

The Point

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



Soldiers Clamor for CASEVAC Kits

The U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity worked with the Directorate of Combat and Doctrine Development and the project manager of the Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected All-Terrain Vehicle to develop, test, and field 300 high-priority M-ATV casualty evacuation kits to Operation Enduring Freedom for limited user evacuation.

“The CASEVAC requirement is crucial to being able to evacuate our wounded from the battlefield,” said Jaime Lee, project manager for the Non-Medical Systems division of Medical Support Systems Project Management Office. “Since the M-ATV is a heavily used platform in OEF, it is critical that it be able to do CASEVAC. This kit allows the Soldiers to evacuate the wounded with the M-ATV safely.”

The MRAP CASEVAC kits aid in the fast evacuation of injured Soldiers using vehicles of opportunity, such as the M-ATV and other MRAP vehicles. The kit includes spine boards, a spine board restraint system, and litter straps.

The kits were well received by Soldiers. “The units that have seen them already are chomping at the bit to get them,” said Sgt. 1st Class Richard P. McKee, CJTF 82, CJ3 FMD, U.S. Army Research, Development, and Engineering Command, Science and Technology. McKee trained Soldiers in theater on how to install and use the CASEVAC kits, expressing the unit’s overall satisfaction with the kit’s function and ease of use.



USAMMDA is working to expand this to a full operational test in the near future. “The goal of the full operational test is to get the final version of the kit into the hands of more Soldiers to get critical feedback in order to justify the requirement for every M-ATV,” said Lee.

USAMMDA is also working with the PM of MRAP to develop a 4-liter MRAP CAIMAN ambulance and a 2-liter M-ATV ambulance for MEDEVAC operations. “Although CASEVAC is essential for operations in OEF, MEDEVAC is the preferred approach,” said Lee. “Dedicated medical evacuation vehicles provide medical care and equipment that can provide critical care to our wounded during operations.” Lee explains that



the new ambulances will bring the added MEDEVAC capability to the fight in the very near future.

*Angela Poffenberger
Medical Support Systems Project
Management Office technical writer*



USAMRMC Chief of Staff Retires



about them and is willing to say so publicly. That will be very hard to replace.”

Davies has had an exciting career.

The Columbus, Ohio, native earned an associate of arts degree from Ohio Valley College in 1969 and a bachelor of arts degree from Harding University in 1971. He received a master of arts degree in 1976 and a doctor of philosophy degree in 1977 in audiology from the University of Cincinnati.

After enlisting in the Army, during the Vietnam War, he served three years and went back to college, but he always knew he wanted to come back into the Army.

He received a direct commission as a captain in the Medical Service Corps in 1977. His first assignment was Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Wash., where he served as a staff audiologist and chief of Hearing Conservation from January 1978 until December 1980. In 1981, Davies served as chief of Audiology and Audiology consultant to the Army Command Surgeon, U.S. Forces Korea, at the U.S. Army Community Hospital in Seoul. From June 1982 until June 1985, he served as the chief of Audiology at Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center in Colorado and then as the chief of Audiology and Speech Pathology at Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii, from June 1985 to June 1990. From June 1990 to June 1992, he served as the assistant director and chief of Audiology at the Army Audiology and Speech Center,

Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC. Davies then served as the secretary of the General Staff for USAMRMC from May 1993 to August 1996. From August 1996 to August 1997, he served as the executive officer, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. In August 1997, Davies was assigned to USAMRMC, Fort Detrick, Maryland, where he served as the chief of staff (August 1997 to July 2000) and the deputy commander (July 2000 to August 2003). From August 2003 until August 2005 he served as the garrison commander, Walter Reed Army Medical Center. From September 2005 until December 2007, he served as the executive officer to the U.S. Army Surgeon General. In December 2007, Davies returned to Fort Detrick as the chief of staff, USAMRMC, and from March 2009 until June 2009, he served as the acting commander.

Over the years, Davies had motivating mentors. “In my audiology career certainly Col. Ernie Hepler and Col. Rod Attack were two officers that greatly impacted my life. In my early years at MRMC, it was Dr. Frazier Glenn who indoctrinated me on the nuances of the medical research and development community. Col. Dick Donahue was a strong mentor who made sure I understood the conceptual framework of medical logistics and allowed me to sit in each evening as we had teleconferences working through all the issues of standing up the Medical Command as we know it today. In my first run, at chief of staff at MRMC, it was then Col. Rich Ursone who mentored me through the process of working with senior leaders across the MEDCOM and Army staff.”

In 1997, Davies transitioned from working in administrative positions to working directly under flag officers.

“I have been blessed to work directly for several general officers to include Brig. Gen. Zajtchuk, Maj. Gen. Parker, Maj. Gen. Martinez-Lopez, Maj. Gen. Farmer, Lt. Gen. Kiley, Maj. Gen. Pollock, Maj. Gen. Weightman, and Maj. Gen. Gilman. Their dedication and unwavering commitment to our Soldiers constantly reminded me of their selfless service. Truly my life was enriched by working with them and their families,” said Davies.

Davies said that he will miss the camaraderie the military brings and the USAMRMC staff because of their spirit, kindred hearts, and how they focus on the mission—helping people in harm’s way.

The only advice he gives the new chief of staff is to have fun. Davies said, “It is absolutely a fabulous job. You have great people supporting you.”

Davies and his wife, Laura, have two sons, Brett (Stacey) and Gregg (Kim) and four grandchildren (Sidney Joy, Alyssa, Caleb, and Brenna) and one on the way.

Davies said, “My wife has been with me throughout my entire career. She has been very supportive of my assignments and supportive of me of my decision to work or not work after retirement.”

Davies and his wife plan on taking a trip to Australia. “I can’t wait to go snorkeling along the Coral Reef.”

*Tiffany Holloway
USAMRMC Public Affairs*

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Bathalon Takes over as the 18th Commander of USARIEM

On a sunny New England summer morning, Col. Gaston Bathalon accepted the guidon from Maj. Gen. James Gilman, the commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, to take over as the 18th commander of the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine.

Bathalon takes over for Col. Kevin Keenan who is heading to Iraq to serve as a flight surgeon. USARIEM is the premier research organization for Warfighter performance and environmental medicine that provides support to America's military at home and abroad.

Having previously served as the deputy commander of USARIEM, Bathalon established the Military Weight Management Program and most recently was deployed in support of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom as the U.S. Central Command's Human Protections administrator on the Joint Combat Casualty Research Team.

"If one were to summarize the character of USARIEM in a single word while under Col. Keenan's leadership, that would be relevance," said the USAMRMC commanding general. "Kevin brought his extraordinary experience involving small units and isolated warriors operating in austere environments to this command, and that stamp is on everything that has gone on during his command tour."

In his speech, Bathalon focused on the Soldiers from USARIEM who were in attendance.



Col. Gaston Bathalon accepts the guidon of the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine from Maj. Gen. James Gilman, commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, in a ceremony at the Natick Soldier Systems Center July 9. Bathalon succeeds Col. Kevin Keenan who is deploying to Iraq to be a flight surgeon.

Photo credit: Amy Castellano

"Soldiers are the cornerstone of our formations," said Bathalon. "You do, indeed, make the nation proud with your dedication and sacrifice. It gives me great pride to serve alongside of you. Today, USARIEM has four Soldiers down range and two more

poised to deploy in December. This is what we do... support our nation. The sacrifices are many, and we remember them today."

The commanding general spoke highly of Bathalon's service and ex-

pects the relevance of USARIEM to continue under his leadership.

"We will continue to expect great things from USARIEM under his leadership," said Gilman. "We will continue efforts at the headquarters to support the important work that takes place here and the other areas under USARIEM's purview."

Outgoing commander Keenan is preparing to deploy as a flight surgeon in Iraq before moving to Afghanistan to serve as the Battalion surgeon for a Vermont National Guard unit.

"It has been my great fortune to have served in many fine units," said Keenan. "I count it a part of that great fortune to have served, not once but twice, here at USARIEM. Among the greatest fortunes has been the opportunity to serve you as the commander of USARIEM.

"As scientists and those who support the science, you have accepted the challenge of innovating, of designing, of creating whole concepts that did not exist and translated those concepts to the battlefield. You have risen to meet this challenge, met it superbly, and I thank you for all your efforts. I am exceptionally and intensely proud of our institute and each of you."

The work at USARIEM is aimed at enhancing performance and medically protecting military personnel from operational stress and exposure to extremes in heat, cold, and high-terrestrial altitudes.

John Harlow
USAG-Natick Public Affairs

USAISR Gains New Facility and New Units

The newly constructed addition to the Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute was turned over to the director of Public Works, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Aug. 23. The 150,000 sq. ft. facility, which is adjacent to Brooke Army Medical Center and connected to the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research building, is the result of BRAC 2005 and permits all Department of Defense combat casualty care research (minus neuro-protection) to be co-located with the USAISR.

