



MEDICAL MINUTE

Vol. 3, No. 5

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

May 2002



Lt. Col. (Dr.) Patricio Rosa (right), a vascular surgeon, and Spc. Evan Knappenberger, an operating room technician, prepare for surgery during Operation Akamai Kauai.

SMART training

Team deploys to Kauai for exercise

Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

Editor

More than 40 members of the Pacific Regional Medical Command's (PRMC) Special Medical Augmentation Response Team (SMART) put their skills to the test May 3-6 as they deployed to the island of Kauai for a training exercise.

The four-day exercise called Operation Akamai Kauai took place at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) at Barking Sands and tested the response and capabilities of the SMART, a team of personnel that deploys to assist and advise the host nation or on-scene incident commander during medical emergencies.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

PMRF Barking Sands firefighters spray down a casualty played by Lt. Col. Lawrence Connell during the exercise.

"There were a couple of things we wanted to do during this exercise," said Capt. James Joyner, PRMC operations officer. "The first was alert and deploy the entire team to include equipment and personnel."

Operation Akamai Kauai began at about noon May 3 with an

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Tripler staff heads to Malaysia for APMMC conference

Margaret Tippy

TAMC Public Affairs Officer

"... Interoperability is not only the key to success in coalition contingencies, it is fast becoming a necessity to be able to be a player," said Maj. Gen. James L. Campbell, special assistant to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC), in closing remarks to the

12th Asia Pacific Military Medicine Conference (APMMC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, April 26. "You have shared concepts and ideas, and more importantly, have enlightened each other on how we medically operate on the battlefield."

Campbell was speaking to the more than 300 delegates from 25 countries who attended the week-long conference in Malaysia.

"The insights gained from one another

may very well result in the saving of many lives in the Asia-Pacific Theater," he said. "This is the noble end state of the Asia Pacific Military Medicine Conference – to examine the likely contingencies we will face in today's world, a world changed dramatically for us all after the Sept. 11 attacks, and to learn how to better prepare medically with the end result being more

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FEEDBACK

A place to voice your opinion
What does Memorial Day mean to you?



Sgt. Lynda Y. Vilwok, Office of the Center Judge Advocate — “Although I am not a natural born citizen, this day represents a specially set aside time to remember the sacrifice of those who have passed before us in defending and upholding our freedom.”

Bonnie McCarthy, Ophthalmology Service — “It’s to remember those who served to protect our country.”



Sgt. Beverly Maynard, Department of Surgery — “Memorial Day is a day to honor those who have fallen to ensure our freedom today.”

Spc. Scott A. Holt, Office of the Center Judge Advocate — “It’s a day to remember and praise everyone that valiantly supports and defends this nation from anyone wishing to do harm to us physically or by other means.”



Kim Primas, Department of Surgery — “Memorial Day is a day to honor those who have given their life for a cause that we still hold true to our hearts — freedom.”

COMMENTARY

APMMC important to interoperability

Margaret Tippy
 TAMC Public Affairs Officer

Imagine the possibilities ... That thought kept running through my head as I participated in and observed events at the 12th Asia Pacific Military Medicine Conference (APMMC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, April 22–26.

I was attending as the Public Affairs Officer representative for U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC) and the Pacific Regional Medical Command (PRMC) working with my Malaysian counterpart out of the Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur.

Co-hosts of the conference were Maj. Gen. Nancy Adams, U. S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC) Surgeon and Commander, Pacific Regional Medical Command and Tripler Army Medical Center, and Major General Dato’ Ahmad Badrus bin Othman, Director General of the Malaysian Armed Forces Health Services Division

Gathered were more than 300 delegates from 25 countries who were exploring the major topic of military medical interoperability. Delegates were attending from Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, United States, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

It was so incredible interacting and discussing issues with delegates from Vietnam to Bangladesh, and watching Indonesians, Malaysians and Americans laughing and talking together. I watched as new bonds were being established and old ones renewed.

Nurses, physicians and medical administrators were listening to one another open

for dialogue.

I was greeted by one of the Russian delegates who remembered me from last year’s conference, touched base again after a year with Col. (Dr.) Anne Campbell, a physician from New Zealand, and was greeted by Col. (Dr.) Surya Kumar – a friend from Singapore I met two years ago.

I was fortunate to be attending my third Asia Pacific Military Medicine Conference. Prior conferences were held in Singapore and New Zealand. Each conference provides a relevant topic and presenters and delegates come together to listen and learn and network.

The exchange of information, through multiple avenues, increases knowledge and understanding of medical professionals focusing on relevant military medical issues and topics in comprehensive health services, clinical research, education and prevention.

The Malaysian Armed Forces staff who co-hosted this year’s conference truly went out of their way to put on an exceptionally well-run conference.

Since 9-1-1, the conferences have taken on a completely new meaning for me. What is occurring at these sessions is a dialogue between military medical professionals from very different nations that occurs nowhere else that I am aware of.

