

AMEDD Civilian Corps Chief Msg # 48---Spring Has Sprung,...and so has the info well! (7 April 2014)

Howdy, all!

As promised in the birthday message, it's time for an all-out info attack. It's been a while since I sent a full message, so (surprise, surprise) there is quite a bit of information to pass along. As we normally do, we've tried to headline each piece so you can quickly ID the ones that interest you up front then come back and read the other information later. I strongly encourage you to take the time to review at least the headlines. There is information in this message that applies to specific portions of our Corps. I'd hate for you to miss an opportunity. Remember too that you can always find a lot of good stuff on our Civilian Corps website at <https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil/Default.aspx>, photos, success stories and recognition, videos, links, and more. Check it out and send us photos, articles, or stories that you'd like to share. As usual, please share this and other messages with your military coworkers and others who may not receive it.

OK, saddle up; here we go!

A BIG THANK YOU!

First, a big "Thank You" to all the GS-0679 Medical Support Assistants who answered the call from DA by taking the "Competency Pilot" survey conducted by the Department of the Army to help shape the future for your occupation. Because of you, we exceeded their minimum standard for responses by 20%! Way to go!!

NEW ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

We recently selected the newest members of the Civilian Corps Board of Advisors. Thanks to all of you (and your Commanders who supported you) who applied for the three new board member positions. We received some great applications. Your passion for the Army Medicine mission and for our Corps as part of that mission was VERY evident in the essays. Please join me in congratulating the selectees:

- Ryan Chandlee, Army Medical Department Center & School, JBSA Ft Sam Houston, TX
- Belinda Jellison, Lyster Army Health Clinic, Ft Rucker, AL
- Jason Wilfong, California Medical Detachment, Presidio of Monterey, CA

Our Civilian Corps office conducted a successful annual planning meeting in March with the Board and our Career Program (CP) Management Office for CP 53 Medical, along with staff from the HQ MEDCOM Civilian Training Division.

We focused on the way ahead for the AMEDD Civilian Corps and I couldn't ask for a more committed group of smart, forward-thinking advisors to represent all of you. What a great Team!

We also said good-bye to three Board Members who served you and the Corps well during their tenure on the Board, from 2012-2014. Many thanks to them:

- Marla Bradwell, Madigan Army Medical Center, JBLM, Fort Lewis, WA
- Mike West, Brooke Army Medical Center, JBSA Fort Sam Houston, TX
- LaPorcha Williams, US Army Medical Information Technology Center, JBSA Fort Sam Houston, TX

AMEDD CIVILIAN CORPS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

We received great feedback from many of you on how your commands celebrated our 18th Birthday on 26 March. There is an article from McDonald Army Health Center at Fort Eustis, VA about how they celebrated. Check it out under our "What's New" tab. If you have an article or picture you would like to share, just sent it to us by email and we will post it to the website. Remember, you can easily reach our email address by clicking the "Contact Us" icon on the website.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- . 7 April 2014 – Nominations due for the Wolf Pack Award for 3rd Qtr FY14
- . 7 July 2014 – Nominations due for Wolf Pack Award for 4th Qtr FY14
- . 16 May 2014—For the FIRST TIME, Civilians are eligible to receive the CPT John R. Teal Leadership Award. This award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the AMEDD mission and have performed in an exceptionally outstanding manner while serving as 70H Officers, Noncommissioned Officers, and Civilian Medical Professionals in key operations positions. To be eligible you must be a civilian employee (GS9-GS14) with a medical operations job series assigned to supported medical organizations, or were providing medical operations support during Calendar Year 2013 (CY13). You can read more about this award and the nomination procedures on our website under "What's New." Time to nominate an eligible coworker whom you know is hitting home runs every day in an ops position!
- . 30 May 2014—Senior Enterprise Talent Management (SETM): Important for GS 14's and 15's. See the next section below.

GS 14's & 15's: SENIOR ENTERPRISE TALENT MANAGEMENT (SETM)

If you are a GS 14 or 15 who desires greater opportunities and responsibilities and want training/opportunity to make an impact across the Army Medical Department and the Army, this announcement is definitely for you. SETM is the Army program to prepare Senior Civilians for enterprise level positions across the Department by providing exceptional professional development, senior-level educational or experiential learning opportunities. SETM is administered by the Civilian Senior Leader Management Office (CSLMO).

