



Communication Services  
5334 South Prince Street  
Littleton, Colorado 80166-0001  
Phone: 303-795-4284  
Fax: 303-738-7894  
[www.co.arapahoe.co.us](http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us)

**For release: November 5, 2009**

Contact:

**HALEY MCKEAN**

*Communication Services Specialist II*

Direct: 303-636-1945

Mobile: 303-726-6608

E-mail: [hmckean@co.arapahoe.co.us](mailto:hmckean@co.arapahoe.co.us)

## **Arapahoe County appoints new Veterans Service Officer** *Rick Stewart to oversee the Arapahoe County Veterans Service Office*

**Littleton, Colo.** --- Arapahoe County has appointed Rick Stewart as the County Veterans Service Officer, where he will oversee the program that assists veterans in obtaining state and federal benefits.

“Rick Stewart brings more than eight years of experience as a veterans service officer in the Midwest, where he single-handedly operated more than a dozen widespread field offices to support veterans,” said Arapahoe County Commissioner Jim Dyer. “Stewart is no stranger to service to his country, and Arapahoe County saw his knowledge and professionalism as a clear fit to assist the more than 50,000 veterans in our county with navigating the benefits system.”

Stewart served in the United States Army as a Forward Observer with the Field Artillery in the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Fort Wainwright in Fairbanks, Alaska. He was recognized with the Army Achievement Medal, and was honorably discharged as a Specialist in 1992.

Stewart has worked as a Veteran Service Officer in Michigan and also helped veterans from the State of Wisconsin for the past eight years. Between October 2002 and June 2004, he operated seven field offices for the AMVETS Department of Michigan. From September 2004 to May 2009, he operated 15 field offices for the American Legion Department of Michigan. He possesses his federal accreditation from the VA and has received certifications for successfully completing nine national trainings with the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission. Stewart earned a Bachelor of Science in Telecommunications from Northern Michigan University. He is a member of the American Legion.

During his career as a veterans services officer, Stewart has prepared and presented more than 50,000 individual pieces of legal correspondence with the Department of Veterans Affairs and has averaged \$10 million dollars per year in recoveries of cases he prepared, presented and appealed to the VA. He was presented a Certificate of Appreciation in 2008 by U.S. Army Chief of Staff, General W. Casey, Jr. for outstanding service to active duty military personnel, veterans and their families.

Stewart plans to conduct outreach in the community to inform active duty military personnel and veterans about the benefits that may be available to them. He is committed to providing exceptional customer service and advocacy to all veterans and their dependents with the preparation, presentation and possible appeal for their VA benefits.

Veterans in need of assistance can call 303-738-8045 or visit the Arapahoe County Veterans Service Office at 1690 W. Littleton Blvd, Suite 103, Littleton.

\* \* \*

To download photos, click on the following link: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Veterans>

*Photo caption:*

**Rick Stewart.jpg**

Arapahoe County has appointed Rick Stewart as the County Veteran Services Officer where he will oversee the program that assists veterans in obtaining federal and state benefits.

**Stewart and Dyer.jpg**

Arapahoe County Commissioner Jim Dyer welcomes Rick Stewart (right), the new County Veterans Service Officer.