



NEWS RELEASE
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Changes to Heidelberg Healthcare

HEIDELBERG, Germany – The U. S. Army Medical Department Activity – Heidelberg (Heidelberg MEDDAC) Commander Col. Kyle Campbell announced today that in support of Army Transformation in Europe, Europe Regional Medical Command has directed a variety of changes to the services currently provided by Heidelberg hospital to continue the transformation of Heidelberg MEDDAC.

“Over the next few months, our beneficiaries will see modifications to the hospital services as it continues to evolve towards a health center,” said Campbell. “We have a network of outstanding local German health care providers and hospitals. We will continue to refer our patients to these providers with confidence.”

Col. Campbell said the hospital would continue to provide the same high quality acute care services, same day surgical capability, and primary care services such as a Family Practice Clinic, optometry, and outpatient appointments for health promotion, disease prevention, and health maintenance.

Obstetrical care will be affected. Pregnant women with delivery dates before June 30, 2008, who are currently receiving prenatal care from Heidelberg hospital and its clinics can expect to continue with their same provider and deliver at the Heidelberg hospital. Women with delivery dates of July 1, 2008 and beyond will receive their prenatal care and deliver their babies in Host Nation facilities.

“In addition, on June 1, 2008, we will transition the remainder of our in-patient medical surgical care to local German hospitals. This allows us to continue to expand on our utilization of these facilities to provide the highest quality patient care as we continue our transformation into a health center,” said Campbell.

Campbell added that, as a secondary result of transformation, “We are changing the emergency room into an Acute Care Clinic on Jan. 15. This has no immediate impact on the services provided.”

Campbell said the return to CONUS of major units and the closure of numerous installations in Germany significantly reduced the population supported by Heidelberg MEDDAC which now includes Heidelberg, Coleman Barracks, Mannheim, Darmstadt, Hanau, and Stuttgart.

Hospital officials are working with the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center and local Works Council to explain options for federal civil servants and local national staff whose positions are affected by the transition.