

Discussion Points

Military Services

The Impact of the FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act on the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard

1. The FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) authorizes \$584.2 billion in spending for national defense. This represents a \$31 billion or 5 percent reduction from the FY 2014 NDAA.

Program	(\$Billions)
Department of Defense Base Budget Request	\$495.5
Department of Energy Base Budget Request	\$ 17.9
FY 2015 Discretionary NDAA Total	\$513.4
Defense Mandatory Spending	\$ 7.1
FY 2015 NDAA Total	\$520.5
Overseas Contingency Total	\$ 63.7
Total	\$584.2

Source: House Armed Services Committee FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act Fact Sheet.

In light of the reductions in the defense budget, one of the provisions in the FY 2015 NDAA affecting the National Guard requires the federal Comptroller General to provide Congress by March 1, 2015 with a briefing and report outlining the "appropriate balance" between the active military forces and the National Guard and the Reserve Component. The report is required to provide a comparison of assumptions on strategy, current demands, historical readiness rates, anticipated combat requirements and constraints and limitations that are associated with mobilization, utilization and rotation policies underlying the Aviation Restructure Initiative and any alternatives proposed by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau and the Department of Defense Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation Office. The report must also include an assessment of models used to estimate future cost and cost savings as well as comparison of the military and civilian personnel requirements for supporting combat aviation brigades under each proposal.

The provision also includes a "Sense of Congress¹ concerning the planned reductions and realignment the Army has proposed for the regular Army, the Army National Guard, and the Army Reserve in order to comply with the funding constraints under the Budget Control Act of 2011." Hence, the National Guard may experience future reductions as this balance is achieved. Nevertheless, the Armed Services Committee recognized the National Guard and its strategic value to the military and because of this, the FY 2015 NDAA provides \$1.25 billion in additional funding for the modernization of the National Guard and Reserve Component equipment.

- **Question:**

¹ "Sense of" legislation can come in the form of Simple Resolutions (H.Res. or S.Res.), used to express the opinion of the House or Senate alone, or as Concurrent Resolutions (H.Con.Res. or S.Con.Res.) used to express the opinion of the entire Congress. "Sense of" resolutions can also be added as amendments to regular House or Senate bills. Even when added to regular bills, "sense of" amendments have no force law. (usgovinfo.about.com)

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- **What is the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard's current budget?**

Army:

The FY-2015 operating federal budget for the New Jersey Army National Guard is \$120,184,900.

Air:

The total NJANG budget for FY 15 is \$80,807,342 as of 5 March 2015

- **How will the reduced defense budget affect the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard (NJNG)?**

Army:

The reduced budget will have a direct impact on readiness. However, the New Jersey Army National Guard is at the highest state of readiness in its history. The New Jersey Army National Guard has an authorized strength of 6025 Soldiers. 87% of these Soldiers are qualified and are available for state and federal mobilizations. Reduced funding has forced leadership at all levels to prioritize key components in the Operations and Training world such as; Soldier development (schools), Unit collective readiness (Annual Training) and additional skills training (Airborne, Air Assault, Sapper, Ranger, Sniper, etc...).

While readiness and training are reduced, it is partially due to our unprecedented readiness levels over the past 12 years as we supported multiple combat operations (Iraq, Afghanistan, etc...).

Air:

We expect additional funding to support our mission requirements for the year. A shortfall in this account could result in delaying required building maintenance until properly funded.

- **Will the army and/or air components lose any positions/authorizations due to the reduced defense budget?**

Army:

The Army National Guard faces a potential plan to reduce the Guard end strength (currently at 358K) to 315K by the end of FY19.

Air:

The FY 15 budget did reduce NJANG end strength. The FY 15 budget reduces the 108th Wing by 52 traditional military positions and increases full time end strength by 5. This is the result of the Contingency Response Group which has 115 (14 of which are full time) members will be standing down beginning 1 Jul 15. This loss is partially mitigated by the 108th gaining a Cyber Vulnerability

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Assessment Squadron which will consist of 63 (19 of which will be full time) members. The planning document for the cyber squadron also shows an additional increase of 8 personnel for a total of 71 at the start of FY17.

- **How is the NJNG preparing for the potential cuts?**

The strategic goal is to maintain a strong, viable and modern New Jersey National Guard with an emphasis on the current high state of personnel and equipment readiness – strategically mitigating the challenges of the current budget reductions. The Department continues to take every possible step to mitigate the loss of funds and maintain the readiness of the force.

The NJANG command team is proactively managing placement and retraining of the Airmen currently assigned to the Contingency Response Group. The NJANG recruiting team has been building a bench of potential recruits, to include those eligible CRG personnel to fill the new Cyber unit upon its activation in July.

- **How will these cuts affect New Jersey's situational readiness in the event of potential emergency?**

And even after the cuts, the New Jersey National Guard remains a vital part of the Garden State economy.

The Superintendent of State Police is the Executive Agent during emergency situations and the NJNG works in supportive capacity along with other departments. As such NJNG works continually with our agency partners to develop and refine support plans for all potential situations and constantly maintains a high state of readiness to provide both State and local support in an emergency or natural disaster.

- **What is the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard's current strength? How does it compare to other states and territories?**

Army:

Army Authorized Strength: 6025

Assigned Strength: 6432

Percentage: 102%

The New Jersey Army National Guard ranks #14 nationally in overall strength.

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Air:

Authorized Strength: 2293

Assigned Strength: 2457

Percentage: 108%

NJANG ranks in the top 3 nationally in overall strength.

