

Flu shot season to officially start October 1

LT. COL. STEVEN WILLIAMS

377th Aerospace Medicine Squadron
Public Health Flight

It's nearly time for this year's flu shot season to start and all active duty personnel will be required to roll their sleeves up and get their shot. The official start of the season is Oct.

1, but the actual start depends on when the vaccine shipped from the manufacturer actually arrives on base.

We fully expect the flu shot program to kick off on time early in October. As soon as we have a firm date on the vaccine's arrival, all base units will be scheduled for vaccinations.

As in previous years, priorities will be set for receiving the vaccine with deploying active duty personnel and anyone with high-risk medical conditions eligible for care.

Commanders or their unit deployment managers should contact the 377th Medical Operations Squadron point of contact, Senior Master Sgt. John Harrison at 846-3539 to schedule a time and date for immunization teams to vaccinate groups of personnel at commander's call or similar special events in their units.

All active duty personnel are required to bring their military identification card and their immunization record. Family members will be immunized by priority if their primary care manager determines them to be at high risk (i.e. those over 65 years old, those with compromised immune systems, chronic pulmonary or cardio-

vascular problems).

Pregnant women beyond the first trimester of pregnancy (over 14 weeks) during influenza season should be vaccinated. On the advice of a doctor, pregnant women who have medical conditions that increase their risk for complications from influenza should receive the influenza vaccine regardless of pregnancy stage.

Influenza vaccine should not be administered to persons with known allergic sensitivity to eggs or to other components of the influenza vaccine without first consulting a physician. Persons with a moderate severe acute illness normally should not be vaccinated until their symptoms have improved.

Minor illnesses with or without fever do not prevent the use of influenza vaccine, particularly among children with minor upper respiratory infection or allergic rhinitis.

Mild systemic reaction with fever, a run-down feeling, muscle aches and local redness at

the injection site are not considered an allergic reaction to influenza vaccine. These side effects are self-limiting and resolve quickly.

Neither pregnancy (beyond the first trimester), nor breastfeeding are reasons to prevent influenza immunization.

This vaccine is not made from a live virus, which means you can't acquire the flu from being vaccinated.



TRICARE interactive available to Kirtland AFB community

LT. COL. CHARLES NELSEN

Business Operations and
Beneficent Support Services Flight

TRICARE Online.com offers DOD beneficiaries, managers and providers interactive features and capabilities that are accessible around-the-clock from any laptop or personal computer anywhere.

Some features are available now for all beneficiaries, such as a Personal Health Journal, Symptom Checker, Rx Checker, access to consumer health information, disease management tools and TRICARE claims and benefits information.

The Web site features a calendar showing patients all available appointments with their primary care manager or the manager's team members. The ability to make appointments only works with primary care managers at military facilities and beneficiaries must set up a password-protected personal account on the site to take full advantage of TRICARE Online.

TRICARE Online.com is one of the most significant changes in the Military Health System since the creation of TRICARE itself. It is accessible from any personal computer with an Internet connection.

To learn more about the advantages that TRICARE Online offers, visit the Web site at www.tricareonline.com.

For technical support or questions about the program contact the Military Health System Help Desk, toll free, at 800-600-9332.

AFMC's civilian executive director retires

BY TECH SGT. CARL NORMAN
AFMC Public Affairs

Air Force Materiel Command's first-ever civilian executive director retires today, ending more than three decades of Air Force civilian civil service.

Dr. J. Daniel Stewart retires as a member of the government's Senior Executive Service, in a grade equal to a military three-star general. Robert Conner, current executive director for the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center at Tinker AFB, Okla., will take on the AFMC executive director duties.

In his career, Dr. Stewart has served in many mid-level and executive positions, including Air Armament Center executive director at Eglin AFB, Fla.

He's also tallied several awards and honors including the Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award and the Presidential Distinguished Executive Rank Award twice each. The president awards these annually to a small percentage of government senior-level executives.

The Savannah, Ga., native started his federal service in 1974 as a technology manager with the Air Force Rocket Propulsion Laboratory at Edwards AFB, Calif. He became AFMC's civilian executive director in 1999 and has spent the last five years as a deputy to the commander in managing all aspects of the command's mission.