The Army needs highly qualified GS14/15s with the skills and experience to lead the way in addressing future issues and problems that are already beginning to make themselves evident. The SETM Program offers senior Civilians a wide range of opportunities. For example, Project-Based SETM-TDY assignments offer high performing Army senior Civilians, who are centrally selected by an Army Board, to operate as part of an enterprise-level working group/tiger team, or fill a critical organizational need for a period not to exceed 179 days. SETM-TDY is centrally funded. Commands across the Army have submitted an impressive list of projects which present great opportunities for learning and experience. In fact, Army has an excess of projects and not enough selectees to fill them. Participation in SETM-TDY will help Army Senior Civilians develop and demonstrate their competency in multiple job disciplines and functional areas within their career field; at multiple levels of the Army or in various occupational series while meeting Army requirements. Knowledge gained from a SETM-TDY assignment will benefit both the individual and the Army on multiple levels.

In order to meet the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) (ASA(M&RA)) timeframes, the MEDCOM suspense for applications is 30 May 14. You can get more information from the HQ MEDCOM G37 POC Mr. Raymond R. Mendoza at usarmy.ibsa.medcom.mbx.readiness@mail.mil. Click on "USERS GUIDE" at <https://www.csldo.army.mil> to see the application instructions.

CIVILIAN CORPS OUTREACH

We are always looking for ways to reach out to you with information and opportunities to communicate with us here in the AMEDD Civilian Corps Office. Here are a few important ones from the recent past and some that are coming up. Remember that we're always open to new ideas on how to reach you so please take a minute and let us know. You can use the "Contact Us" button in the upper right of the AMEDD Civilian Corps website (<https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil>) to send us ideas. Thanx! Here's the info.

--We posted a recording of the DCO Training Session that we hosted in January covering Army Career Tracker (ACT) for Supervisors. The recording is on our website under "What's New" at <https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil/>. (CAC required). Recordings of the DCO sessions from last summer covering DCO, IDPs in ACT, and CES Registration are also available there.

--The Virtual Town Hall/Mentoring Sessions for 2nd Quarter seemed to go very well! Lots of folks got connected and we had some good discussions. Thanx to all who attended. I hope even more of you can join in the sessions for 3rd Quarter. We are booking the following dates and times so you can plan accordingly. Please mark your calendars and make your VTC arrangements now. As usual, you can contact Martha L. Arevalo in our Corps office with the VTC site ID information. We need a minimum of 2 days advance notice to finalize the arrangements, so please contact Marty no later than 6 Jun 14 if you want to participate in a session. You can also send her other questions or topics you'd like to discuss. Finally, please feel free to attend any session; there are no restrictions on who may attend which one.

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL #1: WEDNESDAY, 11 JUNE, 1800 CENTRAL TIME (According to our calculations from the world time zone clock, this equates to the following local times: 0800 next day Japan/Korea / 1900 Eastern / 1300 Hawaii / 1500 Alaska / 1600 Western / 1700 Mountain / 0100 next day Europe)

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL #2: THURSDAY, 12 JUNE, 1300 CENTRAL TIME (Local times: 0300 next day Japan/Korea / 1400 Eastern / 0800 Hawaii / 1000 Alaska / 1100 Western / 1200 Mountain / 2000 Europe)

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL #3: FRIDAY, 13 JUNE, 0800 CENTRAL TIME (Local times: 2200 Japan/Korea / 0900 Eastern / 0300 Hawaii / 0500 Alaska / 0600 Western / 0700 Mountain / 1500 Europe)

--We opened up Corps and Corps Chief Twitter accounts fairly recently. Join us @AMEDD_Civ_Corps and @GreggStevensSES to join in.

--Read the latest Army Medicine Mercury at <http://armymedicine.mil/Pages/the-mercury.aspx>. The April 2014 edition contains good information, great articles, and recognition of some of our Civilian Corps members!

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

--The Preventive Medicine Team at Camp Zama, Japan, provided a short video that we've added to our website under the "Health & Wellness" tab. They put together an afternoon Fun and Fitness Program to promote The Surgeon General's "Performance Triad Components," Sleep, Activity, and Nutrition. What a great way to get your family involved in health. Watch the video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4wyBuflpy4>.

--Our Civilian Corps Health & Wellness Blog is now live! We published the first post in January and I am adding a new post every month. Check them out! Obvious focus is the Performance Triad – Sleep, Activity, and Nutrition. You can easily access the blog site from the main page on our website at <https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil/Default.aspx>. Click on the "Blog" icon under Social Media on the lower left side of the page. It does require CAC log in, and be sure to select your EMAIL certificate when prompted.

Add your comments to the Blog messages each month to let us know what you are doing as part of the TSG Performance Triad Challenges. Please note, we've included some Blog Comment Rules on the right side of the page under "LINKS." Some of you may be as new to this as I am and we thought these rules could help to ensure we all know the proper "etiquette" for commenting in this type of online forum.

