

## **AMEDD Civilian Corps Chief Message #32a--The Wolf Story (31 January 2013)**

Hi Everyone,

After the last Corps Chief message we've had a lot of questions about the "Wolf Story" so decided to video it. We've been trying to get it out to the whole Corps but have been stymied by the new enterprise email system. Sorry for the delay and hope this gets to you.

You can find it on YouTube. Here's the link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8ODXXMEB3U&list=UUjPX96lTaNjB54dg8VZYxxw&index2>.

The link is also available on the Corps website (<https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil>) under the "What's New" tab in case you need to locate it later or want to share it with others.

All the best,

gregg

Gregg Stevens, SES  
Chief, AMEDD Civilian Corps

## **AMEDD Civilian Corps Chief Message #32—Thoughts on the Way Ahead (23 January 2013)**

Hi Folks,

This will be something of a different kind of message. We'll talk about opportunities that are out there and a few other things, as usual, but we need to spend a little time on the topic that is taking the Department of Defense by storm, our current environment of fiscal uncertainty.

As you no doubt know, funding has been an area of concern for all of us for some time. On 16 January, the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff of the Army cosigned a memorandum, SUBJECT: Risk Mitigation in the Face of Fiscal Uncertainty. In that document they were very clear that the Army must act now to reduce expenditure rates and reduce the risks of exceeding funding allocations. This is especially true given the reduced funding associated with the possibility of operating on a continuing resolution (CR) as opposed to a budget for the rest of this fiscal year (FY), and the fiscal implications of a possible sequestration of funding. The document laid out a series of initial near-term actions and directed intensified planning for future uncertainty.

The most frequent question I have gotten from many members of the AMEDD Civilian Corps is, "What about furloughs?" The document is again very clear in that they will be considered (as they often are in these types of circumstances) but that they are a tool of last resort and require express approval of the Secretary of the Army.

But, in reality, the specifics are not the key point of this message. What I wanted to let you know is that this will work itself out. At age 66 and given nearly 45 years with Army Medicine, this is about my 5th ride on the resource pendulum. From one old guy's perspective, we will get through this and, in the end, will come out a better organization, focused on health and making even greater contributions to our Army and our Nation. That has been the history from my point of view.

Will it be painless? No. But the improvement happens because leaders and followers TOGETHER stand up and MAKE the organization better. It happens because we, individually and collectively, look creatively at how we do things and what we do and find ways to make both organizations and outcomes better. It will be a challenge but it will create the movement that causes Army Medicine to move forward and be both more effective and efficient. We will be in a better position to execute our mission of providing responsive and reliable health services and influencing health to improve readiness, save lives, and advance wellness in support of the Force, Military Families, and all those entrusted to our care.

So, for those of you who have heard me tell the "Wolf Story," this is a prime opportunity to "feed the good wolf." (If you haven't heard the "Wolf Story" let me know. As the folks at the AMEDD Center and School will tell you, I'll be glad to share....) We are all in this together and we WILL SUCCEED. This falls under the "...so help me God" clause at the end of our oath. I ask that you join me in attacking this situation with a positivism that sets an undeniable example. Our AMEDD will be stronger and positioned for the future, focused on a strategy that leads us to improved health and, as a result, improved health care.

Thanx for listening. Now on to a few other things.

- Army-Baylor University Masters in Healthcare Administration (MHA) Degree Program  
The window is now open for individuals interested in applying for the Baylor MHA Program. We have had civilians in the program for several years now and you can find the information regarding the FY 14 program on the AMEDD Civilian Corps website (<https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil> <<https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil>> ) under the "What's New" link. Good luck to you!

- Outreach and Mentoring

Given the fiscal realities in our future it appears that my Corps Chief visits will be somewhat limited. As a result, we are looking for ways to reach out from the AMEDD Civilian Corps Office to stay in contact with you and share information and ideas. Some would say that the answer is a BLOG (right Britney?), and we'll consider it. For me and for many others with whom we've discussed this, however, something a little more direct might be more in order. We're looking at creating some VTC or DCO opportunities to have outreach and/or mentoring sessions with the folks from the Chief's Office. Our thought is that something regional or at least geographical would give us the opportunity to reach out to both CONUS and to our overseas members. I'd really like to know your thoughts. Mull it over a bit and let me know if you think something like that might be useful. Thanx in advance for any input.

- Enterprise Email Migration

Enterprise email migration is now upon us! We migrate here at the AMEDD Center and School tonite. As a result, there are a few points we want to make. Some are reminders and some new.

- o Please check with your coworkers to be sure they have received these messages. Until we're sure that the migration has worked well across the Army and that our new version of the distribution list is working as well, you can really help us out by aggressively checking with those around you and sharing the message if they haven't received a copy.

- o Don't forget to share the messages with your military coworkers as well. It's important that they know about what's going on in the AMEDD Civilian Corps.

- o If you or a coworker are missing a message, remember they are all posted on the AMEDD Civilian Corps website at (<https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil> <<https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil>> ) using the "About Us" link and the "Corps Chief" and "Corps Chief Messages" drop down links.

- o COMING SOON: We are working on an icon for the main website page to indicate the date of the latest message so folks can check it at a glance and link from there to the current message. Should help you find the latest info.

Thanx in advance for your help on this one.

- Wolf Pack Award

It's time to start thinking about your submission for the 3rd Quarter, FY 13 Wolf Pack Award. Applications will be due 5 April 2013. Remember, this award is given quarterly to a combined team of civilians and military (can include contractors but must have the other two) which makes a significant contribution to the Army Medicine mission. Details on the award and application are on the Corps website (<https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil>) under the "Celebrate Success" link. Good luck! (BTW, we expect announcement of the 2nd Quarter winner very soon.)

Guess that's about it for this time around. Remember to take care of yourselves in every way. Wellness, starting with Sleep, Activity, and Nutrition, is important as is Safety. All contribute to maintaining the most important component of our Team, its human element...including YOU! I'll be back to you in about a week or so with a follow on message and will try to keep you updated as our environment becomes clearer. I'm proud to share this walk with you. Let's do this thing!!

Sincerely,

gregg

Gregg Stevens, SES  
Chief, AMEDD Civilian Corps