NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS



BUDGET HEARING

MAJ. GEN. LISA J. HOU, D.O.
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

COMMISSIONER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

FISCAL YEAR 2025





Ready To Serve - Proud To Have Served

The mission of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is to provide trained and ready forces prepared for rapid response to a wide range of civil and military operations, while providing exemplary services to the Citizens and Veterans of New Jersey.

COVER PHOTOS

Top: U.S. Army Soldiers of Delta Company, 104th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey Army National Guard, make preparations to launch the AAI RQ-7 Shadow unmanned aerial vehicle, Feb. 19, 2024, at McGregor Base Camp, New Mexico. The 44th IBCT is conducting training exercises at multiple sites at Fort Bliss, Texas, in preparation for deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. (U.S. Army National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Bruce Daddis)

Middle: Leaders from the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, state legislators, local and county officials join veteran and community organizations in opening a new NJDMAVA Veteran Services Office in the Governor James J. Florio Center for Public Service Building in Camden, New Jersey, Nov. 3, 2023. The new office will

serve as a one-stop resource for veterans and their families. The Camden office is one of seven new locations planned to increase access to veteran services in the state's urban centers and rural areas. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Mark C. Olsen)

Bottom: U.S. Air Force Capt. Eliot Shapleigh, an F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot with the 119th Fighter Squadron, 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, prepares to board an F-16 during Exercise Ballast Cannon 24.3 at an undisclosed location in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, Jan. 7, 2024. The quarterly exercise occurs with the Royal Bahraini Air Force to support the U.S. Air Force's rapid expeditionary capabilities. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Sarah Williams)



U.S. Army Soldiers with the 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey Army National Guard, board a plane at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, Jan. 27, 2024. More than 1,500 NJARNG Soldiers are traveling to Fort Bliss, Texas, for additional training prior

to deploying to Southwest Asia in support of U.S. Central Command's Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve. This is the largest deployment of New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers since 2008. (New Jersey National Guard photo by Mark C. Olsen)

Good afternoon members of the Budget Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to join you today to outline the priorities of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' Fiscal Year 2025 proposed budget. Before I begin, I wish to acknowledge those leaders of Garden State Veterans Service Organizations present for this hearing. Our mission of support to Service Members, Veterans, and their families could not be possible without the advocacy and hard work of my comrades seated behind me. Thank you for all that you do.

I am Major General Lisa Hou. Since October 2020, I have had the distinct privilege of serving as The Adjutant General of New Jersey and Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, or DMAVA. I am a physician and a Combat Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

This afternoon, I proudly sit alongside my colleagues, Yvonne Mays, Deputy Adjutant General of New Jersey, Vincent Solomeno, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, as well as the uniformed and civilian leaders of our organization seated behind me. One of the honors of my professional life is to lead such a proficient and dedicated team. The individuals with whom I work, to include the nearly 10,000 Soldiers, Airmen, and Civilians of the DMAVA team not here with us today, are committed to serving the people of the Garden State and ensuring the success of the Service Members, Veterans, and military families who call New Jersey home.

As I think about our team, it is important for me to acknowledge the commitment and hard work that they bring to bear each day and the results that they have delivered for

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lead Soldiers and Airmen who since 2020 have answered our state and our nation's call to respond to a pandemic, civil unrest, and who have deployed numerous times to dangerous places around the world in the defense of the interests of the United States.



Nearly 3,000 U.S. Army Soldiers with the 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey Army National Guard, demonstrate their abilities during rotation 23-08 at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Johnson, Louisiana, May 28-June 11, 2023. The New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers were assessed on their units' ability to conduct large-scale combat operations in a multi-domain setting against a nearpeer opposing force. It was the organization's largest training exercise in more than a decade, with approximately 2,500 additional Soldiers from a dozen states and Puerto Rico also participating. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Bruce Daddis)

our state through some of the most challenging times in recent memory. Whether working in a veterans home or on an Air Force flight line, the organization that I lead has made significant progress since I assumed my responsibilities three and a half years ago.

I lead Soldiers and Airmen who since 2020 have answered our state and our nation's call to respond to a pandemic, civil unrest, and who have deployed numerous times to dangerous places around the world in the defense of the interests of the United States.

