

Happy Thanksgiving, Team!!

Well, we've reached a couple of milestones for which I am incredibly thankful in this week when our Nation celebrates the feast of Thanksgiving Day.

First, on 12 Nov 18, I began a tenth year as AMEDD Civilian Corps Chief. I am blessed to have had the opportunity to lead so many great, talented members of the Army Medicine Team. Thank you being so dedicated to the mission of Army Medicine and for what you do every day to care for Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines and their families to contribute to our country's freedom.

The second milestone is that this is the 100th message in the series of communications from our Corps to you. I hope you have found them useful and have found both mentorship and opportunity in their content. We'll have at least a couple more before my 31 Jan 19 retirement, so stay tuned, OK?

Now for some quick (we'll see how quick...) announcements so maybe you can get a little more of that mentoring and opportunity!

YAY TEAM!

Special congratulations to Ms. Phyllis Toor of HQ, MEDCOM's Quality and Safety Center. During the 2018 DoD Civilian Awards ceremony on 15 November in the Pentagon Hall of Heroes, she received the prestigious Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award. The award is the highest civilian award given by the DoD. It is awarded to career DoD civilian employees whose careers reflect exceptional devotion to duty and whose contributions to the efficiency, economy, or other improvements in DoD operations are of a significantly broad scope. Mrs. Toor is being recognized for her service during the last seven years as the Program Manager and champion of the Army Medicine's Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety (Team STEPPS) Program, the DoD teamwork strategy for communication and error reduction in the clinical setting. The program has led to significant patient safety improvements across the Army and the Department of Defense. Her guidance and actions resulted in the training of over 60,000 personnel throughout Army Medicine. Well done!!!

AMEDD MENTOR CADRE

Here's a great way for members of the Corps to give back to Army Medicine by mentoring a junior level Army Medicine civilian. You can share your experiences and lessons learned by mentoring and helping to build future leaders. We've had some great successes with our initial efforts in the program to include mentees being accepted for increased schooling opportunities and even some selected for promotion after following the plan they built with their mentor. We need mentors in grades GS10-13 or equivalent and senior mentors in grades GS14-15 or equivalent. Visit our website at <https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil> under the "What's New" and "Announcements" links for more information. Share your knowledge and expertise to build our workforce!!

EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Our latest list of upcoming courses/training can be found under the "Breaking News" link on the left quadrant of the AMEDD Civilian Corps web page

(<https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil>). Click on each topic for more information and the associated application process. Here's the basic information by course.

- Executive Skills Course, 25 March-5 April 2019, focused on managed care. Application suspense: 7 Jan 2019
- Junior Leader Course, 29 April-May 19, GS9-11 or equivalent. Application suspense: 7 Jan 2019
- Intermediate Leader Development Course: Cohort 2019-2021, Begins 24-28 June 2019, GS11/12 or equivalent. Application suspense: 22 Feb 2019
- Strategic Learning Project #2, 15-26 July 2019, Application suspense: 15 March 2019

NOTE: We are finishing up our pilot of the Aspiring Leader Program which focuses on leader development of our Corps members in grades GS 5-10. Once we make the changes driven by our lessons learned from the pilot, we'll be offering the next iteration of that course. So, those of you in some of our junior grades, please stay tuned!

ARMY CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

So, here's another GREAT opportunity. The Army Congressional Fellowship Program (ACFP) is an 18-month program for Army Civilians, which includes pursuit of a Master's Degree in Legislative Affairs at George Washington University, and service on the staff of a Member of Congress. The purpose of ACFP is to educate and train selected Army officers and civilians in all aspects of congressional activities, emphasizing matters regarding the Department of Defense (DOD). The program provides understanding of the dimensions and complexities of congressional responsibilities and their relationship to the total process of government that is of future value to the Army (Army Regulation 1-202). The program seeks individuals who have demonstrated outstanding promotion potential. For more information visit our website at <https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil> and click on "What's New" and "Announcements."

By the way, please don't just automatically dismiss this opportunity. If you are interested in this topic and have a strong record, this just might be for you. We have great civilians in Army Medicine and there is no reason why some of our folks couldn't be competitive. What say you???

WOLF PACK AWARD NOMINATIONS

Wolf Pack Award Nominations for 2QFY19 are due NLT 7 Jan 2019. Remember that the award recognizes teams of civilians and military working together to make significant contributions to the Army Medicine mission. For complete information and nomination packets visit the AMEDD Civilian Corps Website at <https://ameddciviliancorps.amedd.army.mil> and click on "Celebrate Success" and "Wolf Pack Award Nominations" links. I'm sure there is great work going on in your organization so give it a shot. Good luck!

ASPIRATION SURVEY AND CIVILIAN TALENT MANAGEMENT Don't forget that our Aspiration Survey in Army Career Tracker (ACT) is your key to enter into our AMEDD Civilian Talent Management (TM) Program. It's simple and only takes about 8 minutes to complete. We use your input to guide our TM Program so here's your chance to make input to the future of our Corps. To access the survey:

- Log in to Army Career Tracker at <https://actnow.army>
- Copy and paste the link below into your browser to access the survey:
https://actnow.army/forms/landing/org/app/050565c9-77d5-42be-892d-2fcae7b78dc/launch/index.html?form=F_Form1
- Be sure to get the entire link and paste it into your browser WHILE YOU ARE IN ACT

- Complete the survey and make your contribution!!

CIVILIAN HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION NEWSLETTER The CHRD November 2018 Newsletter is available on our website under the "MEDCOM CIV HR" and "Civilian HR Newsletter" links. Please give it a look. There is a plethora (either that or "a boatload") of good info in it. This month's topics include:

- The 63rd Annual Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award
- MEDCOM 2019 Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA)/Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay (VSIP)/VSIP II
- OPM Announces Lowest Federal Employee Health Care Premium Increase in Two Decades
- The Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- Termination of SF-50 View Capability in the CPOL Portal
- Scheduling Annual Leave as the End of the Calendar Year Approaches
- Restoring Forfeited Annual Leave.

So that's about it for this 100th edition of the AMEDD Civilian Corps Chief Message. You know, however, that you NEVER get away without a few words about safety! The holidays are upon us, as is the colder weather. Be sure to take precautions with your decorations, to include plastic bags near young children and candles near anyone. Don't forget the exterior. Exterior decorations also have many dangers associated with them from electrical to heights. Remember too that cold weather, while wonderful for many things, is only your friend if you treat it with respect and sort of "dress for success" as it were. Finally, don't forget to celebrate responsibly. If you plan to consume alcohol arrange for a designated driver, and don't be afraid to get the keys from someone who shouldn't drive and find a safe way to get them home. They will thank you later.

A very Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours!! While nothing is perfect, we all have much to be thankful for in this great Nation. And when you give thanks on Thursday, please remember those deployed who protect our safety and freedom each and every day.

Please share this message with your military teammates, especially if they are supervisors of civilians (even if they are not your own). With all the changes we are seeing in Army Medicine, this is a particularly good time to keep our uniformed teammates up on what's happening with our Corps as members of the AMEDD team! One final note if I may. Please keep an eye out for the next message because we're planning an update on some of the changes being driven by the National Defense Authorization Acts and other factors impacting our operating environment. So stay tuned!

All the best to you and yours.

Sincerely,
gregg