

Discussion Points

FEDERAL BUDGET

1. According to [America First, A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again](#), published by the United States Office of Management and Budget, the President's 2018 Budget requests \$639 billion for the Department of Defense (DOD). The President's Budget proposes to repeal the defense sequestration by restoring \$52 billion to the DOD, and to provide an additional \$2 billion to other national defense programs, for a \$54 billion total increase in funding for national defense discretionary budget authority above the sequestration level budget cap. The increase in the President's recommendation for the DOD is "to invest in a stronger military" intended to accelerate the defeat of ISIS; address warfighting readiness; rebuild the U.S. Armed Forces; devise a new national Defense Strategy; initiate a reform agenda; strengthen the U.S. Army; rebuild the U.S. Navy; ready and equip the U.S. Marine Corps; and accelerate U.S. Air Force improvement efforts.

From the department's perspective, what could the President's 2018 Budget mean for the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard, if enacted?

What impact could it have on the department's Military Services budget, workforce, programs, services, and clients?

Has the department received any information with regard to changes in federal funding to New Jersey?

The impact of federal funding changes cannot be calculated until Congress enacts a Federal Budget.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

FEDERAL BUDGET

2. According to [America First, A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again](#), published by the United States Office of Management and Budget, the President's 2018 Budget requests \$78.9 billion in discretionary funding for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This represents an increase of \$4.4 billion or 6 percent above the 2017 enacted level. In addition, the President's 2018 Budget requests legislative authority and \$3.5 billion in mandatory budget authority in 2018 to continue the Veterans Choice Program, which allows veterans enrolled in VA health care to receive health care within their community. The VA provides healthcare and a wide variety of benefits to military veterans, their families, and survivors.

From the department's perspective, what could the President's 2018 Budget mean for Veterans Program Support programs and the three Veterans' Memorial Homes, if enacted?

What impact could it have on the department's Services to Veterans budget, workforce, programs, services, and clients?

Has the department received any information with regard to changes in federal funding to New Jersey?

The impact of federal funding changes cannot be calculated until Congress enacts a Federal Budget.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

History of Mobilizations since September 11, 2001

3. According to the departments' response to a FY 2017 OLS Discussion Point, since September 11, 2001, the New Jersey National Air Guard has deployed 8,623 Airmen while the New Jersey Army National Guard has activated and deployed 11,508 soldiers in support of contingency operations around the globe. The Air National Guard has flown more than 9,000 sorties equaling more than 35,000 flight hours. About 84.5 percent of New Jersey National Guard soldiers and airmen are available for mobilization. Moreover, the New Jersey Army National Guard's strength was at 102 percent at the time of the department's discussion point response and that of the New Jersey Air National Guard at 108 percent.

New Jersey Air National Guard Efforts since September 11, 2001: 108 th Wing	
Year	Operation
2001-2002	Operation Noble Eagle (ONE)/Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF): KC-135 Aviation Squadrons to Oman.
2001-2003	Operation Noble Eagle (ONE)/Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF): Security Forces Squadron to Afghanistan, Cuba, etc.
2003-2004	Operation Noble Eagle (ONE)/Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF): KC-135 Aviation Squadrons to Spain and Portugal.
2007-2008	Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF): Security Forces Squadron 80 + Members.
2009 (May-June)	Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF): Aviation Rotation – 200 + Members 2009-2010.
2009-2010 (Dec-June)	Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF): Civil Engineers - 66 Members.
2011 (Jan-Feb)	Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) to Guam - 43 Members.
2011 (Mar-Sept)	Operation Odyssey Dawn and Unified Protector – 2 Crews 1 jet, mobilized within hours.
2014	Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) to Guam.
2015	Mobilization to Qatar.
Source: FY 2017 DMAVA Responses to Discussion Points	

New Jersey Air National Guard Efforts since September 11, 2001: 177 th Fighter Wing	
Year	Operation
2001	Operation Noble Eagle (ONE): Mobilized 450 Personnel for NORAD mission.
2001	Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF): Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS) personnel, various locations.
2002	Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF): 39 Security Forces personnel, Qatar, Uzbekistan, Greece, and Romania.
2003	Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF): Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS) personnel mobilized.
2004	Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)/Joint Forge: AEF rotation: Six aircraft and 400 personnel (including ECS) deploy to Al Udied, Qatar and ECS to various locations.
2006	Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF): Four aircraft, 239 personnel, Balad AB, Iraq.
2006	Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS) AEF Rotation: 29 Personnel, various OCONUS locations.
2006-2007	Operation Jump Start (OJS): 80 Personnel, various locations.
2007	Operation Nobel Eagle (ONE)/Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)/Joint Guardian: 50 + personnel, various locations.
2008	Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS) AEF Rotation: 42 personnel, various OCONUS locations.
2010	Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) mobilization.
2010	Security Forces Squadron (SFS) mobilization.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

2011	Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) – Bagram, Afghanistan.
2014	Theater Security Package – Korea – 238 personnel.
Source: FY 2017 DMAVA Responses to Discussion Points	