"In co-locating all combat casualty care research activities at Fort Sam Houston, BRAC 2005 recognized that the clinical activities of BAMC, particularly their trauma mission, will foster the rapid application of research findings to health care delivery and provide synergistic opportunities to bring clinical insight into bench research," said Col. Lorne Blackburn, commander of the USAISR.

Co-locating with the USAISR are Naval Medical Research Unit, San Antonio, which received the combat casualty care research subfunction of the Naval Medical Research Center from Forest Glen, Md., and the Naval Institute for Dental and Biomedical Research from Great Lakes, Ill., as well as the U.S. Air Force Dental Evaluation and Consultation Service from Great Lakes, Ill.

In addition, the combat casualty care research subfunction of Walter Reed Army Institute of Research from



The newly constructed addition to the Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute.

Photo courtesy of HDR Architecture, Inc.;
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Forest Glen, Md., the Army Medical Research Detachment from Brooks City-Base, Texas, and the Army Dental Trauma and Research Detachment from Forest Glen, Md., are now part of the USAISR. With the arrival of these units in San Antonio, the Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute becomes a reality. "The BHT is the culmination of years of planning, design, and construction," said Col. William Dunn, commander of DECS, "and provides medical and dental researchers a state-of-the-art facility."

"Though each service will retain control of their respective units, this new complex will permit researchers of the Army, Navy, and Air Force to work together and share both ideas and resources," said Navy Capt. Vincent DeInnocentiis, commanding officer of NAMRU-SA. "We are now beginning a new era in combat casualty care and dental research within the DoD."

Mike Feeley
USAISR Public Affairs



Self-Erecting Bed Net a Success for Military and Private Industry

An epic technology transfer journey that began as an idea more than a decade ago has resulted in the invention and fielding of a new personal protection shelter in Iraq and Afghanistan, and commercialization makes this same innovation available for use in your own backyard.

The invention is a self-erecting bed net that folds down to a Frisbee®-sized package that weighs only two pounds. When released, the bed net instantly pops up to its full size, ready for use on a cot or the bare ground. This bed net stands to benefit millions of people around the world, including the inhabitants of countries plagued by insect-borne diseases, American military personnel, and even your next weekend camping expedition.

Anyone who has ever spent a night in a mosquito-infested environment understands the stress caused by the relentless buzzing and biting of insects. For most of us, the result is lost sleep. However, many parts of the world are held hostage by diseases transmitted through the bites of mosquitoes and other arthropods. Diseases such as malaria, dengue, and Yellow fever present challenges in many parts of Africa, Asia, and South America. An estimated 500 million people contract malaria each year, and 1 million people, mostly children, die of the disease. Military campaigns have failed because of insect-borne diseases.

The collaboration started in 1996 with a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement between the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and private industry.



Self-erecting tent and bed net. The bed net shown weighs only 2 pounds and folds down into a package 12 inches in diameter.

Photo credit: Techlink

Acutely aware of the challenges posed by biting insects and concerned with the shortcomings of the military bed net in use at the time, Dr. Raj Gupta of WRAIR assembled a team of outdoor product manufacturing and insect repellent experts under the CRADA to develop a better bed net. The result of the collaboration was a revolutionary self-erecting bed net and a patent covering the invention. After years of refinement and testing in remote places such as Papua New Guinea and the Amazon Basin, Gupta and the original CRADA partners succeeded in making the bed net available to U.S. troops. In 2008, negotiations via the Office of Research and Technology Applications at the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command resulted in two companies licensing the patent covering the technology.

In May 2010, Gupta received an award for Excellence in Technology Transfer from the Federal Laboratory Consortium for his work with the bed net. The prestigious award, judged by a panel of experts from industry, state and local government, academia, and the federal laboratory system, recognizes science and technology employees in federal laboratories who have accomplished outstanding work in the process of transferring federally developed technology.

Darin Oelkers and Sara Baragona

Researchers Unite for Warfighters at Combat Casualty Care Conference

St. Pete's Beach, Fla., once again opened its arms and welcomed leaders in military medicine at the Advanced Technology Applications for Combat Casualty Care 2010 conference.

The conference, which ran through Aug. 19, was packed with events.

The meeting brings together experts to discuss experiences in product development and collaborative efforts that allow for the latest advances in military medicine to support the Warfighter.

Dr. Frazier Glenn, principal assistant for Research and Technology of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, opened the conference by saying, "The Department of Defense has invested more money this year than previous years towards new medical research for the Soldier. As a trusted partner, MRMC looks forward to advances in medicine by working with academia and industry to make it happen."

The first day provided attendees the opportunity to hear from the Iraqi Surgeon General, Maj. Gen. Samir Abdullah Hassan, who discussed the progression of medicine in his native country. Since 2003 and the transition of a new government, the number of qualified physicians and medical supplies has increased. Between five and six years, they anticipate nearly 100% of their needs to be met.

Military medicine is often at the forefront of medical research. Often, the needs of Soldiers are identified, and through collaborative efforts those needs directly evolve into products



Photo credit: Doug Valentine, Fort Detrick Visual Information

licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Many can be found in civilian emergency rooms protecting public health.

Surgeon Commodore Alasdair Walker, medical director of the Joint Medical Command in the United Kingdom, stressed the importance of having a qualified military medical staff that can collaborate effectively and obtain answers to real problems. With multinational technology and supportive partnerships, the future of successful collaboration is about bringing all the information together for the best care for Soldiers.

Walker said, "It's more complicated than the research and the equip-

ment—it's about the people involved. They all come together to produce what is best for the patient."

The meeting addressed topics throughout the week that directly affect the survivability and quality of life of Soldiers. Research on traumatic brain injury, control of blood loss, wound infections, and critical care transport were some of the many discussions that attendees were able to hear.

Lanessa Hill
Fort Detrick Public Affairs



Retirement Means New Opportunities

This summer has been a whirlwind of retirements at Fort Detrick. Lt. Col. Marie Cochran is another great officer retiring this summer and soon will be transitioning into another phase of her life. An official retirement and retreat ceremony was held for her in front of Building 810.

Cochran spent quite a few years within the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. “Altogether I’ve been stationed at Fort Detrick for eight years—1996 to 1998 and 2004 to 2010. I’ve been assigned to the USAMRMC a total of 6.5 years,” said Cochran.

In 1996, the Cochran family was assigned to the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency at Fort Detrick where she was the Army Medical Department Prime Vendor liaison officer. She coordinated the Medical Prime Vendor contracts for medical materiel and pharmaceutical products for the Army’s fixed facilities.

In 2003, she was assigned as the chief of the Materiel Management Division, U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center-Europe, Pirmasens, Germany. After returning to Fort Detrick in 2004, Cochran was assigned to the 6th Medical Logistics Management Center where she deployed to Qatar in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. When she returned from her 15-month deployment, she was assigned as the executive officer until 2007 when she was reassigned as the deputy chief of staff for Logistics, USAMRMC.

“When I got to the DCSLOG in 2007, I thought I understood a great deal about what this Command does because of my time at the logistics



agencies. Three days into my job I realized I had no clue about all the research and acquisition elements that are a major portion of what this Command contributes to DoD. It’s been an incredibly wonderful and extremely enlightening assignment to learn as much as I have about this Command and Fort Detrick, and I’m grateful to continue to work within MRMC once I take my uniform off for the last time,” said Cochran. Cochran said she is looking forward to retirement but knows she will miss the camaraderie because it is such an integral part of being a Soldier.

Cochran and her husband, Wade, have two children, Zade Andrew and Air-

man 1st Class Robert Cochran. They also have two wonderful grandsons, Nathan and Jaden. They have been married for 30 years. “We’re going to celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary in our new fishing boat back home on Lake Vermilion, Minn. I grew up near the Boundary Water’s Canoe Area, and the fall is the best time up home—it’s just so beautiful there. This is going to be a wonderful break for my husband, Wade, and I,” said Cochran.

*Tiffany Holloway
USAMRMC Public Affairs*

Soldiers Qualify for German Sports Badge

Staff Sgt. Nathan Lehman and Maj. Michael Ronn qualified for the German Sports badge. The Soldiers participated Aug. 11 in Waldmohr Sportsplatz, in Pirmasens, Germany. These Soldiers are assigned to the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center-Europe. The significance of the qualification is that “it continues to solidify the positive relationships we have with our host nation partners,” said Sgt. Maj. William L. Majors.



WRAIR Deputy Commander Is New Member of Council on Foreign Relations

The Council on Foreign Relations, an independent, nonpartisan membership organization, influential think tank, and publisher of *Foreign Affairs* named 76 new life members drawn from government, military, academia, business, journalism, law, and other professions.

Included on the list was Col. Gray Heppner, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research deputy commander. Heppner, an expert in global health, was nominated by four CFR members—retired Lockheed Martin CEO Norm Augustine, Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s Global Health Forum president Tachi Yamada, and Columbia University’s Steven Morse. CFR members enjoy unique opportunities for scholarship and are able to debate the impact of their specific areas of expertise on foreign policy in off-the-record meetings with senior leaders.





