



December 2019 Newsletter

# Society of Air Force Pharmacy

## Joint Federal Pharmacy Seminar 2019 Recap

It was a cold and rainy few days in Dallas, TX, but that didn't stop nearly 1,000 pharmacy professionals, speakers, exhibitors, and supporters in the federal pharmacy community from having another successful JFPS. This year's meeting included an opening session with new DHA Director, Lt Gen Ron Place, a rodeo-themed dinner, complete with a mechanical bull and dancing, valuable networking opportunities, and even a promotion ceremony! If you were unable to attend, your SAFP team has included some important

highlights from the Air Force sessions and the Jerry Ross Annual Awards Banquet.

### Enlisted Career Field Updates—CMSgt Oluwasina Alowusi

- The mandatory compliance date to acquire and maintain national certification for the Tech-Check-Tech program is 1 January 2020. After this date, if technicians are still non-compliant, they will be decertified.
- At Nellis AFB, a 4P0 CMSgt slot was reinstated.

- New 4P's continue to successfully challenge their National Certification exam at METC Phase 1.
- The Tech-Check-Tech Program has been updated to include non-Service trained GS civilians.
- Upcoming advancements include: CFETP updates, launching the Pharmacy Enlisted Supervisor Course (AKA the old 7-level course), development of qualification training packages (QTPs) and training videos for CFETP tasks, and revamping readiness constructs.

### SAFP Newsletter Team

- Maj Jin Kim, Editor
- Maj Adam Cooper
- Maj Miranda Debelevich
- Maj Kyle Smith

We want to hear from you! Send your story ideas to any member of the Newsletter Team

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### **Technology Updates—Lt Col Justin Lusk**

- Will Call and Pyxis were the focus of FY19.
- Pyxis ES is a MAJOR change and requires manpower for a successful deployment—Primary AF POC's: Maj Jeff Barnes, Maj Alex Patlovany, Capt Scott Vrooman, MSgt Stephen Iles, MSgt Leilani Guevarra, TSgt Paul Forbes Email: DHA San Antonio TX Pharmacy Ops List Pyxis Support-AF <dha.san-antonio-tx.pharmacy-ops.list.pyxis-support-af@mail.mil>
- Many workflow and report enhancements have been made for PharmAssist. Numerous enhancements have affected controlled substance management across several systems.
- The Queuing Rationalization Working Group (QRWG) is the lead for NDAA and Patient Wait Times. Requests for queuing must route through local Systems shop and then to DHA. DHA will not fund queuing systems at this time, the MTF must locally fund. POC: Maj Karl Bituin
- DHA is taking over equipment management.

### **Air Force Pharmacy Updates—Col Melissa Howard**

Manning:

- Overall manning most likely to continue **at or near current level.**
- There may be a potential future boost for clinical pharmacy (i.e, Patient-Centered Medical Home).
- Patience is key; there will be continued adjustments across the system as workload changes at individual MTFs.
- There may be updates to how earned manpower is calculated.
- Currently, it remains to be seen how much reduction there will be in AD end-strength, if any. Additionally, it is currently unknown how much AD reductions will be off-set by increases in civilian and contractor authorizations (back-fills).

Tier-3: The TRICARE Tier-3 Policy is not a new policy, rather, there has been more of a reminder / increased emphasis as the transition to DHA has taken place. The policy should not affect refills, just new prescriptions.

Technology: The biggest impact of the DHA transition on technology is the new centralized acquisition process. This process will increase standardization and ensure economies of scale, even with more costly items.

Future DHA-PIs: A DHA-PI for Pharmacy Operations is coming soon! This will create standardization across the MHS. A PI for controlled substances may be on the horizon as well.

*Summary provided by: Maj Miranda Debelevich  
All JFPS photos courtesy of: Maj Jin Kim*



Maj Emily Dietrich,  
SAFP President,  
speaks at the  
Awards Banquet



Maj Ben Beidel  
discusses Innovation  
updates



## Col Jerry W. Ross Awards Banquet

*The information below is provided from APhA and serves to remind both new and experienced SAFP members why our Annual Awards Banquet is named for the late Col Ross.*



Pharmacists have played an indispensable role as key members of the armed services medical teams. Of note is Colonel (Ret.) Jerry W. Ross, BPharm, who served in the Air Force for 30 years and was a trail-blazer for military pharmacy.

