scale with commercial entities paying higher rates than Non-Profits and Communities.

5. **Rental receipts for the armories declined from $2.11 million in FY 2007 to a projected $1.6 million in FY 2012. This represents a reduction of $510,000, or 24 percent.**

**Why have rental receipts declined?** The primary reason for the decline in rental receipts is the loss of federal grant money by some of the rental tenants. Another
Discussion Points (Cont’d)

cause for the reduction is the disposal/decommissioning of some of the properties.

How are rental receipts expended and for what purposes?
Rental receipts are expended for the maintenance and operation of the armories.

What provides the authority of the expenditure of rental receipts? The authority of the expenditure of rental receipts is per the appropriation language that appears in the department’s budget each year (page D-283 of the FY 2013 Budget Book).

According to the FY 2012 budget presentation, a $3 million renovation to the drill floor at the Atlantic City Armory is underway. Casino Reinvestment Development Authority funds will provide $1 million towards that improvement, the Department of Defense another $1 million, and the State Division of Law and Public Safety will contribute $900,000. The armory will be home for a community based program for young people.

Please describe the community based program for young people.
What organizations are sponsoring the program? Phase one was available for use as of Dec 23, 2011. Atlantic City Public School and Atlantic United Soccer Club used the facility from the beginning of January through the end of March 2012. We continue to pursue interested parties and individuals who want to use the facility. Interest in the facility is expected to increase as the indoor season approaches later in the year and funding to support athletic program and community use interest is secured through other than DMAVA channels.

Will the department receive any remuneration from the organizations for the benefit of the use of the armory? Users are required to provide payment for non-military use as well as to provide liability coverage associated with their use. Collections of fees for non-military use is required to ensure continued Federal support pursuant to the Master Cooperative Agreement and NGR 5-1 which provides 50% of the operational, maintenance and repair costs for the facility.

Will the armory serve any other purposes? If so, what other functions will the armory serve? Atlantic City Armory currently houses a military unit as well as a Veterans Service Office. It is the Task Force South Emergency Operations Center and

In January 2012, the Department of the Treasury’s Division of Property Management & Construction advertised that is was going to hold an Internet auction of the Plainfield Armory in Plainfield, New Jersey from January 24, 2012 through January 27, 2012. The minimum bid was $900,000.

Please discuss the reasons for the disposition of the armory.
How does the disposition of the armory fit into the strategic plan for the armories?
Discussion Points (Cont’d)

What was the outcome of the Internet auction and how will the proceeds from the sale of the armory be used? The Plainfield auction netted an offer of $926,000.00. Treasury continues to work to finalize this sale.

Are there any federal or State statutes or regulations governing the use of the proceeds? The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will work with the Department of Treasury to assure the appropriate use of the proceeds.

Army Restructuring

8. On January 26, 2012, the Star Ledger published an Associated Press article entitled, Army Looks to Go Leaner Without Losing Strength. The article reports that the Army plans to reduce the number of combat brigades from 45 to 32 in a restructuring to cut costs and reduce the service by approximately 80,000 soldiers. The restructuring reflects a part of the Pentagon’s five-year plan to reduce costs by $269 billion and Congress’ mandate to the Department of Defense to reduce costs by $487 billion in 10 years. Officials acknowledged that merging battalions into larger brigades could shift some soldiers to different bases across the country but that it may be difficult to achieve because members of Congress do not like to see staffing declines at bases that feed local economies. According to testimony at the FY 2012 DMAVA budget hearing, the department accounts for 1,703 full-time federal jobs through its full-time Military Support Force and a payroll that exceeded $145 million in Fiscal Year 2010. An additional $75 million flows into the State’s economy through the pay earned by the State’s citizen soldiers and citizen airmen.

How will the restructuring affect the strength, mission, and federal funding and State funding needs of the New Jersey National Guard? Based on the restructuring plan, what is the estimated impact on the economy if staffing declines or increases? Congress and the Pentagon face the enormous challenge of restructuring our military with a reduced budget. Because of much fiscal uncertainty, the Pentagon is considering very large AC reductions for completion by FY18. The ARNG is also being considered for reductions occurring as early as FY13. Those proposed reductions are currently being staffed at the Pentagon and will most certainly reduce the number of combat brigades in the Army - currently 45 in the AC and 28 in the ARNG. The Pentagon will be proposing an initial reduction of 8 of the AC combat brigades by FY18. Any reduction of ARNG combat brigades will occur in FY19.

