

AMEDD Civilian Corps Chief Msg #51--The Pace Continues (29 August 2014)

Howdy All!

And Happy Labor Day!! This holiday is dedicated to the achievements of workers – that’s you and me! Thanks and congratulations for the contributions you make every day to strengthen your organization, Army Medicine, and our Army, and our Nation.

I apologize that it’s been so long since I’ve written. We’ll blame it on vacation. Here in the Corps Office we actually thought about starting up a contest of sorts on “Where in the world is the Civilian Corps Chief?” but I’ll just tell you if that’s OK. I returned a week ago from a fairly long trip to Scotland playing golf. Great trip and a nice opportunity to relax and do something I really enjoy. I like that combination—relax and enjoy—and hope you’ve had an opportunity for a little rest and recuperation as well. I highly recommend it!

There is a lot going on in the Army and Army Medicine so, as usual, there is also lots of information I want to share with you,...more than I can reasonably fit into one message. So here’s a start and our game plan will be to follow with more frequent but shorter (yes, I understand that a “whew!” is in order) messages. So, please stay tuned. Just a reminder that we will continue to try to headline these messages so you can identify things you want to read now and can save the rest for other opportunities when you have a bit more time. Here we go....

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION!

--WOLF PACK AWARD

-3QFY14: Congratulations to the Ambulance Program Development and Sustainment Team from Bayne-Jones Community Hospital, Ft Polk, LA, on winning the 3rd Quarter FY 14 Army Medicine Wolf Pack Award. This Team was recognized for its exceptional collaborative effort resulting in significant cost savings in business operations. You can view a photo of the presentation ceremony on our website under “Civilian Corps Photos.”

-4QFY14: Congratulations also to the Joint Trauma System Team at the Army Institute of Surgical Research, JBSA Ft Sam Houston, for winning the 4th Quarter award. This Team built a system that is impacting battlefield survival for our Soldiers injured on the battlefield, giving them an optimal chance for survival and improved functional recovery.

STAY TUNED – We’ll announce the FY2014 Wolf Pack of the Year winning team soon! Besides the 3rd and 4th quarter winners, the other 2 quarterly winning teams competing this year are: ISR Burn Navigator Team and the Center for the Intrepid. All Great Teams!

--Congratulations on your retirement to Ms. Lula Lawrence, Ms. Mary Carter, and Ms. Elaine Moore, with your combined 94 years of service. These three Team members hail from the US Army Dental Activity at Fort Stewart, GA. We wish you the best and thank you for all your years of service. Enjoy your retirement!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

--2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH: HQDA is hosting monthly DCO sessions entitled “CP 101” to provide an overview of civilian career programs. It’s designed for civilians and supervisors of

civilian employees. Get the details from our website (<https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil>) under “What’s New.”

--17 SEPTEMBER, CONSTITUTION DAY. You can read more about our Constitution, watch videos, download materials to help celebrate the day, and take DoD Constitution Day training at: <http://constitutionday.cpmosd.mil/>. This course is required for all new employees.

--1, 2, & 3 OCTOBER – We will host the next Civilian Corps Virtual Town Hall and Mentoring sessions on these dates. You can read more details about the sessions below and on our website (<https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil>) under “What’s New.”

--6 OCTOBER—ARMY MEDICINE WOLF PACK AWARD: Nominations for the 1st Qtr FY15 award. Learn more about how to nominate your team at our website (<https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil>) under “Celebrate Success.”

--SEPTEMBER THRU DECEMBER – MULTIPLE TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES: There are several developmental opportunities currently available with upcoming application deadlines. Most are for senior level civilians at the GS14 or GS15 level, but there are some open to folks in GS12-15 and equivalent grades. You can find more information about all on our Civilian Corps website under “What’s New” at <https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil/CivilianCorps.aspx?ID=be93978f-6015-4937-aa93-e132b291177f> . The courses include Leadership for a Democratic Society, Senior Leader Seminar: Senior Leaders Development Course, Harvard Senior Executive Fellows Program, Senior Manager Course (SMC) in National Security Leadership, and the House Appropriations Committee (HAC) Professional Development Program. Some of these opportunities have short term deadlines, so if you’re interested check the website RIGHT AWAY for eligibility and application information soon!

--31 OCTOBER - ARMY-BAYLOR GRADUATE PROGRAM: This deadline is for the 2-year program beginning in Academic Year 2015. You can link to the application instructions from our website under “What’s New.”

CIVILIAN CORPS OUTREACH

--Town Hall/Mentoring VTCs: Our next sessions will be coming in October. The tentative dates are below. These sessions are a primary means to share information. We hope you can join us (you’re welcome at any of them). As many of you requested, we are exploring a VTC/DCO simulcast, but don’t have the technology yet. Please check the AMEDD Civilian Corps website (<https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil>) under “What’s New” for the latest dates and times in case of schedule changes. In these meetings we discuss current events and other topics and address topics you suggest. If you have a subject you’d like to include for discussion, just go to our website and click on the “Contact Us” button in the top right corner to send us a note.

