

# The Point



A newsletter for and about the people of the  
**U.S. Army Medical Research  
 and Materiel Command**  
**Summer 2010**



## Col. Nelson Michael Appointed to Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues

President Barack Obama announced April 10 that he plans to appoint Col. Nelson Michael, director of the Division of Retrovirology at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and director of the U.S. Military HIV Research Program, to the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues.

The President's Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues will advise the President on bioethical issues that may emerge from advances in biomedicine and related areas of science and technology. The commission will work with the goal of identifying and promoting policies and practices that ensure scientific research, health care delivery, and technological innovation are conducted in an ethically responsible manner. President Obama signed

an Executive Order creating the new Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues on Nov. 24, 2009.

Michael began with the Division of Retrovirology at WRAIR in 1989 and became the director in 2006. The U.S. Military HIV Research Program is a multidimensional, international research program encompassing vaccine research and development, HIV prevention research, and clinical research.

Michael's research interests include HIV molecular pathogenesis and host genetics, HIV clinical research, and HIV vaccine development. He is concurrently an associate professor of medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and a diplomat of the American Board of Internal Medicine.



Michael currently serves various National Institutes of Health committees dealing with AIDS research and vaccines. He graduated summa cum laude from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1979 with a degree in biology and from Stanford University with M.D. and Ph.D. (cancer biology) degrees in 1986. He trained in internal medicine at Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital from 1986 to 1989. Michael has coauthored 120 papers in the peer-reviewed scientific literature.

*Kelley Lennon*  
 WRAIR

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## WRAIR Recognized for Its Contributions to the JE Vaccine

The Walter Reed Army Institute of Research was recognized May 24 by Intercell for its contributions in the research, development, and clinical testing of the newly licensed Japanese encephalitis vaccine. WRAIR initiated the vaccine project and contributed to numerous aspects of the development of the vaccine up to licensure. As a result of this public-private partnership, military personnel, dependents, and civilians will be protected against the serious and growing risk of disease caused by JE when traveling to many countries of the world.

*Kelley Lennon  
WRAIR*



Pictured left to right: Claudia Golenda (WRAIR), Gerd Zettlmeissl (Intercell), Dr. Ken Eckels (WRAIR), Col. Gray Heppner (WRAIR), Lt. Col. Art Lyons (WRAIR), Paul Wilson (Intercell), Jeff Hackman (Intercell), Maj. Gen. James Gilman (USAMRMC), and Dr. Charles Rice (performing the duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs)

*Photo by: Tiffany Holloway*

## Women in Defense Honors One of Our Own

The Women in Defense Greater Frederick Chapter's Reach for the Stars hosted a dinner at Dutch's Daughter in Frederick, Md. May 6, honoring Col. Janet Harris, director of the Clinical and Rehabilitative Medicine Research Program.

Harris won an award for the Military category. Col. Jeffrey Davis, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command chief of staff said "Colonel Harris is most deserving of the award because her distinguished accomplishments are far reaching. She has touched many and left an indelible mark for all to admire through her dedicated leadership and experiences in military and volunteer teaching, professionalism, mentoring, and hard work, making her truly a 'STAR' herself. She has encouraged others to 'Reach for the Stars' and pursue careers in science and technology

in both the military as well as in other federal service. Her efforts and distinctive accomplishments reflect great credit upon herself, the greater Frederick community, the United States Army, and the Department of Defense."

While at Fort Detrick, Harris has been a strong supporter of the Department of Defense Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation Scholarship for Service Program, which supports both undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The program aims to increase the number of civilian scientists and engineers working at 000 laboratories as well as other federal agencies. She is currently serving as a mentor to a SMART program graduate student scholarship recipient from Pennsylvania State University



who, upon graduation, will become a member of the 000 civilian scientific work force.

Harris said, "I feel honored and surprised to be recognized for what I think is a privilege to work with youth and young adults."

*Tiffany Holloway  
USAMRMC Public Affairs*

## HIV Vaccine Awareness Day

Military medical researchers have a long and successful history of battling infectious disease threats, and that tradition continues today in HIV vaccine research. Last year, the Army announced that a clinical trial (RV144) involving more than 16,000 people in Thailand demonstrated a modest ability to protect against HIV infection, reducing the number of infections by about a third.

This was the first time in more than two decades of research that a vaccine has shown any ability to prevent HIV infection. The result from RV144, albeit a modest one, is a significant scientific milestone that can be built upon for future, more effective HIV vaccines.

It is hoped that data from RV144 can be used to determine the specific immune responses the body needs to protect itself from HIV. The results of the RV144 trial have already prompted scientists to rethink how they approach and test a vaccine to

protect against HIV. Our program is collaborating with researchers around the globe to dissect the results from this trial to inform basic research and design future clinical trials to translate a scientific milestone into an eventual public health tool.

As we mark HIV Vaccine Awareness Day May 18, the dedicated people who make this type of scientific progress possible should be acknowledged. RV144 involved more than 16,000 volunteers in Thailand, along with hundreds of scientists, health workers, trial staff, and members of the U.S. Military HIV Research Program team.