New Jersey Army National Guard Efforts since September 11, 2001	
Year	Operation
2000-2001	Operation Bridges and Tunnels: Federally directed to support “key infrastructure between NJ/NY directly following the attacks on 9/11/01. New Jersey ARNG Supported NY/NJ Bridges and Tunnels = 2,000 Soldiers
2002-2003	TF Airport Security: Federally directed to support “key infrastructure within NJ directly following the attacks on 9/11/01. New Jersey ARNG Supported Newark, Atlantic City, Trenton/Mercer Airport Security Forces = 50 Soldiers.
2002-2007	Operation Power Plant Guardian: State directed to support “key infrastructure within NJ directly following the attacks on 9/11/01. New Jersey ARNG Supported Salem/Oyster Creek Power Plant = 1,400 Soldiers.
2003-2009	Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF): Deployed units included the 42 nd Division Support Command, 50 th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 57 th Troop Command, 254 th Regiment, 42 nd Regional Support Group, Medical Command, and Joint Force Headquarters = 6,504 Soldiers.
2003–Present	Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF): Deployed units included the 42 nd Division Support Command, 50 th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 57 th Troop Command, 254 th Regiment, 42 nd Regional Support Group, Medical Command, Joint Training and Training Development Center, and Joint Force Headquarters = 1,709 Soldiers.
2004-2005, 2015-2016	TF Guantanamo Bay, Cuba: Deployed units included the 113 th Infantry Battalion, HHC/50 th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 102 nd Armor, and 444 th Public Affairs Detachment, 328 th Military Police Company = 822 Soldiers.
2004-2005	TF Sentinel Multi-Forces Observer (MFO): Deployed unites included 114 th Infantry and 250 th Brigade Support Battalion = 424 Soldiers.
2014-2015	Kosovo Force (KFOR): Deployed units included the 50 th Support Battalion, 250 th Brigade Support Battalion, 150 th Aviation, 350 th Finance Detachment = 202 Soldiers.
Source: FY 2017 DMAVA Responses to Discussion Points	

Have there been any additional New Jersey National Guard (NJNG) deployments since 2014-2015?

Army – 1948th Contracting Team (4 personnel, current)

Air-108th Wing

2016 – Mobilization to Qatar (106 personnel, various dates); AEF to Guam (102 personnel; Apr – May)

2017 – Current deployments, Mobilization to Qatar (9 personnel); Mobilization to Kuwait (13 Security Forces); AEF to Guam (3 personnel)

2018 – Future mobilizations to several different AORs (current projection of 172 personnel)

Air-117th Fighter Wing

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

2016 – Mobilization to Qatar 4 personnel, various dates; AEF support to Turkey 4 personnel Apr – Oct;

2017 – Mobilization to Japan 4 personnel for TSP (Feb -); 1 AEF Tasking to Germany; 239 Personnel to Osan AB, Feb - ; 24 Personnel to UAE for Mobilization, Apr - Oct

2018 – Pending Mobilization push for July including 200+ personnel

Currently, the NJ Army and Air Guard has 293 members deployed around the world.

Because in the responses to the FY 2017 Discussion Points the department indicated that 84.5 percent of the Soldiers and Airmen were available for mobilization, but the New Jersey Army and Air National Guards' strengths were at 102 percent and 108 percent, respectively, what is the difference between being available for mobilization and the strength of the NJNG?

Members who are already mobilized, those preparing to attend or attending additional training or those undergoing medical readiness reviews are not included in the total available for mobilization.

Does the strength percentage include NJNG members who are on reserve or do the reservists comprise a separate count and percentage? How many NJNG members are on reserve compared to those who are not on reserve?

No active NJNG members are in reserve status.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

New Jersey National Guard Retention and Recruitment

4. According to the responses to the FY 2017 Discussion Points, the New Jersey Army National Guard (NJARNG) has five recruiting regions in New Jersey. The process to become a NJARNG recruit includes: meeting prequalification requirements such as age, prior service, physical requirements, law violations, education, medical dependents, and tattoos (APPLE-MDT); Interviewing/Livescan (fingerprints); taking the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) tests; taking a physical exam; and enlisting. The department also provided a summary of each Army recruiting region and the related enlistment statistics.

New Jersey Army National Guard Recruitment by Region						
Fiscal Year	Region 1 Essex, Hudson, Bergen	Region 2 Morris, Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon, Passaic	Region 3 Middlesex, Somerset, Union	Region 4 Mercer, Monmouth, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester	Region 5 Ocean, Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Salem	Total Recruits
2011	355	113	170	177	134	949
2012	349	108	124	132	134	847
2013	346	76	150	106	133	811
2014	310	60	165	142	120	797
2015	266	102	147	163	108	786
Total	1,626	459	756	720	629	4,190

Source: DMAVA Responses to FY 2017 Discussion Points

According to the FY 2017 Discussion Point responses, the New Jersey Air National Guard (NJAIRNG) recruiting does not regionalize its efforts. Each Wing recruits from the entire State to meet organizational needs. Both Wing recruiting teams, under the guidance and direction from the State Recruiting Superintendent, recruit not only to fill their own vacancies but also will look routinely to the other Wing to place individuals as needed.

New Jersey Air National Guard Recruitment			
Fiscal Year	108 th Wing	177 th Wing	Total
2011	84	112	196
2012	121	112	233
2013	126	153	279
2014	134	151	285
2015	135	122	257
Total	600	650	1,250

Source: DMAVA Responses to FY 2017 Discussion Points

What are the retention rates for the NJARNG and the NJANG by years of service?

Army National Guard retention rate is running at 85% for the FY starting 1 Oct 16.

Air National Guard retention rate is running at 96% for the FY starting 1 Oct 16.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Please describe the training process that the newly recruited Army and Air National Guard members undergo prior to deployment.

Army- Basic Combat Training (BCT) is a training course conducted over ten weeks held at one of five Army installations across the country. Recruits will learn basic tactical and survival skills along with how to shoot, rappel, and march. They will also learn the basics of military customs, including the Seven Core Army Values.

Air-All new enlisted members attend 8 weeks of Basic Training at Lackland AFB, TX that fully prepares them for the military. After Basic Training they are required by the Air Force to attend various technical schools which could up s to a year to complete depending on the complexity of their chosen career field.

Are NJANG recruits licensed pilots prior to enlisting?