The Role of the National Guard in Defense of the United States Against Cyber Attacks

2. Section 1638 of the FY 2015 NDAA includes a Sense of Congress that members of the reserve components "may possess knowledge of the critical infrastructure in the States in which members serve that may be of value defending against cyber attacks and may have experience in both the private and public sector that could benefit the readiness of the Department of Defense's cyber force and the development of cyber capabilities. It is also the Sense of Congress that the long-standing relationship the reserve components have with local and civil authorities may be beneficial for purposes of providing for a coordinated response to a cyber attack and defending against cyber threats. In addition, it is the Sense of Congress that the reserve components have a role in the defense of the United States against cyber threats and that consideration should be given with regard to how the reserve components might be integrated into a comprehensive national approach for cyber defense." Moreover, some states are already working to establish cyber security partnerships with the reserve components.

- **Question:**
- **Is the department working to establish cyber security?**

The 108th Wing will be gaining a Cyber Vulnerability Assessment Squadron which will consist of 63 (19 of which will be full time) members. The planning document for the cyber squadron also shows an additional increase of 8 personnel for a total of 71 at the start of FY17.

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)

3. In an effort to counter any potential federal policies that would reduce military installations in the United States, the FY 2015 Appropriations Act appropriated \$200,000 to the department for the Council on Armed Forces and Veterans' Affairs, an advocacy group comprised of State officials and members of the public who work collectively with the public and private sectors to preserve military installations. In addition, the New Jersey Military Installation Growth and Development Task Force was created to study the long term viability of the State's five military bases and options for insulating them from closure. The five bases include: the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, the 177th Fighter Wing at Atlantic City Airport in Egg Harbor Township, the Coast Guard Station at Cape May, the Picatinney Arsenal in Morris County, and the Earle Naval Weapons Station in Monmouth County. According to press reports, in February 2015, the State contracted with the firm Cassidy & Associates to devise an

² The reserve components of the United States Armed Forces include the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Army and Air National Guards, referred to as the "Guard and the Reserves." Members of the reserve components perform at least 39 military days per year and supplement active duty forces when needed.

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action plan that would recommend strategies to avoid base closures in New Jersey. The FY 2016 Governor's Budget proposes to again appropriate \$200,000 for these purposes.

- **Question:** When is the task force's study expected to be completed? How has the \$200,000 that was appropriated in FY 2015 been expended to date? Please provide an overview of the contract with Cassidy & Associates, including a description of deliverables and their completion date. How is the FY 2016 appropriation of \$200,000 to be expended?

DoD has not formally announced a BRAC study. However, the Military Growth and Development Task Force is leaning forward to ensure the preservation and enhancement of New Jersey's military installations to promote statewide jobs, corporate growth and secure long-term viability of military bases and installations. To compliment the Task Force's effort, Cassidy & Associates has been contracted to conduct a comprehensive study beginning this spring. Payments will be provided periodically throughout the duration of the contract. The study and recommendations are expected to be complete by spring/summer 2016.

Army National Guard Construction and Land Acquisition Projections

4. The FY 2015 NDAA authorizes funding for nine projects across eight states. The NDAA authorized \$26 million in funding for the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

State	Location	Amount
California	March Air Force Base (Fresno)	\$22,000,000
Colorado	Fort Carson	\$25,000,000
Illinois	Arlington Heights	\$ 5,000,000
Mississippi	Starkville	\$ 9,300,000
New Jersey	Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst	\$26,000,000
New York	Mattydale	\$23,000,000
Virginia	Fort Lee	\$16,000,000

Source: FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act.

- **Question:** What federally funded military construction (MILCON) projects are ongoing or planned? When are projects expected to be completed?

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Ground was broken in February of 2013 on a \$45 million project for construction of a 130,000 square foot aviation maintenance facility for the 150th Aviation Battalion. Located on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst the state-of-the-art facility will service a fleet of UH-60 Blackhawk and OH-58 Kiowa Helicopters.

The AASF project was a federal contract awarded in September of 2012 and is at substantial completion and the NJ Army National Guard took occupancy on 1 March 2015.

In addition, the NJ Guard broke ground in 2014 on a \$34 million Regional Training Institute at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt. This is an 86,000 square foot facility that will include student housing, a classroom & administration building, and allow the 254th Training Regiment, a premier Army National Guard training unit in the Northeast, to expand their training for soldiers around the region.

The \$34 million dollar RTI project for Sea Girt was awarded in September of 2013. The project has an estimated completion date of January of 2016.

- **Please identify any additional federally-funded projects expected to be completed in FY 2015 and please identify the amount and source of the federal funds.**

We have ten new construction, renovation or expansion projects involving our Readiness Centers as well as two logistical facilities planned, one at Lawrenceville (USPFO) and one for a Vehicle Maintenance Facility at Vineland. At this time, we are monitoring federal activity related to the federal Future Year Defense Plan funding to determine any additional project opportunities.

- **Are any New Jersey companies involved in the construction?**

The AASF was awarded on a federal contract to Senate Builders of Norristown PA but they are using primarily NJ subcontractors. The AASF project was a significant project for our federal contract office being the largest award given to a certified small business

The Regional Training Site project was awarded to DOBCO industries of Wayne, NJ.

The Telecom duct bank project was awarded to Rome Management of Trenton, NJ.

