

Hola Everyone!

Hope 2011 is now off to a solid start for you. The month since our last message has gone by in a flash and a lot has happened. Whew!! So I apologize up front that this will be a long message. Hopefully the bullets below will give you an idea of key things going on.

One comment before we jump into them tho. We've gotten some great responses and questions as a result of previous messages and are thrilled to see the passion and dedication to taking care of Soldiers and Families that exists in members of our Corps. I appreciate the communication and feedback and encourage you to continue to stay in touch. OK, with that said, here we go:

- As always, let's start off by encouraging you to visit our Corps website at (<https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil>). We're always open to suggestions for improvement. When you visit the site, note under "Civilian Corps Photos" the picture of Ms. Senetra J. Harris, recognized as the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Civilian Employee of the Year 2010. Congrats to Ms Harris! It's also a reminder to send us your good news stories and pics so we can let others know about the great work going on out there. (Don't forget the release form—also available on the web site.)
- There is a new Army Medicine logo. It truly represents our mission and has great meaning. It is available on the web site under "What's New" to see and for download. Please take a look.
- Even before the Civilian Corps Specific Branch Proponency Office opened, 10 Oct 10, we were working on the Corps Balanced Scorecard (BSC), our strategic plan. A team of civilians under the tutelage of Jay Harmon and Scott Henschel from the AMEDD Center and School Office of Strategy and Innovation met in Sep to formulate the way ahead. The team came from across MEDCOM and, frankly, did a terrific job! With minor tweaks we staffed thru MEDCOM and OTSG just what they produced. When presented to The Surgeon General on 24 Jan 11, he approved it first time out! Take a look at the product on the web site under the "Strategic Focus" link. It includes printable versions for your use.

There is still much to do, but thanks to the following folks we're off to a great start: Christi Roberts and Dr. Debra Yourick from Medical Research and Materiel Command; Andy Stewart from Fort Stewart MEDDAC; Danielle Griffin from Brooke Army Medical Center; Marilyn Matney and Donna Gray from the Western Regional Medical Command; Bill Crowley from Warrior Transition Command; John Heath from DENCOC; Jo Anne Cyr and Tami Strait from HQ, MEDCOM; and Jennifer Peters, Adriane Neidinger, and Vic Cartagena from the AMEDD Center and School. Many thanks to all of you!! Your contributions will positively impact Army Medicine for a long time to come.

- Army has created a new Army Civilian Service website with good info on jobs and hiring. You can get the description and link under "What's New" and "Helpful Links" respectively on our Corps web site. I've tried it; works well, very informative. Folks in Korea, there is a problem with part of the site but repair guidance is under "Site Notifications". There is also a dedicated AMEDD recruiting site. You can find it labeled "Civilian Corps" on our web site as well under the "Jobs" link.
- After mention in the last Corps Chief message about civilians attending the Army-Baylor Healthcare Admin masters degree program, there was lot of interest from Corps members. We got the information on requirements and how to apply for the FY 12 course. It's available on the Corps site under "What's New" and "FAQs".
- One of the great opportunities I have as the Chief is to visit Corps members as I travel. It's great to learn about our people and what they do. It's also a great opportunity to talk with civilians and military about our Corps. So far I've visited folks from Forts Belvoir, Benning, Carson, Eustis, Lee, Leonard Wood, Sill, and Stewart and, of course, the AMEDD Center and School. On 17 Feb I'll be at Fort Campbell and from 6-17 March will visit the Pacific Regional Medical Command. I look forward to meeting and talking with as many of you as possible during these visits. Please come on up and introduce yourselves!
- On 1 Feb I attended a retirement ceremony for Mr. Jerry Harben, the editor of the MEDCOM Mercury, from HQ, MEDCOM. It was a great ceremony and we wish him the very best. Watch the photo

tab on the web site for the “rest of the story”. We believe that Jerry is the first civilian recipient of the AMEDD 30 Year Medallion retirement award. Remember a link to the requirements for award of the medallion is available on the web site under “What’s New”.

- Early in January our Corps office met with many of the senior civilian personnel leaders at DA. It was a great opportunity to discuss happenings and issues in the AMEDD Civilian Corps and to learn what is going on at DA to support civilians. This will be a normal part of Corps efforts to impact our future. We’ll keep you posted on issues as we get information. Key issues from this trip included:

- o AMEDD representation on the flag level committee for Army Civilian Workforce Transformation. We will have a seat at the table with me as the AMEDD lead and Nancy Quick providing backup. Major issues for this forum include development and designation of career programs for all Army civilians, revision of hiring and firing practices, and development of lifecycle plans for all civilians. We’ll be working this last issue in the AMEDD Personnel Propensity Directorate for AMEDD civilians.

- o The folks at the Army Civilian University are working the issues of equivalency and constructive credit for Civilian Education System (CES) courses. There is no resolution yet, but it is a working issue. This has been a question during many of my site visits.

- o Army is putting a lot of effort into a new system called the Army Career Tracker. We are researching information on this system and will provide it as soon as we can. Stay tuned.

- o Only 7000 of 330,000 Army civilians have taken advantage of the Global Assessment Tool (GAT) to improve their personal resiliency. I have taken it. The tool has a lot of resources available and offers great value. It is free for Army civilians and I really encourage you to use it! You can access the GAT via the “Health and Wellness” tab on our Corps web site under “Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program and Global Assessment Tool”.

- Last week the Military Health System held its annual conference in the Capital Region. Some neat stuff happened there.

- o In the Army breakout session, The Surgeon General (TSG) made a specific point of recognizing the significant contributions our AMEDD Civilians make to Army Medicine. Great to hear in a public mixed military and civilian forum like that.

- o During the breakout session, TSG hands out numerous awards to organizations from across the MEDCOM for improvements in workload and quality. In almost every case civilians were members of the organizational teams receiving the awards. Very cool! Stay tuned for photos on the web site as soon as we receive them.

- o A panel of healthcare and media experts discussed focusing on the experience of being an employee in an organization in order to build trust in the organization and decrease employee turnover. Topics ranged from job satisfaction to wellness. This was particularly interesting because about 10 days before the presentation we met with TSG and others on the MEDCOM and OTSG staffs regarding civilian job satisfaction. At the meeting TSG directed a tasker to develop a way ahead for AMEDD civilian development, a major contributor to job satisfaction. Stay tuned; you’ll hear more about this as we” move out and draw fire”.

Yep, a lot going on. My apologies for the length of the message but wanted you to see what’s happening in our environment. If you have questions, you know how to reach us, right???? You betcha!! Via the “Contact Us” link in the upper right corner of the web site or by response to this message. Guess that’s it for now. As I said above, I’m absolutely thrilled by your dedication and service to our mission. Thank you for what you do to make Army Medicine Army Strong!

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