--We have updated the AMEDD Civilian Corps Health Card. Check it out on our website under the Health and Wellness tab at <https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil/CivilianCorps.aspx?ID=e6a2e88e-e76c-4ee0-9806-54b5dfd74348>. It has some really good info for you and your family.

--New Global Assessment Tool (GAT 2.0). The Army Civilian Personnel Office at HQDA G-1 sent a message out to the entire civilian workforce this week with information about updates to the Global Assessment Tool (GAT).

The GAT 2.0 is a great self-development tool to help us in our journey to live a healthy life. I've mentioned the GAT in earlier messages and I continue to believe in the value it adds by helping us look introspectively at the 5 dimensions of strength: emotional health, social health, spiritual health, family health, and physical health. By identifying our areas of strength and weakness, we can each seek ways to find balance. The GAT helps us target weaker areas and apply our energy and resources to rounding out healthier life styles.

The Performance Triad focus on Sleep, Activity, and Nutrition fits right in with this assessment. Adequate sleep, moderate activity, and good nutrition are critically important to our overall well-being and affect all 5 dimensions assessed in the GAT. Maybe the GAT can help you consider your health and a healthy lifestyle. This online, confidential assessment is free as part of the "Army Fit" program. I strongly encourage you to check it out. You can get to it at <https://armyfit.army.mil/>. BTW, the GAT is on our AMEDD Civilian Corps blog this month.

GREAT STUFF!!

--WOLF PACK AWARD. CONGRATULATIONS to the Center for the Intrepid (CFI) Team at Brooke Army Medical Center, JBSA Fort Sam Houston, TX, for winning the 2nd Quarter FY14 Army Medicine Wolf Pack Award. The multidisciplinary Team of military, civilians and contract members have the mission of patient care, education and training, and research in support of our more seriously injured Warriors. The success of CFI Team's collaborative approach demonstrates the power of great teamwork.

--CONGRATULATIONS to Leonard A. Smith, Ph.D., a senior scientist at the US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID), Ft Detrick, MD, for receiving the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award. This recognition is the highest award given by the Secretary of Defense to career employees. Read more about Dr. Smith's accomplishments in an article on page 25 of the January 2014 edition of the Army Medicine Mercury: <http://armymedicine.mil/Documents/January-2014.pdf>.

--CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. Kevin T. Curry (CP51) from USAMMA, Ft Detrick, MD, selected to attend the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy (The Eisenhower School) Non-Acquisition Course. The Senior Enterprise Talent Management Board selected Mr. Curry for Academic Year 2014.

--OOPS! Correction to my 20 Dec 14 Message #45 – CONGRATULATIONS to Joseph Keary at Irwin Army Community Hospital, Ft Riley, KS, which I mistakenly called Ireland ACH when recognizing him for having his proposed presentation of the "Courtesy, Professionalism and Respect (CPR) and Customer Service" accepted as a session at the Clinical Laboratory Management Association (CLMA) Knowledge Lab 2014 and for being selected as President of the CLMA in Kansas City!

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

--IMPORTANT NOTICE. Have you registered in Army Career Tracker (ACT) and GoArmyEd? If not, you need to do that now! Not just so you can complete your Individual Development Plan (IDP), which is also important, but also to be ready to attend centrally funded training. See the instructions below and under "What's New" on our website to prepare yourself to attend training that is centrally funded by Army Career Programs. To attend training that is centrally funded by Army Career Programs (such as CP13 Supply, CP10 Human Resources, CP53 Medical, CP11 Comptroller, and CP51 Administration), everyone except DA Interns will now have to use GoArmyEd instead of the Resource Allocation Selection System (RASS). (If you have a pending application in RASS, it will be redirected to GoArmyEd.) Most CP's require that candidates have completed an IDP in Army Career Tracker (ACT).

So get ready NOW to be ready so you can apply for training dollars to attend centrally funded courses for your professional development by registering for both ACT and GoArmyEd. Here's how:

1) Create an account and register in the Army Career Tracker at <https://actnow.army.mil> ACT is a CAC-enabled system and is intended to be intuitive. If you have problems in ACT, click on the "Help" button for training guides and to reach the ACT Help Desk: act.servicedesk@us.army.mil . You need to identify your supervisor and second line supervisor in ACT. Your registration will generate an email inviting them to log into ACT where they can accept and identify themselves in these roles.

2) Next— Go to GoArmyEd at <https://www.goarmyed.com> and create an account as a student. Your supervisor and second line supervisor ALSO MUST create accounts as supervisors in GoArmyEd in order to process your training application and SF 182 (training request). If you are having issues creating your account, you can contact the GoArmyEd Helpdesk at 1-800-817-9990.

