

FRONT & CENTER

Providing News to Our Veterans

August 2012



WELCOME HOME

Within 24 hours of his return home from his third deployment to Iraq, U.S. Army Reserves Veteran Dave Titley signed up for VA care. “I knew I had to go and sign up. My father has used numerous VA services and loves the VA. He told me all about it,” said Dave. “The OEF/OIF/OND Coordinator basically saved my life. He got me involved in exactly what I needed.”

Dave served in the U.S. Army Reserves for 24 years, including four deployments to Iraq. He began his service as a medic during Desert

Storm, and served as an operating room nurse/forward surgical team commander in his final deployment. He is also a state trooper with 16 years of experience.

In 2010, Dave came to VA Butler for help after showing signs of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). “The worst time for a returning Vet is about 90 days after they return – the pomp and circumstance of being back wears off and it’s like ‘what do I do now?’ I went into crisis mode and came to the VA.”

Dave recently completed VA Butler’s PTSD Basic Training Group, and continues his treatment for both PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). “The key thing was letting me know I wasn’t alone, and that it’s okay to talk about it. I’ve been ecstatic to talk to other Veterans.” No matter what you’re going through it’s important to “go and talk to somebody.”

Have you recently returned from military service? VA Butler is hosting its annual *Welcome Home Event* for all Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), & Operation New Dawn (OND) Veterans this month at the Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival. Join us Saturday, August 11 from 9am-5pm at the Butler County Fairgrounds so we can personally thank you for your service and welcome you home!

“The OEF/OIF/OND program is continually growing – it’s phenomenal. They (VA) recognize that every war is different and they’ve identified that and focus their treatment on specific campaigns,” said Dave. For more information about VA Butler’s OEF/OIF/OND Program, or the upcoming Welcome Home Event, contact the OEF/OIF/OND Program Office at 800.362.8262, ext. 2493 or visit oefoif.va.gov. ★

“They (VA) recognize that every war is different and they’ve identified that and focus their treatment on specific campaigns.” — Dave Titley, U.S. Army Reserves Veteran

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...AUGUST

- 1 The U.S. Army establishes an aeronautical division that later becomes the U.S. Air Force (1907)
- 4 The Revenue Cutter Service (now U.S. Coast Guard) is created by Congress (1790)
- 5 The first play-by-play broadcast of a baseball game is aired by KDKA Radio in Pittsburgh, PA, as Harold Arlin describes the action between the Pirates and Philadelphia (1921)
- 10 The National Military Establishment changes its name to the Department of Defense (1949)
- 15 Thomas Edison writes to the Telegraph Company in Pittsburgh, PA. The letter states the word “hello” is a more appropriate greeting than “ahoy” when answering the telephone (1877)



CONNECT WITH THE VA

At VA Butler Healthcare our goal is get the right information to the right Veteran at the right time. Keep updated with VA news and information with the below links!

- www.butler.va.gov
- www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage
- www.flickr.com/photos/VeteransAffairs
- www.youtube.com/user/DeptVetAffairs
- www.twitter.com/VAButlerPA
- www.facebook.com/VAButlerPA
- www.talkshoe.com/tc/85029



HOMELESS AWARENESS MONTH IN BUTLER COUNTY

The words homeless and Veteran should NEVER be used together

VA is committed to providing solutions to put an end to homelessness among our nation's Veterans. VA Butler Healthcare has forged year-long partnerships with the local community to provide homelessness services, support, and awareness. Once a year, the community of homeless service providers identifies August as Homeless Awareness Month. Join us this month in the fight to end Veteran homelessness and provide Veterans the

dignified access, resources and support they've earned. *How?* If you encounter a Veteran who is homeless or at risk for homelessness, strongly encourage or assist him/her to call the VA National Call Center for homeless Veterans at 877.4AID.VET. Also, consider joining us for:

C.H.A.L.E.N.G. Forum
Wednesday, August 1
8 am – 1 pm
VA Butler Auditorium

5K Walk/Run for Shelter
Saturday, August 11
9 am – 12 pm
VA Butler Healthcare

Homeless Veteran Mock Shantytown
Friday, August 24
10 am – 2 pm
Butler Rotary Park –
The Island

For more information, contact VA Butler's Homeless Program Coordinator at 800.362.8262, ext. 2439. ★

BENEFICIARY TRAVEL BENEFITS CHANGE

New regulations now require VA to transfer to cashless payments. As a result, beginning August 1, 2012, we will offer payment by check for travel reimbursement, and in the near future will be offering direct deposit payment by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

How does this affect you? It means that for now, we will be verifying your address for check payments. We will also be collecting your bank information to process your Beneficiary Travel claims via EFT to have this information processed by our Finance Center in Austin, TX.

For more information, visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/access/Beneficiary_travel.asp. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this change, please call 800.362.8262, ext. 2528.

We want to hear from you!
Email amanda.kurtz2@va.gov or lauren.heiger@va.gov to share your story with us!



TEAMING UP TO FIGHT HEART DISEASE IN WOMEN

Women serve in every branch of the military, representing 15 percent of today's active duty military and nearly 18 percent of National Guard and reserve forces. Women are now the fastest growing cohort within the Veteran community – the number of women Veterans will increase from 1.8 million in 2011 to 2 million in 2020, at which time women will make up 10.7 percent of the total Veteran population.

VA and the American Heart Association's Go Red For Women® movement are teaming up and

raising awareness of heart disease as the Number 1 killer of women and women Veterans through outreach. One tool available to women who have had experiences with heart disease is the *Go Red Heart Match* database. Women can visit the site, create a profile, indicate their military status and connect with other female Veterans with a similar experience. For more information, visit www.womenshealth.va.gov or www.goredforwomen.org.

To learn more about health care services for women Veterans at VA Butler Healthcare, contact VA Butler's Women Veterans Program Manager at 724.285.2756. ★

EVENTS

- 2 August Podcast • Returning Service Members
Thursday, August 2 • 12-12:30 pm
Chat link: talkshoe.com/tc/85029
or Call in: 724.444.7444 (Call ID: 85029)
- 11 Welcome Home Event/
Bantam Jeep Festival
Saturday, August 11 • 9 am-5 pm
Butler County Fairgrounds
- 17 Brenckle's Farmers Market
Friday, August 17 • 10 am-2 pm
VA Butler Primary Care Entrance Lawn



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