

**ARMY MEDICAL EXPENSE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING SYSTEM
(MEPRS)**

The U.S. Army MEPRS Program Office, San Antonio, Texas, publishes and distributes the U.S. Army MEPRS News Bulletin quarterly by fiscal year to MEPRS administrators worldwide. We have designed the News Bulletin to enhance communication within the U.S. Army medical treatment facilities.

/signed/
ROMONA K. BACON
U.S. Army MEPRS Program Office

DISTRIBUTION:

Commanders, MEDCOM MEDCENS/MEDDACs

ATTN: Resource Management

Deputy Chief of Staff for Resource Management

Chief, Program and Budget Division

Chief, Manpower Division

Chief, Management Division

Chief, Finance and Accounting Division

Director, Directorate of Patient Administration Systems and
Biostatistics Activities

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION I

TRI-SERVICE HAPPENINGS

- 1. EAS III-----I-1
 - a. RELEASE 9.5.1 -----I-1
 - b. MEQS III -----I-2
 - c. BUSINESS OBJECTS UPGRADE -----I-2

- 2. EAS IV-----I-2
 - a. EQUIPMENT WARRANTY INFORMATION -----I-2
 - b. DEPLOYMENT SCHEDULE -----I-3
 - c. DATA REPOSITORY -----I-4
 - d. RELEASE 2.1.0, V 1.0. -----I-5
 - e. COMMENTS FROM AN EAS IV USER -----I-5

SECTION II

ITEMS OF INTEREST

- 1. EXTERNAL WORKLOAD-----II-1
- 2. 91W MOS CONVERSION-----II-1
- 3. DENTAL WORKLOAD-----II-2
- 4. UCAPERS RELEASE 04-30-----II-2
- 5. CE\OT IN UCAPERS-----II-3
- 6. GME\GDE AUDIT-----II-3
- 7. FY99 UNIT COST COMPARISON METRIC-----II-3
- 8. RECONCILIATION PROCEDURES-----II-5
- 9. BATTALION AID STATIONS-----II-6
- 10. PRE-ADMISSION-----II-6
- 11. MONTHLY NARRATIVES-----II-6
- 12. MEPRS PERSONNEL CHANGES-----II-6

SECTION III

WORKLOAD ASSIGNMENT MODULE (WAM)

- WAM/CHCS Subgroup Formed-----III-1

SECTION IV

WEB HAPPENINGS

- 1. MEPRS WEBPAGE-----IV-1
- 2. MEPRS DISCUSSION BOARD-----IV-1
- 3. MEPRS FUNCTIONAL MAILBOX-----IV-1
- 4. USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES-----IV-2

SECTION V

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

- DEPRECIATION-----VI-1

SECTION I: TRI-SERVICE HAPPENINGS

1. EAS III.

a. **EAS III Release 9.5.1** is being BETA tested at Fort Belvoir, VA. The release is scheduled for fielding 1 June 2000. Some of the software modifications in the release are provided:

(1). WMSN/EASIII routines were modified to accept ICU SASs 465 through 480 during the WMSN monthly upload.

(2). The Occupation Code Table was modified with additional edits to allow appropriate mapping of Army MOSs to DOD Occupation codes.

(3). AHCFMS Validation was corrected so previous month amounts are carried forward in the STANFINS Year-To-Date File if there are no corresponding entries in the Pure File. The system is expecting to receive an entry for every prior record in the current and future months. This means if a record comes across in January, and there's no modification of this record in February, then the January amount will be carried forward.

NOTE: When making adjustments in AHCFMS it is imperative that you review data changes for the entire fiscal year and not only month net adjustments.

(4). AHCFMS Error Correction was modified so that all EORs are validated against the fiscal year of the file being processed instead of the individual department fiscal years. This means that the EOR must be valid for the current processing year.

(5). The Core Table Installation process was modified to validate the entries in the ASD Table and SAS File against a new Core Table.

