

## Discussion Points

### Military Services

#### Sequester Update

1. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (December 2013) changed the sequestration caps for federal FY 2014 and federal FY 2015, eliminating some of the reductions required by sequester.

- **Question:** Please provide an update of the federal defense budget under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and how it has affected the budgets of the State's Army and Air National Guard operations, programs, and capital outlay plans, as well as the State Veterans Affairs' operations and programs. Has there been any affect on the strength of the New Jersey National Guard?

#### Army:

Strength:	AUTHORIZED	ACTUAL	PROJECTED W/CUTS
	6,025	6,190	6,150

The FY-2014 operating federal budget for the New Jersey Army National Guard is \$130,343,300.00. It is broken down as follows:

National Guard Pay and Allowances: \$55,894,400.

Operations and Maintenance of the National Guard: \$71,410,200.

This is a reduction of \$2,200,000 in Pay and Allowances and \$16,300,000 in Operations and Maintenance from federal FY13.

The reduced budget will have a direct negative impact on readiness. The New Jersey Army National Guard is at the highest state of readiness in its history. The New Jersey Army National Guard has an authorized strength of 6025 Soldiers. 94.6% of these Soldiers are qualified and are available for state and federal mobilizations. Since September 11, 2001, the New Jersey Army National Guard has been fielded with the modern and state of the art equipment. The \$2.2 million reduction in Pay and Allowances will have a major impact on the ability to recruit, train and retain qualified Soldiers. The \$16.3 million reduction in Operations and Maintenance funds impacts our ability to procure organizational equipment, supplies, and repair parts; services, including equipment maintenance; and activities in connection with military support to civil authorities.

The Army National Guard faces a potential plan to reduce the Guard end strength by the end of FY19. If the Army's strength target of 315K is implemented, the National Guard will see the loss of Brigade Combat Teams, likely jeopardizing the NJ Army National Guard's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat

**Discussion Points (Cont'd)**

Team. A force of 3,200 soldiers, the 50th IBCT is our State's largest formation. National Guard Fulltime Manning - Our Dual Status Military Technician Force is essential to the NJNG mission and in many cases, Technicians hold key leadership and supervisory positions within the organization.

**Air:**

Strength:	AUTHORIZED	ACTUAL	PROJECTED W/CUTS
	2,270	2,455	2,204

The total NJANG budget for FY 14 is \$103,428,242. This is currently \$13,276,067 short of FY13 execution.

The two largest shortfalls for the NJANG are in Training funding for Military Schools and Sustainment Restoration Modernization (SRM). The reduction in Training dollars are causing delays for Airmen getting school slots. As an example, we will not have any Tanker pilot school slots for this FY. The reduction in SRM slows badly needed upgrades to infrastructure and delays energy efficiency initiatives due to emergency repair costs that supersede the planned action

The FY 14 budget did not reduce NJANG end strength. The proposed FY 15 budget reduces the 108<sup>th</sup> Wing by 66 traditional military positions and increases full time end strength by 5. This is the result of the Contingency Response Group which has 115 (14 of which are full time) members standing down beginning 1 Oct 14. There are also some programmatic reductions in the Maintenance Group that will result in a loss of 14 military members. This loss is partially mitigated by the 108<sup>th</sup> gaining a Cyber Vulnerability Assessment Squadron which will consist of 63 (19 of which will be full time) members.

**Role of the National Guard**

2. On February 9, 2014, New Jersey and New York City hosted Super Bowl XLVIII. As part of the State's efforts to provide security and ensure safety before, during, and after the event, the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard units were deployed to protect and secure the event.

- **Question:** In significant public events hosted by the State, such as the Super Bowl, what is the role of the New Jersey National Guard? Please discuss the role of the Army and Air National Guard under the total force security mission at the Super Bowl and what duties the two performed. How many citizen soldiers provided security detail for the Super Bowl? In the case of a regional emergency, how is the New Jersey National Guard used and what is their role? What inter-agency cooperation agreements exist? Please describe.

## Discussion Points (Cont'd)

The New Jersey National Guard provides support as requested by the New Jersey State Police/ New Jersey Office of Emergency Management. The New Jersey National Guard provides resources and personnel essential to filling identified capability gaps for the local, county and State agencies during domestic operations. The New Jersey National Guard augmented the New Jersey State Police and the New Jersey Transit Police with personnel to conduct a variety security related missions during the Super Bowl.

