



PH Shop Talk

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PUBLICATIONS CORNER

AFI 48-105 (Surveillance, Prevention, and Control of Diseases and Conditions of Public Health or Military Significance) is currently being updated by Col Dana Bradshaw (AFMOA)...and is scheduled to be coordinated on and sent to the publisher soon.

AFI 48-116 Food Safety Program, is being reviewed by a Sub-Committee of the Public Health Corporate Board for possible revision.

AFI 41-106, Medical Readiness Planning and Training

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Pop-Health Epidemiology Arrives

AFMOA has recently released the policy letter and implementation guidance booklet to the MAJCOMS and the field. This guide is the result of some very incredibly dedicated and knowledgeable workers. The guide will help our people focus their efforts on some very concrete tasks that can be accomplished in a very short period of time. The intent is to not take on the entire project at one time but to take smaller pieces and learn as you go. AFMOA is fully aware of the amount of tasks that fill everyone's plate already.

However, the need for us to get involved with Population Health Epidemiology is critically needed. Primary Care Optimization cannot happen effectively without data to make good evidence based decisions. Guess who has the expertise to look at data and who has an easier time at understanding what the data is telling us... hopefully you guessed Public Health. We have traditionally looked at data from communicable diseases and occupational illnesses. We are responsible for performing Disease Non-Battle Injury (DNBI) surveillance while deployed...so why don't we perform it during

peacetime? Well, the policy letter has been signed, the guidebook is out there...now we just have to adjust our priorities a little and keep on moving down the road. The PCO folks will really appreciate our help with the data. We are an important part of the medical group team. Both Public Health Officers and our Enlisted members bring valuable skills to the table and can make a huge difference in the outcomes and success of population health epidemiology. Please share the guidebook with everyone in the office...we all need to participate in this endeavor. The AFMS depends on us!

PH SNCO Council

Did you know that our career field has a formalized group called the Public Health Senior NCO Council. Our job is to listen to the enlisted personnel in our career field and to provide a conduit of ideas and information going up and down the chain of command. We are advisors to the Public Health Corporate Board and our leadership at AFMOA. We are committed to a high qual-

ity career field and want to ensure we stay on top as the best career field in the USAF. Here are the current members: Chief Ricky Adair (AETC), Chief Rich Hollins (USAFSAM), Chief Rich Johnson (SPACECOM), SMSgt Bill Hollowood (PACAF), SMSgt Mitch Potter (Keesler), SMSgt Jeanette Medina (McChord), SMSgt Mary Gill (Hickam), SMSgt Theron Reed (ACC), SMSgt Patricia Tooley

(AFRC), SMSgt Shannon Wright (ANG), SMSgt Steve Henry (AFMC), SMSgt (S) Tom Bocek (USAFE), MSgt Petronilo Zapata (AAFES), MSgt Mark Mellinger (AFMOA) and myself. This group is actively working to represent the enlisted force within Public Health. If you have an idea to improve our mission...contact one of these fine individuals and share it. We are here to serve with honor and a smile!

Readiness Around the Globe

Just wanted to ensure you all get the latest info...some of this you may already know while other information you may not have heard.

ANTHRAX: We are still in the slow down phase. We are only immunizing personnel who deploy to SWA for 30 days or more. If you request 2 vials or less at your location...the vaccine will not be shipped to you...these personnel will be immunized in theater. We are currently looking at about the October 2001 time frame before new vaccine from BIO-PORT will be available for use.

Preventive Health Assessment and Individual Medical Readiness (PIMR): AFMOA sent out a letter requesting MAJCOM Points of Con-

tact. The software should be out very soon. AFMOA wanted PH personnel to know that even though Col Van Hook is in charge of this program at AFMOA...that PIMR IS NOT a Public Health owned program. Yes, we will be using the program along with many other people throughout the Medical Group....but it is not our responsibility to install it or keep it running.

