

The Point

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



Research Laboratory Donates Computers to Local Schools

The U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory at Fort Rucker donated more than 66 computer systems to the Opp Board of Education Dec. 9. Ryan Sasser, information technology specialist, and Donnie Carnley, maintenance supervisor, accepted the donated equipment on behalf of Opp City Schools. According to Sasser, the computers will be placed in laboratories and classrooms in Opp City Schools to facilitate the study of science and mathematics.

According to Col. Joseph McKeon, USAARL commander, "In order to encourage the study of science and mathematics at all levels of education, federal laboratory commanders are authorized by the Education Partnership Act, Title 10 United States Code 2194, to transfer to educational non-profit organizations excess defense laboratory equipment."

"As a local defense laboratory that employs scientists, engineers, and research technicians, USAARL wants to encourage students enrolled in Wiregrass schools to learn important



Representatives from Opp City Schools accept more than 66 computers donated by USAARL. Pictured from left to right are John Matula (USAARL), Sharon Fales (USAARL), Col. Joseph McKeon (USAARL), Ryan Sasser (Opp City Schools), Donnie Carnley (Opp City Schools), Capt. Kenneth Emerson (USAARL), Patricia Grimes (USAARL), and Patrick Likely (USAARL).

Photo by Scott Childress of USAARL

mathematics and science concepts," McKeon said. "We also want students to learn how to perform basic computer technology skills, such as typing, conducting educationally based Internet searches, communicating via e-mail, and using various computer programs."

"The laboratory makes these contributions to local students so that

the nation will benefit from a better prepared scientific, engineering, and technical workforce," McKeon said. "In the spirit of the Education Partnership Act, we recognize the importance of education to the future and economic well-being of our community and nation."

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USAISR Soldier Wins at All Small Arms Championship

The All Army Small Arms Championship was held Feb. 20–27, 2010 at Fort Benning, Ga., and is an annual advanced combat live-fire training event. Training and skill exercises are applicable to all military small arms firing disciplines. The intent of this competition is to develop combat firing skills at the intermediate level, recognize superior skill at the highest levels, and raise the standard of marksmanship across the entire force. The schedule of events includes two days of pistol, two days of rifle, one day of long range, and two days of combined arms shooting.



Photo by the Army Marksmanship Unit

Sgt. Maj. Christopher L. Jenkins, U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, competed as an individual and joined five other Soldiers from the Soldier Medic Training Site at Camp Bullis, Texas, as a member of the Army Medical Department Center and School first-ever Combat Shooting Team. Other team members included, Capt. Thomas Kennedy, Sgt. 1st Class Rey Flete, Staff Sgt Christian Koscinski, Staff Sgt. Nick Coffey, and Staff Sgt. Michael Smarr. Overall, the team finished 17th out of 47 total teams. According to Jenkins, “Most of the other teams had at least two professional-level distinguished marksmen and other experienced shooters who have been competing in this event for years. All the AMEDD C&S team members were novice-level competitors, so finishing 17th against such experienced marksmen was an outstanding achievement.”

During the first two days of pistol competition, Jenkins won silver and bronze medals for placing second and third in individual matches. He also earned a bronze Excellence in Competition Pistol Shot Badge for placing in the top 10% of eligible nondistinguished competitors during the EIC match. The EIC Badge is authorized for wear on the Army uniform and takes precedence over the Marksmanship Qualification Badge. Overall, Jenkins finished 13th out of 277 other competitors during the pistol competition.

Pistol matches were timed and fired with the M9 Beretta at distances as far as 35 yards and as close as 10 yards. Scenarios changed for each match to include magazine changes; standing, kneeling, and prone shooting positions; slow/rapid fire; and shooting from a barricade. One team match started with a two mile run immediately followed by a timed match.

During the rifle competition, the team placed 21st of 47 teams with no individual awards.

Rifle matches were timed and fired with the M16A4 from as far as 500 yards to as close as 25 yards. Describing the rifle competition, Jenkins said, “Scenarios and shooting positions were similar to the pistol matches, but the rifle matches were much more physically demanding. As an example, after shooting 10 rounds in 90 seconds from the 500 yard line, competitors were only given 90 seconds to run to the 400 yard line and shoot another 10 rounds. That pace and distance continued until competitors reached the final stage and had expended all their ammunition.”