NGB has stated that any ARNG force structure reductions will take into consideration the strength posture of each of the 54 states and territories. The NJARNG acknowledges the strategic implications of maintaining viable capability and capacity measured by personnel strength. As a result, the strength of the NJARNG has consistently remained above 100% of its authorization for the past 10 years. The NJARNG continues to remain one of the top tiered states/territories in regards to personnel strength.

Most of the Guard’s capabilities have been funded through Pentagon appropriations to equip, staff, and train for its warfighting missions. The states rely on these capabilities for civil support missions. Given the fiscal constraints facing our nation, the answer to an affordable defense force lies in a well-trained and equipped, community-based, National Guard. Today’s reserve component is a modern military force that trains
and performs to the same standards as their active duty counterparts. It is a ready and accessible force that is a cost-effective complement to the active component. A 2007 Government Accountability Office study estimated that the cost of a reserve component member costs is only 15 percent of an active component member.

If the NJ were to lose its combat brigade, lose or reduce major components of its combat brigade or significantly lose/reduce force structure from non-combat brigade elements, the Guard’s ability to respond to homeland defense missions, domestic emergency responses and providing military support to civil authorities would be degraded. Furthermore, any loss of force structure will result in loss of full-time manning, loss of equipment and training funds. This would have a negative effect on the NJ economy.

Central Payroll Staffing Reductions

9. According to testimony at the FY 2012, FY 2011, and FY 2010 DMAVA budget hearings, the department has reduced its central payroll by an equivalent of 116 positions, from 433 to 317 positions, since 2001, representing a 27 percent decline. To accomplish this, the department has been able to shift nearly one-half of those positions to fully or partially federally reimbursed positions. In addition, the department has consolidated duties and eliminated positions to reduce costs. For example, the department consolidated seven Information Technology positions from the Veterans Memorial Homes, Vineland, and the Youth ChalleNGe Program in DMAVA’s central office, consolidated the Veterans Homes recruitment efforts into a single Employee Relations Coordinator, realigned the Superintendent position at Veterans Haven by elevating the Deputy Superintendent to the vacant Acting Superintendent position, reduced the staff of the Veterans Benefits Bureau by one full-time equivalent and, in 2010, eliminated seven Commissioner/Director positions.

Given the reduction in positions, how is the department fulfilling its core missions? What changes were made to the core mission to accommodate the reduction? How was the workload managed or changed with fewer resources?

Did the reduction in positions delay the department’s delivery of services? What changes were made to maintain service levels? In reducing the central payroll by consolidating and eliminating positions, has the department lost position authority or is the department experiencing salary savings from vacant positions? The department continues to fulfill its core missions. As stated above, some of the savings were achieved in prior fiscal years through the conversion of filled positions from 100% state funded to 100% or partially federally funded filled positions with no reduction in workforce. To date no changes have been made to the core mission areas due to position reductions. Consolidations of duties, responsibilities and functions and organizational units have occurred. This enabled the department to maintain service levels. The department’s FTE’s have been subsequently lowered as a result of the department’s position savings initiatives.

How many positions has the department lost since 2001? The department has not experienced a loss of positions, but has reduced its number of filled positions through attrition. In 2012 the department has 305 filled positions.

Family Assistance Centers
10. According to the FY 2012 Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs budget presentation, the department testified that through National Guard funding, it operates a statewide network of Family Assistance Centers. The centers support the families of deployed soldiers and airmen during unforeseen emergencies and financial hardships. As an example, the on-site “Seven Seals” family assistance center at the Bordentown Armory serves military members from all the Reserve components and their families from across the State. The program helps deployed troops make the transition from soldier to citizen. The department has secured $3 million in federal funds to launch this effort. Those funds will also be used to operate the local family assistance center, which helps soldiers and their families with deployment-related issues, and to pay for an interior renovation of the armory to create a new home for both programs.

