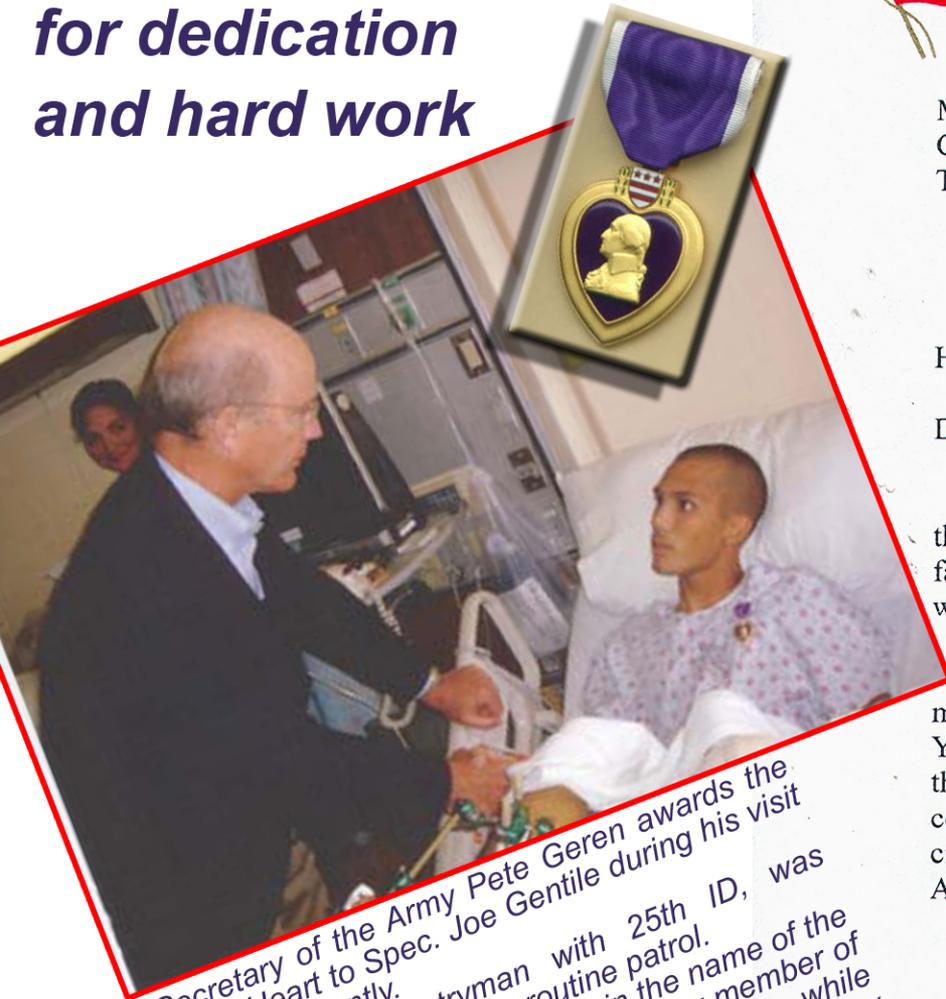


Secretary of the Army lauds Tripler staff for dedication and hard work



Secretary of the Army Pete Geren awards the Purple Heart to Spec. Joe Gentile during his visit to Tripler recently. Gentile, an infantryman with 25th ID, was wounded in Iraq during a routine patrol. The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services after 5 April 1917, has been wounded or killed.



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON
JUL 13 2007

Major General Carla G. Hawley-Bowland
Commanding General
Tripler Army Medical Center/
Pacific Regional Medical Command/
United States Army Pacific Surgeon/
Lead Agent, TRICARE Pacific/
Chief, United States Army Medical Corps
Honolulu, Hawaii 96859

Carla
Dear General Hawley-Bowland:

My recent visit to Tripler Army Medical Center was most informative -- thank you for your hospitality, the comprehensive briefing and the tour of your facilities. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting your staff and the opportunity to visit wounded Soldiers, as well as the Warrior Transition Unit.

It was apparent from my visit that your team is providing world-class medical care for our Soldiers and their Families during a very difficult period. Your team's efforts to get out in front of some of the challenges that fighting the Global War on Terror has placed on our medical systems are commendable. Please pass on my thanks to your Soldiers, leaders, and civilians for their dedication and hard work; they are truly making our Soldiers Army Strong.

Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Pete Geren
Acting Secretary of the Army