

Discussion Points

MILITARY SERVICES

Executive Order No. 4 of 2018 (Murphy)

1. Executive Order No. 4 of 2018 (Murphy) requires “all State entities that regularly interact with the public shall undertake reasonable measures, to the extent permitted by law and budgetary constraints, to provide information to the public regarding the Affordable Care Act marketplace and ways to enroll. Examples of such measures include, but shall not be limited to, posting of signs with enrollment information, publishing relevant information on agency websites, integrating information on the enrollment period into existing forms and pamphlets that provide information about social services, training agency staff to provide such information when appropriate, and working with navigators to improve public access and awareness.” In addition, the Executive Order requires each State entity that regularly interacts with the public to prepare and submit a report to the Governor by May 31, 2018 regarding the actions it has taken to comply with the order and to submit an updated report to the Governor by August 31, 2018. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs regularly interacts with the public in its delivery of services to soldiers and their families and to veterans.

- **Question:** What actions has the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs taken to comply with Executive Order No.4? Please identify and quantify the fiscal ramifications of this order on the department.

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

DMAVA is complying with the Executive Order and will be able to prepare and submit a report to the Governor by 31 May 2018. We do not currently have the information concerning fiscal ramifications.

Hurricane Relief Efforts

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

2. According to the federal Department of Defense's report, Details in Support of the FY 2018 Budget Amendment Request for Recovery from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, the Department of Defense (DoD) estimates that it will incur \$1.2 billion in costs to respond to and recover from the catastrophic effects of the hurricanes in the Atlantic and Gulf Regions during the 2017 hurricane season. These costs largely consist of construction and repair of facilities damaged or destroyed by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

By September 7, 2017, New Jersey National Guard soldiers from the 253rd Transportation Company were mobilized to Florida to assist with emergency response and recovery efforts in advance of Hurricane Irma.

- **Question:** Please discuss the New Jersey National Guard (NJNG) emergency response and recovery efforts related to the 2017 hurricane season. Was the NJNG mobilized through a federal request for specific assistance or was it State-driven? How many NJNG members were mobilized and what was the team's role in the emergency response and recovery efforts? What specific tasks did the NJNG perform? What were the additional State and federal costs of the New Jersey response and recovery mission?

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

During the 2017 hurricane season, the New Jersey National Guard supported four humanitarian relief efforts ranging from security to logistics to transportation. They were:

A) A state-driven response of to Hurricane Harvey in Texas through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), which is the nation's state-to-state mutual aid system. The 150th Aviation Battalion NJARNG provided 12 personnel (4 ANG, 8 ARNG) and 2 UH-60 Blackhawks for Ariel Search and Rescue (ESF #9) in response to the hurricane support efforts in Texas. This mission was from 30 Aug 17 through 07 Sep 17. The total cost for this mission was approximately \$136,000.00.

B) A state-driven response to Hurricane Maria in Florida through the EMAC. The 253rd TC NJARNG provided 127 personnel and 44 vehicles to support emergency transportation services (ESF #1) in response to the hurricane support efforts in Florida. This mission was from 07 Sep 17 through 24 Sep 17. The total cost for this mission was approximately \$676,800.00.

C) A state-driven response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico via the EMAC. The 44th IBCT NJARNG provided 138 personnel and 12 vehicles to provide the Dual Status Commander with a functional staff (ESF #5) in response to the hurricane support efforts in Puerto Rico. This mission was from 1 Oct 17 through 27 Nov 17. The total cost for this mission was approximately \$1,433,300.00. The 119th CSSB NJARNG provided 54 personnel to support the Dual Status Commander with a Logistics Planning Cell (ESF #7) in response to the hurricane support efforts in Puerto Rico. This mission was from 15 Oct 17 through 27 Nov 17. The total cost for this mission was approximately \$287,000.00.

The NJARNG also sent 2 personnel to Puerto Rico to augment the Dual Status Commanders Joint Enabling Team, which was federally funded (Title 10).

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

D) The New Jersey Air National Guard also provided 26 Airmen in response to Hurricanes Irma and Maria for the Virgin Islands as a federal mission. Support consisted of Security Forces base housing security, 1 Airfield Controller to Muniz ANG Base Puerto Rico, 1 ANG Sexual Assault Prevention Response Coordinator (SARC) to USVI, and 2 ANG Aircraft Refueling Personnel to Muniz ANG Base Puerto Rico. NJANG also provided a 4 personnel Preventative & Aeromedical Medicine Team (PAM) (ESF #7). This mission was from 14 Oct 17 through 14 Nov 17. The total cost for this mission was approximately \$15,500.00.

In total, the NJNG provided 367 personnel (Army & Air), 56 vehicles and 2 UH60 Blackhawks to support hurricane emergency response and recovery efforts in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The overall time frame for these operations was from 30 Aug 17 to 27 Nov 17. The total costs for these operations was approximately \$2,550, 000.00.

All FEMA allowable costs will be reimbursed by the agency.

Sea Girt Regional Training Institute Construction

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

3. 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 trainee 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 OLS FY 2018 Discussion Points, the DMAVA indicated that the RTI project is scheduled for completion in FY 2017 and is expected to receive beneficial occupancy by the summer of 2017. Once complete, the RTI will be available to the State Police, the Department of Corrections, and the Juvenile Justice Commission for training purposes.

The RTI project has received \$33.2 million in federal funding. The original timeline called for a 28-month construction period. As of the end of FY 2017, the department had expended \$33.2 million in federal funds on the project including federal construction contingency limits and the scope was not changed.

- **Question:** Please provide an update of the construction status of the RTI. Is the project complete and have operations commenced? What is the current training schedule at the facility?

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

The construction the Regional Training Institute in Sea Girt, NJ is complete. The department received a DCA Certificate of Occupancy on June 5, 2017 for the 100% Federal reimbursed Regional Training Institute project, and the contract was closed out on October 19, 2017 with a total construction cost of \$33,600,187.22. The first major event held at the facility was an Environmental Bootcamp. It was attended by about 60 National Guard construction management and environmental professionals from across the country.

For 2018-19 the Regional Training Institute is currently scheduled to host nine Advance Leadership Courses (ALC) for Infantry Non-Commissioned Officers, ten Medic Sustainment courses which are both multi week courses. Additionally, the Regiment plans to host approximately 22 week-long courses at the facility that will include eight Office of Emergency Management Courses, four Project Management Professionals Course prep courses, and two Supply Chain Management certification courses. The facility will be utilized for numerous one-day seminars, and on drill weekends for the States Officer Candidate School (OCS) program.

Federal Funding for Super Storm Sandy Construction Projects at Sea Girt

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

4. The Disaster Appropriation Act, Public Law 113-2, provided over \$20 million to fund six Super Storm Sandy related projects at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt. The projects are replacing damaged facilities and utilities at Sea Girt and include a medical clinic/instruction building, a data and communications duct bank, two maintenance shops, and a back-up power generation station.

- **Question:** What is the current status of each of these projects? What is the current expected completion date for each project and what is the total amount of federal funding expended to date on each project and the expected total cost of each project? Are any State matching funds required to fund the projects, or are they 100 percent federally funded?

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

Sandy MILCON Projects Status				
Project	% Complete	Completion Date	Expended Fed Funds	Expected Total Cost
TELECOM Duct	100	13 SEP 2016	\$1,720,338	\$1,720,338
Maintenance Shop	37	7 AUG 2018	\$1,181,337	\$3,192,805
Engineering BLDG	37	7 AUG 2018	\$1,645,951	\$4,448,518
Medical Clinic	94	15 JUN 2018	\$4,918,231	\$5,232,161
Instruction BLDG	94	15 JUN 2018	\$5,107,171	\$5,433,161
Power Plant BLDG	91	31 MAY 2018	\$2,198,030	\$2,415,418

There are no State matching funds required to fund the projects.

All projects are currently under construction except Duct Bank which was completed in 2016.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

5. In an effort to counter any potential federal policies that would reduce or close military installations in this State, the FY 2015, FY 2016, FY 2017, and FY 2018 Appropriations Acts each 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. Executive Order Nos. 134 and 154 (Christie) created the New Jersey Military Installation Growth and Development Task Force 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 Picatinny Arsenal in Morris County; and the Earle Naval Weapons Station in Monmouth County. Upon the recommendation of the Task Force, in 2015 the former Governor issued Executive Order 192 extending the life of the task force and creating 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. Notwithstanding that the Legislature approved and Governor enacted the Military and Defense Economic Ombudsman Act, P.L.2017, c.359, establishing that office in the DMVA, the funds appropriated in FY 2018 were placed in reserve and the FY 2019 Governor's Budget recommends lapsing the funding for BRAC, and reduced the department's budget by \$200,000.

