

## DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

### SEQUESTER

1. On March 11, 2013, the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations released its substitute amendment to the United States House of Representatives FY 2013 continuing resolution that would fund the government for the remainder of FY 2013. The Senate's version of the continuing resolution maintains the discretionary caps in the Budget Control Act and does not reverse the March 1, 2013 sequester. It includes separate divisions for FY 2013 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs.

**Question:** Please discuss how the federal defense budget reductions have affected the State's Army and Air National Guard operations, programs, and capital outlay plans, as well as the State Veterans Affairs' operations and programs. Please provide a chart illustrating how each of the federal reductions affected the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMAVA) State budget and federal funding and the resultant reductions to each program.

**Answer:** The federal defense budget reductions could impact the ability of the National Guard to accomplish their vital state and federal missions, train its forces, and recruit and retain members of the state's military first response team.

### ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

At this time the department believes sequestration will result in a 16.1 percent reduction -- \$12.1 million -- in non-exempt Operation and Maintenance (O&M) discretionary funding. This appropriation provides funding for the training of units; procurement of organizational equipment, supplies, and repair parts; services, including equipment maintenance; and activities in connection with military support to civil authorities.

Expected FY13 impact on the New Jersey Army National Guard O&M appropriation

FY 2012 Funding		FY 2013 Funding	
	Total	Total	Difference
O&M	\$75,006,245	\$62,881,929	-\$12,124,316

Some of the impacts of the budget reduction:

- Cancellation of individual and collective training, will impact Soldier and unit readiness. Currently, 94 percent, or 5,800 of New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers are duty qualified to perform their individual military skills. Lack of funds for enrollment in military schools will impact ability to sustain this high-qualification readiness status.

- Furlough of 450 uniformed military technicians will amount to a loss of \$2.3 million in wages, 13 percent per individual for an average of \$5,100. Military organizations will be negatively impacted by the loss of 112 hours per technician—50,000 total hours.
- Ammunition deliveries from depots to Army Ammunition Supply Points have been significantly curtailed. It is unknown if or when this funding shortfall and delivery curtailment will be resolved. Lack of ammunition will required the cancellation of individual and collective training thus impacting soldier and unit readiness significantly.
- Reimbursement for uniform allowances for Soldiers entering initial training could be impacted in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarters and other allowances earmarked for clothing may be shifted to cover costs of meals provided during training.
- The 254<sup>th</sup> Regiment (CA), our Regional Training Institute, may be required to cancel 2 (11B) Advance Leader Courses and 1 (68W) Combat Medics course.
- The use of U.S. Government Services Administration vehicles may be curtailed.
- Inability to replace kitchen equipment at armories may force greater use of contract meals for drill assemblies.

#### Recruiting and Retention

- New Jersey is one of a handful of states currently at 100 percent strength. Loss of 20 percent of the annual recruiting and retention budget -- \$400,000 -- may impact the recruiting and retention mission. However, we have identified the risks up front and will work to ensure that New Jersey remains one of the three states currently at 100 percent strength. New Jersey already received increased enlistment and retention missions in Training Year 2013 and absorbed an additional enlistment mission increase from National Guard Bureau in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter. Some of the losses and their impact:
- Elimination of up to nine contractors who provide operations, administrative and marketing functions in order to maximize the number of uniformed recruiters in the field. This will impact our ability to sustain current personnel strength numbers which are keeping in line with NGB's year-end goals.
- Reduction in the marketing accounts will reduce our overall exposure and the ability to target specific (team leader selected) markets for local recruiting.
- Reduction in funding will hamper the ability to place additional Soldiers on temporary duty during critical periods to bolster recruiting efforts.
- Reductions in funding for equipment and supplies may prevent Recruiting and Retention from fielding uniforms for members of the recruit holding companies; replacing IT equipment damaged by Super Storm Sandy; purchasing storage shelving (to avoid future flooding losses at Sea Girt), and equipment for marketing and branding.

#### AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Sequestration could also impact the Air Guard's ability to respond to critical Homeland Defense missions as a result of a reduction in flying hours and anticipated 13% loss of the technician work week due to furloughs.

FY 13 Budget reduction as compared to FY12

FY 2012 Funding		FY 2013 Funding	
	Total	Total	Difference
O&M	\$100,027,043	\$90,324,420	-\$9,702,623

Some of the impacts of the budget reduction:

- Future allocated flying hours may be reduced under sequestration.
- As Flying hours and technician pilot hours are reduced, proficiency will drop below the minimum required by regulations due to the reduction in the number of sorties flown. Aircrew will fly to currency standards, not proficiency levels
- It is projected that for each month aircrews are restricted to minimum training standards, it will take two additional months of training to retrain to fully qualified.
- A reduction of work hours will challenge the Command Post’s ability to communicate to support the 24/7 nature of the Alert Mission.
- Reductions to the technician force will reduce man hours available by 60,000 or approximately \$2.67 million in wages.
- These reductions will cause a 13 percent productivity decline across the full spectrum of base operations. This decline causes a parallel decline in mission capable rates for aircraft and vehicles, affecting both federal and state domestic response missions.

**SUPER STORM SANDY**

2. On October 29, 2012, Super Storm Sandy, moved onto the New Jersey shoreline just north of Atlantic City. In the aftermath of the storm, two million households in New Jersey lost power, 346,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, and 37 people died. The cost of the storm is estimated to be approximately \$30 billion. The New Jersey National Guard was mobilized to provide first response rescue, relief, and recovery services during and after the storm.

**Question:** Please provide a summary of the New Jersey National Guard’s Super Storm Sandy rescue, relief, and recovery efforts to date. How many New Jersey National Guard soldiers and airmen were activated to respond to the effort and what duties did they perform? What are the total costs the DMAVA of this effort? What storm claims costs did the State submit to the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and what was the value of those claims? How much funding was provided to the New Jersey National Guard under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013, and for what purposes? What was the extent and cost of the storm damage to the Joint Base at Sea Girt? Will the State receive federal funding from the military to pay for storm damage costs?

**Answer:** On Oct. 27, 2012, Governor Christie’s pre-landfall Emergency Declaration triggered the New Jersey National Guard’s activation to provide Defense Support to Civil Authorities in Super Storm Sandy relief operations. From October through Jan. 10, 2013, Soldiers and Airmen conducted Joint Operations in the state’s most devastated urban, suburban, rural, and coastal areas. With a high of 1,744 Soldiers and Airmen ordered to State Active Duty in the earliest days, 56 remained on duty at the end of the operation. The National Guard logged 37,250 man-days in response to Sandy.

The National Guard implemented the Contingency Dual Status Command prior to landfall to establish the legal conditions needed to use Active Duty forces and military resources in the National Guard Joint Task Force under Governor Christie’s control.

Implementation of this command paradigm was its first-ever use in an unplanned domestic emergency. The command construct expanded on the state and national experience with Hurricane Irene a year before, and enhanced government partnerships and the sophistication of interagency cohesion at state and national levels.

Ultimately, the Joint Task Force included New Jersey National Guardsmen, Pennsylvania Guardsmen, and Active Duty Soldiers from Ft. Drum, NY. Key additions to the Joint Task Force included a NORTHCOM colonel who served as the Active Duty Deputy Commander, and his Joint Force Staff-Staff Enabler elements who contributed invaluable subject-matter expertise to the massive interagency response effort.

Notable New Jersey National Guard Joint Force accomplishments and facts include:

- Conducted over 175 missions involving 2,300 Soldiers & Airmen
- Rescued over 7,000 people and pets in Search & Rescue operations
- Supported five State Shelters and 3 Armory Shelters for over 2,500 displaced citizens over 15 days
- Provided and/or distributed over 25,000 meals, 102+ pallets of bottled water, 6,600 blankets, 1,700 cots, 3,600 towels, and other commodities
- Dispensed over 250,000 gallons of fuel with NJNG, PANG, Active Duty, and Defense Logistics Agency fuel handlers
- Provided over 250 hours of helicopter support to civil authorities, county OEMs, FEMA, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Governor, and the Vice President of the United States
- Provided engineer support in route clearing, debris removal, and power grid restoration operations
- Served over 3,000 hot meals to first-responders and citizens returning to impacted areas using Air National Guard Mobile Kitchens in Sea Bright
- Serviced DMAVA’s Menlo Park Veterans’ Home for one week using an Air National Guard Mobile Kitchen