No, only a small number of NJANG members are pilots. Currently 73 of the 2238 members are authorized. Those selected to become pilots are required to have a basic pilot license. This is a new requirement in response to recent trends showing a higher failure rate among those who do not already have a basic pilot license when starting Air Force Pilot Training.

What training do NJANG recruits undergo and what ratings must they achieve before being mission ready?

Training occurs in three phases and all are required before a member is considered mission ready.

Once recruited, the member is sent to initial basic military training. They complete initial military training and then proceed to technical training, in a pilot career, that would be initial Air Force pilot training.

The next step is for them to go to advanced training for specialization in that career field, i.e. Training in a specific Fighter/Airlift/Tanker aircraft. After that it is off to the unit of assignment where further on the job training occurs to refine and enhance their skills. For a pilot, that would include upgrade training from a co-pilot to a pilot in command. Once the member has been signed off on all required training items, they are considered fully mission capable.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Sea Girt Regional Training Institute Construction

5. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMAVA) broke ground in FY 2015 on a Regional Training Institute (RTI) at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt. Once completed, the RTI will be an 86,000 square foot facility that includes student housing, classrooms, and an administration building. The RTI will allow the 254th Training Regiment, a premier Army National Guard training unit in the Northeast, to expand training for soldiers around the region. Construction of the RTI is 100 percent federally funded.

In the responses to the FY 2017 Discussion Points, the DMAVA indicated that the RTI project was scheduled for completion in early FY 2017. Once completed, the RTI would be available to the State Police, the Department of Corrections, and the Juvenile Justice Commission for training purposes.

The RTI project received a \$31.9 million federal grant. However, Schedule 2, Federal Revenues, indicates that actual federal funds received for the project in FY 2014, FY 2015, and FY 2016 were \$1.9 million, \$6.6 million, and \$14.1 million, respectively, for a total of \$22.6 million. In addition, the FY 2018 Governor's Budget anticipates the receipt of an additional \$10.0 million in federal funds in FY 2017 and in FY 2018, which would bring the federal funds total to \$42.6 million.

Please provide a full accounting of federal funds received and expected to be received for the RTI project, amounts expended, remaining account balances, and, if applicable, unspent amounts that have reverted to the federal government. Please explain why the department is anticipating an additional \$20 million in federal funds for the RTI in FY 2017 and FY 2018 combined. Is the \$20 million intended for the original project under the original grant award or is it anticipated for another project under a new grant award?

To date the Department has expended \$33.2 million in federal funds and the project is on schedule for completion in 2017.

Please explain the federal funding process for military construction, especially with regard to the timing of federal disbursements, State expenditures, and the process of budgeting military construction funds in the State budget.

The level of Federal support for a Federal Military Construction (MILCON) Projects depends upon the intended use of the project. Under U.S. code the dual use of the National Guard Readiness Centers qualifies them for a federal match of 75% for construction costs. The State is responsible for costs associated land acquisition. Under National Guard Regulations facilities operations and repair are reimbursed at a rate of 50% of the cost.

MILCON projects are generally funded thru a Master Construction Cooperative Agreement and the State is reimbursed funds for construction costs incurred.

What encumbrance and expenditure timetable do federal military construction funds follow, e.g., a two years to encumber and three years to expend schedule?

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

MILCON Appropriations are required to be obligated or encumbered within 5 years and expended within another 5 years. DOD highly encourages that project funds be obligated within the year of appropriation.

Additionally, for projects under \$1 million in total federal construction cost there is a Minor MILCON. Funds must be encumbered within one year of appropriation but expended within 5 years.

Please provide an update of the construction status of the RTI. Relative to the original project plan, is the project on time, on budget, and unchanged in its scope of work? If there have been any changes, please specify the current project budget, the expected completion date, and the revised scope of work. If changed, how are the revised plans different from the original plans and what factors account for the changes?

The RTI project is expected to receive beneficial occupancy by summer of 2017. The original construction timeline called for a 28-month construction. To date we have expended 33.2 million in federal funds on this project including federal construction contingency limits. The scope has remained unchanged.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Base Realignment and Closure

6. Executive Order No. 134 of 2013 created the New Jersey Military Installation Growth and Development Task Force and charged it with the preparation of a report to the Governor detailing its recommendations to preserve, enhance, and strengthen the State's military installations. As a result of one of the recommendations in the final task force report to the Governor, which was submitted in July 2015, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 192. This executive order extended the life of the task force and created the Military and Defense Economic Ombudsman housed in the Department of State's Business Action Center. The mission of the Ombudsman is to preserve, enhance, and strengthen the State's military installations.

With regard to workload and staffing, what, if any, is the extent of DMAVA's continued involvement with the task force and the implementation of its recommendations?

DMAVA continues to support the task force.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Capital Leases

7. Among its total capital assets, the State has considerable land holdings, valued by the FY 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report at about \$5.22 billion (Land and Easements, p. 26). Land and easements may be held for future use, restricted as to future uses, or not needed for public purposes and available for sale, lease or other disposition. Knowledge about the extent, location, condition and intended use of these properties and property rights does not appear to be readily available. There could be potentially beneficial uses of some properties, other than those intended by the state agency in control of the properties, depending on the size, location and condition of those properties.

Please list each property under ownership or control of the department comprising unimproved or vacant land one acre or more in size, excluding land comprising all or part of a State park, recreation or wildlife management area, identifying each property by county and municipal location, street address, tax map block and lot number and, if available, Global Positioning System coordinates. Please provide the size of the property, its current use, intended future use within the next five years, and any known or suspected environmental contamination that would impede its future use. Please also describe any deed restrictions affecting current and future use.

If a DMAVA owned property becomes vacant, an assessment is done to determine if the property can be used for other departmental purposes. If the property is no longer necessary to the department in meeting its mission, the Department of the Treasury is notified. Current law establishes the procedure for its disposition.