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- **Please identify the amount and source of the federal funds for additional federally-funded projects that are being planned for construction. What is the amount of the State match for each of the projects identified?**

24 million dollars of federal Military Construction funds were appropriated in the Disaster Appropriations Act of 2013 to help "repair thru replacement" damaged facilities in at the National Guard Training site n Sea Girt. This type appropriation granted DMAVA 5 year funds to design and award construction projects that were broken up in to 4 separate projects for the purposes of contract award. All of these projects are at 100% design and one project for replacement of the campuses telecommunications duct back was awarded in October of 2014. The other three projects are for a Medical Clinic, automotive and post engineering maintenance shop, and a back-up power generation building. These projects are will be advertised for a construction contract award this spring.

There is also a \$3.2 million dollar contract to award a 608kw Photovoltaic Carport at Sea Girt.

These projects are 100% federally funded.

- **How will the reduced NDAA affect future projects?**

The Military Construction budget for the Army Guard will drop significantly. We have no projects on the Future Year Defense Plan out to FY-20 and little likelihood of getting anything added before 2021. The Department anticipates a reduction in funding for the Military Construction budget and continues to monitor federal action on the allocation of additional resources in hopes of drafting Future Year Defense Plan program for subsequent fiscal years.

New Jersey National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility

5. Completion of the New Jersey National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst was scheduled for September 2014. The \$49 million project will provide a 130,000 square foot state-of-the-art aviation maintenance facility for the 150th Aviation Battalion and its fleet of UH 60 Black Hawks. The FY 2015 NDAA contains a provision requiring the Secretary of Defense to submit a plan by March 15, 2015 to modernize the UH-60 helicopter fleets of the U.S. Army National Guard. The Black Hawks improve the National Guard's capabilities to perform crisis response and defense support to civil authority missions. To supply the modernized fleet of Black Hawks to U.S. Army National Guard units with aviation components, it was originally planned that the Army National Guard units would transfer any Apache helicopters in their fleets to the active components of the Army and would divest other helicopters. The FY 2015 NDAA ultimately prohibited the transfer of Apache helicopters, as originally planned, but allowed personnel-related preparation activities and planning and allows the Army to transfer up to 48 aircraft in FY 2016. The Secretary of Defense must also certify in writing that commencement of preparations to transfer Apaches does not

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create unacceptable risk to (1) strategic depth or regeneration capabilities or (2) the Army National Guard's role as the combat reserve of the Army.

- **Question:**
- **What is the status of the New Jersey National Guard Aviation Support Facility on the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst?**

The AASF project was a federal contract awarded in September of 2012 and the aviation unit took occupancy on 1 March 2015.

- **How has the FY 2015 NDAA affected the completion of the project and the operation of the facility? How many modernized UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters will be received by the New Jersey National Guard and how will they be allocated?**

The project was funded prior to the FY15 NDAA. As a result, the project was not affected and it is ready to receive all of New Jersey's 20 UH-60 helicopters.

- **While construction funding for the facility is provided under the National Guard Support Contract, how are the annual operations of the joint base funded? Annual operations costs are federally funded.**

Superstorm Sandy Repair

6. According to testimony at the FY 2015 Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, key department facilities at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt, including the Medical Command headquarters, a general instruction building for the 254th Regiment (Combat Arms) and a Field Maintenance Shop, suffered extensive storm damage. The federal Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 included more than \$24 million for military construction projects in New Jersey, including repairs to storm damaged facilities, for example \$5 million for reconstruction of the Medical Clinic, which was inundated by more than five feet of water during Superstorm Sandy and is a key component of the medical readiness of the force. Other projects directly related to Superstorm Sandy, at Sea Girt, include \$3.5 million to replace the damaged Field Maintenance Shop, which repairs military vehicles and equipment, and for a new Maintenance Installation support building as well as a refurbished backup electrical generator and an Information Technology/Telecom Duct bank for the campus. The Disaster Relief Act also included \$2.5 million in funds to repair other New Jersey Army National Guard facilities damaged by the storm. In addition, the New Jersey Air National Guard received \$4.9 million in additional funding from the disaster appropriation act of 2013 to perform roof repairs to buildings at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and at the 177th Fighter Wing in Egg Harbor Township.

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- **Question: What is the status of the department's Superstorm Sandy remediation?**

All facilities have been repaired and remediated, with the exception of the Medical Command (MEDCOM). MEDCOM is currently operating in a temporary facility at Fort Monmouth.

- **Please identify any damaged facilities that cannot be adequately repaired or replaced with Disaster Relief Act funding, the unfunded cost, and the department's plans for these facilities.**

The Militia Museum did not qualify for replacement funding.

MED* – Troop Dispensary/Health Clinic

Damage: Extensive flood damage (structure, power, mechanical)

Repair cost: the estimate to replace the building with a new structure is \$4,842,500.00

Status: Design/plan review (NJ DCA)

The below facilities were damaged and their status is indicated as follows:

GIB* – General Instruction Building

Damage: Extensive flood damage (structure, power, mechanical)

Repair cost: The estimate to replace the building with a new structure is \$5,036,200.00

Status: Design/plan review (NJ DCA)

*The MED and GIB will be collocated in one structure just north of building 37.