Thirty years ago the World Health Organization declared that smallpox—one of the most devastating diseases in human history—had been eradicated after an intense surveillance and global vaccination campaign. It is hoped that a similar statement can one day be made about HIV, which is currently the second largest infectious disease killer in the world.



HIV has taken the lives of nearly 27 million people, and it is estimated that more than 33 million people were living with HIV at the end of 2008. It poses a great threat to public health and stability in countries where it is prevalent. This disease must be stopped, and as history has shown us, an effective vaccine is the ultimate solution to control a pandemic.

*Special to the Point*



Volunteer club participants in Thailand

## Motorcycle Safety Day Improves Riding Skills

More than 30 Soldiers, civilians, and family members from the 232nd Medical Battalion, the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, and Brooke Army Medical Center participated in their first joint Motorcycle Safety Day May 7. The 232nd Medical Battalion has conducted several of these events over the past few years as has BAMC, but this effort was an attempt to broaden each program by bringing three organizations into one ride. One of the many underappreciated aspects of motorcycle safety is the mentorship that riders can provide each other. Motorcycles come in an array of sizes, capabilities, limitations, and challenges. This offered a chance to experience a diverse group of bikes with riders whose experience levels ranged from over 20 years to just over a week. The opportunity to talk about sport bikes versus cruisers, old bikes versus new bikes, big engines versus small, and riding on highways versus rural routes alone would have been enough to be considered a successful day, but these riders took their training well beyond that.

The day began with a safety class and videos showing the importance of personal protective equipment, rider safety, and obeying and knowing your own and your bike's limits. Following, the group had a short class on hand and arm signals, conducted a route brief, and then headed back to their bikes. In the parking lot, they used buddy teams to inspect their bikes, verify documents (e.g., license, insurance, registration, and safety card), and ensure everyone had the proper PPE. Once complete, they

split into two groups—sport bikes and cruisers.

The ride was about 100 miles out to the Texas Hill Country and back. This area of Texas is world-renowned for some of the best motorcycle riding one can find. For this group, it offered a great course for training. These riders (many of whom had never ridden with a group) had the opportunity to negotiate their way off post, managing the challenge of integrating auto traffic and then reforming on Highway 35 South. As the ride continued, the group was able to experience all of the aspects they discussed during their briefings. Hand and arm signals were used to navigate through downtown and through a lengthy construction zone on US 90 West that caused the groups to shift from staggered riding to single file to avoid loose gravel spilling into their lane. "Everyone looked good. The hand and arm signals were passed back quickly and all the riders moved right into line" said Sgt. 1st Class Gordan Corcoran, of the 232nd Medical Battalion. Successfully through stage one, they stopped in Castroville for their first pit stop to discuss the ride, refuel, and refit.

After a quick review of the next leg, they headed north for a completely different type of ride. The high speeds and traffic of multi-lane roads were replaced by the curves of rural riding. It also offered some very tricky curves as the roads run around ranches and farms, which seldom have straight-line boundaries. This provides stretches that go from 55 mph straight runs to 25 mph curves very quickly. Corner-

ing (negotiating a curve or turn) is the most dangerous part of motorcycle riding as the surface area of the wheels in contact with the ground lessens due to the "lean" and traction is reduced. Most motorcycle accidents occur due to improper cornering usually by going too fast. So, this exercise provided multiple opportunities to practice proper cornering with several 90 degree curves. Group leaders were able to manage the speed of the group entering each turn, so the less experienced riders who had yet to ride on these types of roads were able to safely maneuver through and see the proper way to enter and exit curves. "It was a little tricky; it was definitely better to be with the group" said Spc. Michael Howard of USAISR. "I wouldn't want to try this for the first time by myself." The group stopped in Lake Hills for lunch and a short rest. Again, the riders discussed the second portion of the trip allowing for coaching and mentorship. Many riders talked about the difference of the two legs and how their focus and style of riding had to shift. As they ate, the experienced riders discussed different techniques, road hazards to be aware of depending on your location (i.e., highway traffic versus rural and animals), and the final leg that lay ahead.

The last portion of the ride took the group from Lake Hills to the east toward Helotes on a route that increased the amount of curves and turns while adding rolling hills. This exhilarating 10 mile stretch often had riders cresting blind curves. It challenged their abilities to corner, communicate, and maintain awareness of their surroundings. With the route being so complex, one group took the least experienced riders and headed out for a slow run through the hills. At the end,

they turned and headed back to Lake Hills. After a quick discussion, they headed out again for a full speed ride of the course.

