



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT'S “FIRST IN— LAST OUT”

Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP), Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii



Newsletter Date: September 2012

Issue 3

Welcome to the Interservice Physician Assistant Program, Tripler Army Medical Center Newsletter. The program was established at Tripler in 2005. Since then many outstanding Physician Assistant have graduated and become successful in their Army careers. We hope to bring highlights to those who support the program and aid in Physician Assistant Studies.

Class 10-03 Graduates



1LT Felipe Salazar 1LT Travis Kaufman 1LT John Ernst

Tripler Army Medical Center is proud to announce that 3 of its Physician Assistant students graduated the program with degrees from the University of Nebraska. The Interservice Physician Assistant Program is a 52 week Master's Producing program ranked 13th in the nation.

Physician Assistants are the Army's primary medical providers to Soldiers at the Battalion, Brigade and Division levels and have supported Combat and Garrison missions since the Vietnam War. The Physician Assistant provides that much needed broad range medical care.

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The graduating students were welcomed into their new highly respected carriers by many of their peers and supported by both staff and family num.

The new Physician Assistants will have a 2 week leave period and report to their units Support Units to Infantry, Armor and Special Operations.



Expert Field Medical Badge

The EFMB is intended to recognize soldier medics who attain a high degree of professional skill and proficiency as afield medic. It rewards those who can expertly perform in a simulated combat

Graduation Guest Speaker



DR. (MAJ [P]) Jude Abadie Chief, Core Laboratory Tripler Army Medical Center

MAJ Abadie, a former member of the graduates first year of training as their Chemistry professor, was invited to close their training at graduation. MAJ Abadie is the only active duty officer at a Medical Center who is board certified (DABCC, FACB) in clinical chemistry. MAJ Abadie is an Assistant Editor for the *LabMedicine* journal, is on the board as a writer for the American Board of Clinical Chemistry Examination, and annually presents lectures in clinical chemistry at national conferences. He has published more than 20 first/senior author manuscripts in the field of laboratory medicine. MAJ Abadie is from New Orleans, Louisiana. He has a doctorate in Pathology from the Pathology Department at Louisiana State University Medical Center in New Orleans and is board certified by the American Board of Clinical Chemistry and a Fellow of the Academy of Clinical Biochemistry. He was commissioned as a Captain in the United States Army on 2 October 1999 and is scheduled to be promoted to LTC next month.

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CPT Sean Grimes Award

The Sean Grimes award is presented to honor the sacrifices made by CPT Grimes, Physician Assistant. Students select a mentor who has gone above and beyond and made personal sacrifices to facilitate in their training and aide in their success.

CPT SEAN GRIMES was born in Pontiac Michigan and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Michigan State University. He began his military career as an Army Nurse and went on to complete the Interservice Physician Assistant Program. On March 4, 2005, while assigned to the 1st BN, 9th ID Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division, the armored HUMVEE that CPT Grimes was riding in was struck by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). The blast claimed his life, along with 3 of his comrades.



Jun Eligino, PA-C

Internal Medicine, TAMC

Mr Jun Eligino a Physician Assistant in the Internal Medicine clinic at Tripler and has always been a dedicated supporter of the Physician Assistant Students. Mr Eligino is the preceptor for the Internal Medicine rotation, specifically focussin on the students success in the ICU. He stated he was very honored to receive the Sean Grimes award because of its representation related to the dedication and commitment provided by the Physician Assistant.

Mr Eligino is a member of the Hawaiian National Guard as a Physician Assistant and relates well with the students in their understanding and training of a military Physician Assistant.



Physician Assistant SPOTLIGHT

Mrs. Dawn Duff PA-C

Interview conducted by 1LT Travis Kaufman, Graduating Physician Assistant.



Mrs. Duff is a member of the Dermatology Clinic at Tripler Army Medical Center and the Primary preceptor for the IPAP students.

Kaufman- How long have you been a PA? and where did you earn your PA degree?

Duff- I've been a PA for 13 years and obtained my education at Bronx Lebanon Hospital NYC and Masters in Dermatology University of Nebraska

Kaufman- Why did you want to become a PA?

Duff- I enjoyed the healing aspect of patient care and was interested in many medical conditions that I found challenging.

Kaufman- Any words of wisdom for a new PA?

Duff- Your number one priority is to develop yourself as a clinician, the knowledge and skills will come.... Strive to develop what is unique about YOU that communicates to a patient that you care about them, care about their problem. Never forget, the patient is first then second comes your development of your skill set. Know yourself, your strengths and weaknesses. Embrace the imperfection of others and the dysfunction of the medical setting. Keep a sense of humor. Trust that you will love what you do and become confident once the growing pains decrease. Seek balance.

Kaufman- How do you feel about the PA profession?

Duff- Love it. Great opportunity to serve others in a significant way. A profession that lends itself to a meaningful daily life and a good income. The opportunity to encourage others, opportunity to share the wealth of all I have learned, and the hope that indirectly my influence will have a positive impact on future unknown, un- named patients.

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IPAP Ohana



The IPAP and family members came together for the day at the Hale Koa resort in Waikiki. We welcomed new members to the TAMC family and said congratulations to those moving on to their next journey in life as Physician Assistants.