Please discuss the organization of the family assistance centers. How many are there and where are they located? How is the statewide network of family assistance centers funded in terms of State, federal, and other funds for capital outlay? How are ongoing operating expenditures funded, specifically Seven Seals? The New Jersey National Guard currently operates 8 Family Assistance Centers to include the Joint Military & Family Assistance Center (Seven Seals). Five of the Family Assistance Centers are operated from National Guard Armories located in Jersey City, Morristown, Lawrenceville, Toms River and Woodbury. A single federally funded contractor who reports to the Family Assistance Coordinator staffs each Family Assistance Center. The State Family Program Director, who has oversight for the daily operations of the Family Assistance Centers, manages the Family Assistance Program. The operating budgets for the Family Assistance Centers are funded through federal allotments through the National Guard Bureau. Facility costs for each center are provided for through the Facilities Support Program. Two additional Family Assistance Centers are located at the 108th Refueling Wing, McGuire AFB and at the 177th Fighter Wing, Pomona, NJ. Federal civilian personnel managed by the Air National Guard man these centers. The Seven Seals Center is located in Bordentown and functions as the center of the Joint Military & Family Assistance Program. This facility services service members and retirees from all services and components. Ongoing operating expenses for programs are federally funded while the Facilities Support Program supports facility expenditures.

Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery

11. 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 DMAVA. Since then, the cemetery has become the nation's busiest state veterans' cemetery in the nation, conducting 2,944 burials in FY 2010, or approximately 10 to 15 burials per 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. Rated capacity for the cemetery, assuming full funding of the expansion and improvements outlined in the Cemetery Master Plan, is now 215,000 gravesites, an increase of 59,000 gravesites. Total estimated interments in FY 2012 are 53,042 which is 2,800, higher than
Discussion Points (Cont’d)

FY 2011. Over the past four years interments have increased, on average, by 2,811 interments annually.

The cemetery conducted 3,073 burials in CY2011.

What is the status of the projects completed in the Master Plan? The cemetery master plan was published in October, 2001. The master plan identified initial construction projects for installation of crypts in Section “O”, construction of a new administrative/maintenance facility, relocation of existing maintenance barn, renovation of existing maintenance facility into a public information center, and renovation of existing chapel. Subsequent improvements identified were reconstruction of the main entry drive, construction of columbariums at Section “Y”, Section “P”, Section “F”, construction of a committal shelter, realignment of interior circulation and renovation of public assembly area.

What projects have been completed? What was the cost of each project? How was each project funded (State/federal/other)? Projects that have been completed in support of the master plan, federally funded by the Veterans Administration State Cemetery Grants program, have been (1) construction of crypts in Section “O” Phase 1 for $3,053,899, (2) construction of crypts in Section “O” Phase 2 for $2,208,150, (3) construction of crypts in section “R” for $6,149,271, (4) construction of columbariums at Section “F” and “G” for $1,597,589, (5) construction of columbariums at Section “P” and public assembly area for $2,610,959, and (6) construction of a administrative/maintenance facility and pole barn relocation for $6,149,271. A committal shelter for Section “Z” is currently under construction for $942,991.

What projects remain to be completed? The construction of crypts and columbariums in Section “Z” is currently under design. The funding currently approved by the VA in FY12 in support of this project is $5,886,000. The renovation of the previous maintenance facility into the public information center is design complete but did not qualify for VA funding in FY12 ($3,400,000).

According to the department, the cemetery’s master plan is being updated to meet demands beyond 2014, when it is projected that current space will no longer be adequate.

What principles are being built into the update of the master plan to meet space, cost, and current burial tenets? Please describe the capacity utilization at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Cemetery. The development of the cemetery is based on maximum density utilization of land for burials while also considering vehicular and pedestrian circulation, signage, storm water management, planting and utilities.

What are the current estimates for the cemetery to reach full capacity? The current VA guidance is to provide for capacity in 10 year construction increments. The project currently under design has development planned for approximately 27,000 crypts and 11,000 columbarium niches in Section “Z” with actual construction to occur this year to support approximately 11,000 crypts and 5,000 columbariums in Section “Z”.

