

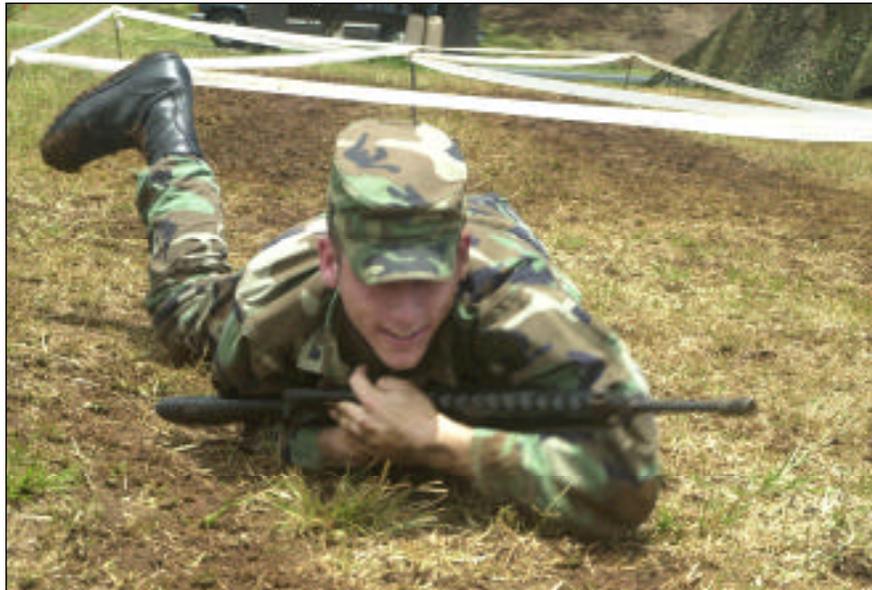


MEDICAL MINUTE

Vol. 2, No. 6

Serving the members of Tripler Army Medical Center and Pacific Regional Medical Command

June 2001



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

CTT TIME

Spc. David I. Beadle, a mental health specialist at Tripler Army Medical Center, high crawls through a designated course during Common Task Training May 18 on Tripler Hill. Reacting to direct and indirect fire was just one of the tasks soldiers were tested on May 7-18. Soldiers who missed out on the annual training may be able to make up the required training in September.

Graduation ceremony set

TAMC Public Affairs Office

Tripler Army Medical Center's Intern/Resident/Fellow Graduation Ceremony is scheduled for June 15 at 3 p.m. at Tripler's Flagpole. Lt. Gen. Edwin Smith, commander, U.S. Army Pacific, is the scheduled Graduation Speaker.

More than 100 healthcare providers are in the graduating class to include 99 Army officers and three civilians. More than 90 providers are physicians trained in the following specialties: Child Psychiatry, Family Practice, General Surgery, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics-Gynecology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Orthopedics, Radiology and Urology.

More than 50 of the graduating physicians are scheduled to further their graduate medical education training in military and civilian residencies and fellowships. The other graduates will be assigned to South Korea, the European Theater, the Mainland and Hawaii.

Following the graduation ceremony, there will be a retreat ceremony honoring the Army's 226th Birthday which takes place June 14.

White sworn in as Army Secretary

Armed Forces Press Service

Thomas E. White became the 18th secretary of the Army May 31 after being nominated by President George W. Bush on May 1, and confirmed by the Senate on May 24.

The secretary of the Army is the U.S. Army's senior civilian, responsible by statute for all matters relating to Army manpower, personnel, reserve affairs, installations, environmental issues, weapons systems and equipment acquisition, communications and financial management.

Medical conference a success

Margaret Tippy
TAMC Public Affairs Officer

"Many thanks to all for your efforts and your support," said Col. (Dr.) Anne Campbell, Director of New Zealand Army Medical Services and conference co-host, speaking to the delegates of the 11th Asia-Pacific Military Medicine Conference (APMMC XI) May 11 in New Zealand.

"We have heard so many presentations on so many topics from fast deploying medical teams to being continually challenged by malaria as we have explored our theme 'Health Support in Operations Other Than War.'

"When we are getting ready for deployments, we screen, we treat, we vaccinate, we educate but we can't play God..." Campbell said.

The New Zealand Army (NZA) and the U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC) were the co-hosts of the conference.

Maj. Gen. Nancy R. Adams, command surgeon, U.S. Army Pacific and commander of the Pacific Regional Medical Command and Campbell, made history.

See APMMC, page 5

FEEDBACK

A place to voice your opinion
What do you do to relieve stress?



1st Lt. John Mitchell, staff nurse, 5C1 — "I go to the gym to relieve stress."



Lillian Foster, same day surgery section— "I find shopping a wonderful outlet for stress!!!"



Sgt. Brenda Dorador, Social Work Services — "To relieve stress, I do some PT (i.e. play basketball)."



Spc. John Kness, 1984th Army Hospital (Reserve) — "To relieve stress, I find the tallest mountain around and climb to the top. When I reach the top, I look around and enjoy the view."