(6). The calendar-to-fiscal format file name for conversion of the WAM workload files was corrected so that an extra digit is not created in the file name.

(7). The Performance Factor ID Table was updated so that only one Performance ID, outpatient visits, is associated with MEPRS code FBN. This means there will not be any inpatients visits reported for MEPRS code FBN.

(8). The Update Raw Procedure Detail subsystem was modified to use the procedure weight for the month being updated, instead of using the current procedure weight. This keeps SAS 005 in balance with the ancillary SASs.

(9). SAS 021 was inactivated for all years after 1999.

(10). The Update FTE screen edits were corrected so that any skill type is valid for DOD occupation codes.

b. **MEQS III.** The HCSSAMQ3 server has experienced a myriad of problems, which have resulted in the shutdown of that server. All users of this server should now be using the OTSGMQ3 server.

c. **Business Objects Upgrade.** With the coming deployment of EASIV and the EAS IV Data Repository, it was determined that it would be in everybody's best interest that the version of Business Objects for MEQS be upgraded. The plan is to upgrade to Business Objects version 5.0.2, the same as EAS IV and the Data Repository. Those facilities that have purchased additional copies of a lower version need to ensure the upgrade is obtained to provide continued access to the MEQS. Any user who has not upgraded to the new version will not be able to access the server. Once testing is completed and deployment is approved, the OTSGMQ3 server will be shut off to Business Objects 4.x users within 30 days following deployment of Version 5.0.2. It is anticipated that testing version 5.0.2 could be completed as early as May/June 2000.

2. **EAS IV.**

a. **Equipment Warranty Information.** The EASIV hardware (workstations and servers) is currently under warranty. However, when the warranty expires, the facility will be responsible for maintaining the equipment. Identification of equipment source (GE Capital or TELOS) has previously been provided through e-mail traffic to the MEPRS POCs at each facility.

(1) **GE Capital Warranty:** For equipment supplied by GE Capital, if problems arise with any of this equipment, please contact Harold Cardenas, DSN 471-9720 or 9730, ext. 4629, until further notice. This office is currently working to obtain hardware maintenance for this equipment. Information concerning the end date of maintenance will be provided when it is received.

(2) Telos Warranty: There is a three (3) year warranty on equipment provided by Telos.

- The first year provided on-site coverage; the second and third years cover parts only.
- The warranty began the day that GFE representative at Telos received the equipment in their warehouse.
- The warranty period for the workstations and workstation monitors provided by Telos will END on 31 March 2002.
- The warranty period for the servers, server monitors, UPS, and DLT external tape drives will END on 30 April 2001.
- After these dates, maintenance for the equipment will be the responsibility of each site.

TO CONTACT TELOS: During the warranty period, contact Telos using one of the telephone numbers below if you have any problems with this equipment:

Within CONUS 1-800-70TELOS
 Within Korea 00308-11-0307 (Toll Free)
 Within Germany 0130-82-6105 (Toll free)
 All other OCONUS 703-724-3612

b. **Deployment Schedule.** The below schedule is an abbreviated copy of the schedule previously provided to all MEPRS Offices and interested parties. This schedule pertains only to the hardware deployment.

#	Site	City/State	DATE
1	MAMC, FORT LEWIS	Tacoma, WA	15-May
4	FORT GORDON, DDEAMC	Augusta, GA	05-Jun
5	FORT STEWART	Hinesville, GA	05-Jun
6	FORT BENNING	Columbus, GA	05-Jun
7	FORT RUCKER	Fort Rucker, AL	05-Jun
8	REDSTONE ARSENAL	Huntsville, AL	19-Jun
9	FORT POLK	Leesville, LA	19-Jun
15	FORT JACKSON	Columbia, SC	26-Jun
19	WAMC, FORT BRAGG	Fayetteville, NC	10-Jul
25	FORT EUSTIS	Newport News, VA	31-Jul
27	FORT BELVOIR	Fort Belvoir, VA	31-Jul
28	WRAMC, WASHINGTON, DC	Washington, DC	14-Aug
32	FORT MEADE	Odenton, MD	28-Aug
34	USMA-WEST POINT	West Point, NY	28-Aug
35	FORT DRUM	Watertown, NY	28-Aug
40	FORT CAMPBELL	Fort Campbell, KY	25-Sep
41	FORT KNOX	Radcliff, KY	25-Sep
42	FORT LEONARD WOOD	St. Robert, MO	25-Sep