The group met for the final time in Helotes for an after action review. The discussion highlighted the benefits of this type of training. Riders got to meet other riders of differing experience levels. New mentors and

coaches were found. Less experienced riders got to ride in situations that were brand new to them among the supervision of very proficient riders. Lessons were learned for riders as well as leaders. Tough, realistic training was the target of the 232nd Medical Battalion, USAISR, and BAMC on this Motorcycle Safety Day and that is exactly what was ac-

complished. "Today demonstrated the value of motorcycle days from the academics, to the ride to mentorship; today's gathering greatly enhanced the awareness, safety, and skill levels of everyone that participated" said Lt. Col. Peter Lehning, commander, 232nd Medical Battalion.

*Lt. Col. Anthony Cooper  
USAISR*



## USAISR Soldier Earns the Coveted Expert Field Medical Badge

Forty-five Soldiers challenged themselves, but only 10 made it. Spc. Matthew Young of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research was one of 10 Soldiers who were awarded the prestigious Expert Field Medical Badge at a ceremony April 2.

“For the past three weeks you have had the opportunity to be challenged—physically, mentally, tactically, and technically,” said Maj. Gen. Russell

Czerw, Commander, Fort Sam Houston and U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School. “I think you would agree that everything you have accomplished has helped you improve your medical skills,” he said, addressing the Soldiers who received the EFMB. “Wear this badge with pride and honor because you earned it.”

The EFMB was designed as a special skill award for recognition of excep-

tional competence and outstanding performance by field medical personnel and approved by the Department of the Army June 18, 1965.

To earn the badge, Soldiers are tested on their knowledge of medical tasks with a comprehensive written exam that they must pass with a minimum score of 75%. Soldiers are also tested on their ability to navigate during the day and night. Next, they must dem-

onstrate proficiency through hands-on evaluation in Tactical Combat Casualty Care, performing at least 11 of 14 tasks correctly; Medical and Casualty Evacuation, performing at least eight of 10 tasks correctly; Communication Tasks, performing at least four of five tasks correctly; and Warrior Skills, performing at least 10 of the 13 tasks correctly.

These hands-on evaluations have evolved over the years from station-to-station type testing to the method used today, realistic scenarios. All of the hands-on evaluations are distributed throughout three different scenarios and tested on Combat Testing Lanes. These scenarios more closely mirror the types of situations the Soldiers would find themselves in on today's battlefield.

Finally, the event cumulates in testing the candidate's physical and mental toughness with a 12 mile foot march, which must be completed within three hours.

“We started test week on 28 March with 45 candidates,” said Sgt. 1st Class Ott, EFMB NCOIC. “The first event was the written test followed by all candidates negotiating the land navigation course. Thirty-one of the 45 candidates passed day land navigation, and only 19 passed night land navigation.”

Ott continued “Only two candidates failed lane testing.” He attributed the exceptional lane testing results, 17 of 19 candidates (89.4%), to the additional week of training the host unit, the 32nd MED BDE, added prior to

the event. Traditionally, the Soldier's unit prepared the candidate prior to attending EFMB testing.

Czerw also addressed the Soldiers who did not earn the badge saying, “Understand that they call it the ‘expert’ and not the average. It is very difficult,” he said, encouraging them to try again.

This was Young's first attempt at the EFMB, a task not easily completed. Only about 2% of all medical Soldiers have been awarded the EFMB. He is now a member of that elite group of medical Soldiers that hold the EFMB.

*Sgt. 1st Class Craig Anderson  
USAISR*

## DoD Society of American Indian Government Employees 2010 Meritorious Service Award

The Department of the Army has selected the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command's Lt. Col. Max Teehee as the Society of American Indian Government Employees Award winner. Teehee currently serves as the deputy director of the Force Health Protection Investigation-New Drug Branch for USAMRMC.

Each year, the Army recognizes worthy military and civilian candidates for this prestigious award. The DA SAIGE Meritorious Service Award ceremony is tentatively scheduled for presentation during the 7th Annual Training Conference at the Mohegan Sun Hotel and Casino, Uncasville, Conn., June 14–18.

*Headquarters, USAMRMC*



## USAARL Collaborates with Auburn University and Andrews Institute to Develop Initiative

Representatives from the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory including Col. Joseph McKeon and Lt. Col. Shean Phelps attended the groundbreaking ceremony for Auburn University's \$21 million Magnetic Resonance Imaging Research Center located in Auburn's Research and Technology Park Feb. 4.

USAARL is collaborating with Auburn University and the Andrews Institute to develop a Warfighter Resilience, Rehabilitation, and Restoration Initiative. Auburn University

partners include the MRI Research Center, the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, and the Departments of Kinesiology, Psychology, and Communication Disorders.

McKeon, USAARL's commander, stated "We look forward to working with an academic institution of Auburn's caliber, especially given their geographic proximity to USAARL at Fort Rucker and Soldier concentrations at Fort Benning, Georgia."

The Warfighter Resilience, Rehabilitation, and Restoration Initiative will

focus on applying systems-based approaches currently used for professional athletes to improve Warfighter training, operational performance, injury rehabilitation, and return to duty following injury. The initiative will use Auburn University's 3 Tesla (T) and 7T MRI scanners to develop MRI technologies and protocols that investigate traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, sensory impairments (i.e., visual, auditory, vestibular), and neck and lower back injuries. The actively shielded, whole-body 7T MRI scanner, the only one of its kind in the United States, will provide unprecedented imaging of the human brain and musculoskeletal system.

