



## Department of Veterans Affairs

**VA Regional Office  
155 Van Gordon St.  
Lakewood, CO 80228**

## **Public Service Announcement**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT  
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### **VA SPONSORS THE 21st ANNUAL HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2011**

For immediate release: October 19, 2011

Denver: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Denver Regional Office is hosting a Homeless Veterans Stand Down at the Colorado (CO) Army National Guard Armory, 5275 Franklin St., Denver, on Thursday, November 3, 2011, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Over 520 homeless Veterans were served last year.

Stand Down is a military term that means a temporary stop of offensive military action. Homeless Veteran Stand Downs are designed to transform the despair and immobility of homelessness into the momentum necessary to get into recovery, to resolve legal issues, to seek employment, to access health services and benefits, to reconnect with the community and acquire housing.

Services and providers will include federal, state and non-profit organizations including Denver VA Regional Office (benefits), Denver VA Eastern Colorado Healthcare System, Employment Services, Veteran Service Organizations, Social Security Administration, housing referrals, and Denver County Homeless Court, and legal services. Veterans will be offered clothing items, sleeping bags, boots, free flu shots, health and dental screening, identifications and birth certificates, haircuts and eyeglass repair. Warren Technical School of Culinary Arts will prepare hot meals. The Denver Sheriff's Department is donating Sheriffs' time, Verizon is donating wireless connections, and the CO Army National Guard Armory is donating its space for the event. S&B Port-Bowl and Frito-Lay are among the contributors at this year's event. The Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs, Veteran's Trust Fund, is a major contributor and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary provides the presentation of colors at 8 a.m.

Buses will be running from the St. Francis Day Shelter, Samaritan House, and Denver VA Medical Center to the CO Army National Guard Armory.

The first Homeless Veterans Stand Down was organized in 1988 by a group of Vietnam Veterans in San Diego. Since then, Homeless Veteran Stand Downs have been used as an effective tool in reaching out to homeless Veterans, reaching more than 200,000 Veterans and their family members between 1994-2000.

Denver VA Regional Office serves both Colorado and Wyoming. VA provides a wide variety of benefits, including compensation and pension benefits, home loan guaranty, vocational rehabilitation and employment, education and life insurance benefits. For more information, please call 1-800-827-1000 or visit our website at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov). For more information on this press release, please contact Rebecca Sawyer Smith, Public Affairs Officer, 303-914-5984.