What are the department's policies and procedures for determining future uses of its land holdings that further the department's mission, and for allowing beneficial uses of its land in ways that are outside the department's traditional mission?

DMAVA has placed great emphasis on master planning for both our National Guard facilities and for our Veterans facilities. Last year a masterplan for the BG Doyle Veterans cemetery was completed and the department has submitted for a capital improvement project thru treasury to facilitate the acquisition of additional property as the current property will likely reach maximum capacity in the next twenty years.

The Army National Guard has completed an extension Real Property Development Plan that would involve future MILCON that would take advantage of existing property as much as possible but may require acquisition of property and disposal of property. The master plan includes the life cycle replacement or renovation of every facility within our inventory.

Colgate Clock

8. The FY 2018 Governor's Budget retains the following language that was first added in the FY 2017 Appropriations Act: "Notwithstanding the provisions of any law or regulation to the contrary, lease or licensing payments received by the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs in connection with the property known as the 'Colgate Clock' located on Block 2, Lot C on the Official Tax Map of Jersey

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

City, New Jersey, shall be deposited in the General Fund.” According to the DMAVA, the clock is located at 20 Hudson Street in Jersey City. The 2.6-acre Colgate Clock property was purchased from Colgate Palmolive in 1940 for the purpose of constructing an armory which never occurred and, according to the DMAVA, the property is too small for future development for any National Guard purpose.

There is a recurring use agreement between DMAVA and Colgate Palmolive to allow Colgate to keep their clock on the site. Since FY 2004, the DMAVA has received \$2,648,450 in lease payments and in FY 2015 the department collected \$275,000 from Colgate. In accordance with the budget language, receipts from the Colgate lease are deposited in the General Fund as of FY 2017.

In response to a FY 2017 OLS discussion point, the department indicated that it was “not considering a sale of the Colgate Clock property but there is a 3 phase project designed to repair the bulkhead, and to establish a walkway and park on the site.” The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection executed the first phase of site development which included the new bulkhead and the walk way. Phase two was executed by Colgate which was to replace the clock and also to install site improvements on the portion of the property adjacent to the clock. The department is working on the details of phase three to develop the small remaining parcel into a park.

The “Colgate Clock” was built on the former site of the Colgate-Palmolive factory in Jersey City in 1924. It is 50 feet in diameter and was, at one time, the largest clock in the world and could be seen from Manhattan. Over time the clock became an iconic landmark. The current clock is a replacement of the original Colgate clock that was built in a different location in 1906 in celebration of Colgate’s centennial anniversary. In 1910, Colgate moved its corporate headquarters to Jersey City and remained in Jersey City until 1985 when the company moved its headquarters to New York City.

For what purpose did DMAVA use the revenue from the lease payments prior to the receipts being deposited in the General Fund?

DMAVA used the proceeds from the lease agreement to fund armory operations and maintenance.

Please provide a chart of the annual revenue received by the department from the Colgate lease payments since 2004.

Colgate Fee Structure

Jul 04 - Jun 05	75,000
Jul 05 - Jun 06	82,500
Jul 06 - Jun 07	150,125
Jul 07 - Jun 08	215,825
Jul 08 - Jun 09	250,000
Jul 09 - Jun 10	250,000
Jul 10 - Jun 11	250,000

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Jul 11 - Jun 12	275,000
Jul 12 - Jun 13	275,000
Jul 13 - Jun 14	275,000
Jul 14 - Jun 15	275,000
Jul 15 - Jun 16	275,000
Total	2,648,450

What is the status of phase 3 of the park project and is the State providing any funding for the project?

DMAVA has identified the property as excess.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

**New Jersey National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Academy (NJYCA),
also known as the New Jersey National Guard ChalleNGe Youth Academy**

9. The NJYCA program is part of the United States National Guard Youth ChalleNGe program, and for the most part federally funded. The mission of the NJYCA is "to provide a highly disciplined environment fostering academics, leadership development, physical training, and personal growth to educate and train unemployed youth who ceased to attend high school." The 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. The cadets 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 the Key Performance Indicators in the FY 2018 Governor's Budget, the NJYCA graduated 100 youths per class in FY 2015 and FY 2016 and projects it will graduate 100 cadets in FY 2017 and FY 2018. Academic credentials per class have declined by 44 percent from FY 2015 to FY 2018. The department notes in the FY 2018 Governor's Budget that the decline in academic credentials awards is "attributable to the increased rigorousness of the GED [General Education Diploma] in conjunction with the general decline in entering cadets' academic achievement level. The program continues to deliver improvement in academic achievement of cadets with an average increase of two grade levels."

New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Program Academic Credentials FY 2015 to FY 2018				
	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018*
NJYCA Cadet Graduations	100	100	100	100
Academic Credentials Awarded	90	70	60	50

* Target
Source: FY 2017 and FY 2018 Governor's Budgets.

What is the current return on investment for the New Jersey National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program?

The goal is to address At Risk Youth as the primary function of the Academy. Every cadet that crosses our graduation threshold is no longer considered "At Risk." In addition to possibly earning their GED, they graduate with a host of possibilities and tools to further their development in a variety of areas.

The Program assists all Cadets in the exploration and preparation of possible career options, through career assessments, interest inventories, and skills training.

Cadets attend classes on hygiene, nutrition, and substance abuse prevention. Additional courses in human sexuality, family planning, and communicable diseases assist them in learning the effects of their decisions as they make their way into society.

Cadets will be offered opportunities designed to increase their self-awareness, self-discipline, and independent living skills through a combination of activities and a structured living environment. The Program teaches Cadets the importance of goal setting and managing personal finances along with strategies and coping mechanisms for dealing with conflicts, emotions, and other related stressors (i.e. anger, grief, anxiety, frustration, etc.).

