

August 2011 Hospital and Troop Visit Report and BRAC Moves

Dear Patriots and Ladies:

Attached as an Adobe Acrobat/Reader PDF document, already virus checked, is the August 2011 monthly report for our troop visits, both wounded in action (WIA), who are eligible for a Purple Heart Medal, and non-battle injuries (nbi), for the month, and cumulative totals.

The August numbers are 121 Purple Heart packets given, for a 2011 year total of 1,080, and a grand total of 13,110 since April 2004. The non-battle injury (nbi) totals are 209 for August, 2,223 for the year 2011, and a grand total of 26,682 nbi patients visited since April 2004. The total number of all categories of troops met and welcomed home since April 2004 is 39,792. Our efforts continue to be dedicated to the more than 39,000 returning heroes we have met since our Welcome Home program began in April 2004.

Since April 2004, we have been welcoming home troops at Bethesda National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) and we have already been approved to continue our work there after all the moves involved with the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) that are taking place in August and September. In fact, several leaders at the Walter Reed Visitors Office are moving to Bethesda, and they know us from long experience with our visits.

For August, we were asked to conduct our visits early in the month, which was done, since both hospitals were busy and unable to handle many visitors during the last 2 weeks of the month, due to moves and realigning patients and family members at the Bethesda site. This also means that in accordance with medical staff and Naval command guidance, we will NOT request any hospital visits to be scheduled in the first two (2) weeks of September, after our National Convention.

Any visit in early September may be arranged separately by our National HQ Command, apart from this schedule described above.

After the initial BRAC realignment is completed in late August, we will be adjusting to a new schedule, and likely some new visiting sites.

Information, contact points, and any new policy guidance will be shared with you when it is released by the hospital command. Please stay tuned for further changes as they occur. There are also further changes coming that we do not yet know about.

I did not run for any National office this year, and think it is more important to concentrate on all the changes involved in the BRAC moves that affect our troops and families. I enjoyed seeing many of you at our National Convention in August.

Yours in Patriotism,

Stephen H. (Steve) Cobb
Adjutant & PCC, Chapter 353, MOPH
Welcome Home Project Team Leader
1 Attachment - August 2011 Monthly Visit Report in PDF