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PHOTO/FEATURE OPPORTUNITY

Resources and assistance available for U.S. veterans who are homeless or at risk of being homeless at StandDown 2010

WHAT: *Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV)*, a nonprofit organization serving veterans statewide, will be holding the annual metro area veterans' StandDown. All veterans seeking services are welcome. Onsite assistance available include free meals, clothing, VA benefit information, legal assistance—including court, federal and state tax assistance, housing and employment assistance and referrals, chemical dependency recovery groups, DMV, haircuts, chaplaincy, public benefits information, entertainment, and more.

NEW THIS YEAR: StandDown Court! Registration for court will be held **ONSITE** during Day 1 at StandDown at the Fort Snelling Army Reserve complex. Court will be held on Day 2 and will be located at the Minnesota Judicial Center in St. Paul. Transportation will be provided from Fort Snelling. **Issues** being addressed by the judges are **misdemeanors, petty misdemeanors, tickets, and non-felony warrant-surrenders**, with any higher-level crimes being referred to therapeutic courts. Cases heard will be from the 7-county Metro area. Again, there is no pre-registration. Veterans must register on Day 1, and be able to go to court on Day 2. There will be volunteer defense attorneys to assist veterans with the process.

WHEN: Tuesday May 25 and Wednesday May 26, 2010. Gates open and services available 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. There will be a Welcoming Ceremony held on Tuesday May 25 at 11:00 a.m. Speakers will include Secretary of State Mark Ritchie introducing the “Vote in Honor of a Veteran” campaign, and MN Dept of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Michael Pugliese.

WHERE: The event is being hosted by the U.S. Army Reserve 644th Regional Support Group on the grounds of the Ft. Snelling Army Reserve Complex.

WHY: The mission of The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans is to provide assistance throughout Minnesota to positively motivated veterans and their families who are homeless or experiencing other life crisis. www.mac-v.org