USAMRICD Holds First NCO Induction Ceremony



Pictured from left to right: Sgt. Nydia Conder, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Kelley, Sgt. Erin Bouligny, Sgt. Maj. Osvaldo Ponzio, Sgt. Zachary Phillips, Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades, and Sgt. Felix Huang.

The tradition of commemorating the passing of a Soldier to a noncommissioned officer can be traced to the Army of Fredrick the Great. Before one could be recognized as the full status of an NCO, they were required

to stand four watches, one every four days. Although slightly different from yesterday's traditions, the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense commemorated the rites of passage for NCOs. The ceremony em-

phasizes the pride that every service member shares as a member of such an elite corps. It also honors the memory of those who have served before them with pride and distinction.

USAMRICD held its first NCO Induction Ceremony June 25 at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Edgewood Arsenal. USAMRICD inducted four NCOs at this ceremony. The detachment sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Frock, had the new NCOs raise their right hands and recite the Charge to the Non-Commissioned Officer. Once the Charge was recited, the inductees signed the Charge to confirm their obligations and responsibilities as NCOs.

The guest speaker of the ceremony was Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Kelley of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. He provided a speech designed to inspire, motivate, and encourage each of these new members to strive to exceed all expectations as the newest leaders of America's Army and emphasized the role of great leaders, which are young NCOs.

Each inductee was handed a framed copy of the Creed of the Non-Commissioned Officer by Kelley as well as a copy of FM7-22.7, the Army Noncommissioned Officer Guide by USAMRICD's senior enlisted advisor.

Frock went on to say, "I was truly honored to be a part of this highly important event."

The inductees were Sgt. Erin Bouligny, Sgt. Nydia Conder, Sgt. Felix Huang, and Sgt. Zachary Phillips, all assigned to USAMRICD.

*Sgt. 1st Class John Evans
USAMRICD*

Three USAMRICD Employees Recognized for Volunteer Efforts

The volunteer efforts of three employees of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, Dr. Tony Reeves, Kerry Van Shura, and Dr. Benedict Capacio, were acknowledged at the Aberdeen Proving Ground annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. The program, which is sponsored by Army Community Service, selects six volunteers of the year, one each from the categories military, civilian, retiree, family member, youth, and organization, and recognizes them for their commitment and service to APG and their local communities.

Selected as Retiree Volunteer of the Year, Reeves is a senior postdoctoral research fellow in USAMRICD's Physiology and Immunology Branch. Having attended Tarleton State University under the ROTC program, Reeves was commissioned as an Ordnance Army Reserve officer in 1993 and served until 2007. In 2009, Reeves donated his time and expertise to three APG-based educational efforts: providing realistic reflex of fire training to Soldiers from the 143rd Ordnance Battalion, teaching hunter education safety classes to local youths through the Abington Isaac Walton League, and assisting in the coordination and execution of the Wounded Warriors program. Reeves dedicated more than 130 hours of volunteer time supporting these programs and was responsible in part or whole for training nearly 1,600 people in the safe handling of firearms. For his selection as Retiree Volunteer of the Year, Reeves received an APG Garrison Certificate of Appreciation, a plaque, and a \$200 U.S. savings bond.

Van Shura, a biological science laboratory technician in the Pharmacology Branch, placed second in the civilian volunteer category for her efforts at spearheading the recycling program at USAMRICD. Van Shura volunteered 80 hours over a 10-month period, beginning a recycling program for the granulation and resale of laboratory plastics. She was soon directing the efforts of 10 volunteers, and she coordinated regularly with an outside company to provide boxes, transportation, and purchase of regrind for reuse in other commercial projects. Her efforts resulted in the recycling of more than 2,000 pounds of laboratory plastic at the institute.

Van Shura also founded the institute Eco-Team. She led all efforts to establish a new aluminum and plastic recycling system for USAMRICD to better use existing waste removal contracts and save money by sending less waste to landfills. This initiative started small but was so successful that it was rapidly expanded; now 24 sets of recycling bins are spread across the entire institute. In this effort, Van Shura volunteered 50 hours over a six-month period, and her Eco-Team now consists of 35 volunteers. The recycling system has been incorporated into the USAMRICD Environmental Management System program. Every month, 20 aluminum- and plastic-filled 50 gallon trash bags are being recycled at no cost to the institute.

Also nominated in the civilian category was Capacio, a principal investigator in the Medical Toxicology Branch. Capacio is a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, a volunteer arm of



the U.S. Coast Guard. As such, Capacio serves with the auxiliary's Safety Inspection Team and is qualified to do boat safety inspections. For several years, he has donated many hours of personal time over the weekends to perform these safety checks at APG's Gunpowder Neck Boating Activity, ensuring the safety of the members of the APG community. In the summer of 2009, Capacio inspected more than 100 boats.

In addition, for the past two years, Capacio has mentored two local Aberdeen High School Science and Math Academy students through their senior year Capstone projects. As a mentor to these two young scholars, Capacio spent many hours training them on the use of scientific instruments and the scientific method of thinking. In this way, he helped to broaden their minds and to encourage their scientific endeavors.

Compiled by the USAMRICD Public Affairs Office



New Sergeant Majors in the Command

The Medical Command's Command Sgt. Maj. Althea Dixon pins Sgt. Maj. Billy Cheatum from the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, Sgt. Maj. William Majors from the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center-Europe, and Sgt. Maj. Horace Tyson from the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command during this year's Association of the United States Army conference.

Courtesy Photo



USAMRMC Commanding General Visits Wounded Warriors



Gilman spent a few hours visiting with the active duty service members. He said, "Last year, I visited the VA hospital because I knew a Soldier who was a patient." He also said, "I have become sensitized to Soldiers in the VA hospital because I know they don't receive many visits, so I want to take the

opportunity to see their advancements. Plus, I miss seeing patients."

Dr. Steven Scott, staff physician, briefed Gilman on the latest advancements in technology that are being used at the hospital. Scott also briefed Gilman on patients who had either received or will receive cranioplasty.

Maj. Gen. James K. Gilman, commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, visited the Veterans Affairs Hospital while he was attending the Advanced Technology Applications for Combat Casualty Care conference in Tampa Aug. 18.

USAMMCE Change of Command

Col. Mitchell E. Brew handed over the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center, Europe Colors and the USAMMCE mission to his successor, Col. William "Mark" Stubbs July 23 on Husterhoe Kaserne in Pirmasens, Germany.

"Colonel Brew was an outstanding commander that took USAMMCE to the next level, but no one is better qualified to replace him than Colonel Stubbs," said Maj. Gen. James K. Gilman, commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and Fort Detrick, Md.

Many guests and USAMMCE personnel came out to say farewell to Brew as he moves to his new assignment

as the 21st TSC's chief of staff in Kaiserslautern.

The new commander, Stubbs, was welcomed with open arms as he is no stranger to USAMMCE and has served in different positions from 1999 to 2001 and again as deputy commander for operations since July 2009. "This is a dream come true for us," said Stubbs.



Air Force Lt. Col. (Dr.) Raymond Fang, Landstuhl's trauma director, accompanied Gilman. Some of the patients' families remembered Fang and thanked him for his assistance.

Holly Crabtree, Navy Petty Officer 1st Class, from Washington, was shot while she was on a mission and was in a coma for a month. "Every day is something new." So far, Crabtree has served 11 years and would love to continue to serve. She has been at the VA Hospital in Tampa for four months. She was very proud that Gilman visited.

Gilman thanked the patients for their service and thanked their families.

Tiffany Holloway
USAMRMC Public Affairs

The Soldiers of the Lazarettregiment 21 from the German Army State Command Rheinland Pfalz joined the USAMMCE Soldiers on the field.

The music was provided by the 380th Army Band from Virginia, commanded by Chief Warrent Officer 4 Kathy Landas.

Doris Crittenden
USAMMCE Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center, Europe has its Change of Command Ceremony. Pictured left to right: Col. Mitchell E. Brew, Maj. Gen. James K. Gilman, and Col. William "Mark" Stubbs.

USAISR Third Quarter Soldier and NCO Competition

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research held its Third Quarter Soldier and Non-Commissioned Officer Competition June 17 and 18. Of the five Soldiers who competed in the competition, Spc. Dustin Hathorne from the Laboratory Support Division narrowly edged the other highly qualified Soldiers to attain the title of USAISR Soldier of the Quarter. At the same time, Staff Sgt. Perla Reyes also from the Laboratory Support Division distinguished herself as the top NCO of the third quarter.

The competition began with a modified physical fitness test, which was broken down into two sets of 1 minute of push-ups, 1/4 mile run, 1 minute of sit-ups, and 1/4 mile run; the entire test was completed without a rest break between events.

