

## Preventive Medicine

The mission of this Preventive Medicine Department is to assist the command in providing a safe, healthy environment for patients, staff, and visitors. This section conducts public health programs in accordance with DOD and DON directives.

### **Environmental Health.**

- Inspects all food service facilities to evaluate compliance with existing standards. Provides appropriate corrective recommendations and monitors action taken by facilities as indicated in follow-up reports submitted from the facility manager to the cognizant Commanding Officer.
- Conducts investigations into the cause of food borne illness outbreaks by attempting to identify the implicated food(s) and determining the factors that have contributed to the growth and survival of the etiological agent.
- Performs sanitation inspections of barbershops, berthing spaces, laundry, childcare centers, recreational facilities, and swimming pools. Offers recommendations for correcting deficiencies and monitors facilities written replies to the Commanding Officer and OIC's describing actions that have been taken.
- Conducts seasonal heat stress monitoring to ensure staff members are protected against heat injury/illness.
- Conducts routine bacteriological analysis of potable water and ice. Investigates causes for contaminated samples and provides appropriate follow-up recommendations.
- Conducts training for medical and non-medical personnel in all areas of environmental health and preventive medicine.

### **Disease Control.**

- Reports all cases of known communicable disease to appropriate military and public health officials through aggressive communicable disease surveillance and epidemiological investigating.
- Conducts sexually transmitted disease interviews and counseling. Identifies contacts and submits required reports to state and military public health officials.
- Monitors the storage, sterilization, and disposal of infectious waste. Performs periodic inspections of hospital wards and clinics as a means of evaluating the effectiveness of the command Infectious Waste Handling Program.
- Provides consultation for routine immunizations when requested.
- Monitors the effectiveness of the command Tuberculosis Control Program through the following efforts:
  - Conducts epidemiological investigations into all reported, confirmed, or suspected Tuberculosis cases.
  - Notifies cognizant military and public health authorities via official Medical Event Reporting system of such cases.
  - Annual periodic medical record review of staff members assigned to the PPD Reactor program.
  - Conducts educational interviews and counseling concerning the requirements of the Tuberculosis Control Program for staff members newly identified as PPD reactors.

- Maintains results of completed contact investigation studies with copies being provided to Occupational Health and Safety departments.
- Monitors the effectiveness of the Command Rabies Control Program through investigating and reporting all known animal bites to local public health and animal control authorities. Provides recommendations as needed for the management of rabies prophylaxis.
- Provides area specific medical threat assessment briefs for forward deployed personnel.
- Monitors the effectiveness of the Command Pediatric Lead Poisoning Prevention Program through investigating and reporting all high level blood lead laboratory results to local public health and housing authorities. Provides recommendations as needed for the management of lead exposure reduction, abatement and treatment.
- Conducts training for medical and non-medical personnel in the recognition, treatment, and prevention of communicable diseases.

#### **HIV Program.**

- Conducts epidemiological interviews and counseling for HIV positive personnel and AIDS personnel in association with the Plus Clinic.
- Explains that the primary focus of interviews is to identify potential contacts at risk in order to prevent the spread of HIV infection and to educate members on safer sex practices.
- Provides pertinent information to the command Blood Bank in support of the Navy Lookback Program.
- Ensures appropriate reporting requirements are being met in accordance with state and federal law.

#### **Entomology.**

- Provides technical assistance and recommendations to the command Pest Management Program when requested from Facilities Management.
- Collects and identifies pests, and evaluates the effectiveness of vector control measures during routine sanitation inspections or upon request.
- Collects and identifies mosquito specimens and provides surveillance numbers to determine the level of immature and adult pesticide spray evolutions.