During the combined arms matches, the team placed 19th out of 49 teams with no individual awards. The combined arms matches included firing 20 rounds from an AK-47 on full

auto, the M9 Beretta pistol, and the M16A4 rifle. During these matches, competitors were required to shoot targets from a marked area as fast as they could, change weapons if needed, run to a different area, and shoot additional targets as fast a possible until all targets were down or all ammunition was expended.

After the competition, Jenkins said, “When I started training for this event, I thought I knew a good bit about marksmanship, but I was mistaken. I now know that any type of shooting is really very simple, it only requires two things—first, maintain a good site picture; second, have proper trigger control. However, for most people, keeping it that simple isn’t so easy. Ninety-nine percent of all the mistakes made during the competition were mental mistakes, not physical or mechanical errors. Errors such as firing on someone else’s target, firing on your own targets out of sequence, loading the wrong number of rounds in magazines, and shooting from the wrong position were common occurrences.”

The AMEDD C&S team’s coach, Sgt. 1st Class Russell Moore, USAR, repeated as overall champion again this year, and he summarizes his pre-match thoughts like this, “Mongo pull trigger.” Jenkins thinks “SFC Moore is by far the best shot and best shooting coach I’ve ever met because he is very positive and is an excellent communicator, but when it comes time to perform, he has the ability to stop thinking and just keeps it simple. That is probably the biggest lesson the team learned about marksmanship during this competition.”

Mike Feeley
USAISR Public Affairs

Licina Receives Lifetime SAFE Award

A retiree from the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory received an Honorary Lifetime Membership Award at the 2009 SAFE Symposium in San Diego, Calif.

Joe Licina was presented the award because of the significant contributions he has made in the field of safety. He has contributed 42 years of continued direct involvement with Aviation Life Support Equipment.

The SAFE Association was established in 1956 under its original name, the Space and Flight Equipment Association. SAFE is a worldwide, nonprofit professional association dedicated to the preservation of human life.

SAFE members represent the fields of education, engineering, equipment design, fire and rescue, human factors, industrial safety, management, medicine, psychology, physiology, survival training, and the many sub-fields associated with the design and operation of aircraft, automobiles, buses, trucks, trains, spacecraft, and watercraft. The SAFE Symposium is an annual meeting that provides a forum for the sharing of problems and solutions in the field of safety.

Licina worked with or managed the U.S. Army Aviation Life Support Equipment Retrieval Program at USAARL for 28 years and contributed to every manned airframe development effort for the U.S. Army



Joe Licina receives an Honorary Lifetime Membership Award at the 2009 SAFE Symposium in San Diego, Calif.

since 1983. He taught the U.S. Army Aviation Flight Surgeon’s Course and the U.S. Army Aviation Safety Officer’s Course at Fort Rucker. He also developed the Aeromedical Certification and Evaluation program for the testing of medical equipment used in rotary wing aircraft. He is a major contributor in the study of helmet technology in areas such as fitting, performance, and accommodation. Over the course of his career, Licina presented all over the world, including past SAFE conferences, and authored more than 80 publications.

Catherine Machen
USAARL Public Affairs

Go, Gray, Go!

Magical moments happened in Orlando at Goofy's Race and a Half Challenge Jan. 5-7 for Matt Gray. The budget analyst for the Blast Injury Research Program Coordinating Office ran a total of 42.4 miles during the recent 2010 Walt Disney World Marathon Weekend. Gray ran a 5K (3.1 miles) Friday, a half marathon (13.1 miles) Saturday, and a full marathon (26.2 miles) Sunday. The half marathon was finished by 17,102 runners, and 16,883 runners finished the full marathon. Only 5,947 runners completed both races, known as the Goofy Challenge.

"Disney was a good place for people who are just starting out. There are a lot of water stations, you can run or walk with enough time to finish the race, and you can even get your picture taken with some of the Disney characters. The scenery is great because you run through all four parks," said Gray. Gray, an ex-smoker, completed the half marathon in 2:06 and the full marathon in 4:47:02. "I haven't smoked in 14 months. I decided to replace that bad habit with running," said Gray.

He said that he and his twin brother are always looking for some type of crazy activity to do together and decided to run a marathon. They looked for a nice place where they could take their families, hence Disney World. Gray had never participated in a marathon. He did admit that his grandparents were marathon runners. They both ran marathons until they were in their seventies.

To condition his body, he trained for six months, peaking at roughly 40 miles per week. The initial plans

for the marathon started off on the wrong foot although things turned out better than expected. Before the event, Gray's twin brother incurred a knee injury and wasn't able to join him for the Goofy Challenge. Christie, his pregnant wife, wasn't able to run her 5K on Friday so he ran for her. "Since I had her bib on, I could hear people cheering me on, saying, 'Go Christie!'" said Gray.