DECONTAMINATION: Peacetime: Lt Col Kelsey (AFMOA) is involved with a DoD Program Decision Memorandum which directed 6 USAF installations (locations unknown at this time) to establish a disaster response program to peacetime disasters including terrorist attacks. There is both medical and line money

for this project and the equipment selection is a major topic of discussion. The patient decontamination concept for this project has yet to be defined. AFI 31-210 states that medical personnel will perform decontamination of contaminated personnel who show up to the medical treatment facility. It does not specify Public Health personnel. AFMOA is working on a policy and doctrine statement for patient decontamination for peacetime operations. The general consensus of the PH Corporate Board is to have on-scene decontamination be performed by non-medical (HAZMAT and Firefighters) with backup capability at the MTF by medical personnel...stay tuned to this one...more to come!

Food Safety and Sanitation News

AFI 48-116 will be under revision to reflect new changes desired in this area. The changes focus on quality inspections of food...to change our focus to food safety and not quality. Other changes to our food safety program include increasing our competency for food source approval inspections. Currently we are identifying the exact requirements so we can pinpoint the needed training and then decide where best to get this training (USDA/FDA/USDC/ARMY etc.).

There is also much discussion about how to ensure food security at deployed locations through our involvement with food and water vulnerability evaluations as part of the Force Protection Plan. Much of the discussion has centered around the Force Protection Battle Lab proposal to utilize Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) concept at deployed locations. A draft Battle Lab guide to Food and Water Protection Systems was sent out to MAJCOMS

for review and comment earlier. More to come on this as it develops. On another note: One recent MMWR from CDC had a very well done Primer for Physicians on Foodborne Illness. If you have not seen this document...please get it (from CDC web site) and distribute it to all of your providers as well as include it in your PH semiannual training...also include the information and requirements in your wing or MDG instruction and office operating instruction.

The Occupational World

NOTE: There is a new requirement in the reporting of Standard Threshold Shifts to OSHA. It is in:

Federal Register / Vol. 66, No. 13 / Friday, January 19, 2001 / Rules and Regulations

§ 1904.10 Recording criteria for cases involving occupational hearing loss. A Standard Threshold Shift, or STS, is defined in the occupational noise exposure standard at 29 CFR 1910.95(c)(10)

(i) as a change in hearing threshold, relative to the most recent audiogram for that employee, of an average of 10 decibels (dB) or more at 2000, 3000, and 4000 hertz in one or both ears. **AFMOA is reviewing and will provide clarification on this issue in the near future.**

REDESIGN of PH: The working group is proceeding towards making changes in this area. As the Primary Care Optimization in the AFMS matures...there

will be an opportunity to shift some of the occupational physicals to the PCM provider teams. PH will still be involved with epidemiology, and education portions of occupational health. All other areas of occupational health are being discussed for potential changes in the role that Public Health performs. There are many topics being discussed and tasks being defined. All non-value added tasks will be eliminated and other tasks will be transitioned to the most appropriate AFSC to perform.

Epidemiological Surveillance

INFLUENZA: Everyone should have their vaccine and their programs should be in full swing. Initial potency testing (antigen) for the temperature stressed vaccine indicated there was no problem with the vaccine. The serology testing performed at Wilford Hall Medical Center provided questionable results. Therefore, physicians need to make a clinical judgment whether high risk patients who received the temperature stressed vaccine need to be re-immunized. AFMOA is currently not recommending re-vaccination. The experts reported that re-immunization should not

cause any problems if that was decided by the provider. Keep in mind that this program is a year around program with reporting during Oct to April of each year. Remember that our population is more mobile than most and that there are influenza outbreaks that occur all over the world and that our personnel can be exposed in any season when they travel extensively.

World Surveillance: Here are some web sites that you might find useful for keeping in touch with what is happening all around the globe in disease surveillance:

Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center (AFMIC):

<http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/>

Shoreland Medical Travelers Info:

<http://www.tripprep.com/index.html>

World Health Organization Outbreak Info:

<http://www.who.int/disease-outbreak-news/>

I know there are more sites available...I just wanted to give you a few to get you started. You may already have these listed as favorites...if not...

Web Site of the Month—<http://www.refdesk.com/>

I was reading a news article about retired General Colin Powell our new Secretary of State, when I noticed that one of his favorite web sites is <http://www.refdesk.com/>. I went to this web site and I was very impressed with what it has to offer. It has a multitude of links to other sites for just about everything you would need. Here is a sampling of how it is structured: headline news links; refer-

ence resource library; a searchable reference area; a large grouping of links for Facts At A Glance; several links for help and advice; a section for Top Reference Tools such as Almanacs; all the major news, sports, weather, financial publications throughout the United States;

The reference site is so comprehensive, General Powell said, he has thrown out all his encyclopedias and dictionaries.

a section of links for special subject by category; and a section of links in the Just For Fun area. I have used this site for the past month and I would highly recommend it for our daily jobs...if you need information...this is one useful site where you can find it. I hope it helps you as well.

