

# ASAP program gets fresh start in one-stop location on post

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A new location, new processes, and easier access for everyone will change a lot about the Army Substance Abuse Program here except the main things: why it exists and how it can help.

The ASAP mission is to strengthen the overall fitness and effectiveness of the Army's workforce, conserve manpower and enhance combat readiness. This is part of the IMCOM mission to support Soldiers, families and employees. Equally, it meshes with the Army War College's focus on developing senior leaders and families who are as strong and resilient as they are wise.

As of Monday, April 4, the community-wide ASAP resource center will be a one-stop center for all of ASAP services at 632 Wright Avenue, selected to provide both privacy and a quality experience for --

- Counseling
- prevention training and education
- drug testing
- Employee Assistance Center.

"Commanders, Soldiers, Army civilians, retirees, and family members can, and will, continue to receive top-quality services – now, from one location," said Elton Manske, who exercises ASAP oversight here.

Three counselors and one administrative assistant will join those already at work at 632 Wright Avenue to form the new ASAP. This is the final step, locally, to bring about a consolidation, Army-wide, of a range of programs designed to prevent or confront substance abuse and related problems.

The Employee Assistance Center is an important service for government employees. EAP helps in cases of personal issues that affect work, such as depression, anxiety, mental health issues, grief and loss, marital or relationship issues, alcohol and drug problems, explained Dan Hocker, the ASAP manager.

"I'm a certified Employee Assistance Professional," said Dan Hocker, ASAP manager, about the lengthy certification that prepared him to be able to identify the problem with the individual, determine if the problem is affecting work, and finds suitable counseling for them. We

are essentially a referral agency. The EA program is integrated into the installation-wide wellness programs.

The three counselors moving into the ASAP offices are all certified clinicians. Clinical director Brigit Mancini is a counselor herself.

ASAP will retain its close working relationship with the Dunham Health Clinic, explained Hocker.

“Like Dunham, we will create a confidential atmosphere,” said We run multiple services here at ASAP, serving those who seek education, respond to ‘invitations’ for drug tests, ask questions, seek EAP services or counseling.

“Our goal is to take care of our customer,” said Hocker. “We have arranged for a seamless transition --without any interruption to patient care.”

U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 30 March 2011