FMS** – Vehicle Maintenance Shop

Damage: Extensive flood damage (structure, power, mechanical)

Repair cost: The estimate to replace the building with a new structure is \$3,389,750.00

Status: Design/plan review (NJ DCA)

EHMS** – Engineering Housing Maintenance Shop

Damage: Extensive flood damage (structure, power, mechanical)

Repair cost: The estimate to replace the building with a new structure is \$3,631,875.00

Status: Design/plan review (NJ DCA)

**The FMS and EHMS will be collocated in one structure just south of the soccer field.

PPB – Power Plant Building

Damage: Extensive flood damage (structure, power, mechanical)

Repair cost: The estimate to replace the building with a new structure is \$1,937, 000.00

Status: Design/plan review (NJ DCA)

DB – Telecommunications Duct Bank

Damage: Extensive flood damage (structure, power, mechanical)

Repair cost: The estimate to replace the building with a new structure is \$2,227, 550.00

Status: Awaiting plan release from DCA so the construction contractor can apply for permits.

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Comptroller Review of Army National Guard Non-Availability for Mobilization

7. According to the Analysis of the FY 2015 NDAA by the National Guard Bureau Office of the Legislative Liaison, the House and Senate Armed Services Committee highlighted the high percentage of soldiers in the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard who are not ready for mobilization. It was reported that the Army National Guard has almost 30 percent of its force not available for mobilization, with the two largest categories being the group of soldiers who are medically not available and the group of soldiers who have not yet completed training.

- **Question:** Is the New Jersey National Guard experiencing non-availability for mobilization issues? If so, what are the reasons? If not, how has New Jersey maintained its mobilization availability? What is the percentage of those who are not available to mobilize? With emphasis on retention, training and medical readiness, the New Jersey National Guard exceeds the national average with more than 80% of the force available for mobilization.
- **What effect, if any, did Superstorm Sandy have on the readiness of the New Jersey National Guard force, specifically with regard to the Regional Training Institute and the medical facility?**

The Storm has not affected the readiness of the New Jersey National Guard. Damage sustained at the Regional Training Institute, located in Sea Girt, has been remediated. The medical facility sustained significant damage. However, its operations were relocated to Fort Monmouth where they continue to provide assistance to address Soldiers needs.

Role of the New Jersey National Guard

8. On February 9, 2014, New Jersey hosted Super Bowl XLVIII and on June 8-14, 2014, New Jersey hosted the 2014 Special Olympics. As part of the State's efforts to provide security and ensure safety before, during, and after the events, the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard units were deployed to protect and secure the event.

- **Question:** In significant public events hosted by the State, such as the Super Bowl and Special Olympics, what was the role of the New Jersey National Guard? Please discuss the role of the Army and Air National Guard under the total force security mission at the Super Bowl and what duties the two performed.

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The New Jersey National Guard provides support as requested by the New Jersey State Police/ New Jersey Office of Emergency Management. The New Jersey National Guard provides resources and personnel essential to filling identified capability gaps for the local, county and State agencies during domestic operations.

The New Jersey National Guard augmented the New Jersey State Police and the New Jersey Transit Police with personnel to conduct a variety security related missions prior to and during the Super Bowl.

- **How many citizen soldiers supported the Super Bowl and Special Olympics?**

Super Bowl.

Army:

The NJARNG provided Quick Reaction Force of 150 Soldiers from the 50th IBCT. This Quick Reaction Force organized within the West Orange Armory and prepared to provide emergency on-call assistance as part of the New Jersey State Police contingency planning for the Super Bowl venue.

Air:

The NJANG provided 50 Airmen to augment the New Jersey State Police for Super Bowl security around the MetLife Stadium perimeter the week prior to game day.

Special Olympics 2014.

The NJ National Guard provided contracting and logistical support to the 2014 Special Olympics. Eighty-five personnel worked approximately 500 man days.

- **In the case of a regional emergency, what is the role of the National Guard? What inter-agency cooperation agreements currently exist? Please describe.**

By law in New Jersey, the Superintendent of State Police is the Governor's Executive Agent for emergency management, rendering the Office of Emergency Management the Lead State Agency in domestic emergencies. The New Jersey National Guard is a supporting entity in that construct, as are other cabinet departments. Aligned with the federal "National Response Framework," the "State of New Jersey Emergency Operations Basic Plan – 2014" is the base-line planning guide all state agencies including the NJNG adhere to. The NJNG is the first military responder, but municipalities and counties depend first on each other for resources before escalating resource requirements for fulfillment at state-level.

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Alternative Energy

9. According to testimony at the April 9, 2014 Assembly Budget Committee hearing, alternative energy and conservation efforts undertaken by the department have enabled the department to avoid approximately \$750,000 in electrical utility costs over the past five years. The department currently has six photovoltaic solar electric power systems in operation across the State.

- **Question:** What are the realized cost avoidance amounts associated with alternative energy initiatives for each year since 2009?

Average = .13 per kwh

2009 – \$38,126		293,278 kwh
2010 – \$116,678		897,521 kwh
2011 – \$167,252		1,286,556 kwh
2012 – \$221,804		1,706,188 kwh
2013 – \$175,692		1,351,476 kwh (reduction due to lightning strike @ Dix)
2014 - \$233,701 (energy) + \$140,000 (rebates)		1,797,700 kwh
<i>Est. 2015 - \$300,000 (only energy)</i>		<i>2,307,692 kwh</i>

- Does the department have any future energy efficiency projects planned?