The mission of Military and Defense Economic Ombudsman is to coordinate and implement a strategy to fortify and ensure the economic vitality the United States military installations in New Jersey and to improve the economic environment for the defense industry in this State, in the face of evolving defense needs, by fostering productive interactions between federal, State, and local governments and overseeing efforts to position the State's military installations as hubs of development, innovation, and economic growth. The ombudsman's duties include, but are not be limited to, identifying vulnerabilities of and threats to the viability of the State's military installations; recommending strategies and best practices to improve economic outcomes for the State's military installations and defense industry; coordinating the State's efforts by promoting opportunities for defense industry investments and working to create defense industry clusters at each military installation; developing productive relationships with the various governmental, industry, and community stakeholders; and disseminating information on the attributes and benefits of the State's military installations which make them attractive to current and future defense planning, industry investment, and economic growth.

In addition, the ombudsman is tasked with the responsibility of undertaking various efforts to eliminate barriers to investment and growth by businesses and the defense industry. Specifically, the ombudsman will facilitate the permit and application approval process for businesses with projects related to or supporting military installations; conduct marketing efforts; provide information to federal contactors; create a program to establish mentorship relationships between large and small businesses; organize events at military installations to bring together stakeholders focusing on economic development and growth; and, in collaboration with the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, foster synergies between institutions of higher education and the defense industry in this State, which may include the development of a centralized database of higher education contacts and assets.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

The ombudsman is required to organize an annual tour of the State's military installations for the New Jersey Congressional Delegation; provide accurate, current, and factual information about the State's military installations and their attributes to federal partners; and establish and regularly convene meetings with the commanding officers of each military installation to hear directly from them and other high-ranking officials concerning the specific operations and needs at each installation.

- **Question:** Please discuss the reasons for defunding BRAC. Has the BRAC effort been obviated? Please explain. Do the FY 2018 and FY 2019 budgets for the department adequately fund the Military and Defense Economic Ombudsman, consistent with the provisions of P.L.2017, c.359?

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

Since 1977, Congress has severely restricted the Defense Department authority to make decisions regarding the distribution of military bases in the country. The BRAC process was created as a political compromise between Congress and the executive branch to allow the department to close and realign military bases. Since the 2005 round ended, Congress has refused to let the Defense Department use it. However, the President's budget has asked lawmakers to approve a BRAC study that would close and consolidate bases in 2021. One of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis' main priorities is to bring business reforms to the department, those reforms include instilling budget discipline and using resources effectively, something BRAC is likely to help out with.

To be clear, BRAC does not have to happen to affect the \$17 Billion dollars that the military adds to New Jersey's economy. The term being used is now "mission creep". DOD can remove missions from bases until they serve a limited or non-existent purpose without ever mandating a closing of a military base.

It must be understood that the State cannot make a determination on bringing missions onto State bases and has limited authority to instruct the bases as to what missions they should try to acquire. That being said, the Military and Defense Economic Ombudsman's position is to help make New Jersey a "Military Friendly" State. The mission would be to reduce red tape and help alleviate issues that the bases may have in getting new missions. This would be a concerted effort between the many State departments, dependent on what the issue entails.

There are many entities working to improve the bases, bring in new business and make transitions into New Jersey optimal. The Ombudsman would be the point of contact for all these different entities. The Ombudsman job was legislated and was put into the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Any salary will come directly out of the salary allotment to the Department. The BRAC effort was not been obviated. While funding for the Washington DC consultant has ended, the Ombudsman would be the eyes and ears of the State on these matters.

Federal Funding for New Jersey Armories

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

6. According to testimony at the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee hearing on the FY 2018 budget, the department received federal funding for administrative, training, and logistical support needed to accomplish its goals and to provide a ready force. Projects benefiting from federal funds were a \$4.9 million project that repaired the roof and the heating and cooling system at the National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, a \$5.3 million project to repair the brick exterior and roof of the Jersey City armory, and a \$3.6 million project to restore the roof and heating and cooling system at the Cherry Hill armory.

- **Question:** Please provide an update of the armory improvement projects including projects that have been recently completed, those in progress, and those in the planning stages. What improvements were made and federal funding expended to date? Are any State matching funds required to fund the projects or are they 100 percent federally funded? Please identify which armories are rented for additional use and for what additional purpose are the armories being used, which armories have been closed, declared surplus property, and which, if any, have been sold in total. Please identify the dates upon which an armory was closed, declared surplus, or sold.

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

In FY 17, the Department funded four major boiler replacement projects; one was at our Joint Force Headquarters at BLDG 3601, Fort Dix, and three others were at Field Maintenance shops, located at Somerset, Teaneck and Vineland. Due to the type of facility and the activity at the facilities, these projects were 100% federally reimbursed and cost was approximately \$1.2 million.

In FY 17, the department began executing a program to improve the quality and quantity of available restrooms and locker rooms across all of our state owned armories. Due to the advanced age of our state owned armories (average 64 years old), many were constructed with latrine and shower facilities to accommodate only the male Soldiers that constituted our force at the time of construction. In FY 16, we funded a study and the designs to right size the available facilities at these Armories. In FY 17, we began funding the renovation and rehabilitation of the latrines and showers at the Jersey City, Teaneck, Somerset and Westfield Armories. These projects totaled to about \$3.3 million to complete and were 50% reimbursed through federal funding.

FY 18, projects that are currently awarded or under advertisement include a continued focus on lifecycle replacement of building components. These projects include boiler or heating systems replacements at our maintenance shops in Cape May and Westfield, and at two armories located in Teaneck and Woodbury. We have three roof replacement projects programmed this year for the Lawrenceville operations center, the Picatinny Armory, and BLDG 9 at Sea Girt. We are executing additional latrine and locker room projects at Cherry Hill and Morristown, and we are planning three arms vault expansion projects at Hammonton, Woodbridge and Westfield. These projects total approximately \$9 million in projected spending of which approximately \$5 million will be federally reimbursed.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

In the table below shows a comprehensive listing of the major lease/use agreements of DMAVA properties. Many of these use agreements are for no cost to support Veterans organization or Department of Defense supported youth activities, such as the Civil Air Patrol and the Sea Cadets. We have numerous emergency use agreements with schools to serve as a rally points in case of an evacuation. Many of our facilities are rented out for community and commercial use for seasonal activities such as indoor soccer and many are rented out for single day events such as weddings, flea markets and vendor shows.

Armory	Types of Rentals
Atlantic City	Youth Track Events, Commercial Parking
Bridgeton Armory	Pallet Processing Company, Garden Center & Church
Cherry Hill Armory	Civil Air Patrol (CAP), 112th FA Association, Dog Shows
Dover Armory	Food Truck - MUA Trash & Recycling
Franklin Armory	Littel Center
Freehold Armory	CAP
Jersey City Armory	Local Recreation Program, Sports events, Prayer events
Lawrenceville Armory	Sea Cadets, Local Recreation, Sports, Private Events.
Lodi Armory - Recruiting Naval Militia, Sea Cadets	Sea Cadets, Meals on Wheels, Bergen County Record Storage
Mercer Armory	CAP
Morristown Armory	Boy Scouts, Civil War Museum Meetings, Various Private Events and Parking
Riverdale Armory	Motor Cycle Safety Course, Dog Shows
Somerset Armory	Military Association Activities, Voting Use, Firefighter Testing, Private Events
Teaneck Armory	CAP, Jr Police Academy, Sports, Carnivals, Flea Markets,
Vineland Armory	CAP, Private events
Washington Armory	Graduation Event, Grounds use for Model Air Planes
West Orange Armory	Essex Club Use, Motor Cycle Safety course, Storage, Sports, Private Events
Westfield Armory	Military Support and Association Activities, Sports, Schools use, Parking, Flying Model airplanes, private events.

Below is a listing of the major property disposals in the department in the last ten years and those pending disposal.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Declared Excess Date	RPR#	Location	Method of Disposal	Sale Price	Date Completed	NOTES
18-Jan-95	RPR 05-01	Pitman Armory	SOLD	\$ 135,000.00	19-June-07	Sold to municipality
19-Apr-05	RPR 05-29	Plainfield Armory	SOLD	\$ 926,000.00	3-Jun-15	HOPES Community Action Partnership
24-Apr-05	RPR 05-30	Phillipsburg Armory	SOLD	\$ 350,000.00	24-April-08	Reverter clause on Land, Sale of Improvements Only
9-Aug-11	RPR 12-07	Bordentown CSMS	IDT	Transfer	5-Apr-16	Inter-Departmental transfer to DOT
4-Mar-11	RPR 11-18	Bridgeton Armory				At Treasury for Auction or Direct Sale
22-May-12	RPR 13-04	Burlington Armory				At Treasury for Auction or Direct Sale
5-Apr-11	RPR 11-19	Franklin Armory				At Treasury for Auction or Direct Sale
13-Dec-07	RPR 08-17	Newton Armory				Pending Environmental/De molition
7-Jul-16		Jersey City Colgate Clock Site				No action on RPR.
5-May-17	RPR 17-13	Tuckerton Armory				

New Jersey National Guard Youth Challenge Academy (NJYCA)

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

7a. 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.