43	FORT RILEY	Manhattan, KS	25-Sep
44	FORT LEAVENWORTH	Leavenworth, KS	16-Oct
46	WBAMC, FORT BLISS	El Paso, TX	16-Oct
47	BAMC, FORT SAM HOUSTON	San Antonio, TX	16-Oct
48	FORT HOOD	Killeen, TX	30-Oct
49	FORT CARSON	Colorado Springs, CO	30-Oct
50	FORT HUACHUCA	Sierra Vista, AZ	30-Oct
58	FORT IRWIN	Fort Irwin, CA	27-Nov
59	FORT WAINWRIGHT	Fairbanks, AK	27-Nov
66	LANDSTUHL	GERMANY (EUROPE REG.)	04-Dec
67	WUERZBURG	GERMANY (EUROPE REG.)	04-Dec
68	HEIDELBERG	GERMANY (EUROPE REG.)	04-Dec
73	CAMP ZAMA, JAPAN	JAPAN (PACIFIC REGION)	08-Jan
74	18TH MEDCOM, KOREA	KOREA (PACIFIC REGION)	08-Jan
75	TAMC, FORT SHAFTER	HAWAII (PACIFIC REGION)	08-Jan

c. **Data Repository.** The EAS IV Data Repository has been developed and tested. The repository passed testing with minimal comments by all services. The repository will utilize Business Objects Version 5.0.2 as the Ad Hoc Query Tool. The tool works and looks much as the current version being used to access MEQSI. There are a few enhancements with the new version of Business Objects. In the EASIV Data Repository there will be no restriction to the mixing of classes, all classes have been joined and can be used with any other class in the repository. One enhancement is that you will be able to remove (hide) an unwanted object (and associated data) from the query results; and be able to return the data without having to re-run the query. Data-mining will now be available through the 4th Level Functional Cost Code.

The following are the 27 classes available in the EAS IV Data Repository:

- Class 01. Location
- 02. Load Status
- 03. Reporting Components of Parent MTF
- 04. Month
- 05. Common Expense Elements
- 06. Expense Detail
- 07. Personnel Detail
- 08. Common Expense Allocation Keys
- 09. Expense Allocated
- 10. Personnel Allocated
- 11. Account Subset Definition
- 12. Service Unit Cost
- 13. Patient Acuity

14. DRG Cost FCC
15. Data Sets
16. Expense Pure
17. Ambulatory CPT Workload
18. Ancillary CPT Workload
19. Respiratory/Pulmonary Workload
20. FCC Expense Summary
21. FCC Summary
22. Facility Summary
23. Transmission Job
24. Service Occupation Code
25. Skill Type Map
26. CPT Year
27. Dental Code

There will only be one Universe available in the repository in lieu of having one for "Data" and one for "Tables".

d. **Release 2.1.0, V 1.0.** We completed testing Release 2.1.0, version 1.0. The Systems Qualification Test (SQT) was held April 10-17. Testing went well, and the release was installed at Fort Sill, during 1-5 May 2000. Testing at Fort Sill will continue through 15 June 2000.

(1) The week following the EAS IV SQT, another SQT was held to test the EAS IV data repository. This test also went smoothly. Repository BETA testing, again at Ft. Sill, will commence testing 15 June through 14 July 2000. Ms. Mimi Shanks from the Fort Sill MEDDAC attended both SQTs and has provided comments/observations about the SQTs and general comments on EAS IV.

e. **Comments from an EAS IV User.** Ms. Mimi Shanks has been testing the EAS IV Application as the BETA Site for EAS IV. She recently attended the SQT for the latest version EAS IV and the Data Repository. Below are her comments on the EAS IV and Data Repository SQTs.