### **Army:**

The NJARNG provided Quick Reaction Force of 150 Soldiers from the 50<sup>th</sup> IBCT. This Quick Reaction Force was deployed to the West Orange Armory to provide emergency on –call assistance as part of the New Jersey State Police contingency planning for the Super Bowl venue. 45 Soldiers from the Quick Reaction Force were assigned to augment the New Jersey Transit Police's rail mission. These Soldiers secured 22 rail line access points spanning Rutherford, East Rutherford and Secaucus. The National Guard rail security teams aligned efforts with the Bergen County Rapid Deployment Team and the Hudson County Rapid Deployment Force to deny unauthorized personnel entry to rail access points which could have left the commuting operations vulnerable to attack.

### **Air:**

The NJANG provided 50 Airmen to augment the New Jersey State Police for Super Bowl security at MetLife Stadium. The Airmen provided roadway perimeter and vehicle egress security at the Super Bowl venue.

The New Jersey National Guard coordinates EMAC support with other Guard organizations to provide and receive resources and personnel essential to filling capability gaps.

## Alternate Energy Efforts

3. According to testimony at the FY 2014 Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee Budget Hearing for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the department estimated that it avoided approximately \$250,000 in FY 2013 utility costs through energy conservation measures taken at the National Guard Joint Training Center in Sea Girt; Joint Forces Headquarters at Fort Dix; Aviation facility at the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst; and Homeland Security Center of Excellence in Lawrenceville. These energy conservation measures resulted from the operation of six photovoltaic solar electric power systems. In addition, three more federally-funded projects are expected to be completed in FY 2014, increasing the annual cost avoidance to \$400,000. Schedule 2, Other Revenues, in the FY 2015 Governor's Budget indicates that proposed Energy Program Receipts are projected to be \$330,000, an increase of \$230,000 or 230 percent, compared to FY 2014 Energy Program Receipts. In addition, budget language provides that "receipts derived from the sale of energy credits and the

## Discussion Points (Cont'd)

unexpended balance at the end of the preceding fiscal year in the receipt account are appropriated for the operation and maintenance of other energy program projects.”

- **Questions: Please identify the additional federally-funded projects expected to be completed in FY 2014 and please identify the amount and source of the federal funds.**
  - Lawrenceville 150 kW solar carport - \$750,000 NGB QUTM federal
  - Sea Girt 150 kW solar carport - \$750,000 NGB QUTM federal
  - Picatinny FMS solar wall - \$400,000 NGB QUTM federal
- **Please identify the amount and source of the federal funds for additional federally-funded projects that are being planned for construction.**
  - **(Planned and Unfunded)** FY16 Lakehurst 1 MW solar array - \$4-5 million federal estimated
- **Please explain the source and purpose of energy program receipts. What other energy projects are funded by the unexpended balance of the energy program receipts account?**
  - The purpose of the energy program is to fund energy efficiencies measures that will help avoid energy costs. Projects funded have been energy audits, lighting retrofits, and high efficiency HVAC systems.
- **What is the estimate for the unexpended balance in the energy program receipts account at the end of FY 2014?**
  - \$0
- **Are the FY 2015 receipts in addition to the savings anticipated to be achieved through energy conservation measures taken by the department to reach its savings goal in fuel and utilities? Please explain.**
  - Yes, \$200,000 comes from conservation measures
- **How much of the \$330,000 in anticipated savings in fuel and utilities is due to lower natural gas and fuel oil prices?**
  - 0% - prices have risen
- **For perspective, how much has the department saved in energy costs over the past two years, as a result of all of its energy and energy-related conservation efforts including the effects of market prices for oil, natural gas and electricity, with regard to its entire purview over military and veterans affairs operations? How were those savings achieved? Please discuss.**
  - Approximately \$750,000. These savings were achieved through solar generation, upgraded high efficiency lighting, upgraded high efficiency heating systems, conversions to natural gas from fuel oil, and behavior changes.
- **What is the department's alternative energy production goal?**
  - 10% by end of fiscal year 2015
  - 20% by end of fiscal year 2020

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- 25% by end of fiscal year 2025
- **By the end of FY 2014, how much generation capacity will the department achieve from all of its photovoltaic systems?**
  - End of 2014 = 1.6 Megawatts
- Estimated end of FY15 = 2.4 Megawatts or approximately 3,700,000 kWh generated per year

## National Guard Support Contract

4. In FY 2012, in lieu of \$16 million in funding for a medical clinic at Sea Girt, \$49 million in federal funding was appropriated under the New Jersey National Guard Support contract to fund the design and construction of a new Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF) that is being built on the Lakehurst portion of the Joint Base and will serve as an aviation maintenance facility. The completion of the facility is anticipated in September 2014.

