



Military and Veterans Affairs



A Commitment to Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Priorities *Defending the Homeland and Caring for Veterans*

A Commitment to a Robust Defense and Honor for Veterans

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) is committed to providing highly trained military forces poised for rapid response to preserve peace and public safety on the orders of the Governor and to respond to national security threats at the direction of the President. DMAVA also strives to provide state-of-the-art support to New Jersey veterans through a statewide network of services from mental-health treatment to long-term care to ensuring they receive all applicable federal entitlements.

Protecting Priorities in the Face of an Economic and Fiscal Crisis

The Department's priorities reflected in the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget:

- Support to New Jersey Veterans;
- Homeland Security;
- National Guard Program Support.

Making Tough Decisions

The Department's leadership understands the need to share in the burden of overall budget-cutting, and has identified areas where reductions can occur.

- The Department recommends grant reductions that are in line with a reduction in applicants. Since the receipt of the grants-in-aid appropriations, the pool of eligible applicants has dwindled. The \$100,000 reduction reflects the decreased client base;
- Currently, there are \$150,000 in appropriated funds for initial National Guard salaries and operating costs in the event the Governor declares a state emergency. Even with a reduction, the remaining \$50,000 is sufficient for initial response to short-term events. Funds for longer events may be supplemented with contingency monies from the General Fund and may be eventually recouped from FEMA reimbursements.

Making the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Work Better for New Jersey

The Department is making comprehensive changes in order to provide better, more efficient services. The Department is working to reduce its footprint by selling off surplus property and buildings, decreasing the amount of leased space used by Veterans Service Offices and consolidating space and personnel.

The Department is also working to maximize federal resources by converting state-funded employees to federally funded employees in situations where work primarily serves a federal function. Additionally, the Department is using alternative energy initiatives to secure savings and increase revenue.