

## **The Monterey Bay Veterans is doing great work year round!**

Last week Segs4Vets awarded a wounded warrior a modified Segway personal transporter to improve her mobility and independence. Segs4Vets is a program of Disability Rights Advocates for Technology (DRAFT). This program is dedicated to restoring independence and productivity to severely injured service members as part of DRAFT's core mission to expand and improve access for all disabled people. Segs4Vets has awarded more than 1,300 Segways since 2005 to severely injured veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and/or Enduring Freedom.

Local veterans Group the Monterey Bay Veterans, Inc. has sponsored, Specialist Jeanne (OBrien) Paynter, United States Army. Jeanne will receive the award today. Specialist Paynter was injured in July 2007 while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. While she was in Afghanistan, she was hit by foreign objects thrown by rotor wash of a helicopter resulting in orthopedic and neurologic injuries. As a result of her service connected injuries, Paynter experiences pain, fatigue, and weakness and requires the use of a wheelchair for mobility. The Ally Chair is a modified Segway consisting of an adapted seat placed on a Segway base. The Ally Chair is awarded to veterans who are unable to stand or make productive use of prosthetics. This includes those veterans who have high level bilateral above the knee amputations. These adapted Segways are only available through the Segs4Vets program.

Captain Patti Ireland, United States Navy (Ret) and John Whitacre Executive Director, will award the Ally Chair modified Segway to Specialist Paynter. Captain Ireland runs a training and assessment program at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego, California. Ireland, a physical therapist, says "one of the biggest advantages of the Ally Chair is that it is an active device, controlled by the recipient's core muscles. It shares the other advantages of the Segway such as its' small turning radius, narrow wheel base and the ability to operate on a variety of terrains."

For more information on the Monterey Bay Veterans programs, please visit their website at [www.mbv.org](http://www.mbv.org).