

# What is Mission Based Trauma Recovery at WCC?

MBTR is Warrior Canine Connection's (WCC) unique form of Animal Assisted Therapy. It is a mission-oriented program that enlists Service Members and Veterans in preparing service dogs in training as a means of giving back to a fellow Veteran. Those involved are learning dog psychology, teamwork, resiliency and goal setting in the training process.

### Who will I be working with?

Each volunteer handler will be paired with a professional service dog trainer here at WCC. The trainer will provide hands-on training for each week's lesson plan and you will get to both observe and practice the teaching of service dog commands.

#### How much time must I invest?

We encourage our program participants to attend one-hour sessions weekly for 8 weeks. This allows each volunteer to learn bit-by-bit from the foundational levels up to more advanced service dog commands.

### Where will MBTR sessions be held?

WCC's Healing Quarters in Boyds, MD, located in Seneca Creek State Park with over 80 acres of training space and many other locations including Frederick MD, Northern CA Menlow Park and San Francisco, Northern VA at Fort Belvoir, Asheville NC, Philadelphia PA at UPENN, and more.

## Am I able to bring my own service dog to the training?

We understand and support those who want to participate and need to have their service dog present. We will honor this request, but due to the working environment of our own service dogs in training, you will be asked to please provide documentation of your service dog's vaccinations. In addition, your dog must be comfortable being crated during the training sessions so that we limit distractions for those working. The goal in our training is ensuring our dogs are set up for success.

#### **How do I get started?**

The first step is filling out our **Volunteer Trainer Agreement** or emailing us at mbtr@warriorcanineconnection.org to discuss next steps and to schedule sessions.