Vivian V. Rich, Surgical Admission Center — "I talk with co-workers. We laugh and problems seem smaller."

EDITORIAL

TMA ensures success of TRICARE

Dr. H. James T. Sears
 Exec. Dir., TRICARE Management Activity

When I became executive director of TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) in June 1998, the organization's purpose — and mine — was to ensure the success of the TRICARE program. Military medicine was under assault, and I felt an incredible urgency to move on those issues that would improve our system and make it a more coordinated, effective and efficient program while improving quality of care and customer service.

I've always believed in TRICARE, and the Service surgeons general and my colleagues at TMA and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense/Health Affairs (ASD/HA) share my optimism. We have stayed focused on our mission, moved boldly forward, and achieved some remarkable victories along the way. Because of this, we are well prepared for the significant changes to TRICARE that lie ahead.

Satisfaction with TRICARE has increased every year as the program has matured. Recently released results of an independent study of TRICARE in eight

regions by the Center for Naval Analyses/Institute for Defense Analyses (CNA/IDA), showed significant increases in beneficiary satisfaction in the areas of access and quality of care. In regions in which TRICARE is three or more years old, 83 percent of TRICARE beneficiaries were satisfied with their access to health care. Before TRICARE began, only 70 percent of TRICARE beneficiaries were satisfied with their access to health care.

One of the best indicators of TRICARE's success is the impact it has had on the key personnel challenges of recruitment and retention. Our active duty members have to be very satisfied with their health care, or they are not going to stay in the service. An article published in the January-March 2001 issue of the *Navy Link*, cited the military's medical and dental benefits among the reasons that 2,600 veterans returned to the Navy this year after working in the civilian sector. An E-3 who worked as a flight attendant said, "In the Navy, medical and dental are free; I had to pay to join an HMO with the airline, and paid a lot extra to cover my family." A seaman urged anyone considering separation to "make sure you understand the seriousness of it. Know the benefits and value of housing, medical and dental, and child care."

We've made tremendous improvements in military health care, surpassing that available in the civilian community in access, quality and cost. We no

See TRICARE, page 3

GSM'S HANDSHAKE OF CONCERN



June

"Conscious sedation & anesthesia"



Medical Minute

<http://www.tamc.amedd.army.mil>

Commanding General Maj. Gen. Nancy R. Adams
Public Affairs Officer Margaret Tippy
Editor Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan
Public Affairs Specialist Suzan Holl

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TRICARE: Beneficiaries express appreciation

Continued from page 2

longer have to convince people TRICARE is a good deal.

In areas where we had some concerns, like claims processing, re-enrollment and portability, we took immediate, bold steps to change. For example, implementation of the Debt Collection Assistance Officer program has greatly reduced claims processing problems that lead to debt collection. The program emphasizes the importance of obtaining early resolution to claims problems, and it provides resources to help beneficiaries. Claims processing times have been dramatically decreased. The number of claims over 60-days old was reduced from 30,535 claims in December 1999 to 26 today.

My belief in TRICARE has never wavered. This year, it has been gratifying to watch as a large new group of believers has come into the TRICARE fold. The 2001 National Defense Authorization Act that provides TRICARE medical and phar-

macy benefits to age 65 and older uniformed services beneficiaries helped quiet many concerns about our health care program.



Significantly, two years ago the senior enlisted panel addressed TRICARE conference attendees and raised numerous concerns. This year, the senior enlisted panel reported that TRICARE no longer dominates the discussions that senior enlisted leaders have concerning problems and challenges for servicemembers.

Much credit for these improvements goes to the services, whose commanders and leaders believed in TRICARE, became informed about it, and helped ensure that all beneficiaries know how to use their health plan, and where to find help when they have questions or issues. Lead agents' offices, the managed care support contractors, our civilian network providers, and our military treatment facility leaders have

worked closely together to guarantee access to quality health care, while maintaining or reducing costs to beneficiaries and the government.

We have improved TRICARE through reengineering and optimizing our health care delivery system, and we have enhanced our technology, communications and customer service. At every level, from Congressional offices to TMA and military treatment facility health benefits offices, TRICARE counselors and staffers have also believed in TRICARE and helped ease beneficiary concerns and misunderstandings about their TRICARE benefits.

The achievement of implementing the fundamental change from the old military health services system to TRICARE is astounding. I know of no other health plan that has attempted or achieved the goals that TRICARE has. I am convinced that we have reached this point, in part, by remaining steadfast in our belief in TRICARE and by recognizing the tremendous importance of a high quality military health care system.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Patient's son thanks staff

I recently returned to the East Coast from Hawaii where my father was a patient (at Tripler). My Dad had been sick for quite some time, and he was diagnosed with terminal cancer last December.