During his military career, Ross implemented one of the early unit dose programs and was renowned for his drug abuse prevention activities in both the military and civilian communities. His positions ranged from Airman Basic to Colonel, from pharmacy technician to Medical Group Commander, to the first Pharmacist as the Chief of the Biomedical Sciences Corps. Many of the programs and opportunities available to technicians and pharmacists today are a direct result of his contributions.

Born and raised in Clarksville, TN, Colonel Ross received his bachelor of science degree in pharmacy from the University of Tennessee in 1967. Ross expressed an appreciation for all of life, and a genuine caring for people, their health, and their wellbeing. He was passionate about the profession of pharmacy and set the success of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians as his life's work.

Colonel Ross left a legacy of leadership, loyalty, and service. And in his honor, the Colonel Jerry W. Ross Scholarship <<http://messaging.aphanet.org/c/13vrreOn4bf2RZSCyMOuAvu42U>> was established at the APhA Foundation open to student pharmacists with U.S. Air Force affiliation.





Fred Coleman Com-  
pany Grade Officer of the  
Year: Captain Allen Hauser  
(Kadena AB)



Ed Zastawny Clinical Pharmacist  
of the Year: Captain Joshua Radel  
(Travis AFB)



Maxine Beatty Field Grade  
Officer of the Year: Major  
Quan Tram (Tyndall AFB)

Educator of the Year: Maj  
Robert Kennedy (Ft Sam  
Houston)



Rising Star Jr.  
Pharmacy Technician of the  
Year: A1C Kejalae Dicks  
(Tyndall AFB)



Leadership Excellence Intermediate  
Pharmacy Technician of the Year: TSgt  
Jason Razaghi (Ft Sam Houston)

Leadership Pinnacle Senior  
Pharmacy Technician of the  
Year: TSgt Stacie McHugh  
(Altus AFB)



Leadership and Innovation  
Award: SMSgt Shari Owoh  
(Travis AFB)

SAFP Small Team of the Year: Misawa AB, Japan



SAFP Medium Team of the Year: Tyndall AFB, Florida



SAFP Large Team of the Year: JB Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska





*We hope to see YOU next year at JFPS 2020 in Cleveland, OH!*



*Capt Daniel Corwin promotes to Major at JFPS!*

*Left: Maj Ben Beidel & Maj John Hammill pin on Capt Corwin's new rank.*

*Above: Maj Zach Finney gives the oath of office.*

# Subject Interest Groups Reorganization

SAFP Family,

I was honored to announce the reorganization of Subject Interest Groups at the SAFP Mid-Year Conference in May. The reorg was the vision of several leaders in Air Force pharmacy and this vision was put into action after the 2018 JFPS meeting in Kansas City, MO. The new model aligns SIG leaders with MAJCOM leadership in a more collaborative way. The mission of the SIG and MAJCOM leadership group is to improve communication to the field and increase implementation of standardized products. New SIGs were formed or re-named to better align with the new structure.

Since our reorganization, the SIGs have produced several standardized products for your pharmacies. The new model allows for better coordination of projects between the SIGs. Once products are developed, the final product(s) is/are reviewed and approved by MAJCOM leaders. Finally, this innovation is shared with you for implementation through your MAJCOM consultant. Recently, the SIG groups have released standardized guidance and training products. These products include USP 800 guidance and training, pharmacy self-inspection checklist, standardized clinical coding guidance and standardized Tier 3 communication tools.

These improvements are developed to make our pharmacies better and they can only happen if you get involved. Our SIG leaders have been encouraged by your response to get involved after the SAFP meeting. Although involvement has increased, there is always room for more. There are two ways to get involved. The first is to be an active participant in a SIG or on a particular SIG project. The second way is to stay engaged with your MAJCOM consultant and implement the improvements produced from the SIGs as it applies to your operations. See Figure 1 below for the SIG current/future projects. Contact a SIG and/or MAJCOM leader to get involved today!