12.
Discussion Points (Cont’d)

How much space is available for future expansion? The Department, on two previous occasions, had explored acquiring the land known as the Russell farm to expand the cemetery. The State Agriculture Development Committee was unable to convey part of the former Russell farm to the Department to provide for the expansion of the military cemetery due to the deed restrictions permanently prohibiting nonagricultural development imposed by the State Agriculture Retention and Development Act (N.J.S.A. 4:1C-42).

What plans are there, if any, for the future expansion of the cemetery beyond the current grounds there are no current plans for the acquisition of additional cemetery land. DMAVA continues to explore opportunities for land near the Doyle Cemetery or elsewhere for future development. We are in the process of updating the Master Plan.

13. The federal law, P.L.111-275, increases the federal plot interment allowance from $300 to $700 per plot, beginning October 1, 2011 which will provide an additional $500,000 in revenues to the department for burial services in FY 2012.

Why was the interment allowance increased? When and what was the last interment allowance increase? The Plot Interment Allowance was established in 1973 with the intent to offset a percentage of the funeral costs associated with the burial of a veteran. At that time the allowance was $150.00. The allowance was increased in 2003 to $300.00 and effective October 1, 2011 the allowance was increased to $700.00 with the amount to be reviewed and adjusted annually to reflect burial plot cost using the CPI for funeral expenses as maintained by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

What is the full cost per burial at the Doyle cemetery At the present time the cost of interment at Doyle Cemetery is $875.00.

What percentage of the cost per burial is funded by the State, the federal government, or other funds We receive a Plot Interment Allowance for the veteran but receive no funds for spouses or dependent children. CY 2011 interments at Doyle Cemetery was 3073 with 2007 veterans interred and 1066 spouses and dependents interred. Percentage of Veterans interred is 65% compared to 35% non veteran. With Plot Interment Allowance at $700 the percentage cost of interment of a veteran is 80% ($700/$875). There is no Plot Interment Allowance for spouse and dependent children with percentage 0-% ($0/$875). The difference of the veteran and all the cost of the spouse and dependent child is absorbed entirely by the state.

Veterans Program Support

Veterans Haven

14. Veterans Haven is the department’s transitional housing program for homeless veterans on the grounds of the Ancora Psychiatric Hospital. The program is a long term program, lasting three to six months during which veterans go through psychological, social, and vocational rehabilitation. The home is funded by the New Jersey Department of Military
Discussion Points (Cont’d)

and Veterans’ Affairs and is supported by the United States Veterans Affairs (VA) and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), as well as service organizations, community agencies, veterans groups, and private citizen donations. According to the department, the staff at Veterans Haven specializes in mental health/social services counseling, vocational rehabilitation (workforce training partnerships), and nursing. A 24-hour staff is on duty to provide psychological assistance, mentoring, and transportation services to the residents for medical appointments including AA and other addiction counseling meetings. The new 20,000 square foot addition to Veterans Haven was opened on August 15, 2011, enabling the facility to accommodate up to 99 residents, an increase of 44 rooms. The department estimates that the extra beds created by the expansion will generate an additional $500,000 annually for the facility from the VA Providers Grant and Per-Diem (GPD) program.

Please discuss the Veterans Haven expansion project in detail now that it has been completed. Please describe the expansion and the renovation of the facility in terms of its additional capacity and new and renovated features. Please recap the history of the funding of the expansion project and why the project took so long to complete.
What was the final cost of the project, what funding sources were used and in what amounts?

The final cost of the project was $5,996,329. The cost allocation was $2,000,000 from FY07 capital appropriation; $2,950,475 from New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Authority; $500,000 from Veterans Administration grant 07-797-NJ; and $545,854 from DMAVA. The contract was awarded February 22, 2010 with a performance period of 17 months for completion by July 12, 2011. A temporary certificate of occupancy was issued for the storage facility on March 18, 2011 and for a portion of the new facility on July 18, 2011. A final certificate of occupancy was issued on December 2, 2011. The contractor was required to resolve issues on corrections to fire rating in stairwells, certifications on roof and UL labels on lightning protection. There were two delays associated with installation of electrical distribution transformers by Atlantic Electric and relocation of demarcation equipment by Verizon. Additionally, the scope was expanded to include renovations to the existing kitchen pantry and asbestos abatement in resident rooms in old section.

