



News Release

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Army medical units go five years DUI free

By Ed Drohan

Europe Regional Medical Command Public Affairs

An Army Medicine in Europe unit was recently recognized for reaching a rare milestone in keeping their members safe.

The Kleber Health Clinic in Kaiserslautern has had no incidents of Driving While Intoxicated/Driving Under the Influence for five years. The unit may have been DUI free for more than five years, but the current tracking system has only been in use since 2007.

Four other Europe-based medical units – Headquarters and Headquarters Company Bavaria Medical Department Activity, U.S. Army Medical Research Unit-Europe, Livorno (Italy) Health Clinic, and Stuttgart Army Health Clinic – were also recognized for reaching the five-year milestone.

Europe Regional Medical Command Safety Manager Carol Fontanese said that everyone, from the private to the field grade officer, has a responsibility in reducing drunk driving incidents.

"Achieving this accomplishment is a reflection of engaged leadership and Soldiers taking care of Soldiers" Fontanese said. "Soldiers within ERMC are aware of how a DUI/DWI can change someone's life and are engaged in ensuring Soldiers have a plan in place for off-duty activities to allow for safe transportation home."

Soldiers were encouraged to take care of Soldiers...to embrace a culture of safety, Fontanese said. This included actions such as having plans in place for a non-drinking friend or family member to drive them home if they would be drinking alcohol.

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“We are a small clinic and we are able to focus on the individuals. The Detachment NCOIC, Sgt. 1st Class Audrey David, is able to know and understand what the plans are for each Soldier and we conduct weekly safety briefings with the Soldiers before they depart for the weekend,” said clinic commander Maj. Kurt Martin. “We stress the impacts on their careers, their lives and the lives of those they may hurt and this creates an understanding throughout the clinic of the impact and why it is important to take care of one another.

“The bottom line is this is a recognition of the performance of the Soldiers and I am thrilled that we have accomplished this goal,” Martin added. “I think it is a testament to the hard work of leadership teams here at the clinic including key leaders like Sergeant David, Capt. Christy Hess, Maj. Lawanda Warthen, Sgt. 1st Class Stacey Taylor, Lt. Col. Charles Unruh, Sgt 1st Class Donald Hudson, Capt. Daniel Yourke and all of the other leadership over the past five years. They have imparted in the Soldiers of the USAHC-Kaiserslautern a pride in the Healthcare provided to the USAG-K Community as well as a pride in how they care for themselves and each other.

Each unit will receive a plaque handmade by another safety award winner, Staff Sgt. Lon Mullaney, who recently received the U.S. Army Medical Command Individual Award of Excellence in Safety. Mullaney volunteers at the MWR Wood Shop on Patton Barracks.

"Sergeant Mullaney volunteered to make the DUI/DWI plaques for units who achieve one, two, three, four and five years DUI/DWI free," Fontanese said. "This is another example of Soldiers and NCOs leading the way to ensure safety first and always."

Each unit will also receive a three-day pass in recognition of their achievement.

ERMC Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Luciano said these units exemplify the Army Value of Integrity.

“Soldiers need to do the right thing both on- and off-duty, and that’s exactly what these Soldiers are doing,” Luciano said. “This is also a testament to the hard work and positive influence of unit NCOs and Senior NCOs.”