- One hundred eighty-six Soldiers & Airmen sustained prolonged operations, conducting and/or assisting with security, traffic control, debris removal, etc.; 56 Soldiers & Airmen concluded the operation's final two-weeks.
- One hundred forty-two Soldiers and Airmen supporting Joint Operations sustained storm damage to their own homes
- Right-sizing and economizing the force remained an ongoing focus.

Our anticipated FEMA claim for the operational costs of Army and Air National Guard support for Super Storm Sandy totals nearly \$8-million. We expect to receive FEMA reimbursement for 75 percent of those costs.

The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 includes \$24,235,000 for military construction projects for repair by replacing damaged structures at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt. The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act also includes \$2,550,000 in O&M funds to repair other facilities at Sea Girt and other locations throughout the state. The New Jersey Army Guard estimates that Military Construction costs to replace buildings whose damage exceeded 50 percent of the planned replacement value was \$35,247,380. Additionally the Army Guard estimates costs of \$4,244,973 in O&M to provide repairs to damaged structures. An additional \$1,217,900 in O&M dollars have been provided by National Guard Bureau outside of the Disaster Appropriations Bill and an additional Military Construction project to replace the Sea Girt Museum is also being considered by the Department of Defense. The New Jersey Air Guard received \$4.9 million in additional O&M funding from the disaster appropriation bill of 2013 to perform roof repairs to buildings at McGuire and at the AC airport in Egg Harbor.

3. In FY 2012, the DMAVA received a \$2 million increase in federal support funding through the Master Cooperative Agreement for sustainment, restoration, and modernization to pay for a new transformer on the Sea Girt training site, new boilers at the Westfield armory, and a partial replacement of the Jersey City armory roof.

**Question: Were these projects completed? What changes in federal policy, if any, through the FY 2013 Department of Defense Budget regarding funding for Military Construction have affected the Master Cooperative Agreement between the State and the federal National Guard Bureau?**

**Answer:** Two new transformers were installed at Sea Girt to support building 7. (Design fee was \$10,750; construction cost was \$261,767 for a total project cost of \$272,517). Boiler and control system was replaced at the Westfield armory. (Design fee was \$79,000; construction cost was \$829,995 for a total project cost of \$899,995). The design phase of the Jersey City armory roof project - standing seam metal roof, associated masonry repairs and lightning protection - is complete as of January, 2013. DMAVA awaits funding support for the construction. There have been no changes in federal policy that would affect the Master Cooperative Agreement between the state and the National Guard Bureau.

4. In FY 2012, \$16 million in federal funding was appropriated under the New Jersey National Guard Support contract to fund a new medical clinic at Sea Girt. However, according to DMAVA, the funding for the Troop Medical Clinic was not received in FY 2012. Instead, DMAVA received \$49 million to design and construct a new Army Aviation Support Facility that will be built on the Lakehurst portion of the Joint Base and will serve as an aviation maintenance facility.

**Question:** What is the status of the construction of the aviation facility? Once the facility is operational, how will the facility be staffed, operated, and funded? Did the facility incur any damage from Super Storm Sandy? What is the status of the plan to construct a medical clinic at Sea Girt? Is it still a priority of the New Jersey Army National Guard and of the federal National Guard Bureau? Why or why not?

**Answer:** The Army Aviation Support Facility is currently under construction at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst with a scheduled completion date of September, 2014. The facility will be staffed with federal technicians and will be entirely supported with federal funds for operation, maintenance, repairs and utilities. The facility was not impacted by Super Storm Sandy since current work effort is relocation of existing below grade utilities and site preparation. The medical clinic remains a priority in The Adjutant General's Infrastructure requirements. The medical clinic remains in the department's long range plan.