For 12 years in different countries, delegates have been coming together to “break bread” or “share rice” and their cultures, sensitivities, capabilities and needs.

Trust has been established among many of them – trust we need to expand on in our ever-increasing global world where communication occurs instantaneously through the press – communication that is not always accurate, and could cause tensions

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Medical Minute

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

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Outpatient Pharmacy switches to new system

TAMC Public Affairs Office

Tripler Army Medical Center's Outpatient Pharmacy switched to a new and improved point of service dispensing system May 6.

There is a new process for patients picking up new prescriptions at the Outpatient Pharmacy, which is located on the 4th floor, G wing. The Re-fill and Hardcopy Civilian Prescription Windows will not be affected by this change.

Computer-generated prescriptions entered by healthcare providers will not be filled until the patient reports to the Outpatient Pharmacy. Patients will first push a button on a console representing the type of prescription to be filled. A numbered claim ticket will be generated with an estimated waiting time. When the number is called, the pharmacist will access the patient's medication profile and review the prescriptions that were ordered. The prescriptions will then be filled while the pharmacist counsels the patient.

The previous system involved the batching of all prescriptions entered. The

idea was to have the prescription complete when the patient arrived at the pharmacy, said Capt. Christopher Graham, OIC of Tripler's Outpatient Pharmacy. He said generally, due to a very high volume of prescriptions, there is still a wait if the patient comes directly from the clinic because pharmacy staff is busy filling prescriptions for people who are not even there yet.

"I am excited about the improved efficiency of this new system. The main thing for the patient to understand with this change is that their prescription will not be filled before they present to the pharmacy," said Graham. "It does not matter if the prescription was put in an hour or three weeks ago. It won't be filled until the patient is called to the pharmacy window."

Graham said this new system, which has already been implemented at many military treatment facilities, will provide the pharmacist with direct contact with the patient while the prescriptions are being processed. This creates an environment for the pharmacist to take a more active role in the patient's healthcare, which will

improve the overall healthcare provided by the Tripler Army Medical Center health-care team.

"The pharmacist will be able to counsel patients and answer their questions," said Graham, who added that the new system, on average, should reduce waiting time for patients.

He said with the older system, prescriptions were filled immediately after they were entered into the computer even though some patients never reported to pick them up. Each month, more than 1,000 prescriptions are returned to stock because they were never picked up, Graham said.

With the new system, however, Graham said waiting times could be affected by the number of patients who appear at the pharmacy at the same time. He said the Outpatient Pharmacy's busiest times are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to noon. In order to avoid longer waits, he said patients might want to plan ahead to pick-up their prescriptions at times other than these.

CONFERENCE: Learn

Continued from page 2

or worse reactions between countries.

What better way to limit the possibilities of misunderstanding when you have already forged a relationship with other countries? People can ask questions instead of jumping to conclusions. Delegates have opened the doors so they can communicate with one another.

What if a dialogue process had worked in the Mid East years ago? Between Northern Ireland and England? Between so many different nations and cultures who do not understand one another. Naive? Probably but consider the possibilities.

I hope the Asia Pacific Military Medicine Conference continues to grow and enrich our world with possibilities. I sensed a renewed energy at this year's conference, a new openness and willingness to communicate all the way from the Senior Delegates present to the captains and majors who are on the front lines of military medicine.

Next year's conference is scheduled to take place again in Bangkok, Thailand, May 11 - 16, 2003. The topic will be "Good Health Equals Great Soldiers." Let us hope the goodwill and dialogue continue to grow.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for 18 years of care

My family and I would like to thank the staff at Tripler for all the support we have received over the past 18 years with my son, Carmelo Santiago Jr. Carmelo was born with Thalassimia (Maju), and from the time he was a year old he has needed blood transfusions and other treatments. When we returned from an overseas assignment in 1984, Carmelo was 5 years old. Since then, he has visited Tripler on a monthly basis. Every three weeks he

is admitted for his transfusions. We would especially like to thank the Pharmacy Department, both Inpatient and Outpatient, which we visited on a weekly basis, and the Blood Bank.

Since Carmelo is turning 23 on May 21, he will no longer be qualified for military benefits and will now be seen at Queen's Medical Center.

Thanks for everything!

— Retired Sgt. 1st Class
Carmelo Santiago-Lopez

**CSM's
HANDSHAKE
OF CONCERN**



May

"Value your employee"

Nurses' Week May 6-12



Courtesy photos

Vanessa Lopez, a nurse on the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, checks in on Robert Lee.



A group of operating room nurses prepare for another hectic day of surgeries.

National Nurses Week was celebrated May 6-12. This annual celebration raises public awareness of the value of nursing and helps educate the public about the vital roles nurses play in meeting the healthcare needs of the American people.

More than 700 nurses are assigned to Tripler Army Medical Center and the Schofield Barracks Health Clinic. These nurses care for more than 68,000 patients a year.

To commemorate Nurses' Week, Tripler Army Medical Center offered numerous activities throughout the week of May 6-12 to show appreciation to the hospital's nurses. Activities included cookie distribution, nursing rounds, chapel services and a sunset dinner cruise.