OPD



Class 10-03 and 11-01

Conducted training using the various video laryngoscope products and techniques currently practiced in the field and the MTF.

10-03 and 11-01



Enjoyed an educational day at the Hawaii "Punchbowl" National Cemetery where they were escorted by Mr Ernest (left) who described much of the history involved with the Battles of the Pacific during World War II. Mr Ernest is a retired military member and a member of the American Legion that oversees the National Cemetery. Some of the descriptive historical details included, but were not limited to Pearl Harbor, Iwo Jima and Midway.

Class





Hot Seat

Why did you choose to become a PA?

Class 11-03



CPT Brian Mims

"I did some research and discovered this was a career field in which I feel that I could make a genuine difference for other people. I have always wanted to do something in the medical field but didn't know how to get my foot in the door; the IPAP program provided an excellent avenue".



CPT Eva Fremaint

"I worked with PAs very closely and I decided that is what I wanted to do. I had discussed the differences between PT and PA with several physicians, PAs, and PTs and realized that being a PA was a much greater opportunity to help Soldiers in many capacities. I am very passionate about learning which drew me to the medical profession; my experiences with PAs is what made me want to choose to this profession".



1LT Francis "Eddie" Criss

"The PA profession will allow me to provide for my family well past my years in the Army and has the added bonus of effecting the lives of my patients and Soldiers".



OC (SSG) Robert "Bob" Diem

"The more medical knowledge I gained, while completing my bachelors degree, the more I understood that I wanted to become a midlevel provider and a PA seemed to be the best, autonomous fit for my personality".



OC (SSG) Alexander "Alex" Rivera

"I discovered that serving my country as a Physician Assistant was what I was supposed to do. I love helping people and I believe a Physician Assistant is a better fit for my goals".



Combat Medical Badge

The badge is awarded to any member of the Army Medical Department, at the rank of Colonel or below, who are assigned or attached to a medical unit (company or smaller size) which provides medical support to a ground combat arms unit during any period in which the unit was engaged in active ground combat.

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Interservice Physician Assistant Program

Clinical Coordinator (MIL): MAJ Stewart Miller, APA-C

Clinical Coordinator (CIV): Mr Rocco Laudadio, PA-C

Current Students

Class 10-03

1LT John Ernst

1LT Travis Kaufman

1LT Felipe Salazar

GRADUATED 07 Sept

Class 11-01

OC (SFC) Alejandro Beltran

OC (SFC) Frazer Case

OC (SSG) Karl Sembroski

Class 11-02

CPT Brian Mims

1LT Eva Fremaint

1LT Eddie Criss

OC (SSG) Alexander Rivera

OC (SSG) Robert Diem

*OC= Officer Candidate

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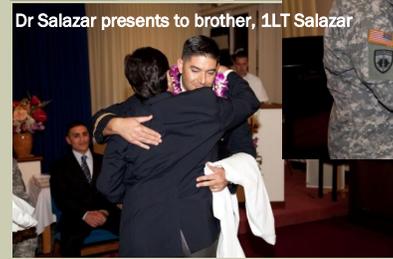
White Coat Ceremony



MAJ Moultrie presents to 1LT Kaufman



LTC Ares presents to 1LT Ernst



Dr Salazar presents to brother, 1LT Salazar



Physician Assistant Oath

Conducted by Mr Rocco Laudadio



IPAP Supporters



OFFICIAL PARTY

COL Olson, CAPT Kelly, MAJ Miller, Mr Laudadio



Commissioning Ceremony

Conducted by MAJ Miller



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A Special Thank You from 10-03:



“This graduation is the result of many hours of hard work, dedication and sacrifices that I would not have been able to accomplish if it wasn’t for those individuals who had a direct involvement in my evolution to becoming a Physician Assistant. I want to give special thanks to my wife for pushing me to better myself, for lifting my spirit in those dark hours when it seemed impossible to continue fighting and for taking care of me every step of the way. She also made big sacrifices and today we celebrate our graduation together. I would not be here today if it wasn’t for MAJ Senesi and MAJ Lucas who believed in my competence to graduate from this program. Thank you for giving me that opportunity and I will always be grateful to you. Lastly, to all my instructors and preceptors who understood the importance of what our job entails and took their time to teach us their wisdom.”

1LT Felipe Salazar

" I would like to thank my wife, Jamie for her support, love, and encouragement throughout this endeavor. My two young children for keeping me motivated with their inspiration and energy. Also my Grandfather for his mentorship and the values, courage and discipline that my parents John and Tina have instilled in me. Thanks to the PA's and Doctors at Tripler for their patience and sharing of knowledge. Thanks to the US Army for the opportunity to care the greatest patients in the world, The US Soldiers and their families."

- 1LT Travis Kaufman

“Thank you to all my friends and family that helped me make my dream come true. I also wish to share my appreciation with all the preceptors who assisted me in my endeavors and provided me with their wisdom. Most of all, thank you Heidi, my loving and beautiful wife, for doing all the hard work the last two years, and my children Zachary and Stephen. You are all the most important things in my world and I appreciate you very much. I love you and I am ever thankful for your support in this journey.“

- 1LT John Ernst

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