Upon completion of the modified physical fitness test, the Soldiers' next event was an oral board. The board was executed by the USAISR first sergeant, two master sergeants, and two sergeants first class.

The Soldiers were grilled on their knowledge of military subjects such as military programs; NBC; history of the U.S. Army; chain of command/NCO support channel, Army command policy; map reading and land navigation; military leadership; military counseling; drill and ceremonies; military justice; first aid; field hygiene and sanitation; basic rifle marksmanship; wear and appearance of Army uniforms and insignia; current events; awards and decorations; salute, honors and courtesies; guard duty; and combat skills of the Soldier.

On day two, all of the competing Soldiers and NCOs were transported to Camp Bullis where they underwent the hands-on phase of the competition, which involved realistic scenarios. While at Camp Bullis, all competitors individually maneuvered and executed five separate tasks. The tasks involved were leading a fire team, hand and arm signals, reaction under direct fire, evaluate a casualty (tactical combat casualty care), and transport a casualty.



Once the Soldiers completed the five tasks, they were then asked to finish the competition with a mystery event, which this quarter was the disassembly and reassembly of an M16A2 rifle.

All of the Soldiers competed fiercely, and the scoring was very close in all the events. The USAISR is proud of not only the winners of this competition but of all the Soldiers who competed.

Master Sgt. Jose Rojas

USAMMA Change of Command

Maj. Gen. James K. Gilman, commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, presided over the change of command ceremony for the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency at Blue and Gray Field Aug. 13. Col. Jeffrey M. Unger relinquished command to Col. Gregory D. Evans.

Evans now leads the Army Medicine's strategic medical acquisition life cycle and sustainment agency with support

missions globally. With its headquarters at Fort Detrick, Md., USAMMA consists of nearly 400 military, civilians, and contract employees positioned at 12 locations worldwide that develop, build, and field an array of medical sets and technology systems; sustain and maintain the medical force; manage more than \$1.5 billion in war reserve items; and advance organizational performance excellence endeavors.



Maj. Gen. James K. Gilman, Col. Jeffrey M. Unger, and Col. Gregory D. Evans.



Dr. Patricia Modrow Receives Award from Ovarian Cancer National Alliance

The Voice for Ovarian Cancer Leadership Award is bestowed by the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance upon an outstanding community leader who has the capacity to influence others in raising awareness of ovarian cancer.

This year's recipient was Dr. Patricia Modrow, program manager for the Department of Defense Ovarian Cancer Research Program, in recognition of her dedication to the effort of eliminating ovarian cancer. Modrow was presented with this award by OCNA Board of Directors' President Christy Schmidt July 12 at the 13th Annual Ovarian Cancer National Alliance Conference in Washington, DC.

Modrow received the award due to her dedication and commitment in finding and funding the best ovarian cancer research as program manager for the DoD OCRP and for encouraging the participation of ovarian cancer survivors in the research process. Under her leadership, she has managed more than \$160 million in congressional appropriations specifically for extramural ovarian cancer research resulting in more than 210 research awards. She also has welcomed more than 100 ovarian cancer survivors who have participated in establishing the OCRP's research priorities, research funding opportunities, and funding recommendations.

In her quest to find the best research for the dollars, Modrow has initiated innovative funding mechanisms never before seen in the research community. For example, this August Modrow will launch the Ovarian Cancer



Pictured left to right: Katie Modrow (Patricia's daughter), Dr. Patricia Modrow, and her husband, Lt. Col. (Ret) Dr. Harry Modrow. Modrow receives the 2010 Voice for Ovarian Cancer Leadership Award.

Academy, a virtual, interactive career development and research training platform for early career ovarian cancer investigators from seven different research institutions.

In addition to serving as program manager of the OCRP, Modrow serves as the chair for the 6th Era of Hope conference for the DoD Breast Cancer Research Program. She was

also the initial program manager starting up the DoD Lung Cancer Research Program and served with the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs' Small Business Innovation Research Program within the DoD.

*Dorsey J. DuPont
CDMRP Public Affairs*

Question and Answer with Master Sgt. Wendy Clevenger

Master Sgt. Wendy Clevenger works at the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command as a technical editor in the Information Management office.

"I edit and prepare reports that are submitted by agencies or individuals that have contracts with the Army to conduct experiments and research for USAMRMC. My job at MRMC is very rewarding because I can see some of the benefits of the research that comes across my desk out here in the field like TBI research, PTSD research, research that benefits the Warfighters."

Holloway: Hi, Wendy. So, what are you doing these days, where are you located, and how long will you be there?

Clevenger: I work in an Aerial Port, which is similar to a civilian airport. We have a Passenger Service section that handles the passengers and their bags. We have an Air Terminal Operations Center, which handles all the cargo manifesting, load planning, and data recording that is required to run a Port. We have a Cargo Services section that handles the cargo and the palletizing of it to make it airworthy, and my section Ramp Services. In Ramp, we are the aerial porters who actually load and unload cargo and equipment from commercial wide body aircraft (747s, MD-11s, and other miscellaneous aircraft) and the gray-tails (military aircraft), such as C-130s, C-17s, and C-5s. This is my second deployment here to Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan. I am here for 120 days.

Holloway: What do you do in the Air Force?



Master Sgt. Wendy Clevenger.

Clevenger: I am a master sergeant in the Air Force Reserves, stationed at Andrews AFB. My Air Force Specialty Code is 2T2, Air Transportation.

My job here is very exciting and rewarding. We ensure the Warfighters get needed supplies and vehicles so they can do their jobs and do them safely. We load the bundles on the aircraft that are parachuted to the Warfighters in outlying areas, replenishing their supplies. We are very busy, so the time goes by very quickly. It's hard to believe that I am already halfway through my deployment.

Holloway: What have you learned?

Clevenger: I have learned that no matter how minor or tedious the reports or the research that come across my desk, it is truly benefiting someone or something. I know that what I'm doing is very worthwhile and relevant research for the Army and for the

Warfighters out there putting it on the line every day! I truly have a deeper respect for the men and women who put themselves in harm's way every time they put on their uniforms here.

Holloway: How do you keep your morale up?

Clevenger: There are a lot of young people here, and they pretty much keep my spirits up because nothing gets them down, and they just go with the flow. They have taught me that.

We work 12-hour shifts, so the days do go by pretty fast when all you do is work, eat, and sleep. I go to the PX on my day off and go see a movie or two playing at MWR.

Holloway: Thank you for sharing your story with us. Our prayers are with you.

*Tiffany Holloway
USAMRMC Public Affairs*



History Visits USAISR

Henry Saenz, accompanied by his sister Virginia Trevino, came to the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Sept. 2 to visit with Col. Evan Renz, Sgt. Maj. Ella Lalone, and Col. Basil Pruitt, Jr., M.D., U.S. Army, Retired, former commander of USAISR. Saenz, a resident of Pittsburg, Pa., was in San Antonio, Texas visiting his sister.

As a young airman in 1950, Saenz was assigned to Randolph Air Force Base to attend flight school. However, because he was unable to complete the flight training, the Air Force turned to his records to find him a suitable job for his remaining time in service. Saenz had entered in his records that he had an interest in drawing, and based on this chance entry, he was chosen for assignment to the Surgical Research Unit (now known as the USAISR) as a medical illustrator. During his assignment at the SRU, which had relocated from Halloran General Hospital (Staten Island, N.Y.) to Brooke General Hospital at Fort



Henry Saenz on the left with Col. Basil A. Pruitt, Jr., USA Retired, former commander of the institute.

Sam Houston, Airman Saenz spent many hours in the operating room documenting through illustration the many newly discovered techniques used in early burn therapy. This work included some of the earliest documentation from the institute of donor skin-harvesting techniques. The five years spent at the SRU directed Saenz to seek post-service education

Photo credit: USAISR Public Affairs Office

and a lifelong career as an industrial designer, and for this experience, he expressed his thanks to the SRU because this early work led to his successful, rewarding profession.

*Glen Gueller
USAISR*



The SRU staff in 1953. In the course of the visit, the institute presented Saenz with a copy of the only picture of him in uniform shown here.

Local Soldiers and Retired MEDEVAC Pilot Receive Awards for Heroism

On July 28, staff members from the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory, Fort Rucker, Ala., attended a luncheon honoring a departing Soldier at a Ruby Tuesday restaurant in Enterprise.

While farewell comments and gifts were being presented to the Soldier in the dining room, in the back of the restaurant a Ruby Tuesday employee was experiencing left shoulder pain and chest pain. When he collapsed, a server called for a doctor or medic. Luckily, several people trained in basic lifesaving techniques were attending the farewell luncheon.

Sgt. David Allen, Staff Sgt. Eduardo Alegria, Sgt. 1st Class (Promotable) Tamekia Carter, all highly trained and experienced Army medics; Sgt. 1st Class George Spann; and retired Army medical evacuation pilot, John Ramiccio, rushed to the stricken man's aide.