The department indicates that its goal is to address "At Risk Youth" as the primary function of the Academy and that every cadet that crosses the graduation threshold is no longer considered 'At Risk'. To accomplish this, the department provides a comprehensive life skills program that reaches beyond academics and assists the Cadets in exploring and preparing for career options through career assessments, interest inventories, and skills training. The program provides additional classes on hygiene, nutrition, substance abuse prevention, human sexuality, family planning, and communicable diseases to prepare cadets to make positive life choices. The Cadets participate in a structured living environment designed to increase self-awareness, self-discipline and independent living skills. Further instruction teaches the Cadets the importance of goal setting, managing personal finances, and coping mechanisms.

New Jersey Youth Challenge Post-Graduation /Post Residential Phase Placement						
Class #	Graduation Date	Number of Graduates	High School Diploma	Work Force	Education	Military
47	3/2018					
46	9/2017					
45	3/2017	81	26%	19%	21%	2%
44	9/2016	82	27%	61%	41%	4%
43	3/2016	109	33%	52%	34%	6%
42	9/2015	100	43%	63%	39%	4%
41	3/2015	100	45%	58%	34%	7%
40	9/2014	57	40%	74%	46%	2%
39	3/2014	101	27%	27%	20%	4%

Source: Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

- Question:** In each of the classes above, were there any Cadets who did not graduate? If so, how many in each class? Please update the chart for the September 2017 and March 2018 classes. Please include statistics for classes beginning in 2007. Does the department believe that the program should be a more effective entry path to military service than the data indicate?

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

New Jersey Youth Challenge

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Program Academic Credentials FY 2007 to FY 2018		
Fiscal Year	NJYCA Cadet Graduates	Academic Credentials Awarded
FY18	66	27
FY17	166	73
FY16	191	71
FY15	200	106
FY14	158	50
FY13	174	154
FY12	200	144
FY11	186	142
FY10	225	154
FY09	217	172
FY08	181	143
FY07	215	196

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

National Guard Bureau (NGB) currently only requires us to track Cadets for 12 months post-graduation. Therefore, the data (HS Diploma, Workforce, Education, Military) in the chart above for Classes 25-45 represents the status of the Cadets 12 months after their graduation date – NOT as of April 2018. The information for Classes 46-47 is current as we are still tracking them.

Over the years, three databases that were provided to us by NGB have been lost. The first one was due to a contract not being renewed at the time. The data was switched over into the newly contracted database. That database, as well as one used immediately following, were both shut down when it was discovered they violated Personally identifiable information (PII) laws. Therefore, any information prior to 2014 is either no longer available/accessible or it can only be found via old documents, books, etc.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

**In some instances, the data listed is for the total year, not per each class.

We would love to see more of our graduates enlist in one of the military branches, particularly since we are a quasi-military academy ourselves, sponsored by the New Jersey National Guard. For Cadets who are interested in joining a branch of the military, our Academy is a perfect first step to prepare them for what it entails. The military aspect of the academy is emphasized throughout the 22 weeks and the training is intense while the youth are taken out of their comfort zones. A lot of time is spent learning military-style Drill and Ceremonies and Physical Training. However, there are a few obstacles that our Cadets face, which makes it difficult for them to join right at graduation.

Many of our Cadets are 16 years old when they graduate from our program. Currently, none of the Service Branches will allow a 16-year-old to enlist, 17-year-old applicants require parental consent, and you must be 18 years old to enlist in the Navy Reserves.

Since we are a GED Program, we have a Tier 2 status with the Service Branches. Most of the branches require GED applicants to obtain a higher test score than those applicants with a traditional HS Diploma. Currently, the Navy will accept the GED if the applicants score 50 or higher on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) which is 15 points higher than Tier 1 applicants. They also must spend at least 90 days in a delayed entry program (DEP) and complete the DEP Personal Qualification Standard program before shipping to Recruit Training Command. The Air Force will accept GED holders if they score at least 65 on the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) portion of the ASVAB, which is 29 points higher than the score required of Tier 1 applicants. The Coast Guard will consider a GED applicant with a score of at least 50 on the AFQT, which is ten points higher than the score required of Tier 1 recruits. The Marines will only consider GED applicants if they score at least a 50 on the AFQT which is 18 points higher than Tier 1 applicants.

In addition, most of the Service Branches will only accept a limited number of Tier 2 Recruits. The Air Force allows less than one percent of annual enlistments to be recruits with a GED. No more than five percent of Marine recruits can be GED-holders. The Army allows no more than ten percent each year. The Navy limits GED enlistments to no more than five to ten percent each year. Only five percent of applicants per year can be admitted into the Coast Guard. Unfortunately, there are always many more GED-holders who want to enlist than there are available slots. We have found that since there is such a limited opportunity for GED holders to enlist in one of the military branches, it is often difficult to find Recruiters willing to spend too much time working with and preparing our Cadets.

GED holders can bump their personal status up to Tier 1, if they also complete 15 college credits.

7b. In addition to schooling and training, Cadets are involved in community service activities throughout the State. According to the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs cadets volunteered approximately 4,500 hours of service on average over the past seven classes, providing approximately \$820,000 in value to communities across New Jersey. Over the past three years, Cadets participated in cleaning State parks, assisting with "Trunk or Treat" events to provide safe trick or treating at Halloween for children, restocking shelves

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

and painting for Habitat for Humanity, writing to military members overseas, assisting with military base events such as Read Across America, 5K races, air shows, and military picnics, distributing items to homeless individuals with the Trenton Rescue Mission, putting flags on graves of fallen military members at Arlington cemetery, sewing hospital gowns for cancer patients for Hug Wraps, assisting in Boys and Girls Club activities for MLK Day of Service, and assisting with afterschool events at the Pemberton Early Education Center.

New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Community Service			
NJYCA Class #	Graduation Date	Total # of Hours	Value of Service
45	3/2017	3,770	\$ 95,494.10
44	9/2016	4,355	\$ 110,312.15
43	3/2016	5,965	\$ 151,093.15
42	9/2015	5,432.5	\$ 137,605.22
41	3/2015	4,350	\$ 110,185.50
40	9/2014	3,221	\$ 81,587.93
39	3/2014	4,578	\$ 115,960.74
Total		31,671.5	\$ 820,239.09

Source: Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs

- **Question:** Please update the placement and community service charts for the September 2017 and March 2018 classes. Please include statistics for classes beginning in 2007.

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

In addition to schooling and training, Cadets are involved in community service activities throughout the State. According to the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs cadets volunteered approximately 4,500 hours of service on average over the past seven classes, providing approximately \$820,000 in value to communities across New Jersey. Over the past three years, Cadets participated in cleaning State parks, assisting with "Trunk or Treat" events to provide safe trick or treating at Halloween for children, restocking shelves and painting for Habitat for Humanity, writing to military members overseas, assisting with military base events such as Read Across America, 5K races, air shows, and military picnics, distributing items to homeless individuals with the Trenton Rescue Mission, putting flags on graves of fallen military members at Arlington cemetery, sewing hospital gowns for cancer patients for Hug Wraps, assisting in Boys and Girls Club activities for MLK Day of Service, and assisting with afterschool events at the Pemberton Early Education Center.

New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Community Service			
NJYCA Class #	Graduation Date	Total # of Hours	Value of Service
47	3/2018	3,117	\$ 78,953.61
46	9/2017	4,047	\$ 102,510.51

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

45	3/2017	3,770	\$ 95,494.10
44	9/2016	4,355	\$ 110,312.15
43	3/2016	5,965	\$ 151,093.15
42	9/2015	5,432.5	\$ 137,605.22
41	3/2015	4,350	\$ 110,185.50
40	9/2014	3,221	\$ 81,587.93
39	3/2014	4,578	\$ 115,960.74
38	9/2013	4,255	\$ 110,247.00
37	3/2013	7,160	\$ 185,516.00
36	9/2012	7,160	\$ 183,582.40
35	3/2012	7,590	\$ 194,607.60
34	9/2011	11,000	\$
33	3/2011		\$ 235,000.00
32	9/2010		
31	3/2010	6,902	\$ 143,900.00
30	9/2009	13,091	\$
29	3/2009		\$ 265,092.75
28	9/2008	12,281	\$
27	3/2008		\$ 230,514.00
26	9/2007	13,940	\$
25	3/2007		\$ 261,653.80
Total		122,214.50	\$ 2,793,816.40

Source: Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs

7c. Although earning a high school diploma or GED is not a mandatory component of the NJYCA program, past levels of academic achievement are higher than most recent levels of academic achievement. Previously, approximately 90 percent of graduates earned their GED. More recently, the proportion of graduates earning a GED has declined. The department indicates that this is due not only to the GED Testing Service increasing the rigor of the exam, but also to the reduced academic level of incoming Cadets. The department indicates that chronic absenteeism throughout a Cadet's K-12 education has a severe impact on their incoming academic achievement levels. The goal across all ChalleNGe programs in the United States is to increase academic levels. The NJYCA has

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

an average increase of two grade levels. To address the decline in the academic performance levels of Cadets, the department is administering the Adult Basic Education (TABE) Locator Test. The TABE test is used to assess a student's academic readiness and is expected to help improve the academic quality of the Cadets and to improve the ratio of academic credentials awarded per class.