The week of May 6-12 was chosen as National Nurses' Week since Florence Nightengale's birthday is May 12. Nightengale, the "founder of modern nursing," changed the face of healthcare forever. She emphasized sanitary practices, such as hand washing and improved infection control in health care institutions. She launched social and health-care reforms in England and abroad. Her brave nursing vision, dedication, and commitment is the inspiration of what Nurses' Week is all about.

NURSES

Nurturing in your special way,
Understanding and lifting spirits each day,
Ready with healing that comes from the heart,
Sensitive and skilled at each task you start,
Exceptional to the highest degree,
Showing the world how great nurses can be!



A soldier takes a patient's temperature during a recent field training exercise in Korea.

Process tracks appointments, workload

Tripler reaches 100 percent for first time in 13 years

Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

Editor

With anywhere between 2,500 and 3,000 patient visits each day to Tripler Army Medical Center and the Schofield Barracks Health Clinic, keeping track of every visit can be quite a task.

Due to the efforts of John Robinson, Central Appointments supervisor, and front line clinic clerks, Tripler recently reached 100 percent accountability of clinic visits a few days in April; something that hasn't been done in at least 13 years.

Reported daily by clinic staff during what is known as end-of-day processes, this accountability of visits is extremely important, said Maj. William Grimes, chief of the Clinical Support Division.

"The end-of-day report captures a sta-

tus for all the appointments scheduled in this hospital each day. That is whether the appointments are kept, no-shows, cancelled either by the clinic or patient, administrative or if patients leave without being seen," Grimes said. "The reason this process is so vital is because it's how we capture workload."

Workload, he said, is key to staffing requirements and determines productivity.

"Basically, it just gives them credit for what they did," Grimes added. "If end-of-day reports are not completed, the clinics are not given credit for the visit regardless of how much provider time was spent treating the patient."

Additionally, if the end-of-day process is not complete, an Ambulatory Data System sheet, which is used to generate bills to insurance companies for reimbursement, can't be accessed for physicians to code.

"This could possibly lead to a fairly significant loss of revenue in third party

collections," Grimes added.

With 124 clinics, Grimes said he realizes this is a huge undertaking, but it still has to be done every day.

"Front desk personnel, who usually complete the reports, need to be aware of doing the end-of-day processes and how important it is," he said. "They should know that if they are walking out at the end of the day and it has not been done, they need to communicate that to their supervisor."

"The standard for end-of-day process is completing 100 percent. MEDCOM's (U.S. Army Medical Command) policy is "every clinic, every day," said Grimes, who added that Tripler is already well on its way of completing an average of 98 percent.

"This initial success is the direct result of the efforts of John Robinson and our front line team," he said. "They really have a tremendous impact on the hospital. It's staff like them that really make this place run."

Website helps soldiers certify skills for jobs

Joe Burlas

Army News Service

Soldiers who want to develop professional civilian skills while serving in the Army now have a COOL way to see what can be required for the career field they are interested in.

The Army Continuing Education System launched a Credentialing Opportunities On-Line, or COOL, web site April 15 that identifies the education, experience and testing requirements to earn certification or licenses for hundreds of civilian jobs.

COOL is located on the Internet at www.armyeducation.army.mil/cool.

"We do not credential soldiers for civilian jobs," said Louie Chartier, post secondary education program manager, Army Education Division. "What this program does is educate soldiers about what is needed in order to get credentials for the job they want to pursue following the Army. The COOL Web site provides analysis information that links military occupational specialties with similar civilian equivalent jobs.

"It tells the soldier what to study, what work experience is required, (and) what the educational requirements are, so the

soldier can manage his own pathway to the credentials he may need," Chartier said.

About 71 percent of Army MOSs have civilian equivalents that are subject to certification or licensure, according to ACES statistics.

The web site allows a soldier to enter the analysis section by specific MOS, or, if interested in credentialing requirements outside his MOS, by job title.

For example, a 27D legal specialist will find that his Army MOS training and experience is creditable with the National Association of Legal Assistants for legal writing, research and litigation for a paralegal job. However, the 27D soldier will also see that he needs education credits in intellectual property, bankruptcy and consumer protection law, in addition to taking and passing the ABA paralegal certification exam.

Legal specialists also can be certified as legal secretaries, legal assistants, legal clerks and court reporters, according to COOL.

Costs for certification tests can be anywhere from \$100 to \$2,000, Chartier said. But the good news is soldiers can use the Montgomery GI Bill, she said. Authorized just last year, soldiers leaving the service with the Montgomery GI Bill can use up to \$2,000 of that benefit per test.





Photos by Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

Members of the NBC team cut off a casualty's clothing at the team's decontamination site.

SMART: Conducts training exercise

Continued from page 1

alert to all SMART members. By about 2 p.m., all personnel and equipment had been accounted for and loaded onto buses for the trip to the Coast Guard Station at Barber's Point. From there, a Coast Guard C-130 aircraft transported the team to the neighboring island.

