

USAFP Web Site for New Users...or those who just want to know it and use it better

Why should I bother to use the USAFP Web Site?

The USAFP Web site is your one-stop shop for any and all information about the USAFP, about AHLTA and Essentris, for Annual Meeting information, for PDA resources, for Operational Medicine resources and many more useful and practical tools and info

How do you navigate around the USAFP Web site?

The easiest way to navigate around the site is to use the drop down menu that is present on every page. It is the blue back of rectangular boxes that say things like "Annual Meeting", "Education/Research", "Operational Med" and more. Each has a drop down menu that shows more links. All you have to do is "hover" your mouse over the label to reveal the drop down menu, and then click on the link you wish to explore. Due to space restrictions, we could not provide every topic with a major category of its own. Some of the drop down menus may not seem like they make sense. If you have ideas that a link under one heading belongs under another, please send that feedback to the Webmaster (see below for how to do that).

What is new at the USAFP Web site?

New information is constantly updated on the site. Some of the latest information includes the updated Abstract Kit for 2010, an updated Annual Meeting Page for the 2010 meeting in New Orleans, a user manual for Dragon NaturallySpeaking Medical version 10. You can receive announcements about what is new using RSS feeds (a type of news feed), which will be discussed later in this article.

What are the key resources on the USAFP site that will help me as...

...a busy clinician

The most useful tools for busy clinicians are probably those on the AHLTA Pages (for both 838 and 3.3), those on the Dragon Text Macro Page (to get Dragon to make use of these powerful shortcuts), the SF 600 Library (if you use these), the PDA sites (for PDA programs that can help you in clinic and on the ward). I find the AMEDD's 2-Minute Clinical Pearls for AHLTA very useful. Also, the link to the Navy AHLTA web site (www.navyahlta.com) is very useful to learn AHLTA 3.3 and the 200 enhancements that were finally included.

...a deployed provider

The Operational Medicine section of the USAFP site is very useful for any deployed provider. It is broken down in a number of ways, so peruse it to see what is there. If you have suggestions for resources or organization, please email the USAFP Webmaster (link at the bottom of every page) to offer those suggestions. If you have resources to share, please email those as well.

...a researcher

The Research Page, Research Judges Page and Research Mentor Page have a number of resources for the new or experienced researcher. The Judges page has contact information for the USAFP Research

Judges, with whom you can discuss ideas for research. The research mentors are also another excellent resource for discussions on research ideas...or for writing up your final product to present or publish. The Research Page is the one-stop comprehensive resource for all things to do with research in the USAFP and externally. There are great resources to help you with case reports, clinical investigations, posters, publishing your research, applying for grants, etc. For any researcher, this is the first stop.

What links are most often used by other USAFP members?

The most commonly used links on the USAFP site are those for the Newsletter, Annual Meeting, Operational Medicine, USAFP information, Best Practices, PDA information and AHLTA. In terms of value, the majority of member survey respondents felt that the Annual Meeting Page, Newsletter, Tri-service Residency Page, AHLTA, Operational Medicine section, Online CME and Best Practices were the best.

How can the USAFP Web site help me to communicate with other USAFP members?

There are a number of ways to accomplish this. We recently added a couple of links to a site called [Ozmosis](#) that is a physician-only social network site. It is comparable to [Sermo](#). There is also a link to the well-known [LinkedIn](#) social networking site that a lot of professionals use. There is also a specific USAFP Facebook account. If you wish to join please

Is there a way for me to know when new items have been posted on the USAFP site?

Yes, there are several ways to know about new postings. We have established what are called RSS (really simple syndication) news feeds from several of the pages: Index Page (the Home Page), the AHLTA pages and the Navy Consultant Page. We can establish more if there is a desire. To access and use the RSS feeds, you need an RSS reader. Outlook 2007 has one embedded. Other very useful readers include Google Reader, Yahoo Reader and many others. You can go [here](#) to read about the top free readers.