- **Question:** How has the NJYCA curriculum changed since 2007 to accommodate the change in recruits' level of academic readiness? Are the recruits entering the program today considered to be youths of higher risk than those in the program ten years ago? What is the definition of an "at risk" youth who is eligible for participation in the program? Has the definition changed over time and if so, how has it changed? Will the TABE test reduce the number recruits who would otherwise benefit from the program? How does the department balance the desire for its Cadets to achieve academically with the need to recruit and enroll at risk youth? What factors go in to the decision to accept a recruit into the program? Please update the following chart with regard to the academic credentials awarded. Please provide information from 2007 through 2018.

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

The National program was established to turn around the lives of young men and women between the ages of 16 and 18 who are experiencing difficulty in completing traditional high school. It is a voluntary 17-month dropout recovery program that helps at-risk youths earn their GED/high school diploma in a very disciplined and structured program that uses the military model so that they may become productive citizens in America's future.

The mission of the New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy is to provide a highly disciplined environment fostering academics, leadership development, physical training and personal growth to educate and train unemployed youth who have ceased to attend high school.

Our website, the eligibility requirements are:

1. The applicant must be a citizen or legal resident of the United States
2. The applicant must be between 16 - 18 years of age
3. The applicant must not be parole, probation, or deferred disposition for other than juvenile offenses
4. The applicant must be drug and alcohol free: Academy participants will be drug-tested while enrolled in the Academy and will be discharged if they test positive for the presence of illegal drugs
5. The applicant must be unemployed or underemployed
6. The applicant must be officially withdrawn from High School prior to class start date

The recruit must initially meet the eligibility requirements. Once a pre-application is submitted, a team reaches out to the applicant/applicant family and does a pre-screening over the telephone. The next step is to schedule the applicant to attend one of our Orientation and Interview (O&I) Sessions. At the O&I, applicants and families sit through a presentation about the program (short video, PPT, and verbal presentation). They are asked

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

three separate times if they are there voluntarily and if they willingly want to attend the program. They sit through a one-on-one interview. And finally, they take the TABE Test.

The TABE Test is used as a marker of academic ability. It is not currently being used to determine if a Cadet will be accepted into the program. The applicant takes the TABE test at the beginning of the program and again at the end. Each program is charged with advancing each Cadet academically and this is evidenced through the TABE Test. The academic approach varies from program to program. Some academies offer the GED, some the HiSET, and some the TASC. In addition, some programs offer credit recovery. The TABE Test is the one item used universally in all 40 programs throughout the country to measure academic achievement.

Assuming they meet the eligibility requirements outlined above, have agreed they are voluntarily applying to the program and have displayed a cooperative attitude throughout the entire process, they are given an application packet to complete. If they complete everything within the packet (immunizations, various medical clearances, etc.) then they are given an invitation to the next class.

Our youth today are facing completely different obstacles than they were at the program's inception 25 years ago. Technology, social media, bullying, gang activity, and the drug crisis all play a major role in shaping our youth today.

The GED is an extremely rigorous exam which we consistently and repeatedly stress to the youth and their families. They are often misguided in thinking that attending the Academy and taking the GED is an easier route than the traditional high school path when in fact it is more difficult. Research shows that a passing score on the GED reflects a skill level higher than 60 percent of high school seniors across the nation test at upon graduation. The majority of the youth who enter our program have only completed 8th or 9th grade. They attend our program with the expectation that we will be able to teach them 4 years' worth of high school material in just 5 short months. This is not a reasonable nor realistic goal. During the recruitment process and throughout the Cadets time here we emphasize that individuals should attend the program to gain from the structure and discipline we have to offer and to work on advancing their academics so they will be better prepared for the GED. Academy staff spend time with each Cadet discussing their current academic abilities when they first enter the program, reviewing the progress they've made by the end of the program, and developing realistic goals and plans for when they leave the program.

Our curriculum is currently under intensive development. We recently hired a new Educational Programs Coordinator and she is developing curricular for all content areas (i.e. Math, ELA, Social Studies and Science) as well as 21st Century Skills. Language and Visual/Performing Arts is infused throughout the curriculum to simultaneously satisfy National Guard Bureau and New Jersey graduation requirements.

The curriculum considers the divergent learning styles and varying educational needs of the students. Built into the curriculum design are accommodations and modifications designed to address empirically researched constructs that impeded the academic development of at-risk students. In addition, the curriculum is inclusive and culturally relevant diffusing

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

instructional material that is reflective of the student demographic in an interdisciplinary manner.

Each content is divided into units and each unit is aligned with New Jersey Core Curriculum and GED Progress Indicators. Since our students range in age from 16 to 18 and from grades 9 – 12, the curriculum is written using 11th and 12th grades standards. Some 8th grade standards are used in Math for a review and reiteration of skill sets necessary for Geometry for progressive implementation of the skills at the higher levels.

Please update the following chart with regard to the academic credentials awarded. Please provide information from 2007 through 2018.

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.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Alternative Energy and Conservation

8. The U.S. Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) jointly with the Interagency Energy Management Task Force recognizes individuals and organizations for significant contributions to energy and water efficiency within the federal government through the annual Federal Energy and Water Management Awards Program. The U.S. Army has taken a lead in energy management and water efficiency conservation and is a significant contributor to these efforts. It has received numerous awards from the U.S. Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program. Likewise, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs has become a leader in statewide conservation efforts and has received five Federal Energy and Water Management Awards since 2006. The Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey has also won several Federal Energy and Water Management Awards since 2006.

Most recently the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, in collaboration with Rowan University, developed a comprehensive energy and water conservation program, the Clean Cut Campaign, which led to a 64 percent decrease in energy use intensity from the 2003 baseline. The Clean Cut Campaign ties together all of the New Jersey Army National Guard's (NJANG) existing energy and water conservation efforts under one main goal: to reduce the NJANG's impact on the environment by promoting a sustainable culture throughout the organization. Before the campaign, the NJANG was implementing various conservation measures throughout its facilities, but lacked a detailed plan to direct the overall effort and align them to ensure compliance with federal regulations. The campaign brought these efforts together to increase efficiency, maximize resources, and lay out a clear path to a sustainable future. Campaign components include a 15-year comprehensive energy and water master plan, a high efficiency lighting initiative, a statewide solar photovoltaic development plan, and an education and awareness campaign. The department won a Federal Energy and Water Management Program Award in 2016 for its efforts.

- **Question:** What are the goals in terms of projects and measured conservation in the 15-year comprehensive energy and water master plan and what is the strategy to accomplish each of those goals? How are these conservation efficiencies measured? What actions were needed to ensure compliance with federal regulations? What is a high efficiency lighting initiative and how will it conserve energy? Which facilities will benefit the most from implementation of the master plan in terms of cost reduction or avoidance? What impact will implementation of the plan have on reducing State appropriations from a FY 2019 baseline?

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

The goal since 2003 is 3% reduction per year. All photovoltaic projects are monitored to provide real time verification of generated energy, monthly reporting to NGB for utility usage, long range project program to build and retrofit facilities.

The latest targets established for Department of Defense (DoD) activities were established in Executive Order (EO) 13693 signed March 19, 2015. This EO called for the DoD activities to achieve a 20% reliance on clean energy for building electric energy by FY22 and a 25% reliance by FY25. The current estimate for our department's overall reliance on clean energy for electric energy is 24%, which puts us well ahead of the EO's target.

The program is a total upgrade to LED lighting in all facilities using utility company programs, state, federal, and BPU program funding. In some cases, an LED replacement fixture can result in an 80% cost-savings over traditional incandescent and fluorescent bulbs. An example would be replacing a 100-watt incandescent bulb with a 15-watt LED equivalent would provide the same illumination with a greatly reduced electric consumption.

By 2025, we expect all of the department's sites/buildings will see significant energy efficient improvements from the High Efficiency Lighting Program (HELP) program.

Energy use reduction is slowing and the reduction in costs to the department will be limited by new larger facilities that are now in operation at the Sea Girt training center. The annual cost per KW for utilities increases annually so the reduction in energy consumption is better characterized as a cost avoidance rather than a reduced expense as energy costs per KW are increasing.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Solar Renewable Energy Credits

9. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs has eight (**nine**) photovoltaic projects (solar energy systems) across the State and has received U.S. Department of Defense and National Guard Bureau approval for additional photovoltaic projects in Lawrenceville, Somerset, and Sea Girt as well as a solar thermal system at a facility within the Picatinny Arsenal. In addition, the department reports that one of its biggest energy initiatives will be a MICRO-GRID system that will allow electrical independence at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt. In addition to anticipated energy cost savings, the system will allow the installation to maintain power to surrounding communities even if a natural disaster or man-made disaster interrupts power to surrounding communities.