The weather wasn't friendly. Gray ran in subfreezing temperatures and sleet. Not only that, his watch and headphones both died before the start of the marathon. He had no other choice but to relax and just enjoy the experience. His motivation for the full marathon was his wife waiting for him at mile marker 24. Once he saw her, he knew there were only a couple more miles. Another motivating

Donate

This is the sixth computer equipment transfer USAARL has made to schools in the Wiregrass. Other donations from USAARL include photographic equipment to Enterprise-Ozark Community College and science laboratory equipment to Troy University and Opp High School.

moment while he was running was following a man wearing a shirt that read "LPF>DNF>DNS," which means a "Last Place Finish" is greater than "Did Not Finish," which is infinitely greater than "Did Not Start." "I really liked that shirt. It definitely put things in perspective for me." Gray said he would do it again, however, he would prefer warmer weather.

*Tiffany Holloway
USAMRMC Public Affairs*

School administrators who are interested in being considered for future excess scientific/computer equipment donations should contact Sharon Fales at 334-255-6936.

*Catherine Machen
USAARL Public Affairs*



Matt Gray, budget analyst for the Blast Injury Research Program Coordinating Office, poses with his Disney medals, Disney chocolates, and a Goofy souvenir his boss bought to congratulate him. Gray ran three races, two of which were marathons.

USAMRICD Microscopist Elected to Fellowship in Professional Society

The Microscopy Society of America Council has elected Dr. John P. Petrali of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense to fellowship of the society. According to Dr. David W. Piston, president of MSA, election to fellowship "is intended to recognize distinguished members of the society who have made significant contributions to the advancement of the science and practice of microscopy imaging, analysis and/or diffraction techniques."

Specifically, Petrali is being recognized "for his pioneering work in ultrastructural pathology, his tireless educational activities, and his outstanding contributions to the Microscopy Society of America and its local affiliates." Only a small percentage of the society's membership receives the designation "MSA Fellow." While honored by the recognition of his peers, Petrali also finds it humbling. "It is nice to be recognized for an effort that has always been a labor of love for me," said Petrali.

Founded in 1942 as the Electron Microscopy Society of America, the society focused on teaching and demonstrating the advances of the relatively new science of electron microscopy, to include, says Petrali, "instrumentation, specimen preparation, special staining methods, such as histochemistry and immunocytochemistry, and finalized micrograph documentations." The society dropped electron from its name in 1993 to reflect its inclusion of all kinds of microscopy (light, confocal, atomic force, scanning, etc.).

Petrali became a member of the society in the early 1960s, giving his first presentation as a co-author at the society's annual meeting in 1966 in Philadelphia. At the time, Petrali operated the electron microscope in the Pathology Department of the Army's Biomedical Laboratory, a predecessor laboratory of USAMRICD, and recalls that the presentation highlighted the department's successes with immunocytochemistry using the microscope.

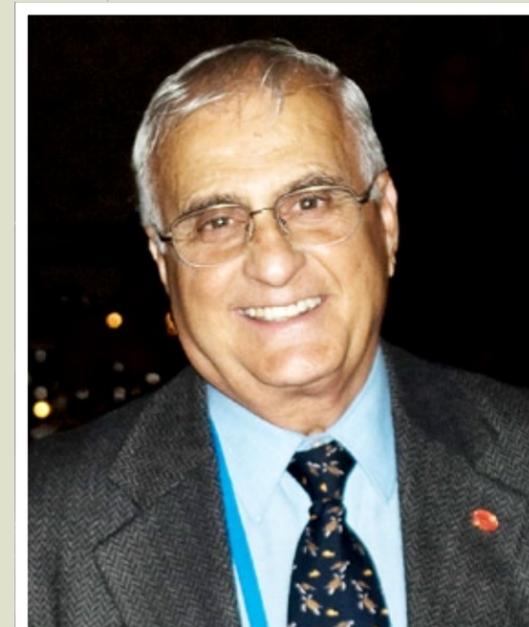
Since then, Petrali has been a very active member of the society, both on the national and local levels. On the national level, Petrali has served as a meeting session chair and workshop chair at the society's annual scientific meetings. He also currently serves as chairman of the MSA Certification Board. For the local affiliate, the Chesapeake Society for Microscopy, Petrali has held the offices of vice president and president, and served as a Baltimore council member three times.

