



VA Boston Healthcare System OEF/OIF Bulletin

"Your interest and participation is the strength of this bulletin."

August 2009



*****Welcome Home and Thank You for Your Service*****



TAA Representative and Soldier

Returning Servicemembers:
Have You ever heard of TAA?
"The **T**ransition **A**ssistance **A**dvisor Program assists Servicemembers (all Armed Forces components including Guard and Reserve) in accessing Veterans Affairs benefits and healthcare services. TAA also provides assistance in obtaining entitlements through **TRICARE** (triple option health benefit plan available for military families) and community resources." A local TAA Representative is Steven Shepard. He can be reached at: Steven.B.Shepard2@us.army.mil.



VA Boston Healthcare System will hold its first annual **Women Veterans Expo** at the Shaw's Center in Brockton, MA, on **September 12 from 10:00am to 2:00pm**. At this event, there will be various health promotion activities, educational material, lectures, and disease prevention screenings. The event is open to all women veterans; **FREE** admission, **FREE** lunch, **FREE** raffles, **FREE** gift bags for the first 100 attendees, and **FREE** tote bags for the first 500. For more information, please visit www.boston.va.gov.

Everyone knows a Servicemember/Veteran



Captain Matt Edwards

The Servicemember/Veteran I have come to know is Matthew Edwards. Matt is a Iraq Combat Veteran who is currently serving with the Rhode Island Medical Detachment out of Quonset. At the Quonset Unit, he is the Chief Personnel Management Officer that assists with training (primarily weapons qualifications)- which he attributes from his past military experience as a Light Infantryman. As an intern for the VA BHS (in his final graduate semester, Boston University) he supports the Director's Office as a Health System Specialist.

Who's a Servicemember/Veteran that you know?

Strength of the Bulletin: Readers' Submissions/Thoughts... FAQ's

"**Puppies Behind Bars (P.B.B.)** trains prison inmates to raise service dogs for the disabled (embracing Armed Forces personnel). P.B.B.'s **Dog Tags** program provides prison-trained service dogs (free of charge), to wounded OEF/OIF Veterans- with a focus on those suffering from **PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)** and **TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury)**. A wounded Veteran is paired with a specially trained Labrador retriever that helps them cope with the challenges of every day life. During the puppies' training, they live in prison with their puppy raisers from the age of eight weeks to eighteen months. As the puppies mature into well-loved, well-behaved dogs, their raisers learn what it means to contribute to society rather than take from it." If you would like more information about Puppies Behind Bars please contact Kate Lorenz at: kate@puppiesbehindbars.com. Also, feel free to visit their website at: www.puppiesbehindbars.com



Sergeant Allen Hill and his P.B.B. raised service Dog, Frankie. Taken at Boulder, CO February 4, 2009. Photo by: Xan Rubey, Doghouse Studios

Photo of the Month:

I welcome what you believe is a great photo. There will be a vote on the best photo from the past year. I look forward to receiving your photo.

Before sending a photo:

Please contact me for photo requirements and specifications.



This Month's Photo:

Captain Edwards relaxes in Saddam Hussein's old palace chair.

Veterans Upward Bound Program:

Orientation Starts Monday, August 31, 2009. Give us a call **Soon!** (617) 287-5870



More info to follow. Visit our website at: <http://www.veterans-ub.umb.edu/>

This monthly bulletin is published courtesy of the Latest Generation Committee. Its purpose is to show support for returning OEF/OIF Veterans among Employees, their Families and Friends. If you would like to submit (info/photos/etc.) or have a question/concern send an e-mail to: Anthony.Falvey@VA.gov
Visit the VA BHS at www.boston.va.gov