



Department of Veterans Affairs

**VA Regional Office
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Public Service Announcement

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VA SPONSORS THE 19TH ANNUAL HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2009

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Denver Regional Office is hosting a Homeless Stand Down at the National Guard Armory, 5275 Franklin St., Denver, on Thursday, November 5, 2009, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Over 460 homeless veterans were served last year.

Stand Down is a military term that means a temporary stop of offensive military action. Homeless 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 the VA Medical Center, Denver VA Regional Office (benefits), VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services, Veteran Service Organizations, the Social Security Administration, housing referrals, and legal services. Veterans will be offered clothing items, sleeping bags, boots, free flu shots, hearing aide repair, dental screening, haircuts and eye glass repair. Two hot meals will be served thanks to Moose Hill Cantina and Warren Technical School of Culinary Arts. The Denver Sheriff's Department is also donating the time of five Sheriffs, Verizon is donating phone lines, and the National Guard Armory is donating its space for the event.

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

The first Stand Down was organized in 1988 by a group of Vietnam veterans in San Diego. Since then, 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.