There were many people who were exceptionally nice and helpful although there are two people that really stand out among the others. They are Lt. Col. (Dr.) Joseph Pina and Maj. (Dr.) Maria Doria. They really went above and beyond the normal duties of a physician. I personally have been involved with many doctors in the civilian and military medical arenas over the years. These two individuals went far out of their way to help both my mother and father through very difficult times. Both had (and Dr. Doria still is my mother's doctor) been involved with my Dad. And even though other doctors were handling things at various stages of my Dad's illness, they continued to stop by and visit him all the time. Dr. Doria stopped by on a daily basis and called my Mom at home and talked to her for periods of time to make sure she was OK. I personally received at least 20 e-mails from Dr. Doria keeping me apprised of my father's condition.

Although my Dad was beyond help and his treatment was more palliative rather than curative, they did all they could do for him and mother. My Dad was transferred to the Center for Aging for end of life care, and he only resided there four days until his death April 20, 2001.

I usually do not write letters such as this, but I felt that I had to take the time and express some form of thanks for the exemplary effort that these individuals put forth. They made my father (a retired Navy Chief after two wars and 21 years of service) feel very special.

So, again I would like to express my thanks to the Tripler staff and especially those two outstanding individuals. The civilian medical world could take a good lesson from them.

Sincerely,
Brian M. Corrigan

Tripler staff donates flowers to scouts

I wanted to write and thank Tripler Army Medical Center staff for donating flowers to Cub Scout Pack 49 to make leis for Memorial Day.

Because of Maj. Gen. Nancy R. Adams, commander of Tripler's generosity, the scouts from Hongwanji Mission School were able to make 80 leis from Plumeria Trees growing on Tripler Hill that graced 80 graves at Punchbowl Cemetery.

I also want to thank my fellow co-workers at Tripler's Department of Pathology who donated flowers from their homes and neighbors' homes. A total of 150 leis were sewn by the scouts this year to honor 150 veterans due to Tripler staff generosity.

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Pat Sasaki
Medical Technologist, TAMC

FIRST VISIT

During a visit to Tripler Army Medical Center May 16-18, Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. James B. Peake took time to meet with a group of Tripler NCOs to discuss their issues and concerns.

Peake also visited with 25th Infantry Division (Light) medics and Pacific Regional Veterinary and Dental Commands.

Although this was Peake's first visit to Tripler since being named "top doc," he is no stranger to the hospital. Peake was once assigned as Tripler's Deputy Commander for Clinical Services.



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

CG receives award, talks to HPU graduates



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

After receiving the Fellow of the Pacific Award from HPU, Maj. Gen. Nancy R. Adams addressed the nearly 700 graduates.

Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan
Editor

Hawaii Pacific University presented Maj. Gen. Nancy R. Adams, commanding general of Tripler Army Medical Center, the Fellow of the Pacific Award, the university's highest accolade, May 16 during HPU's spring commencement.

The award was given to Adams, who was also the night's keynote speaker, in recognition of her outstanding contributions and service to the Hawaii community.

"Hawaii Pacific University is honored to make this presentation to Major General Adams. This award signifies our recognition of her outstanding leadership in the military community and salutes her dedication to the people of Hawaii," said HPU President Chatt G. Wright.

Adams said she was honored as well as humbled by receiving the award.

"I will forever treasure this award as a reminder of my time in Hawaii," she said.

Minutes after receiving the award, Adams again took center stage to address the nearly 700 graduates.

"I know who I am today resulted from the opportunity that emanated from my college education," she said and thanked her parents for mandating she earn a college degree, the credential needed to begin her career as an Army nurse.

While Adams said she realized that the

majority of graduates will not decide to join the military, she said a college education is of utmost importance when seeking employment elsewhere.

"(With a college education) you are more marketable as an employee, and your abilities further expand your potential as a citizen," she said.

With a student body that represents all 50 states and more than 100 countries, Adams called HPU a model for diversity.

"My hope or wish for the class of 2001 is that you should go out and teach other those differences should be celebrated," said Adams, the first woman and first nurse to command a military medical center. "My world changed because during my career, there was a focus in the United States on the abilities of women ... Society looked to me for my talents rather than my gender identification."

Despite progress over the years, Adams said there is still evidence of discrimination based on gender and other differences.

"I am looking forward to the class of 2001 and the progress you will make in advancing both personally and in a corporate culture that more equally reflects the diversity in this audience," she said. "Your experience here at Hawaii Pacific University has prepared you to fully expand your horizons with appreciation for the benefits diversity brings to learning and life."



Courtesy photo

More than 300 military medical officers from 28 countries attended the week-long conference in New Zealand.

APMMC: Delegates from 28 countries attend conference

Continued from page 1

This was the first time two women were in charge of the annual conference, which has been conducted for the past 11 years.

"I think it's an excellent forum to gather together and discuss common issues," said Lt. Col. Sharon Steele, chief of Technological Support Operations, Health Facility Planning Agency, Falls Church, Va. "We are more alike than different."

Steele was referring to the delegates from 28 countries who came together to spend the week in a collaborative setting. Delegates such as Brigadier General Abd Razak Md Yusoff of the Malaysia Armed Forces; Senior Col. Tho Lo Nguyen of Vietnam; and Mr. Timothy Phatu from Vanuatu.

