

AMEDDC&S: Nutrition Care Branch

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“Spring Break at Club Bullis”-JFNOC

Once again, the Nutrition Care Branch conducted an outstanding Joint Field Nutrition Operations Course (JFNOC) at Camp Bullis, San Antonio, from 15-23 April 2004. A total of 29 students from all services, officer and enlisted, active and reserve were in attendance. For the very first time, two civilian instructors from the Regional Training Medsites at FT McCoy and FT Gordon also attended the course.

JFNOC is designed to provide military dietitians and Nutrition Care Specialists with information and hands-on training in providing optimum nutrition care in a field environment. The course teaches current concepts and doctrine along with practical experience in medical field feeding and nutrition therapy. We emphasized familiarization and utilization of field feeding equipment; preparation, delivery and service of therapeutic diets to patients; sanitation and safety; and resource management in a field environment. Instructional and practical exercises were also provided in the area of leadership opportunities and challenges in a deployed setting, and the duties and responsibilities of the dietitian and nutrition care specialist in combat and humanitarian assistance operations.

The course was organized in phases that one may experience when deployed. The stages included Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP), Situational Training Exercises (STX), Reception, Staging and Onward Movement and Integration (RSOI), Deployment and Redeployment. Training and hands-on experiences were scheduled to match the related appropriate phase of the course. For example, pre-deployment planning was discussed during the situational training exercise phase of the course and during the deployment phase, we conducted a class entitled “Food and Nutrition in Emergency Situations” to prepare students for the follow on humanitarian assistance mission. Students were then required to prepare modified meals for civilian refugee patients. We also injected a MASCAL scenario in which additional modified diets had to be prepared due to a MASCAL situation. All students had the opportunity to prepare a variety of modified diets, including making tube-feeding formulas. This year we added a course on “Coping with stress in a combat environment and moral and ethical decision-making”. COL Karen Cozean, C, Occupational Therapy Section and Asst, C, AMSC did an outstanding job of presenting this very timely class. These changes were made to the curriculum based on AAR feedback and input from OIF dietitians and 91Ms.

Overall, we have received very favorable comments from the course participants especially regarding the updated patient scenarios. The scenarios that we presented were based, once again on information provided by OIF dietitians and 91Ms.

We are very grateful to all the OIF veterans who assisted us in making this years' JFNOC a more realistic and relevant course. Don't forget to look at all the fabulous photos from this years' JFNOC course on the SP website. See you at Club Bullis next year!!

The Advanced Nutrition Support in Force Health Protection (ANSFHP)

ANSFHP short course will be held in San Antonio from 1-5 November 2004. This course is intended for dietitians and NCOs with three or more years experience. Priority is given to those who are PROFIS. LTC Rhonda Podojil is the OIC for this course. For more information, check out our website at: <http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/ncb/> Select "courses"

Updated Task List for 91Ms

In January 2004, we convened a Task Selection Board at the NCB to update 91M tasks based on input from field surveys and comments from recently deployed dietitians and 91Ms. The tasks that were selected are now posted on our website. We are still in the process of completing task analysis for publication in an updated Soldier's Manual.

Nutrition Care Branch Moves to Building 1350

We have slowly started moving into our new training facility in Building 1350. The facility will be named after the first Chief, Dietitian, MAJ Helen Burns-Gearin. The grand opening is currently scheduled for 9 September 2004.

Personnel Changes in Nutrition Care Branch

LTC Laurie Sweet, C, NCB will be PCSing to Landstuhl Germany at the end of June. Her replacement is LTC Ann Grediagin, who will be arriving by early Aug. MSG Patricia Brown, NCOIC, NCB has PCS'd and is en route to Korea. We welcome the following new enlisted instructors to the branch: SSGs Chapman, Newman, Lesure, Tacury and Covey.