I lead civilian employees, many of whom are also Veterans of our Armed Forces, who rose to meet unprecedented challenges and stayed at their posts at long term care facilities, transitional housing facilities, and Veterans service offices because they care deeply about our mission of service to Garden State heroes and those who love them. The very same public servants — and that is what they are, public servants — who fought through a pandemic, righted the ship, and have proved through their hard work and the independent inspections that confirm it, that a commitment to constant and never-ending improvement is what defines the ethos of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Since I last was before you, the Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard continued lines of effort that resulted in new ways that we train, operate, and meet current challenges. Here, I need to be direct. It does not take two stars on your collar to know that New Jersey and the United States exist in a rapidly changing world. Even more importantly, we exist in a constantly evolving security environment. As a combat reserve of the active duty component of the Armed Forces, the New Jersey National Guard has a responsibility to evolve along with these changes while preparing ourselves and serving our communities and country with thoughtful, rational, and ethical leadership.

The Citizen Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard wear the same uniform, receive the same training, and meet the same criteria for promotion as the active duty Service Members of the United States Army or Air Force. They answer a call to service that is among the highest civic callings that one can answer. The uniform they wear reflects a commitment to going the distance for our country, and in the case of the National Guard, for our communities, and for our state as well.

I have spoken to you more than once about the need for modernization. This does not simply mean having the latest weapons. I am so proud of the New Jersey National Guard.



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. John W. Raebig, an F-16 crew chief with the 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, marshals a U.S. F-16 Fighting Falcon to a parking space at an undisclosed location in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, Jan. 6, 2024. The long-standing relationships the U.S. Air Force has developed within the CENTCOM AOR enables regular and routine training, which advances the coalition's ability to become a seamless operational force across every warfighting domain. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Sarah Williams)



U.S. Army Soldiers with the 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey Army National Guard, fire a M136 AT4 light anti-tank weapon during rotation 23-08 at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Johnson, Louisiana, May 28-June 11, 2023. The M136 is a disposable recoilless rifle used by the infantry against armored and other combat vehicles, as well as landing craft, helicopters, and aircraft. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Bruce Daddis)

Our state is training and deploying dedicated and proficient teams prepared to engage in a global, contested security environment that presents both new opportunities and new threats to the national security of the United States.

In 2023, for the first time in our force's history, the Army National Guard's 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team successfully completed a rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Johnson, Louisiana. Located at the Army's premier combat training installation, what we call JRTC – and my brothers and sisters behind me can confirm that in the military we're fond of acronyms – the team tested formations of infantry, artillery, engineers, aviators, logisticians, and so many other military occupational specialties. They left the bayou of Louisiana ready to meet what is perhaps the most important challenge that they have faced in a generation: a large-scale deployment of New Jerseyans to the Middle East in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

As we sit here this morning discussing budget priorities, many of our state's sons and daughters have already touched ground in the United States Central Command, or CENTCOM, Area of Operations. They face varied and challenging missions, but they are also the best equipped,

best prepared force that the New Jersey National Guard has ever mustered. I am confident in their success. In the months ahead, I ask that you join me in supporting their families, their friends, and their loved ones.

These last few years have brought the highest operational tempo that our force has experienced since World War II. In January, I had the privilege of welcoming home Airmen of the Air National Guard's 177th Fighter Wing from a similar CENTCOM deployment. It's worth noting that these Airmen protected and enabled the protection of the skies that now look down upon the same areas where our 44th IBCT Soldiers now stand. Think about that. As a combat reserve, we are being called upon more than at any time in our history to serve domestically and overseas to protect the United States.

The 108th Wing's 140th Cyber Operations Squadron recently completed a six-month mobilization. While much of their service occurs behind the scenes, or in this case, behind screens, their success is a testament to changes across the Air Force that enable the security of the United States within the cyberspace domain.