- **Question: What is the status of the construction of the aviation facility? Is the September completion date still realistic? 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?**

Ground was broken in February on a \$49 million project, funded exclusively with federal dollars, that will be used to construct a 130,000 square foot aviation maintenance facility for the 150th Aviation Battalion. Located on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, the state of the art facility will service a fleet of UH-60 Blackhawk and OH-58 Kiowa Helicopters. The AASF project was a federal contract awarded in September of 2012 and is on track to meet its estimated occupation date of October 2014.

The federal Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 includes more than \$24 million for military construction projects in New Jersey, including repairs to storm damaged facilities. Among the projects of greatest importance is the \$5 million reconstruction of the Medical Clinic, which was inundated by more than five feet of water during Sandy and is a key component of the medical readiness of the force. The project is in its design stage and will be advertised in Fall 2014.

## New Jersey National Guard Youth Challenge Program (NJYCA)

## Discussion Points (Cont'd)

5. The NJYCA program is part of the United States National Guard Youth ChalleN*NGe* 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. Key performance indicators (Budget page D-273) show that the number of NJ Youth ChalleN*NGe* Academy cadets class size has declined by 42.5 percent since FY 2013, from 174 in FY 2013 to 100 in FY 2014 (revised) and FY 2015 (performance target). State funding (\$265,000) and federal funding (\$3.2 million) for the FY 2014 adjusted appropriation and the FY 2015 recommended appropriation is proposed to remain the same, however the allocation of federal funding has shifted. Personal Services funding has declined by \$276,000 and equipment has declined by \$5,000, but funding for materials and supplies has increased by \$281,000.

- **Questions: Please explain why the cadet class size declined by 42.5 percent, or 74 cadets, and please explain the shift in the allocation of federal funding. Is the program undergoing any changes? If so, Please describe these changes and explain why they are occurring.**

The New Jersey National Guard Youth ChalleN*NGe* Academy teaches two classes per year with a graduation goal of 100 cadets per class. The 42.5% decline in class size reflects only one of the two graduating classes. The second class will begin on 21 April 2014. Each year, the Academy has a graduation rate of 96.5%. In the past two years, the Academy experienced a reduced graduation rate (88%) due to disciplinary issues and students failing to meet standards.

Nationwide, the Youth ChalleN*NGe* Academy has proven itself as a great investment unmatched among organizations that assist at-risk-youth. As a result, over the past five years, the federal share of the costs to run Youth ChalleN*NGe* has increased from 60 percent to 75 percent.

## Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Year	Federal Funding	State Funding	Fed/State% Share
FY08	\$ 1,680,000	\$ 1,120,000	60/40
FY09	\$ 2,355,660	\$ 785,220	75/25
FY10	\$ 2,872,500	\$ 957,500	75/25
FY11	\$ 2,872,500	\$ 957,500	75/25
FY12	\$2,888,535	\$ 962,845	75/25
FY13	\$ 2,209,275	\$ 736,425	75/25

### Veterans Program Support

#### The 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 the DMAVA. Since then, the cemetery has become the nation's busiest state veterans' cemetery, conducting 3,090 burials in FY 2013, 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 2015 are 62,650 which is 3,000 interments higher than total interments FY 2014. Over the past four years total interments have increased, on average, by 3,015 interments annually. At 3,000 interments per year, the cemetery could reach total capacity in 50.8 years.

In July 2013, New Jersey was awarded a \$2.9 million federal grant for the construction of a public information center on the grounds of the cemetery. In addition, the department anticipates the receipt of an additional \$3.5 million in federal operations and maintenance grant money in July 2014 to fund various cemetery improvements. Construction of the Section Z, crypt field and columbarium projects that were funded by the U.S. Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration (\$10.8 million) are complete.

- **Question:** Please describe the vision for the public information center, the plans for its construction, and the timeframe for the completion of the project. Please describe how the \$3.5 million in operations and maintenance grant money expected in FY 2015 are planned to be expended. What improvements to the grounds will be made?

## Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Future expansions and improvements include a grant for \$2,947,128 for a new Public Information Center. This facility will be constructed near the main entrance, mobilization and construction could start in the next few months. The 2,000 square-foot Public Information Center will be a staging area for funeral corteges and orient visitors to the cemetery. The Center will act as a one-stop information portal for all cemetery activities and will include a cemetery map outlining all burial locations and a grave locator kiosk.