(1) **EAS IV Application and Testing.** I was really excited about testing the latest and greatest version of EAS IV. The testing itself was somewhat tedious, but I believe we identified numerous things to improve the performance of the system. I know that when we are actually using the system on a day-to-day basis other problems will be identified that will be corrected. Although there are major differences between EAS III and EAS IV, I think EAS IV will be very useful to our MTF's.

(a) The most important thing I can tell you to be prepared for EAS IV is to ensure your ASD is complete and up to date. The ASD in EAS IV includes the data sets (SASs in EAS III), and you can customize what you want to appear in each data set (i.e. include some codes, exclude others). There are also standard business rules that apply to the Functional Cost Codes (MEPR Code) that have a data set (i.e. AAXA - business rule is that data set will use A*** codes, but exclude cost pool codes). After converting to EAS IV, the first thing you should do is to review your ASD to ensure everything is correct.

(b) Files from STANFINS, UCAPERS, CHCS (WAM), WMSN and ADS will be downloaded into EAS IV. The major data differences between EAS III and EAS IV are CPT codes, non-available FTE and salary expenses will be included. The WAM and ADS files include procedure CPT codes. UCAPERS data will include available FTEs, salary expenses, and non-available FTEs.

(c) As with any new system, there are many changes. We no longer have MEPR codes in EAS IV. They are referred to as FCC's (functional cost codes). The data sets (SASs) are not numbered. They are in alphabetical order. I don't believe any of the EAS III standard reports are the same in EAS IV, although several of are similar. EAS IV provides the capability to create reports/queries from EAS IV using Business Objects. It is just something we will learn as we go along. I would suggest if you have an opportunity to take Business Objects training, it might be beneficial. If you are able to use MEQS III, you shouldn't have trouble learning EAS IV Business Objects. The newer version of Business Objects in EAS IV may be a little different, but is still similar to MEQS III. As every MEPRS person knows, the MEPRS world constantly changes and requires MEPRS people to continually learn new things. We wouldn't want those brain cells dying!!!

(2) **EAS IV Repository Testing.** I think anyone who currently uses Business Objects to query MEQS III will be in for a pleasant surprise when they access the EAS IV Repository. The major difference is there are no class limitations. You just decide what data you want, double click and off you go. You can combine any and all types of data. We performed numerous comparisons between the EAS IV reports and queries from the EAS IV Repository. As with any system, there was some data that was rounded differently, but it was within reason. There have also been improvements in the version of Business Objects utilized to access the repository. I was not a Business Object user, but with about 10 minutes of instruction, I felt I could retrieve

the data I needed. My reports may not have been pretty, but they worked.

SECTION II: ITEMS OF INTEREST

1. **EXTERNAL WORKLOAD.** Many of the MTFs have entered into agreements with civilian facilities to perform APVs, or inpatient surgeries. In most, if not all cases, the resulting workload remains at the civilian facility, and all FTEs, salaries, and all other associated expenses should be charged to the appropriate 'FC' account. In some instances, when the MTF utilizes their own personnel, performs procedures on their own patients and in essence only uses and pays for the civilian facility's space and supplies, the work-load should go back to the MTF.

2. **MOS 91W.** On 1 October 2001, MOS 91W (Health Care Specialist) will be implemented. On this date, all 91B and 91C soldiers in the ranks of SFC(P) and above will automatically be awarded or "grandfathered" into the 91W MOS. Former 91B soldiers will be awarded the 91W MOS and former 91C soldiers will be awarded the 91WM6 MOS. This change will have a significant impact on UCAPERS and EAS.

a. We are in the process of updating the tables and mappings in UCAPERS and EAS to reflect this change. Effective 1 October 2001 these changes will be installed in addition to other changes to AR 611-1.