MICRO-GRID system for electric independence and security - Sea Girt
 Energy Intern Program with Rowan University (Partnership/outreach) – Energy master plan, Energy security plan, education and awareness campaign, research
 2.5 MW of photovoltaic projects - Lawrenceville, Sea Girt, Lakehurst, (Requested ECIP FY17), Cherry Hill, Somerset, Mount Holly
 4 KW wind project - Sea Girt
 24 volt DC micro-grid LED lighting system - Sea Girt
 HELP high efficiency lighting program LED lighting retrofits - All facilities (Completed or Planned for FY15 - West Orange, Lakehurst, Fort Dix, Lawrenceville, Jersey City, Newark, Dover, Teaneck, Atlantic City, Woodbridge)
 Solar wall – solar ventilation project - Picatinny
 Employee energy awareness program - Department wide
 Energy reduction competition – Department wide
 Quarterly energy newsletter – Department wide
 Building Information Modeling w/ Rowan University internship program – All facilities
 Energy audits - 8-10 facilities per/year
 NJBPU direct install program (Covers 70% of installation costs) – Lighting upgrades – Westfield, Jersey City, Newark, Dover, Teaneck.
 PSE&G Worry Free program (No upfront costs – paid over 2 years by utility bill savings) – Hot Water replacement at Teaneck and Lawrenceville

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Natural gas conversions – All oil consuming facilities (Picatinny already completed)

Thermostat controls upgrade and monitoring program – All facilities

- **Has the department been recognized for its energy efficiency achievements and efforts?**

Secretary of the Army Energy and Water Management Awards given in FY08, FY09, FY11, FY13

FEMP Federal Energy and Water Management Award in FY10

- **Please list all of the solar electric power systems that are operational and where they are located.**

Joint Force Headquarters, Fort Dix

Joint Training and Technology Development Center, Fort Dix

National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt

Homeland Security of Excellence, Lawrenceville

New Jersey National Guard Youth Challenge Academy (NJYCA)

10. The NJYCA program is part of the United States National Guard Youth Challenge program. The mission of the NJYCA is "to provide a highly disciplined environment fostering

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academics, leadership development, physical training, and personal growth to educate and train unemployed youth who ceased to attend high school." The program consists of a 22-week residential phase at Fort Dix and a 12-month post-graduate, post-residential phase during which the participants are matched with a mentor. To graduate from the program, each cadet must complete successfully the residential phase. Academics are an integral component of the NJYCA program. The cadets are tested and are able to earn their New Jersey State High School diploma. Cadets are required to take courses in Math, Science, Reading, English, History, and Computer Applications. According to a July 2012 technical report published by the RAND Corporation entitled, A Cost-Benefit Analysis of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program, the Youth ChalleNGe program nationwide generates an average of \$2.66 for every dollar spent on the program and the return on investment, defined as net benefits divided by costs, is 166 percent. The FY 2015 NDAA provided \$134.750 million for Youth ChalleNGe under civil military programs for 35 Youth Challenge programs in 27 states. This represents an increase of \$31 million, or almost 30 percent over FY 2014. Of the total amount appropriated, \$3.6 million was allocated for the NJYCA program.

- **Question:** What is the current return on investment for the New Jersey National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program? Please describe the results of this program in terms of the number and percentage of graduates since 2008 who received their New Jersey High School diploma; the number of graduates who joined the workforce; the number of graduates who continued their education; the number of graduates who joined the National Guard or other military component of the US Armed Forces and the number of hours and example of community service volunteered by program participants.

The New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Program has a return on investment unmatched among organizations that assist at-risk-youth. Four in five high school dropouts who enroll in Youth ChalleNGe earn a high school diploma and are prepared for the workforce, military service or to continue their education. Since 2008, there have been 1,354 Youth ChalleNGe graduates and 77 percent earned their high school diploma. Upon graduation, cadets went on to continue their education, entered the workforce and joined the military. Those classes of Youth ChalleNGe cadets provided 85,708 hours of community service for government agencies and nonprofit organizations ranging from New Jersey Forestry Services to Monmouth Battlefield State Park to the New Jersey Community Food Bank of South Jersey. The monetary value of the services they provided was more than \$1,001,203.00.

- **Please provide statistics on what graduates of the program are doing five years after graduation.**

No data tracking former ChalleNGe cadets five years after graduation is available. This data was previously tracked in a national level database, which was shut down by the Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

Please describe the State/federal funding partnership over the past five years. How has the New Jersey program grown as compared to the overall federal program?

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Year	Federal Funding	State Funding	Fed/State % Share
FY08	\$1,680,000	\$1,120,000	60/40
FY09	\$2,355,660	\$785,220	75/25
FY10	\$2,872,500	\$957,500	75/25
FY11	\$2,872,500	\$957,500	75/25
FY12	\$3,452,000	\$1,150,667	75/25
FY13	\$2,451,496	\$817,165	75/25
FY14	\$2,700,000	\$900,000	75/25
FY15	\$1,350,000	\$450,000	75/25
<i>Note: For FY15, this amount is for Apr-30 Sep15. Thereafter, ChalleNGe will align its annual budget with the federal fiscal year.</i>			

Family Assistance Centers – Bordentown Armory

11. Since September 11, 2001, the New Jersey National Guard has mobilized well over 16,000 troops. Many of these Soldiers and Airmen have been deployed multiple times. It is one of goals of the department to support the families during the long deployment cycles. To accomplish this goal, the department has established a statewide network of Family Assistance Centers that work to support the families of deployed Soldiers and Airman with unforeseen emergencies and financial hardships that may occur. For example, the Joint Military and Family Assistance Center at the Bordentown Armory, which is undergoing a \$3.5 million, federally-funded renovation, will serve not only the National Guard, but also military members from all of the Reserve Components and their families in New Jersey. This facility provides “one-stop” service to help deployed troops make the transition from soldier to citizen, and soldiers and their families with deployment related issues.