"The conference agenda was superb," Adams said in her closing remarks. "We are very fortunate to have such articulate and brilliant speakers. It is the audience that makes this conference so special. You have the knowledge and expertise that is most relevant to our region.

"To continue this pattern of excellence in topics and speakers is our primary goal each year," she said. "So we already have our challenge for next year."

Next year's conference is scheduled to take place in Malaysia and Gen. Razak accepted the APMMC flag from Adams after Col. Campbell had placed New



Margaret Tippy

Maj. Gen. Nancy R. Adams and New Zealand Army Col. (Dr.) Anne Campbell made history at the conference. It was the first time two women were in charge of the annual conference.

Zealand's banner on it for hosting this year's conference. "It is a great honor to host this conference again," Razak said. The theme for next year is still under consideration.

This year's conference focused on Health Support in Operations Other Than War and provided presentations on topics such as emerging infectious diseases in the Pacific, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance, and telemedicine research.

The New Zealand Army and U.S. Army Pacific co-hosted the conference with invited military medical officers from 28 countries. More than 160 lecture presentations

took place with 15 poster presentations on display.

This is the 11th in a series of meetings that began in 1990. Previous conferences have been held in Singapore, two in Bangkok, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, New Delhi, Sydney, Auckland and Honolulu.

The continuing series of Asia-Pacific Military Medicine Conferences provides a forum for military medical professionals in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean region to learn and work together in providing the best health care possible to members of their respective militaries. The exchange of information, through multiple venues, increases knowledge and understanding of medical professionals focusing on relevant military medical issues and topics in comprehensive health services, clinical research, education and prevention.

In addition to representatives from New Zealand and the United States, military medical personnel from the following countries attended the conference: Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, India, Japan, Kiribati, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Russia, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

Animal program a favorite among patients, staff

Furry friends help patients recover from illness, injury

Emmanuelle Basset
TAMC Public Affairs Office

It is called "Human Animal Bond Program" at Tripler Army Medical Center, or "Visiting Pets," "Therapy Dogs," or more formally "Animal Assisted Therapy" in other healthcare facilities. These are a few of the names given to programs in which animals help people just by visiting them.

Tripler's Human Animal Bond Program is sponsored by the American Red Cross, and people who bring their pets to the hospital to visit patients are Red Cross volunteers. The program uses specially and carefully chosen dogs, cats and rabbits to assist the therapist in helping patients who are recovering from physical, mental, or social illness.

All animals are screened by the Pacific Regional Veterinary Command and must pass strict behavioral and physical qualifications to be part of the program. The pet owners also receive special training.

Visiting animals help patients in a lot of ways and are now used in many medical facilities, hospitals and nursing homes. First, pets help people feel less lonely and depressed and provide a change from daily routine. They also offer entertainment and something to look forward to. Moreover, a pet is a link between people. It gives strangers a common interest and a topic for conversation.

Therapists have noticed that patients are more active and responsive during and after visiting with animals. Stroking a dog or cat can reduce a person's blood pressure, and petting encourages use of hands and arms, stretching and turning.

Many not-for-profit organizations exist throughout the country and abroad. They provide animals to visit people in all kinds of institutions such as nursing homes, facilities for disabled or ill children, hospital rehabilitation wards, children shelters and psychiatric facilities.



Courtesy photos

A Tripler patients pets one of the Human Animal Bond Program participants.

Every pet, as good a companion as it may be, cannot become a visiting animal. To be used in a therapy program, it must have very special qualities. First of all, it must be social since a great deal of interaction between the pet and the people is looked for. It must also be calm, tolerant and friendly. The balance is often difficult to find, but when you find a pet with such a good temperament, you can be sure it will be a great help.

For more information about the program, call 433-4657.



ARed Cross volunteer and her friendly pooch visit with a mother and child while on the Pediatric Ward.

Volunteers save hospital \$1 million

Emmanuelle Basset

TAMC Public Affairs Office

Doctor, nurse or clerk, certified medical assistant or cookie lady, they all have something in common... the red cross on their badge.

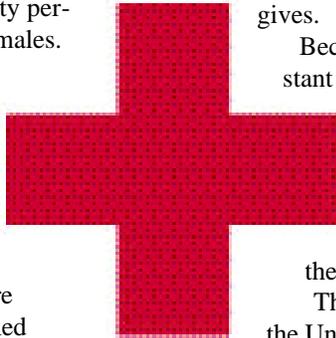
On average, 125 Red Cross volunteers work at Tripler Army Medical Center each month. Ninety percent of them are civilians and 60 percent are females. Very few of them, no more than two percent, already have a paid position at TAMC.

To become an American Red Cross volunteer at Tripler, there is only one requirement: to be 14 years of age or older... and be willing to give some time to help others.

Although most volunteers work in the medical field, no particular skill is required. Positions are always available and if you need training, the Red Cross provides it.

The age range is very broad, from 14- to 90-years-old; however, most of the volunteers, almost 75 percent, are adults 25 and older. Twenty-five percent are young adults, 19-24, and the remaining 10 percent are teenagers.

