



DENTAC, Ft. Hood, TX (254) 287-5336

## Holidays in the 'Hood!!!

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*Ft. Hood DENTAC leadership spreads holiday cheer: Mr. Schimmels, COL Shelley, SSG Stevens, 1SG Weimer .*

### COL Shelley's Predictions for 2012

*(The predictions below are only the opinion of COL Shelley and are not endorsed, approved or even believed by the DOD, The Department of the Army, the Dental Corps or even my mother!)*

1. The world will not end in 2012 and neither will political attack ads.
2. There will be a winner in the Presidential election and no matter who wins, 100% of Americans will not be happy (how can that be? ....50% of those that voted and 50% of those that didn't vote will gripe their nominee didn't

win....SO VOTE or don't gripe).

3. The economy will improve
4. The DENTAC will finally get a budget...
5. Deployments will be fewer
6. The DENTAC will finally get those computers and other equipment delivered to CRDAMC property book months ago out to the clinics where they are needed
7. The Sterilizer at

Fairbanks will go down ...again.

8. There will be more last minute mandatory training
9. The DENTAC dining out on March 9<sup>th</sup> will be attended by all DENTAC military and a surprising number of retirees and civilians and most will have a great time or act like they did
10. There will be a new wellness initiative ....and all eligible personnel will receive a 4 day pass if the DENTAC achieves the goal (hint...High Caries Risk Program- the Sequel)

## TOP'S CORNER

*by 1SG Ronnie Weimer  
First Sergeant, Ft. Hood  
DENTAC*

Well, 2011 is coming to a close and it is amazing how fast this year has gone by! The Fort Hood DENTAC has done some outstanding things, and I stand in amazement of their accomplishments, we have a great team. Not only have we achieved a 96.8% dental readiness on Fort Hood (first time in history), we have also successfully mobilized and demobilized almost 31,000 troops. The outgoing IMSU personnel have done a great job, and the Commander and I thank them for all their hard work and dedication. This year we also had the first DENTAC NCO to go to the Fort Hood Air Assault course and successfully earn his wings, congratulations to SGT Nicholas Williams. The Fort Hood DENTAC has sent many Soldiers to the WLC, ALC, and SLC and all performed exceptionally well. SPC Unaegbu recently went to WLC and was selected as the Honor Graduate of the course. Needless to say, I looked like a proud father since there were 300 Soldiers in his WLC class. The Soldiers and NCOs within the Fort Hood Dental Activity are an amazing group of individuals who do me proud each and every day.

As Christmas time was approaching, COL Shelley became her infamous festive self. She ordered costumes for her, Mr. Schimmels, SSG Stevens and me. During the coin toss, I was chosen to be an elf.....and an elf I became. COL Shelley was Mrs. Clause, Mr. Schimmels was Santa, SSG Stevens dressed as the Grinch and I.....was an elf. We went around to each clinic (well, we didn't go to Copeland because there are too many people there and we wanted to keep our embarrassment level at a minimal state) and handed out candy to everyone. This tactic served two purposes.....one, it improved morale for our staff of all ages and two, by handing out candy...even to the patients....it increased our chances of job security. I received many compliments for my "Buddy the Elf" costume saying I looked good so I sent a picture to my wife who is in Afghanistan. Her reply "That is the most hideous costume I have ever seen, burn it before I get home, or I will burn it when I return". So, I'm thinking everyone who complimented me was blowing major smoke up my backside. It was a good time and after Mr. Schimmels recovered from his dehydration from wearing that Santa suit, we could all sit back and laugh at ourselves.

As we start 2012, may it be a great year for everyone. I hope everyone has thought of their New Year resolution, and will stick to it for at least a couple weeks, but we shall see. Thanks again for all your hard work and dedication because I know that nothing we have accomplished this year could have been done without you all.  
**EXCELLENCE IN ACTION!!**

"Bad" Ron, Out



*Holiday Tree at Fairbank Dental Clinic.*

## High Caries Risk Initiative: the Sequel

COL Johnette Shelley  
Commander, Ft. Hood  
DENTAC

The DENTAC's performance in 2011 was awesome. You increased readiness from 88% to 97%, failed appts were down, production was up, and wellness (Class 1s) increased from 20 to 22%. Before I change command in July and head down to DENCOM to take over the Public Health program, I am launching one final initiative. Our current wellness is at 22%. The DENCOM standard is 65% (a tad unrealistic for a DENTAC this large). I have set a goal of 30%

wellness to be achieved by 15 June. If we achieve this goal, I will authorize a four day pass to all eligible staff.

