

WHAT'S UP, DACH?

April 11, 2002 Issue 15

By Amy Stover, PAO, 286-7954

HOT News

Blood Donors Needed

With the summer months fast approaching, the Robertson Blood Center needs more blood donors. Blood products collected at the center are used to supply all of the blood needs for patients at DACH. For more info, contact George Stanley at 287-8128.

MEDDAC Happenings

Final Stairwell Renovation Begins

Stairwell No. 3, near the Recovery Room area, will be closed until approximately April 12.

The project will replace the flooring and handrails in the stairwell. Asbestos abatement to remove flooring will be conducted through the course of this project. Stairwell No. 3 is the last of 10 stairwells to be renovated. A hands-on briefing will be conducted with each NCOIC of the areas impacted. Interim life safety measures are required when egress is blocked. Training and increased fire drills will be conducted as required.

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



Commander's Corner



Darnall Staff,

Thank you so much for all the great work you do for this organization and our community. I really appreciate your efforts and the dedication you exhibit everyday as you carry out your duties and responsibilities.

This month we are facing a serious new challenge—a budget deficit. This was a result of planning for additional funding from our regional medical command that did not come through. As a result of this, I have been forced to institute a hiring freeze, limit the budgets of our non-clinical divisions and sections and limit capital equipment purchases to emergencies only.

I know these actions will present a great challenge to the MEDDAC and especially the fine people who work here. However, we must remain committed to mission accomplishment and vision attainment.

In the past you've demonstrated your strength and resilience and I hope for the same during this period of financial uncertainty.

We have asked Great Plains Regional Medical Command for additional funding and we are awaiting word of their decision. At this time, staff members will not be losing their jobs. We are in this fight together as one team. We will remain one team until this situation is resolved.

Please do your best to remain positive and stay with the team during what may be a difficult period.

I will do everything in my power to support each and every one of you. If I can help in any way, please feel free to come talk to me.

Thank you,

-Col. Donald J. Kasperik

Training Opportunities

Inaugural Darnall Teaching Faculty Development Workshop

The Inaugural Darnall Teaching Faculty Development Workshop will be held April 16-17. There is no registration fee. The workshop is open to all DACH and Fort Hood military and civilian medical personnel. The workshop faculty includes visiting guests from Madigan Army Medical Center Faculty Development Fellowship, the Waco Faculty Development Institute and DACH staff members. Registration is required to ensure enough materials and lunch for all participants. Please contact Lt. Col. (Dr.) Brian Harrington, the Family Practice Residency Program Director at 288-8274 to register, or for more information.

Mandatory Annual Training

Staff members who must complete their mandatory annual training this month and do not have access to a computer, or are too busy to complete the course at their workstation, can use a computer in building 36001, room 224 on April 16, from 1-4:15 p.m. The classroom holds ten and the training takes about two hours to complete. There is no need to RSVP, but staff members are asked to arrive between 1 and 2 p.m. to ensure enough time to complete the modules. For more information, contact DRETS at 286-7210.

CME Trauma Lecture

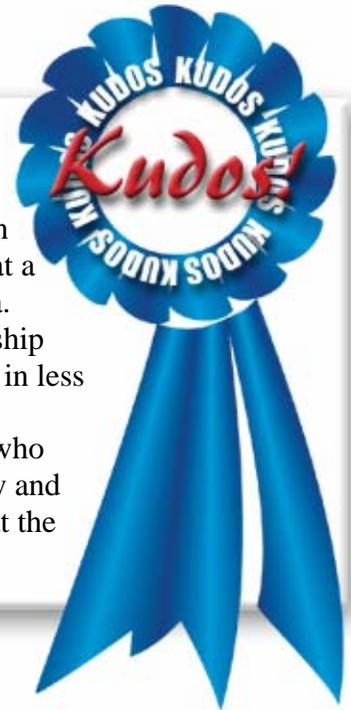
“Operations Other Than War: Trauma and Surgery in Kosovo,” will be presented April 18 from noon-1 p.m. in the COD Conference Room. The speaker is Maj. (Dr.) Jon Bruce, DACH staff general surgeon. All DACH healthcare providers are invited. For more info, contact Leone Dipboye at 288-8150.

Doctors Doing Great Things

Congratulations to Dr. Green and Dr. Likes of the Department of Emergency Medicine who won awards for their research papers at a recent conference in Orlando, Fla.

“Way to go!” to Dr. Blankenship who treated two gunshot wounds in less than two hours last week.

Thank you to all the doctors who came out for the photo last Friday and the celebration of Doctor’s Day at the Longhorn Saloon.



Did You Know?

Third Party Collection Program

The Third Party Collection Program can help Darnall. By reporting patients’ other health insurance information to our office, we can help them meet their deductible and eliminate co-payments when they receive care in the DACH Healthcare System. For more information about our program, come by our office in Room 0012A or call us at 288-8379 or 288-8175.

APFT Reminder

This is a reminder that the semi-annual APFT will be conducted April 22-26. There will be two test times each day, at 6 a.m. and 3 p.m. The test site will alternate between the Railhead (T & Th) and the Stadium (M, W, F). Please make your test plans now. Almost all are required to take the semi-annual test. Contact DRETS for more information.

Safety Poster Contest

The Safety Office is conducting a poster contest to support DACH Safety Day, May 16. Submit your best design, to the Safety Office by April 16. For more info, contact the Safety Office at 288-8477.

More News

Scholarship Opportunities

The Texas Division of the American Cancer Society is offering academic scholarships for the Fall 2002 and Spring 2003 semesters. The Childhood Cancer Survivor Scholarship Fund is a new activity offering undergraduate educational support for students who have survived any type of cancer during their childhood.

Applicants must be legal Texas residents with a valid Social Security Number. They must have received their cancer diagnosis before age 21 and be under the age of 25 at the time of the application. They also must be accepted to attend an accredited public or private college, trade or vocational school.

Recipients will be eligible for up to \$2000 toward tuition per year and up to \$250 per year for educational materials.

The application deadline is April 15. To download an application, click on www.cancer.org. At the bottom left of the page, type your zip code and hit go. The third bullet under Community Highlights is the link to the Childhood Cancer Survivor Scholarship page.

MEDDAC Construction Update:

3rd floor bridge: between 3 south and 3 east / 3 west is scheduled to be closed April 13-30.

PX Pharmacy: Design changes have been requested by the Pharmacy staff and forwarded to the Corps of Engineers for cost proposals. A meeting is scheduled to complete the MOU for operations and establish a start date for construction.

Mother Baby: Design changes have been requested by the staff, evaluation is currently in progress. Changes have delayed the start date; design changes will require additional funding to incorporate changes. Final plans have not been approved.

Chiller Plant: Work is in progress; three chillers and materials have arrived on site. The work will remove two of the three existing chillers and add a fourth chiller to the system for support of ER Addition Alterations project. A chilled water outage was successful.

Air Handler Unit Replacement: Work is on hold pending asbestos issues. Temporary air units will provide climate control while the existing units are replaced.

Brick Veneer Buildings: Buildings 36027 MCD, 36028 UMD, 36030 DENTAC and 4909 VET will have a brick veneer installed on the exterior of the facilities. The project is scheduled to begin in May.

POC is Christopher Snodgrass at 286-7313.

Quotes

Leadership

“A real leader faces the tune, even when he does not like the music.”

Anonymous

“Leadership is a combination of strategy and character. If you must be without one, be without the strategy.”

Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf

“Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it.”

Dwight D. Eisenhower