An Operations and Maintenance Grant is in the Advertisement Phase. The Final Specification Documents have been prepared for the Marker Grid System Installation and Flat Bronze Marker Base Re-Alignment and Sod Project. A revised request for \$3,562,048 has been submitted. The Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on April 9, 2014 at 10am at the project location.

7. The FY 2015 Governor's Budget proposes a reduction in the appropriation for burial services by \$250,000. Budget documents indicate that the reduction was taken out of the salary program, but also show that the full-time equivalent (FTE) count increased by three FTEs. Furthermore, the lapse report shows that the department will lapse \$100,000 in carry forward balance in the Burial Services account that currently totals \$907,878.94.

- **Question: Please explain the large carry forward balance in the Burial Services account.**

The carry forward from FY 2013 into FY 2014 is primarily attributable to:

The increase to the VA Plot Interment Allowance receipts. With the passage of PL. 110-275, the Plot Interment Allowance for veteran burials increased from \$300 to \$700. This increase is now reflected in the level of receipts collected by the Department.

In addition, during FY 2013, the Department received a reimbursement of \$542,012 from the VA for the design costs fronted by the cemetery appropriations for the Section Z crypt field project. The VA will not front the costs of design for construction/expansion projects at the cemetery. The VA reimburses the Department for design only after design completion.

## Veterans' Haven

8. Veterans Haven is the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs transitional housing program for homeless veterans operated by the State. Veterans Haven-South is located on the grounds of the former Ancora Psychiatric Hospital. Veterans Haven-North is located on the premises of the



## Discussion Points (Cont'd)

former Senator Garrett W. Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital, in Glen Gardner, Lebanon Township. Veterans' Haven-North opened on July 1, 2012.

The FY 2014 Appropriations Act provided \$1.6 million to fund Veterans Haven-South and North: \$963,000 for Veterans Haven-South and \$644,000 for Veteran Haven-North. In addition, Veterans Haven-South received \$1.120 million in Veterans Affairs (VA) per diem receipts and Veterans Haven-North received \$1.051 million in VA per diem receipts.

The FY 2015 Governor's Budget proposes an appropriation of \$963,00 for Veterans Haven-South and \$1.061 million for Veterans Haven-North. A salary program increase of \$417,000 is recommended for Veterans Haven-North. Budget documents indicate that proposed FY 2015 federal funding, U.S. VA per diem receipts, for Veteran Haven South (\$1.275 million) will be almost twice the per diems that Veterans Haven-North will receive (\$675,000.)

- **Questions: Why are the proposed FY 2015 Veterans Haven-North VA per diem receipts so much less than the proposed FY 2015 Veteran Haven-South per diem receipts? Is Veterans Haven-North adequately funded? How many residents are at each facility and are the staffing levels comparable? Are the operational costs of each facility, e.g., food service, comparable?**

State appropriation for Veterans Haven-South is \$963,000 and Veterans Haven-North is \$1,061,000.

Vets Haven-South has 72 residents (71 males/1 female). It receives grant and per diem which is continuous funding source. As long as the facility operates funding is continued as long as the USDVA continues to fund the program. Re application is not necessary. Grant and per diem rates are fixed by the feds and are a portion of the operating costs to house a veteran.

Vets Haven-North has 64 residents (60 males/4 females). It is not in the grant and per diem program as of yet. We must wait for the USDVA to announce a notice of funds available (NOFA) for us to apply for the grant and per diem. We are looking for a possible announcement this next federal fiscal year. The contract entered into with the USDVA is to supply emergency contract housing is based on a grant received by VISN 3 and must be reapplied for at the end of the grant period. In this case, a 5 year period, as long as satisfactory services are being supplied as per the contract scope of work. The per diem rate received for each veteran "bed day" is calculated to be 100% of the cost to house that veteran for the day.

## Vet2Vet Helpline

## Discussion Points (Cont'd)

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 Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other veteran issues, including traumatic brain injury. P.L.2011, c.116 requires the appropriation annually of a sum sufficient for the operation of the program. Previously, the helpline was funded through an allocation from the State appropriation for PTSD under Veterans' Program Support in the DMAVA budget. Now, the Helpline is funded out of the Support Services for Returning Veterans appropriation. The FY 2015 Governor's Budget proposes an appropriation of \$550,000 for Support Services to Returning Veterans in FY 2015 and proposes to increase the allocation from that appropriation to support the hotline, from \$300,000 to \$400,000 in the budget year.

- **Question:** Please provide an updated 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 the most recent fiscal year for which data are available. How many other states have established programs similar to the New Jersey program? What factors created the need to shift the allocation for the helpline from the PTSD appropriation to the Support Services to Returning Veterans, what factors created the need to increase the allocation to the hotline, and how will the additional funding be used?