The PRMC SMART, which is comprised of trauma critical care, stress management, NBC (nuclear, biological, chemical), pastoral care and command control communications and telemedicine (MC3T) elements, is made up of about 50 personnel from Tripler Army Medical Center and the Schofield Barracks Health Clinic and travels with about 5,000 pounds of equipment. For the Kauai mission, four soldiers with the Pacific Regional Veterinary Command's SMART veterinary team also deployed; a first for the PRMC team.

Another objective of the exercise was to cross-train personnel on the mission and equipment of the individual teams, Joyner said. "We have quite a few new people on the team, and even some of the old team members didn't know what some of the teams did," he said.

The second day of the exercise was spent in a classroom set-

ting where team members put together classes for their peers. Class topics included symptoms of NBC agents, decontamination procedures, maintaining a sterile environment for surgical procedures, stress management techniques and identifying basic medical supplies.

"The training was invaluable," Joyner said. "Everyone now understands each team's purpose and how to assist if necessary."

Lt. Col. Dallas Homas, OIC of the SMART, said not everyone will be a subject matter expert in every area, but team members should be able to contribute no matter what their specialty.

"We're not always going to know what kind of situation we are heading into," Homas said during the training. "If we get there and your team is not needed, then you can pitch in and help the other teams."

The third day of the exercise served as the real test for the SMART when the team was called to react to a weapon of mass destruction (WMD) scenario involving radiological contamination.

PMRF Barking Sands firefighters and emergency medical treatment personnel first responded to the incident that occurred at a base building and began treating the mock casualties that

Continued on next page



OR technician Sgt. Rahman Ruston prepares surgical instruments during the exercise.

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were scattered around the site.

Once the SMART set up its area of operation, casualties were then brought through the team's decontamination site and passed to the trauma critical care team for evaluation and treatment.

To add more realism to the exercise, Joyner said casualties wore hospital scrubs so NBC team members could practice cutting off clothing during the decontamination process. In addition, the trauma team set an operating room and went so far as to get dressed and prepared for real surgery.

"We needed to test our ability to perform live surgery in an austere environment with the equipment we brought," said Joyner, who added that the team wanted to fully test their capabilities during this exercise. "If something's not going to work, we want to find out about it now and not during a real situation."

The team even set up a live video teleconference link back to Tripler.

Spc. Adam Nemeth, a lab technician on the NBC team, said the entire exercise was a good learning experience.

"It let us know what we need to improve on, and equipment we need or that needs to be fixed," he said.

"We don't get to do this that often, so we have to take advantage of the training time," added Spc. Dassita Dixon, also a member of the NBC team. "We like to get into the (protective) suits every chance we get. Every time we do, it helps us."



Maj. (Dr.) Bruce Chen holds up a portable ultrasound machine as Lt. Col. (Dr.) Patricio Rosa tests it out on Sgt. Rahman Ruston during the training portion of the exercise.



Lt. Col. (Dr.) David Finger, a member of the SMART TCC team, checks the vital signs of one of the exercise's casualties.

Tripler unveils new patient safety program

TAMC Quality Services Division

In 1999, the Institute of Medicine conducted a study on safety issues in medical care and published a startling report revealing that between 44,000 and 98,000 patients die every year in the U.S. due to medical errors. In response to this statistic, the Department of Defense mandated a Patient Safety program for the Military Healthcare System.

The TAMC Patient Safety Program has been in development for some time and was unveiled during Patient Safety Awareness Week March 10-16. Storyboards and flyers suggesting how to be your own advocate to ensure safer healthcare marked the beginning of the campaign to make patients, staff and visitors aware of this exciting new program.

A Patient Safety Committee, co-chaired by Navy Capt. Richard Jeffries, Tripler's deputy chief for Clinical Services, and Iva Lehmann, Patient Safety Manager, has been established.

The program is designed to be proactive in identifying steps in processes, and even entire processes that could be set up for

future mistakes. Self-evaluation, by looking at the processes done every day, and searching for potential problematic areas is key. Being willing to report observations or experiences is important to gathering information to improve and deliver safer care. Anonymous reporting is now just a mouse click away via a "Near Miss Report" form posted on the TAMC intranet. No identifying information is mandatory on the form. Explore the "Near Miss Report" form by clicking on the JCAHO Icon and familiarize yourself with its content.

Education of the staff has begun with a Patient Safety presentation at the monthly Newcomers' Orientation that began in January 2002. In the future, all staff members will receive ongoing education on the issue of patient safety. The best way to deliver this training is still under consideration. It may be either on-line or in classes much like the Prevention of Sexual Harassment training. Future plans include patient safety information brochures for the education of our staff and patients, story boards with safety information displayed in our lobbies and informational flashes which appear as users sign into CHCS.



Courtesy photo

More than 300 delegates from more than 25 countries attended the annual conference April 22-26.