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Please describe the results of this program in terms of the number and percentage of graduates since 2012 who: a) received their New Jersey High School diploma; b) joined the workforce; c) continued their education; and d) joined the National Guard or other military components of the US Armed Forces.

During the 12-month post-graduation or post-residential phase, these are the percentages of graduates were working, in the military, etc.

<i>Class</i>	<i>Graduation Date</i>	<i># of Graduates</i>	<i>HS Diploma</i>	<i>Work Force %</i>	<i>Education %</i>	<i>Military %</i>
45	03/17	81	26%	19%	21%	2%
44	09/16	82	27%	61%	41%	4%
43	03/16	109	33%	52%	34%	6%
42	09/15	100	43%	63%	39%	4%
41	03/15	100	45%	58%	34%	7%
40	09/14	57	40%	74%	46%	2%
39	03/14	101	27%	27%	20%	4%

What is the number of hours and examples of community service volunteered by program participants in the last three academy years.

NJYCA Class #	Graduation Date	Total # of Hours	Total Value of Service
45	03/17	3,770	\$95,494.10
44	09/16	4,355	\$110,312.15
43	03/16	5,965	\$151,093.45
42	09/15	5,432.5	\$137,605.22
41	03/15	4,350	\$110,185.50
40	09/14	3,221	\$81,587.93
39	03/14	4,578	\$115,960.74
TOTAL		31,671.5	\$802,239.09

The following are some examples of Service to Community completed during the last three Academy years:

1. Allaire, Monmouth Battlefield, Washington Crossing and Statue of liberty (Liberty Park)- Cadets assisted in cleanup of the state parks.
2. Willingboro JFK Center-Cadets assisted with Trunk or Treat providing a safe way for children to trick or treat.
3. Habitat for Humanity and the ReStore- Cadets assisted with restocking shelves and painting houses for soon to be occupants.
4. Color a Smile-Cadets send cards/pictures/etc. to military stationed overseas.
5. Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JBMDL) Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Center – Cadets assist with various Base events throughout the year (Read across America, 5K races, Air Show, military picnics, etc).
6. Trenton Rescue Mission – Distributed donated items to homeless individuals.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

7. Arlington Cemetery-Cadets assisted with putting flags on the graves of fallen Military members.
8. Hug Wraps-Non-profit organization that sews brightly colored hospital gowns for cancer patients.
9. MLK Day of Service- Cadets painted murals on the Boys and Girls Club of Camden's windows, organized classrooms, and created indoor hopscotch mats for children.
10. Pemberton Early Education Center – Cadets assisted with various afterschool events.

Please specify how the rigor of the GED has increased. What is the reason for the increased rigor of the GED? Was this a federal policy change?

The GED Testing Service made the decision to overhaul the test and build a program from the ground up, specifically for adult learners. In 2014, the new GED exam was introduced.

Administering the GED is not a mandatory component of ChalleNge. The goal across all ChalleNge Programs is to increase academic levels.

What is the reason for the general decline in entering cadets' academic achievement levels?

Chronic absenteeism throughout a cadet's K-12 education has a severe impact on their incoming academic achievement levels in the Challenge program.

Has the program changed its recruitment requirements, standards, or process?

The recruiting and marketing process has changed in the past 2 years. New Jersey is now divided into 3 zones; North, Central, and South. Each zone has a dedicated recruiter.

1. Each recruiter will zone prospect a minimum of two (2) days per week consisting of:
 - a. Visiting the schools in his or zone. They will prioritize visits based on the quality of the potential candidates.
 - b. Visiting institutions such as YMCA, churches, police departments, Human Services, advisory councils, etc.
 - c. Distribute Take-One Boxes and "Tear-Off" Sheets at restaurants, convenience stores, hair salons, check cashing places, etc.
 - d. To increase awareness among merchants and businesses, membership and visitation to Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, etc. will be accomplished.
2. Monthly NJYCA Newsletters will be e-mailed to our entire contact list including, counselors, prior Cadets, and upcoming Academy candidates, etc.
3. Efforts will be made to invite and conduct a presentation to high school counselors held at NG Armories. At these presentations, efforts will be made to invite the counselors to an open house at the Academy.
4. The use of Social Media will be used as a source of marketing.

We have found that our Academy has more competition than in years past. This Administration has worked to provide at-risk students more educational options to help them prepare for career or additional education such as charter schools, alternative high schools, and renaissance schools.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

What actions can be taken to improve the ratio of academic credentials awarded per class?

During the interview process we are now administering the TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) Locator Test. The TABE test is used to assess a student's academic readiness. The TABE test covers reading, math and language. This is designed to measure a wide range of ability. This is a tool being used during the recruitment process that is helping to improve the Academic quality of our Cadets as well as, in theory, attempting to improve the ratio of Academic credentials awarded per class.

During the application process we are asking the families to complete a "Wellness Assessment" to better determine how well an applicant may perform in our program and to assess any barriers which may limit their ability to complete it. This was developed with the assistance of the Quality Control Nurse from the NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

SERVICES TO VETERANS

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

10. According to the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs, National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is an anxiety disorder that can occur following the experience or witnessing of a life-threatening, traumatic event. In veterans, PTSD is a result of engaging in combat. Prior to its designation as a mental health disorder, PTSD was known as "soldier's heart" in the United States Civil War, "shell shock" in World War I, and "combat fatigue" in World War II. Other terms used to describe PTSD include "war neurosis" and "operational fatigue." In 2013, the American Psychiatric Association revised the PTSD criteria in its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM V) from an anxiety-related disorder to a new category, Trauma and Stressor-Related Disorders.