In just six months, these Airmen completed nine defensive cyber operations missions across six U.S. Department of



U.S. Army Soldiers of Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry Regiment, 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey Army National Guard, perform a mounted live fire exercise with AH-64 Apache helicopter support at Fort Bliss, Texas, Feb. 25, 2024. The exercise was part of a combined arms live fire exercise as the 44th IBCT prepares for deployment in support of U.S. Central Command's Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sqt. Bruce Daddis)

AS we sit here this afternoon discussing budget priorities, many of our state's sons and daughters have already touched ground in the United States Central Command, or CENTCOM, Area of Operations. They face varied and challenging missions, but they are also the best equipped, best prepared force that the New Jersey National Guard has ever mustered. I am confident in their success. In the months ahead, I ask that you join me in supporting their families, their friends, and their loved ones.

Today, I am proud to report that New Jersey is doing more, investing more, and achieving more in the area of state-delivered veterans' programs and services than at any time in our history.



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col Matthew Secko, 170th Air Refueling Squadron Commander, right, receives the unit guidon from Col. William Liess, 108th Operations Group commander, during the 170th assumption of command ceremony March 7, 2024 at the 108th Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. Secko is the first commander for the newly activated 170th Air Refueling Squadron (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt Anna-kay Ellis)

Defense and North Atlantic Treaty Organization locations. They supported four combatant commands and successfully met a 24-hour deadline to support a quick reaction, emergent task. They maintained more than 2,000 hours of weapon system "uptime" and "hunt" operations, leading to the identification of more than 18,000 cyber vulnerabilities.

Beyond cyberspace, in Fiscal Year 2024, the 108th Wing activated the brand new 170th Air Refueling Squadron. Located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, the squadron's mission is to conduct aerial refueling operations in association with their active-duty counterparts in the 305th Air Mobility Wing. Working together, these Airmen will support the operation of the KC-46 Pegasus tankers.

This is in addition to the current federal deployment of units of the 57th Troop Command and 42nd Regional Support Group to America's southwest border. Our folks at home are also busy preparing for this summer's Vigilant Guard exercise, a statewide, week-long stress test of New Jersey's joint service, interagency preparedness in the event of natural and manmade disasters. And, in Fiscal Year 2025, other elements of the 42nd RSG and 177th Fighter Wing will train and deploy in support of Operation Inherent Resolve; as more than two dozen aviators from 57th Troop Command head to the Western Balkans in support of U.S. European Command in Kosovo.

New Jersey has come a long way since the dark days of 2020. With my own eyes, I have seen the tremendous progress we have made to improve not only military capabilities and readiness, but in our ability to care for and support those who have worn our country's uniform.

Today, I am proud to report that New Jersey is doing more, investing more, and achieving more in the area of State-delivered veterans' programs and services than at any time in our history.

The Veterans Memorial Homes at Menlo Park, Paramus, and Vineland are moving forward and improving the quality of care that we provide to the Veterans, Veteran Spouses, and Gold Star Families who call our facilities home. We have made significant and important changes to ensure that we achieve this goal.

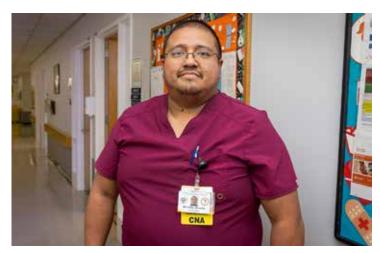
As I said earlier, it is about constant and neverending improvement. It is about change and it is about implementing evidence-based best practices. Those who we serve deserve no less.

In Fiscal Year 2024, we completed the implementation of electronic medical records systems across all three veterans homes. We introduced a learning management system to provide direct care and non-direct care staff with thousands of hours of training and continuing education.

We increased wages for frontline workers like Certified Nursing Aides and supervisors like Directors of Nursing to ensure that the compensation we offer is competitive and enables us to attract and retain the best and most qualified individuals to care for our residents. I wish to underscore this.



Melissa Sunga Martin, director of nursing, Infection Control, reviews resident infection surveillance trends at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park, Edison, New Jersey, Sept. 27, 2023. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Mark C. Olsen)



Michael Morales, certified nursing assistant, New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus, Paramus, New Jersey, Oct. 18, 2023. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Mark C. Olsen)

These increases are game changers. For decades, our Veterans homes were unable to compete with the private sector for top tier talent. Today and going forward, we can do just that; and this is the result of the investments made by Governor and the Legislature in previous budgets.

