

U.S. Army Supports National Prescription Take Back Day

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In an effort to get rid of unused or expired medications and promote a drug free living and working environment, U.S. Army military installations across the United States are supporting National Prescription Take Back Day, Saturday Oct. 29, 2011.

“Army leaders understand the threat presented by the improper storage or disposal of unused or expired medications in our homes and barracks,” said Col. Kevin Galloway, Chief of Staff, Pain Management Task Force.

“The Army’s participation in the National Prescription Medication Take Back Day is critical because our Soldiers and their families share many of the issues facing the nation at large,” Galloway said. “The Army is proud to collaborate with the Drug Enforcement Administration’s national effort to combat prescription medication diversion and abuse, as well as improper storage and disposal,” Galloway said.

“This issue has relevance to environmental safety, law enforcement, and military medicine,” Galloway added. “The Army’s support for DEA’s National Take Back Day is a coordinated effort between the Army’s Installation Management Command, Office of the Provost Marshal General, and Army Medical Command.”

Active, Guard and Reserve Soldiers, Veterans, Family members and civilians can anonymously turn in unused, unneeded or expired prescriptions items such as tablets, capsules, and any other solid forms of medication on Oct. 29 at collection sites at military installations and in civilian communities.

“This is all about safety as we work to help get these potentially harmful medications out of the households,” said Lt. Col. Kevin Roberts, Chief, Pharmacy Division, Ireland Army Community Hospital, Fort Knox, Ky. “We want everyone to take advantage of this opportunity because it is free and anonymous, no questions asked.”

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, abuse of prescription drugs to get high has become increasingly prevalent among teens and young adults. Abuse of prescription pain killers now ranks second - only behind marijuana - as the Nation's most prevalent illegal drug problem.

“Now is a good time to properly dispose of these medications,” Roberts added. “Some individuals can get easily confused and take the wrong medication. There are documented instances of young children accidentally ingesting a parent’s prescription.”

“The National Take Back Day is an excellent opportunity to open or expand the dialogue with our Soldiers and Family Members regarding the potential impact maintaining a supply of prescription medications in the home or barracks,” Galloway said.

For more information about National Prescription Take Back Day, turn-in times and locations, visit http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html or call 800-882-9539 for a local collection site.