According to Allen, the first responder, "As soon as we heard the cry for help, several of us jumped up and ran to see what was wrong. I checked the man's vital signs and found that he was unconscious, he wasn't breathing, and he didn't have a heartbeat." The USAARL responders immediately started cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR.

"We opened his airway and performed full CPR for about 8 minutes until the local ambulance crew showed up," said Alegria. Because of the efforts of Allen, Alegria, Carter, Spann, and Ramiccio, the Ruby Tuesday employee was alive when he was taken to Medical Center Enterprise.



Pictured from left to right: Staff Sgt. Eduardo Alegria, John Ramiccio, and Sgt. David Allen.

Allen said, "I was doing what I was trained to do, to help anyone in need." Col. Joseph McKeon, commander of USAARL, added, "I am so proud of my people. Their actions speak highly of their character and Army training. They responded without hesitation and provided immediate emergency medical care to someone in trouble."

Allen, Alegria, Carter, Spann, and Ramiccio were awarded the Army Commendation Medal by McKeon and received a letter of recognition and a U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command coin from Maj. Gen. James Gillman, commanding general of USAMRMC.

*Catherine Machen
USAARL Public Affairs*



USARIEM Represents at the Force Health Protection Conference

Spc. Matthew Dickson, Biological Science specialist of the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine, greets a booth visitor at the Force Health Protection Conference in Phoenix, Ariz., Aug. 9-11.



USAISR Burn Center at Brooke Army Medical Center Receives Verification from the American Burn Association and the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma



The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center at Brooke Army Medical Center has again been verified as a burn center by the American Burn Association and the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons. This achievement recognizes the Burn Center's dedication to providing optimal care for its patients.

Established jointly by the American College of Surgeons and the American Burn Association in 1995, the Burn Center Verification/Consultation Program for Hospitals promotes the development of burn centers in which participants provide the hospital resources necessary for optimal care of burn patients. This spectrum of care extends from the prehospi-

tal phase through the rehabilitation process.

Verified burn centers must meet criteria that ensure burn care capability and institutional performance as outlined by the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma in the Burn Care chapter of its *Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient* manual (current edition). These criteria were developed in cooperation with the American Burn Association.

The ACS/ABA Burn Center Verification/Consultation Program for Hospitals does not designate burn centers. Rather, it provides a confirmation that a burn center has demonstrated its commitment to providing the highest

quality care for all burn patients by fulfilling these criteria. The actual establishment and the designation of burn centers is the function of local, regional, or state health care systems agencies, such as the local emergency medical services.

To receive verification, each hospital undergoes an on-site review by a team of experienced surgeons who use the current Burn Care chapter in the ACS' *Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient* manual as a guideline in conducting the survey.

"Verification of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center by the American Burn Association and the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma is a significant accomplishment for the entire facility," said Lt. Col. Evan Renz, M.D., F.A.C.S., Burn Center director. "It recognizes the hard work and dedication of our staff to provide optimal care to our beneficiaries as well as a strong commitment by the Department of Defense to ensure wounded warriors receive the very best care."

The ABA is a multidisciplinary not-for-profit organization first organized in 1967 to stimulate and sponsor the study and research in the treatment and prevention of burns, provide a forum for presentation of such knowledge, foster training opportunities for individuals interested in burns, and encourage publications pertaining to

the foregoing activities. Care of the burn patient is truly multidisciplinary, requiring expertise provided by physicians, scientists, nurses, and therapists in critical care, infection, metabolism, nutrition, wound care, reconstruction, and rehabilitation. It is essential that those who care for burn patients be well informed in these areas especially since tremendous advances in the care of the burn patient are being made at a rapid pace in many scientific fields.

The ACS is a scientific and educational association of surgeons that was founded in 1913 to raise the standards of surgical education and practice and to improve the care of the surgical patient. Longstanding achievements have placed the college in the forefront of American surgery and have made it an important advocate for all surgical patients.

The USAISR Burn Center at Brooke Army Medical Center serves as the sole burn center within the Department of Defense, providing comprehensive care to military casualties, beneficiaries, and civilian emergency patients based on state-of-the-science practices and technology fully integrated with combat casualty care research.

Since 2003, the Burn Center has admitted more than 850 combat casualties related to Overseas Contingency Operations. Critical care provided at the Burn Center leverages state-of-the-science best clinical practices coupled with clinical research to ensure optimal care.

Comprehensive, multidisciplinary care is provided by Burn Center staff consisting of approximately 300 federal employees and contract staff in concert with consultants from Brooke Army Medical Center. The Burn

Center's multidisciplinary team is composed of physicians, physician assistants, clinical nurse specialists, registered nurses, licensed vocational nurses, clinical dietitians, social workers, therapists, technicians, and other specialists.

The Burn Center has a 16-bed burn intensive care unit that provides care to patients with severe burns, inhalation injury, and other trauma for which the Burn Center is optimally designed. It also has a 24-bed progressive care ward that provides either initial or extended care for patients admitted from the Emergency Department or clinic or in transfer from the intensive care unit.

A dedicated Respiratory Therapy Department provides comprehensive pulmonary care, including utilization of a variety of ventilators and modalities. Staff includes more than 20 full-time certified and registered therapists.

The USAISR Burn Center also maintains the military's Burn Flight Team composed of active duty military personnel who work daily in the Burn Center. The team has flown more than 85 missions since 2003, transporting more than 300 critically ill and injured

casualties related to ongoing Overseas Contingency Operations.

The Burn Center's dedicated operating room provides 24/7 staffing to ensure dedicated support for burn casualties for both acute and phased reconstructive operations. A team of anesthesiologists dedicated to burn surgery provides comprehensive anesthesia support in the operating room and throughout the Burn Center including acute pain management.

The Burn Rehabilitation Department is composed of physical and occupational therapists and technicians, including staff with added credentials in hand therapy. Physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians work closely with rehabilitation staff to ensure maximal integration of services for all patients.

The Burn Outpatient Clinic at Brooke Army Medical Center provides outpatient services to both military and civilian emergency patients as they recover from their injuries.

Source information provided by the USAISR

Ramon Receives NOMAR Award

Sgt. Jose Ramon was selected as a 2010 Meritorious Service Award recipient by the National Organization for Mexican American Rights. This award "honors military members and Department of Defense (DoD) civilian employees, men and women, who supported the DoD mission, oversea contingency operations, and demonstrated role model qualities and the core values of

their respective Military Service or Agency." Ramon was honored at the 2010 annual NOMAR Meritorious Service Awards banquet Sept. 1, in Miami, Fla. NOMAR is "a national, nonprofit, all volunteer organization committed to improving educational and employment opportunities for and defending the civil rights of Hispanic Americans."



Col. Vandre Returns to Combat Casualty Care

U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command booth babe will be missed!

Col. Robert Vandre had his retirement ceremony July 21. He served 33 years in the Army.

“I came in as a dentist and expected that after my initial two-year obligation I would get out and go into private practice. What I found, however, was that the dental practice in the Army fit me perfectly. I really enjoyed being able to help people and not have to ask them to pay for it. Over my career, I have done hundreds of thousands of dollars of dentistry on patients who could never, if they were not in the Army, have afforded it,” said Vandre.

Because of his past experience at the Aerospace Corporation, Vandre was able to develop a handheld dental x-ray gun.

“In those days, battlefield medicine and dentistry were performed with film-based x-ray imaging systems, which were highly dependent on clean water and mild temperatures to get properly developed films. Of course, on the battlefield neither of those conditions usually exists, and so as a result, battlefield radiographs were suboptimal at best. I worked with a group at the National Institute of Standards and Technology to develop a handheld dental x-ray gun that weighed less than 30 pounds. The Army has since fielded a derivative of that system, and it is in all of our TO&E units. After that, I started working with Ford Aerospace and then Lockheed-Fairchild Imaging Sensors to develop a digital x-ray imager that could replace film. That



Col. Bob Vandre briefing VIPs at Headquarters.

Fast facts about Col. Bob Vandre:

- His five sons are all Eagle Scouts, and he served seven years as a scout master.
- He sang in a barbershop quartet for a few years until the other members relocated.
- He served twice as a bishop in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormon Church).
- In college, he played in the UCLA marching band and worked part-time for the Aerospace Corporation doing research on nuclear weapons effects on semiconductors and spacecraft charging.

system is now also in our TO&E units and is sold commercially as the DEXIS x-ray system. Much of the DEXIS system was actually developed in my laboratory at Fort Meade,” said Vandre.

Since Vandre was one of the few scientists who produced products that made it to the battlefield and because he was managing research at the

Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center, Maj. Gen. John Parker decided to offer him the opportunity to be the Combat Casualty Care Research director.

“Coming onto the scene at the perfect time, Dr. Anthony Atala, the director of the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine gave a talk on regenerative medicine at the Advanced

Technology Applications for Combat Casualty Care meeting that we were holding. From his inspiration, I realized that regenerative medicine wasn’t science fiction but had the potential to transform the care that we could provide for our wounded warriors,” said Vandre.