We have also expanded robust infection prevention and control teams in each of our facilities to ensure that we have well-trained leaders ready to respond to and contain future infectious disease outbreaks. On a daily basis, we are using technology like the platforms InfectionWatch and RiskWatch that you and your colleagues funded in previous budget years to improve the overall quality of care for our residents.

I have said many times: the more eyes on our veterans homes, the better. I mean that. We have been scrutinized more than any of the other long-term care facilities in New Jersey. Amid this scrutiny, it is critical that we look to the independent, objective inspections, or surveys, conducted by subject matter experts. This is the measure of our progress.

Last year, I testified that all three Veterans Memorial Homes were in substantial compliance with Department of Health, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs requirements. Since that time, our dedicated teams have sustained this important progress.

I am pleased to tell you that we have met and continue to meet those same standards of care.

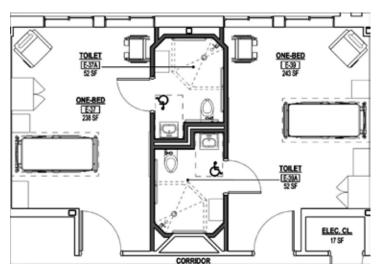
Now, we are called upon to look to the long term. Governor Murphy and you, our partners in the Legislature, have supported us every time we came to you to ask for the tools and the solutions necessary to ensure that as a State,

we do better. With your help, in Fiscal Year 2025 we intend to embark upon the most ambitious capital improvements of veterans homes in New Jersey history.

During the first wave of COVID-19, the Veterans Memorial Homes at Menlo Park and Paramus experienced some of the highest losses of life among long-term care facilities in New Jersey. I came into this job with clear instructions from the Governor: never again.

With funds provided in Fiscal Year 2024, my team and I were able to engage architects and engineers in a deliberate process to identify ways to structurally contain future outbreaks. As a result of the support of this Legislature, we are days away from applying for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs State Home Construction Grant Program funding. This will enable the conversion of resident rooms from dual occupancy to single occupancy, improve airflow and ventilation systems, and establish new wings of state-of-the-art isolation rooms to more effectively cohort new admissions and residents exposed to or exhibiting symptoms of an infectious disease. This application for 65% federal matching funds will be possible through a 35% state set aside of \$21 million from the Debt Defeasance and Prevention Fund.

These improvements are consistent with emerging trends in long term care, and this budget proposes to take our progress one step further. DMAVA is requesting a nearly \$2



The cornerstone of the modernization efforts will be a reconfiguration of each ward of the homes into single occupancy living residences to include independent showers, sinks and toilets for each resident. Plan of action includes a four-phase construction timeline at the New Jersey Veteran's Memorial Homes at both Menlo Park and Paramus, focused on minimizing disruption of resident's daily activities and ensuring no displacement of residents. In addition, seven rooms per home will be converted to self-contained isolation rooms.

We have been scrutinized more than any other long-term care facilities in New Jersey. Amid this scrutiny, it is critical that we look to the independent, objective inspections, or surveys, conducted by subject matter experts. This is the measure of our progress.

New Jersey is not only moving decisively to improve our veterans homes. We are investing more than we ever have to support Service Members, Veterans, and their families.



Leaders from the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, state legislators, and local and county officials join veteran and community organizations in opening a new NJDMAVA Veteran Services Office in the Passaic County Administration Building in Paterson, New Jersey, Oct. 18, 2023. The new office will serve as a one-stop resource for veterans and their families. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Mark C. Olsen)

million investment to replace all resident mattresses, beds, and essential medical equipment not only at Menlo Park and Paramus, but also our newest facility, the Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland. This is part of our efforts to be among the best equipped long-term care facilities in New Jersey.

Like your support, our efforts to modernize and ensure the highest possible standards of care for our Veterans, Veteran Spouses, and Gold Star Families are made possible by the commitment of each and every member – Democrat and Republican – of New Jersey's congressional delegation. The State's application for the State Home Construction Grant Program is not guaranteed, but through their advocacy, our delegation is ensuring that we are well-positioned for consideration.