- Question:** Please identify the federally funded projects expected to be completed in FY 2018 and please identify the amount and source of the federal funds. Please identify any federally funded projects and the amount and source of the funds for any projects that were completed between FY 2014 and FY 2017. Please identify the amount and source of the federal funds for the additional federally-funded projects that are being planned for construction, e.g., the MICRO-GRID system. What is the reach of the MICRO-GRID system in the event of natural or man-made disasters? How many and which communities would benefit from the MICRO-GRID system at Sea Girt?

In FY18, we will complete a photovoltaic carport project at the Somerset Armory that was funded through the Department of Defense. The project cost was \$860,000 and was 100% federally funded and will produce 230KW.

Federally Funded Projects, the Amount and Source of the Funds Projects Completed between FY 2014 and FY 2017				
Year	Size	Location	Federal Cost	Source of Funds
FY 2015	200KW	Lakehurst Aviation Facility PV	\$350,000	Department of Defense
FY 2016	608KW	Sea Girt PV carport	3.2 million	Department of Energy
FY 2016	174KW	Lawrenceville PV carport	\$750,000	Department of Defense

The Micro-grid is not currently in design. The department has done a feasibility study and it was determined that before a micro-grid could be considered it is critical that the Sea Girt training centers electrical infrastructure be upgraded. We are currently in design for a federally supported project which will upgrade the existing infrastructure and move much of it underground to improve the systems resiliency during storms. The micro-grid, if installed, would only support the Sea Girt Training Centers buildings so that the base may remain operational in the instance of a power outage. It would allow the National Guard to isolate from the grid and provide a platform from which the National Guard could support relief and assistance during domestic emergencies but it would not provide power to the neighboring communities.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Solar Renewable Energy Credits

10. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs receives anticipated revenue from energy receipts, i.e., solar renewable energy credits (SRECs). The SRECs result from a Board of Public Utilities (BPU) program that requires utility companies to achieve renewable energy production goals. The value of the SREC is market driven and is periodically auctioned at the BPU website after the generation of renewable energy. One SREC is equivalent to the production of 1,000 KWh of electricity using solar energy. The SREC receipts are in addition to cost avoidance savings. The department indicates that alternative energy and conservation efforts have allowed the department to avoid nearly \$1.5 million in electrical costs since 2009. In FY 2016, the Department's alternative energy projects generated 2.4 million kilowatt hours of electricity for a cost avoidance of \$300,000. According to Schedule 2 in the FY 2019 Governor's Budget, actual energy program receipts totaled \$517,000 in FY 2017 and are anticipated to total \$500,000 in FY 2018 and FY 2019. Budget language authorizes use of these revenues by the department for "other energy program projects."

- **Question:** What projects will be funded by energy program receipts in FY 2019? For perspective, how much has the department saved in energy costs over the last three years as a result of all of its energy and energy-related conservation efforts? How were those savings achieved? What is the department's alternative energy production goal? Is the department on track to achieve those goals? By the end of FY 2019 how much generation capacity will the department achieve from all of its photovoltaic systems?

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

In FY19, the department plans to reinvest the funds from the SRECs to replace energy inefficient lighting at ten armories, fund the design for photovoltaic projects at Cherry Hill and Mount Holly armories, and conduct energy audits at five locations using interns from our partnership with Rowan University.

Calculating savings that are a direct result of energy initiatives is difficult due to changes in buildings use, occupancy, weather variations, changes in utility rates and fees, and addition of new buildings to the Departments inventory. From FY15 to FY17, overall Grid supplied energy (in MMBTU) has increased by 6%, but Energy Use Intensity (EUI) decreased by 7% which is attributable to the installation of LED and renewable PV projects. The 7% decrease in EUI would equate to approximately \$205,000 annually in energy savings from Oct 2014 to Sept 2017, which is directly attributable to the department's energy awareness program, renewable energy, and the lighting replacement program.

The department hopes to achieve 30% reliance on renewable energy by 2022. We believe this goal is achievable with our current estimated PV production at 24% of our electrical power requirements.

Estimated generation is expected to be 3 Meg-Watts by June 30, 2019.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

SERVICES TO VETERANS

Veterans' Transportation

11. The FY 2018 Appropriations Act included, at the Legislature's initiative, language authorizing an additional \$1,000,000 for transportation to and from ancillary health care services when a resident admitted to a veterans' home elects to use those services. Ancillary health care services are services such as physician, laboratory, hospitalization, dental, surgical, chiropractic, vision care, pharmacy, and other related health care services. Residents are not to incur any expenses or be charged for such transportation services. The FY 2019 Governor's Budget proposes to discontinue this language.

Each year, the appropriation for each veterans' memorial home are increased by supplemental appropriations from prior years' revenues from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs per diems, member maintenance contributions, and Medicare Part A receipts accounted for in Schedule I under "Soldiers Homes." These amounts are then cut from the following year's base budget, and the cycle repeats. Budget language provides that the department may receive 40 percent of the receipts from these sources that are in excess of the amount anticipated in the preceding fiscal year. These receipts are known as "excess receipts." The remaining 60 percent is deposited into the General Fund. The department uses the supplemental appropriation for veterans' program needs, mostly medical supplies and equipment, at the three veterans' homes. FY 2019 budget information detailing FY 2018 supplemental appropriations indicates that excess receipts allocated to the Veterans' Memorial Homes will total \$1,000,000: \$333,000 for Menlo Park Veterans' Memorial Home, \$333,000 for Paramus Veterans' Memorial Home, and \$334,000 for Vineland Veterans' Memorial Home. The FY 2019 Governor's Budget proposes budget language that would appropriate 100 percent of the excess receipts for veterans' program initiatives.

- **Question:** Did the department comply with the Legislature's intent that transportation for ancillary health services be provided as requested and free of charge to residents? Which of the two language provisions was the basis of FY 2018 supplemental appropriations to the veterans' homes? Were the funds that were appropriated used for transportation to and from ancillary health care services for residents of the veterans' homes in FY 2018? If so, what were the total expenditures and number of trips per home thus far in FY 2018? Given that the proposed budget language will allocate 100 percent of excess receipts to the department, are the additional monies from excess receipts intended to continue to fund Veterans' Memorial Home residents' transportation to and from ancillary health care services when those services are elected?

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

The Department complied with the Legislature's intent regarding the spending of the transportation funds appropriated for the transportation of residents to medical appointments and services not offered in the homes.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

The funds that were appropriated for residents' transportation, via line item addition for the FY 2018 budget, were split evenly amongst the three homes and are being used exclusively for the transportation of residents to ancillary health care appointments and staffing costs associated with the transportation.

Total expenditures and number of trips so far are as follows:

Facility	#Trips	Expended so far	Projected Expenditure
Vineland VMH	1,283	\$106,046	\$ 155,000
Menlo Park VMH	215	\$ 20,900	\$ 35,000
Paramus VMH	750	\$ 40,832	\$ 63,000

If the proposed budget language is approved and 100% of excess receipts are allocated for Veterans Memorial Home Usage, it is our intent to use part of the excess receipts to fully fund transportation for medical services and specialties that we do not currently offer in each home.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Veterans' Diversion Program

12. P.L.2017, c.42 creates a Statewide Veterans' Diversion Program to divert eligible service members away from the criminal justice system and into appropriate case management and mental health services in instances when a member of the military or a veteran commits a non-violent petty disorderly persons offense, disorderly persons offense, or crime of the third or fourth degree. The law requires the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to prepare and disseminate a directory of Veterans' Diversion Resource entities within New Jersey to facilitate law enforcement's diversion of eligible members of the military and veterans who have committed certain offenses away from the criminal justice system and into appropriate case management and mental health services. The department is also required to develop a registry of volunteer mentors.

- **Question:** Is the program up and running and have any members of the military or veterans been diverted? Is the department maintaining statistics on the number of diversions and the outcomes? How has the department coordinated with the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Department of Health, and law enforcement to implement the program? How is a Veterans' Diversion Resource entity defined? What actions has the department taken thus far to create a directory of Veterans' Diversion Resource entities? How many Veterans' Diversion Resource entities have been identified for inclusion in the directory? Does the department believe that this number meets the statewide need, considering both system capacity and geographical coverage? Has the department encountered any barriers to preparing and disseminating a directory?

The Statewide Veterans Diversion Program is up and running and service members and veterans have been diverted by individual county prosecutors.

Under the authorizing statute, DMAVA is not tasked with maintaining statistics on the number of diversions and the outcomes.