Margaret Tippy

Maj. Gen. Nancy Adams passes the Asia Pacific Military Medicine Conference flag to Royal Thai Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Choochat Kambhu Na Ayudhya. The Royal Thai Army will host the 2003 conference.

APMMC: Next conference in Thailand

Continued from page 1

lives saved as well as better health for all."

Presentations at the conference whose main focus was "Military Medical Interoperability" ranged from a telemedicine project between Thailand and the United States dubbed "Project THAI-HI" to "Civil Military Liaison at The World Health Organization" presented by Commander Randall Hyer, Switzerland.

The general consensus among the delegates was the conference offered educational and interesting presentations in an exceptional setting provided by the hospitality of the Malaysian Armed Forces.

Co-hosts of the conference were Maj. Gen. Nancy Adams, U. S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC) Surgeon and Commander, Pacific Regional Medical Command and Tripler Army Medical Center, and Major General Dato' Ahmad Badrus bin Othman, Director General of the

Malaysian Armed Forces Health Services Division.

Adams, who is retiring after 35 years in the Army in June, wished all the delegates good bye and challenged them to continue to improve future conferences saying, "While each conference is distinct in terms of venue, I have come to appreciate from knowing my colleagues in military medicine the goodness of humanity that is the same throughout the world."

"Despite differences in language, culture and religion those of us in military medicine are all motivated to do our best to care for people," Adams said. "None of us has all the resources we need so we come together to leverage each other's capabilities. (This conference) presents a forum to learn new concepts and explore thought-provoking ideas and programs in anticipation of future engagements."

Next year's conference is scheduled for May in Bangkok, Thailand.

NFL dreams

Washington Redskins draft staff members' son

Heather Paynter

TAMC Public Affairs Office

Clifford "Cliff" Russell is preparing for a career, the likes of which most can only dream. His hard work and natural athletic ability landed him the role as a wide receiver for the Washington Redskins, an opportunity that Cliff has dreamed of for at least 15 of his 23 years. His parents, who each work at Tripler Army Medical Center, are thrilled but not surprised at the news.

"We're very excited, very proud and it's very well-deserved," said Ronnie Russell, who works in general surgery, and is one of his son's biggest fans. In fact, his only competition for most devoted fan may be Cliff's mother Patricia who works in the audiology department. "I wasn't surprised at all," she said. "It's an honor to be his mother."

The future Redskins' player was introduced to the sport at the age of eight. Since he was part of a moving Army family, he perfected and contributed his talents to a variety of high school organizations including teams in Maryland, North Carolina and Hawaii, all the while filled with aspirations of taking his game further.

"It feels so good. To have this childhood dream and to have it come true is amazing," he said

Patricia remembers her reaction in those moments before they viewed the television confirmation April 20. "His phone started ringing and he said 'Mom, answer it' but I was afraid I would hit the wrong button or something," said the mother of five boys and two girls. "Then we saw his name go across the screen."

Patricia had her other son on the phone while Cliff's name scrolled across. He is in the Army and could not make the trip home because of duty commitments. However, he was still able to share the moment. "It was perfect timing," Patricia said.

Sharing the news with his athletic family made the day that



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

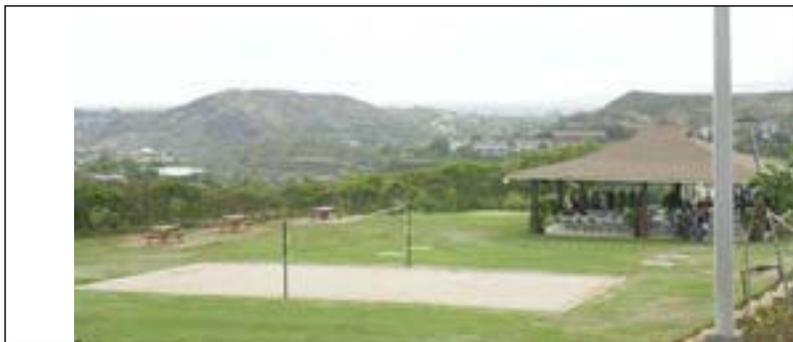
Tripler staff members Ronnie and Patricia Russell's son Clifford was recently drafted into the NFL.

much better. His older brothers played football and the two youngest continue to play; one for Waianae High School and the other is a second year running back at a junior college. "We're keeping our eyes on them," Ronnie said.

According to *USA Today*, statistics on Russell put the 5'11", 185 lb. wide receiver, as the fastest player to ever perform for the University of Utah. His 124 receptions and 1,862 yards rank sixth on the school's career-record list. The sociology major played four years of football at the university and is graduating this spring.

"It's a blessing," said Cliff, crediting much of his good fortune to his faith. "It's a childhood dream come true."