During his long career at USAMRICD, Petrali has conducted many pioneering studies dealing with the ultrastructural pathology and immunopathology of the pathogenesis of chemical warfare agents, and his discoveries have led to the development of specific immunodiagnostic tests and new treatment regimens following exposure. In addition to his research, Petrali

has served as associate professor in the University of Maryland School of Medicine's departments of anatomy and dermatology, where he has taught courses in the ultrastructural sciences to include ultrastructural pathology, ultrastructural anatomy, cytochemistry, as well as certification courses.

Petrali is the author or co-author of more than 130 peer-reviewed scholarly articles, eight book chapters, and 31 technical reports and has presented his research at innumerable scientific and professional meetings. In addition, he has mentored many young scientists in the biomedical disciplines of microscopy who have gone on to successful careers in the medical clinical and laboratory sciences.

*Cindy Kronman
USAMRICD Public Affairs*





USAMRICD Specialist Gets Promoted and Receives Commendations

Sgt. Nydia Conder is a 68KP9 who is stationed at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. Conder's responsibility includes the Department of Defense Chemical Personnel Reliability Program, where she serves as a custodian for non-regulated chemical agents and exempt chemical surety material chemical warfare agent material. She also serves as an instructor for both the Medical Management of Chemical and Biological Casualties and Field Management of Chemical and Biological Casualties courses at USAMRICD.

Apart from her technical duties at USAMRICD, Conder volunteered and assumed the position of chairperson for the 2009 USAMRICD MWR Holiday Extravaganza and served as the fundraising chairman. She was solely responsible for planning, executing, and orchestrating the highly successful December event. The USAMRICD command team praised the results of her tireless efforts. Conder had to budget for the festivities and ensure all monies were properly handled and dispensed. Conder was instrumental in raising more than \$16,000 during the year, which not only contributed to the success of the Holiday Extravaganza, but aided in the highly successful USAMRICD Organizational Day earlier that summer. She volunteered more than 160 off-duty hours, planning, cooking, and purchasing supplies, and working the fundraisers throughout the year. She organized car washes, holiday-related

themes, sold USAMRICD t-shirts, and served lunches to students and staff attending the MCBC/FCBC courses. Her contributions and diligence enhanced USAMRICD's mission to include the morale and welfare of all Soldiers and civilians assigned.

In addition to her daily duties, duties as the MWR Fundraiser chairperson, and duties as the MWR Holiday Extravaganza chairperson, Conder had yet another goal she wanted to attain. She wanted to be Soldier of the Year for USAMRICD and win the Best Warrior Competition at the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. Somehow, finding time throughout the months prior, she studied, practiced, and trained for USAMRICD's Soldier of the Year competition. In November, just one month before the Holiday Extravaganza, she competed in multiple stressful events over a three-day period that included: Combatives, APFT, M16/M4 Qualification, Short Range Marksmanship Reflective Fire, Written Exam, Essay, Day and Night Urban Orienteering, Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills, Drill and Ceremony, and the Formal Administrative Oral Board. Her hard work had a silver lining; she earned the 2009 USAMRICD's Soldier of the Year award. After bestowing this honor, Conder was back to work preparing for USAMRMC's Best Warrior Competition and planning USAMRICD's Holiday Extravaganza. Knowing that the competition was only a few days



before the Holiday Extravaganza, she was determined that nothing would be compromised. Conder did compete. Although she did not win the competition, she was a force to be reckoned with and continuously gave 100%, and in the eyes of her leaders, she was a winner. The Holiday Extravaganza, held just a couple of days after the competition, was a huge success.

Conder was deservedly promoted to sergeant Jan. 1, 2010. Conder was recognized for her dedication and selfless service with an Army Achievement Medal. She was also presented with a USAMRICD Commander's Coin of Excellence. Conder is a great example of determination and selfless service.

*Sgt. 1st Class John E. Evans
Senior Enlisted Advisor
USAMRICD*

MeRITS Implements New Storage System for Regulatory Files

The Division of Regulated Activities and Compliance recently accepted delivery of a new web-based software application from the Medical Research Information Technology System Project Management Office that will be used to store the Department of the Army, Office of The Surgeon General-sponsored regulatory files. The system is called the Sponsor's Electronic Regulatory Files, otherwise referred to as SERF.