DMAVA has consulted with the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Department of Health, the New Jersey State Bar Association, the New Jersey State Parole Board, and the 21 county prosecutors to develop the Veterans' Diversion Resource Entity Directory, the revised second edition, and to determine mentor training requirements.

Each Veterans' Diversion Resource entity is as a point of entry to facilitate the law enforcement diversion or referral of eligible service members who are veterans into existing case management and mental health services offered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the New Jersey Department of Human Services, or other appropriate case management and mental health services that are available to veterans or persons with mental illness. A Veterans Diversion Resource entity, or an agency to which an eligible service member is referred to by the Veterans Diversion entity, is capable of providing screening, counseling, treatment and case management for mental health issues and other co-occurring health disorders to eligible service members who are veterans, or coordinating such services through the appropriate federal, State, and local government agencies that offer assistance to veterans. In

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

In addition, the current directory provides points of contact for DMAVA Veteran Service Offices and the June 2018 edition of the directory includes points of contact for county prosecutors, county government veteran service offices, housing, and veterans' service organizations.

Last year, DMAVA published and disseminated a Veterans' Diversion Resource Entities Directory. A revised, more comprehensive edition is in development and will be published no later than June 2018.

The Veterans' Diversion Resource currently has 31 entities identified for inclusion in the directory.

The current directory meets the statewide need. The June 2018 revised directory will contain additional resource entities for service members and veterans. DMAVA has encountered no barriers in the preparation and dissemination of the directory.

- **Question:** How many persons have sought approval to be mentors and how many have been approved? What is the current ratio of mentors to diversion program participants?

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

As of 10 April 2018, 21 individuals have applied to be veteran mentors. DMAVA is in the process of developing a standard operating procedure with county prosecutors to ensure that all applicants undergo a criminal background check.

DMAVA is unable to identify a ratio of mentors to diversion program participants as the latter category falls under the purview of individual county prosecutors.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

13. 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 Statewide 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. The initial evaluation of a patient seeking treatment for PTSD is \$375. The ongoing average cost of an individual session is \$130 per hour, a group session is \$65 per hour, while medication management costs \$75. Typically, a patient remains in the program for approximately seven years attending sessions once a week in the beginning and reducing the frequency of sessions overtime as healing occurs. The total estimated cost for an individual for the duration of the seven-year program is approximately \$11,070.

- **Question:** Please update the charts above for FY 2017, FY 2018, and also provide projections for FY 2019.

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

[Updated charts below.](#)

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

FY 2005 through FY 2019					
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	19,584	2.30	\$1,248,000	\$ 1,300,000
2015	853	22,023	2.15	\$1,323,000	\$ 1,300,000
2016	684	19,151	2.33	\$1,300,000	\$ 1,300,000
2017	586	18,240	2.5	\$1,300,000	\$ 1,300,000
2018*	560	14,040	2	\$1,300,000	\$ 1,300,000
2019**	670	19,000	n.a.	\$1,300,000	\$ 1,300,000

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

* Data as up to March 2018

** Projection

PTSD Individual and Group Session Statistics FY 2011 to FY 2018								
Fiscal Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*
Clients	655	744	724	707	853	684	786	560
Individual Sessions	8,490	8,944	9,183	9,957	9,108	10,997	10,142	9181
Group Sessions	6,622	5,779	5,668	4,077	7,083	7,436	7,068	4623
Other**	2,231	3,883	4,804	6,399	3,943	1,045	184**	216
Total Sessions	17,797	18,845	20,029	19,584	22,023	19,151	18,240	14,020

Source: Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs

* Data up to March 2018

** PTSD counseling sessions that are listed under "other" are for medication management or psychiatric evaluations. In the past, couples counseling sessions were included under "other, the last two years, couples counseling have been recorded under group counseling sessions.

- **Question:** Please update the charts above for FY 2017, FY 2018, and also provide projections for FY 2019.

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

See chart above.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

14. According to the Department, 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. Since December 2010, the Division of Veterans' Services – Veterans' Benefits Bureau has tracked Service Type and War Era clients under the PTSD program.

PTSD Cases by Service Type and War Era			
Type of Service	Number of Clients	Captured War Era	Number of Clients
Air Force	123	OIF/OEF(1)	1,031
Army	1,492	Vietnam	2,482
Coast guard	17	Gulf	36
Marine	514	WWII	134
National Guard	146	Korea	89
Navy	279	Other	176
Reserve	15		

Source: Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs

Notes: (1) Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom.

- Question:** What steps does the department take during reintegration to identify returning servicemembers who may have PTSD? Is there anything the department can do to improve the early identification of potential mental health issues in returning soldiers? Is it feasible to develop a mental health program that all returning servicemembers are required to go through before leaving reintegration? What coordination and cooperation exists between the State and the federal government to reintegrate servicemembers from all branches of military service and to identify and improve mental health outcomes? Please update the chart if appropriate.

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

The reintegration process focusses on the need of the soldier, with in a broader context of their family, friends and community. Services from the community are offered to build on interpersonal strength while resources are made available to promote health and create opportunities for peer support and mentoring. A screening for health risk exposure of military service is also completed. Family members along with soldiers are afforded opportunities to speak with mental health professionals on hand or can make later confidential appointments. Since the soldier's PTSD symptoms may not surface immediately upon return, or despite symptoms the individuals may not seek counseling until it is their last resort, we reiterate to the veteran that counseling is available always, when and if they are ready. Soldiers are required to attend the reintegration program, but most, would prefer to be at home with their families. As stated before, most symptoms do not surface immediately, so to mandate a mental health program, may not prove to be beneficial. This Department provides reintegration services and benefits briefings with other Reserve Components, upon request. It is imperative that this department remain cognizant of the most common issues faced amongst our returning veterans, mental health, TBI, co-occurring disorders, depression and the consistent need for the interpersonal sensitivity that is experienced by the veteran during these reintegrations. In doing so, our Department works hand in hand with the Federal Veterans Administration Transition and Care

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Management Team. If our state veterans' service officer (VSO) is unable to secure a counseling appointment with the Federal VA within twenty-four hours he will schedule them with the state network provider.

In addition to reintegration program, this department reaches out to each veteran that is discharged from the military. Upon receipt of the veterans DD214, the veteran receives a welcome home letter which includes a veteran's guide, the Veterans Service Officer's information with their location, and an application for state awards, this year alone we have reached out to 3,000 veterans.

Additionally, from the FEDERAL standpoint, IAW DoDI 6490.03, all service members who deploy undergo a pre-deployment health assessment (DD 2795) to establish a baseline of their health, including a mental health assessment. Upon their redeployment (between 30 days before and 30 days after return), service members complete a post-deployment assessment (DD 2796) to assess any health (including mental health) concerns from their deployment and to compare any change in health from the pre-deployment assessment. In 2005, the DoD added a third assessment for service members redeploying from a combat zone (only required for those from a combat zone), the post-deployment reassessment (DD 2900), to capture health (including mental health) issues that service members did not disclose upon redeployment or that emerged since redeployment that may have had a delayed onset (particularly PTSD and TBI). This assessment is done between 90-180 days after return from deployment. All three deployment health assessments are done one-on-one with a medical provider and can be used to refer service members for further care as needed. During the third assessment (post-deployment reassessment), the medical provider can generate a referral to the VA for a service member to be evaluated to establish a diagnosis for any deployment-related conditions. Federal funding is available to place the service member on orders for a limited number of visits. Service members can also be referred to other available state programs as needed (i.e, Vet2vet).

Vet to Vet Hotline

15. 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

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

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 DMAVA and Rutgers to consult on a quarterly basis with the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services within the Department of Health, 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 \$383,260 in FY 2019 and are budgeted in the Support Services to Returning Veterans line item. 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.
2019*	\$ 383,260			

Source: DMAVA Responses to FY 2018 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. The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs does not have access to the number of active duty members that list New Jersey as their Home of Record. The New Jersey Army Guard has reported a total of five suicides since 2011 and the New Jersey Air National Guard has reported a total of three since 2010.

Military Suicides by Component and Service 2012 to 2016					
DoD Component and Reserve	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Active Component	321	256	276	266	280
Air Force	50	48	62	64	61
Army	165	121	126	120	130
Marine Corps	48	46	34	39	37
Navy	58	41	54	43	52
Reserve Component	204	220	170	212	202
Reserve	72	86	79	88	80
Air Force Reserve	3	11	10	9	10
Army Reserve	50	59	42	54	41
Marine Corps	11	11	12	11	19
Navy Reserve	8	5	15	14	10
National Guard	132	134	91	124	122
Air Nat. Guard	22	14	14	21	14
Army Nat. Guard	110	120	77	103	108

Note: Suicide counts are current as of October 31, 2017.

Source: Department of Defense, Quarterly Suicide Report, Calendar Year 2017 3rd Quarter.