Volunteers join the Red Cross for different reasons and with various expectations in mind. Some may want to get experience. This is the case of Christina who works 35 hours a week at the out-patient lab. "I started to volunteer to get experience and to update my knowledge," she says. "I really enjoy volunteering and dealing with a variety of people." Some volunteers hope to get a full-time paid position after volunteering, while others,



such as retirees, want to use their time and serve the community.

Anita McIntire, 88, started volunteering in 1942. As a military wife, she wanted to use her time for a good cause. She has been volunteering at Tripler for 30 years and does not want to stop. She works at the Chapel and loves interacting with people. Whatever their purpose for joining the Red Cross is, all of them experience the good feeling that working for a good cause gives.

Because Tripler is a military community, there is a constant turnover and volunteers are always needed. There is no required number of hours to spend at the hospital. You may work only a few hours each month or as much as 150 hours a month. All put together, no less than 35,000 hours of volunteer work are spent at TAMC. That represents \$1 million in savings for the hospital every year.

The Red Cross is the largest humanitarian organization in the United States. It has more than 1,000 local units serving communities across the country. It is a non-profit organization, relying on generous donors to support its \$2.7 million budget. Its mission is "to provide relief to victims of disasters and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies."

More than one million people volunteer each year. They represent 97 percent of the American Red Cross staff. By providing blood and tissue, teaching health and safety classes, facilitating communications between members of the military and their families, and by serving the community, the American Red Cross is a major and necessary humanitarian link to people all over the world.

For more information or to volunteer, call 433-6631.

Clinical Investigations Department hosts Bass Research Competition

TAMC Public Affairs Office

Sixteen Tripler Army Medical Center soldiers took part in the third annual James W. Bass Research Competition May 18.

Competitors presented their case studies in Kyser Auditorium during the day-long competition, which was conducted by the Department of Clinical Investigations.

The winners of the research competition are:

Biomedical/Clinical Research:

1st - Maj. Alan Gehrich

2nd - Capt. Daniel Hall

3rd - Capt. Jill Hasling

Case Study:

1st - Capt. Theresa Benchoff

2nd - (three-way tie) Capt. Christine Lettieri, Capt. Nathaniel Tricker, Capt. Kevin Kulwicki

Case Series:

1st - Capt. Michael Cohen

2nd - Maj. Reagan Parr

3rd - Capt. George Garcia

The competition's namesake, Bass, was a former Tripler Department of Pediatrics chief, who currently serves as a professor of Pediatrics at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii at Manoa.

A former Army colonel, Bass has authored more than 200 abstracts, book chapters, clinical articles and scientific papers.



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

Maj. Gen. Nancy Adams presents Maj. Alan Gehrich with certificate for taking first place in the Biomedical/Clinical Research category.



photos by Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

HERITAGE CELEBRATION

Above, an Okinawan Lion entertains guests during the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration May 24 in Kyser Auditorium.

The celebration, which was organized by Tripler's Equal Opportunity Office, also included traditional Okinawan music and dance (at right).

In addition to the hour-long celebration, the EO Office also set up displays at Tripler's oceanside entrance to celebrate the heritage month.



LES to keep count of soldiers' deployment days

Joe Burlas

Army News Service

Keeping track of how often you are away from home for Army business just got a little easier, if you are a soldier.

Effective with this month's end-of-month Leave and Earnings Statement (LES), soldiers will start seeing a personnel tempo counter in the remarks section.

Mandated by Congress in the Fiscal Year 2000 Defense Authorization Act, all services began tracking individual deployments last October. Servicemembers will be entitled to \$100 per day for every day deployed 401 days or more in a rolling 730-day window. The policy applies to active and reserve components.

The payment is not intended to provide an additional financial entitlement or incentive for deployment, according to Capt. Danita Bertone, the Army's PERSTEMPO staff officer with the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

"The intent of the Personnel Tempo policy is to force commanders at all levels to better manage soldier's time away

from home due to Army requirements," Bertone said.

The congressional definition of a deployed day is "Any day which, pursuant to orders, the member is performing service in a training exercise, operation or performing mission-support temporary duty at a location or under circumstances that make it impossible or infeasible for the member to spend off-duty time in the housing in which the member resides when on garrison duty at the member's permanent duty station..."

What counts as deployment days is overnight events, such as support operations, exercises, on- and off-post unit training and mission-support temporary duty.

What does not count on the PERSTEMPO clock is disciplinary confinement, absence without leave, school training and leave in conjunction with a deployment event.

Soldiers who believe their LES PERSTEMPO count is incorrect should contact their unit commander to review the deployment events they have participated in since Oct. 1. Commanders will investigate and ensure any needed corrections are made to the web application individual deployment history, Bertone said.

DoD further slows anthrax vaccine program

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

DoD is further curtailing the anthrax immunization program due to inadequate supplies of the vaccine, DoD officials said June 11.

Effective immediately only service members assigned to "special mission units" will receive the six-shot series.