After 10 years of being the Combat Casualty Care Research director, leadership wanted Vandre to work on the Armed Forces Institute of Regenerative Medicine full-time.

“I think the most satisfaction I have gotten from my career was my time as the director of the Army’s Combat Casualty Care Research Program, and the opportunity to that afforded me to establish the Armed Forces Institute of Regenerative Medicine. The AFIRM encompasses 28 universities and over 200 scientists. After only two years, they are starting 10 clinical trials of therapies that will help to heal our wounded warriors. I tell people that I have the best job in the whole world. The Army has given me a chance to make a difference,” said Vandre.

He envisions AFIRM becoming a national resource that will last for decades.

Vandre and his wife have seven children and 15 grandchildren. He plans to work for the Army’s Combat Casualty Care Research Program as a contractor. “I served as the director there for 10 years and think I understand the issues pretty well. My wife and I would eventually like to serve a mission for our church.”

*Tiffany Holloway
USAMRMC Public Affairs*

USAMMA Soldier Passionate About Soccer

I enjoy soccer, and more importantly, I wanted to share my passion for soccer, that’s why I volunteered to coach the Fort Detrick youth-10 soccer team. I’m told that this is the first time a Fort Detrick Soldier has volunteered to coach this team.

When I first arrived in Germany in 2004, I was disappointed in how many children were missing out on soccer because there were not enough coaches. That’s when I started coaching, and now I make it a priority to coach and help support the youth soccer league wherever possible.

Even though the soccer season is over for the Fort Detrick youth-10 soccer team, I can proudly say our team won seven out of eight games.

Games were weekly and were played on Saturdays at Baker Park in Downtown Frederick. Practices were held every Wednesday at Fort Detrick.

You can learn a lot from children; they assisted me as much as I assisted them. Since I once played for the Schweinfurt Army team from 2005 and 2006, I had the opportunity to share my personal experiences. While the children improved their soccer skills, I was able to learn more about the Fort Detrick community.

This was a great experience, and I am very proud of being a Soldier and being able to help the military children in this community; that’s why next year I will coach again.

*Sgt. Juan F. BuitragoQuijano
Medical Logistics non-commissioned officer
USAMMA Emergency Operations Center*



The Fort Detrick youth-10 soccer team receives their medals. They won seven out of eight games. Staff Sgt. Juan F. BuitragoQuijano, U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency, stands behind the team he coached.



West Point Cadets Achieve Motorized Running



On April 23, a Special Operations Soldier who lost his lower leg in combat only six months earlier ran at 8 mph on the West Point-SpringActive Bionic Foot. He is the first person in the world to run on a motor-powered foot-ankle prosthetic.

West Point cadets have designed, built, and tested the world's first lower-leg prosthesis to achieve motorized running. On April 23, filmed by the Discovery Channel, a Special Operations Soldier who lost his lower leg in combat used the West Point-SpringActive Bionic Foot to run on a treadmill at 8 mph, the fastest any powered device has ever powered someone.

This computer-controlled, motor-powered prosthesis generates the same push-off power and has the same joint motion as a natural foot and ankle. Current passive prosthetics have no ankle joint and rely on a spring and thus cannot create the totally natural gait replicated by the bionic foot.

The WPBF is the only such effort focused completely on the needs of the wounded warrior.

It is funded by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command's Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center. The WPBF project is a continuing success story that is not atypical within TATRC's Advanced Prosthetics and Human Performance research portfolio, directed by Troy Turner. Notes Turner, "The way the WPBF is being developed—by undergraduate students—is perhaps as unique as the demands an active duty deployed Warfighter would place on the foot."

The idea underlying the WPBF was first proposed to TATRC in 2006. Its genesis was with Dr. Tom Sugar at Arizona State University as the Spring Ankle with Regenerative Kinetics, or "SPARKy," robotic ankle. Ph.D. candidate Maj. Joe Hitt was

collaborating with Sugar on the project. Hitt became Lt. Col. Hitt, Ph.D., and moved to New York to teach at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. It was there that the idea of evolving the SPARKy ankle into a prosthetic foot uniquely designed for the demands of the deployed active duty military took shape.

Eight West Point cadets each year in the academy's Civil and Mechanical Engineering, Electrical and Computer Science, and Behavioral Science and Leadership departments have worked on the foot with Hitt since 2008. Cadets have gained much from this opportunity. One former team member now attends Yale Medical School, and one is now a Rhodes Scholar.

This year will be the second summer that TATRC has hosted a West Point cadet in an internship. Interns learn about the research that TATRC funds and manages, and they spend time at Walter Reed Army Medical Center learning firsthand about the challenges facing wounded service members. They put this experience to work helping engineer the next phase of the WPBF.

Hitt says, "Others are doing great work out there with motor-powered prosthetics for better walking, but they're building a sedan for the mass market, and we're here to build a Humvee."

TATRC has supported the project since 2006 through the Army Medical Department's Advanced Medical Technology Initiative. The WPBF is also supported by the Army Research Laboratory, Walter Reed, and Brooke Army Medical Center.

Says Lt. Col. Rachel Evans, research director for the Center for the Intrepid at BAMC, "When I talk to the severely wounded service members in rehabilitation here, the one thing they all want to do is to be able to run again. It's such an integral part of military culture. Being able to run with the bionic foot will make a wounded warrior feel like a real Warfighter again."

This fall's team of cadets, led by West Point faculty member Maj. J.J. Johnson, will work on phase three of the device, which will enable running on any terrain. The ultimate goal is to develop a robust walk-run, all-terrain, all-weather, silent device that requires one battery charge per day.

Says Hitt, "By April 2011, we plan to prove the device will support a Soldier taking the Army Physical Fitness Test. No one else in the world is doing this!"

The Discovery Channel filmed the April test as part of "Kamen Code," Segway inventor Dean Kamen's documentary series. The "Age of Bionics" episode is set to air this winter.

Hitt says the device could be Soldier-ready by 2012.

Barb Ruppert
Science and Technology writer
TATRC



USAMRICD Change of Command

Maj. Gen. James Gilman, commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, hands off the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense to Col. Peter Schultheiss Aug. 16 at a Change of Command Ceremony.

New Technologies Join to Revolutionize Medical Shipping and Field Hospitals

Knowing that having the right supplies and equipment at hand can mean the difference between life and death, several logistics technology developers have joined forces to improve the odds for our Warfighters.

These developers began working together within the past year to make their technologies compatible for improved ordering, shipping, tracking, and organizing of medical supplies needed for field operations. The U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command's Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center brought them together in June to explore further how they could meet emergency needs whether in a war zone or in the aftermath of a natural disaster.

The linchpin of these efforts has been TATRC Medical Logistics portfolio manager John DePasquale. Envisioning a modification here and a tweak there, he has seen the potential synergies. And his excitement about the projects is palpable.

"The value of these projects together is far more than the sum of the parts," he says. "What we're doing here could make logistics more efficient and revolutionize it worldwide."

According to DePasquale, these new products could be in widespread use within a year.

In a new future for medical logistics, military medical specialists will have rugged, standardized containers that fit together in modules to organize supplies—"just grab the pieces you want without unpacking everything."



Six of the rugged plastic medical chests the military currently uses will fit in the JMIC UltraLight™.

Photo courtesy of Triton Systems

All items will be tagged using smart technology so containers and the equipment inside them can be accounted for and tracked to ensure they have made the journey safely. Modules that have everything for each mission—pediatric supplies for civilians, IVs for critically wounded warriors, or the portable logistics system to set up a hospital—will be tagged, packed, and ready to be deployed where needed.

While 20 foot ISO shipping containers are standard worldwide, what is packed into those containers is often a random assortment of all shapes and sizes of heavy boxes. The Department of Defense is leading the way in moving to modular logistics with the first standard shipping and storage container designed to fit neatly into modular, stackable groups.

All service branches are adopting the standardized JMIC (joint modular intermodal container) developed by the Navy for munitions shipping. The JMIC is rugged, stackable, collapsible,

and designed so that 16 of the boxes fit perfectly into a 20 foot container with no wasted space.

Another variation, Triton Systems' JMIC UltraLight™, was originally created for biochemical defense use through an Army Research Office Small Business Innovation Research grant. The UltraLight is made of a composite material much lighter yet more durable than the original aluminum and offers the added advantage of significant fuel savings. It is being adapted for medical field use at TATRC's request.

"We saw that the container would make for safer, more efficient shipping of medical supplies. This is a great leap forward from the wooden and cardboard boxes that we used to use," says DePasquale.

Triton Systems also is working with VerdaSee Solutions through the Army Research Office and TATRC to create a smart version of the JMIC UltraLight. The container's panels are

wired to monitor location and whether the container has been tampered with, exposed to extreme environmental conditions, or simply had its contents emptied thus indicating the need for replacement shipments.