Suicide prevention and other health and welfare issues are the focus of the Vet2Vet Helpline. According to the department, each year they “see an increase in the number of veterans in New Jersey reaching out for support and information. The New Jersey Vet2Vet has impacted the Veteran community in a very powerful way as a result of: increasing marketing and outreach efforts across the State, providing Peer Support Specialist answering phone calls and emails in the call center, and maintaining an after-hours call capability. Based on the high volume of calls to the 24-hour helpline and New Jersey’s extremely low suicide rate, the Vet2Vet Helpline has proven to be a positive and effective 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 population that is healthier than a decade ago.” The following table shows the increase in the demand for services of the Vet2Vet Helpline. Incoming calls increased by 165 percent between 2006 and 2106. Outgoing calls have increased by 650 percent and total calls have increased by 383 percent over the same ten-year time frame.

Calls	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012 1	2013	2014	2015	2016
IN	46	1,571	1,775	1,501	1,542	1,911	2,189	3,386	3,446	3,525	3,508	4,173
OUT	80	1,282	1,079	2,590	2,855	2,763	2,402	6,584	7,261	7,785	7,057	9,619
TOTAL	126	2,853	2,854	4,091	4,397	4,674	4,591	9,970	10,707	11,310	10,565	13,792

Source: Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, Responses to FY 2018 Discussion Points.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

- **Question:** Please discuss the increased marketing and outreach efforts across the State. How are Peer Support Specialists identified, hired, and trained? Why are outgoing calls generally higher than the number of incoming calls? Once an incoming call is taken, typically what happens and how is the person helped? How many other similar Vet2Vet programs are there in other States? Please update the chart for 2017. Do the department and/or Rutgers consult with these programs to assure best practices are employed?

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

The current marketing is inconsistent throughout the state as Vet2Vet program receives calls and is identified as a crisis line, helpline, with counselors, etc. Services were originally funded to include: veteran peer support, family support, clinical assessment, case management, referrals, web-based peer support and live chat, Services currently are more geared towards answering veterans benefits related questions, navigating the federal VA system, employment, state benefits, peer support, and referrals to veteran's service officers for counseling. A substantial amount of peer support follow-up is maintained and proves significant with this program.

What initially began as a mental health support line has turned into an all-encompassing program that is a direct link for veterans and family members providing veterans' resources. Now more than ever, it's important to continue to lead, grow, and change the way current and future veterans receive support and services. Each peer support specialist identified for employment goes through the hiring process with Rutgers University. (Peer support specialists should have service in the Armed Forces, combat not required). Once hired, the peer support specialist is required to take the following training courses: Reciprocal Peer Support, Crisis Call Model, Substance Abuse, Self-Care, Suicide, Culture Competency, and Customer Service.

Outgoing calls are generally higher due to the follow-up calls to existing clients. NJ Vet2Vet has a total of 683 clients that are followed up with on a weekly or monthly basis, depending on the priority or needs of the caller. In addition, the Vet2Vet peer support staff frequently return calls from other help lines within the call center. Once an incoming call comes in, the peer will determine if the person is a new or an existing client. If the person is new, the peer will input the caller's demographics and information (if given) into a database so the call can be followed up with in the future. Depending on the needs of the caller, the peer will then assist the person by providing resources needed, or simply just lending an ear. There are many reasons why a person may call the line. It could range from needing family resources, counseling resources, or simply a person to listen. According to the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, there are a total of 16 Peer Support Programs throughout the United States. Out of the 16, there are two that service National Guardsmen, California, and Michigan. California's help line is run like NJ, in addition, they have a unique program for combat veterans to speak to one another, it's a 24/7 Veteran Combat Call Center. Michigan provides a help line staffed by veterans and will help from benefits to counseling referrals.

Veterans' Benefits and Outreach

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

16. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs maintains 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.

In the response to a FY 2018 OLS Discussion Point, the department indicated that "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."

- **Question:** Please explain what programs for homeless veterans continue to address the needs of the homeless populations and which agencies and public sector entities, identified by the Interagency Council on Homelessness, provide those services.

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

Veterans Haven South: Veterans Haven South is a 99 bed homeless Veterans transition facility funded by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NJDMAVA) and supported by the United States Veterans Affairs (VA) through a Grant and Per Diem program established on 1 October 2017. The approved Grant and Per Diem program is for 6 Bridge Housing beds, 35 Clinical Treatment Center beds and 40 Service Intensive Transitional Housing beds. Additionally, we have revised our zero tolerance policy in respect to substance abuse to comply with the VA program. Veterans that have relapses are placed in Intensive Response to Relapse (IRR) program. Veterans Haven South provides a 24-hour staff and certified staff to include; a clinical social worker, registered nurse, vocational case manager, housing case manager, and addictions case manager. Currently, we have 76 Residents and our current success rate stands at 94%.

Veterans Haven North: Veterans Haven North is a 100 bed homeless Veterans transition facility funded by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NJDMAVA). The facility operates with a self-imposed census cap of 75. The program was additionally supported by the United States Veterans Affairs (VA) through a Grant as an HCHV contractor of emergency residential placement and treatment services from 2013 – 2017. It has been additionally supported since May 1, 2017 via an MOA with the Department of Health's Hunterdon Developmental Center for their resident food service provision. Veterans Haven North provides 24-hour staff and certified staff to include; a clinical social worker, two master's level counselors, two master's level social workers and a registered nurse. Currently we have 61 Residents and our current success rate stands at 83%.

There are several organizations in NJ, and the surrounding areas, that are involved in identifying and responding to the homeless veteran population, including the VAMCs'

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

homeless outreach teams, veteran's service officers, SSVF providers (Catholic Charities, Soldier On, etc.), local hospitals, parole and probation officers, local shelters, various grass roots and non-profit street outreach teams, and others. We also participates in the Tri-County Continuum of Care which has recently instituted a Coordinated Assessment model for use amongst the contributing agencies. Agencies with housing opportunities, will notify the COC of same. From there, the lead agency will pull data from our Prioritization List to determine if any individuals fit the criteria for that housing opportunity and will make the connection between agencies if they do. We are also an active participant in the local Comprehensive Emergency Assistance System (CEAS) Committee. The purpose of this committee is to oversee a comprehensive system of services to the homeless including recommendations regarding State and Federal funding and ongoing coordination and adaptation of services as required. The mission of these agencies is the reach "Functional Zero" within the areas that they serve as it relates to homelessness. We participate in all Stand Down events and local resource fairs in the area throughout the year. We have been able to process identified veterans from these Stand Downs and events for admission. This is also an excellent opportunity to link with new resource providers for veterans. There are several pro-bono legal resources, including Volunteer Lawyers for Justice (VLJ), specifically geared toward assisting veterans with filing claims for benefits, having discharges upgraded and working on any standing legal issues they may have. Legal clinics are often held at least monthly at the local VAMC.

17. The department indicates that it "addresses the needs of veterans who self-identify as being homeless or who are referred by other agencies as being a veteran. The department and the Council, utilizing the definition of homeless, currently rely upon

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

individuals to seek our services based upon their need. We work closely with the Council and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs to identify and provide services to veterans as well as other Council members that may direct eligible veterans to our services.”

- Question:** Please provide data with regard to the number of veterans who the department, the Council, and other agencies have assisted each year since 2012 and provide examples of how these homeless veterans have been helped and the results of the outreach and assistance efforts. For the veterans that may not be eligible for placement in a Veterans Haven facility, what alternative facilities are available to place these individuals in and what criteria determine their eligibility for those facilities? Have homeless veterans in need of assistance been identified through the Vet2Vet Helpline? How many veterans have been placed in Veterans Haven as a result of these collaborative efforts?

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

Veterans Haven South Assistance to Homeless Veterans	
Year	Number of Veterans
2012	121
2013	168
2014	165
2015	153
2016	173
2017	151

Alternative facilities in the South Jersey region for homeless Veterans that do not meet our admission criteria are listed below:

- Home of the Brave (Camden)
- Joseph’s House (Camden) Shelter
- Enphront Veterans Services (Atlantic City)
- Atlantic City Mission (Atlantic City)

Veterans Haven South has not received any referrals from the Vet2Vet helpline to our knowledge.