The action is necessary because of delays in DoD receiving FDA-approved vaccine from Bioport, the sole source of the vaccine.

Officials said they expect the Food and Drug Administration to approve Bioport, based in Lansing, Mich., for full production "no later than" March 2002, said Marine Maj. Gen. Randall West, special assistant to the deputy secretary of defense for chemical and biological protection.

"We have not yet been able to re-establish the supply of certified safe and effective vaccine to continue the program on the schedule," West said during an interview with American Forces Information Service.

He said the contractor is working to achieve FDA approval of the new expand-

ed Bioport manufacturing facility as soon as possible. There are currently a bit more than 30,000 doses of vaccine available for use now.

But until then, DoD will conserve the dwindling supply of approved vaccine. West said only small special operations units, people working on research and some congressionally mandated studies will continue to receive the vaccine.

This is the third slowdown for the immunization program. In December 1999, DoD stopped inoculating servicemembers other than those deploying to Korea and the Persian Gulf. In November 2000, DoD stopped inoculating servicemembers bound for Korea. Now servicemembers deploying to Southwest Asia will stop receiving the vaccine.

"I wish we had vaccine available to continue the protocols and to continue vaccinating all of our people deploying there," West said.

About 13,000 U.S. servicemembers are deployed to Southwest Asia. DoD and U.S. Central Command will have sufficient antibiotics on hand for post-exposure treatment in case of an attack.

"We'll also have to rely on an even

greater way on our forms of protections: chemical/biological protection suits, detectors, intelligence collection and gathering," West said.

West said, in his opinion, it is imperative that DoD resume the vaccination regime as soon as possible. "The sooner we can provide this vaccination protection to the entire force, the better I'll sleep at night," he said. "The weaponized form of anthrax can be delivered by several munitions, is a very deadly threat. You can't see this, you can't smell it, you can't taste it, it's very difficult to detect and if you haven't been vaccinated, by the time you detect symptoms of anthrax, it's too late to save a person's life."

Servicemembers who've begun the vaccination regime will not have to start over when vaccine comes available. "Fortunately, even a couple of shots provide some resistance to anthrax," West said. "They'll be able to start the protocols where they left off."

"When we do have the vaccine replenished the first place the vaccine will go is Southwest Asia," West said. "Army Gen. Tommie Franks (commander, U.S. Central Command) is very concerned about this slowdown."

PCSing to Germany? Some dogs not allowed

Army News Service

Getting ready for a permanent change of station to Germany, and planning on bringing "Fido" along? Check with your local military Veterinary Treatment Facility first! Several states in Germany have instituted "Dangerous Dogs Ordinances."

This ordinance can impact some pets of U.S. servicemembers and DoD employees. Dangerous dogs are defined as those that have bitten or otherwise shown aggressive behavior towards people, those that chase game, or those that display an abnormal readiness to fight or attack other dogs. Depending on the breed and the permanent change of station (PCS) location, 'man's best friend' may not be allowed along on the tour. While some German states have dog ordinance compliance requirements, the German State of Bavaria has restrictions that actually prohibit some dogs from being brought into the state.

Five breeds of dogs have been identified as dangerous dogs, depending on the German state: Pit Bull, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Bandog, and Tosa Inu.

In German states where local compliance ordinances exist,



American service members moving to Germany with one of the breeds should be aware of the following requirements:

Owners must register the dog with the community military Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) within two weeks of arriving in country. The VTF will report the arrival of the dog to German authorities.

The dog may be required to take a temperament test administered by German authorities at the owner's expense (currently DM 300, approximately \$150).

The dog must be on leash at all times and must be walked by a trustworthy person who is at least 18 years old.

The dog must be muzzled outside the owner's property unless it is on a closed U.S. military installation. The muzzle requirement will be waived if the dog passes the temperament test (except in the city of Mannheim). Dog owners will receive a certificate stating the dog has passed the temperament test. Adults walking the dog in public must have possession of the certificate.

Questions can be directed to the local military Veterinary Treatment Facility or to the 100th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Service Headquarters) at 100thcdr@med30.heidelberg.amedd.army.mil

Order inducts new members

TAMC Public Affairs Office

Twelve members of the Tripler Army Medical Center ohana were inducted into the Order of Military Medical Merit May 17.

Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. James B. Peake and Tripler Commanding General Maj. Gen. Nancy R. Adams were on-hand to assist with the induction ceremony.

The 12 inductees were:

- * Retired Lt. Col. Steven Astriab, former executive assistant to the U.S. Army Pacific Command Surgeon;
- * Lt. Col. (Dr.) Charles Callahan, chief of Pediatrics;
- * Maj. Jacqueline Chando, chief of the Military Personnel Division;
- * Master Sgt. Glenroy Christie, NCOIC of Department of Pharmacy;
- * Lt. Col. Angelia Durrance, evening night supervisor for the Department of Nursing;
- * Ray Folen, Ph.D., chief of the Department of Psychology's Behavioral Medicine and Health Service Section;
- * John Henry, chief of the Quality

Services Division;

* Lt. Col. Randolph Howard, executive officer of Tripler;

* Lt. Col. William Howard, chief of Occupational Therapy;

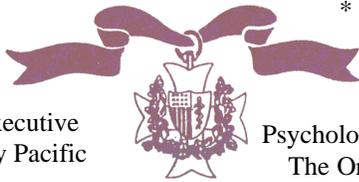
* Lt. Col. Chris Piper, director of Psychiatric Nursing;

* Command Sergeant Maj. Angel Rivera-Lugo, Troop Command command sergeant major; and

* Lt. Col. Gary Southwell, director of Residency Training for the Dept. of

Psychology.