The initiative will not only significantly enhance the research capabilities of all partners involved in the collaboration, but it will also result in benefits for the Warfighter. Anticipated benefits include improved Warfighter resilience to both physical and mental injuries, improved operational performance, efficient rehabilitation, and rapid return to duty.

According to McKeon, "In addition to the payoffs for the Warfighter, this collaboration will also open doors for expanding USAARL's educational outreach program. USAARL scientists and engineers will be positioned to serve as adjunct faculty members at Auburn, and we will be able to foster professional relationships with college students and professors by involving them in research at USAARL."

*Dr. Loraine P. St. Onge  
USAARL Public Affairs*



## USAMMCE Soldiers Participate with German Army Reservists at Black Powder Range

Some U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center, Europe Soldiers received a chance to shoot antique weapons at a Black Powder Range sponsored by German Army Reservists located in Glanbruecken, Germany, April 10.

After a safety brief on how to handle gunpowder and instructions on how to load these weapons, the Soldiers and civilians had the opportunity to shoot the antique weapons. They shot flintstone rifles, percussion cap weapons, and muskets ranging from .45

to .69 calibers. Distances shot were 25–100 meters. These weapons were used in the 1600–1800s, and some of them actually dated back to that time. It was a noisy, fun-filled afternoon with lots of powder smoke filling the air. After the shoot, everyone enjoyed the camaraderie while having a meal together.

*Doris Crittenden  
USAMMCE Public Affairs*



## Dr. Jaques Reifman Is Honored at the 2009 Presidential Rank Award Ceremony

Dr. Jaques Reifman, Department of Defense High Performance Computing Software Applications Institute, Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center, senior research scientist, has been selected to receive the prestigious Presidential Rank Award.

The Honorable John M. McHugh will honor 2009 Presidential Rank Award recipients at an awards ceremony June 28 at 2 p.m., at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery. Only 5% of the senior executives in the U.S. government are annually selected to receive the Presidential Rank Award.

The Presidential Rank Awards program is an individual award program granted to U.S. government career senior executives and senior career employees within the OPM-allocated senior-level or scientific-professional community.

The Presidential Rank Award honors high-performing senior career employees for sustained extraordinary accomplishments, according to the OPM web site.

“In my 37 years serving in the Army or working for the Army, I have seen an awfully lot of very dedicated and patriotic people but never have seen anybody who works so hard, and is so thorough, and demands so much from himself as does Dr. Reifman. Of course, the other basic qualities that enabled his achievements are superb intelligence, uncanny resourcefulness, dogged determination, a rare sense of scientific purpose and rigor, impeccable integrity, and active participative ‘do-as-I-do’ leadership,” said Dr. Gary R. Gilbert, TATRC’s chief, Knowledge Engineering Group at USAMRMC.



Dr. Reifman is the first USAMRMC senior-level scientist to receive such an honor. He also serves as the director of the Department of Defense Biotechnology High Performance Computing Software Applications Institute, where he leads a team of about 40 doctoral-level scientists in computational biology research. For more information about the BHSI and TATRC, visit [www.bhsai.org](http://www.bhsai.org) and [www.tatrc.org](http://www.tatrc.org), respectively.

*Tiffany Holloway*  
USAMRMC Public Affairs

## USAMRICD Offers Service with a Smile

Every day customers come to the Supply Office at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense and are greeted by a mild manner and hardy smile from Spc. Yoel Olaciregui.

Olaciregui is leaving his mark on USAMRICD with a gentle kindness. From greeting FedEx drivers to assisting internal customers with their supplies, to shipping and receiving supplies and equipment, to handing out smocks to customers, Olaciregui has it under control with a smile.

There is no problem too small or too big that he won’t attend to and get results.

Every person that comes into contact with Olaciregui leaves with knowing they were treated with respect and kindness. Recently, the institute was being re-inspected by the Command Logistics Review Team. Olaciregui’s valuable skills greatly enhanced Textile Care management operations and Individual Clothing and equipment files for the institute by improving the deficiencies in those areas.

Olaciregui won the 2nd Quarter Soldier of the Quarter board. He has done numerous funeral details in support of our fallen comrades and is an active member of the institute’s

Color Guard. Olaciregui recently re-enlisted to go to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, with his wife Ivana.

*Staff Sgt. Rayetta McLaughlin*  
USAMRICD



## WRAIR Soldier Receives General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award

*Duty, Honor, Country... those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you want to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying point to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope becomes forlorn.*

— Gen. Douglas MacArthur

Capt. Richard E. Wood is the recipient of the prestigious General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award for 2009 to represent the Medical Command.