3) Once these first 2 steps are completed, you should be able to apply for any training that is centrally funded. Your Career Program Office will provide further instructions for individual training requests on an individual basis.

4) Final Thought: Need to do this as soon as you can to ensure everything is ready when you request centrally funded training. If you have any questions you can contact the MEDCOM Career Program Manager (CPM) for your career program or the POC on your career program landing page in ACT. A current list of CPMs is available on our website under "Training & Development." Click "Managing Your Career" and then "Career Programs." The direct link is <https://ke2.army.mil/civiliancorpsadmin/filedownload.aspx?docid=460>. For questions about CP 53 you can e-mail: usarmy.jbsa.medcom-ameddcs.mbx.cp53-medical@mail.mil.

THE ARMY PROFESSION

We've talked a number of times before about The Army Profession and how the Army Civilian Corps is a key component of the Profession alongside the Profession of Arms, our uniformed component. One of the tenets of the Army Profession is "Competence," an Army professional's demonstrated ability to perform his/her duties successfully and to accomplish the mission with discipline and to standard. One of the ways we reinforce our ability to perform to standard is to keep current in our craft (read job capabilities/competencies). For many of our CPs and job series that's accomplished by continuing education, licensure, or certification requirements---or some combination of them.

--FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT: For those of you in the field of Financial Management (FM) there is now a certification requirement. This is just a reminder about MEDCOM Policy Memo 13-066, subject: DoD Financial Management Certification Program. It implements the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) determination that the DoD FM community (both civilian and military) needs to be recognized as a credentialed workforce. Under this policy memo, effective 1 July 2014, appropriated fund civilian employees in occupational series 05XX, plus 0343 G8 and MEPRS employees must obtain and maintain FM certification within 2 years. This is a step forward in making our Army civilians certified professionals and achieving the documented competence that will be part of the Army Profession. If you have questions, contact the MEDCOM Career Program Manager (CPM) for CP11 Comptroller. As I mentioned earlier, you can find the list of MEDCOM CPMs at <https://ke2.army.mil/civiliancorpsadmin/filedownload.aspx?docid=460>.

--PROUD PROFESSIONALS: Pride in our mission and pride in our profession are becoming evident throughout our AMEDD Civilian Corps. A couple of our folks have taken time to send us their stories. One is from Cindy Summers at Blanchfield Army Hospital and one from Janette Mizer at Leonard Wood. They are very different stories but show that being part of the Army and the Army Medical mission is a great way to serve. Take a minute and look them over. The link is in the very bottom left of the AMEDD Civilian Corps website and is labelled "Proud AMEDD Civilians Speak Out" on the Army Medicine Logo.

DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY (DHA)

--I was honored to join in the DHA Transition Ceremony hosted by The Surgeon General last week to recognize the AMEDD Civilians who have/are transitioning to DOD Civilians as part of the Defense Health Agency. As LTG Horoho described, we feel pride as members of our Army Medicine Family move to the

Defense Health Agency. They will still be linked in service to Army Medicine. Just as the threads of our nation's flag weave together and represent our strength, these Civilians will join the fabrics of our organizations into a strong Military Health System.

By combining the very best individuals in the 10 shared service areas from Army, Navy, and Air Force medicine, we are working to ensure the success of the DHA. The transition doesn't change the overall mission. During the ceremony I reminded the group that anyone who affiliated with the AMEDD Regiment will always have that tie to Army Medicine. Mission and the Regiment are like two threads that weave us together and will continue to do so. We are still a Team and we wish our Teammates the best in their new roles in DHA. As TSG pointed out, our friendships, partnerships, and relationships will ensure a continued flow of knowledge and expertise across the shared services moving to DHA.

The remarks from TSG and yours truly are available if you're interested.

Click here to view TSG's comments: <http://dvidshub.net/r/u4w35c>

Click here to view mine: <http://dvidshub.net/r/tb8xtg>

SAFETY

Last but certainly not least. As I write this message, the temperature outside is headed toward the 90's. Ah, San Antonio in early spring! We haven't started the 101 critical days of summer yet, but it's never too early to start thinking about precautions as we begin to enjoy the outdoors again. Whatever the weather is like where you are, please take care to stay safe. We need every member of our Corps!

Thanx for your patience. I know it's been a long message but with the amount of change going on in Army Medicine and the Army, you can have at least one bit of stability. Yep, that guy Stevens is always gonna send us a LONG message! Take care be safe and be healthy!!

Sincerely,

gregg

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