

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

Welcome to the first issue of the Army MEPRS News Bulletin. The Office of The Surgeon General, MEPRS Project Office, Falls Church, Virginia, and the U.S. Army Medical Command (PROV), MEPRS Division, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, will publish and distribute the Army MEPRS News Bulletin quarterly by fiscal year (FY) to MEPRS administrators worldwide beginning with second quarter FY 94. We have designed the Army MEPRS News Bulletin to enhance communication within the Army military treatment facilities.

/signed/
MICHAEL I. IRELAND
GM-14
Army MEPRS Project
Officer

/signed/
CHARLES D. SHAW
MAJ, MS
Chief, MEPRS Division

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SECTION I: TRISERVICE HAPPENINGS

CHECK THIS OUT - The Navy is considering accepting the Uniform Chart of Accounts Personnel Utilization System (UCAPERS) as their Personnel Management System. Triservice meetings are ongoing to merge the Navy's SPMS-II Personnel Utilization System with UCAPERS to form a new Department of Defense (DOD) standard system. The consolidated system will likely be called the Defense Human Resources Related Information System. A prototype will probably be ready next year.....more to follow.

SECTION II: ITEMS OF INTEREST

CAPITATION BUDGET REPORT - The U.S. Army Medical Command (PROV) (MEDCOM (PROV)) Medical Expense and Performance Reporting System (MEPRS) Division, along with Electronic Data Systems and the MEDCOM (PROV) Budget Office finalized an Engineering Change Proposal (ECP) that produced a monthly Capitation Budget Report that provides actual military manpower strength and costs in a format similar to the MED87 Report. The Capitation Budget Report has been available since UCAPERS Version 2.0 Release and has generated numerous questions. Therefore, instead of trying to provide answers to all the questions posed through this newsletter, we will provide an in-depth explanation to the report separately.

COMPARISON REPORTS - Those of you who have been around long enough may remember something called MEPRS Comparison Reports. They are created from the PIND File (Stepdown Assignment Statistics (SAS) and the Direct Expense Schedule (DES)) and the PCOM (Computation File, Detailed MEPR Part I and II). The MEPRS Comparison Reports include the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Productivity Comparison Report, Detail Unit Cost Comparison Report, the FTE Summary Report, Analysis of Selected Indicators, and the Cumulative Traditional Base Operations and Depreciation Expenses. Due to circumstances beyond our control, these reports have not been generated for quite sometime. However, we are working on the problem and will send the fourth quarter FY 93 reports minus the Analysis of Selected Indicators to you soon. Please review these reports. We welcome any comments, recommendations, or changes.

CONFERENCE TAPES - We have not received the tapes from the MEPRS Triservice Conference yet, but the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs will notify the Services when the they are ready.

DATASCAN - DATASCAN is a software product (already loaded on your AT&T 3B2 computer) designed for information queries and

report writing from existing databases. It is targeted toward non-ADP personnel.

The Technical Branch of the U.S. Army Health Care Systems Support Activity (HCSSA) MEPRS Division offers a 2 1/2 day class on DATASCAN. Classes are held on a periodic basis determined by requests to attend from personnel from various medical treatment facilities (MTFs). A class is established when four to six people request training and a date suitable to all is agreed upon.

A working knowledge of DATASCAN will permit the user to develop tailor-made ad hoc reports/listings/rosters from existing data in UCAPERS, Expense Assignment System, Version III (EAS III), and Workload Management System for Nursing. It is especially handy when sudden, unexpected requirements arise which cannot be satisfied via normal means of processing.

We strongly recommend someone from your office attend the training. If you have any problems or questions with regards to sending your people to this training, please contact CPT James Conforti, Chief, Technical Branch, HCSSA MEPRS Division, at DSN 471-9767.

MEPRS CENTRAL - MEPRS Central is a Government-owned information system that will provide DOD MTFs, intermediate Commands, Offices of The Surgeon Generals, and OASD(HA) with timely access to MEPRS data, (expense, manpower, and performance). Look for it around October 1994. The MEPRS Central is intended to provide financial and performance data as an element of the Military Health Services System Management Information System platform. The MEPRS Central uses MEPRS data to report consistent performance indicators, expense, and personnel utilization data by work center and cost assignment methodology. The data for MEPRS Central comes to the Defense Medical Information System (DMIS) from MEPRS/EAS III. The DMIS then processes the MEPRS data.

MEPRS CENTRAL'S CAPABILITIES

* MEPRS Central provides the capability to produce detailed and ad hoc reports. These reports provide the ability to review expense, workload, and personnel utilization data reported by DOD fixed MTFs. Expense data can be viewed at the pre- and post-stepdown stages. Pre-stepdown reports can be produced with or without cost pool data.

* In addition, MEPRS Central provides the capability to view detailed MEPRS data, MEPRS data caveats, data field descriptions, and relationship data such as a list of EAS III data reporting

unit identification codes (UICs) and units of measure for SASSs.