Please explain how the estimate that the new “beds” will generate an additional $500,000 from the GPD was derived. Is the GPD money sufficient to cover the full costs of the new “beds” or will the department need additional funding?

The Veteran’s Haven addition added 44 rooms to the existing 55 rooms, bringing the total number of rooms available to homeless veterans to 99. Funding of the addition was from a combination of sources: $2 million state appropriation, 500K from VA capital grant, and $2.9 million from NJHMFA.

The 44 additional rooms will generate approximately $500,000 in grant and per diem funds. We anticipate that the additional funding from GPD will be enough to cover the expenses of the additional 44 rooms.

In addition to 44 new bedrooms, the addition has added a new exercise room, a computer lab with 18 computers, a refurbished dining room, 2 laundry rooms with state of the art industrial size washers and dryers and a new administrative area with treatment offices. The facility is nearing the completion of an asbestos abatement project, which removed all
Discussion Points (Cont’d)

of the old asbestos floor tile from the old sections of the building. That project will be completed by the week of April 20, 2012.

Please discuss the performance of the Veterans Haven program since it was begun in 2001: (1) how many veterans have gone through the program; (2) what has been the success/recidivism rate of the program; (3) what percentage of the homeless veteran population is reached; (4) how does the department reach the homeless veteran population. Since its inception in 1995, approximately 1000 veterans have come through the facility. About 75% of the Veteran’s that come through the facility are successful in their transition into permanent housing and regaining the self sufficiency that they lost. The recidivism rate at the facility is less than 5%.

The department reaches the homeless population through a collaborative effort with the Veteran’s Administration, the Camden County Continuum of Care and other outreach efforts, ie...Operation Standown. We are constantly seeking new ways and collaborative efforts to reach Veterans that need our assistance.

15. Veterans Haven establishes workforce training partnerships in order to accomplish its vocational rehabilitation objectives. The treatment center works with outside support agencies such as One Stop and, according to the department, possibly, the Goodwill Employability Institute to provide workforce training and services including, but not limited to: identifying and matching skills with listed job opportunities; resume writing assistance and review; teaching interviewing techniques; teaching self-management skills; providing labor market information; providing assistance in applying for VA benefits and claims; and providing information regarding job referrals, job leads, and job fairs.

How are the workforce training partnerships funded? Please describe the mission of the Goodwill Employability Institute and discuss the benefits of a possible connection or partnership with the institute. Are there other support agencies with which Veterans Haven has a workforce training partnership? Veteran’s Haven works with the NJ Department of Labor – One Stop Centers and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to assist the Veterans in obtaining bus passes, work tools if necessary as well as some work clothing. The One Stop centers provide vocational counseling, training, testing and some certifications as well as a myriad of other employment preparation opportunities. The facility does not have a relationship with the Goodwill Employability Institute.

16. According to a December 2011 report published by the General Accountability Office (GAO) entitled, Homeless Women Veterans, Actions Needed to Ensure Safe and Appropriate Housing, many women veterans are facing the same challenges readjusting to civilian life as their male counterparts and are at risk of becoming homeless. The GAO report studies the issue and makes four recommendations to the VA in order to begin to address the issue: (1) appropriate data need to be collected on homeless women veterans; (2) appropriate referral policies must be implemented; (3) improvements to transitional housing for homeless women veterans with children should be examined; and (4) appropriate gender specific safety and security standards must be determined.
Discussion Points (Cont’d)

Is Veterans Haven able to accommodate homeless women veterans and their children? Veteran’s Haven is able to accommodate female Veterans.

What would have to be done to retrofit Veterans Haven to accommodate homeless women veterans and their children? We are not, at this time, able to accommodate female or male veterans with children. There has been talk in the department about retrofitting one of the facilities or a wing of one of the facilities in order to accommodate female veterans with children, but there are no concrete plans to do so at this time.

How much would it cost to retrofit Veterans Haven and to house homeless women veterans? We do not have cost estimates at this time for any retro-fitting that would be necessary.

Are there any federal VA funds available to the states to provide transitional housing for homeless women veterans? There are federal VA funds available through the Grant and Per Diem Program to house women veterans. Those funds however do not apply to the children of female veterans. There may be federal funds available from other sources for female veterans and their children, but that would need to be explored more.

