

WHAT'S UP, DACH?

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By Amy Stover, PAO, 286-7954

HOT News

4223 US Army Hospital Arrives

Welcome to 19 members of the 4223 US Army Hospital out of Omaha, Neb. Arriving March 18 for their two-week annual training, the group jumped right in and is helping us achieve our mission of first in quality, caring and readiness.

MEDDAC Happenings

Stairwell Renovation Continues

Stairwell 2, located by the Recovery Room, will be closed March 25 to April 3. The project will replace the flooring and handrails in the stairwells. Asbestos abatement to remove flooring materials will be conducted through the course of this project.

Stairwell 2 is the ninth of 10 stairwells to be renovated. A hands-on briefing will be conducted with each NCOIC of the areas impacted as we work through the project. Interim Life Safety measures are required when egress is blocked; training and increased fire drills will be conducted throughout the project as required.

For more information, contact Chris Snodgrass at 286-7313.



Commander's Corner



Darnall Staff,

As we get ready to kick-off our Summer Safety Campaign, we need to remember that safety is one of our top priorities. We must take action to ensure not only our own safety, but the safety of our patients and visitors as well.

Providing a safe hospital environment is a responsibility that falls on each and every one of us, everyday. If you see a hazard as you walk around the hospital, take the time to make that area safe for those who will come by after you. Don't just walk by and ignore it. By ignoring a safety hazard, you may be contributing to someone's accident.

We cannot be first in caring if we don't address the safety of our staff, patients and visitors on a daily basis. Look through your work area and make sure it's safe, not only for those that know their way around, but also for visitors who may be unaware of things high up on shelves or behind doors.

The Summer Safety Campaign will address six main areas: POV safety, weather-related hazards, heat injury prevention, water and recreational safety, other seasonal hazards, such as poisonous snakes and plants, and family and community safety, such as lawn care and bicycling. I have designated May 16 as MEDDAC Safety Day. Please mark your calendars.

This program is our primary safety tool to get us through the summer season with no serious injuries. We've done an excellent job on safety so far this year. Keep up the good work. Hooah!

-Col. Donald J. Kasperik

Training Opportunities

TAPES Course

The Total Army Personnel Evaluation System Course will be held March 28 from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Soldier Development Center, building 33009, room C-213. Civilian government employees have first priority to attend this course, however, others may attend, pending availability. There is no cost for this course. To register, contact Paula Galloway at 286-7240.

Mandatory Ethics Course

Mandatory Ethics for New Army Civilians will be held April 2 from 8-9 a.m. at the Civilian Training Center, building 4335 on 77th Street. There is no cost associated with this course. This course is only for new civilian appropriated and non-appropriated personnel, including those in term positions. Military and contractor personnel may not attend this course. For more info, contact Paula Galloway at 286-7240.

HIV/AIDS In the Workplace

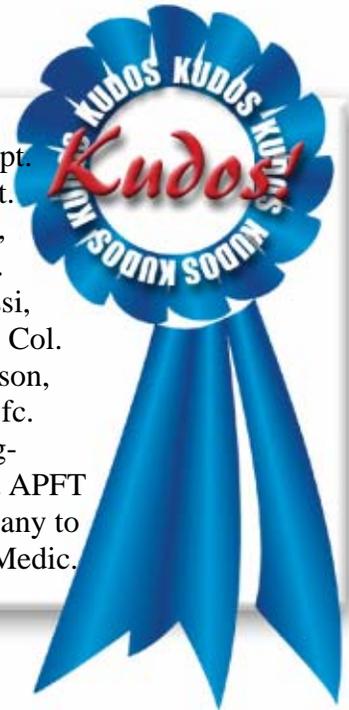
This course is offered April 2 from 8-11 a.m. at the Civilian Training Center, bldg. 4335 on 77th Street. This course is for Army civilian personnel. 2.9 CEUs will be awarded. Please contact Paula Galloway at 286-7240 for more information.