The Department and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, who recently merged with UMDNJ, helped to establish a veteran peer support program telephone hotline. It provides New Jersey's veterans and their families with access to a network of mental health professionals specializing in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other veteran issues such as traumatic brain injury. P.L.2011, C 116 requires the appropriation annually of a sum sufficient for operation. Cost to support the program has risen from \$100,000 in 2011 to \$300,000 in FY 2014.

Number of Veterans and family members who sought counseling since 2010:

### COUNSELING CONTACTS

YEAR	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 July-Dec
Clients	7244	7868	8922	8682	5565
Individual Sessions	8490	8944	9183	9957	6048
Group Sessions	5990	6622	5779	5668	2567
Other	1910	2231	3883	4804	4267

**Discussion Points (Cont'd)**

Total Sessions	16390	17797	22000	20029	12882
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From these contacts, below are the statistics who further sought additional assistance through the Helpline:

CALL STATISTICS BY GRANT YEAR	
2005	46
2006	1571
2007	1775
2008	1501
2009	1542
2010	1911
2011	2189
2012	3386
2013	3446
2014	*2440 * (7/1 to 12/31/2013)

From FY 2012 to FY 2013, when 3,386 calls were logged, a 54 percent increase from the year before. Each year we see an increase in the number of Veterans in New Jersey reaching out for support and information. NJ Vet2Vet has impacted the Veteran community in a very powerful way as a result of: increased marketing and outreach efforts across the state, providing Peer Support Specialist answering phone calls and e-mails in our call center, and maintaining and afterhours on call capability.

DMAVA continues to see a substantial increase in the number of Veterans seeking treatment for PTSD. The demand for PTSD counseling has increased by approximately 6 percent, with 20,029 sessions in FY 2013. Since the soldiers PTSD Symptoms may not surface immediately upon return, or despite symptoms the individuals may not seek counseling until it is their last resort, service members with PTSD issues and treatment will remain a revolving door.

Based on the high volume of calls to the 24-hour helpline and our extremely low suicide rate, the Vet2Vet Helpline has proven as a positive and affective 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 Vet2Vet Helpline, we are healthier population than we were 10 years ago.

Each year the number of New Jersey Veterans touched by the NJ Vet2Vet program increases and our states program has become a national model.

## Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Expansion of this successful program is desired to continue building the powerful connections with our Veterans and their families across the state and ensure they have the latest information and access to resources necessary to thrive in their communities

Ultimately the goal of our program is to have 24 hours a day, seven days a week call center presence.

### Veteran Memorial Homes/Veteran Service Organizations

10. One way the department has been able to maximize its resources to accomplish its core mission of operating three veteran memorial homes is to form partnerships. The department has fostered relationships with Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) to provide assistance to mitigate rising costs and to enhance the services provided to residents at the three memorial homes. Some VSOs are "chartered", which means they are federally chartered and/or recognized or approved by the United State Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary for purposes of preparation, presentation, and processing of claims under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Non-chartered organizations lack VA recognition for purposes of representation of VA claimants. According to testimony at the FY 2014 Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee Budget Hearing for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, volunteers from the VSOs have worked "more than 70,000 hours of staff manpower for a savings of \$1.8 million in salaries and donated more than \$410,000 in goods to the Homes and their residents."

- **Question:** Do each of the homes benefit equally from VSO volunteer work? How has the department developed its partnership network. How long has the department been developing its network and what is the scope of the work that the VSOs perform at the homes? What is the most recent estimate of manpower salary savings and goods donated? What types of goods are donated to the homes?

The foundation of volunteer partnerships began when the Homes were constructed. DMAVA maintains strong relationships with Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) and other private volunteers which have led to these groups logging tens of thousands of volunteer hours at the Department's three Veterans Memorial Homes in Paramus, Menlo Park and Vineland as well as at Veterans Haven-North and Veterans Haven-South, the Department's transitional housing programs. Each Home's volunteer hours vary based on supporting organizations and individuals.

These volunteers have done everything from organizing bus trips to running bingo games to just being there to lend an ear to a fellow Veteran.

**Discussion Points (Cont'd)**

While the Veteran-to-Veteran connection is priceless, these volunteers have provided more than 68,000 hours of staff manpower for a savings of more than \$1.7 million in salaries. On top of that, these volunteers have also donated more than \$400,000 worth of goods and services including passenger vans, computer equipment and air conditioners.