Every year, the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award recognizes company-grade officers who demonstrate the ideals for which General MacArthur Stood—Duty, Honor, Country—and promotes and sustains effective junior officer leadership in the Army. A total of 28 officers are selected each year for the award. Each candidate must be nominated by his/her major command to compete against other active Army nominees on the Headquarters, Department of Army selection board. For 2009, Wood, chief of Supply Operation at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, was nominated by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command to compete at the MEDCOM board and was selected as the winner of this prestigious award. The selection criteria were based on overall leadership performance during 2009 with distinct factors to include leadership, influence, proficiency, values, team building, and personal skills. In addition to meeting these criteria, Wood also received letters of endorsement from both Brig. Gen. Keith Gallagher, commander of the U.S. Army Europe Regional Medical Command, as well as Maj. Gen. James Gilman, commander of USAMRMC.

Wood’s most significant accomplishment and contribution in 2009 was serving at the 44th MEDCOM, Fort Bragg, as a premier medical logistician while deployed to support Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq. He significantly innovated and streamlined medical logistics policies and procedures to an unprecedented level of excellence in the Iraqi theater of operations, maintaining command and control of his team despite its multiple missions at myriad locations throughout the combat zone. He was instrumental in supporting the theater-wide distribution of more than \$12 million worth of HEMCON bandages, \$1.5 million worth of Warrior Aid Litter Kits, and more than 55,000 units of life-saving blood products. Simply put, Wood’s contribution to the mission in Iraq unquestionably saved many lives. Upon return from his deployment, Wood continued to excel by taking on the mission to establish and activate the first and only Medical Logistics Support Company in the Army, which involved coordinating the lateral transfer and accountability of millions of dollars of property and multiple personnel transactions. Wood’s dedication and commitment to excellence resulted in one of the most successful transitions in the MEDCOM.

Wood currently serves and excels as both the chief of Supply Operations in

the Logistics Division and as the Detachment commander at WRAIR. He has also been selected to serve as the chief of staff at the U.S. Army Medical Research Unit-Kenya in the fall of 2010. Wood represents the epitome of professionalism and competence of the Army Medical Department junior officer. In addition, he represents the future of the AMEDD as he stands for Duty, Honor, Country.

As the recipient of the General MacArthur Leadership Award, Wood will be recognized at an award ceremony at the Pentagon May 5–6, where he will officially receive the award from the chief of staff, Army and the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation. Wood’s father, Richard Wood, Sr., will also be present at the ceremony.

*Lt. Col. Song H. Gotiangco*  
WRAIR



## USAMMDA Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Soldiers, civilians, and contractors celebrated the 25th anniversary of the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity June 1 at the community activities center. USAMMDA commander, Col. Russell E. Coleman, welcomed present and past USAMMDA personnel and distinguished guests. “We are here to celebrate 25 years of supporting our deployed Warfighters,” said Coleman. “We are celebrating 25 years in the business of saving lives.”

The celebration reviewed the past, present, and future of protecting and sustaining the Warfighter. Special guest speaker, Dr. Ronald E. Clawson, USAMMDA product manager for Pharmaceutical Systems from 1993 to 2002, spoke about the formation of USAMMDA and events leading up to the present. “USAMMDA has delivered countless medical systems to the American Warfighter,” said Clawson. “You have done it through your dedication, your knowledge, experience, and your desire to ensure that our Warfighter has the best medical countermeasures available.”

Clawson congratulated USAMMDA on its tremendously successful 25 years of service but informed USAMMDA that there are still challenges to be met in the future. “You need to continue

to work harder today to deliver what the military needs tomorrow,” said Clawson. “You need to be preparing now to fight the next war, and looking around USAMMDA, I see the people here who can do just that.” Coleman continued the program by speaking about the present and future of USAMMDA. “For almost nine years now, we have been a nation at war,” said Coleman. “The devices that we have fielded have kept many of the deployed young men and women alive.”

Coleman pointed out that the war on terrorism has changed the way the military does business especially when it comes to improvised explosive devices and the need for mine resistant ambush protected vehicles. “MRAP. Without IEDs, we wouldn’t need MRAPs,” said Coleman. “But we need them, and the military fielded them, and folks at USAMMDA played an important role in that.”

Coleman emphasized the importance of several programs within USAMMDA, including malaria drugs, blood products, and medical and casualty evacuation capabilities. “Just as the military has changed, so has medicine in the military,” said Coleman. “It is a constant balancing act, blending the old with

the new and making sure we are responding to the operational needs of the Warfighter.”

Looking to the future, Coleman acknowledged that there are changes coming USAMMDA’s way, but USAMMDA will meet them head on. He concluded his speech with a moment of silence in respect to fallen and deployed Warfighters.

Lt. Col. Karen M. Kopydlowski, deputy commander of USAMMDA, served as the master of ceremonies, keeping the 25th anniversary celebration on track. Col. Isiah M. Harper, chief of medical affairs at USAMMDA, provided the invocation before the luncheon, remembering all the deployed Warfighters USAMMDA serves.

USAMMDA was established March 15, 1985, as a subordinate activity under the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. Throughout the past 25 years, USAMMDA has been moved around Fort Detrick and Frederick and undergone several structural reorganizations to better support its mission and the Warfighter.