"SERF is designed to be compliant with the Food and Drug Administration regulations for computer systems," said Dr. Robert Miller, Division of Regulated Activities and Compliance director. "This is one of the systems that is required before the USAMRMC moves from a paper-based document management system to an FDA-compliant one." SERF is a new addition to the MeRITS Electronic Document Management System, a web-based, commercial-off-the-shelf instance of Livelink™ that is configured to meet the functional requirements of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. The system was developed and tested by a working group composed of members of DRAC management, the DRAC Regulatory Submissions Team, and the MeRITS PMO.

EDMS provides SERF users with many useful features, including version control, audit trails, powerful search functions, and integration with key desktop applications.

"Typically, members of integrated product teams and collaborators may



need to have read access to files for particular investigational new drugs," said Maj. Lee Lefkowitz, MeRITS liaison officer.

SERF is a distinct, access-controlled area of EDMS designed to replace the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity's legacy FDA regulation 21 CFR part 11 noncompliant Document Management System. SERF stores files and critical metadata to meet DRAC business requirements, as well as storing files that have been submitted to the FDA.

Files are uploaded to SERF by a member of the Regulatory Submissions team and are categorized by product number and submission type to allow

for easy and rapid retrieval. DRAC-appointed system administrators control the level of access to files on a case-by-case basis, allowing read-only access or granting permission for users to modify SERF content of restricting files.

Two training courses for SERF, EDMS-302 SERF User Training and EDMS-303 SERF Administrator Training, have been developed by the MeRITS PMO.

*Carey Phillips
USAMMDA Public Affairs*



USAMRMC 2009

Best Warrior Competition Winners

Trophies that the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year won for the "Best Warrior Competition."



Soldiers in the competition prepare for the weapons range.



Soldiers in the competition participate in a patient assessment.

The U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Soldier of the Year Competition for 2009 was held at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. The competition tested the Soldiers' competence in several areas: day and night land navigation, Army warrior tasks, short-range marksmanship, and Army combative skills. This year's mystery event was drill and ceremony as well as a pop quiz about USAMRMC.

Sgt. Chad Thornton of the Integrated Toxicology Division at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases won the USAMRMC Soldier of the Year, and Staff Sgt. Nicholas J. Rogers of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense won NCO of the Year. Both Soldiers admitted that there were a few challenges. "There was snow on the ground throughout the competition," said Thornton. The frigid weather conditions throughout the competition added to the chal-

lenge. Rogers found the terrain for the land navigation course to be particularly difficult. "The entire course was on a hill," said Rogers. "The ground was covered with large rocks, leaves, and snow. On top of that, there were a ton of downed trees that required climbing over."

Another challenging event, according to Rogers, required the competitors "to disassemble, reassemble, and perform a functions check on an M2—a .50 caliber machine gun." "Soldiers in medical MOSs don't get much exposure to weapons that are that large," said Rogers. Even though there were challenges, the Soldiers persevered.

"Staff Sgt. Rogers is a great example of the representation of the NCO corps in the Year of the NCO," said Sgt. 1st Class John E. Evans, USAMRICD's senior enlisted advisor. "He set a very high standard of excellence," continued Evans. "We at MRICD are very proud of his accomplishments."

Thornton said he was honored and relieved at the news of winning the competition but felt "instant pressure" due to the upcoming Medical Command competition in March. The Medical Command competition will be held in Hawaii.

*Cindy Kronman
USAMRICD Public Affairs*

*Kierstin O'Guinn
USAMRIID Public Affairs*





USAMRICD Captain Gives Back to the Community



the eight-month program, Murphy assisted one student with the transition from undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan to a graduate school program. This assistance included resume preparation, graduate program selection and application, and eventual acceptance into a fully funded master's program at the University of Minnesota.

Murphy became aware of the program while doing research for his 2008 Hispanic Heritage Month essay, entitled "Mentors: The Educational Link to the Hispanic Community." That essay won Murphy first place in the competition; he repeated his first place finish in the 2009 Hispanic Heritage Month essay contest with "Mentors II: Prepare for the Fierce Competition." For his 2009 essay, Murphy also received a Certificate of Appreciation from Col. Dan Reilly, commander of the 61st Ordnance Brigade, and Col. Orlando Ortiz, the APG Garrison commander.

Murphy's interest in mentoring is an extension of his love of teaching. As an adjunct faculty member at the Community College of Baltimore County, where he teaches mostly evening and weekend classes in biology and anatomy and physiology, Murphy says that he encounters "many non-traditional students (single parents, second/third occupation, new career, etc.) rather than the fresh-out-of-high-school types."

"In addition to simply teaching the students," says Murphy, "I find my-

self often counseling and mentoring many students. The rapport that I develop with the students probably stems from my proximity in age to them and our resultant ability to effectively communicate about daily life and relate it to their educational and career goals."

