



NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH - SEPTEMBER

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It's National Preparedness Month!
Disasters Don't Wait. Make Your Plan Today.

Preparedness is an umbrella term on purpose. Some preparedness is all-hazard, but your location will dictate which hazards are more likely. Those of us in areas prone to hurricanes may need a quick refresher in the times of a pandemic - take a look at this [APHC page on hurricane response](#), which includes some pandemic safety tips. It is wildfire and typhoon/hurricane season now, but lots of hazards happen year-round, so we must stay ready. You still have plenty of time to do some key preparedness tasks before the month is over:

1. Check all your [preparedness kits](#) - at minimum home, vehicle and work kits! Remember different kits need different supplies.
2. Rotate your food and water stocks - make sure anything you put in your kit has a year left before it expires.
3. Check your kits to make sure they reflect any changes in your life - a PCS move, new family members, new emergency contacts, etc.
4. Brush up on your hazard risks for your area - know what you need to be prepared for!
5. Don't forget about work - check your emergency plans, make sure they include business continuity, and get some free brochures on pet readiness for clients.

Although some of our teammates are fighting disasters now, it is never too late to focus on preparedness - there is always a next time, unfortunately. If you didn't already have N95 masks in your kits, adding them (and/or some cloth masks) would be a great idea.

#BeReady

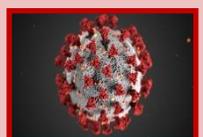


MoH awardee Thomas P. Payne

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COVID-19 CORNER

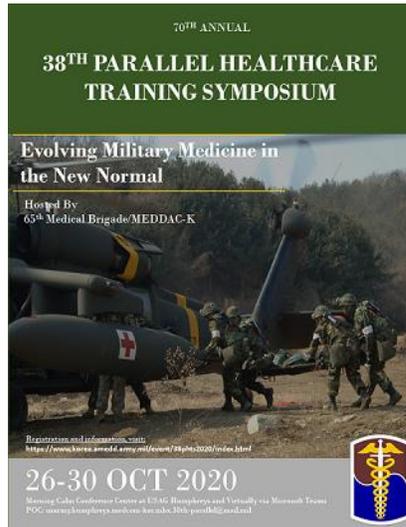
- [PHC-P COVID-19 Link](#)
- [DOD Veterinary Services COVID-19 Resource Page](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Site](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 Site](#)
- [DHA COVID-19 Site](#)
- [APHC COVID-19 Site](#)





ARMY UPDATES

It's that time again! The [70th Annual 38th Parallel Healthcare Training Symposium](#) is coming, 26-30 OCT 2020. The theme this year is very poignant: "Evolving Military Medicine in the New Normal." It's hosted by the 65th Medical Brigade/MEDDAC-K, which includes our friends in the 106th. If you happen to be in Korea, there will be limited live presentations, but feel free to join in virtually, like the rest of us. Organizers expect to provide 22 hours of RACE-approved veterinary CE using Microsoft Teams and other virtual platforms. Let us know if you have any questions!



Medal of Honor:

SGM Thomas P. Payne [was awarded the Medal of Honor](#), the nation's highest award of valor, for his combat actions as an assistant team leader, in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in Hawija, Iraq, on 22 OCT 2015.

Then-SFC Thomas P. Payne as part of a Special Operations Joint Task Force, one of the largest hostage rescue operations in Special Operations history, was given a mission to rescue over 70 Iraqi hostages being held by ISIS in a prison compound in the northern town of Hawija. Payne exposed himself to enemy fire; entered a burning building multiple times to allow his team to reach their objective. He provided much required leadership to his Kurdish partners; and risked his life multiple times to ensure the safe evacuation of the hostages.

Need a summary? Check out the amazing battle sketch – done in a graphic novel format to emphasize the superhero element of their brave actions.

AIM 2 Marketplace Training:

The Officer Personnel Management Directorate, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, will conduct [training for Active Component \(AC\) Units and Officers](#) on operating in the 21-02 AIM2 Marketplace using Microsoft Live.

The purpose is to provide training for units and officers on the AIM2 Marketplace for the upcoming 21-02 Distribution Cycle and highlight recent changes to the system.

This training requires a Microsoft Teams account (CVR or civilian). Please click the link below for the session you desire to attend, it will then direct you

END RABIES: COLLABORATE, VACCINATE

What are you doing September 28th?

Hopefully the same thing you do every year on 28 SEP – observing Word Rabies Day!

World Rabies Day is one of the largest global awareness days, and it is helping to promote FAO/OIE/WHO/GARC's strategic goal to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030. Don't forget, although rabies is a vaccine preventable disease, more than 59,000 people die from it every year – most of whom are young people in developing nations in Asia and Africa. As a neglected zoonotic disease that perpetuates poverty, rabies is important to our human health and development colleagues as well (GHE, anybody?). This year's theme focuses on vaccination and collaboration. In brief, the theme reminds us of key current issues in rabies elimination, namely:

- **The goal of Zero by 30.**
- **The importance of dog vaccination and post-exposure prophylaxis.**
- **The need for a united effort towards achieving elimination of this transboundary disease.**

Zero by 30 cannot be achieved without the help of veterinarians and One Health professionals like you, so take a look at some resources available at [End Rabies Now](#). As you know, The Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) has a wealth of free resources that you can use in your clinic or even on your social media pages – because it's global, you can get international resources that can be useful. For CONUS resources, don't forget about [AVMA](#) and the [CDC](#), of course. The OIE also has region-based information and resources, like the one about [Asia and the Pacific](#), and the [OIE rabies portal](#) has great resources and references for your own learning.