*Carey Phillips  
USAMMDA Public Affairs*

## Medical Support Systems Project Management Office Named Finalist for Service to America Medals

The Medical Support Systems Project Management Office at the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity was named a 2010 National Security and International Affairs Medal finalist for the Service to America Medals sponsored by the Partnership for Public Service.

The Medical Support Systems team was nominated for the National Security and International Affairs Medal for developing a casualty evacuation kit also known as the CASEVAC kit that allows most combat vehicles, including MRAP (mine resistant ambush protected) vehicles and helicopters, to rapidly convert into medical evacuation vehicles in under a minute.

“We had to reassess how to best keep our Soldiers safe, which is the number one priority,” said Teri Glass, acting project manager for the Medical Support Systems Project Management Office. “We needed to figure out how we could both provide them with immediate treatment at the point of injury and also be able to get them back to the care they urgently needed within the critical first hour.”

The CASEVAC kit is small allowing for easy storage and retrieval. The kit includes a foldable litter equipped with a restraint and lift system and a rear-facing attendant seat for the medic. In 2009, more than 400 CASEVAC kits were fielded in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

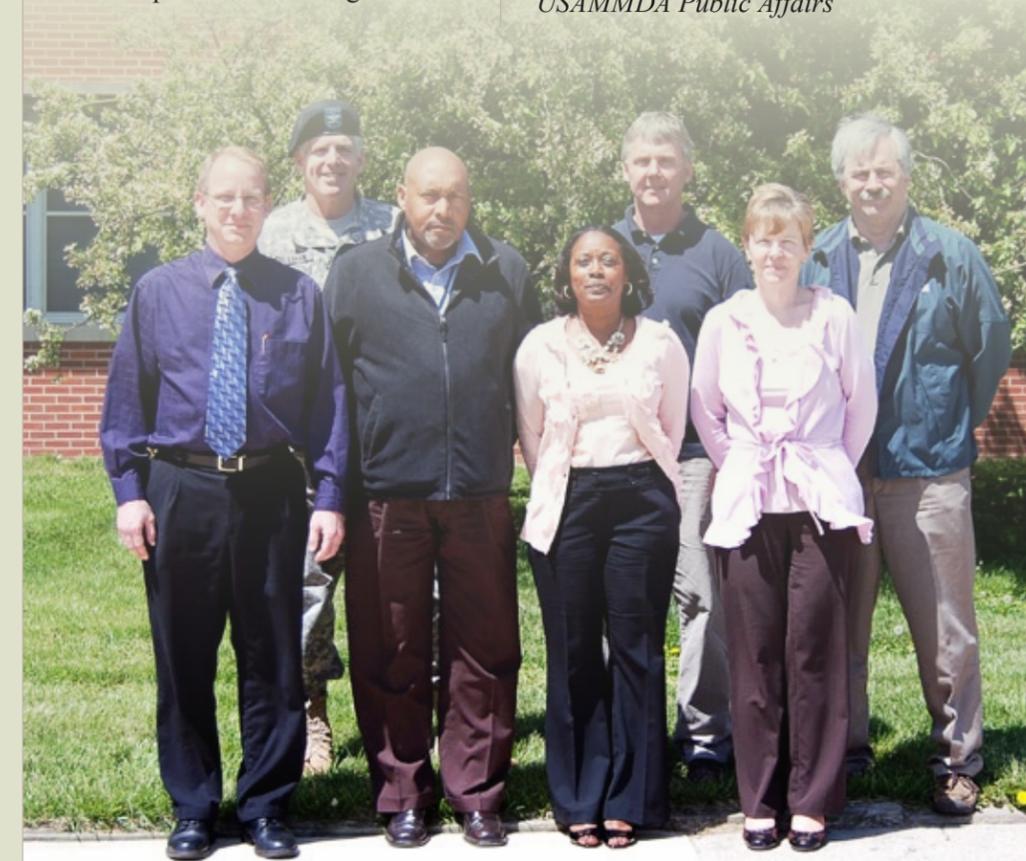
Nominees from the Medical Support Systems team include Teri Glass, Jaime Lee, James Cromartie, Mark Brown, Murray Swanson, John Cesca, Julia Hanes, Sharon Morgan, and Steve Reichard.

The Service to America Medals celebrated a reputation as one of the most prestigious awards dedicated to recognizing the devotion and significant contributions America’s public servants provide addressing the needs

of the nation. According to the Partnership for Public Service, the Service to America Medals is often referred to as the “Oscars” of government service.

The Medical Support Systems team will be acknowledged as a finalist May 5. Medal recipients will be announced at a ceremony in Washington, DC, Sept. 15.

*Carey Phillips  
USAMMDA Public Affairs*



The Medical Support Systems Project Management Office at the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity was named a 2010 National Security and International Affairs Medal finalist for the Service to America Medals.