USAFSAM Review—From the Crème of the Crop

Major Chapman assisted other Population Health Subject Matter Experts in developing the course training standard for the new "Kickstart II" course at Sheppard AFB which begins in April. These lessons will help Group Practice Managers and Health Care Integrators understand the data and information that our PH folks at base level will be providing them. Major

Fuller is working MAJCOM folks in developing a plan for Food and Water Vulnerability assessments for our folks and to ensure we are training appropriately. MSgt Stoll (newly promoted in Jan...congratulations!) is coordinating the creation of a computer based training program for the new CITA module. USAFSAM welcomes Capt Rob Gholson from Cannon AFB who will be teaching readi-

ness and entomology course material. Major Fuller announced the Advanced PHO course in April...guest speakers and students will be invited and scheduled accordingly. Major Fuller will place a HACCP template on the PH web site for base offices to use for training and daily self-inspection forms for facility managers. As always USAFSAM folks are busy improving our everyday lives!

USAF PUBLIC HEALTH



World-wide Teleconference with CMSgt Strout is scheduled for 1 Feb 01 at 1500 hours Central Time at DSN 576-0511.

USAF Public Health

A Public Health Family Publication

We are on the web...
[http://wwwsam.brooks.af.mil/eh/.](http://wwwsam.brooks.af.mil/eh/)

I will be trying to have monthly teleconferences that are open to anyone wanting to discuss issues concerning Public Health. However, these teleconferences are NOT for discussing assignments for those who want to move from one location to another because they are not happy where they are. If you want to have input with your CFM (and on occasion we will have Col Van Hook join us) to discuss what is happening in our career field...this is the golden opportunity to talk...the next teleconference is scheduled for 1 Feb 01 at 1500 hours Central Time (1600 hours Eastern and 1300 hours Pacific Time) and will last up to 2 hours...feel free to join us if you can...I realize this is difficult for those overseas to dial in...I will try to change the time from month to month to allow others to have their time...and say! The number is DSN 576-0511 and the number of folks dialing in may be limited...I will make adjustments as needed... ..thanks...Chief Strout

Final Thoughts...

There are many topics that I wish to share with you over a period of time. I will probably provide you my philosophy and opinion on just about everything as the time goes by and you read my newsletters. You may agree with me on some things and disagree with others...that is okay by me. The bottom line is that I want you to be informed on what is happening in our PH world and to get a feel for where we are heading so you can be prepared for the changes coming down the track. I will try my best to let you know the facts as I see them and I will also inject some of my opinions (and I will try my best to state very clearly that it is my opinion) from time to time. We must ensure we are talking to each other and sharing what we do best with each other. I have seen over and over again bases that are spending huge amounts of time working on a project that we find out

later that another base did the same thing over a year ago with the same results. Maybe if the first base had published a summary of what they accomplished and how they accomplished it...and SHARED this with others (maybe on a web site or through this newsletter)...much time and effort could have been saved. It seems that we are all trying to improve our programs at base level and too often we do not ask other bases if they have already been down that road before we spend a large amount of time redesigning it. Please ask others (start with your MAJCOM folks) or e-mail other bases that might have a similar mission to yours and see how they accomplish this task you wish to improve.

As we move further into this new year (the starting of a new millennium), there are many exciting things happen-

ing in our daily lives. There are changes in PH coming (as discussed in earlier newsletters), there are changes in TRICARE, increases in pay and allowances, changes in education benefits as well as other benefits, and new challenges around every corner. It is my opinion that as long as you are armed with knowledge you will conquer almost any challenge that comes your way. I see a strong part of my job to help provide you that information so you can interpret it and gain in knowledge and to help you make knowledgeable decisions. If you have particular topics that you would like me to research and report on in one of my newsletters...please let me know. From time-to-time I will have a guest author write their opinions and philosophy on specific topics...so that you all will get to know what other leaders think about special items of interest in our lives!