To use the RSS feeds from the USAFP site, you need to install the reader and then sign up at the USAFP site to begin receiving the news feeds. Whenever we post a new item on the site, the Webmaster will create a new item on the existing feeds and “ping” the major news feed sites. They will distribute the news feed to the reader. You just check your reader periodically to see what is new. Then click on the link to see the item. Once you do it a couple of times, you will see just how easy it is.

How can I access Audio Digest?

We used to have the Audio Digest files on the USAFP site for folks to download and listen to at their convenience. Due to some rule changes, Audio Digest no longer allows us to do that. However, we do have a link to the Audio Digest site, and you can still download and listen to the files. We have paid for some CME, but the intent is that only deployed personnel should use the limited amount of CME credits we have purchased. Even without CME credit, the files contain a lot of very useful information.

How do I make suggestions about content/other changes, submit trouble/broken link reports, or simply ask questions of the Webmaster?

At the bottom right of each and every page within the USAFP site, there is a link to provide feedback and report problems. It is labeled, “feedback/report problems”. Feedback on the site is always welcome. If

you find a broken link, please report it. We want the site to be the best resource for USAFP members possible. The only way to do that is for everyone to participate in making it better/keeping it good.

What is on the USAFP Web site that is helpful for...

...residents?

Residents will likely find the Newsletter articles, AHLTA information, Operational Medicine information, social networking links and PDA information most useful. There are not specific resident links or information on the site, but we would be happy to add some if residents can let us know...either directly, via the Resident Board members (Directory Page) or via the Committee on Resident and Student Affairs (Directory Page)...what features or information would be relevant and/or desired.

...medical students

There are a number of resources for medical students, but by far the most important is the Tri-service Residency Page, which has the contact information for every military family medicine residency, as well as Web site links for many. Once we revise the current version, another useful resource will be the Medical Student CD...which we will mirror online. A new link will be placed on both the drop down menu and on the Tri-service Residency Page to access the Student CD in another window. All the resources from the student CD will be present for you to peruse. This will be very useful information. This project should be finished by this coming summer.

What PDA/Smartphone resources are on the USAFP site?

There are a number of PDA resources on the USAFP site. These can be accessed under the "PDA/Technology" menu item. Most are aimed at Windows Mobile or Palm OS devices...which does not include the new WebOS from Palm (which is actually Linux).

We are now in the process of updating those resources to include smartphone, iPhone and BlackBerry resources. Members of the Clinical Informatics Committee are working on this project. If you know of excellent clinical, operational or general applications for any of these devices, please share with the USAFP Webmaster at the "feedback" link. The intent is to have an unsurpassed PDA/smartphone resource for our members.

Can I access or get CME from the USAFP site?

The USAFP site cannot offer CME directly due to financial considerations (i.e. it is very expensive...even from the AAFP). However, we do have a number of external links to free and not so free CME sites. They are located under the "Education/Research" drop down menu item. There are a number of free sites listed. If you know of additional sites, or one of the listed sites is no longer functional, please provide that feedback via the link at the bottom right of any page.

I have AHLTA and Dragon NaturallySpeaking, but I need help making Dragon work better with AHLTA. Can the USAFP site help?

On the Dragon Text Macros Page, there are a lot of resources...plus Dragon text macros. One of the resources is the Dragon 10 Medical User Guide. Another is a link to the Nuance (makers of Dragon) MHS

Web site that was specifically created for military users of Dragon. There are guides and Flash videos of how to use Dragon with AHLTA (and Essentris and CHCS I for that matter). In addition, there are some military-specific vocabulary items you can download and insert into Dragon.

In addition to these resources, we have placed a number of Dragon text macros from other family physicians that you can copy and paste into Dragon to create a new text macro for your use with AHLTA. Directions on how to do this are on the Dragon Text Macro Page. It is very easy to do. If you need help, ask your sustainment trainer or Command Clinical Champion. Once you master the technique and start making your own cool macros, then it is time to “pay it forward” by sharing your newly created macros with others. Directions to export your macros are also on the USAFP site. Just send them to the Webmaster...and thanks in advance.