COMPANY PAVILION AREA OPENS



Above, a new pavilion area across from Building 104 complete with volleyball net and sheltered BBQ area was unveiled during Tripler's Hail and Farewell celebration April 30. (From left to right) Bruce Jacobsen of



Photos by Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

Jacobsen Labor Services, Inc., Commanding General Maj. Gen. Nancy R. Adams, Spc. Adam Nemeth and Troop Commander Col. Paul Wingo take part in the official ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Health Physicist named 2002 Patient Champion

Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan
Editor

A health physicist from the Department of Preventive Medicine was recently named Tripler Army Medical Center's 2002 Patient Champion.

Lou Shimabuku, who has been working in the Health Physics Section for two years, was selected from a group of 27 nominees as Tripler's champion -- a staff member who goes above and beyond the call of duty for patients.

"I am very flattered. It's nice to know that your boss appreciates your work," Shimabuku said.

As a health physicist, Shimabuku is responsible for ensuring radiation safety regulations and procedures are being followed both in and out of the hospital.

"His primary responsibility is caring for the radiation therapy inpatients coming from radiation oncology or from nuclear medicine," said Maj. Arthur Morton, chief of the Health Physics Section, Department of Preventive Medicine. Shimabuku's duties include preparing the quarantine room, briefing the patients, caring for the patients from a radiation safety standpoint while they're in the room, and then releasing the patients.

His contact with patients doesn't end there though.

"We actually follow the patients for a week or two post therapy as far as retrieving their trash which may be contaminated," Morton said. "We're also concerned with caring for the public because the patients may be radioactive sources themselves, so we give the patients radiation safety briefings to help care for the public and their own family members who they're going back to."

Morton said he nominated Shimabuku for the award because the physicist always shows great concern



Shimabuku

and care for patients.

"He goes out of his way to work with various wards and services to ensure their patients' therapies are on time and efficient, and that their patients are

cared for," Morton said. "He goes out of his way to ensure their stay is as pleasant as possible."

Some examples of Shimabuku's caring attitude that Morton cited in the nomination packet include:

* He wrote a patient therapy guide that is provided to each patient that will explain their therapy, the quarantine room and release. It discusses means to minimize the dose and contamination from these radioactive therapies.

* There was an incident when Hickam Air Force Base officials contacted Tripler regarding radioactive waste. The waste was from a patient that received radioactive iodine and became ill at the guest house. Shimabuku assisted with the identification and clean up of the trash truck, hangar and guest house.

Other staff members who were nominated for the award include Spc. Scott Holt, Susanne Murukami, William Ault, Donna Pease, Jacqueline Smith, Jimmy Hill, Melissa Hungerfor, Sgt. 1st Class Karen Archondidis, Bonnie McNeal, Jennifer Whitton, Susan Fujii, Sgt. Christopher Blaine, Eileen Itamoto-Gaza, Jarrelyn Martine, Spc. Roger Aguilar, Mill Brown, Daren Gould, Bill Hazard, Jeanne Hoffman, Col. M. Sprague, Lisa Jones, Spc. Janet Berger, David Fuller, Maj. Mary Hargrove, Pauline Mashima and Darrel Dodson.

Awards luncheon set for June 5

TAMCPublic Affairs Office

The 46th Annual Excellence in Federal Government Awards Luncheon is scheduled to take place at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, June 5 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., and promises to be the best program ever, said L.A. Burke, Executive Director of the Honolulu-Pacific Federal Executive Board, who is hosting the event. This year's theme is "Public Service is Patriotism." Cost for the luncheon is \$24 per person.

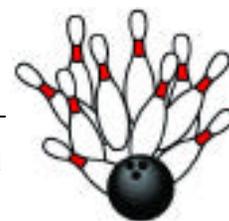
"We have so many worthy nominations this year and an excellent emcee," Burke said. "We really want to encourage people to celebrate with their staff members and show them how much they are appreciated." Tina Shelton of KHON Channel 2 News has agreed to emcee the luncheon.

Awards will be presented to the winners of eight competitive categories. More than 120 people from all over the Pacific — to include Korea and Japan — were nominated from more than 70,000 military and civilian employees in Honolulu and the Pacific.

These are respected people in the community who will be recognized for their significant contributions to the federal community, Burke said. Two Outstanding Achievement Awards will also be presented.

Bowling tourney results

TAMC Public Affairs Office



Tripler Army Medical Center's Spring Bowling Tournament was held April 12 at the Hickam Air Force Base Bowling Center.

The following are the top three teams for the three game series:

Strikes R Us, score of 2495 -- Kevin Guerrero, Reni Pekelo, Norma Sanchez, Carl McFadden

2 Time Champs, score of 2422 -- Master Sgt. Frank Labuda, Sgt. 1st Class Steven Jedro, Ron Serna and Lincoln Masuda

Gutter Balls, score of 2187 -- Maj. Daniel McKay, Staff Sgt. Patrick Aliipuleo, Sgt. Dustin Waggoner and Sgt. Shelly Sorrell.

Nurse retires after nearly 30 years of service

Heather Paynter

TAMC Public Affairs Office

Phyllis Tanaka received many awards and accolades during her time as a nursing professional while working at Tripler Army Medical Center, while serving in Vietnam and at the Schofield Barracks Clinic. But no ceremony or recognition can truly match what she has contributed during her decades of devotion to patients in Hawaii.

