

WHAT'S UP, DACH?

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Issue 35

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HOT News

APFT To Be Held in October

The semi-annual APFT is scheduled for Oct. 20-23. More information on locations and times will be in upcoming newsletters.

Almost all soldiers are required to take the semi-annual test. Contact DRETS for more information.

MEDDAC Happenings

O Day Scheduled For Sept. 26

MEDDAC Organizational Day is scheduled for Sept. 26 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Prichard Stadium, across the street from the hospital. The theme this year is "Proudly Serving America."

The hospital commander has approved a training holiday schedule beginning at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 26.

Sections are encouraged to organize volleyball and softball teams to compete for prizes. Soldiers are also encouraged to participate in an Alpha Co. vs. Bravo Co. flag football game.

The meal will be catered by Clem Mikeska's BBQ.

Meal tickets and t-shirts will be on sale soon.



Commander's Corner



Darnall Staff,

Caring is an important part of our mission. Caring means leading those the way we would like to be led and following the way we would like to be followed. Caring also means treating all patients the way we would like to be treated - treating them as special. We must understand and live the Army's values.

Listen to our patients. We must never forget that our patients are the reason we exist.

There are three 'A's' to a successful medical organization-availability, affability, and ability.

Availability - Be there

Affability - No surprises, be approachable to our patients

Ability - Technical expertise

We can excel in ability, but if we fail on availability and affability we've lost the trust and confidence of the patient.

Part of caring also means timely evaluations of our subordinates. All OERs, NCOERs and civilian evaluations must be completed on time and to standard. PCS awards for our military staff members should also be submitted on time to ensure they receive the award before they leave the organization. There are many other awards out there and you should always be looking for deserving soldiers and employees to nominate for these awards, such as the Hood Heroes, Employee of the Quarter and the Hearts of Gold program. Please let your chain of command know if there are individuals worthy of receiving commander's coins.

Lastly, never forget to say thank you to both our patients and each other. Proud to be here, Proud to serve,

Number 1!

Col. Bernard L. DeKoning

Training Opportunities

Customer Service Class

The next Customer Service Class is scheduled for Aug. 15 from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the hospital auditorium. Hospital staff members are required to attend the class once in their career.

For more information, please call Cheryl Turner at 288-8156.

Safety and the Manager

The next Safety and the Manager Course is scheduled for August 20 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in building 36001, room 158. This class is mandatory for all supervisors and NCOICs.

To register, please call 288-8477.

QI Workshop

The next QI workshop is scheduled for Aug. 27 from 9-10 a.m. in the COD conference room. The topic for this workshop is Data Display. Displaying performance improvement data on charts and graphs is a JCAHO requirement. This workshop will show you the best ways to display your data.

For more information, please call Deborah La Pointe at 288-8882.

September Patient Safety Lecture

The next patient safety lecture is scheduled for Sept. 8 from 12-1 p.m. in the auditorium. The topic for the class is Torts Reform Update. The lecture will be given by the hospital's legal counselor, Gary Manuele.

If you attend the patient safety lecture, be sure to annotate it in your human resource folder as Patient Safety Training.

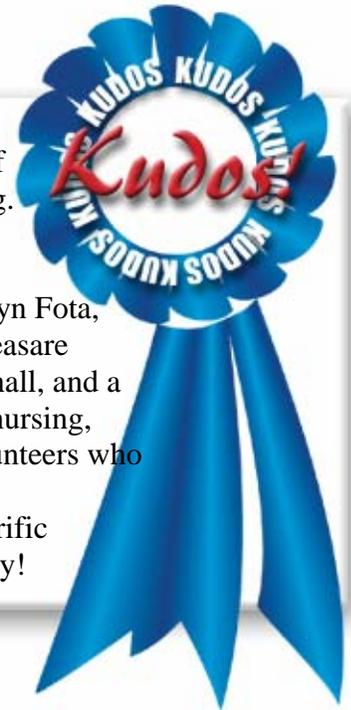
Please call 288-8270 if you have questions.