The DMAVA PTSD program provides counseling for veterans and their families at no cost through a State-wide network of professional providers. According to DMAVA, the State PTSD program provides counseling for up to seven years. In the first years of enrollment, a typical veteran and the veteran's family attend counseling at least four times per month. The frequency of sessions diminishes over time with group sessions substituted for individual counseling. Many State PTSD program enrollees utilize the full 84 months of service available. The program is funded through an annual appropriation of \$1.3 million.

**History of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Statistics and Budget Information
FY 2005 through FY 2018**

Fiscal Year	# of Cases	# of Counseling Sessions per Year	# of Counseling Sessions per Month	Program Cost per Year	Annual Appropriations
2005	245	6,466	2.19	\$ 427,555	\$ 300,000
2006	342	9,591	2.33	\$ 793,000	\$ 800,000
2007	575	12,701	1.80	\$ 992,000	\$ 800,000
2008	624	17,380	2.32	\$1,377,000	\$ 1,300,000
2009	677	18,328	2.25	\$1,500,000	\$ 1,300,000
2010	604	16,390	2.26	\$1,341,000	\$ 1,300,000
2011	655	17,797	2.26	\$1,137,000	\$ 1,300,000
2012	744	18,845	2.11	\$1,245,000	\$ 1,300,000
2013	724	20,029	2.30	\$1,300,000	\$ 1,300,000
2014	707	20,232	2.40	\$1,248,000	\$ 1,300,000
2015	746	18,240	2.10	\$1,323,000	\$ 1,300,000
2016	787	18,540	2.21	\$1,300,000	\$ 1,300,000
2017*	800	19,000	2.01	\$1,300,000	\$ 1,300,000
2018*	n.a.	20,400	n.a.	\$1,300,000	\$ 1,300,000

Source: DMAVA Responses to the FY 2017 Discussion Points, FY 2018 Governor's Budget.

*Estimate.

Per veteran, what is the average cost of an individual counseling session and a group session?

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Average cost: Individual Session: \$130
 Group Session: \$65
 Medication Management: \$75
 Initial Psychiatric Evaluation: \$375

For each fiscal year since FY 2010, please detail the number of individual and group sessions provided.

YEAR	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	*2017
Clients	604	655	744	724	707	853	684	786
Individual Sessions	8490	8944	9183	9957	9108	10997	10670	5825
Group Sessions	5990	6622	5779	5668	4077	7083	7436	5082
Other	1910	2231	3883	4804	6399	3943	1045	834
Total Sessions	16390	17797	18845	20029	19584	22023	19151	11741

*July through December 2016

Over time, has there been a shift in sessions provided from individual to group sessions? If so, what factors account for the shift?

The state program continues to provide individual counseling sessions as the recipients are most comfortable with this format. The individual sessions offer a safe haven for the veteran/family member fostering trust between the counselor and recipient, which leads to a healthier overall treatment program. Group sessions are also offered. Attendance among veterans varies, depending on the group offered and most providers have wartime specific group sessions. Providers are working on additional family support programs specifically geared towards spouses and children.

What is the total estimated cost for an individual for the duration of a seven-year program?

\$11,070.

What is the prevalence of PTSD among New Jersey Army and Air National Guard members?

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.

What is the prevalence of PTSD among all veterans in New Jersey?

Since December 2010 DVS-VBB has tracked Service Type and War Era clients under the PTSD Program.

<i>Clients by service type:</i>		<i>Captured War Era:</i>	
Air Force	123	OIF/OEF	1031
Army	1492	Vietnam	2482
Coast Guard	17	Gulf	36
Marine	514	WWII	134
National Guard 146		Korea	89
Navy	279	Other	176
Reserve	15		

Is there a wait list under the State program?

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

No

What is the social impact of PTSD among New Jersey veterans?

The Department's goal is to help each individual to successfully manage their lives with PTSD.

How effective is the program and how has it improved the lives of New Jersey veterans and their families?

Each client brings to our program a unique set of circumstances and goal objectives to obtain under counseling which cannot and should not be measured against another client.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Vet to Vet Hotline

11. DMAVA, in conjunction with Rutgers, The State University, operates a veteran peer support program telephone helpline, known as the "Vet to Vet Hotline." The helpline features clinical assessment and assistance to veterans and their 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 and other veteran issues, including traumatic brain injury, 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week. P.L.2011, c.116 requires the appropriation annually of a sum sufficient for the operation of the program. The law also requires the DMAVA and Rutgers to consult on a quarterly basis with the New Jersey Division of Mental Health Services within the Department of Human Services, the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs, the New Jersey Health Care Network, at least two New Jersey Veteran Centers, and at least two State recognized veterans groups. Costs to support the hotline are estimated to be approximately \$383,000 in FY 2018 and are budgeted in the Support Services to Returning Veterans line item (page D-284 of the FY 2018 Governor's Budget). The State appropriation is the sole source of funding for this State program.

Vet to Vet Hotline Funding and Calls FY 2005 to FY 2018				
Fiscal Year	State Funding	Incoming Calls	Outgoing Calls	Total Calls
2005	Pilot	46	80	126
2006	\$ 100,000	1,571	1,282	2,853
2007	\$ 100,000	1,775	1,079	2,854
2008	\$ 195,000	1,501	2,590	4,091
2009	\$ 195,000	1,542	2,855	4,397
2010	\$ 300,000	1,911	2,763	4,674
2011	\$ 300,000	2,189	2,402	4,591
2012	\$ 300,000	3,386	6,584	9,970
2013	\$ 300,000	3,446	7,261	10,707
2014	\$ 300,000	3,525	7,785	11,310
2015	\$ 383,260	3,504	7,654	11,158
2016	\$ 383,260	n.a	n.a	n.a
2017*	\$ 383,260	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
2018*	\$ 383,260	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Source: DMAVA Responses to FY 2017 Discussion Points, FY 2018 budget inquiry.

