

Hospital Comforts Program makes treatment, recovery friendlier

From CFPN

If being hospitalized near family members and friends is the best of a bad situation, then being hospitalized far away from home is surely the worst. Either way, when you're laid up, it's sometimes difficult to get what you need to make your treatment and recovery time bearable.

The CF has been working on a flexible system of service delivery to ensure that hospitalized personnel, whether in Canada or abroad, receive or can access the items and services they need. This system is not intended to restrict or undermine the terrific work done by the many charitable organizations and groups that provide both necessities and those little extras to hospitalized personnel. Rather, it will ensure that the support you receive will be consistent and sustainable wherever it's delivered – in civilian hospitals throughout Canada, in overseas hospitals such as the Landstuhl Regional Medical Centre in Germany, or in the Kandahar, Afghanistan, Role 3 Medical Facility.

The CF Personnel Support Agency (CFPSA) has the lead on the Hospital Comforts Program, facilitating the provision of comfort items to you when you're in hospital.

If you are a member of the Regular Force, the Reserve Force on Class B or C service, or the Reserve Force on Class A service (and injured or hospitalized during training), and are hospitalized for more than 48 hours, you receive a visit from a representative from your unit, and are provided with a unit contact person you can call if you need anything.

The services your unit provides or arranges include:

- television rental for the duration of your hospitalization;
- telephone rental for the duration of your hospitalization;
- access to internet and email services for the duration of your hospitalization; and
- the purchase of amenities up to a maximum of C\$100 per week of your hospitalization, including but not limited to newspapers, magazines, books, DVD or VHS movie rentals, electronic gaming rentals, snacks, toiletries and calling cards.

In addition to this basic support, your unit may request from CFPSA the following items and services as circumstances dictate:

- loan of personal DVD player, music player or portable gaming system;
- loan of a laptop computer if required for Internet access; and
- clothing items, under the auspices of the CFPSA-administered Op Small-pack (for in-theatre and out-of-country hospital care only, when you do not have access to civilian clothing).

There may be occasions when you require an item or service not listed here. Requests from units for such items or services are considered on a case-by-case basis.

To receive reimbursement for items and services provided at the unit level, commanding officers must submit expenses to their local non-public funds (NPF) section. CFPSA will establish a general ledger account to reimburse local NPF sections.

As well, a trust fund or equivalent financial arrangement will be established



WO SEAN CHASE

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan—While DND/CF advances care of CF personnel and their families with programs such as the Hospital Comforts Program, CF personnel continue to support and facilitate the care of Afghan civilians. Here, a CF member of the Provincial Reconstruction Team medical outreach patrol stands watch outside the Ministry of Women's Affairs centre for burned and battered women in Kandahar City. For more photos of the PRT at work, go to www.combatcamera.forces.gc.ca/common/combatacamera/find_e.asp and enter "PRT" in "Search Caption".

to accept the donations of Canadians wishing to support hospitalized CF personnel. Enquiries on how to donate should be directed, for now, to the Mission Information Line at 1-800-866-4546.

For detailed information about procedures for commanding officers and units, and CFPSA procedures, consult Canadian Forces General

Message (CANFORGEN) 191/06 at http://vcds.dwan.dnd.ca/vcds-exec/pubs/canforgen/intro_e.asp.

- Check out Defence Orders and Directives (DAOD) 5018-0 at http://admfincs.mil.ca/OrdersandDirectives_e.asp or at www.admfincs.forces.gc.ca/intro_e.asp.

QUESTION CORNER

Annual Leave

QUESTION:

Please advise when a person is entitled to get the extra week of annual leave. I am now receiving 25 annual leave days a year. How many years of service are required before I get the extra week of leave? Because I have prior service (2 years, 32 days; rejoined 25 March '84), are there any special rules to this extra leave?

ANSWER:

If you are a member of the CF and have completed 28 years of service, you are entitled to receive 30 days of annual leave.

This policy came into effect April 1, 2002, and was initiated with the hope that this tangible recognition of long service might encourage personnel to continue their service.

- Consult Canadian Forces General Message (CANFORGEN) 053/02 at http://vcds.dwan.dnd.ca/vcds-exec/pubs/canforgen/intro_e.asp, but definitely contact your base orderly room for an answer based on your specific situation. ♦



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- for personnel serving in the National Capital Region, a director-general or equivalent; and
- for personnel serving outside the NCR, a base or wing commander, a colonel or an equivalent public servant.

The CDAA and CCDAA are not taxable at the source, and so are not subject to statutory deductions. However, you are required to report as taxable income any amount of these allowances that you do not spend during a taxation year on purchasing and/or maintaining civilian dress. Purchase and maintenance may include alterations to civilian clothing required while on duty but does not include dry cleaning. In the event of a Canada Revenue Agency personal taxation audit, you must be prepared to provide proof of your expenditures.

- Read Canadian Forces General Message (CANFORGEN) 011/07, at

http://vcds.dwan.dnd.ca/vcds-exec/pubs/canforgen/2007/intro_e.asp.

- Consult Compensation and Benefit Instruction 205.54, at www.forces.gc.ca/dgcb/cbi/engraph/home_e.asp or at http://hr.ottawa-hull.mil.ca/dgcb/cbi/engraph/home_e.asp for more details of policy administration.
- For allowance policy information, contact Director of Pay Policy and Development (DPPD) personnel Major Renée Forcier, at Forcier.MMR@forces.gc.ca or at 613-995-1949, or Chief Petty Officer, 1st Class Jacques Montpetit, at Montpetit.JP@forces.gc.ca or at 613-995-5348.
- For policy administration information, contact military pay and procedures personnel Captain Deborah Degreve at Degreve.DA@forces.gc.ca or at 613-995-8398, or Petty Officer, 1st Class Thomas McCarthy at McCarthy.TO@forces.gc.ca or at 613-995-8638. ♦