Murphy also volunteers his time to support the APG VTF, allowing the facility to be staffed during periods in which assigned personnel are unavailable due to other mission needs. While on duty, Murphy, who has his doctorate in veterinary medicine from Louisiana State University, has performed many elective and emergency surgeries and provided preventive medical health care. Murphy describes his support to the VTF as a "multi-win scenario."

"I am able to keep my veterinary clinical skills in use, owners are able to maintain the health of their pets, military working dog handlers are ensured that their canine counterparts remain healthy and deployable, and the VTF staff and Soldiers are able to keep their doors open, support their community, and maintain their own clinical skills," explains Murphy.

While Murphy's dedication to serving his community was recognized in September 2009 when he was awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, for him the rewards are much more personal. Murphy says, "A smile, a handshake, or a hug and a sincere 'thank you' typically perpetuate the motivation for volunteering."

Cindy Kronman
USAMRICD Public Affairs

When not on the job as chief of the Medical Toxicology Branch at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, Capt. Gleeson Murphy often volunteers his time to promote educational opportunities and mentorship for culturally diverse student populations or to assist the APG Veterinary Treatment Facility by providing routine and vital emergency veterinary care to the pets of APG families as well as to military working dogs.

"The reason I volunteer is simple," says Murphy. "I enjoy it. Too often, we are engrossed in our own daily struggles, and it is exceedingly refreshing to offer a helping hand or a kind word to others."

Among his volunteer efforts is Murphy's participation as a professional mentor in the MentorNet program. The nonprofit Internet mentoring program was established to promote and support women and other minorities entering the fields of engineering, science, and mathematics. During

USARIEM Researcher Is Women's Winner in Miami Marathon

Brett Ely, a research physiologist in the Thermal & Mountain Medicine Division at the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine was the women's winner in the Miami Marathon Jan. 31. A record total of 18,321 athletes ran the marathon with race day temperatures of 71°F and 93% relative humidity. As a veteran runner, she has posted many wins. This is the first win where she had the thrilling experience of breaking the finish line tape.

Ely's research at USARIEM involves studying the effects of extreme temperatures on Soldiers and athletes. She is co-author of a paper published in *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise* that examined pacing physical performance in the heat. A personal strategy of conservative pacing to prevent starting out too hard and running out of energy during the marathon may have played a role in her victory. Her finishing



time of 2:45:36 qualifies her for the 2012 U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials by 24 seconds. Ely will compete with approximately 150 other top U.S. female runners at the Olympic trials for three spots on the 2012 U.S. Women's

Olympic marathon team. She qualified and competed in the 2004 and 2008 U.S. Olympic trials as well.

Terry Rice
USARIEM Public Affairs



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Karen Droessler, Clinical Engineering Division chief at the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center-Europe receives a retirement certificate from Col. Mitchell Brew, commander of USAMMCE. A retirement ceremony was held for Droessler Feb. 5. Friends, co-workers, and family members joined in to bid Droessler farewell. She retired from active duty after 25 years of military service.



USAMRIID Soldiers Earn Distinguished Awards



months. These Soldiers are Sgt. Chad Thornton, Sgt. Patricia Ramos, and Sgt. Martavius Ilion, all of whom work in the Integrated Toxicology Division under the supervision of Staff Sgt. Marco A. Carrington.

Sgt. Chad Thornton won the 2009 USAMRIID Soldier of the Year title in December 2009. He represented USAMRIID during the Fiscal Year 2009 U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Best Warrior Competition and won the USAMRMC Soldier of the Year award. Thornton is a 68K (Medical Laboratory NCO) who works with Dr. Harry Hines and Ernie

Pictured left to right: Sgt. Patricia Ramos, Sgt. Martavius Ilion, Staff Sgt. Marco A. Carrington, and Sgt. Chad Thornton

Three Soldiers from a single laboratory at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, Fort Detrick, Md., have earned distinguished awards in the past few

Brueggemann to operate the high-performance liquid chromatography mass spectrometry system, which analyzes compounds used as countermeasures against the botulinum and ricin toxins. Thornton was promoted to sergeant in October 2009.

Sgt. Patricia Ramos won the 2009 Fort Detrick NCO of the Year title in December 2009. Ramos is a 68K (Medical Laboratory NCO) who works with Dr. Ashraf Ahmed. She also operates the HPLC MS system, analyzing small compounds used as countermeasures against botulinum intoxication. Ramos was promoted to sergeant in September 2009.