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Thanks in large measure to the investments contained in the Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations Act, since July, DMAVA has moved to make reality the Governor's call to expand the State's footprint of State of New Jersey Veterans Service Offices from fourteen to one in every county. We opened offices in Camden, Cape May, Middlesex, Passaic, Union, and Warren Counties. By the end of this fiscal year, Garden State heroes will have twenty-one points of entry to access the federal and state benefits that they and their families have

earned. So far in Fiscal Year 2024, DMAVA's 19 Veteran Service Officers conducted over 40,000 direct contacts with individuals, assisted with nearly 4,700 VA claims, and secured over \$87 million in federal benefits for Garden State Veterans and their survivors.

This budget also sustains New Jersey's Vet2Vet helpline. What sets this apart from other 24/7 helplines is in the name "Vet2Vet." When a member of the military, a Veteran, or a family member calls, we work to match that caller with someone who can relate. Our objective is for every caller to see beyond their current challenges and to help them to find resolution, regain their purpose, reach their full potential, and have a positive impact on those around them. To date in Fiscal Year 2024, Vet2Vet has supported more than 1,600 incoming calls and followed up with nearly 6,700 additional calls.

This budget also continues our State's investment in nocost Post-Traumatic Stress counseling services. DMAVA offers free treatment for Veterans and those who they consider family. Contracted clinical staff who are experienced in PTS counseling help determine the best course of treatment for the Veteran and the Veteran's family.

All of us can agree that seeking treatment is a proven way to reduce the risk of suicide among vulnerable populations.

To date in Fiscal Year 2024, we have conducted over 6,400 counseling sessions.

These services are complemented by our continued partnership with the University of Pennsylvania's Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic. The Cohen Clinic provides nocost telehealth counseling for mental health concerns.

This proposed budget also enables the continued operation of the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery, one of the busiest state Veterans cemeteries in the United States. Over the course of this fiscal year, our team facilitated the solemn and dignified interment of over 1,900 deceased individuals. DMAVA also





View of Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery at Wrightstown, New Jersey, May 26, 2023. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Mark C. Olsen)

executed a \$5.5 million VA grant to improve infrastructure and expand cemetery capacity.

I wish to take a moment to highlight the efforts of the Cemetery team and their dedicated care of our departed Veterans' final resting place. In addition to the staff's tireless work at the cemetery this and every year, in Fiscal Year 2024, they conducted much needed repair work at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel.



U.S. Air Force Col. Yvonne L. Mays, left, Deputy Adjutant General of New Jersey, presents the New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal to Air Force Sgt. Stanley L. Rothman in support of the Vietnam War during the New Jersey State Medals Ceremony at the New Jersey Casino Control Commission in Atlantic City, New Jersey, Feb. 23, 2024. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Mark C. Olsen)



New Jersey's newest military award – the New Jersey Global War on Terrorism Medal. More than 32,000 New Jersey veterans participated in the United States' War on Terror; there were 163 reported casualties. In an effort to recognize New Jersey servicemembers who have contributed to America's War on Terror, a bi-partisan bill to create a medal was signed into law Jan. 4, 2021. So far, 776 medals have been awarded to New Jersey servicemembers and veterans. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Mark C. Olsen)

This budget also ensures that we can continue to connect with Garden State Service Members, Veterans, and their families through robust outreach and engagement. To date in Fiscal Year 2024, we have conducted 109 outreach events delivering not only benefits information but facilitating recognition ceremonies to award eligible New Jersey Veterans the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Desert Storm Service Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Medal.

There are several groups of partners who worked above and beyond in 2023 to support awareness and extend public support to Veterans, earning the Governor's "We Value Our Veterans" Award, based on well-defined criteria: Foley, Inc., Rider University, the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital New Brunswick, Rowan College of South Jersey, Virtua Health; and the communities of Lower Township, Manchester Township, Mountainside, New Providence Borough, Randolph Township, and Washington Township of Morris County.