Thus far the high caries risk program has focused on all Soldiers regardless of their caries risk. I am simplifying the program. I want us to focus on Soldiers that truly display high caries risk. So that means you no longer HAVE to varnish all Soldiers that present with teeth. The new guidelines are below. I don't want this to result in pencil whipping improved wellness. I truly want providers to assess the

caries risk and categorize Soldiers accordingly. Under the new program, Soldiers may now opt out of the HCR varnish program, but they still need to be informed that it is available even if they are low or moderate caries risk...and yes...if they want to get a spinbrush or bleach...they can still enroll. The guidelines are below:

**Low Risk Criteria:** No requirement to fill out this form or Enter into HCR program

**No** incipient\* or cavitated primary or secondary carious lesions during current exam and **no** factors that may increase caries risk\*\*

**Moderate Risk Criteria:** (any of the following) **Not required to enter into HCR Program** ( up to the provider) – do not enter into CDA TX plan **HOWEVER**, you may write into tx plan on the 603– take credit for varnishes as applied in workload

One or two incipient\* or cavitated primary or secondary carious lesions during current exam

No incipient or cavitated primary or secondary carious lesions during current exam but presence of at least one factor that may increase caries risk\*\*

(continued on pg. 6)

Soldiers of Billy Johnson Dental Clinic show off their moustaches for "Movember," a month-long moustache movement in support of the fight against prostate cancer.





## Relay for Life!!

Relay for Life American Cancer Society has started the month of September and ends May 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 2012 at Shoemaker High School Stadium. The AEGD-2 program will be promoting different projects each month; be on the lookout for upcoming Relay for Life Fundraisers.

You can also get involved by joining a team. DENTAC teams have been formed by BJDC and by DC #3.

For more information please contact Ms. Sheila Churchman of BJDC AEGD-2 @ 286-7501




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Best wishes  
to all of our  
outgoing  
Unit  
members!

## Hails ...

LTC THOMPSON, DAVID from FT SAM HOUSTON, TX  
SGT CHILDS, DENIS from HAWAII  
SGT CORREA, NESTOR from WALTER REED, DC  
CPL MERI, DONNA from FT STEWART, GA  
CPL MERI, MARIO from FT STEWART, GA  
SPC BACANI, FRANCISCO from ALASKA  
SPC MAIOLA, BREANN from GERMANY  
SPC MOORE, RACHELL from GERMANY  
SPC PAYNE, STEPHANIE from FT IRWIN  
SPC PRUITT, STEPHEN from FT CAMPBELL  
SPC SPIKES, CARL from GERMANY  
PFC LE, ANGEL from FT SAM HOUSTON, TX

## Farewells ...

SSG SNEAD, KAMESHA going to ALASKA  
SGT BUTLER, NATALIE going to KUWAIT (KOREA)



## DENTAC Dining Out

Ft. Hood Dentac Dining Out is scheduled for **Friday March 9, 2012** at Phantom Warrior Center. **All military are expected to attend** (*military dress attire is required*), and civilian staff are encouraged to attend. Spouses are welcome.

Fundraisers will be held throughout the months of January and February; be on the lookout for fundraiser announcements and please support these activities as funds raised will help to offset the cost of the event and may even help to decrease ticket prices!

Tickets will go on sale in February, look out for more information about this annual Unit event!



## Q-Tips

### Tips to Ensure a Safer DENTAC

by Dr. Rebecca Greening, Patient Safety Manager, Ft. Hood, DENTAC

#### Incident Reports

The following incidents were recently reported via our online PSR system—and are good learning opportunities for us all.

#### Wrong site identified:

1. Wrong tooth marked for treatment on 603A, wrong tooth prepared by ADDP provider.
2. Wrong x-rays pulled up for exam.
3. Local injection on wrong side of mouth.