Stay Awesome,

*Lt Col Rebekah "Country" Mooney*

*See Page 11 for a list of SIG leaders/POCs*

**Fig. 1**

Outpatient SIG	Inpatient SIG	Clinical SIG	Readiness SIG	Trusted Care SIG	PITAC-AF
Standardized Non-Formulary Process: Pending release	USP 797/800 Training: Pending release	Anticoagulation TJC Updates w/ Inpatient SIG	Trauma Response Protocols	Patient Safety Reporting Standardization	Pharmacist Innovation Updates
Controlled Substance Inventory, OPR: Maj Zach Finney, Beginning Nov 2019	MHS Genesis IV MOD list	Outpatient Contraceptive Prescribing	CMRP rewrite		MHS Genesis
	Anticoagulation TJC Updates	Clinical SIG Reorg: Policy/Procedure Committee Development/ Education Committee Clinical Operations Committee			Many other technology innovations



## **A Thank You from the Outgoing SAFP President**

I would like to take this opportunity to share all of the great work that the Society and its team members accomplished over the course of 2019! The year started with a number of goals that were all connected by looking through the common lens of providing more educational and networking opportunities to as many pharmacists and technicians in the military health system as we possibly could. It was amazing to see the first symposium role out with the Pacific Seminar in Japan and the second European Symposium in Garmisch, Germany! In total, the Society of Air Force Pharmacy hosted over 200 attendees between the two OCONUS symposiums and the SAFP Midyear Conference hosted by Travis Air Force Base Pharmacy. Again, I would like to extend a huge thank you to each person who was involved in organizing these events. There are so many moving pieces, and the teams made it look easy, but it certainly is not easy. You rose to each challenge, and I could not be more proud to serve alongside these warriors.

The Society of Air Force Pharmacy is currently busy planning next year's conferences! The dates for the Pacific Seminar are 15-16 February, and the SAFP Midyear will take place 4-6 May, so go ahead and mark your calendars and update those TDY projection spreadsheets! Additionally, we have been hard at work updating the SAFP website, designing a new coin, updating the SAFP by-laws, publishing a total of four newsletters this year, and we are now gearing up for the 2020 election cycle. If you are interested in serving on the SAFP Executive Team, please reach out to current officers! We welcome it and we would rather you work to your strengths and find the right fit while also growing your leadership skills and gaining new perspectives.

Moving forward, I want to be as transparent as I can be in sharing with our fellow team members on another future goal. There have been discussions about a Society of Military Pharmacy eventually being formed. The future is uncertain in terms of what conference funding will look like once all military medical services are under the umbrella of the Defense Health Agency. It is extremely important that we communicate with our sister services and invite them to our conferences, that we share our lessons learned, and that we teach them how we do what we do so that they can have a successful platform to replicate versus reinventing the wheel. This does not mean that we would lose the Society of Air Force Pharmacy that now has an almost 30-year history! We have years' worth of experience to draw upon to find the right balance in terms of working with our sister services while still upholding what the Society has worked towards tirelessly.

Lastly, thank you for allowing me to serve you. It has been quite the adventure, and I am truly humbled and thankful to have had the chance to work for and lead the Society of Air Force Pharmacy. I look forward to getting to know more of you on future assignments and at conferences. The best part about this job and about serving in the Air Force is that one of my main jobs is to prepare those to replace me. Maj Jin Kim is a fine Air Force warrior and Pharmacist. I know he will do a fantastic job, and I look forward to 2020!

Very Respectfully,

*Major Emily Dietrich*

Society of Air Force Pharmacy President

*"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit." ~ Harry S. Truman*

*“When you walk to the edge of all the light you have and take that first step into the darkness of the unknown,  
You must believe that one of two things will happen...  
There will be something solid for you to stand upon or you will be taught to fly”  
- Patrick Overton*

## **DHA Transition Insights**

from

David W. Bobb, Chief Pharmacy Operations Division

November 6, 2019

According to The National Defense Strategy of 2018, The Department of Defense “will reduce or eliminate duplicative organizations and systems for managing human resources, finance, health services, travel, and supplies.” As a result of this mandate the Defense Health Agency (DHA) is assuming authority, direction, and control of healthcare operations at all military treatment facilities (MTFs). Congress initiated this change because of a need to provide a more effective, standardized, and integrated system of healthcare for all beneficiaries. The entire transition is expected to be completed by September 2021, with the MTFs in the European and Indo-Pacific Defense Health Regions being the last to transition.

In order to accomplish its mission, the DHA is establishing a market-based structure to manage healthcare operations at all military hospitals and clinics. These market organizations will provide shared administrative services to the MTFs in their markets, and will be responsible for both direct care and purchased care for their beneficiary population. Likewise, they will establish Quadruple Aim Performance Plans and ensure the execution of those plans. At the same time, the Services will retain responsibility for ensuring all readiness requirements are met for their active duty forces. The initial four markets will be established on January 1, 2020, and will be comprised of the National Capital Region, Central North Carolina, Jacksonville, and Coastal Mississippi markets.