The following is a synopsis of the AR 611 - 1 changes effective 1 October 2001:

42E - Redesignated as 91H. Title will remain as Optical Laboratory Specialist

71G - Redesignated as 91G. Title will remain as Patient Admin Specialist

76J - Redesignated as 91J. Title will read as Medical Logistics Specialist

91B/91C will be consolidated into a new MOS 91W. The title for MOS 91W will be Health Care Specialist. All Additional Skill Identifiers (ASIs) associated with MOS 91B (N3, N9, P1, P2, P3, Y6) and ASI M3 associated with MOS 91C have been transferred to MOS 91W.

91E - Will add the new ASI, M9 (Dental Hygienist)

91Q - Will eliminate the ASI Y7 (Sterile Pharmacy Specialty)

91Z - 91Z (Chief Medical NCO) will be added as a new MOS for soldiers in the grade of E-9. These new duty titles have been established for the assignment process of outstanding NCOs who have been selected for promotion to SGM or have already attained the grade of SGM:

Chief Medical NCO
Chief Clinical NCO
Chief Dental NCO
Chief Food Svc NCO
Chief Med Log NCO
Chief Opns NCO

b. If you would like more information regarding the new 91W MOS you can go to the web site at: <http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/91w/>

3. **DENTAL WORKLOAD.** At this time you should be receiving workload reports from the DENTAC CDA system. Please contact your dental POC to provide the report to you on a monthly basis. Report only the total workload listed under the DWV column by clinic MEPRS code on SAS 004. It is no longer necessary to report lab and clinical procedures on SAS 812.

4. **UCAPERS RELEASE 04-30.** The new UCAPERS release 04-30 has been tested and will be installed on your system soon. The major change to the program involves the modification of the personnel files that are sent to EAS IV. UCAPERS is now able to create the new personnel file layouts and automatically send them to EAS IV. The system administrator will have the capability to "flip a switch" on the Site Unique Table to change the setting from EASIII to EASIV depending on whether your site has been installed with EASIV or not. Regardless of whether you have been installed with EASIV, your system files are being saved during the SAS Input Process and will be available once your site switches to the new EASIV program.

a. In addition to creating the new EASIV personnel files many UCAPERS tables have been updated. Here is a listing of the tables that have been updated for FY 2000:

AMS Code Table
Branch Code Table
SSI/MOS/Job Series table
Standard Military Pay Table
Work Days In Month Table
Standard SEEC Table Listing

b. As most of you already know, the DMHRS Project Office has been re-located from San Antonio to the National Capitol Area. To date, we have no information regarding the new development or fielding schedule. The LCA (Labor Cost Assignment) Viewpoint which is scheduled to replace the current UCAPERS program is currently being re-evaluated. The UCAPERS ECPs (Engineering Change Proposals) and SCRs (System Change Requests) which were scheduled to transition to the LCA Viewpoint are now being re-considered for transition back into UCAPERS due to the unknown factors associated with DMHRS.

c. If you know of a problem which does not appear on the monthly UCAPERS System Incident Report (SIR)/System Change Request (SCR) Status Report, please contact Joe Beckom at the Army MEPRS Program Office (210-637-4654) to have it considered for reinstatement back on to the current UCAPERS list.

5. COMP TIME EARNED AND OVERTIME IN UCAPERS.

a. During the recent RM Conference held in San Antonio several questions were asked regarding the correct use of Compensatory Time Earned (CE) and Overtime (OT) on individual timecards and UCAPERS schedules.

b. Please ensure that the time you record on your timecard is accurately reflected on your UCAPERS Schedule. It is critical that these two documents match. In case of an audit, the information on these documents may be used to compare the accuracy of your data. This information may also be used in the future to reflect the additional time you spend in the work center.

c. Audits are routinely performed on workload, expense, and manpower data in order to ensure program compliance in collecting and reporting data. It is important that your data contain accurate information and your time is accurately documented.