17. According to an article published by the Asbury Park Press entitled, Housing for Homeless Vets Planned in N.J., a Parsippany-based community service agency is working with a private developer to build 63 apartments and townhouses, on the VA’s medical campus in Lyons, for homeless former service men and women suffering from post traumatic stress syndrome and other mental health problems,. The project is funded by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development, Veterans Affairs, and Labor departments in conjunction with a network of federally funded community service agencies. Under the federal government’s “anti-homelessness initiative”, with a goal to end homelessness by 2015, the number of counted homeless veterans in the US has been reduced to 67,000 from 137,000 since 2009.

Is the department working with the federal government on this initiative? If so, what is the department’s role? In the department’s estimation, what impact has this dual effort had on the homeless veteran population in New Jersey? Has the department noticed any measurable indirect benefits from the increased efforts, such as increased awareness and demand for services? This project is a federal initiative on the Lyons VA campus. Although DMAVA is not currently involved, we applaud the initiative and are eager to support the current partners where we can.

Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome

18. Over the past four years, the increase in the demand for post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) counseling has increased by 33.9 percent reaching an estimated demand of 22,000 counseling sessions in FY 2013. However, demand for PTSD counseling sessions has increased by 129.4 percent since 2006. This is a result of the length of time the United States has been at war. 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 his/her family attends counseling at least four times per month. Counselors are paid on a per session basis. The maximum amount paid to a provider per individual session is $100 and
Discussion Points (Cont’d)

decreases on a sliding scale during the 84 months of counseling. The FY 2013 Governor’s Budget proposes an appropriation for PTSD of $1.3 million, the same level as the past four years.

Please discuss the prevalence of PTSD among New Jersey National Guard soldiers returning from war. What are the projections for the demand for services over the next three years as demobilization efforts are stepped up? By how much are costs for PTSD expected to change over the next three years? What is the current total average cost of providing treatment to a veteran with PTSD? How does the average cost for PTSD services break out in terms of counseling, administration, and other costs (please identify other costs)? Since 2011 the NJARNG/Air Guard has deployed over 16,178 citizen soldiers. More than one in three soldiers who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan report mental health problems, however there is no absolute way to predict how many veterans will need help over time because researchers have found that two-thirds of veterans who screened positive for PTSD are not receiving treatment.

To date, FY 12 we have serviced 705 clients in 12,995 sessions held from July 2011.

Since December 2010 Division of Veterans Services has tracked Service Type and War Era clients under the PTSD Program.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clients by service type:</th>
<th>Captured War Era:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>OIF/OEF 546</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Guard 92</td>
<td>Korea 81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy 244</td>
<td>Other 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve 10</td>
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Counseling sessions are projected to increase, however, this is not an exact science, as the encounters of our troops in the field will dictate the level of psychological trauma they will experience. Not all our affected troops will require individual counseling sessions. Many will be well served in group therapy, which will positively impact our counseling costs. Counselors are paid on a per session basis, whether they are moderating a group or treating an individual.

For individuals who have been enrolled in the program from 0-24 months (2 years), the Department will reimburse the provider for services at 100% of the negotiated rate. ($130.00 per individual session & $65 group session)

For individuals enrolled in the program from 25-36 months (3 years), the Department will reimburse the provider 50% of the negotiated rate for each session. ($65 per individual session & $35 group session)

For individuals enrolled in the program from 37-48 months (4 years), the Department will reimburse the provider 30% of the negotiated rate for each session. ($30 per individual session)
Discussion Points (Cont'd)

For individuals enrolled in the program from 49-60 months (5 years), the Department will reimburse the provider 20% of the negotiated rate for each session. ($26 per individual session & $15 group session)

For individuals enrolled in the program from 61-72 months (6 years), the Department will reimburse the provider 10% of the negotiated rate for each session. ($13 per individual session & $10 group session)

For individuals enrolled in the program from 73-84 months (7 years), the Department will reimburse the provider 5% of the negotiated rate for each session. ($7 per individual session & $5 group session)

As of 17 April 12 there are 546 OIF/OEF veterans enrolled in the PTSD Program:
We currently have a total of 3,004 veterans on active status within this program. As veterans utilize the maximum allowable time in the program they are removed and new veterans are activated. One veteran utilizing the Counseling Program for the entire seven years is approximately $12,000; this is with the minimal number of counseling sessions per month.

