

2015 OSAP Infection Control Course

The Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP) CORE Infection Control Boot Camp 2015 was a big success with strong attendance from industry, civilian practitioners, educational institutions, the VA, Army, Navy, other Federal Services, and Canadian dentists. Thank you for the outstanding support for the only national course dedicated to dental infection control and prevention. I was able to meet many of our AF Infection Prevention and Control OICs/ NCOICs. The course offered an excellent program from the basic science and history of infection control from our own Col (Ret) Shannon Mills to an in-depth look at instrument reprocessing from start to finish. Many learning opportunities, to include lectures, hands-on demonstrations and vendor interactions were met with rave reviews. There was also an opportunity to attend a very informative "Movie Night" with Dr. Harold Jaffe, one of the original AIDS investigators as portrayed by Charles Martin Smith in "And the Band Played On". Great ideas were shared from all of our AF bases that were in attendance regarding patient safety and infection prevention and control practices. Furthermore, AF members were able to ask many questions and network with one another. Upon return from the course, I received numerous questions regarding which devices require heat sterilization (e.g. Cavitron handpieces, Isolite products and others). I want to commend you all on reviewing and following manufacturers' instructions for use (IFU). I cannot stress enough how important it is to review IFU for all of your products. Remember, items that are heat-tolerant must be heat sterilized. Disinfectants that are used in our DTFs are intermediate-level and are not to be used to reprocess (clean and sterilize after patient use) items. I would like to encourage you all to continue following written IFU regarding cleaning and sterilization of items rather than relying on information that may have been passed down to you. Please review USAF Guidelines for Infection Prevention & Control in Dentistry (Chapter 6, paragraph 6.A.3.a-d).

Please start thinking about the next OSAP Infection Control course (Jan 2016) and consider who from your clinic will need to attend. SAF/AA has already granted exemption for the 2016 course for conference attendance/training to be funded at the unit or local level. This exemption has been added to the SG Conference Approval Spreadsheet at:

<https://kx2.afms.mil/kj/kx1/afmoaedandtraining/Pages/home.aspx> (click on SG Conference Approval Status button on the left side of the page). So begin planning for this TDY in Sep and Oct of this year. Thanks for all you do and continue the great work. If you have any question please contact kelli.c.mack.mil@mail.mil, 210-539-8239, DSN 389.