According to testimony at the FY 2015 Assembly Budget Committee and Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee hearings, through National Guard funding, the department operates a Statewide network of Family Assistance Centers with staff at the centers who work in tandem with volunteers at the 34 affiliated Family Readiness Groups across the State. Departmental chaplains lend additional support.

- **Question:**
- **What is the State’s share of the renovation of the Family Assistance Center at the Bordentown Armory? 100% federal funded.**
- **Please provide an update of the State’s investment in the facility. Is the armory being utilized as expected, i.e., are the benefits of the armory being realized as expected, or are the resources going unused?**

Although the Joint Military and Family Assistance Center in Bordentown is federally funded, the services the facility provides resonates benefits throughout the state.

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From the moment they step off the plane from a deployment, Soldiers and Airmen are the focus of a reconstitution process designed to reconnect them with their families, smooth the return to their civilian jobs, address any financial concerns that have arisen during their absence, educate them about the benefits to which they are now entitled, and ensure that their physical, mental and spiritual needs are being met.

- **What are the major issues facing citizen soldiers in New Jersey as they integrate after long or multiple deployments? What are the issues concerning their families?**

There are a number of major issues facing citizen soldiers returning from deployment, including psychological counseling and health wellness. Another major focus over the past year has been to ensure that deployed Soldiers and Airmen are able to successfully reenter the civilian workforce. To that end, DMAVA has partnered with the New Jersey Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve to assist Veterans at job fairs across the state.

- **Please provide an update of the Bordentown armory's ability to meet the needs of service members and their families.**

The facility's \$3.5 million renovation (100% federally funded) is now complete. Classrooms, offices, café and conference rooms have been remodeled along with the main drill floor. Both buildings have also received new roofs. The building is fully operational and playing host to a constant flow of Service and Family Member Support activities and events.

Veterans Program Support

The Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery

12. The Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery, located in Arneytown, North Hanover Township, Burlington County, was first dedicated on May 30, 1986 by Governor Thomas H. Kean. The facility was funded jointly by the State and federal governments and is managed by the department. Since then, the cemetery has become the nation's busiest state veterans' cemetery, conducting 3,090 burials in FY 2014, 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 (VA) Plot Internment Allowance. There is no cost to an eligible veteran for burial at Doyle Cemetery. Rated capacity for the cemetery, assuming full federal funding of the expansion and improvements outlined in the Cemetery Master Plan is 215,000 gravesites, an increase of 43,930 over the currently rated capacity of 171,070. In January 2014, Section Z was

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

completed. The Section Z project was made possible with a VA grant of \$10.8 million and is now available to the department for interring veterans and spouses. The expansion provided 10,700 double crypts and 4,800 niches for cremains.

- **Question:**
- **Are there any projects under construction or planned for the cemetery?**

Construction is underway for the Public Information Center funded by a \$3 million VA grant. This facility is located near the main entrance and is approximately 66% completed. This grant will improve the main entrance and will realign the drive. The Center itself will include Honor Guard, Admin and information center, as well as public restrooms. Completion is scheduled for June 15, 2015.

An Operations and Maintenance Grant for \$3,067,738 has been awarded and is under construction. This grants calls for realignment of grave markers; rehabilitation of 20,405 graves; installation of Grid Support Systems; extension of an irrigation system to Burial Fields; and general refurbishment and sod placement on Burial Fields. This project is scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

DMAVA is in the process of advertising for bids for the improvement and the necessary updating of the Cemetery Master Plan.

- **How many interments have there been each year since 2009?**

2009	2829
2010	2818
2011	3055
2012	3063
2013	3090
2014	3053

- **How does the cemetery capitalize on federal reimbursements?**

Federal reimbursements supplement state appropriations. The cemetery periodically receives large amounts of federal dollars through VA Cemetery Grants for construction projects for the expansion of the cemetery such as: Section Z, Public Information Center, and Operations And Maintenance grants, that have been described in this section.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

In addition the cemetery receives Plot Interment Allowance receipts from the VA that is utilized to supplement the state appropriation and are primarily utilized to fund critical equipment replacements.

- **How many cremains have been interred through the "Mission of Honor Effort" to locate, identify, and inter the unclaimed cremains of American veterans?**

There have been 20 ceremonies conducted by the Mission of Honor along with DMAVA with a total of 168 unclaimed cremains interred at Doyle Cemetery. Of the 151 there were:

22% who served in World War I
 62% who served in World War II
 15% who served in Korea/Vietnam
 1% who served in Mexican Border War

Longest unclaimed was 62 years with the average 26 years.

The Mission of Honor through their efforts has reunited 233 previously unclaimed cremains with family members.

Veterans' Memorial Homes

13. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, under the Division of Healthcare Services, operates three modern long-term care nursing homes located in Paramus, Menlo Park, and Vineland. These homes are inspected and licensed annually by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

- **Question:**
- **What are the demographics of each home?**

Conflict	Menlo Park	Paramus	Vineland
World War II	127	139	119
Korean	67	74	67
Vietnam	32	26	43
Peacetime	18	17	10
Gulf	0	1	3
Non-Veterans (Spouses)	60	54	51
Female Veterans	21	3	15

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

<i>Total</i>	<i>304</i>	<i>311</i>	<i>293</i>
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- **How do the homes capitalize on federal reimbursements?**

The Homes collect annual Medicare receipts of approximately \$11 million, which are utilized to offset operating costs.