## USARIEM Hosts “Careers in Science” Day

A group of 38 advanced-placement high school juniors and seniors along with four teacher chaperones from Oxford High School in central Massachusetts took a field trip to visit the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine March 26.

Dr. Bradley Nindl, a principal investigator with the Military Performance Division and host of the visit, keenly remembers the influence that early exposure to science and access to mentors who were passionate about research had on his career. “I wanted to give these students the same oppor-

tunity I had as a high school student whose interest in science was sparked by a field trip to a research center,” Nindl said.

USARIEM’s research staff consists of military and civilian personnel in positions ranging from research technicians to investigators. Students were divided into four groups and in round-robin format received demonstrations in the Physical Performance/Body Composition/Bone Health Laboratory; the Warfighter Cognitive Performance Laboratory; the Center for Military Biomechanics

Research; and the Doriot Climatic Chambers. The scientists who briefed their research were Capt. Tanja Roy, Capt. Cassie Strohbach, Dr. Joseph Seay, Dr. Louis Banderet, and Col. Keith Hiatt.

After the tour, students received a presentation entitled “A Career in Research, What Does It Take, Is It for Me?” from Dr. Edward Zambraski, chief of the Military Performance Division. Zambraski defined the difference between basic and applied research and challenged students to get as much exposure to research as they can through coursework, seminars/lectures, independent study projects, and visiting research institutes such as USARIEM. He also suggested that students identify their own strengths and build upon them (e.g., math, science, arts, history, language, business, and education).

Sgt. Nemanja Pavlovic, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Military Performance Division, concluded the visit with a demonstration on opening an MRE (Meal, Ready-to-Eat), heating the main entree (chicken fajita), consuming the MRE, and the art of bartering the unwanted portions with fellow Soldiers. The female students were particularly entertained by this display and sought Pavlovic’s autograph prior to departure.

Students agreed on the return bus ride and reported to their teacher that “this was the best field trip ever.”

*Terry Rice*  
USARIEM Public Affairs

Dr. Joe Seay, a biomechanist in the Military Performance Division at USARIEM, briefs on the capabilities of a force-sensing treadmill and the importance of biomechanics research in studying military load carriage.

*Photo Credit: Richard Walunas, U.S. Army*

## USACEHR Is Named Service to America Medals Award Finalist



Pictured left to right: Linda Brennan, biologist; David Trader, research biologist (Aquatic); Mark Widder, research biologist; Congressman Roscoe Bartlett; Dr. Thomas Gargan, research administration manager; Dr. William van der Schalie, Science & Technology director; and Tommy Shedd, research biologist (Aquatic)

The U.S. Army Center for Environmental Health Research and William van der Schalie and the Environmental Sentinel Biomonitor Team were finalists for the Sammies, an award sponsored by the Partnership for Public Service, a nonprofit organization that focuses on issues affecting federal workers. The team’s mission was to develop an innovative way to detect chemical contamination of drinking water supplies and keep millions of Americans safe in large metropolitan areas. To help fight this serious public health threat, they have joined forces with an uncommon ally—fish.

In a process that combines both science and the wonders of nature, the researchers are using bluegill as indicators of water toxicity levels. Originally developed for use by the military, the system has been commercialized and is now being used to protect some large city water supplies from dangerous pollutants and the possibility of foul play.

Lt. Col. Andrea Stahl attributes the success of van der Schalie’s team to a long-term approach. “They have a commitment to addressing these issues over time, and their persistence

has made a tremendous difference. Much of their success is due to the leadership of Dr. van der Schalie,” said Stahl. “He is the model federal employee. He’s incredibly hard working, is organized, and plans well across his team. You couldn’t ask for a better employee.”

*Source information provided by the Service to America Medals Organization*



USAARL

USAMRMC

USAISR

February 2010

**Army Achievement Medal**  
Spc. Nikkeyla Barbee

**Certificate of Achievement**

Mr. Charles Brown  
Ms. Pat Grimes  
Mr. Tyrone Leonard  
Mr. Jonathan Matula  
Mr. Paul Stricklin  
Cpl. Bradley Wilson

**10 Years of Service**

Dr. Khalid Barazanji

**Promotion**

2nd Lt. Byron Pieper

April 2010

**Meritorious Service Medal**  
2nd Lt. Byron Pieper  
Sgt. 1st Class Victoria Reeves

April 2010

**Meritorious Service Medal**  
Maj. Ammon W. Brown  
Maj. James F. Cole  
Sgt. Justin J. Geddas  
Maj. Kija A. Korowicki  
Maj. Kevin J. Leary  
Col. Charles B. Millard  
Master Sgt. Maybon I. Pollock  
Capt. Benjamin M. Rowe  
Sgt. Brian K. Viskup  
Lt. Col. Neal E. Wollen

**Promotions**

Staff Sgt. Perla Gomez  
Staff Sgt. Ryan Hollist  
Lt. Col. Joseph Hsu  
Maj. Michael Plueger  
Maj. Peter Williams

## USAMRIID Soldier Wins STRATCOM Poster Contest

Congratulations to Sgt. Christopher Giddinge of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases for his winning entry in a poster contest sponsored by the U.S. Army Command's Strategic Communication Directorate. The challenge was to create a poster that "emulates the successful transition of the Army Combat Medic from the skill set of 91B to today's 68W." The contest was open to all Soldiers and Army civilians, and the winner was selected by a committee at Medical Command Headquarters.