PTSD Counseling contracts are specifically utilized to cover the cost of counseling sessions. There are no administrative costs or other costs included within the provider contract

According to the department, New Jersey is one of only seven states that provides additional mental health services for its veterans and is the only state to assist their families as well.

How does the State appropriation leverage the PTSD services paid for by the federal government? The VA has seen more than a tenfold increase in PTSD claims since the Iraq war, they have reported that 59,838 Iraq & Afghanistan veterans have been diagnosed with PTSD, 78,000 have sought help for mental health related issues and 28,000 have been treated for substance abuse.

Given the reduction of forces in Iraq and the downsizing of active component forces we are seeing a significant increase of returning veterans. In addition, due to the aging population of WWII, Korean and Vietnam Veterans on fixed income there has been an increase in VA compensation claims, PTSD claims alone have increased 125%.

With regard to mental health concerns, among Army and Marine Corps returnees from Iraq, 27% to 36% meet criteria for the broad definition of a mental health disorder 3 to 6 months after returning from deployment, including depression (10%–13%) and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (17%–25%). One study found that 37% of OEF/OIF veterans receiving VA health care were diagnosed with a mental health disorder.

Many injured service members are recovering from numerous co-occurring conditions, including TBI, pain, amputation, visual and hearing impairment, aphasia, and PTSD,
Discussion Points (Cont’d)

along with other mental health conditions. Besides physical injuries and mental health disorders, combat exposures increase propensity for engaging in risk behaviors, including excessive and binge drinking, verbal or physical aggression, and seeking dangerous activities.

Unfortunately, with the influx of cases, the federal VA is unable to provide consistent counseling services to our veterans which in turn, they are referred to the state PTSD program which has the capability to provide the amount of services needed to our veterans, in a timely manner.

DMAVA PTSD grant program was intended as an additional source of assistance for our veteran population in need of counseling and for those who were unable to acquire counseling appointments at a reasonable time. Our department realized the impact counseling services were having on the Veterans Administration and have a network of providers on call with the ability to see the veteran within a day’s notice if required.

Vet to Vet Helpline

20. The Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs in conjunction with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) established a veteran peer support program telephone helpline. The helpline features clinical assessment and assistance to family members. In addition, it provides New Jersey veterans and their families with access to a network of mental health professionals specializing in PTSD and other veteran issues, including traumatic brain injury. P.L.2011, c.116 appropriates annually a sum sufficient for the operation of the program. Previously, the helpline was funded through an allocation from the State appropriation for PTSD under Veterans’ Program Support in the department’s budget. Costs to support the hotline have increased from $100,000 in FY 2006 to approximately $300,000 in FY 2012.

How will the “sum sufficient for the operation of the program” be determined?  
By how much is the program expected to grow over the next three years?  
What are the current total operating costs of the program and the components of those costs?  
How are the program costs shared between the department and UMDNJ?  
DMAVA contracts with UMDNJ to run the Veterans NJ Vet2Vet Helpline, UMDNJ receives $300,000 to provide referrals for services ranging from confidential individual and group counseling, peer support case management, connecting veterans to internet resources and participating in outside events, such as the Yellow Ribbon 30-60-90 day reintegration programs.

How many calls has the helpline fielded since its inception?  
DMAVA continues to see a large increase in demand for PTSD treatment. Our toll free, mental health Veterans Helpline 1-866-VETS-NJ-4U (1-866-838-7654) has received more than 7,582 calls since started with the University of Medicine and Dentistry in April 2005. This program has become critical component in the long term mental health for service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan as well as veterans of previous conflicts.
Discussion Points (Cont’d)

How many calls has the helpline fielded each year since FY 2006?
How many calls does it receive on average, on a daily basis?
What percentage of calls were from veterans and what percentage of calls were from family members?

New Jersey remains only 1 of 3 States that provides additional PTSD services for Soldiers and the ONLY State that provides these services to family members.

Total call activity comprised taking calls from or returning calls to a total of 4,340 individual callers. These callers consisted of 2,167 individual veterans from every branch of military service as well as 1,379 family members of veterans (794 missing date).

