



Lebanon VA
Medical Center

1700 South Lincoln Avenue
Lebanon, PA 17042
(717) 228-6030

Press Announcement

Contact: Scott W. Harman, 717-228-6030

For Immediate Release

December 10, 2010

Santa's Elves...Not Quite...Santa's Soldiers Visit Lebanon VA Medical Center

Soldiers from the G1 Joint Force Headquarters, Fort Indiantown Gap, helped to assemble Christmas bags for the Veterans at Lebanon VA Medical Center.

The Voluntary Service Department at the medical center organizes this project annually. Voluntary Service staff encourages the community to participate in the assembly and delivery of the Christmas bags.

This year, Major Sergeant Brian Bogner contacted the Voluntary staff at the medical center and asked how his unit could give back to the Veterans at the facility. Major Sergeant Bogner explained his unit gets together once a month and participates in something positive for a local organization. Staff members of G1 rotate responsibility of planning and scheduling the monthly activity. Major Sergeant Bogner's unit volunteered for the month of December. Voluntary staff and Bogner scheduled the soldiers from the G1 to help assemble the Christmas bags on December 8, 2010.

Twenty soldiers from G1 reported to assemble bags. Positive relationships were developed between the soldiers, Santa and local Veterans Service Organizations.

Prior to the start of the Christmas bag project, the soldiers were briefed on the MyHealthVet program available at the facility. Several soldiers commented about the service they have received at the Medical Center. Sergeant 1st Class E-7 Garghill, who has been in the Army for 10 years, said, "I have used the Emergency Department at the Lebanon VA and my experience was the best I've ever had, hands down. The facility is very efficient." Sergeant 1st Class E-7 Whipple added, "I use the facility for my annual physical and am very pleased with my Primary Care Manager on the Blue Team." Whipple is a 23 year Veteran of the Army.

A light lunch was provided for those that helped assemble the bags in the facility's social room.

The bags will be distributed to inpatient Veterans who are admitted over the holiday season. Anyone interested in helping to distribute the bags should contact the Voluntary Service Department at 717-272-6621, extension 4064.





###