Once complete, there will be 21 large markets established where there are medical centers, large hospitals, and specialty care services available for the large concentration of beneficiaries they support. Nearly two-thirds of current patient encounters happen in these 21 regions. Another 16 small markets, such as Central Oklahoma and the Great Lakes, will be centered on community hospitals focusing on providing ambulatory care and some specialty and inpatient care across their markets. These small markets, as well as many stand-alone MTFs located outside a market area, will report to a Small-Market and Stand-Alone Office (SSO) that will provide guidance and administrative support. When DHA assumes responsibility for overseas MTFs, two Defense Health Region markets will be established; one for Europe and one for the Indo-Pacific.

The Military Departments are restructuring their Medical Departments to enhance readiness capabilities to better support the warfighter and optimize their ability to meet the operational requirements of line commanders. The Military Departments will continue to maintain command and control of all uniformed medical personnel. Also, the Military Departments will be responsible for the staffing, training and equipping of these personnel and establishing medical readiness standards to ensure that military medical forces are ready to meet the needs of Combatant Commanders.

Given all of these changes occurring in military medicine, DHA Pharmacy Operations Division (POD) is changing as well to be more responsive to MTF pharmacy needs. The POD currently is organized into four branches: formulary management, information operations, purchased care and MTF management. POD staff encompasses active duty, civilian, and contractor pharmacists and technicians who recognize the widespread differences in the operations across Army, Navy and Air Force as well as within the same Military Department. Aligning Service pharmacy operations under DHA allows for the standardization of policies and procedures to meet beneficiary expectations and provide better outcomes. In addition 6 senior military pharmacists have been selected to serve as POD market pharmacists. These pharmacists will serve as pharmacy liaisons to the market leadership team as well as serve as a conduit between the MTFs and POD leadership. They will assist and advise both MTF pharmacy leadership and market leadership in respect to any pharmacy issues that may arise. Once your MTF makes the transition to one of the DHA markets, I encourage you to get to know your POD market pharmacist.

*Continued on next page*

Another new way in which standardization will be accomplished is through the establishment of the DHA MTF Pharmacy Advisory Board. This Board will be a sub-function of the long-standing Pharmacy Work Group which is comprised of DHA pharmacy leadership, the Service Pharmacy Consultants, and other ad-hoc members. The board's objective is to develop standard operating procedures to be implemented across all pharmacies using input from subject matter experts across all pharmacy locations. The Advisory Board will also have Special Interest Groups (SIGs), currently focused on the areas of supply, operations, human resources, and quality and safety. A SIG Lead will be appointed to manage expert panels within their subject area. This structure will allow POD leadership to rely on the MTF pharmacy staff's expertise to develop policies and procedures instead of higher level administration initiating this process. Currently, the board is in development phases with interviews occurring for all positions. All MTF pharmacists and technicians are encouraged to apply.

Hopefully, this article provides an update regarding what the DHA transition is about and where it is going in the future. While there are still many details that need to be worked through, I firmly believe that the pharmacy functional community is farther ahead than most in accepting the changes that come with transition and I am confident that the standardization of policies and procedures that occur will lead to better patient outcomes.

## Shape the Future of AF Pharmacy—Contact a SIG Leader Today!

SIG Group	Point of Contact
Outpatient Pharmacy Practice SIG	Lead: Maj Julie Carpenter NCOIC Lead: SMSgt Janis Petry
Inpatient Pharmacy Practice SIG	Leads: Maj Tara Stogdill, Maj Charla Watson NCOIC Lead: MSgt Jasmin Trumic
Readiness SIG	Lead: Maj Christian Banasky NCOIC Lead: MSgt Natasha Johnson Cook
Clinical SIG	Leads: Maj Burke Wilson & Maj Heath Kincaide NCOIC Lead: TSgt Kristine Butler
PITAC-AF	Lead: Lt Col Justin Lusk NCOIC (CONUS): MSgt Traci England NCOIC (OCONUS): MSgt Jonathan Strom
METC (Ed/Training) SIG	Service Lead: MSgt Naronksuk Rawaekklang Clinical Site Coordinator: TSgt Jessica Kittoe