Sgt. Martavius Ilion earned the coveted Expert Field Medical Badge on his first attempt at Fort Drum, N.Y., in October 2009. He also was the winner of the Fort Detrick NCO of the Quarter competition for the first

quarter of FY10. Ilion is a 68K (Medical Laboratory NCO) who works with Capt. Jeffrey Froude in the purification of proteins using the HPLC for the ricin vaccine program and is the Safety NCO for the division. Ilion was promoted to sergeant in January 2010.

USAMRIID is the lead medical research laboratory for the U.S. Biological Defense Research Program and plays a key role in national defense and infectious disease research. The institute's mission is to conduct basic and applied research on biological threats resulting in medical solutions (e.g., vaccines, drugs, and diagnostics) to protect the Warfighter. USAMRIID is a subordinate laboratory of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command.

*Staff Sgt. Marco A. Carrington
USAMRIID*

BLAST PCO to Host Second State-of-the-Science Meeting

The Department of Defense Blast Injury Research Program Coordinating Office will be hosting the second meeting in the State-of-the-Science series in Chantilly, Va. June 8–9, 2010. This meeting will focus on blast injury dosimetry: the ability to record and document blast-related exposures and correlate these exposures with acute injuries or chronic health effects. Approximately 100 people will be invited to present at or attend the meeting.

Warfighters are routinely exposed to blast-related insults in training and combat. These insults range from occupational exposures associated with the use of weapon systems to potentially lethal exposures in combat from explosive enemy weapons. Examples of the types of potentially injurious blast insults they encounter include blunt impact, blast overpressure, impulse noise, and inhaled toxic gases. The DoD is seeking a way to objectively record and document blast-related exposures and to correlate these exposures with acute injuries or chronic health effects.

During the meeting, experts from the scientific, medical, and operational communities, both nationally and internationally, will present their work and participate in discussion groups. The objectives of the meeting are to:

1. Identify and prioritize the blast injuries of concern that should be the focus of the DoD's blast dosimeter development efforts.
2. Determine if there are blast dosimeters available that can be fielded now or within the next two years.

3. Identify and prioritize the research gaps that exist in the development of blast dosimeters in the areas of both blast-related human effects modeling and sensor development.

The key questions that will be addressed during the meeting are:

1. What blast injuries are we interested in addressing with dosimeters?
2. What blast-exposure data are needed to predict the likelihood of the injuries of concern?
3. What sensor technologies are available to address the required data elements?
4. What biomedical research has been done, or is required, to develop human effects models that correlate the blast-related exposures (sensor data) with resulting injuries?

A panel of experts will listen to all presentations, ask thought-provoking questions of the presenters, stimulate group discussion, facilitate the discussion groups, and help synthesize data from the presentations and discussion groups to generate conclusions. This information will assist in identifying current capabilities and research gaps for future research initiatives.

For additional information on this meeting, contact the DoD Blast Injury Research Program Coordinating Office at medblastprogram@amedd.army.mil.

JTAPIC Receives Award



Lt. Col. Mark Dick, JTAPIC program manager and John Uscilowicz, JTAPIC deputy program manager, were recognized by Maj. Gen. James K. Gilman, commander of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, at a conference Jan. 29 at Fort Detrick.

To have your program validated by your customer is a big compliment. The Joint Trauma Analysis and Prevention of Injury in Combat program office won an award from Program Manager Heavy Brigade Combat Team presented at the National Ground Intelligence Center Force Protection Threat Update Conference January 26–28, 2010.

The award recognized the JTAPIC program as being instrumental in providing and supporting agencies with the required medical analysis from combat incidents in theater.

“The JTAPIC program monitors and analyzes combat attacks on Bradley and Abrahams platforms. This type of analysis helps ongoing modernization efforts not only for the HBCT platforms but also other DoD vehicle platforms,” said Lt. Col. Mark Dick, JTAPIC program manager.

“We provided analysis to the program managers to help inform modernization decisions and improve survivability. Some of the upgrades could be an armor package, seat upgrades, or fire suppression upgrades,” said John Uscilowicz, JTAPIC deputy program manager. Dick and Uscilowicz said

they were surprised to receive the award.

“I want to personally express my deep appreciation on behalf of these Soldiers who rely on JTAPIC and its personnel who have dedicated their lives to providing pertinent medical data and expertise that ultimately keeps them alive to fight another day,” said Col. Paul Lepine, project manager of the Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

*Tiffany Holloway
USAMRMC Public Affairs*



It's a Small World After All

During my last deployment to Iraq, I was in desperate need of initial-term Soldiers to reenlist to complete my unit's retention mission. One day, I was approached by an initial-term Soldier with a request for an assignment.