*TIP: Remember your TEAM STEPPs—Check and “Check-Back” are good ideas for all procedures—the whole team should be involved in the correct identification of patient and surgery site.*

4. Incorrect Birthday on 603A:

*TIP: Concentrating on the correct transfer of information between 603As is a must. The dental chart is a legal document!*

#### Unintentional injury:

5. A patient reported a “stick” on his tongue by dental instrument.

*TIP: Good retraction and careful placement of sharp instruments are a must during dental procedures.*

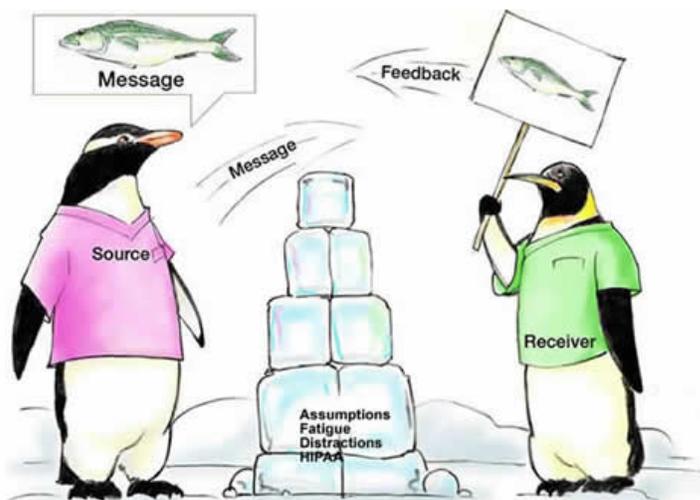
#### Good Catches

*This month our staff was really on-the-ball about reporting GOOD CATCHES. It’s great to know that we are so good at catching potential problems before they reach the patient! The reported “almost-events” fell into the following categories.*

Administration (Missing/misfiled charts; Incorrect charting; Wrong patient Information): 16 reports

Communication (Huddles; Improper handoff; No “Time-Out”): 2 reports  
Infection Control: 0 reports  
Equipment failure/ Instruments: 7 reports  
Facility (temperature; cleanliness): 1 report  
Procedure (Wrong site/teeth/surface;

failure to diagnose; specialty referral; trauma): 7 reports  
Team (Overbooked/understaffed; stress/fatigue; underskilled/trained): 4 reports  
Radiology (Wrong patient/site/teeth; wrong SSN; quality of images): 9 reports



**\*GOOD CATCH OF THE MONTH\***: A provider reported dropping a dental mirror which landed on the patient’s safety glasses. Good Job placing those glasses—they did their duty!



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## Welcome back to ... COL Wighers!

This past October, COL Thomas Wichgers returned to Ft. Hood DENTAC from a 6 month deployment in Afghanistan. COL Wichgers was deployed as PROFIS with 673<sup>rd</sup> Dental Company, and spent most of his

deployment at Tarin Kowt.

COL Wichgers is now at Dental Clinic #3; welcome back Sir, and thank you for your service!

*Welcome back COL Wichgers!*



## HCR Initiative, cont'd

*(continued from pg. 3)*

**High Risk Criteria:** (any of the following) **Enter into HCR program and ENTER 4 Varnishes into tx plan on CDA and on 603. Take credit in workload as varnishes are applied.**

3 or more incipient\* or cavitated primary or secondary carious lesions diagnosed during current exam

Presence of multiple factors that may increase caries risk \*\*

One final comment, I have heard from several clinics that the supply of varnish, spin-brushes and bleaching strips continues to be a problem. If this is the case, I want you to call me directly at 287-3105.

### ***Do you have any great stories, ideas or quotes to include in the newsletter?***

We welcome your contributions! Please send stories, photos or any other news and information you would like to share with the DENTAC Unit to the newsletter coordinator, CPT Abena

Asare, via Outlook email on the AMEDD Exchange server.

*DentACTION!!* is a quarterly publication; the next edition will be published in October

2011. All submissions are due 15 days before the next publication date.

Remember to get your information in early to avoid being cut-off before the deadline!

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