#### **NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY**

5. The NJYCA program is part of the United States National Guard Youth Challenge program. The mission of the NJYCA is "to provide a highly disciplined environment fostering academics, leadership development, physical training, and personal growth to educate and train unemployed youth who ceased to attend high school." The program consists of a 22 week residential phase at Fort Dix and a 12 month post graduate, post residential phase during which the participants are matched with a mentor. To graduate from the program, each cadet must complete successfully the residential phase. Academics are an integral component of the NJYCA program. The cadets are tested and are able to earn their New Jersey State High School diploma. Cadets are required to take courses in Math, Science, Reading, English, History, and Computer Applications. According to a July 2012 technical report published by the RAND Corporation entitled, A Cost-Benefit Analysis of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program, the Challenge program nationwide generates an average of \$2.66 for every dollar spent on the program and the return on investment, defined as net benefits divided by costs, is 166 percent.

**Questions:** What is the return on investment for the New Jersey National Guard Youth Challenge program? Please describe the results of this program in terms of the number and percentage of graduates since 2008 who received their New Jersey State High School diploma; the number of graduates who joined the workforce; the number of graduates who joined the military; the number of graduates who continued their education; and the number

**of hours and examples of community service volunteered by program participants. Please provide statistics on what graduates of the program are doing five years after graduation. Please describe the State/federal funding partnership over the past five years. How has the New Jersey program grown as compared to the federal program as whole?**

**Answer:** The New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Program has a return on investment unmatched among organizations that assist at-risk-youth. Four in five high school dropouts who enroll in Youth ChalleNGe earn a high school diploma and are prepared for the job market, or military service or to continue their education. Since 2008, there have been 991 Youth ChalleNGe graduates and 79 percent earned their high school diploma. Upon graduation, 240 went on to continue their education, 162 entered the workforce and 26 joined the military. Those classes of Youth ChalleNGe cadets provided 64,926 hours of community service for government agencies and nonprofit organizations ranging from New Jersey Forestry Services to Monmouth Battlefield State Park to the New Jersey Community Food Bank of South Jersey. The monetary value of the services they provided was more than \$450,000. No data tracking former ChalleNGe cadets five years after graduation is available. This data was previously tracked in a national level database, which was shut down by the Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, until the proper authority to collect, store, and use privacy data is obtained. The database remains inaccessible. Over the past five years, the federal share of the costs to run Youth ChalleNGe has increased from 60 percent to 75 percent.

#### **BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM C. DOYLE MEMORIAL CEMETERY**

6. 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 DMAVA. the cemetery has become the nation's busiest state veterans' cemetery, conducting 2,944 burials in FY 2010, or approximately 10 to 15 burials per day. Maintenance of the cemetery and funding for burials is provided by both State appropriations and the U.S. 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 2014 are 59,560 which is 3,000 more than total interments FY 2013. Over the past four years total interments have increased, on average, by 2,924 interments annually. At 3,000 interments per year, the cemetery could reach total capacity in 51.8 years. In November 2012, New Jersey was one out of 15 states to receive federal Veterans Affairs cemetery grant money, receiving a total of \$10.8 million out of a total grant of \$47.4 million.

**Question: How will this new grant support the planned expansion of the cemetery? Will any of the grant money be allocated to the development and construction of a public information center?**

**Answer:** DMAVA received a \$10.8 million grant from the VA National Cemetery Administration in November 2012 to support the planned expansion of the cemetery. This grant will fund Section Z, crypt field and columbarium projects. This expansion will add 10,750 double-casket crypts for the field and 4,800 niches for the columbarium. The estimated date of completion is Dec. 5, 2013, at the earliest and Jan. 29, 2014, at the latest. The Public Information Center project is not part of this grant. The Public Information Center Project is a separate \$3.4 million grant. DMAVA is in the design phase for this project.