The objective of an Army career counselor is to "reenlist quality Soldiers on a long term basis, in order to maintain Army end strength and support special military programs." Career counselors are taught to use different skills and tactics to secure

reenlistments. The most important factor is finding out the needs and desires of the Soldier. Once the Soldiers' goals are planned, the Army career counselor can assist Soldiers with their decision-making process of what course of action to take while they are in the developmental phase of their careers.

The Soldier was recently assigned to Fort Detrick, Md. He told me about the consequences he felt he would suffer from being assigned to a nontactical unit and said he wanted

to remain competitive in his current Military Occupational Specialty as a combat medic. Immediately I began to lay out the pros and cons to this request. We went over the time he had served, his deployments, and education, and discussed his short-term and long-term goals. Once I finished the counseling session, the Soldier was more receptive to the idea of moving to Fort Detrick.

By a sheer twist of fate, I was also assigned to Fort Detrick as the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command senior career counselor and was greeted by the same Soldier during my in-processing. Since his assignment to the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases in July 2007, Sgt. Christopher Giddinge has reenlisted three times. Of course, I attribute the reenlistments to the actual nature of my job, "career counseling." That is what Army career counseling is all about—reenlistments. The Army has retained a combat-tested Warrior who we hope will stay with us on a long-term basis, which is the ultimate mission.

Master Sgt. Michael Gibson



The U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center, Europe hosted a senior maintenance working group in February. This was the first time that warrant officers and senior NCOs from across the Medical Command, European-based table of organization and equipment, and field units met to discuss strategic maintenance objectives and the medical maintenance balance score card. The group meets quarterly in different locations and conducts teleconferences every two weeks.



Awards and Promotions

USAARL Awards and Promotions

USAMMCE

January 2010

Promotion

Lt. Col. Douglas H. Galuszka

USAMRIID

January 2010

Legion of Merit

Col. James W. Martin

Col. Phillip R. Pittman

Meritorious Service Medal

Sgt. 1st Class Stephanie S. McLain

Sgt. Richard J. Washington

Promotion

Sgt. 1st Class Enola M. Semple

February 2010

Promotion

2nd Lt. Patrick W. Sorensen

March 2010

Promotion

Sgt. 1st Class Laquita M. Morgan

USAISR

January 2010

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Thomas J. Derion

Sgt. Shelia S. Hill

Sgt. 1st Class Anthony D. Stewart

Promotion

Lt. Col. Anthony S. Cooper

USAMMA

January 2010

Legion of Merit

Lt. Col. Charles H. Strite, Jr.

Meritorious Service Medal

Sgt. 1st Class Jude Y. Corpuz

February 2010

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Nathan C. Rauch

WRAIR

January 2010

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. Lisa J. Cardo

Maj. Jurandir J. Dalle Lucca

Lt. Col. William H. Millar

Promotion

Capt. Jim R. Managbanag, Jr.

March 2010

Promotion

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kimberly D. Oliver

WRAIR-SFA

February 2010

Promotion

Capt. Brett E. Swierczewski

USAMMDA

January 2010

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Lee J. Lefkowitz

USAMRMC

January 2010

Meritorious Service Medal

Master Sgt. Michael L. Gibson

Master Sgt. James T. Smith

February 2010

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. Brian D. Moore

USARIEM

February 2010

Meritorious Service Medal

Capt. James H. Day

Maj. Karl J. Hochstein

Staff Sgt. Erik P. Jacobsen

Lifetime Membership Award

Joseph Licina

December 2009

Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Debra Cain

Sylvia Hughes

Rose Jackson

Mary Mayo

Janet Pray

Commendations and Final Innovation Award

Dr. Arthur Estrada

Lt. Col. James Persson

January 2010

Meritorious Service Medal

Sgt. 1st Class Victoria E. Reeves

First Quarter, FY10 Soldier of the Quarter

Spc. Kenneth Merritt

Promotion

Spc. Adam Thompson

Cpl. Bradley Wilson

Department of the Army Commendation

Dr. Amanda Kelley

30 Years of Service Award

Ronald Reynolds

20 Years of Service Award

Jeffrey Holemo

10 Years of Service Award

Dr. William Ahroon

February 2010

Promotion

2nd Lt. Bryon J. Pieper