



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
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DATE: May 20, 2019

TO: Mr. Frank Haines, Legislative Budget and Finance Officer
Office of Legislative Services
State House Annex, PO Box 068, Trenton, NJ 08625-0068

FROM: Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Barbara G. Brown *BGB*
DMAVA / NJARNG Public Affairs Officer

SUBJECT: Assembly Budget Hearing Follow-up Questions and Responses from
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

The following are responses from DMAVA to various Assembly members' questions during the budgeting hearing on May 13, 2019.

Assemblyman Burzichelli:

- What is the average age of a New Jersey National Guard member and what is the age at which a person is no longer eligible to become a member of the New Jersey National Guard? Please discuss.
 - Answer: In the New Jersey National Guard, the overall average age of 5,928 Army members is 29 years of age. The overall average age of 2,383 Air members is 34 years of age. For Enlisted service in the Army National Guard, the applicant is eligible for enlistment if applicant has not passed his or her 35th birthday. For Enlisted service in the Air National Guard, the applicant is eligible for enlistment if applicant has not passed his or her 40th birthday.

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- Does the New Jersey National Guard have any transgender members? Please discuss.
 - Answer: The New Jersey National Guard is aware of one (1) Army and one (1) Air service members who have identified themselves as transgender.

Assemblyman McKeon:

- What actions has the State's consultant, Cassidy & Associates, taken to avoid having funding for military construction projects in New Jersey diverted to fund the President's southern border wall? Please discuss.
 - Answer: The actions taken by Cassidy & Associates consisted impact research, advocacy, and continuous dialogue with Congressional officials and other stakeholders.
 - On February 15, 2019, President Trump took Executive Action to dedicate resources to his border wall plan. This includes the following:
 - \$1.375 billion contained the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill.
 - \$601 million transferred from the Treasury Forfeiture Fund.
 - Up to \$2.5 billion transferred from the DoD Counterdrug funding.
 - Up to \$3.6 billion reallocated from the Department of Defense military construction projects (MILCON funding).
 - Cassidy and Associates took immediate action in order to determine how this Executive order could potentially affect New Jersey's current appropriated military construction projects. Cassidy coordinated closely with the Congressional delegation to best position the State's military construction projects to be fully funded on time. Senator Menendez's leadership in conjunction Cassidy's team assistance resulted in the majority of the Congressional delegation signing a letter to Acting Defense Secretary Patrick M. Shanahan. The letter, dated March 13, 2019, expressed objection to the President's recent issuance of a "national emergency", opposition to any diversion of funds obligated to New Jersey's military installations – specifically State projects at the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, Picatinny Arsenal and the 177th Fighter Wing, military value of each of the installations, the threatened projects, and the adverse impact national security and mission readiness.
 - Cassidy had numerous discussions with Congressional staff and the leadership of PEC (Picatinny Enhancement Collation), which emphasized the critical need to have the construction funds for the Munitions

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Disassembly Complex that were authorized and appropriated in the FY 19 defense bills obligated by the end of the fiscal year 30 September 2019. Cassidy expressed confidence that there would be no attempt to capture obligated projects.

- Finally, on May 9, 2019, the House Appropriations Committee reported out the FY20 MILCON Appropriations bill. The bill contained language that prohibited the use of MILCON funding for the border wall. The full House of Representatives is likely to take up the bill in the near future. The inclusion of the language indicates strong opposition to using MILCON funding for border wall activities.

Assemblyman Wimberly:

- What more can the State do through the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to help homeless veterans? Please discuss.
 - Answer: DMAVA operates two facilities: Veterans Haven South and Veterans Haven North. Although there is no exact number of homeless veterans in NJ, we believe there are adequate resources available for veterans within state, county, and private sector, if needed. DMAVA has a great working relationship with various veterans' organizations, county government veterans' agencies, and other state departments to increase awareness of various opportunities to our veterans. The best method to decrease veteran homelessness is to continue to advise the public of available veteran programs.

For questions regarding this memorandum, please contact the undersigned at 609-530-6939 or barbara.g.brown26.mil@mail.mil.

Thank you.