The United States Department of Defense collects and publishes military suicide data at the national level by branch, but not by branch at the state level. The chart below shows the national number of suicides by military branch from 2012 to 2015, as of October 31, 2016.

Military Suicides by Component and Service 2012 to 2015				
Department of Defense Component and Reserve	2012	2013	2014	2015
Active Component	321	255	274	266
Air Force	50	48	62	64
Army	165	121	124	120
Marine Corps	48	45	34	39
Navy	58	41	54	43

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Reserve Component	204	220	170	212
Reserve	72	86	79	88
Air Force Reserve	3	11	10	9
Army Reserve	50	59	42	54
Marine Corps	11	11	12	11
Navy Reserve	8	5	15	14
National Guard	132	134	91	124
Air Nat. Guard	22	14	14	21
Army Nat. Guard	110	120	77	103

Note: Suicide counts are current as of October 31, 2016.

Source: Quarterly Suicide Report, Calendar Year 2016 3rd Quarter. U.S. Department of Defense.

Please provide the number of military member suicides in New Jersey per year since 2010.

DMAVA does not have access to the number of active duty service members that list New Jersey as their Home Of Record.

The NJ Army Guard has reported a total of 5 suicides since 2011.

The NJ Air Guard has reported a total of 3 suicides since 2010

Please discuss the efficacy of the Vet to Vet Hotline with regard to suicide prevention, crisis management, counseling, and improvement in mental health.

FY	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	*2017
Incoming Calls	46	1571	1775	1501	1542	1911	2189	3386	3446	3525	3508	4173	2933
Outgoing Calls	80	1282	1079	2590	2855	2763	2402	6584	7261	7785	7057	9619	6474
Total Contacts	126	2853	2854	4091	4397	4674	4591	9970	10707	11310	10565	13792	9407

***July-March**

Each year we see an increase in the number of Veterans in New Jersey reaching out for support and information. NJ Vet2Vet has impacted the Veteran community in a very powerful way as a result of: increased marketing and outreach efforts across the state, providing Peer Support Specialist answering phone calls and e-mails in our call center, and maintaining and afterhours on call capability.

Based on the high volume of calls to the 24-hour helpline and our extremely low suicide rate, the Vet2Vet Helpline has proven as a positive and effect means to mitigate potentially life threatening issues to service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan as well as those suffering ill effects from service in earlier conflicts. As a result of the collaboration of DMAVA and The State University of New Jersey, we have a veteran healthier population than a decade ago.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Veterans' Benefits and Outreach

12. In the Responses to the FY 2017 Discussion Points, the department indicated that it maintained a working relationship with the Department of Human Services through the Interagency Council on Homelessness to identify and assist homeless veterans. The council was established by Executive Order 92 of 2012 to develop recommendations and provide a State Plan to end homelessness in New Jersey in ten years. In its Final Report to the Governor, the council concluded that the State needed to improve the collaboration of services for veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and made specific recommendations. Among them the council recommended that it would work with DMAVA and the regional Veterans' Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) to improve services for the State's veterans.

On what projects and programs are the council, the department, and the VISNs working to improve services for the State's veterans and reduce homelessness among them?

Programs for homeless Veterans continue to address the needs of this population utilizing a wide variety of agencies and private sector entities as they have been identified by the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

How is the department currently identifying homeless veterans?

The DMAVA addresses the needs of Veterans who self-identify as being homeless or who are referred by other agencies or entities as being a Veteran.

How many of the homeless veterans are identified through the efforts of the council and DMAVA?

The Department and the Council, utilizing the definition of Homeless, currently relies upon individuals to seek our services based upon their need. We work closely with the Council and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to identify and provide services to Veterans as well as other Council members that may direct eligible Veterans to our services.

Of those identified how many are eligible for placement in Veterans Haven North and South?

Eligibility for placement in either Veterans Haven facility is determined on a case by case basis based upon individual circumstances. The programs are capable of providing services to 174 individuals at any given time. The average daily census is approximately 145.

How do the council, the department, and the VISNs help homeless veterans who are not eligible for Veterans Haven?

Veterans that may not be eligible for placement are directed to alternative facilities or services by Council members. Everyone involved makes an effort to direct each individual to the facility and services that they require.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Veterans Haven

13. Veterans Haven is the department's transitional housing program for homeless veterans and has two locations: Veterans Haven-South is located on the grounds of the former Ancora Psychiatric Hospital in Winslow, Camden County; and Veterans Haven-North on the premises of the former Senator Garrett W. Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital in Glen Gardner, Lebanon Township.

The mission of the Veterans Haven program is to provide temporary housing, counseling, and occupational training for homeless veterans to assist them in their transition back into society. The program focuses on treatment, self-reclamation, and community integration. Each of the three phases takes approximately three to six months to complete. During their stay, the veterans receive counseling, vocational training assistance, and job search assistance (resume workshops, computer training, etc.). Some 86 percent of the residents who complete the program are employed and have permanent housing. The two Veterans Haven homes have had a combined resident capacity rate of 200, ever since the new addition at Veterans Haven South was completed in October 2011, increasing the Veterans Haven South's capacity from 50 to 100 residents; and the opening of Veterans Haven North in July 2012, providing places for another 100 homeless veterans.