The Order of Military Medical Merit was founded by the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Health Services Command in April 1982 to recognize excellence and promote fellowship and esprit de corps among Army Medical Department (AMEDD) personnel. Membership in the Order denotes distinguished service that is recognized by the senior leadership of the AMEDD. Since the Order's inception, more than 5,000 individuals have been granted membership for exceptional contributions.



Tripler doc among ALAH honorees

American Lung Association of Hawaii

The American Lung Association of Hawaii (the ALAH) observed National Volunteer Appreciation Day with the annual Volunteer Recognition celebration held on May 10.

"Our volunteers continue to be an integral part of our organization," says Peter Flachsbart, Ph.D., president. "Their caring support and dedication to our mission to prevent lung disease and promote lung health allows us the opportunity to provide the programs and services vital to our community. We appreciate and applaud their efforts."

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Benjamin W. Berg, Tripler's Residency Program director in Internal Medicine, received the Donald R. Ford Volunteer of the Year Award for his significant efforts in organizing the Hawaii Thoracic Society (HTS) 2001 Symposium. Dr. Berg is an active member of the ALAH Board of Directors and president of HTS, the medical component of the American Lung Association of Hawaii. The award was presented to Berg's wife Carole, son Haven, and daughter, Sarah, in Berg's absence.

THE WINNER'S CIRCLE

Hawaii Pacific University Graduates

Sgt. 1st Class Wilfredo Alvarez, Master of Science in Information Systems
Staff Sgt. Aaron Cuevas, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
Staff Sgt. Joshua Delio, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
Spc. William Smith, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
Staff Sgt. Erica Willis, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Re-enlistments

Sgt. 1st Class Bryon L. Condie
Sgt. Tracy L. Adkins
Sgt. Bridget D. Graham
Spc. Dawn M. White
Staff Sgt. Christopher Hunter
Sgt. Jose L. Reyes
Spc. Rogelio Aguilar
Spc. Matthew Howell

Sgt. Patrick Arbuckle
Sgt. Sean Dubreuil

Promotions

Lt. Col. Patricia Leroux
Maj. Jerry Cook
Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Williams
Maj. Sanjiv M. Kaul
Staff Sgt. Taunn Flood

Awards

Lt. Col. Joann Hollandsworth, Meritorious Service Medal
Maj. Jan Dunn, MSM
Maj. Randy McDonald, MSM
Sgt. 1st Class Leumete Leuluai, MSM
Staff Sgt. Mark Nance, MSM
Sgt. 1st Class Elva Sanborn, Certificate of Achievement
Master Sgt. Michael Thompson - COA
Diane Enovejas, 25-year service pin
Lane Soto, 15-year service pin

Tripler NCO wins awards

Emmanuelle Basset

TAMC Public Affairs Office

Sgt. 1st Class Norma A. Washington stayed a long time on the stage on April 28 at the U.S. Army Transportation Corps NCO Academy graduation ceremony. Not only was she distinguished as an Honor Graduate, but she also received the Physical Fitness Award, "the only one I really tried to get," she said, and the Transportation Regimental Corps Award.



Washington

Washington, an assistant protocol officer at Tripler Army Medical Center, attended the Motor Transport Operator Advanced NCO Course at Fort Eustis, Va., for six weeks. The 28 soldiers attending the class were tested on written and oral communication, leadership skills, their contribution to group work, and their research ability.

MINISTRY MOMENT

Declaration commemorates birth of nation

Chaplain (Capt.) Albert Ghergich
 Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care

Two-hundred-twenty-five years ago this July 4th, the Second Continental Congress officially adopted and signed the Declaration of Independence. Our nation is built on the premises of this document. The most important sentence is also the most well known and most often quoted:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”

While there is much debate about the theology of the Founding Fathers, it is clear that the basis of our “rights” is rooted in their understanding of the “Creator.” They believed that the Creator’s desire for all of humanity is “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;” to embrace and experience life. This is exactly the sentiment revealed in God’s words through Moses, near the end of his life: “I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life.” Likewise, Jesus stated that his desire for was for people to “have life, and have it to the full.” I am sure the Founding Fathers would agree that religion should celebrate

the life and the liberty the Creator extends to us all.

