

Hi Everyone,

Hope things are well with you and the New Year is beginning to move on cruise control for you. It certainly is moving right along from my perspective. First thing, I'd like to thank all the folks out there who were kind enough to help me with my spelling after the title error from the last message... As I told several folks who wrote, "Guess these old fingers just can't spell like they used to. That's my story and I'm sticking to it..." At least my oops was "lear" and not "leer". I looked up "lear" on a dictionary web site and found that it had three entries: 1) Character from Shakespeare; 2) Maker of great small jets; or 3) Edward Lear, British artist and writer of nonsense verse (1812-1888). In this case, maybe the last is the best option!

I've recovered from that and now for some info we hope will be useful. There's a lot going on so the plan is to give you some now and more in a couple of weeks in order to keep the length of this message reasonable. I learned that from one of our co-workers who let me know that either s/he was in a bad mood or I talk too much! So, here we go.

WOLF PACK AWARD

Congratulations to winners of the Army Medicine Wolf Pack Award for 1st Quarter FY12, the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Traumatic Brain Injury Team and the HQ, USAMEDCOM Program, Analysis, and Evaluation/Resource Management Biz Ops Bowl Team. The Surgeon General and I presented the awards on 29 Feb 12 and presentation photos are available on the AMEDD Civilian Corps web site (<https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil>) under the "Civilian Corps Photos" link. Follow it to "Photo Gallery" and "Award Recognition".

You can nominate a deserving team for the Wolf Pack Award for 2nd Quarter. All of the nomination information is online on our website under "Celebrate Success" and "Wolf Pack Award Nominations" or follow this link:

<https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil/WolfPackAwardNominations.aspx>

The nomination deadline for this quarter is 5 April. Note that quarterly winners automatically compete for the Wolf Pack of the Year Award to be presented at the next AMEDD Training Symposium, currently scheduled for August.

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK DEGREE PROGRAM

A quick reminder that you can still apply to the Army-Fayetteville State University Master of Social Work (MSW) Degree Program. Up to five qualified candidates get selected each year from the MEDCOM civilian workforce to attend this program. The deadline to submit your application is 2 April 2012. The link to the application site is on our web site (<https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil>) under the "What's New" link.

ARMY-BAYLOR GRADUATE PROGRAM

Congratulations to the following MEDCOM civilian employees who have been accepted for attendance at the Army-Baylor University Graduate Program in Health and Business Administration beginning in June of this year:

Ms. Melissa Brown - AMEDDC&S,
Mr. James Butera - Bassett Army Community Hospital
Ms. Joella Gibbs - Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Clinic
Mr. Donald Stafford - Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital
Mr. Brian Vazzano - Office of the Surgeon General
Mr. Mark Wentink - Heidelberg MEDDAC

Interested in this program? Applications are being accepted through October for the 2013 program. Attendance at the Army-Baylor Program is a unique opportunity exclusively for MEDCOM civilian employees. Qualified candidates should send their complete packets to Ms. Jo Anne Cyr at the address listed in the announcement letter, also posted on the Civilian corps web site The link to the application site is on our web site (<https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil>) under "What's New." All documentation, to include official transcripts and GRE or GMAT scores, must be received by 31 October 2012.

CIVILIAN CORPS STRATEGIC LEARNING PROJECT (SLP)

As I've mentioned in previous messages, we have established a short-term quarterly learning opportunity for AMEDD civilians to work on special projects in our Corps Chief's office for 2 weeks. Through the SLP, the employee has the opportunity to learn about the Civilian Corps and the workings of the Corps Chief's office, gain hands-on experience working on a Civilian Corps initiative, and present the project results to the SES Corps Chief and other stakeholders.

These opportunities are open to all AMEDD civilians. We fund travel costs and per diem.

The SLP regarding civilian awards is happening now. The employee working with us is Susan Fite, a nurse from Tripler Army Medical Center, who briefed Mr. Herb Coley, the MEDCOM Chief of Staff, and me this week. We'll have a report from Susan in our next message.

The subject of the project for 3rd Quarter is "Social Media" and is scheduled 11-22 June. If you are interested in social media and researching how it might fit into our Corps communication strategy, check out the announcement on the web site (<https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil>) under, "...guess where, yep,..." "What's New." You'll find all the details on the project, application instructions, and the submission form. The submission deadline is 30 April 2012.