Program Data in the FY 2018 Governor's Budget show that the number of Veterans Haven residents (North and South combined) has declined by 20 percent since FY 2015 from 200 residents to 160 residents projected for FY 2018. Likewise, the occupancy rate for Veterans Haven North is projected to decline from 90 percent in FY 2016 to 85 percent for FY 2018. The occupancy rate for Veterans Haven South is projected to be 75 percent in FY 2018. The FY 2018 Governor's Budget recommends a reduction of 14 percent, or \$291,000, in State funding from \$2.0 million in FY 2017 to \$1.7 million in FY 2018. In addition, Veterans Haven is anticipated to receive an essentially flat \$1.9 million in federal per diem reimbursements in FY 2018.

Please explain the decline in the number of Veterans Haven residents from 200 in FY 2015 to a projected 160 in FY 2018.

The occupancy rate at the Veterans Haven facilities reflect current and anticipated demand for services.

Is the decline indicative of a reduction in the number of homeless veterans as a result of recent initiatives to combat homelessness among veterans?

Veterans Haven programs have not experienced a decline in Veterans presenting for services. While it is apparent that the effort to combat homelessness amongst Veteran's has made a difference in the lives of many, there has been no decrease in the number of Veterans presenting for services. This has allowed us to run at or close to funded capacity for almost 4 years.

Does the department have plans to consolidate the two facilities in the coming years?

There is currently no plan to consolidate Veterans Haven North and South.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Veterans Service Officers

14. The DMAVA is recognized by the Secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as a “veterans service organization” with accredited veterans service representatives who prepare, present, and prosecute claims for veterans seeking to receive their military benefits. Accordingly, DMAVA operates 14 veterans service offices throughout the State and employs 16 Veterans Service Officers (VSOs). Because of the size of some of the service areas, two veterans service offices have more than one VSO. The mission of the VSO is to ensure that military veterans receive the State and federal benefits to which they are entitled. The primary function of a VSO representing a veteran is to administer and manage claims through the State and federal benefits processes. The highest percentage of claims filed by VSOs on behalf of veterans represents the payment of claims for pensions and compensation. The chart below outlines the amount of federal entitlements VSOs obtained for New Jersey veterans for each year since FY 2011.

Value of Federal Entitlements Obtained by VSOs for Veterans Living in New Jersey	
FY 2016	\$ 173,076,736
FY 2015	\$ 161,209,895
FY 2014	\$ 152,758,821
FY 2013	\$ 133,396,827
FY 2012	\$ 122,019,581
FY 2011	\$ 107,244,314
Source: DMAVA Responses to FY 2017 Discussion Points, FY 2018 budget inquiry.	

The total amount New Jersey veterans received from the VA from FY 2009 through FY 2014 is:

U.S. Veterans Administration Disbursements to New Jersey Veterans FY 2009 through FY 2014			
Federal Fiscal Year	Compensation	Education	Total
2009	\$ 700,167,000	\$ 80,476,000	\$ 780,643,000
2010	\$ 885,953,000	\$ 152,499,000	\$1,038,452,000
2011	\$ 846,171,000	\$ 195,338,000	\$1,041,509,000
2012	\$ 774,174,000	\$ 164,539,000	\$ 938,713,000
2013	\$ 906,744,000	\$ 196,113,000	\$1,102,857,000
2014	\$1,047,058,000	\$ 214,108,000	\$1,261,166,000
Total	\$5,160,267,000	\$1,003,073,000	\$6,163,340,000
Source: DMAVA Responses to FY 2017 Discussion Points			

According to DMAVA’s FY 2017 Responses to Discussion Points, compensation types and percentages are as follows:

- Live compensation claims are service connected and can consist of claims for Post-traumatic stress disorders, traumatic brain injuries, combat-related wounds, hearing loss, amputations, Military Sexual Transgressions, Agent Orange claims, and others. These claims account for 85 percent of the compensation claims.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

- Death compensation and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation claims are for survivors of those veterans who died of a service connected disability. These claims accounted for nine percent of compensation.
- Death pension claims are for widows whose spouse died of a non-service connected disability. These claims accounted for one percent of compensation.
- Live pension claims are for non-service connected disability and also aid and attendance claims. These claims accounted for five percent of compensation.

The department indicated that in its efforts to link veterans with their entitlements, it has learned that outreach is the largest challenge. To overcome this obstacle, the department, in coordination with the VSOs and the county offices, continues outreach efforts capitalizing on social media, hosting monthly medals ceremonies at malls, and attending various job fairs.

What percentage of the New Jersey veteran population does the department estimate its VSOs have reached?

The VSO's combined with the Veterans Benefits Bureau VBB staff have reached approximately 18% of the veteran population within NJ.

Is there any coordination between the department VSOs and the Vet to Vet hotline to try to reach additional veterans to connect them with their entitled benefits?

The Vet to Vet Help Line is another information source for veterans. Callers are refer to our Veterans Service Officer locations throughout the state, specifically to the county in which the veteran resides. The helpline follows up on all referrals to our VSO's.

Please describe the medal ceremonies that the department hosts and the job fairs that the department attends.

In many ways malls have become a Main Street shopping district for many communities. The property managers of malls across the state have been extremely gracious in providing use of their center courts or other large public area to conduct medal ceremonies, which bring upwards of a hundred veterans, with their families and friends into the mall during a weekday morning. Majority of ceremonies are followed by a two to three day Outreach Kiosk and table being manned by DMAVA veteran service officers which allows for direct contact with veterans and more importantly family, friends or neighbors who might know a veteran in need of support. Medal ceremonies have been extended out to American Legion and VFW posts, corporations and governmental agencies, like an event last year at the Monmouth County Sheriff's office. This year alone we awarded close to 2000 state awards to NJ veterans. DMAVA VSO's attend numerous job fairs across the state.

On average, how many veterans does the department reach through these venues?

Over the last year the department has reached over 6,500 veterans through these venues along with additional outreach tools utilized, such as welcome home letters which have been sent to each and every veteran DMAVA is in receipt of receiving a DD214.