Watching B-47 Stratojets that had taken off from nearby Hunter AFB, Ga., and seeing echo satellites in the Georgia night skies on his family's farm led the young Dr. Stewart to Air Force civil service.

"Between airplanes and space, I knew that's where my heart was," he said.

From that farm, he went to the Georgia Institute of Technology to get his bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering. He also received his master's degree and doctorate in the same subject from the same university. Later, he attended Stanford University as a Sloan Fellow where he received his master's degree in business.

Fresh out of Georgia Tech, Dr. Stewart worked for Aerospace Corp. - a federal contract research center supporting space and missile systems organizations. He worked as a systems engineer on a number of space and ballistic missile systems.

"While in that role I saw better ways to do the job than what I was being tasked to do," he said. "So, I decided I wanted to be on the government side to shape what needed to be done rather than merely be on the receiving end."

So when the opportunity came to join the civil service, Dr. Stewart de-

ecided to leave The Aerospace Corp., and side with the government. The rest, as they say, is history as he's had his hand in many things that make today's Air Force the world powerhouse it is.

He helped shape the first generation of smart submunitions, technology that led to the weapons dropped on Iraq that helped liberate a nation. He also helped study missile signatures that led to improvements in the early warning missile detection systems being used today.

And then there was work he did toward a little-known technology called Program 621B, something that would eventually become known as the Global Positioning System.

"From being on the front end of those technologies to seeing how they're being used today is really satisfying," Dr. Stewart said. "I would have never imagined that those early programs would have the impact they're having today."

But despite all the success with

technical programs, he said he's equally proud of the chance to help shape how AFMC and the Air Force grows future leaders and how AFMC handles its labor management issues through partnership. AFMC's partnership has won Air Force level awards and serves as a model for other Air Force and Defense Department agencies to follow.

"I think it's critical to our future," Dr. Stewart said of partnership council efforts. "I think during the past few years the leadership in this command has recognized that the unions are as much a stakeholder in what we do as are government employees, industry, Congress and a number of others.

"Since they are a major stakeholder, we must partner with them just as we do with industry, our customers or our suppliers. By partnering we can start focusing our energies on taking care of the people. If we take care of the people, they'll take care of the mission."

Turning to AFMC's future, Dr.

Stewart said he sees AFMC being more successful if it operates more as a command enterprise as opposed to separate center enterprises as it's operated in the past.

He used AFMC's sustainment mission area as an example. This involves the command's air logistic center depots and supply chain management activities at Hill AFB, Utah; Tinker AFB, Okla.; and Warner Robins AFB, Ga.

"Rather than each having a different business process, have a common business process where all three do things in a consistent way so we can operate more as a command depot operation rather than three separate center-centric operations," he said. "You can therefore better leverage information technology to get rid of a lot of non-value added work."

Air Force leaders have applauded AFMC's success recently by saying that the rest of the Air Force rides on AFMC's back. Dr. Stewart applauds the recognition; but looking at the other side of the coin, he said there's work still to be done.

"As a command, we have to earn that recognition by delivering on our promises - to provide warfighting capabilities on time, on cost - and we've not always done that as well as we could," he said. "I think we need to remind the rest of the Air Force (about how far we've come), but we also need to remind ourselves that we have to earn that respect by delivering on our own promises."

Looking toward post-retirement life, Dr. Stewart said he's going to enjoy spending more time with his wife and traveling a little. He'd also like to apply his experience and knowledge to help manage a university system at the administration level.

"I'd like to share some of the great things the Air Force has taught me and given me a chance to do," he said. "Maybe there's something useful I could carry into the university environment."

He said he's leaving with confidence because one of the things the Air Force does well is develop its future leaders. With that, he offered some advice to future civil servants.

"The Air Force provides an opportunity to do a wide spectrum of things depending on what your interests are," he said. "Find out what you like to do and take advantage of those opportunities to do those things and do them well."

With any luck, he said, "You'll most likely have the kind of career I've had during the past 30 years and that's to do things I never dreamed I would have the chance to do. It was an exciting frontier, and what a great ride I've had."



Photo by Tech Sgt. Carl Norman

Dr. J. Daniel Stewart updates his calendar for his final few days as Air Force Materiel Command's executive director. He retires today with 30 years civil service.