6. GME\GDE AUDIT. Attached in electronic form are the guidance and the Quarterly Tri-Service GME/GDE Internal Management Review Checklist. The guidance and procedures contained in these documents is effective 1 May 2000.

7. FY99 UNIT COST COMPARISON METRIC. The FY99 Unit Cost Comparison Metric has been published and is available for download on the PASBA web page www.pasba.amedd.army.mil. A memo from MEDCOM will be sent to all the facilities requiring a response for work-centers identified as outliers. The discussion at the RM Conference provided some insight on the type of information requested in the response. We will use the same format as last

year, however, we are requesting more in-depth response as to why the work-center is an outlier, what caused the data to reflect that the work-center exceeded either of the limits. For example, if a work-center is identified as exceeding the lower limit, most of the facilities identified it as Good Business Practice with not explanation as to why it was Good Business Practice. This year, we want more information as to how it can provide the service at such a low cost. Was it as a result of contracting the service? If so, how will the BPA affect future costing?

	Exceed	Exceed	Exceed	Exceed	Exceed	Exceed	SUM
	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	
	Inpatient Accounts		Outpatient Accounts		APV Accounts		
	+	-	+	-	+	-	
Group 1							
HUACHUCA	NA	NA	2	1	0	0	3
REDSTONE	NA	NA	7	1	1	0	9
MEADE	NA	NA	8	1	0	0	9
LEAVENWORTH	0	0	0	3	1	0	4
Group Sum	0	0	17	6	2	0	25
Group 2							
WAINWRIGHT	3	4	5	5	2	0	19
WEST POINT	6	2	6	1	1	0	16
RUCKER	11	0	2	2	1	0	16
EUSTIS	2	1	5	7	2	0	17
IRWIN	0	2	7	0	1	0	10
Group Sum	22	9	25	15	7	0	78
Group 3							
POLK	7	7	8	3	0	7	32
KNOX	1	7	3	6	1	0	18
RILEY	4	8	6	2	0	0	20
LEONARD WOOD	8	1	8	1	4	0	22
SILL	13	2	3	5	3	0	26
Group Sum	33	25	28	17	8	7	118
Group 4							
CAMPBELL	4	8	0	10	0	4	26
BELVOIR	7	6	7	5	0	1	26
CARSON	8	1	5	1	3	0	18
BENNING	3	10	4	3	1	1	22
JACKSON	5	1	11	1	5	0	23
STEWART	4	4	3	6	0	1	18
Group Sum	31	30	30	26	9	7	133
Group 5							
BAMC	13	0	7	6	8	0	34
HOOD	8	11	1	6	1	0	27
DDEAMC	4	13	9	5	4	1	36

MAMC	14	6	2	11	0	12	45
TAMC	8	4	7	2	1	0	22
WRAMC	13	1	24	2	2	0	42
WBAMC	4	2	6	2	2	1	17
WAMC	1	14	1	16	2	0	34
Group Sum	65	51	57	50	20	14	257
TOTAL	151	115	157	114	46	28	611

8. RECONCILIATION Procedures.

REFERENCES:

OASD (HA) Memo, Subject: Policy for Implementation of the MEPRS Data Validation and Reconciliation.

OTSG Memo, Subject: AMEDD Implementation of the MEPRS Data Validation and Reconciliation Procedures

MEDCOM RM Memo, Subject: MEPRS and STANFINS Financial Reconciliation Process

Implementation of MEPRS reconciliation procedures is to begin with processing month June 2000. Facilities should complete the Monthly Army MEPRS Workload and Financial Reconciliation prior to transmitting data on or before the "Data XMIT Susp Date" identified below. Reconciliation documents will support the completion of the TMA Data Quality Management Control (DQMC) Review List, which is due to PASBA. See NOTE below. The RMCs will provide management control over the financial reconciliation by auditing the financial data of each MTF once a quarter beginning 4th Qtr, FY00.