In the department’s estimation, how effective is the program? Could it be more effective? If so, how?

Helpline is effective, as it is another source for the veterans to utilize in order to receive information.

The Veterans Assistance Program

21. Begun in 2008, through a partnership between the Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs and the Judiciary, the Veterans Assistance Project attempts to identify every former and current service member who enters the criminal justice system. The program was started in Atlantic and Union counties and was expected to expand to all counties. The objective of the program is to provide services to veterans who are in or enter the criminal justice system. Those who are identified as veterans are referred to their respective county’s Veterans Service Office (VSO) for an assessment of their needs and then matched with existing service providers. In addition, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs assigns a mentor to each veteran, as a critical component of this initiative. Typically, the mentor is a member of the New Jersey Army or Air National Guard.

Please provide an update on the progress of the Veterans Assistance Program. Please provide statistics on the program, specifically: (1) how many veterans have entered the program; (2) for what general reasons (offenses) were the veterans identified for participation in the program; (3) what assessments were made and what services were provided and by whom; (4) how many New Jersey Army and Air National Guard members are currently mentors; and (5) what role does the mentor play. In how many counties is this program currently operating? How big is the program in terms of federal, State, and local dollars? How is it funded? In the department’s estimation, how successful is the program? This program is managed and monitored by the Judiciary. For individuals who self-identify and request mentor to assist them, The New Jersey National Guard will provide uniformed mentors.

The Criminal Justice Veterans Initiative

22. According to an article published in the January 2012 issue of New Jersey Municipalities, the demobilization plans will return an increasing number of veterans to New Jersey over the next few years. In May 2011, representatives from the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts, the Association of Chiefs of Police, County Prosecutors, the Sheriffs
Association, the Wardens Association, the State Parole Board, the American Legion, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Federal Probation, the Coalition of Community Correction Providers, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Workforce and Labor Development, the Institute for Social Justice, the Commission on Volunteerism, the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Governor, US Army Vice Chief of Staff (Pentagon), Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice, and the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs proposed and sponsored, “The Criminal Justice Veterans Initiative (CJVI).” The CJVI is the first statewide collaborative created to assist military veterans who become involved in New Jersey’s criminal justice system.

Please discuss the mission, vision, and goals of the CJVI. What role does DMAVA play in the collaboration? How are the program and the services provided under the program? How big is the program in terms of federal, State, and federal dollars and how many people are currently in the program? Please provide an example of a typical person who has gone through the program. Does the CJVI complement or supplement the Veterans Assistance Program or is it integrated with the Veterans Assistance Program? The Criminal Justice Veterans Initiative is a collaborative project with multiple partners within the criminal justice system, and with those like DMAVA with special interest for Veterans. Its purpose is to provide aid to all Veterans within the Criminal Justice System to receive any or all benefits and services due them from their service.

There are no dedicated funds to this project from any State Agency or Federal Department. All resources are drawn from existing resources within the participating partners in the program, that provide time and support for any Veteran that comes within their jurisdiction. The first step for any partner in the program is to identify the individual before them as a Veteran, and then to help determine their eligibility for, and referral to services.

With primary partners as the State Parole Board and the American Legion, we have supported training for law enforcement officers in how to deal with Veterans with PTSD and TBI. We have participated in several “Hiring Our Heroes” Job Fairs, and have been able to help the UMDNJ Veterans Call in Center receive a $400,000 grant from the Prudential Insurance Company, and will be co-hosting an upcoming forum on Veterans Housing.

Several hundred individuals that have served in our armed forces have sought help through the CJVI Network for items such as housing referrals, employment, aid in getting their DD-214 to help determine their eligibility for benefits, interfaced with the VA, and through our Veterans Service Officers have been provided direct support to all our the partner agencies.

If, by our participation in this project we can help divert one veteran from jail or prison, and provide benefits and services upon his or her release from any prison, provide them with a place to live or medical services, we have performed our duty to them as they have for us.

This Criminal Justice Veterans Initiative supplements the Veterans Justice Assistance Program as it helps those Veterans who are already incarcerated or about to released from prison, whereas, the Veterans Justice Assistance Program is designed to help Veterans being sentencing.