MEPRS CENTRAL'S MAJOR FUNCTIONS

* FILE MANAGEMENT provides the ability to recall or erase previously saved reports and report criteria. It also provides the ability to monitor the status of report generation, to download reports, and to quit the application.

* REPORT CREATION provides a flexible reporting ability ranging from detailed reports to highly customized ad hoc reports.

* REPORT DISPLAYER provides the ability to view, save, and export reports.

* DATA BROWSE provides on screen information such as detailed MEPRS data and data caveats, data field descriptions, and relationship data for UICs and SASSs.

NARRATIVES - Where are those narratives? Fort Lee, Virginia; Fort McClellan, Alabama; and Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Georgia, are the only sites that submitted narratives for first quarter FY 94. These narratives are still a requirement and provide a means of identifying any differences between the MED302 and the MEPR, and also any changes occurring within your facility. Since you are transmitting the data monthly, provide the narrative monthly. Send us the original and one copy of the narrative.

SYSTEM INTEGRATION TEST (SIT) - A SIT for the next major EAS III release (7.0) is tentatively scheduled for the week of 11 July 1994.

SECTION III: ARMY HEALTH CARE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (AHCFS)

AHCFS - Depreciation and nonreimbursable BASOPS (EA and EC accounts) are entered into the Manual DES, not AHCFS. Make all other financial adjustments through AHCFS. Remember, if you make financial adjustments to prior months, you must recertify and merge to move the corrected amounts from AHCFS into EAS III.

SECTION IV: EXPENSE ASSIGNMENT SYSTEM, VERSION III (EAS III) SYSTEM CHANGE REQUESTS

BETA TEST SITE - Dewitt Army Hospital, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, is the Beta test site for the MEPRS/EAS III Release 6.2. The software will be tested on 28-31 March 1994 and released shortly thereafter. We anticipate completing our testing on 1 Apr 94 providing our final input for any corrections. By 15 Apr 94, we will mail the final documentation to all sites.

**SECTION V: UNIFORM CHART OF ACCOUNTS PERSONNEL
UTILIZATION SYSTEM (UCAPERS) SYSTEM
CHANGES REQUEST**

UCAPERS - UCAPERS Problem/Engineering Change Proposal Status Report (ECP-S) is a monthly status report that lists the status of the ECP-S's and problem reports that are currently in testing, assigned for processing, or awaiting Configuration Control Board action. The last report was dated 4 Feb 94. However, since that report was mailed, there have been several more ECP-S's submitted.

ECP #560 - Global Update Screen Modification - This ECP will include additional edits on the Duty Position Code (DPC) and the Department Code (DDT) to ensure the new DPC or the new DDT code is valid and exists on the appropriate table when requesting a Global Update. It will also include an additional edit to check the Master Personnel File (MPF) and the Global Update file when requesting an ID Code Global.

ECP #561 - Automatically Adjust Regular Hours on Scheduling - This ECP was submitted recommending that when certain non-available code hours are entered, the system decrease regular hours by the amount of non-available hours entered.

ECP #563 - LTI APC for Standard Schedules - This ECP request the Standard Schedule Table be modified to include a field for LTI APC.

ECP #564 - New Skill Type Identifier for Veterinarians - This ECP is requesting additional skill type identifier for veterinary doctors. However, it is on hold until.....

ECP #565 - Reprint Schedules - Currently, when schedule reprints and create schedules requests are processed in the same UCAPERS batch cycle, the work center does not receive the schedules reprints they requested. The schedules that print are for the week following the week the users requested. The recommended solution is to have the reprint schedule process

execute before the create schedule process.

ECP #566 - Global Update for MPF ID Code - Currently, the global update process checks the clinician utilization file for all MPF Global updates even when the person is not a clinician. The recommended solution is to edit the skill type to determine whether the individual is a clinician or non-clinician.

SECTION VI: OUTSTANDING MEDICAL EXPENSE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING SYSTEM (MEPRS) ISSUES

1. Request for Initiation of 5th Level Medical Expense and Performance Reporting System (MEPRS) code. OPEN
2. Periprocedure/Perioperative Units (Request for New Third Level DG Codes) OPEN
3. EFMP OPEN
4. Rewrite of MEPRS Manual WORKING
5. CPT Codes OPEN
6. Urology Workload Assignment OPEN
7. Higher Ambulatory Work Unit for Minor Surgery OPEN

SECTION VII: MEDICAL EXPENSE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING SYSTEM TASK FORCE

TASK FORCE - The MEPRS Task Force visited six MTFs and interviewed a cross section of personnel from commanders to clerks. The most often heard complaint was the lack of education/training. This would include individuals not knowing what MEPRS is, what it can do for the work center supervisor, or what it can do for the MTF. The task force is focusing on increasing the awareness of MEPRS within the MTF through the use of marketing-type flyers, educating personnel on how to use the data (for example: instructions for uploading and downloading data), and preparing training aids (such as easy-to-use reference manuals and abbreviated instruction booklets). You can find more details on the Task Force in the memorandum, HQ HSC, HSRM-MU, 28 Feb 94, subject: Medical Expense and Performance Reporting System (MEPRS) Task Force Update.