*Refer to the article on Page 8 for current SIG projects and lines of effort*



## USP 800...where to start?

Have you heard rumblings about the upcoming United States Pharmacopeia (USP) 800 update for the last couple of years, wondering when it would go into effect and how it would change your day-to-day work? You do not have to wonder any longer because USP 800 goes into effect on **1 Dec 2019** and will affect every pharmacy to varying degrees. USP 800 is based on the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) list of antineoplastic and other hazardous drugs in healthcare settings was released in 2016 and is the ba-

sis for identifying hazardous drugs that must meet USP 800 requirements. NIOSH also releases updates on their website as new drugs are introduced to the market. You may not think your pharmacy will be affected USP 800, but it is very important to go through the list to identify any hazardous drugs used in your pharmacy as the list may have some medications that surprise you. For example, fluconazole, temazepam, and many contraceptives are listed as hazardous drugs.

The Outpatient Practice SIG, led by Maj Julie Carpenter and SMSgt Janis Petry, has done a ton of the legwork to make the implementation as straightforward as possible for the rest of us. To view their work, go to the Kx site and click on the Outpatient Pharmacy Practice SIG link on the pharmacy page. There you will find the Hazardous Drugs – USP 800 compliance link with the actual USP 800 document, prebuilt training slides, a blank assessment of risk form (along with some prefilled sample forms), and an implementation guide. The implementation guide provides step-by-step instructions to make sure that your pharmacy meets all of the requirements whether you're inpatient or outpatient. Inpatient pharmacies or outpatient pharmacies that manipulate the hazardous drug beyond just counting / repacking will have to complete additional steps to ensure compliance.

In addition to confirming the list of affected medications, there are some other changes in USP 800 that require each pharmacy's attention to meet the requirements. It is recommended to assign the primary role to a member that is knowledgeable about hazardous drugs; however, there are no requirements that this member must be a pharmacist or pharmacy technician. An assessment of risk may be required depending on the medication and how it is used within the clinic. USP 800 now recommends using new PPE when processing prescriptions or receiving hazardous drugs. Also, antineoplastic drugs are no longer allowed in automated counting or packaging machines due to the potential to introduce powdered contaminants to the work environment.

Overall, this is a change that the pharmacy must adapt to and make process changes to become compliant with USP 800 by 1 Dec 2019. The Outpatient Pharmacy Practice SIG has given us some tools to ensure we meet those requirements, so please take the time to ensure your pharmacy is up to date.

*Maj Kyle Smith*

Information on USP 800 can be located on the Knowledge Exchange:

<https://kx.health.mil/kj/kx2/Pharmacy/Documents/Forms/ShowFolders.aspx?RootFolder=%2fkj%2fkx2%2fPharmacy%2fDocuments%2fOutpatient%20Pharmacy%20Practice%20SIG%2fHazardous%20Drugs%20%2d%20USP%20800%20Compliance&FolderCTID=0x012000CCD2703692D2F242BD1AE5FBFAFA3621F>

## Pacific SAFP Mid-Year 2020: Delivering Trusted Pharmacy Care

The Society of Air Force Pharmacy is hosting a Pacific Midyear meeting in the lustrous Narita, Japan February 15-16, 2020.



We are excited to host an OCONUS Mid-Year to reach across the globe to all our SAFP members. The Pacific SAFP Mid-Year will be held over the weekend and will include up to 12 hours of continuing education for its attendees.

Please save the date and plan on joining us at the Hilton Tokyo Narita, Japan for ample networking opportunities and fun activities. Any questions can be forwarded to [pacafseminar19@gmail.com](mailto:pacafseminar19@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you there!



### Society of Air Force Pharmacy Mid-Year 2020

The Society of Air Force Pharmacy is hosting the Midyear Clinical Meeting in wonderful San Antonio, Texas May 4-6, 2020.

We are excited to host an engaging continuing education platform, ample networking opportunities and much more! Please save the date and plan on joining us in San Antonio, just steps from historic River Walk.

Registration will open on February 1st for attendees.

*San Antonio*

**Visit [AF-PHARMACISTS.ORG](http://AF-PHARMACISTS.ORG) for all of your SAFP needs!**

**Get your NEW Society of Air Force Pharmacy Coin!**



Coins: \$8.00/each (includes coin and center piece, coin diameter is 2.5")

Pogs: \$2.00/each

Available Pogs: 2019 SAFP Award Winner; 2018 Keesler; 2017 Wright-Patt