



VA Boston Healthcare System OEF/OIF Bulletin

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

March 2010



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

March is National Social Workers Month: Meet VA BHS Social Worker Cassandra Maher



Cassandra Maher

Cassandra (Sandi) Maher has been a Social Worker for the VA BHS (West Roxbury Campus) since 1991. She first came to the VA while attending Boston University (as a Master's in Social Work candidate). Sandi completed her graduation requirement (working as an intern) and was recruited as an employee. Sandi shared an interesting story of how she got into Social Work: "While I was in college I had been hired as a math tutor for returning students. I was attending an appreciation dinner for the staff of the program, when seated next to me was a psychiatrist-who from observing and meeting with me- thought that Social Work would be a great career choice for me. Afterwards, I investigated the job requirements and switch my major, again!" Through her Social Work position, Sandi is involved with a number of Veteran programs. Along with the VA **MOVE Program** (assisting Veterans with losing weight/encouraging them to be more active), Sandi is a part-time **VIST (Visual Impairment Services Team)** coordinator."Through the VIST program, I assist Veterans who have been diagnosed as legally blind, or with noticeable vision problems.VIST provides these Veterans with low vision devices like **Script Talk** Script Talk informs Veterans which medication they are about to take, talking watches, readers- and in some cases computers which speak to the user/ Veteran." Sandi is one of many dynamic Social Workers who work for the VA BHS.

The Tax Season is upon us.

A VA Compensated Veteran asked me if they are going to receive a **1099 form** from the VA for tax purposes. This question led me to check-in with the **IRS**. An IRS Representative informed me that VA benefits are not taxable; therefore VA does not send out 1099 forms. Here's some additional info to help out with your tax preparations for 2009: **VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance):** 1-800-906-9887. **TCE (Tax Counseling for the Elderly)** 1-800-829-1040 or **AARP's Tax-Aid** at 1-800-227-7669. The IRS website: www.irs.gov.

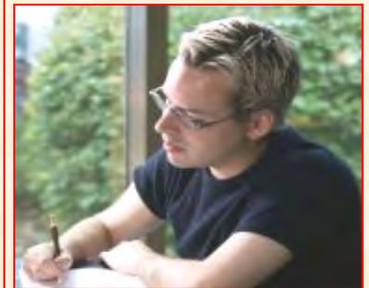


Photo of the Month:

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.



This Month's Photo features **Air Assault Training** at Camp Edwards, Cape Cod, MA. The photo was taken by **Army Specialist Michael Broughey**. Specialist Broughey serves with the MA Army National Guard's Public Affairs Unit located in Milford. This is his second submitted photo.

Before sending a photo:

Please contact me for photo requirements and specifications.

Readers- Thank you for keeping the submissions and pictures coming! A Winner has been decided for the Photo Contest. More on the Winner next Month. **Tony Falvey**

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