

AMEDD Civilian Corps Chief Msg # 55--Another Year Has Flown By.... (19 December 2014)

Happy Holidays to All y' All!

I'm writing to you from beautiful Fort Detrick, MD, as I complete the last TDY for the year. Tomorrow back home and then a few days off to celebrate Christmas with family. Hooray!

Wanted to take a few minutes to wish you all the very best for the holidays. May your time be filled with fun, feasting and fitness (going for balance here!), and time to celebrate faith and family. I wish each of you great blessings in now and throughout the New Year. Your present this year is a shorter than normal message so the time you spend reading this doesn't detract from your time of celebration! (Is anyone really buying that? We'll see!) Here we go.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS!

Congratulations to the Joint Trauma System and Burn Navigator Teams from Medical Research and Materiel Command's Institute for Surgical Research (ISR), co-winners of the FY2014 Wolf Pack of the Year Award. LTG Horoho presented the award to these deserving teams on 11 Dec. Join me in congratulating them for their groundbreaking efforts that are saving lives of our combat wounded.

Congratulations also to the winners of the 1st Quarter FY2015 Wolf Pack Award, the Teleradiology Team at Lyster Army Health Clinic (LAHC) and Eisenhower Army Medical Center (EAMC). This is our first multi-unit winning Team. The Team leveraged existing technology to form a patient-centered, fiscally responsible, cooperative teleradiology venture with EAMC as the sole provider for interpretation of radiology exams performed at LAHC. The arrangement has met the needs of both facilities and their clients, exceeded expectations, and realized significant savings. The success of this team can serve as a successful beta test for enterprise wide replication of this process.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER (Please give these a read....)

--1 JAN 15 – Individual Development Plans (IDPs) in Army Career Tracker (ACT) as required by MEDCOM CG training guidance for all civilian employees

--8 JAN 15 – Sign up for HQDA Civilian Workforce Transformation Focus Group sessions at Fort Sam Houston. If you are in the San Antonio area, volunteer to participate in one of these sessions to be conducted on 13-14 Jan. There will be 4 sessions for employees, 2 sessions for civilian supervisors, and 1 session for military supervisors of civilians. Find out how to sign up on our website under "What's New."

--9 JAN 15 – Nominations due for the for 2nd Qtr FY15 Wolf Pack Award. Learn more on how to nominate your team on our website <https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil>, under the Celebrate Success tab.

--9 JAN 15 – Commander’s Initiative Group (CIG) Nominations Due. On 5 December, The Surgeon General announced the opportunity for a new AMEDD Civilian to replace our current representative, Sarah Donahue, on the CIG. If you are interested in a 2-year assignment that offers a terrific opportunity for personal and professional growth this might well be for you. You will function at the right hand of the MEDCOM Commander in Falls Church, VA, as part of a team of advisors who can make a real impact on Army Medicine. The eligibility criteria and nomination instructions are on our website under the “What’s New” announcements. Note that the application due date isn’t too far off so act soon!

--30 JAN 15 – My Biz Self-Identification of Disability Status, Race, & Ethnicity. Complete your input to help build accurate data for the MEDCOM Equal Employment Opportunity Program. You can get more information and check out all of the enhancements to MyBiz+ at the Army CPOL site: <https://acpol.army.mil/ako/BIR/MyBizPlus/index.html>.

--30 JAN 15 – Nominations due for our Civilian Corps Board of Advisors (BOA). We are filling 3 upcoming vacancies on our advisory board – one in CAT 5 Dental occupations and two in CAT 9 which includes occupations in CP11 Comptroller, CP13 Supply Mgmt, CP32 Training, and CP51 Administration & Mgmt. If you are in one of these career programs, please consider serving our Corps as a representative of your field. It is normally a two year term and is not an excessive burden on your time. Start thinking about it now and we’ll post more information and nomination instructions on our website under the “What’s New” announcements very soon. If you’d like to see what some of the current board members think about their opportunity to serve, please check out their videos by going to the video library in the lower left corner of our Corps website at <https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil>. Click on the “Other” tab. And, oh by the way, these positions are open to all grades in the career programs....

EDUCATION AND TRAINING: Since the opening of the AMEDD Civilian Corps Office we’ve been working on education and training for our Corps members. That includes working with DA and others to find opportunities that are centrally funded so the burden is lower on your organizations. DA is intent on building enterprise leaders and so started with training opportunities at the GS 14-15 levels. There is now recognition that, in order to have a pool of good candidates to become enterprise leaders, there must also be opportunities to prepare lower grade employees to compete. DA is developing a program for GS 13’s and 12’s by exception. We have also been working with Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) and expect to have some success this spring for grades 11 & 12 and equivalents. So, stay tuned and get yourselves ready if you’re interested.

--Coming Soon: Intermediate Leader Development Program (ILDLP) Opportunity for GS11-12 and some 13 employees (and equivalents). Please note, this is an opportunity in addition to the Civilian Education System (CES); it is NOT a replacement.

--REMINDER: Start the New Year right by taking steps to prepare for developmental opportunities in 2015 and beyond. Be sure your IDP is complete in ACT. Take the CES

Foundation Course if you came onboard as a Civilian after 30 Sep 2006 (there are no exemptions or equivalent courses for this one). Register and complete the online Phase 1 portion of the CES Basic, Intermediate, or Advanced Course required at your grade level or ensure your equivalency credit (based on prior military training) is documented in ATRRS and ACT. Request a slot for the CES Resident Phase and get on a wait list. These are all proactive steps for you to manage your career and position yourself to compete for upcoming training and developmental opportunities. I'm just saying....

I promised to keep this short and so will start the wrap up. No message would be complete without a safety reminder. This holiday season is filled with great opportunities for celebration and fun. The commensurate opportunities for "oopses" of all sorts are also there, everything from electrical to fire to weather-related. We all know what to do, what is safe and what isn't. What we need to do is have the energy (here's where the Performance Triad of sleep, activity, and nutrition comes in), the discipline, and the courage to do the right thing, even if it seems a bit more work/effort. It's actually probably a lot less work in the long run should something untoward happen. As you've heard me say before, you are all important members of our Army Medicine Team and we need you with us. Please keep safety in the forefront of your thoughts and come back from the holidays unharmed and intact.

Lastly, I want to say that I'm so proud to be Chief of your Corps. I am blessed to see and hear quite frequently about the good you do every day to make Army Medicine better, and it really makes me proud. It makes it very easy to tell others about our Corps and "Army Medicine Our Profession." May you have a wonderful holiday with some time to enjoy friends and family. See you in the New Year!

All the best,

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