## **VETERANS' HAVEN**

7. The FY 2013 Appropriations Act provided \$2.3 million in start-up funding to convert the former Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital into Veterans' Haven North in order to expand the Veterans' Haven program transitional housing services to veterans in the northern part of the state. The start-up funds were budgeted in the DMAVA and the Department of Human Services budgets. Of the total amount, \$1.5 million was budgeted in the Department of Human Services' budget to fund the continuing operating and maintenance costs of the facility. Approximately \$800,000 was provided to the DMAVA to manage the program and provide transitional housing for an estimated 50 veterans in the first year. In addition, federal Veterans Administration per diems of approximately \$35 per day per resident were expected to provide \$493,000 for the program. The Fiscal Year 2014 Governor's Budget recommends an increase of \$244,000 to fund the annualized growth of Veterans' Haven North.

**Questions: What is the status of the Veterans' Haven North facility? How many veterans are living in the facility and was the initial funding sufficient to convert, operate, and maintain the facility in the first year? What are the annual operating costs of Veterans' Haven North and how do those costs and number of residents compare with Veterans' Haven South?**

**Answer:** Vet Haven North has been operational since Aug. 25, 2012. There are currently 43 residents living in the facility, with the population anticipated to rise to 50 by May 2013. Initial funding was sufficient for the operation of Vet Haven North. DMAVA awaits a NOFA (Notice of Funds Available) from the Veterans Administration to be announced for VA GPD (Grant per Diem) to help fund Vet Haven North. Once this is announced by Veterans Affairs Administration, DMAVA will apply for the grant. Anticipated cost for FY 14 is \$1,695,000 for Vet Haven North. Vet Haven South has full occupancy of 94 residents with 91 funded by VA GPD by the Veterans Affairs Administration. Anticipated Costs for Vet Haven South FY 14 is \$1,950,000.

8. According to a December 2011 report published by the federal General Accountability Office (GAO) entitled, Homeless Women Veterans, Actions Needed to Ensure Safe and Appropriate Housing, many women veterans are facing the same challenges readjusting to civilian life as their male counterparts and are at risk of becoming homeless. The GAO report studied the issue and made four recommendations to the VA in order to begin to address the



issue: (1) appropriate data need to be collected on homeless women veterans; (2) appropriate referral policies must be implemented; (3) improvements to transitional housing for homeless women veterans with children should be examined; and (4) appropriate gender specific safety and security standards must be determined.

**Question: Has DMAVA studied the need for and feasibility of providing housing for homeless women veterans? With what results? What transitional housing services are now available from DMAVA for women veterans? Are these services adequate in quantity and responsiveness to the specific needs of these veterans?**

**Answer:** DMAVA currently offers women veterans the same opportunities as male veterans at our two transitional housing programs. There are currently three female veterans at Vet Haven North and four at Vet Haven South. DMAVA is exploring the possibility of serving women veterans with children at our Vet Haven North facility. VA Administration has no funding source other than Grant Per Diem for the female veteran, but no funds specifically for children in transitional housing. DMAVA is exploring other avenues for funding sources to assist female veterans with children. DMAVA is part of the Governor's New Jersey Interagency Council on Homelessness and DMAVA's representatives plan to raise this issue with the council.

## **VET2VET HELPLINE**

9. The DMAVA, in conjunction with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), established a veteran peer support program telephone helpline. The helpline features clinical assessment and assistance to family members. In addition, it provides New Jersey veterans and their families with access to a network of mental health professionals specializing in PTSD and other veteran issues, including traumatic brain injury. P.L.2011, c.116 requires the appropriation annually of a sum sufficient for the operation of the program. Previously, the helpline was funded through an allocation from the State appropriation for PTSD under Veterans' Program Support in the DMAVA budget. Costs to support the hotline have increased from \$100,000 in FY 2006 to approximately \$300,000 in FY 2014.