Veterans Haven North has provided assistance to homeless Veterans since 2012 as follows:

Veterans Haven North Assistance to

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Homeless Veterans		
YEAR	ADMISSIONS	DISCHARGES
2012	34	6
2013	64	56
2014	60	48
2015	39	44
2016	55	52
2017	74	53
2018	21	2
Total	347	261

Veterans Haven North Transitional Housing Program					
VHN Transitional Housing Program Performance Data by Calendar Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Length of stay (days)	154	249	296	321	257
Positive exits (includes to transitional & permanent housing)	61.4%	78.3%	81%	88.7%	78.6%
% of positive discharges to Permanent housing	48%	50%	50%	46.8%	56.8%
Negative exits	38.6%	21.7%	19%	11.3%	23.2%
% of veterans who left having achieved an increase in income	28.57%	25%	35.09%	53.84%	35.84%

DVA HCHV Contractor of Emergency Residential Placement and Treatment Services provider, known as "SHIELD"

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

VHN SHIELD Program Performance Data by Fiscal Year	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
Length of stay (days)	81	106	104	63.51
Positive exits (includes to transitional & permanent housing)	87.40%	84.50%	68%	62.20%
% of positive discharges to Permanent housing	31.30%	22.53%	38.20%	30.80%
Negative exits	12.60%	15.50%	17.30%	22%
% of veterans who left having achieved an increase in income	7.14%	22.91%	15.78%	12.56%

Upon admission, veterans are assigned to a case manager who assists them in developing their Individual Service Plan (ISP). This is a document that details the goals they wish to accomplish while in the transitional housing program. Some key target areas that are addressed include Financial, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Physical Health, Identifying Documents, Housing, Legal Issues and Familial Issues. The veteran meets with their case manager bi-weekly to work on their goals, update on their progress and be given resources and referrals to aid them in their goal attainment. The mission is to enable each veteran to ready themselves for successful return to positive, permanent housing. Veteran's Haven North historically has an 85% success rate with regards to positive discharges from the facility. Veteran's Haven North conducts outreach using a variety of methods. These methods include a strong partnership with both the Lyons and East Orange VAMCs, as primary sources of referrals to our program. Veterans are identified by outreach teams, medical staff, or other VA employees, who in turn notify the homeless outreach coordinators. Veteran's Haven North is notified of the individual's status and we respond immediately. Our Treatment Team Coordinator/Clinical Supervisor meets those veterans to conduct the necessary interviews and paperwork, and if approved for admission, arrangements are subsequently made for the veteran to be transported to the facility. We also receive referrals from a multitude of agencies and organizations within the surrounding community, including local college veteran service departments, non- profits, veteran service officers, hospitals, prisons, parole and probation officers, and personal referrals made by friends or family of an identified homeless veteran. We participate in all Stand Down events and local resource fairs in the area throughout the year. We have been able to process identified veterans from these Stand Downs and events for admission. Our eligibility criteria is that an individual must be deemed a veteran by the federal guidelines, be eligible for VA Healthcare and have an Honorable discharge status. There is an income limit that can be waived should it be deemed that this particular

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

veteran would benefit from the clinical aspects of the transitional housing program. If a veteran is not eligible for admission, we will make referrals to other transitional housing and emergency shelter programs (i.e. Valor Program, Community Hope – Hope for Veterans, the Lyons Domiciliary, etc.) in addition to SSVF and local social service agencies. Veterans Haven North has not received any referrals from the Vet2Vet helpline to our knowledge.

Veterans Service Officers

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

18. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs 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, the department 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	
FY2017	\$ 125,869,510*
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.	
*This information is obtained from data provided by the VA Business Intelligence Service in Washington. The data is provided quarterly. Unfortunately however, the validity of two of the quarterly reports are in question and an inquiry has been submitted to determine the accuracy of the questionable reports.	

The total amount New Jersey veterans received from the VA from FY 2009 through FY 2017 is:

U.S. Veterans Administration Disbursements to New

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

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
2015	\$1,036,506,000	\$207,474,000	\$1,243,980,000
2016	\$1,126,820,000	\$232,159,000	\$1,358,979,000
2017	Statistical Information for FY 2017 is not yet available from the VA.		
Total	\$7,323,593,000	\$1,442,706,000	\$8,766,299,000
Source: DMAVA			

According to the U.S. Veterans Administration:

- 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.
 - Death compensation and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation claims are for survivors of those veterans who died of a service-connected disability.
 - Death pension claims are for widows whose spouse died of a non-service-connected disability.
 - Live pension claims are for non-service-connected disability and also aid and attendance claims.
-
- **Question:** Please update the charts to reflect information through 2017. What percent of compensation claims are live compensation claims, death compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation, death pension claims, and live pension claims?

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

FY 2017 Total NJ Expenditure data is not yet available from the Federal VA.

FY 17 Compensation and Pension Data for NJ VSOs	
Total Comp, Live & Death Pension and DIC Payments to NJ Veterans Represented by 009:	\$125,869,510
Total Compensation Payments:	\$119,877,562
Total Pension Payments (live):	\$5,493,688
Total Pension (Survivors):	\$236,707
Total Dependency & Indemnity Compensation:	\$261,553

Based on the data provided by the VA Data center for veterans represented by DMAVA, the breakdown by percentage:	
Live compensation:	95.2%
Total Live Pension:	4.3%
Total Survivors Pension:	>1%
Total DIC:	>1%

Brigadier General William C. Doyle Cemetery

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

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

then, the cemetery has become the nation's busiest state veterans' cemetery, conducting 3,092 burials in FY 2018, or approximately 10 to 15 burials per day. Maintenance of the cemetery and funding for burials is provided by both State appropriations and the US Department of Veterans Affairs Plot Internment Allowance. There is no cost to an eligible veteran for burial at Doyle Cemetery. Rated capacity for the cemetery, assuming full 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. Total estimated interments in FY 2018 are 71,995, an increase of 3,092 interments above FY 2017. Over the past four years total interments have increased, on average, by 3,097 interments annually. At 3,000 interments per year, the cemetery could reach total capacity in 47.6 years.

- **Question:** What is the current status of the cemetery master plan and future plans for the cemetery?

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

The Cemetery Master Plan was update in July of 2016. The Section Z Crypt Filed Phase II Expansion of Burial Capacity and Infrastructure Improvements is in progress. The Request for Proposal is under review, Installations Division is working on the Environmental Tasks for the Architectural & Engineering Scope of Work and NJDMAVA will solicit bids for Design Services in the coming months. In addition to the necessary expansions, the state should also plan for future land acquisitions. Ten Property Summaries have been provided for consideration in the Master Plan. The FY18 total of 3,092 burials shown is a projection and we are close to the target. The numbers shown below were reported on the Core Mission/KPI Data for FY19 Budget.

Burial Services	
Actual FY 2017:	3,121
Revised Performance Target FY 2018:	3,100
Baseline Perf Target FY 2019:	3,150

New Jersey Commission of Veterans' Benefits

20. P.L.2017, c.375 establishes the New Jersey Commission on Veterans' Benefits in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMAVA). The purpose of the commission is to develop, maintain, and annually update a five-year statewide veterans' benefits strategic plan that includes goals and measurable outcomes to ensure that all State

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

departments and agencies are effectively delivering comprehensive services and support for veterans and their families in this State.

The commission is composed of 13 members. The first eight members would be State employees including: the Adjutant General of DMAVA, who would serve as chairperson; the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services; the Commissioner of the Department of Health; the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs; the Commissioner of the Department of Education; the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development; the Secretary of State; and the Attorney General, or their respective designees. Five would be public members who are residents of this State and who are veterans, one each to be appointed by the Governor and the legislative leadership for three-year terms. At least two of the five public members are required to be women veterans.

The commission is tasked with developing a five-year strategic plan by conducting an analysis to identify the various programs and benefits provided by the State to the veteran population, and evaluating those programs to assess their status and effectiveness. Areas of analysis would include each existing program's status, successes, and challenges in addressing the veteran population's access to benefits; educational, job skills, employment, and business opportunities; physical and behavioral health and long-term healthcare options; criminal justice issues; housing opportunities and homelessness; and special needs.

The commission is required to develop recommendations to be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature to address any deficiencies in the provision of benefits and services to veterans in this State and to prepare and submit an initial five-year strategic plan to the Governor and the Legislature within six months of its organization. Thereafter, the commission is required to prepare and submit annual reports to the Governor and the Legislature containing its findings, activities and recommendations, including any recommendations for administrative and legislative action.

- **Question:** What is the status of the commission and the assignment of administrative support necessary for commission activities? Has the commission convened and begun work on the strategic plan? What are the staffing levels and resources allocated to the commission? Will the Legislature receive a strategic plan by the six-month deadline?

Answer (Provide detailed/thorough response):

Dr. Lisa Hou, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs, met with staff members to develop a timeline, membership plan, and scope of work for the commission's activities. A principal staff officer was assigned as the administrative support officer. Brigadier General Jemal J. Beale, The Adjutant General, forwarded a written request for participation to those commissioners designated by the authorizing statute as members. DMAVA is in the process of coordinating the public members who will represent the Governor, Senate President, Senate Minority Leader, Assembly Speaker, and Assembly Minority Leader.

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

The commission has not convened, but will convene as soon as the public members are identified.

In terms of staffing levels and resources allocated to the commission, the Adjutant General, the Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs, the Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner, and a principal staff officer will support the work of the commission. Members will be able to draw upon the resources of DMAVA's Division of Veterans Services for resources, to include meeting space, research support, and copy and print capabilities.

The Legislature will receive a strategic plan by the six-month deadline.