Kudos to Staff Members

Kudos to the following DACH staff members who helped make the Aug. 2 Sports Physicals/School Immunization Clinic a success:

Lt. Col Elizabeth Mills, Maj. Carolyn Fota, Capt. Corey Eichelberger, 1st Lt. Ceasare Peterson, Sgt. Maj. Roderick Marshall, and a big thank you and kudos to all the nursing, PAD, medical staff, clerks and volunteers who made the event successful.

These staff members provided terrific support to the Fort Hood community!



Awards: Quality Step Increase

A Quality Step Increase (QSI) recognizes employees for performance of duty in an exceptional manner. A QSI is an additional within-grade pay increase given to General Schedule (GS) employees. Only GS employees rated Successful Level 1 on an annual appraisal for the current rating period are eligible to receive the QSI.

An employee may not receive more than one QSI in any 52-week period. An employee may not receive a QSI if the employee has received a Performance Award based in whole or in part on the performance being recommended for recognition. The QSI will not change the effective date of the employee's normal with-in-grade pay increase except when the receipt of a QSI places the employee in the 4th or 7th step of a grade, then the waiting period for a regular with-in-grade pay increase is extended by 52 weeks. For more information, please call Carol Price at 286-7238.

Civilian Resumes on Resumix

Civilian employees are encouraged to have a current resume posted to the Civilian Personnel On Line's Resumix system at www.cpol.army.mil. For more information, please contact Carol Price at 286-7238.



Bereavement Support Group Training

Training is available for individuals interested in volunteering their time assisting others through a loss.

The training is open to anyone who can respond to calls when services are needed. Certified instructors provide training that includes lectures, group interactive dialogue and panels. Professionals can earn CEUs and national certification. Individuals who complete the training must agree to be on call for 24 hours a minimum of 6 times in one year.

The next training session is Sept. 22-23 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in building 36001, room 158. You must attend both training days to receive the certification.

To apply, visit the Dept. of Ministry and Pastoral Care in Darnall's basement, across from the Outpatient Pharmacy. All volunteers must be interviewed, fill out an application form and comply with hospital volunteer policies. For more information, contact Sgt. Maria Albert or Staff Sgt. Corazon Dela Cruz at 288-8849.

Infection Control Coordinators Meeting

The Infection Control Coordinators Meeting will be held August 19 at 1p.m. in the COD conference room. A CEU presentation on Hand Hygiene Research and Recommendations will be given. This is the initial step in the training/implementation of the 7th Patient Safety Goal on Prevention of Health-Care Associated Infections. All Infection Control Coordinators are required to be present. Head Nurses and NCOICs may attend on a space available basis.

For more information, please contact Annie Munn at 288-8476.

Hometown News Release Program

The Army Hometown News Release program is designed to let your friends and family members know what you've been doing for the Army. If you've recently been promoted, received an award or if you've done something great and want your loved ones to see it in your hometown paper, stop by the Public Affairs Office, room 1049 to fill out a form. All forms are submitted to the Hometown News Release Office in San Antonio and can appear in your local paper in three to six weeks. For more information, contact Amy Stover at 286-7954.

JCAHO Journal

Informed Consent

Patients must be given the opportunity to give an "informed consent" prior to the administration of anesthesia and prior to the performance of operative and/or invasive procedures, diagnostic or therapeutic procedures, or situations when it is deemed advisable to have formal documentation of the patient's consent for treatment. Written verification of the informed consent must be on the patient's chart prior to initiation of anesthesia or any of the above stated procedures.

Informed consent, at a minimum, must discuss the patient's diagnosis, nature and purpose of the proposed procedure/treatment, risks, benefits, probability of success, and alternative courses of treatment including the associated risks and benefits of each alternate course discussed, including those associated with not doing the treatment. Informed consent information is provided by physician, anesthesiologist or nurse anesthetist. The patient's consent and physician/provider disclosure briefing will be noted on OF 522, SF 509-Progress Notes, SF 600-Chronological Record of Medical Care, or other approved form. For more information, please contact Chaplain (Lt. Col.) William Shelnett at 288-8849.