This budget also allows for us to continue to improve outcomes for homeless Veterans through funding for the State's transitional veteran housing facilities at Veterans Haven North and South. These havens, because that's what they are, continue to set the example on how to care for the most vulnerable among us. They serve as guideposts for one

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New Jersey Acting Gov. Tahesha L. Way, Esq., left, and Brig. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., right, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, present the New Jersey Governor's We Value Our Veterans Business Award to Edward House, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital during the State Veterans Day ceremony at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial at Holmdel, New Jersey, Nov. 11, 2023. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Mark C. Olsen)

of the most ambitious and, quite candidly, inspiring policy initiatives since I became The Adjutant General.

The Governor's Fiscal Year 2025 budget translates values into action through a bold, interagency effort to bring Veteran homelessness to functional zero in twenty-four months. Today, data demonstrates that more Veterans are finding themselves homeless than homeless Veterans are finding housing. There are gaps in the safety net that are being filled by Veterans Service Organizations, some of whom are sitting behind me. While I know that everyone here appreciates that, in a state with the motto "liberty and prosperity," we can do better.

Together with the Department of Community Affairs, the State of New Jersey will surge resources to reverse this disturbing trend and house all currently homeless Veterans. We are excited to embrace the near-term opportunities to assist, and in the long term, we will support efforts to increase housing availability statewide.

I am well aware that I am approaching four years of service as The Adjutant General of New Jersey and Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. I would like to think that over the course of this time, together with my team of over 8,400 Soldiers and Airmen and 2,000 state and federal employees, we have moved the needle in the right direction to ensure the readiness of the National Guard and to realize the most significant expansion of State-delivered veterans programs and services that we have ever seen. And still, this budget calls us to do better.

From High Point to Cape May, we can train, equip, and deploy modern warfighters ready to defend America at home and abroad. We can seize the opportunity to invest more and do more for those who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces. My desired end state is to ensure that all New Jersey Service Members, Veterans, and their families

receive access to the federal and state benefits that they have earned, and that we serve as a resource for those seeking those benefits, and that the heroes entrusted to our care are healthy, safe, and empowered.

I thank each of you for your ongoing efforts on behalf of Garden State Service Members, Veterans, and their families. Your support is a reflection of New Jersey's centuries-old commitment to those who serve, those who have served, and the people who love them.

Thank you.

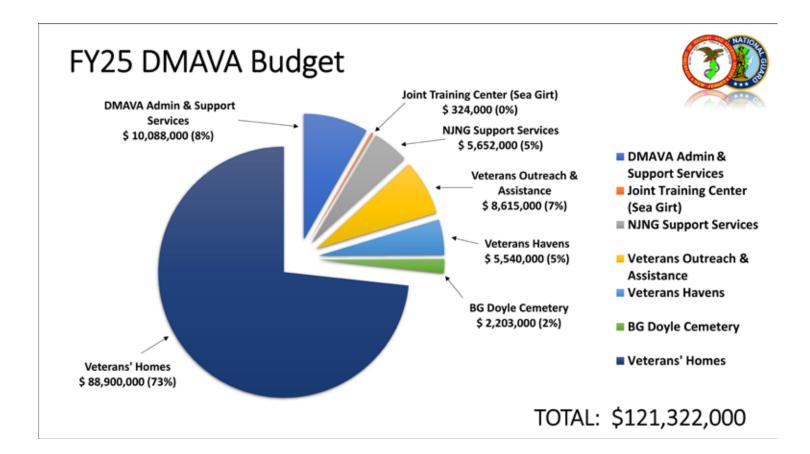


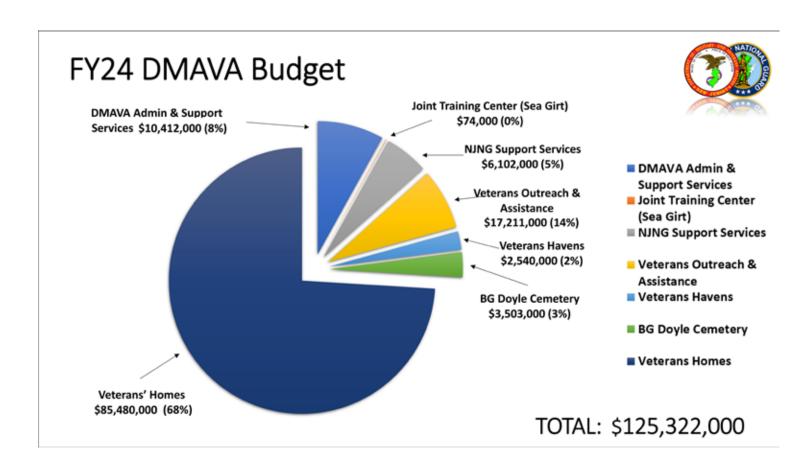
Above: Veteran's Haven North in Glen Gardner. Below: Veteran's Haven South in Winslow. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Mark C. Olsen)



