



1 July 1999

AMEDD Information Management News

CIO Issues

GartnerGroup Interactive. Do you need current research on end-user computing? What are the latest strategies in NT management? How do you manage distributed commuting? What are the pitfalls of telecommuting?: Answers to these and thousands of other questions are available to IM/IT staff throughout the AMEDD. GartnerGroup is the world's preeminent IM/IT industry analyst with cutting-edge advice and targeted insights to support competitive decision-making across the IT spectrum. Under a Health Affairs contract, we have access to their latest research, analysis, projections, consulting, and product and vendor evaluations. The corporate web address is www.gartner.com. For user ID, password, specific URLs, and login instructions, contact your Major Subordinate Command IMO.

POC: Lynne Zetterholm, DSN 761-8302, John White, DSN 761-8299

Readiness and TMIP

Throughout the first two weeks of June, the AMEDD Center and School conducted its first full-fledged Rock Drill. The AMEDD IM/IT Rock Drill responds to intense changes in the Army warfighting environment by visualizing, analyzing and documenting the AMEDD's digitization architecture over a selected timeframe. The goal was to demonstrate and further the vertical and horizontal integration of medical and non-medical information systems to support the needs of users, medical commanders, and warfighters at all echelons. To that end, overall systems synchronization and development priorities are emerging for the various systems that support AMEDD's medical mission. Details are available at <http://139.161.168.4/tasm/RockDrill.html>. After-action results are still being compiled.

POC: Barzie Drewry, DSN 471-6836, Jon Christopher, DSN 471-8070

IM Reengineering

MEDCOM Pam 25-XX, Information Management Acquisition Procedures

This document is drafted and being coordinated within MEDCOM headquarters, MRMC and AMEDD C&S. Following this initial review it will be staffed with the MSCs. The purpose is to provide clear, concise procedures to follow for information requirements determination, requirements approval, and acquisition

Printing and Publications

New MARKS file numbers and/or modification to existing file number(s) may be reviewed by clicking on the following URL: <http://www.rmd.belvoir.army.mil/rmda> and then selecting "What's New" at the top of the menu screen and then "MARKS Number Updates."

POC: Dave Helton, DSN 471-6109

Functional Area Issues

Data quality is a major key to success in the AMEDD. Current status of data quality initiatives can be reviewed at <http://pasba.tricare.osd.mil/dqfas.html>.

One initiative in this area is being led by the Army Medical Specialist Corps (AMSC) Consultant to the CIO. Written ADS coding guidance specific to Occupational Therapy (OT) and Physical Therapy (PT) has been provided to clinic personnel. This is an effort to improve the quality of the data entered into ADS and to standardize coding practices. A formal ADS coding study was performed and results compiled and analyzed. Mismatched data (e.g., numbered code did not match written words on ADS encounter form), improper use of CPT codes (procedures), and overinflated Evaluation/Management (E/M) codes were noted. Many of these errors were based on the coding practices of the clinic personnel but some errors could be attributed to guidance provided to the clinics from medical record technicians/coders at individual MTFs. Enhanced education of those who input data (in this case, fill out the ADS encounter forms) is essential for the AMEDD to make progress towards improving the usefulness of information that comes out of our information systems.

POC: Major Megan Mills, DSN 471-7929.

Center & School

The third iteration of the Health Systems Functional Proponent Course (HSFPC) started a 20-hour distance learning phase on June 7. The resident phase is two weeks and starts 19 July. This course offers training to 15 senior and mid-grade leaders involved in defining corporate Information Management (IM) requirements. We cover topics such as MHS and AMEDD Corporate Strategy, Business Process Reengineering, Acquisition, Requirements Development, and the IM/IT rock drill exercise. The rock drill exercise will bring students through a condensed version of the recently completed IM/IT rock drill. Course information can be found on the [Knowledge Management Network](#); Virtual Schoolhouse; Course Options; Select a Course; Specialty Training.

POC: MAJ David Gilbertson 221-7337.

Assistant Surgeon General for Force Sustainment

The Surgeon General has appointed Brigadier General Joseph G. Webb, Jr, as the new ASG for Force Sustainment. BG Webb. was born in South Carolina on December 18, 1945. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Furman University in Greenville, SC in 1967, his Doctor of Dental Medicine Degree from the Medical University of South Carolina in 1971, his Master of Sciences in Special Studies Degree from the

AMEDD IMD Newsletter 1 July, 1999

accountable to TSG for effective and efficient AMEDD IO across the full spectrum of Army operations. In that role, BG Webb serves as our proponent for information policy development. He ensures that Information Management Strategic Principles and IO tenets are followed. He ensures that Army medical units are appropriately staffed and medical personnel are trained to conduct IO. He also ensures coordination between and among the ACSIM/CIO, MEDCOM, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (MRMC), and AMEDD C&S on IO issues.

In order to fill this role he must be kept current on IM/IT issues. Many of you have participated in or observed the regular issues briefings the IM staff has conducted with BG DeWitt in the past. These will continue. Your suggested topics and issues are solicited and encouraged.

POC: Marian Huck, DSN 471-7956