MEDCOM SPEAKS SURVEY

MEDCOM SPEAKS is now in the field! The MEDCOM HR Survey Team launched the survey on 22 February at 1300 EST. Many of you may have already responded; MEDCOM reported over 1900 submissions in less than 24 hours. The survey is sent to a random sample consisting of 1/3 of MEDCOM employees across each Command. If you are one of those randomly selected, I encourage you (yes, I was randomized and have already sent mine in) to take a few minutes to submit your response. The AMEDD senior leadership really does pay attention to the outcomes of this survey so here's your chance to have your voice and make yourself heard.

PERSONALIZED RETIREMENT ESTIMATES

This one's a little long all by itself but we thought it was really important so have kept it in this message. The Army Civilian Human Resources Agency (CHRA) recently announced that as of 26 January 2012, employees may now request personalized retirement estimates.

According to the article I read, electronic estimates are now a reality. Current Army-serviced employees who are eligible for a voluntary/optional retirement within the next five years can now request a retirement estimate electronically through the Employee Benefits Information System (EBIS).

To request an estimate, the employee should log into EBIS through the ABC-C web site at <https://www.abc.army.mil> and click on the "HR LINKS" button. Eligible employees will get asked a series of questions pertaining to their retirement estimate request. Once submitted, the request will flow electronically to ABC-C where the request will enter a queue to be

worked. The completed estimate will be electronically returned to the employee's EBIS account and, similar to the system utilized by DFAS for receipt of leave and earning statements, an email notification will be sent to the employee that the estimate is available in EBIS.

Employees who are not within five years of voluntary retirement and click on the "HR LINKS" button will receive a notice that they are ineligible to request an electronic estimate. Employees who are not within five years of voluntary retirement eligibility but who wish to receive an estimate (Minimum Retirement Age (MRA)+10, Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA), disability and deferred retirement) request their estimate by using the ABC-C automated phone line at 877-276-9287 and speaking with a retirement counselor.

The benefits of offering this on line option include greater protection of Personally Identifiable Information (PII), reduced costs associated with paper mailings, and convenience for the employee in both requesting the estimate electronically and obtaining the estimate more quickly.

FUNDING FOR EDUCATION

We get a lot of questions about how to seek assistance in paying for classes. The MEDCOM Civilian Human Resources Division (CHRD) has provided us an information paper that addresses tuition assistance, student loan repayment, and academic degree programs. We've posted it to the Corps web site (<https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil>) under,..."you guessed it,..."What's New." (Is there a trend here???)

LEADERSHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Last but not least, the first in our series of leadership video tele-training (VTT) classes, "The Psychology of the Workplace," conducted in early January, was a real success. These classes are a great opportunity and pretty easy to access.

The second in the series, "The Psychology of the Workplace, Series 2," will cover the Basics of Personality and Social Psychology. Participants will learn "What is personality?" and the basic tenants of personality theories. They will also review social theory, social influence and social relations as they relate to the work environment.

DATE: Friday, 16 Mar 12
TIME: 0900-1100 CST

You can Self Nominate on the CL3 website at <https://ke2.army.mil/cl3/> <<https://ke2.army.mil/cl3/>> Registration closes @ 1200 CST on Thursday, 15 Mar 12. Please contact the POC, Ms. Donna Sabsook, at cl3@amedd.army.mil for any questions.

For those who might be interested but missed the first class (Psychology of the Workplace, Series 1), we videoed it and you can access it by enrolling in our Civilian Life Long Learning (CL3) Blackboard classes. If interested, you can access CL3 classes on Blackboard @

<https://amedd.ellc.learn.army.mil>. Then take the following steps:

**Click on the "Courses" tab-> go to "Course Search"->type in CL3

**Click on the drop-down arrow behind desired class name

**Select "Enroll", then "Submit", then "OK"

**Select "Lessons" to view class content.

****Complete CL3 Survey**

****Student will receive CL3 certificate within 24 hours.**

We've tested it and it seems to work well. Please let Ms Sabsook know if you find something different (c13@amedd.army.mil). We're also starting to slowly build a library of video training classes for your use. The "Series 1" course from above is first; the second is on the Healthcare Environment. Both are available now.

Well, that's it for now, ... and it's only half the stuff we've got for you!! So I'll be back again soon. In the meantime, be safe, treat one another well, focus on our great mission, and keep up your great work as key members of the Army Medical Department Team. Take care.

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Gregg Stevens, SES
AMEDD Civilian Corps Chief