**Question: Please provide a chart illustrating the funding provided to the program from each source of funding, the number of calls fielded, the number of referrals made for each service provided, e.g., confidential counseling, group counseling, peer support case management, etc., for each year since FY 2009. Please discuss the \$400,000 grant from the Prudential Insurance Company to UMDNJ Veterans Call Center. Is it a one-time grant or an ongoing grant?. Are there any other private grants that have provided support for the program in the past or currently help support the program?**

**Answer:** There are no private grants supporting the VET2VET Hotline. The program operates with the \$300,000 in state funding provided. PTSD Counseling Sessions are referred by our DMAVA's Veterans Service Officers and NJVET2VET only. NJVET2VET referred 360 veterans for

counseling from 2011 to present. Below is the breakdown of clients, sessions and total sessions for periods 2010-present.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013 Jul-Dec</b>
Clients	7244	7868	8922	5685
Individual Sessions	8490	8944	9183	6571
Group Sessions	5990	6622	5779	3585
Other	1910	2231	3883	2946
Total Sessions	16390	17797	18845	13102

<b>CALL STATISTICS BY GRANT YEAR</b>	
2005	46
2006	1571
2007	1775
2008	1501
2009	1542
2010	1911
2011	2189
2012	3386

The Prudential grant went to TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors), a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C. TAPS provides immediate and long-term emotional help, hope, and healing to all who are grieving the death of a loved one in military service to America. TAPS meets its mission by providing peer-based emotional support, grief and trauma resources, casework assistance, and connections to community-based care. TAPS has a contract with UMDNJ to provide a help line service. Although TAPS and NJ VET2VET are co-located at UMDNJ’s Behavioral Healthcare offices in Piscataway, the programs have separate staff and funding sources.

10. The table below contains FY 2014 evaluation data from the three New Jersey veterans memorial homes. Paramus, the largest home, has the highest population and population to positions rate, but the lowest per capita cost, number of total positions, specifically administrative and support services positions, and State appropriation.

<b>EVALUATION DATA FY 2014</b>	<b>Paramus</b>	<b>Menlo Park</b>	<b>Vineland</b>
<b>Operating Data</b>			
<b>Domiciliary and Treatment Services</b>			
Rated Capacity	336	312	300
Average daily population	325	300	293
Ratio: Daily population/Total Positions	0.9/1	0.8/1	0.7/1
Annual per capita	\$90,447	\$94,723	\$100,655
Daily per capita	\$247.88	\$259.52	\$275.77
<b>EVALUATION DATA FY 2014</b>	<b>Paramus</b>	<b>Menlo Park</b>	<b>Vineland</b>
<b>Personnel Data - Position Data</b>			
Filled Positions by Funding Source			
State Supported	367	391	397
Total Positions	367	391	397
Filled Positions by Program Class			
<b>EVALUATION DATA FY 2014 (cont.)</b>	<b>Paramus</b>	<b>Menlo Park</b>	<b>Vineland</b>
Domiciliary and Treatment Services	306	309	311
Administration and Support Services	61	82	86
Total Positions	367	391	397
<b>Total State Appropriation</b>	<b>\$24,129,000</b>	<b>\$25,217,000</b>	<b>\$27,101,000</b>

**Question:** What factors make Paramus the largest, but lowest cost veterans memorial home? What factors make Vineland the smallest, but highest cost veterans memorial home? Are Menlo Park and Vineland more expensive to run in terms of maintenance and energy costs than Paramus? If so, why? How have each of the Homes been impacted by the elimination of the Nurse Initiative Program in terms of: nursing staff turnover, substitution of registered nurses with nursing assistance, and unintended and unexpected cost increases, such as overtime? Please provide overtime data and overtime rates for each of the Homes. Given federal and state regulatory requirements, how many shifts at each Veterans Memorial Home have to be covered for staff vacancies necessitated by “normal” personnel requirements such as days off, vacations, sick leave, etc? Why does Paramus have a 20 to 30 percent smaller administrative and support services staff than either Menlo Park or Vineland? Is Paramus operating with a higher level of technology? Please describe the demographics of each Memorial Home.