Here’s the schedule:

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL #1: WEDNESDAY, 1 OCTOBER, 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, 2 OCTOBER, 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, 3 OCTOBER, 0800 CENTRAL TIME (Local times: 2200 Japan/Korea / 0900 Eastern / 0300 Hawaii / 0500 Alaska / 0600 Western / 0700 Mountain / 1500 Europe)

Our POC is Ms. Martha L. (Marty) Arevalo at the Civilian Corps office. You can locate Marty in the Outlook Global Address List or contact her through the Corps Chief email address: usarmy.jbsa.medcom-ameddcs.mbx.civilian-corps-chief@mail.mil. We need at least 2 days advance notice to finalize the arrangements, so please provide the VTC site ID information no later than 26 Sep 14 if you want to participate in the first session. You can also send her other questions or topics you'd like to discuss.

RETIREMENT

--PHASED: You may have seen that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) recently released business rules on Phased Retirement for federal employees. In fact, we've received numerous questions on this topic. The good news is OPM has published the rules; the tough part, however, is that we still must wait for the Department of Defense and Department of Army implementation guidance to implement the program. We'll keep you posted as we get more information.

--REGULAR: Speaking of retirement, the Army Benefits Center - Civilian will host CSRS and FERS retirement briefings by Defense Connect on Line (DCO) on 16 Sep 2014. We're posting additional information under "What's New" on our website, but here are the highlights:

Named - CSRS/FERS Retirement Briefing

-CSRS: 16 Sep at 0700-1100 CDT

-FERS: 16 Sep at 1200-1600 CDT

All DCO times are Central Standard Time.

Briefing slides: <https://www.abc.army.mil/retirements/slides.htm>.

The DCO url for all briefings: <https://connect.dco.dod.mil/r316r7zmo07/>

CIVILIAN WORKFORCE TRANSFORMATION (CWT)

We've talked many times before about the Army's CWT initiatives designed to enhance the professional development of our Civilian workforce. You can stay connected to the CWT program efforts through the new CWT Blog. The links below will take you to the recent Announcement:<http://www.army.mil/article/132210/> and CWT Blog on Army Live:<http://go.usa.gov/EzwG>. We'll also add these links to our website (<https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil>), under "What's New".

ARMY PROFESSIONAL

Here's a link to a great video by Ms. Ellen Helmersen, who serves in the Senior Executive Service (SES) as the Deputy Chief of Staff for G1/4 at the US Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) and is a great friend of Army Medicine. I encourage you to watch it when you can. It's only about 17 minutes long. Her views and perspectives—which she expresses so well in the

video—especially on the importance of our oath of office, Teamwork, and the Civilian Corps as part of the Army Profession are spot on. It's a good reminder about the importance of our roles as Army Professionals as we serve Army Medicine.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQoE-3nsDME&list=PLiX4QSJW9_Q9rXaTwIF8rW8hIVMZEPtXW

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

--Did you know the U.S. Army's Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness (CSF2) program now has a Financial Resilience Assessment online as part of ArmyFit? This confidential survey will assist you by assessing your current overall financial health. Be prepared to give detail financial information while taking the survey. Click on <https://armyfit.army.mil/Protected/> (CAC/AKO/ArmyFit Login required) to get started and possibly finds ways to improve your financial resilience. We would be interested in your feedback on this site.

--Join us as part of the Army Medicine Team in promoting the Performance Triad. Let's work together to make our Total Army Family "Army Strong." Click on <https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/HIOShoppingCart/viewItem.aspx?id=607> <<https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/HIOShoppingCart/viewItem.aspx?id=607>> to download the toolkit (CAC/AKO Login required).

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

--Mandatory Training--Army EEO, Anti-Harassment, No FEAR Training for Supervisors of civilians (military and civilian) of civilian personnel. This is a new annual training requirement and the Army's goal is 100% completion. It is particularly important that supervisors understand their responsibilities in equal employment opportunity and are committed to maintaining work environments that are free of any unlawful discrimination. Registration for and access to the training are at <https://www.atrrs.army.mil/atrrscc/search.aspx>. EEO-203B is the Course Number. I took the training and found it a very good refresher on important information we all need.

CLOSING THOUGHT: I try to never leave you before a holiday without a safety reminder. Remember to always, Always, ALWAYS think about safety. The hot summer months aren't over and there is still time for lots of outdoor fun even tho school has started again. We still need to plan ahead for hydration, protection from the sun's UV rays, good nutrition, and plenty of rest. (Funny how that all falls right into the Army Medicine Performance Triad isn't it---you know, Sleep – Activity – Nutrition????!!) Yep, your personal safety is not only your concern but ours as well! Stay safe and healthy – you are all invaluable members of our Army Medicine Team!! C U again soon!

Sincerely,

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