Communicate Better Course

This communication course is offered April 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Soldier Development Center, building 33009, room C-210. Cost is \$25 per person. Civilian government employees have first priority, but others may attend pending space availability. For more information, or to register, contact Paula Galloway at 286-7240.

MEDDAC Iron Medics

October's APFT Iron Medics :Capt. Bose, Capt. Kirk, Maj. Ford, Capt. Bauer, Capt. Klotz, Capt. Maurer, Maj. Wassmuth, Maj. Pierce, Sfc. Watson, Sfc. Temple, Spc. Rockssi, Spc. Francis, Capt. Neumeier, Lt. Col. Jones-Lugo, Pvt. Lee, Sgt. Anderson, Lt. Col. Perry, Maj. Kesselring, Sfc. Lawyer-Jefferson, Col. Chewing-Kulick, Spc. Lindstrom. The next APFT is April 22-26. Contact the company to find out how you can be an Iron Medic.



MEDDAC Safety Day

Col. Kasperik has designated May 16 as MEDDAC Safety Day. Command Policy Memorandum 23 outlines the Summer Safety Program and states the actions to be completed by each Department/Division for accident prevention. Each Dept./Div. is required to appoint a heat injury control officer and conduct heat injury prevention classes by April 10. For more information please contact Mel Kelder at 286-7381 or 288-8477.

Patient Safety

JCAHO has instituted a new patient education requirement as part of its emphasis on patient safety. We are required to educate our patients that it is their responsibility to inform their providers when they perceive safety risks in their care. Patients should be encouraged to speak up and ask questions when they feel uneasy.

Please do not react defensively when a patient questions a treatment plan. We want them to help us avoid errors and ensure their safety.

For more information, contact Col. Mark Foster at 288-8752.

More News

Bank of America Travel Cards

The contract for government credit cards has been cancelled and the cards may be used only until May 20. RMD has suspended all new requests for govt travel cards. Long-term travelers are encouraged to use their personal credit cards to cover expenses. For short-term TDYs from now until May 20, govt cards will be valid and settlement payment using the split disbursement feature will be utilized. Do not destroy your card after May 20, but also don't plan to use it after May 20.

Those who cannot use a personal credit card should apply for a travel advances for long term TDY. Apply through your Admin Officer at least one week prior to the trip. For more info, contact RMD at 288-8020/8021.

Distinguished Civilian Service Award

Nominations are now being solicited for the 2001 Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the highest honor given by the Secretary of Defense to career DoD personnel. For more info, contact Clementine Lewis at 286-7242.

Quotes

Experience

"Experience is not what happens to you; it's what you do with what happens to you."

Aldous Huxley, author of Brave New World

"You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, 'I have lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.' You must do the thing you think you cannot do."

-Eleanor Roosevelt

PAD Statistical Reporting Section Moves

The Patient Administration Division Statistical Reporting Section is now located in building 36001, room 124. For information, contact Cathie Purvis at 286-7779.

Changes to the NCOER

The Department of the Army has directed that all NCOERs have the AKO account names of the ratee and rating chain.

The DA message states all NCOERs through March will contain the AKO email address of the rated NCO and the rating officials. The email address for the rated NCO will be entered on the same line as the rated NCO's name on the top back-side (page 2) of the NCOER. After the name (which is typed in all caps), move four spaces and type the rated NCO's Email address. For example: TASMANIAN, DEVIL POODLE devil.p.tasmanian@. Since the last portion of all AKO email addresses is the same, the only portion that will not be entered on the NCOER is us.army.mil.

The email addresses for all three rating officials will be entered on the last line of Part III d (areas of special emphasis). The data will be entered in the following manner: Rater: andrew.lee@; S/R: bobby.meddler@; Rev: daryl.seeme@. Only one space is necessary between addresses.

For more info, contact Ms Suzanne Coleman at 286-7244.