- **What, if any, are the long-term plans of the department for addressing the greater need from the rapidly aging veteran population?**

Currently approximately 42% of our residents are WWII Veterans and the reality is the oldest Veteran population is rapidly declining with approximately 27K living WWII Veterans residing in NJ.

The challenge will be to keep our facilities full with an ever decreasing Veterans population, more specifically with smaller population of eligible NJ Korean (49K) and Vietnam (142K) Veterans.

Currently the Homes are allowed to fill 237 beds (25%) with other than Veterans (Spouses & Gold Star parents). Currently 165 (18%) of Residents are not Veterans.

- **Are there any expansions planned for any of the homes?**

There are no current plans to expand.

- **What is the inspection rating that the homes receive compared to similar privately operated and rated facilities within the State?**

Per the annual report prepared by Genworth Financial the average daily care rate for a semi-private room in a New Jersey Long Term care facility is \$300. Currently the Daily Care rate for our Homes is \$260. The table below contains FY 2015 evaluation data for the three New Jersey Veterans Memorial homes.

EVALUATION DATA FY 2015	Menlo Park	Paramus	Vineland
Operating Data			
Domiciliary and Treatment Services			
Rated Capacity	312	336	300
Average daily population	304	322	290
Ratio: Daily population/Total Positions	0.8/1	0.9/1	0.7/1
Annual per capita	\$96,207	\$92,699	\$102,076

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Daily per capita	\$263.58	\$253.97	\$279.65
EVALUATION DATA FY 2015 Personnel Data - Position Data			
Filled Positions by Funding Source			
State Supported	391	370	400
Total Positions	391	370	400
Filled Positions by Program Class			
Domiciliary and Treatment Services	309	307	311
Administration and Support Services	82	63	89
Total Positions	391	370	400
Direct Services	25,792,000	24,574,000	27,118,000
Grants in Aid (Pharmacy)	55,000	55,000	55,000
Federal Funds (Medicare)	3,400,000	5,220,000	2,429,000
Total State Appropriation	29,247,000	29,849,000	29,602,000

- **How many hours did various organizations provide volunteer support at each home and what does that equal in terms of cost avoidance to the department?**

Vineland: $24,014 \times \$25.91$ (per hour) = \$622,202 + \$32,200 (donations) = \$654,402

Menlo Park: $21,664 \times \$25.91$ (per hour) = \$561,314 + \$90,000 (donations) = \$651,314

Paramus: $27,395 \times \$25.91$ (per hour) = \$709,804 + \$83,720 (donations) = \$793,524

Veterans Haven

14. Veterans Haven is the department's transitional housing program for homeless veterans operated by the State. Veterans Haven-South is located on the grounds of the former Ancora Psychiatric Hospital in Winslow, Camden County. Veterans Haven-North, located on the premises of the former Senator Garrett W. Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital, in Glen Gardner, Lebanon Township, opened on July 1, 2012.

- **Question:**
- **Is Veterans Haven-North fully operational?** Yes.
- **How many veterans are living in the facility?**

Presently there are 72 residents living at Vet Haven North.

- **Have any additional funds been expended directly to improve Veterans Haven-North and is the funding sufficient as the facility begins its third year of operation?**

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Veterans' Haven North received nearly \$1.1 million in state appropriations for FY2015. This appropriation will be used for salary and operational costs, not for improvements to the facility.

- **How are Veterans Haven-North and Veterans Haven-South subsidized by the federal government?**

Veterans' Haven North is currently in the third year of a 5 year contract with the USDVA to supply 30 of its beds for emergency contract housing to acutely homeless veterans. Veterans' Haven North receives per diem for each of the 30 veterans housed through this contract. During times of need, VA has extended this number to 34.

- **What are the significant funding differences between Veterans Haven-North and Veterans Haven-South?**

1. State Appropriations: South: \$963,000; North: \$1,061,000

2. Vet Haven South receives grant and per diem which is continuous funding source.

3. Vet Haven North is not in the grant and per diem program as of yet. We must wait for the USDVA to announce a notice of funds available (NOFA) for us to apply for the grant and per diem. We are looking for a possible announcement this next federal fiscal year. The contract entered into with the USDVA to supply emergency contract housing is based on a grant received by VISN 3 and must be reapplied for at the end of the grant period. In this case, a 5 year period, as long as satisfactory services are being supplied as per the contract scope of work. The per diem rate received for each veteran "bed day" is calculated to be 100% of the cost to house that veteran for the day.

- **What volunteer organizations provide assistance to Veterans Haven-North and Veterans Haven-South? What support and services do these organizations provide?**

The American Legion along with its Ladies Auxiliary and SAL detachments.

VFW along with its Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries.

Voices of Valor.

Creature Comfort Pet Therapy.

Philipsburg area Veterans.

Rolling Thunder of NJ.

Order of the Cooties (VFW)

DAV

ELK's

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Knights of Columbus
Lions Club
Jewish War Veterans

These organizations provide food, snacks, clothing donations, bedding and toiletries, gift cards bicycles, window A/C units, room refrigerators, books and puzzles and cookouts.

American Legion donated new furniture to Vet Haven-North worth \$225,000.