Tanaka retired April 2, but leaves behind a legacy of superior service. She graduated from the St. Francis Hospital of Nursing in 1953 and worked there as a medical/surgical nurse for the next couple of years. A short stint with the U.S. Public Health Department in San Francisco followed and in October 1956, she began working at Tripler. With the exception of two years (1966-1968) serving as an Army Nurse Corps Officer, including a tour in Vietnam, Tanaka has devoted her career to caring for patients at TAMC and U.S. Army Health Clinic, Schofield Barracks where she began in 1973.

Lt. Col. Barbara Gilbert, chief of Clinical Nursing at Schofield, said it's hard to get used to work without Tanaka. "Until about six months ago, she was our only civilian registered nurse for decades," she said. "Every time I walk by her door, I expect to see her there."

Her primary focus was pediatric nursing, but as healthcare evolved, her duties at Schofield grew to include a number of responsibilities. "She handled patient education and immediate triage such as if people would come in without an appointment but needed to be seen," Gilbert said.

Tanaka also instituted a patient assistance line, directing patients to the appropriate level of care he or she required.

Her Schofield Barrack's colleague and friend, Momoe Shintaku, said Tanaka is missed, but clinic patrons can expect to see her around once in a while. "She wants to work here as an American Red Cross volunteer," Shintaku said. "But not in nursing, she wants to try something else."

While serving in the Army Nurse Corps, she received the National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. Civilian awards include the Superior Civilian Service Award, coin presentation at TAMC, letter of recognition from Senator Daniel K. Inouye and Governor Benjamin Cayetano and a United States flag presentation. A tree dedication in her name was presented to honor her love for the outdoors.

According to Gilbert, Tanaka will remain in Hawaii and enjoy retirement at her home in Mililani.

"We can never really quantify how she touched people," Gilbert said. "I know there are many patients and members of the staff that will never forget her."

THE WINNER'S CIRCLE

Reenlistments

Sgt. Matthew Nelson
Sgt. Benjamon Adams
Sgt Shamell Benta

Promotions

Col. (Dr.) Jeffrey Kavolius
Col. (Dr.) Charles Callahan
Lt. Col. John Farley
Sgt. 1st Class Josue Cevallos

Awards

Sgt. 1st Class Richard Kringle - Meritorious Service Medal
Cmdr. Charles Lamb - Navy Commendation Medal
Sgt. 1st Class Eric Feliciano - Commander's Coin
Diana Agpaoa - Commander's Coin

Graduations

The following soldiers recently graduated with a master's degree in Administration with a specialization in Healthcare Administration

Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Burton
Maj. Stacy Roth
Sgt. 1st Class Karon Floyd
Sgt. 1st Class Rita Reeves
Staff Sgt. Erica Willis

Hails

Spc. Stephen Backof
Spc. Sebekia Teemer
Sgt. 1st Class Willie Campbell
Staff Sgt. Felix Lopez-Colon
Sgt. Daniel Villareal
Spc. Bryan Cruz
Spc. Valrica Smith
Spc. Catherine Cooper
Sgt. Juan Suter
Sgt. Kyle Monday
Staff Sgt. Christopher Jones
Sgt. Ronald Payne
Staff Sgt. Vita Salvatore
Staff Sgt. Melisa McCullough
Staff Sgt. Shannon Ledet
Spc. Jolene Fetko
Master Sgt. Gloria Riley
Staff Sgt. Scott Belzer
Sgt. David Langdon
Spc. Sharon Douglas
Spc. George Anderson
Spc. Penny Crawford
Staff Sgt. David Flemmonds
Sgt. Jessica Canterbury
Sgt. Roger Soriano
Sgt. Alma Villalpando

Hails & Farewells

Spc. Theodore Schneski

Sgt. Chidera Madu

Sgt. Robbie Jones

Sgt. Eugene Sukert

Sgt. Jose Ortega

Sgt. Wade Wheeler

Pfc. Michael Callison

Spc. Laura Kennedy

Sgt. 1st Class Jaime

McFarlane

Spc. Nakashia Burrough

Spc. Jason Chesser

Spc. Ray King

Spc. Branden Milligan

Pfc. Sung Han

Sgt. 1st Class Guillermo Obando

Sgt. 1st Class Peter Braswell

Staff Sgt. Eric Driscoll

Sgt. Timothy Denard Jr.