<u>Processing Month</u>	<u>Data XMIT Susp Date</u>	<u>RMC Qtrly Fin Audit</u>
Jun00	14Aug00	
Jul00	14Sep00	
Aug00	15Oct00	
Sep00	14Nov00	20Dec00
Oct00	15Dec00	
Nov00	14Jan01	
Dec00	14Feb01	20Mar01
Jan01	17Mar01	
Feb01	14Apr01	
Mar01	15May01	20Jun01

Apr01	14Jun01	
May01	15Jul01	
Jun01	14Aug01	20Sep01
Jul01	14Sep01	
Aug01	15Oct01	
Sep01	14Nov01	20Dec01

NOTE: Reminder, completion of the DQMC Review List is required by 20th of the month, as referenced in the OTSG Memo.

Questions concerning implementation of reconciliation procedures should be addressed to the MEPRS Functional Support Mailbox.

9. BATTALION AID STATIONS.

a. Recently a survey was conducted regarding the reporting of BAS workload in MEPRS. The result of the survey is that the Army has 3 sites reporting BAS workload in the MEPR.

b. These sites must correct cease reporting of the BAS workload and correct data for prior months. The DOD 6010.13-M states that the MEPR is for the reporting of fixed medical facility workload. The BAS are not considered fixed facilities. Reporting of the BAS workload gives an inaccurate picture of your MTF in regards to the cost per visit and the manpower needed to staff your facility.

10. **PRE-ADMISSIONS.** Current policy is to use the FCC/MEPRS Code 'DGE' to collect the minutes of service and number of patients by OUTPATIENT specialty for pre-admission ancillary workload.

11. **MONTHLY NARRATIVES.** When submitting the monthly narrative, either by hardcopy via mail or electronic copy via e-mail, please ensure the document is a letterhead document. This is an official document.

12. NEW MEPRS PERSONNEL.

a. We wish to welcome to the MEPRS family, Gena Carey, Kandi Rael, Johnny Kelly, Diane Thompson and CPT LoryAnn Garcia. Gena is working in the Army MEPRS Program Office, San Antonio. Gena previously worked with the Air Force and has prior MEPRS experience. Gena will be working on completing metric and analysis information. Gena can be contacted at 210-637-4762, DSN 471-9720, ext 4762. Kandi Rael joins the MEPRS Office at Evans ACH, Fort Carson, CO. Kandi is a Management Assistant and can be reached at DSN 691-7312 COMM (719) 526-7312. Johnny Kelly is a

new addition the to MEPRS Office at Tripler AMC, Fort Shafter, HI. Johnny will be working with UCAPERS. Brooke AMC welcomes Diane Thompson to the MEPRS Office. Diane is a Workload Assistant and is working with UCAPERS. CPT LoryAnn Garcia is the new WMSN POC. CPT Garcia can be contacted at 210-637-4639, DSN 471-9720, ext 4639. West Brininger joined the Wuerzburg MEPRS Office in November 1999.

b. To the following individuals who have put so much of themselves into MEPRS, we salute you and bid you a fond farewell, your presence and contributions will be missed. TSGT Teresa Grantham has departed the Landstuhl MEPRS Branch. TSGT Grantham retired from active duty. Michael Zoller departed the European RMC MEPRS Office due to personal reasons. Barbara (Britton) Lofton has left the Fort Sill MEPRS Office. Ms Pamela Garbarino PCS'd to Fort Bragg on 16 September 1999.

SECTION III: WAM

1. A WAM/CHCS subgroup has been formed to investigate the problems found in the WAM module in CHCS. The subgroup has members from the Army, Navy, Air Force, TMA, and CHCS. The subgroup is currently working on problems in Radiology Reporting, Pharmacy Reporting, and a review of System Change requests that were submitted previously.

2. The subgroup also reviews the TMSSC trouble calls. It is extremely important that problems with the WAM system be documented by utilizing the TMSSC Help Desk. When calling into the 1-800-600-9332, be sure to identify your trouble call as a WAM call.