**Answer:** The Medicare reimbursement rate for the geographic region surrounding Paramus is greater than the regions around Menlo Park and Vineland, requiring less state funding for the home. The home also has lower operating expenses. Vineland and Menlo are much larger facilities than Paramus, a change mandated by VA regulation after Paramus was built. For instance, in Vineland, every room must have its own lavatory, which in turn necessitates more housekeeping staff. The larger size of the first two homes requires more maintenance staff and higher utility bills. The newest home, Vineland, per VA regulations, must draw 100 percent

fresh air, requiring greater use of air conditioning and heating units. Additionally Paramus has the smallest property, 17 acres. Menlo Park has 120 acres, incurring more maintenance costs. Although Vineland has the fewest residents among the three homes, it has the largest physical plant, covering 270,000 square feet compared to 207,000 in Paramus. Vineland also uses a central kitchen and uses additional personnel to transport the food at three remote dining halls. Additionally, the smaller resident population in Vineland means less federal reimbursement than the other homes.

The elimination has had little impact on current staffing requirements. Positions are filled at the required professional level so there is little need for substitution. Turnover rates remain low at the homes. DMAVA has retained the position of Health Professions Recruiter, which was an outcome of the Nurse Initiative Program and that has proven successful in filling vacancies.

Overtime paid (July 2012 – March 2013)

Location	Overtime
Menlo	2,537,313
Paramus	2,010,732
Vineland	1,606,496

Shifts at each Home to cover staff vacancies necessitated by “normal” personnel requirements such as days off, vacations, sick leave, etc.:

Nursing

Menlo Park: 224 Employees x Average # of Days Off/Year (32) = 7,166 Shifts Per Year.  
 Paramus: 217 Employees x Average # of Days Off/Year (32) = 6,944 Shifts Per Year.  
 Vineland: 233 Employees x Average # of Days Off/Year (32) = 7,456 Shifts Per Year.

Food Service

Menlo Park: 38 Employees x Average # of Days Off/Year (32) = 1,216 Shifts Per Year.  
 Paramus: 35 Employees x Average # of Days Off/Year (32) = 1,120 Shifts Per Year.  
 Vineland: 39 Employees x Average # of Days Off/Year (32) = 1,248 Shifts Per Year.

Housekeeping

Menlo Park: 42 Employees x Average # of Days Off/Year (32) = 1,344 Shifts Per Year.  
 Paramus: 20 Employees x Average # of Days Off/Year (32) = 640 Shifts Per Year.  
 Vineland: 43 Employees x Average # of Days Off/Year (32) = 1,376 Shifts Per Year.

Demographics of each Home.

<b>Conflict</b>	<b>Menlo Park</b>	<b>Paramus</b>	<b>Vineland</b>
World War II	141	168	119
Korean	58	72	51
Vietnam	30	17	50
Peacetime	19	18	4
Gulf	0	1	3
Non-Veterans (Spouses)	50	47	58
Female Veterans	14	8	18
<i>Total</i>	<i>298</i>	<i>323</i>	<i>285</i>

### **VETERAN'S BENEFIT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

11. The Veteran's Benefit Enhancement Program connects low-income veterans who are enrolled in Medicaid with benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. As a result, veterans receive veterans' benefits and states save Medicaid money. So far, Washington and a few other states have implemented the program.

**Question:** Has DMAVA considered establishing a Veteran's Benefit Enhancement Program? How much would it cost to implement such a program and how much would the state save in Medicaid costs?

**Answer:** In late 2010 and early 2011, DMAVA worked with the Department of Human Services in matching Medicaid Beneficiaries with available U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Healthcare Resources. DMAVA was furnished with a list of 122 individuals on Medicaid that were known to be or thought to be veterans. DMAVA did a mailing to all 122 individuals and received 24 responses. Of the 24 responses, only five were able to be verified as veterans. These individuals were provided with information on available VA Healthcare and other benefits and encouraged to seek further information from the VA. The Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services would be in a better position to indicate cost to develop this type of program and the degree of savings that could be achieved by transferring patients who are veterans from the Medicaid Program to the VA Healthcare System.. The department is committed to working with the Department of Human Services to ensure clients with veterans' status are aware of the available benefits.