Do you know why it is celebrated on 28 SEP every year? Spoiler alert – that question will come up during our observance of One Health Week this year- so ask Dr. Google.



Be sure to check out our SharePoint resources [here](#)

Email us with question or concerns: usarmy.shafter.medcom-tamc.list.phc-pacific-vs@mail.mil

Animal Health UPDATE

Welcome to Mr. Richard King, our new PHC-P GVMP Management Analyst – that’s right, our GVMP section is twice as nice! Rich serves the same function as Jonathan, and they will be working side-by-side to improve all aspects of GVMP and NAF operations all over the AOR. They are your experts and touchpoints for everything GVMP and NAF!

Send All GVMP and NAF issues to them @ usarmy.shafter.medcom-ph-p.list.vs-gvmp@mail.mil

Richard King (Rich)

Born Trinidad and Tobago, raised in NYC, served and retired honorably, worked corporate, moved to Japan as GS for 5 years and now as a NAF to stay in Japan where his house and family are established. He has a wife, six children, and two grandchildren. He hopes to be as cool with finances as Jonathan someday but until then, please bear with him.



WELCOME BACK MAJ RUBANICK!!!!

Public Health Command–Pacific’s Clinical Medicine Officer (aka “64F”) is back at it! MAJ Rubanick gave birth to Abel Richard Rubanick Gelwick on 18 JUN 2020. While the majority of her time was spent getting to know Abel, she also “attended” PHC-P’s quarterly grand rounds (great job CPT Frye and thanks again CPT Leedy!), as well as the first ever virtual International Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Symposium. She thanks all of PHC-P for affording her this personal time. Here is what you can expect from the Animal Health Service Line in the coming months – more virtual CE, clinical “credentialing” guidance, updated critical equipment list, and, of course, weekly-ish 64F updates.

ARMY UPDATES, cont.

to Microsoft Teams. Don’t forget to review [how to “Maximize the Power of AIM2 KSBs for Your Resume.”](#)

Social Security Payroll Tax

In order to provide relief during the COVID-19 pandemic, a Presidential Memorandum was issued on 8 AUG 2020 and guidance followed by Internal Revenue Service on 28 AUG 2020, to [temporarily defer military members’ 6.2% Social Security](#) (Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance) or “OASDI” tax withholdings.

- For Army military members, the Social Security tax is labeled as “FICA-SOC SECURITY” on the LES.
- This change is effective **through the end of the 2020 calendar year** and only applies to your Social Security tax withholding.
- You are **not eligible to opt-out of the deferral** if your basic pay falls within the stated wage limits. The deferral will happen automatically.
- Per current IRS guidance, **collection of the deferred taxes will be taken from your wages between 1 JAN and 30 APR 2021.**

AGSUs

[Army Green Service Uniform](#): The Army Green Service Uniform (AGSU) is the U.S. Army’s new service uniform. The AGSU is inspired and based off the iconic service uniform worn by America’s “Greatest Generation” during World War II. The AGSU provides a higher quality uniform with a longer service life than the previous service uniform. The AGSU sets an ideal standard for professionalism in a business setting. The reintroduction of this uniform is meant to inspire trust and confidence in the Soldiers’ professionalism and readiness. Check out the [wear guide](#) and [approval announcement](#) for more information.

Be sure to check out our SharePoint resources [here](#)

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Continuing Your Education

If you are getting quarantine fatigue or cabin fever, we have some ideas to keep your mind engaged - besides work, that is. We will give you more professional CE opportunities next newsletter, but here are some random things that might interest you:

- MIT has a free lecture series on "[COVID-19, SARS-CoV2 and the Pandemic](#)," which could be a good way for you to get some more facts on the "rona." It's undergrad level, so it won't hurt your brain, but it's from a pretty reputable source.
- Have you ever thought about your biases and how they affect your everyday life? Are you treating clients, employees or colleagues differently because of those biases? You might be surprised – take a look at [Harvard's Project Implicit for its free implicit bias tool](#). This may even be a constructive part of clinic or Branch EO/EEO training?

Shout out to Vet Services in the Indo-Pacific, new and old – saving lives every day!

Outstanding teamwork between the 106th MDVSS, 8th Security Forces Squadron, Kunsan Air Base, and Okinawa Branch Veterinary Services, Public Health Activity–Japan ensured to best care of one of the Air Force's outstanding MWDs

Take a look [at this great article](#) showcasing the awesome work you do every day!



SSgt Akeem Smith and MWD Quinto



- One Health Week is 01-07 Nov 2020. This year's One Health Week theme is One Health in Mobile Populations. Additionally, on 3 and 4 Nov 2020, APHC will host the 3rd Annual One Health Seminar Day – For the first time ever, now a 2 Day Virtual Event...[Registration is now open!](#) This site also will have resources and information for you [to create your own One Health Week events](#) – stay tuned for PHC-P's event details!
- [During pandemic, growth of US adults with mental health issues jumps to 53 percent](#), just in time for Suicide Prevention Month. Make sure to keep an eye on your physical and mental health, and reach out for help!
- Veterinary formulations being used to treat/prevent COVID?! While you may have thought Ivermectin was a cure-all during your ambulatory rotation in vet school (just me?), I bet you didn't even consider it as a cure for COVID - somebody did. [Check out this article](#) on why.
- [Four scenarios on how we might develop immunity to COVID-19](#): sterilizing immunity, functional immunity, waning immunity, and lost immunity. Spoilers, functional immunity is the most likely, but scientists - just, dont, know. Comforting, I know.
- [First COVID-19 reinfection documented in Hong Kong, researchers say?](#) Just when everyone is trying to figure out how to get to herd immunity, the frightening concept of re-infection rears its ugly head.



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