



ARMY RESERVE MEDICAL COMMAND



Attn: Public Affairs Office
2801 Grand Avenue
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782
Phone: (727) 563-3730/3962
Fax: (727) 563-3901

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: LTC Michele R. Sutak
Phone: (727) 563-3730 / 3962 / 3738

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2012 East Bay Stand Down kicks-off first public meeting

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. - **East Bay Stand Down (EBS D) 2012** first public meeting kicks-off **Tuesday - Jan. 24, at 6 p.m.**, at the Palm Center - Alameda County Fairgrounds, in Pleasanton, CA.

The EBSD is a four-day event at the Alameda County Fairgrounds between Sept. 13 – 16, 2012 that provides assistance and helps displaced, homeless, and needy Veterans and their families.

The EBSD takes place every two years since its conception, and has been recognized nationally as one of the most effective interventions in assisting homeless Veterans.

More than 2,500 Veterans and their families have received assistance since it began in 1999. The program provides legal, dental, medical, substance abuse and mental health counseling, new clothing, benefits and other services. Many of the homeless Veterans are now involved as leadership for the program.

The U.S. Army Reserve Medical Command is spearheading 2012 EBSD through the Innovative Readiness Training program which is supported by special congressional funding resources.

Congressman Jerry McNerney, 11th District of California, was praised by the local Veterans for supporting EBSD and IRT program. His office noted, the Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 signed by President Barack Obama includes funding for the Stand Down.

“East Bay Stand Down would not be the success it is today, without the support of the Military and Innovative Readiness Training,” said Jerry Yahiro, former president of the Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley and Executive Director of EBSD.

Yahiro, a Vietnam Vet, recognizes the value of the support being received.

“The presence and support of the military and the local community is very important to the success of the Veterans who attend the stand down,” said Yahiro. “It shows these men and women that they have not been forgotten.”

Yahiro has been involved with the EBSD since its origination.

“They deserve this extra effort on our behalf during their time of need in recognition of their honorable service to our country,” said Yahiro. “It inspires them to break the cycle of homelessness in which they have found themselves.”

Stand Down is a term used during war to describe the practice of removing combat troops from the field and taking care of their basic needs in a safe area. Resources from the military, Veterans Affairs and local volunteers provide a comprehensive program for the Veterans and their families. All event participants are thoroughly screened prior to admission to ensure that they are eligible for VA services. One of the goals of the event is to place individuals and families directly into housing.

For more information visit the **East Bay Stand Down** Web site at www.eastbaystanddown.org or “**Like**” EBSD on www.facebook.com/eastbaystanddown. If you have questions, please contact John Reese, EBSD Information Coordinator - via e-mail at: VNVDV@att.net, or PH: (925) 935-4859.