For photos from today's hearing, scan the QR code.

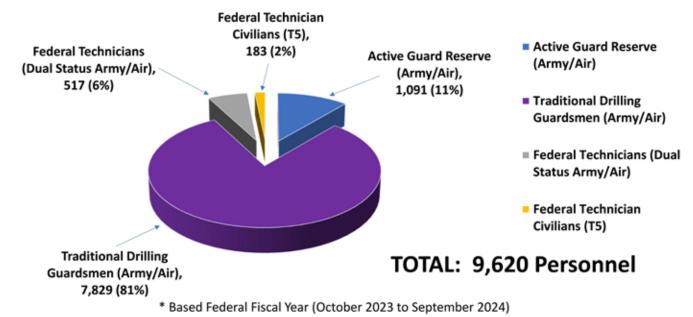


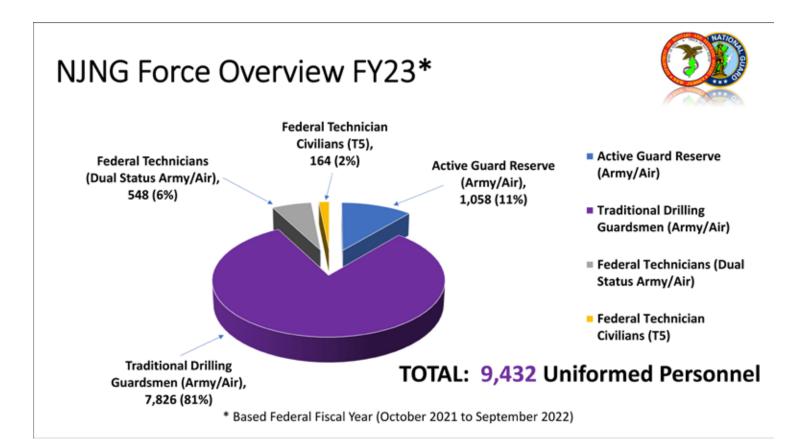




NJNG Force Overview FY24*

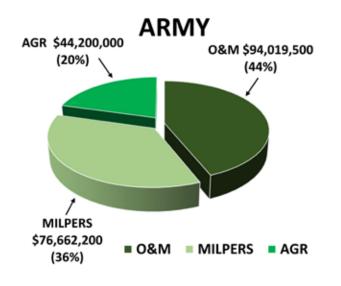


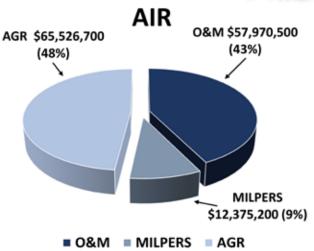




National Guard Bureau Budget FY24*



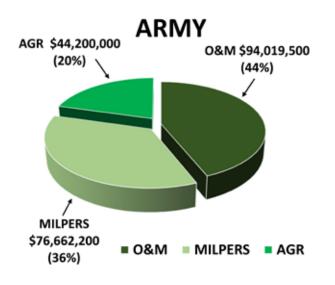


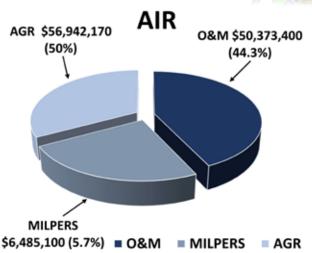


^{*} Based Federal Fiscal Year (October 2023 to September 2024)

National Guard Bureau Budget FY23*







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