3. With the advent of EASIV, it is imperative that WAM is used to the maximum extent possible as WAM will be passing the Beneficiary Category Codes (Bene Cat) and the Current Physician Terminology (CPT) codes. This coding is a requirement of EASIV and will not be available by any other means.

SECTION IV: WEB HAPPENINGS

1. **MEPRS WEBPAGE.** Have you visited the MEPRS web site lately? You may be surprised as to what is available. In addition to a myriad of reference material, we now have a listing of training documents and presentations utilized during the Advanced MEPRS Course, RM Conference etc. PowerPoint presentations listed below are available:

ADS-MEPRS: A Shared Relationship
Advanced MEPRS Class, November 1999
The 1999 PA&E Command Productivity Review
Managed care Support Contract Financing
Unit Cost Comparison Metric
MEPES Data: A User's Perspective
The MEPRS Connection

a. Curious as to what the MMIG is up to? You can find the minutes of the last meeting under "downloads". Forget how to use the MEFES program to convert your STANFINS files to EXCEL? All the information you need is on the web page. In addition you can download prior and current newsletters, the Helpful Hints Guide, Functional Policy and Guidelines, the Fourth Level Coding Document and many other reference guides.

b. Due to recent EDS personnel changes, updates to the Web Page have been sporadic. We are working on this issue to provide you the best and most accurate information available.

c. It is important that all MTF's have access to this information on the MEPRS Web Page. If you do not have access to the Web please contact the Army MEPRS Program Office and we will investigate the problem.

2. **MEPRS DISCUSSION BOARD.** The MEPRS Discussion Board has died a quiet death. With the loss of personnel with sufficient skills to complete this task, the Discussion Board will not be established. However, this will not preclude revisiting this action at some point in the future.

3. **MEPRS FUNCTIONAL MAILBOX.** Are you aware that the Army MEPRS Program Office has an email mailbox that you can send your questions to? The address is MEPRS, Army Func Spt. You can access it by using the Global Address Listing in Microsoft Outlook.

a. If you decide to send us a question we should have an answer back to you within 5 days of the request. If you have a

question that requires an immediate response, please place a "flag" next to the question and we will try to get back to you within 3 days.

b. Due to the nature of some questions and/or staffing limitations, we may not get back to you in the allotted time. Often, more complicated questions may require further analysis and review or a referral to another agency. We will make every effort to answer your questions as soon as we can.

4. **USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES.**

The MEPRS website: <http://www.meprs.amedd.army.mil/>

DMHRS: <http://www.dmhrs.meprs.amedd.army.mil>

The 6010.13-M can be found at this address:

<http://www-nmimc.med.navy.mil/meprs/dod6010.13m/Imepr-2.html>

The PASBA website: <http://www.pasba.amedd.army.mil> contains many metrics which should be monitored.

NOTE: Please let us know if your MEPRS OFFICE does not have access to the world wide web.

SECTION V: QUESTIONS ANSWERED

DEPRECIATION. Coordination with the developers of MEDCASE for establishment of the correct depreciation threshold (\$100K) has been completed. The Consolidated High Dollar Depreciation Report should now be reflecting the depreciation for single items of equipment with a purchase price of or in excess of \$100,000 dollars. This change should be visible in the May 00 report provided the MEPRS Office by Logistics. If the Consolidated High Dollar Depreciation Report received by the MEPRS Office does not reflect this change, please contact the Logistics Office at the facility to ensure they have loaded the latest change to the application. One more change to the report is being worked. This change will require the Logistics office to coordinate the assignment of a MEPRS code to equipment to be tracked on the Consolidated High Dollar Depreciation Report. This change will also allow the MEPRS Office to change the MEPRS code on the report to correctly reflect the MEPRS code for the work-center identified associated with the equipment. It was previously announced that this change had already been effected. Contrary to this, due to unexpected complexities and resulting realignment of priorities in making this change/correction, this change has taken on a lower priority, the change will take longer to be made. It is anticipated that the change will occur in the June/July 2000 timeframe.