Vet2Vet Helpline

15. The department, in conjunction with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), established a veterans' 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 Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other veteran issues, including traumatic brain injury. P.L.2011, c.116 requires the appropriation annually of a sum sufficient for the operation of the program. The cost to support the program has risen from \$300,000 in FY 2011 to \$383,000 in FY 2015. Previously, the helpline was funded through an allocation from the State appropriation for PTSD under Veterans' Program Support in the department's budget. Now, the helpline is funded out of the Support Services for Returning Veterans appropriation.

- **Question:**
- **How does the department track the success or failure of this program?**

It is difficult to prove that a prevention program works. Yet there is compelling face validity to the value of peer support. The caller has someone with that shared military service background, who answers the phone, does not judge, has time to listen and knows the resources that can help. NJ Vet2Vet has many anecdotal reports from callers attesting to the value of peer support and callers uniformly report very high customer satisfaction with the peer support program.

We do however also have indicators and measurements that we use to track program success. For example we track the number of incoming calls received, the number of outgoing calls, the number of in person contacts, and the follow up calls to those we are actively providing peer support. We also monitor the number of active cases in which we are providing ongoing peer support. For example we currently are actively speaking to 328 NJ Veterans or National Guard members on a regular basis. Typically these are individuals dealing with challenges and struggling. This is a dynamic number.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

As a result of the Vet2Vet Helpline, we are healthier population than we were 10 years ago.

- **How many veterans and families have been assisted each year since FY 2010?**

YEAR	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015*
Clients	604	655	744	724	707	853
Individual Sessions	8490	8944	9183	9957	9108	5980
Group Sessions	5990	6622	5779	5668	4077	3347
Other	1910	2231	3883	4804	6399	3186
Total Sessions	16390	17797	18845	20029	19584	12513

**FY 2015 July – Dec 2014*

- **Is the department experiencing an increase in service members identified as suffering from a mental health condition such as PTSD?**

DMAVA continues to see a substantial increase in the number of Veterans seeking treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

- **Has the department experienced a large response from families of service members?**

New Jersey is committed to providing a helping hand and remains 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.

Currently, we have 245 spouses, 90 daughters and 19 sons seeking counseling through our counseling program.

- **What are the plans to continue and improve the services provided by the helpline?**

We anticipate call volume to continue to increase in FY 16.

Another component that will be a tremendous addition in the coming year is the initiative to work with those resource organization listed in the DMAVA booklet to ensure they have a better understanding of the ongoing peer support offered at NJ Vet2Vet. Our goal is for those providing specific resources to let the recipient of the resources know more about NJ Vet2Vet peer support. What we find in this program and others is those who are receiving services, etc. like also being connected to a peer. The peer is able to maintain a valuable connection as they

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

receive resources and continue with them on their journey. We are planning to host an event at the call center for those community partners that provide resources.

We are working a cost effective way to ensure each program has clinical support without having to fully fund a clinician. For the NJ Vet2Vet program this will be a valuable improvement to augment increased activity and to formalize peer training.

Ultimately the goal of our program is to have 24 hours a day, seven days a week call center presence. Hiring Veterans also supports our state and nation's desire to hire those that have volunteered to serve.

Veteran Service Organizations

16. One way the department has been able to maximize its resources to accomplish its core mission of operating three veteran memorial homes is to form partnerships. The department has fostered relationships with Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) to provide assistance to mitigate rising costs and to enhance the services provided to residents at the three memorial homes. Some VSOs are "chartered", which means they are federally chartered and/or recognized or approved by the United State Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary for purposes of preparation, presentation, and processing of claims under laws administered by the VA. Non-chartered organizations lack VA recognition for purposes of representation of VA claimants.

- **Question:**
- **How many VSOs does the department have relationships with and which counties do they serve?**

DMAVA has 16 VSO offices that serve all 21 counties in New Jersey.

- **What are the duties and responsibilities of VSOs in New Jersey?**

DMAVA VSO's perform a multitude of services at their offices and at outreach events through the State. Their primary responsibility is assisting in the filing of new federal claims for veterans, dependents, and survivors, along with reopening claims for review and upgrade. VSOs also assists with:

- request for records
- state medal requests
- transportation requests
- powers of attorney
- medical inquiries
- home loan guarantee
- waiver of debt

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

- state property tax deduction/exemption
 - cemetery pre-registration
 - insurance
 - state entitlements
 - state PTSD program
 - in-office counseling
 - telephonic counseling
 - outreach contacts
 - e-benefits contacts
- **What are the most significant issues that generate the most VA claims and what are the total costs in terms of dollars for each issue?**

There are four main categories that the VA compensates veterans where our VSO's are Power of Attorney (POA). They are Death Compensation & DIC, Death Pension, Live Compensation and Live Pension. Issues are listed as part of the claim submittal. Most claims have multiple issues. New Jersey veterans received \$152,758,821 in compensation for FY14. Breakdown is as follows:

1. Live Compensation is Service Connected and can consist of: PTSD, TBI, Wounds of combat, Hearing loss, amputees, MST, Agent Orange Claims, and others. These claims account for 83% of Compensation.
2. Death Compensation and DIC: For survivors of those veterans who died of a service connected disability. These claims accounted for 9% of Compensation.
3. Death Pension: For those widows whose spouse died of a non-service connected disability. These claims accounted for 3% of Compensation.
4. Live Pension: These pensions are for non-service connected disability and also aid and attendance claims. These claims accounted for 5% of Compensation.

FY 14	\$152,758,821
FY 13	\$133,396,827
FY 12	\$122,019,581
FY 11	\$107,244,314
FY 10	\$80,123,710
FY 09	\$72,213,623