

2015 Wenatchee Veterans Stand Down Media Information Packet



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**2015 Wenatchee Veterans Stand Down Media Packet
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Wenatchee Veterans STAND DOWN



Veterans Assistance & Aid Event

The Veterans Warehouse, OVAHA, Chelan-Douglas County Veteran's Groups, the Spokane VA Hospital, Dept of the VA, and Community Members & Organizations are sponsoring this "Veteran Stand Down Event"

Friday & Saturday, August 21st & 22nd, 2015

8:00AM to 3:00PM

Wenatchee National Guard Armory

1230 5th St, Wenatchee, WA

All Veterans and Veteran Dependents Welcome

- VSO - Veteran Service Officers
- VA Administrative Staff
- Local Veteran Support Groups
- Local Aid-Support Organizations
- VA Mobile Medical Clinic
- VA Mobile Dental Clinic
- VA Benefits Information
- VTRP (Veterans Trauma Recovery Team)
- Free Food and Beverages
- Free VA Benefits Information
- Free VA Enrollment & Services
- Military Surplus Items-homeless
- IRS Assistance

STAND DOWN INFORMATION & FACTS

This event is sponsored by the Operation Veterans Assistance & Humanitarian Aid (OVAHA), with assistance from the Chelan-Douglas County Veteran's Groups, the Spokane VA Hospital, Dept of the VA, and Community Members & Organizations.

Stand Downs are one part of the Department of Veterans Affairs' efforts to provide services to homeless veterans. Stand Downs are typically one to three day events providing services to homeless veterans such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, VA and Social Security benefits counseling, and referrals to a variety of other necessary services, such as housing, employment and substance abuse treatment. Stand Downs are collaborative events, coordinated between local veterans service organizations (VSO), government agencies, and community organizations who serve the homeless.

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 veterans in need, homeless veterans, and veterans and their family members—ensuring they are receiving their benefits and are aware of all the privileges they are entitled to for their service and sacrifice.

These events originally began to serve the veterans in many of Washington's out-laying locations, which did not have the means to travel 3, 4 or more hours one-way, to a VA Facility. The events centered on homeless veterans, providing them with services and the means to survive in the homeless environments—homeless veterans suffer from many illnesses, ranging from PTSD, TBI, and other problems due to their combat/military service. In short, this was the only way for the VA to provide assistance and aid to these veterans—on fixed, low, or no income—that honorably served our nation.

In more recent times these events, commonly known as a Stand Down, have changed to also include veterans of all walks of life, regardless of their social standing; to include the dependents of the veteran, and dependents of deployed military spouses.

The Wenatchee Veterans Stand Down is open to all veterans and their dependents. All veterans in Washington are welcome. The veterans' location is not a factor even though the event is held in Central Washington (Chelan & Douglas counties) the event is open to any veteran in Washington State.

There are close to 50,000 known veterans and their dependents in the North Central Washington. The actual number of veterans in our areas is closer to 60,000. This is due to homeless veterans and other veterans not in the VA system and unaccounted for.

Currently, there are over 2,000 deployed men and women from our counties: leaving close to 2,000 single spouses with children, on fixed or low incomes, in need of assistance. In the past 10 years, the veterans' population in our area has all but tripled, and is growing with each returning unit.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

STAND DOWN basically is gathering VA doctors, nurses, staff, equipment, and other resources from the Spokane VA Hospital & Dept. of Veterans Affairs, and transporting them and their equipment to Wenatchee and basically setting up a mini VA Hospital/Dept. of Veterans Affairs office. These events basically consist of three parts:

1. VA Medical Staff: Medical, dental and, mental health care providers are the primary staff. For those that request it or have medical concerns, a brief medical history is taken and/or updated. Tests and blood draws can be performed, if requested or needed. For issues or complaints that seem urgent, usually the VA will make arraignments/appointments for hospital care.
2. VA Administrative Staff: There are many new programs available through the VA. Many veterans do not know what they are entitled too: or how to navigate the VA system to apply for them. The VA personal do a face to face one on one interview with each veteran and dependents of deployed veterans to ensure they receive the benefits they are entitled to and placed on new program lists. These services are performed by the Veteran Service Officer.
3. Alternative Support: It is customary, during these events to have military-surplus-clothing available. These items are primarily for the homeless or needy veterans. The clothing consist of shirts, pants, underwear, socks, shoes, boots, coats, caps, gloves, sleeping bags, and much more all placed into a large backpack for the veteran to secure and transport them in.

Additionally, all local veterans group, local organization and other facilities that have veteran, low-income or no-income programs will also be present at the Stand Down to assist these honorable man and women.

EVENT SCHEDULE

The schedule of the event is:

1. Pre—Set up

- Tuesday, 28th thru Friday 30th of July

Main—Set up

- Tuesday, 18th thru Friday 20th of August 2015
- Begins at 10:00am until 4:00pm or until completed
- Set-up tables, chairs, layout and sort clothing and section-off areas

2. Event date, time & location:

- Friday & Saturday, August 21st & 22nd, 2015
- Helpers arrive no later than 7:30am.
- Events start at 8:00am at the Wenatchee National Guard Armory, 1230 5th St, Wenatchee, WA, (next to the Wenatchee Valley College).
- The event ends at 3:00pm.

3. Clean up:

- Saturday, August 21st, following the event, quick cleanup of area and securing the site for the weekend.
- Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 24th, 25th, and 26th August 2015, begins at 9:00 am and continues until completion with the removal and storage of all surplus items.

PAST STAND DOWN INFORMATION

Veterans Stand Down: September 10, 2010

<http://www.wenatcheeworld.com/news/2010/sep/11/vets-find-surplus-goods-and-health-care-at/>

Other Past Events Sponsored By Wenatchee Veterans Stand Down Organization

Furniture Stand Down:

22nd, 23rd and 24th November 2010

<http://www.wenatcheeworld.com/news/2010/nov/23/veterans-snatch-up-free-furniture/>

CURRENT USA STAND DOWN INFORMATION

For a list of all Stand Downs currently scheduled in the USA, please visit:

<http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/StandDown.asp>

Please use the following information, if you would like to assist in this noble cause with a contribution or volunteer for the event or have any questions.

For Questions or to Volunteer

Please Contact:

Thad Lawson

(509) 393-2448 (Cell Phone)

tmlawsonjr@msn.com (E-Mail)

Please leave a message, if they are unable to answer your call. Your message will be returned.
Please leave:

1. Your name or name of business,
2. Primary and/or secondary phone number
3. Short messages/inquiry to answer your question

For Non-Profit Donations

Make Checks Payable To:

Wenatchee Veterans Standdown

Non-Profit Tax Number 501(c)(3):

96-2963942

Mailing Address:

Wenatchee Veterans Standdown

410 S Columbia St, Wenatchee, WA 98801

Target Goals & Needs

VETERANS ASSISTANCE & AID EVENT:

DESCRIPTION OF GOALS OR NEEDS	TARGET FUNDS	TARGET VOLUNTEERS
1. Volunteers-to set up tables, chairs and Organize items:	-----	120
2. Volunteers- to man, assist and handout surplus clothing:	-----	50
3. Volunteers to help with clean-up:	-----	120
4. Volunteers to help with food & Beverages:	\$3000(food)	10
5. Need long tables and covered area shelters	_____	80 tables
6. Help provide security and orderly operations of areas	_____	10
7. Provide assistance for disabled veterans (lifting & moving)	_____	20