The Declaration of Independence commemorates the birth of our nation. It also reminds us that our “rights” are based in our relationship with the Creator. Therefore, as you celebrate this 4th of July; celebrate both the birth of our nation and the true source of “life and liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” May the last verse of “My Country, ‘Tis of Thee” serve as a prayer for our nation:

*Our fathers’ God to Thee,
 Author of liberty,
 To Thee we sing:
 Long may our land be bright
 With freedom’s holy light;
 Protect us by Thy might,
 Great God our King!*

Chapel Worship Services

Catholic Services	Daily (M-F) — Noon Saturday — 5 p.m. Sunday — 11 a.m.
Protestant Services	Sunday — 9 a.m.

For other Religious Groups, call 433-5727.

Operating room nurse wins ANC excellence award

Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan
 Editor

Capt. Daryl Elder, head nurse of Central Material Services, was awarded the Army Nurse Corps Award of Excellence Feb. 1 during the Army Nurse Corps Col. Charles J. Reddy Leader Development Program in Washington, D.C.

The award, which was established in 1992, is given annually to junior officers who have made significant contributions to the Army Medical Department mission.

Elder, who was selected to attend the conference out of all Tripler nurses, had no idea she was up for the award.

“It was such an honor to even be selected for the conference,” she said.



Elder

of this year’s conference was “A Century of Leadership and Caring for America’s Army.”

“It’s nice be recognized and know your supervisors appreciate what you do,” Elder said. “Sometimes you get caught up in your job and don’t think you make a difference as a junior officer.”

“But to be recognized out of all Army nurses was overwhelming.”

The operating room nurse was chosen out of about 40 other nurses from around the Army who attended the four-day conference. The title

Tripler volunteers receive statewide recognition

TAMC Public Affairs Office

Six Tripler Army Medical Center volunteers were recognized at the Red Cross annual Statewide Recognition Ceremony May 23 at the Honolulu Hale Courtyard.

The following were recognized for their exceptional volunteer service:

- Roberta Christiansen
- Margaret Gilbert
- Barbara Graessle
- Nancy Lee
- Thomas Mastin
- Arnold Morgado

Each recipient received a Koa bowl with their names inscribed on a plaque.

NEWS BRIEFS

Civilian Advisory Council sets meeting — All civilian staff members of Tripler Army Medical Center are invited to attend the Civilian Advisory Council Meeting at 11:30 a.m. June 27 in Kyser Auditorium.

Come and meet the members of the council. They are:

Tom Borgioli — 433-8301
 Carmen DeLeon — 433-1333
 Patty Fitzgerald — 433-1594
 Trish Jablon — 433-3780
 Lorrain Johnson — 433-5917
 Eileen Kershner — 433-6205
 Jim Klippert — 433-9385
 Lourdes Marcello — 433-4091
 Carol Merrick — 433-4836
 Rini Pekelo — 433-7116
 Vivian Rich — 433-6823
 Pat Schreththaler — 433-2465
 Paula Tadaki — 433-6161
 Doris Thorpe — 433-5990
 Sharon Yamashita — 433-6597
 Dale York — 433-3351

Softball season begins — The U.S. Army, Hawaii intramural softball

season has begun. Tripler's team is participating in the Fort Shafter division, and games are played at the Fort Shafter baseball field near the post's physical fitness center.

Here is a schedule of their remaining games. Come out and show your support.

June 12 — 7 p.m. July 3 — 7 p.m.
 June 18 — 6 p.m. July 11 — 7 p.m.
 June 19 — 7 p.m. July 17 — 7 p.m.
 June 25 — 6 p.m. July 23 — 7 p.m.
 June 27 — 7 p.m. July 24 — 7 p.m.

Fitness Center offers aerobics — The Tripler Physical Fitness Center offers aerobics classes Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 4:30 p.m.

Beginning early June, the classes now cost \$2 each or buy a booklet of tickets for \$1 a class.

The hour-long classes are geared to improving physical fitness for those who need to the extra training to pass the semi-annual physical fitness test.

Classes are open to all eligible ID card holders, who have no injuries or history of a heart condition.

Witness requests must go through OCJA — All requests for Army personnel, civilian and military, to serve as a witness in any court proceeding must be processed through the Office of the Center Judge Advocate (OCJA) on the first floor.

TAMC personnel are not authorized to testify as a witness, regardless of the forum or context, without clearance of the OCJA. All contacts from attorneys requesting you as a witness should be referred to the OCJA at 433-5311.

ACAP holds pre-separation briefings — All separating or retiring soldiers must complete their DD Form 2648 no later than 90 days from their separation date. Pre-separation briefings are held daily from 9 to 11 a.m. For a scheduled appointment to attend a briefing, call 655-1028.

Two-day workshops covering resume writing and interviewing techniques are also offered through the Transition Assistance Program. For more information, call 655-8945.

NURSE'S WEEK

Capt. Laura Feider, Department of Medicine care manager, grimaces as she prepares to pop a balloon during the Nurses' Week celebration May 11 in the dining facility.

The celebration, which was organized by the Medical Nursing section, included a drawing where winners had to pop a balloon to see what prize they had won.

In addition to the raffle, nurses and other staff members also enjoyed cake and ice-cream.



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan