



TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

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Tripler Welcomes First Female Police Officer

How does Jola Hlavaty feel about being Tripler Army Medical Center's first female police officer? Would lyrics from that 70's Helen Reddy song "I am woman, hear me roar" appropriately describe? How about the battle-cry of feminists nationwide during the late-60's and early-70's "I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore?" How about, Hlavaty said, "I feel like a groundbreaker for more females to come in the future?" Yes, that's it!

There was no hoop-la or bra-burning ceremony when Hlavaty accepted the position as the first female officer at TAMC-- simply the best-qualified individual was selected and the candidate just happened to be a female.

"Officer Hlavaty brings an added dimension to the Tripler Provost Marshal Office," said Don Devaney, provost marshal officer, TAMC. "She is a military police school graduate and served with the Military Police Battalion at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, prior to assuming her current job." Additionally, Devaney said Officer Hlavaty has a sharp intellect; is conscientious and has a cheerful and caring personality.

"A friendly smile in law enforcement goes a long way, but behind that smile is a

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HLAVATY
2-2-2



Officer Jola Hlavaty, TAMC, monitors what's happening at Tripler in the Tripler Police Department Control Room Tuesday. Hlavaty is Tripler's first female police officer.

strong person
with high
ethical
standards for
doing what
has to be done
fairly,”

Devaney
said. “She is a
team player
and is a junior

member of the elite Special Operations Team in which her skill will be a big benefit, especially in the event of crisis intervention,” he said.

Actually, to say ‘Hlavaty brings an added dimension’ is an understatement.

She came to the United States in 1993 and graduated from UCLA in 1999 with two degrees – Russian Language and Literature and European Studies. She worked for Boy Scouts of America for two years and then joined the military after 9-11.

“I wanted to do something about what happened September 11th, so I joined the Army,” Hlavaty said. “I always wanted to be a police officer – they wanted me to be military intelligence because of my language skills, but I wanted to be an MP,” she said.

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HLAVATY
3-3-3

After serving five years with the U.S. Army, Hlavaty wanted more stability in her life as far as staying in one place.

“I love Hawaii and I knew I wanted to continue working with the military because I still support the Army and Soldiers and everything they do,” Hlavaty said. “I want to be beneficial to the department with my experience in traffic/accident investigations, and I am so thankful to Mr. Devaney for giving me this opportunity.”

Hlavaty said the pace is very different here than when she was at Fort Shafter.

“I worked with Soldiers with family/domestic problems when I was in the military,” she said. “We deal with patients, staff and doctors – it’s such a different environment and different cases than what I was getting before.”

Hlavaty said everyone has been very supportive since her arrival to TAMC.

“Most people have been very curious, but made me feel very welcome,” she said. “Everyone has gone out of their way to help me familiarize myself with procedures here – just very supportive,” she said.

Devaney said unfortunately the female veteran population has not applied for government police employment and that has limited the effectiveness of our department's overall performance.

“With the addition of Officer Hlavaty, we believe more women will see that the Tripler PMO offers an opportunity that they couldn't see in the past,” the PMO said. “I am convinced more quality and qualified applicants will be in the mix down the line.”

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HLAVATY
4-4-4

In addition to support from the TAMC staff and PMO, Hlavaty has the respect of her colleagues as well.

“She brings a lot of experience with her to the job, and offers a lot of expertise to the team,” said Officer Michael Ballesteros, TAMC. “Now if we can just get her to push the seat back when she gets out of the truck – you should see the bruises on my knees,” he said laughing.