Giddinge is a health care specialist (68W) assigned to the Special Immunizations Program within USAMRIID's Medical Division. He proudly serves as a protocol assistant and travel coordinator for the SIP within the Medical Division. Prior to joining USAMRIID, Giddinge served five years with the 1/36 Infantry First Armored Division. He served as a trauma medic during his first combat tour in Baghdad and exemplified his dedication to the unit by reenlisting for stabilization to complete a second tour in the Anbar province.

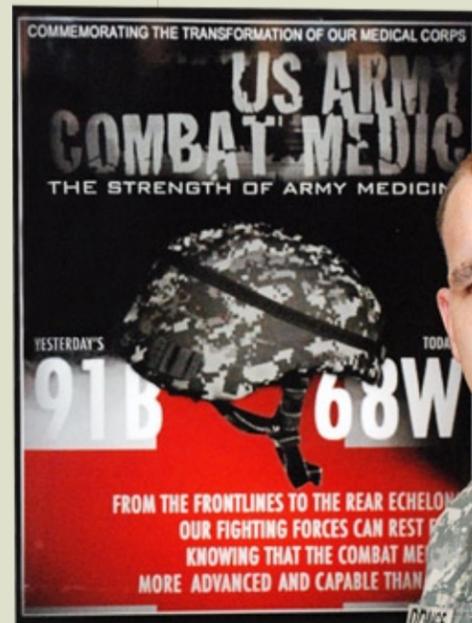
Giddinge's medical and battlefield experiences in Iraq motivated and inspired him to work with veterans and wounded warriors. He recently

reenlisted to become an occupational therapist assistant and hopes to apply these skills assisting in the rehabilitation of wounded warriors and eventually in a second career with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

At a recent ceremony, Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, U.S. Army Surgeon General, unveiled the winning poster designed by Giddinge.

"You captured the very essence of what it means to be a 68W," Schoomaker wrote on his blog. "Thank you for your dedication to Army Medicine."

*USAMRIID Public Affairs Office*



## USAMMA Soldier Reviews the Simplified Automated Ventilator

The Army is fielding a new field-expedient ventilator called the Simplified Automated Ventilator or SAVe. This ventilator is being introduced as the new portable ventilating system to medics in the field.

Its durable, lightweight design with an inlet port that is nearly impossible to occlude makes it ideal for use in overseas contingency operations. The two models currently being fielded will deliver either 600 mL of oxygen per ten breathes or 600 mL of oxygen per 12 breaths. The electronic makeup of the unit is equally as simple and operates in one mode, either on or off.

The unit has two circuit boards, one for the battery-charging circuit and one for the on/off switch and display circuit, making this medical device an easy unit to repair for biomedical

equipment specialists. The durability of this unit extended the maintenance interval from semiannual to annual, reducing maintenance costs and equipment down time. It is as simple as connecting the vent to a test lung via the patient circuit and then connecting it to a computer with the new view software and copying the summary to the manufacturer's specific test sheet.

Units are now more efficient in the field; rather than having a medic manually operate the bag valve mask (also known as a BVM or Ambu bag) on a wounded Soldier, the medic can connect the SAVe "plug and play" style and move on to the next patient, but the SAVe still must be monitored.



Spc. Bryan J. Posey, 68A, Biomedical Equipment Specialist stationed in Utah reviews the Simplified Automated Ventilator.

This ventilator is an excellent piece of medical equipment that will help save lives on the battlefield.

*Spc. Bryan J. Posey, 68A, Biomedical Equipment specialist U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency-Utah*

January 2010

**Commander's Award**  
Sheila Peel

**Achievement Medal for Civilian Service**  
Evelina Angov

**Special Act**

Evelina Angov  
Timothy Cannon  
German Caranto  
Elaine Morrison  
Janak Rajani  
Charles Robinson  
Hsu-Sheng Tsung

**Time Off Award**  
Christina Del Valle

February 2010

**Time Off Award**  
Jennifer Sun

**On the Spot Cash**  
Jennifer Sun

March 2010

**Achievement Medal for Civilian Service**  
Timothy Cannon  
David McCauley  
Matthew Robert  
Joshua Soderberg

**Special Act**

Frank Carter  
Carolyn Hales  
Albert Kabbara

Aquil Lynch  
Edwin Oaks

**Time Off Award**  
Carolyn Hales  
Nalo Merriman  
Amy Michels

**April 2010**  
**Special Act and Certificate of Appreciation**  
Edwin Oaks  
Walter Sanders  
Charles White

**Time Off Award**  
Stephen Nnam

WRRAIR