The U.S. Marine Corps is engaged in operations testing of the basic JMIC UltraLight, and TATRC is currently helping Triton find a partner to test the smart JMIC for medical logistics.

Within the standardized JMICs will soon be standardized medical chests. The military has been converting from aluminum to Pelican-Hardigg's more rugged plastic chest over the past several years. When TATRC asked Pelican to resize its chests to fit six exactly in the JMIC container, the company made the modifications at its own expense.

With the needs of the Soldier in mind, the chests have been designed with grooves and anchors so they can be cross-stacked and used as printer stands or desks in the field. They include recessed areas for securely attaching smart tags. DePasquale notes that the company is working with VerdaSee to develop a smart chest with sense and respond capability to automatically monitor and report when a medic has removed items.

TATRC-managed Army SBIR grants have supported the development of two types of RFID, or radio-frequency identification, "smart tags." These meet military requirements for a secure, low-cost method to track and monitor the condition of medical supply items.

The Eigent Technologies RFID sensor tag transmits temperature, humidity, and shock information along with shipment ID information to the

continues next page

Congrats to WRAIR



Congratulations to Col. Chris Ockenhouse, Division of Malaria Vaccine Development, Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences, and U.S. Army Medical Research Unit-Kenya for the establishment of the vivax malaria challenge model and continued efforts to support the licensure of RTS,S.

Command Visits USARIEM



During a July 27 visit to the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine, Navy Capt. J. Chris Daniel (right), deputy commander, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, poses a question to Dr. Steve Muza (center), research physiologist, and Dr. Mike Sawka (left), chief, Thermal Mountain & Medicine Division, as they discuss current altitude research in the laboratory. Research technicians in the background monitor test subjects in the altitude chamber.

Photo by Terry Rice

USARIEM Change of Command



Capt. John Lavoie receives the unit guidon from Col. Gaston Bathalon during the July 16 Detachment Change of Command Ceremony at the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine. Lavoie assumed detachment commander responsibilities from Capt. James Day.

Photo by Stratcom, NSRDEC



continued from previous page

900 MHz EPG global-compatible readers currently used by the Army. An operator on location or at a command center can determine if the supplies are damaged and replacements need to be shipped. Eigent's sensor tags are smaller, lower in cost, and can track smaller quantities than the 433 MHz pallet RFID sensor tags currently in use. The new RFID tags, about the size of a bike tail light, can provide critical information for shipments of medical supplies, pharmaceuticals, food, chemicals, sensitive instruments, and munitions.

The InfinID Technologies V-Tag™ is a similar RFID tag that adds the ability for the tags to “talk” to each other rather than having to communicate directly with a central gateway. One tag could warn that its supplies are getting too hot, for instance, no matter how far from the server or scanner it is or whether radio waves are blocked. The tag-to-tag networking creates an ad hoc wireless network that is robust, reliable, and reduces the amount of infrastructure needed for deployment; the hop distance between tags can be up to 300 feet. At approximately \$20 per tag, the business card-sized tags also are a significant cost savings.

Shipping medical supplies safely in standard containers and tracking them using smart tags and GPS will soon be the final piece in ensuring supplies are available anytime, anywhere. VerdaSee Solutions' mobile logistics system for austere environments addresses the need to communicate supply information accurately back and forth from command centers to far-forward locations throughout the globe.

VerdaSee president and CEO Reuben Vasquez says, “With our system, senior command will know immediately

whether a medic tent has received supplies—a capability it hasn't had before. And the forward tent will know what they're going to get in advance—they'll understand they're not out there alone.”

In a black box the size of a toolbox are two handheld scanners that can read everything from barcodes to the latest RFID tags, a mesh network that allows the scanners to communicate wirelessly, a laptop server with programs that enable multiple users to keep track of incoming and outgoing supplies, and an optional satellite receiver and solar panel for operations in any environment. Set up the Intelli-Flex™ shelves that read smart tags and the collapsible aluminum doorframe that reads all tagged items entering the medic tent, and there it is—a medical supply system in a box.

According to Vasquez, the system can manage 3 million boxes spread among medic tents worldwide. He explains that the system is designed for ease of use and interoperability with technology from a variety of suppliers. “A few medics in a tent could use the system today to quickly track, inventory, and reorder everything the unit needs.”

The system's scanner is a standards-based, cost-effective reader that can read a wide variety of input, taking the place of what would usually take three or four different scanners. The shelves can be a roll of film, Styrofoam or hard plastic, wired to sense what is put on and taken off.

The server software can create a floor plan of a tent or an airfield, linked to a spreadsheet that shows the inventory on each shelf or zone of the area, from the number of JMICS down to

individual syringes. The operator can see exactly how much space is left for additional shipments and can color code the inventory, by expiration date for example, to know which supplies to use first.

During a large influx of inventory, service members can simply scan incoming items, and an “as positioned” map will be available immediately without the need for time-consuming cataloging or location surveys. Command centers can see exactly where everything is in real time to keep far-forward positions efficiently supplied.

Notes Vasquez, “The bottom line is that if operating rooms in the field get the exact medical supplies they need more quickly, it will save lives.”

Army SBIR grants managed by TATRC have supported VerdaSee efforts. In August, TATRC is sponsoring a beta test of the system that the company will be running with a humanitarian relief organization in Haiti. The organization handles 200,000 items a month in Port au Prince—tents, cots, cooking kits, water purifying tablets, mosquito netting—and military observers will be on hand to watch the new system in action.

Notes TATRC chief scientist Dr. Charles Peterson, “Smart logistics are critical in providing the best and most efficient care to the Warfighter. TATRC is proud to bring forward new approaches and technologies that have such an important practical impact in this time of difficult and distant delivery systems and supplies.”

*Barb Ruppert
Science and Technology writer
TATRC*

Casto Receives Award for Outstanding Dissertation in Aerospace Human Factors for 2010

The dissertation of Lt. Col. Kristen Casto, Au.D., Ph.D., of the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory was selected as the Outstanding Dissertation in Aerospace Human Factors for 2010. Casto's dissertation is entitled “Workload and Communication Signal Quality on Black Hawk Helicopter Simulator Pilot Performance.” The honor, given by the Aerospace Human Factors Association, is named the Stanley N. Roscoe Award after one of the major pioneers in aviation human factors. The award was presented to Casto at the AsHFA annual conference on May 10. In the field of human factors engineering and ergonomics, the Stanley N. Roscoe Award is one of the most prestigious honors given to one person annually.

The AsHFA is the largest, most representative professional organization in the fields of aviation, space, and environmental medicine. Its mission is to apply and advance scientific knowledge to promote and enhance the health, safety, and performance of those involved in aerospace and related activities. The AsHFA's goals are to encourage human factors considerations in the development of aerospace systems, apply knowledge of human performance to system development, promote research on factors affecting human performance, and exchange information with other groups having similar interests.

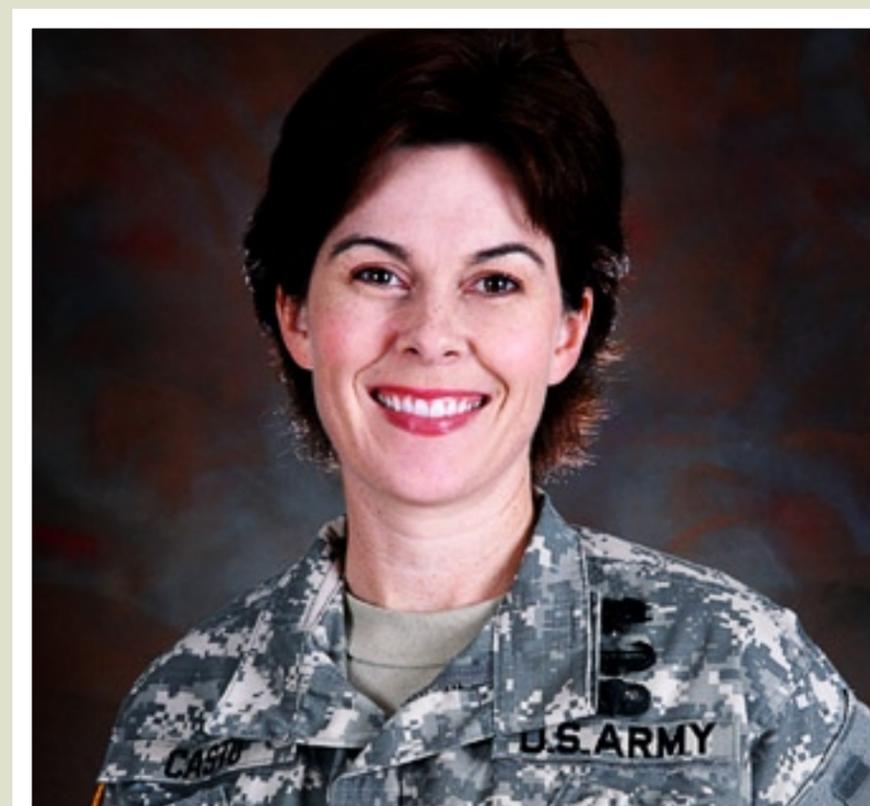
After learning she earned the award, Casto commented, “This award is quite an honor for me but hardly an individual effort. My academic advisor at Virginia Tech, Dr. John Casali, and my dissertation committee were

extremely supportive of a project that directly related to Army aviation. I also appreciate the entire team of professionals at USAARL who assisted me in completing the project. So, it really is a team award.”