Sgt. David Taylor

Sgt. Christine Bristol

Cpl. Presley Aroca

Spc. Christopher Marquez

Spc. Frederick Coate

Spc. Shavonne Berliner-Brown

Pvt. Erika Odom

Pvt. Kathryn Nilsen

Spc. Willette Combs

Spc. William Matthew

Farewells

Sgt. Zarita Johnson

Sgt. Amy Pugh

Sgt. Michael Cullars

Spc. Carlos Gallardo

Spc. Duane Rodriguez

Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Thompson

Master Sgt. Gloria Riley

Sgt. 1st Class Karon Floyd

Staff Sgt. Donnie Black

Staff Sgt. Tyrone Booze

Sgt. Craig Anderson

Staff Sgt. Michael Bucceri

Staff Sgt. Jacqueline Tutwiler

Sgt. 1st Class Timothy

Schulyer

Staff Sgt. Tommy Doole

Sgt. Marvin Reese

Staff Sgt. Lisa Comeaux

Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Knox

Staff Sgt. Sean Lowder

Staff Sgt. Garry Cox

Staff Sgt. Rosendo Aviles

Sgt. Vetineet Jackson

Military Appreciation Month activities set

TAMC Public Affairs Office

May is Military Appreciation Month, and a variety of activities and discounts will be offered to military members throughout the month.

A complete list of events and discounts can be found on the Internet at www.pacom.mil/staff/maw/events.html.

The USO Hawaii Benefit Golf Tournament will be held **May 30** at 10 a.m. at the Leilehua Golf Course. Entry fee is \$100 per person, which includes



green fees, lunch, refreshments and banquet. Funds raised from this event will benefit military personnel and families at airport centers and supporting deploying troops. Tournament will be a shotgun start, three-person scramble with putting, chipping and driving contests. For more information, call 836-3351.

The Aloha Expo will be held **May 31** and **June 1** at the Hickam Air Force Base Crafts Area. Explore the myriad of goods and services available from across the state, entertainment, food booths and door prizes. The expo will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 31 and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 1.

NEWS BRIEFS

Admissions/Dispositions Office moves — Beginning June 17, the Admissions/Dispositions Office and Air Evacuation Office located on the 5th floor, C wing, will temporarily relocate to the 5th floor, Awing, room 523. The offices are scheduled to be in the temporary locations until December.

Office operations will continue with minimal impact.

Asian Pacific Heritage Month activities planned — An Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration will be held May 23 at 11 a.m. in the Kyser Conference Center. The title of the celebration is "Unity in Freedom."

Another celebration will be held May 30 at Fort Shafter. This event will be held at 2:30 p.m. at the 9th Regional Support Command Army Reserve Center (Building 1554, Room B101) on Fort Shafter Flats. The featured guest speaker will be Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki.

For more information about the Shafter event, call Sonja Rice at 438-6834.

NCD begins new after hours meal service — Beginning May 13, the Nutrition Care Division will offer microwavable dinner plates to hospital staff after duty hours from 6:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. Monday through Friday and 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and holidays. This will replace the current box lunch program.

Dinner plates will consist of an entree, starch and vegetable with choice of soda or

milk. Cost is \$2.50 each. Tickets can be purchased at the dining facility's cash registers during operating hours. Tickets would then be presented to the Administrative Officer of the Day (AOD) in exchange for the plate dinner and drink. Staff may purchase as many tickets in advance as desired.

Staff members who still have prepaid tickets of \$3.70 for the current box meals may take them to the dining facility for a refund.

For more information, call 433-2368.

Job Fair to be held May 23 — The Marine Corps Community Services' Family Member Employment Assistance Program, in conjunction with the Joint Employment Management System, will host its 6th annual job fair from 9 a.m. to noon May 24 at the Enlisted Club on Kaneohe Bay Marine Corps Base.

The fair is open to all military ID card holders to include spouses and family members of active duty, retired, reserve and DoD civilian employees island wide. No children will be admitted.

For more information, call 257-7790 or go to www.jemshawaii.com/jfevents.htm.

Defense Attache System seeks Army NCOs — The Defense Attache System is always looking for qualified Army NCOs for attache duty. Army Attache NCOs currently serve in more than 90 countries. These NCOs provide administrative and intelligence support to the Defense Attache Office and Embassy.

General requirements include eligibility to receive a top secret security clearance with no non-U.S. citizen family members. More information can be found at www.perscom.army.mil/epag/attache.htm. or e-mail jeff.williams@us.army.mil.

Breast Cancer Survivors' Group continues meetings — Tripler Army Medical Center's Breast Cancer Survivors' Group meets the first and third Thursdays of every month at 9 a.m. in the Radiation Therapy Section's conference room. Radiation Therapy is located on the first floor of Tripler's D wing.

For more information, call Cam Klein at 942-4054.

Surfing competitions to be held in June — The U.S. Military Surfing Invitational will be held June 8 at Kalaeloa Beach Park on Barber's Point. The Surf4Life competition will also be held June 9, 15 and 16 at Kalaeloa Beach Park.

For more information about either event, check out www.surf4life.org or call 429-4455.

Fourth of July rodeo set — The Naturally Hawaiian 4th of July Rodeo will be held July 4 at 2 p.m. at Town & Country Stables in Waimanalo.

The rodeo, which will include music, dancing and bull riding, will benefit Therapeutic Horsemanship of Hawaii, a non-profit organization.

For more information, call 259-5354.