



NEWS RELEASE

EUROPE REGIONAL MEDICAL COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

CMR 442 APO AE 09042
U.S. ARMY HOSPITAL – NACHRICHTEN KASERNE
POSTFACH 103180 69021 HEIDELBERG, GERMANY
DSN 371-3317/3049 TEL. 06221-7-3317/3049
PHIL TEGTMEIER CELL – 0162-270-1578

December 14, 2007

Heidelberg nearly there

Less than 15 percent of Soldiers still need flu vaccine

HEIDELBERG, Germany – More than 89 percent of Soldiers in the Heidelberg area have received their vaccinations against the flu this year, but time is running out for those who haven't been immunized, said Lt. Col. Paul Kennedy, chief, Preventive Medicine, U.S. Army Medical Department Activity, Heidelberg.

Kennedy pointed out that the vaccine is mandatory for all Soldiers. He said that when a Soldier gets the flu vaccine, the unit must record that fact in a medical readiness tracking software application called the Medical Protection System. January 1, 2008 is the deadline for getting the vaccine and having it entered into the records.

“It's already a good idea to get the flu vaccine to protect your body from the illness, and from infecting other people such as children and those >65 years of age. It makes sense to get the vaccine as early as you can, before your first sergeant has you on a list,” said Maj. Scott Newberg, plans officer for the Europe Regional Medical Command's Force Health Protection Office..

Many units have already scheduled a time and place to vaccinate their Soldiers en masse. Soldiers who miss their unit's event can contact their local health clinic for immunization hours. Many health facilities have walk-in hours.

“Soldiers can come in to our immunization clinic, or we can work with unit leaders and set up shots for groups,” Kennedy said. Commanders and first sergeants can reach Kennedy at 371-2899.

A list of all Army health facilities in Europe and their contact information is available at the ERMIC Web site at www.healthcare.hqusaureur.army.mil. Look for the link to Hospitals and Clinics.