Casto is a research audiologist and chief of the Acoustics Research Branch at USAARL. Her research focuses on acoustics and human factors and ergonomics. Specifically, Casto's research concentrates on the evaluation of hearing protection and communication devices and the investigation of the auditory and vestibular effects of blast injuries. The Acoustics Branch is currently involved in a study aimed at developing functional

hearing assessments for a variety of military occupational specialties. Aviation-specific functional assessments are a natural follow-on to this dissertation work, which investigated the performance effects of normal hearing and hearing-impaired aviators with several communication devices in the operational flight environment. Additionally, the branch is working on establishing auditory return-to-duty standards, which can be correlated with functional hearing assessments in operational environments.

*Catherine Machen
USAARL Public Affairs*





USAMRMC and Subcommand Promotions

USAARL

June

Sgt. 1st Class George E. Spann

USAISR

May

Maj. Barbosa M. Rivera
Maj. Mabel A. Salas

June

Lt. Col. Joseph R. Hsu
Maj. Trinity F. Peak
Maj. Michael F. Plueger, Jr.
Maj. Peter L. Williams

August

Maj. David A. Allen
Maj. Mark E. Lester

USAMMA

August

Maj. Deon D. Maxwell

USAMMCE

September

Sgt. Maj. William L. Majors

USAMMDA

May

Maj. Mara Kreishmandeitrack

USAMRIID

May

Col. Brian J. Gentile
Col. James T. Sheets

June

Maj. Robert Cybulski, Jr.
Capt. John C. Gorbet
Col. John J. Kelly, Jr.
Maj. Lewis S. Long

July

Sgt. 1st Class Keith W. Kittle

USAMRMC

May

Col. Mark E. Polhemus

July

Col. Chris E. Hanson

USARIEM

July

Maj. Aaron Crombie

August

Maj. Tanja C. Roy

WRAIR

May

Maj. Benjamin N. Palmer
Maj. Kara E. Schmid

June

Master Sgt. Joseph Civitello
Col. Arthur G. Lyons
Maj. Dariusz Mydlarz

July

Maj. Chad C. Black
Maj. Julie D. Kane

August

Col. Paul D. Bliese

USAMRMC Awards

May

Legion of Merit

Col. Mitchell E. Brew
Col. Brian J. Lukey
Col. Robert H. Vandre

Meritorious Service Medal

Col. Robert A. Bowden
Maj. Ammon W. Brown
Sgt. 1st Class Tamekia L. Carter
Maj. James F. Cole
Capt. Mary A. DeJoseph
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Christopher T. Denning
Capt. Alida M. Hanna
1st Sgt. Sean C. Hendricks
Staff Sgt. Maria T. Kurtzweil
Master Sgt. Rosa M. Lugo
Maj. Kevin W. Nemeika
Lt. Col. James W. Ness
Col. Julie A. Pavlin
Lt. Col. David R. Shoemaker
Sgt. Brian K. Viskup
Lt. Col. James S. Wadding
Maj. Samuel L. Yingst

June

Legion of Merit

Lt. Col. Marie T. Cochran
Col. Jeffrey W. Davies
Lt. Col. Loudon D. Yantis

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Derron A. Alves
Maj. Kevin K. Chung
Maj. Peter A. DeSocio
Sgt. Sarah M. Elliott
Capt. Patrick A. Everley
Master Sgt. Michael L. Gibson
Sgt. Maj. Christopher L. Jenkins
Col. Beverly I. Maliner
Master Sgt. Bermorys Matos
Capt. Deon D. Maxwell
Chief Warrant Officer 5 Herman T. Morgan
Sgt. Maj. Hoyt Williams

Army Commendation Medal

Capt. Richard Foucault
Sgt. Randall S. Sharpe

July

Legion of Merit

Col. James W. Bowles
Col. Alan Magill

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Gina E. Adam
Maj. Oscar A. Cabrera
Capt. Jacob D. Johnson
Sgt. Maj. Surendra A. Mangra
Staff Sgt. Jose D. Picart
Lt. Col. Andre R. Pippen
Lt. Col. Bryan L. Smith
Maj. Jeffrey L. Thomas
Capt. Maria L. Urso
Staff Sgt. Wiliam A. Vaughn III
Lt. Col. Norman C. Waters

August

Legion of Merit

Col. Jeffrey M. Unger

Meritorious Service Medal

Sgt. Maj. Eugene L. Larkins
Maj. Kendra L. Lawrence
Capt. Vanessa R. Melanson
Capt. Traceee J. Rose
Lt. Col. Shannon M. Wallace

September

Meritorious Service Medal

Sgt. 1st Class Raymond A. Nueve

USAARL Awards

May

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Troy Chivevere

Certificate of Appreciation

Ms. Elmaree Gordon
Sgt. William McGilberry
Sgt. Sean Tracy

Other Actions

Capt. Michael Crivello appointed Detachment commander

June

Meritorious Service Medal

Sgt. Brian Viskup

Army Achievement Medal

Sgt. Arlene Breaux

Certificate of Appreciation

Mr. Kevin Baugher
Mr. Victor Estes
Ms. Catherine Machen
Ms. Debora McKinnon
Mr. Ronnie Reynolds

July

Army Achievement Medal

Sgt. Pedro Cruz
Staff Sgt. David Lopez
Spc. Adam Thompson

Meritorious Service Medal

Sgt. 1st Class Tamekia Carter
Chief Warrant Officer 5 Herman Morgan

Civilian Achievement Medal

Mr. Jim Chiaramonte
Ms. Melody King

Soldier of the Quarter

Spc. Adam Francis

Certificate of Appreciation

Mr. Jeremy Athy
Mr. Kevin Baugher
Mr. Scott Childress
Mr. Victor Estes
Mr. Andy Higdon
Dr. Heber Jones
Ms. Lana Milam
Ms. Stephanie Moon
Ms. Edna Rath
Ms. Elizabeth Stokes
Ms. Melinda Vasbinder

35 Years of Service

Mr. Andy Higdon

30 Years of Service

Ms. Elizabeth Stokes

USARIEM Awards

June

Army Commendation Medal

Sgt. Michael Cavallo

Army Achievement Medal

Spc. Bodundrin Shobayo
Sgt. Bryan Wiley

On-the-Spot Award

Mr. Leonard Elliott

Special Act Award

Dr. Sam Chevront

July

Legion of Merit

Col. Kevin Keenan

Army Commendation Medal

Maj. Sarah Goldman

Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Dr. Matt Kramer

Special Act Award

Ms. Amanda Antczak
Ms. Christina Carvey
Dr. Harris Lieberman
Dr. Scott Montain
Mr. Eric Szelenyi

Other Actions

Sgt. Dan Catrambone commissioned as lieutenant in the Air Force

Sgt. Michael Cavallo departed for military attaché program and follow-on assignment in Moldova

Sgt. Jeremy Miller commissioned as lieutenant junior grade in the Navy

WRAIR Awards

May

Special Act Award

William Murray

June

Special Act Award

Detra Battle
Robert George
Burton Lewis
Lander McClure

Certificate of Achievement

Laverne Harrison
Burton Lewis
Lander McClure

Performance Award

Tereasa Shands
Raymond Shubert

Supervisor Bonus

Carl Alving
James Atkins
Jody Ference
Robert Gramzinski
Tiffany Hamm
Paul Scott
Maryanne Vahey

July

Special Act Award

Tarsha Campbell
America Geralde
Laverne Harrison
Heater Isaac
David Murphy
Roberta Nicolella
Ruthie Ratcliffe
Dana Whidbee

Certificate of Achievement

Romona Anderson
Detra Battle
Kevin Harris
Sharron Taylor

Invention Award

Carl Alving
Kenneth Eckels
William Ellis
Richard Gordon
Al Jeng Lin
Gary Matyas
Mangala Rao
Marcia Wolf

Supervisor Bonus

Michael Clark
Diane Thompkins
Debra Yourick

Performance Award

Joyce Johnson

Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Michael Chute
Jayasree Nath
Edward Sekonde

August

Special Act Award

Julia Hart
Jeraun Thompkins

September

Special Act Award

Romona Anderson
Wanda Cook
Kevin Harris
Amy Summers
Diane Thompkins

Time Off Award

Yoon Kwak
Albert Maxwell
Sharron Taylor