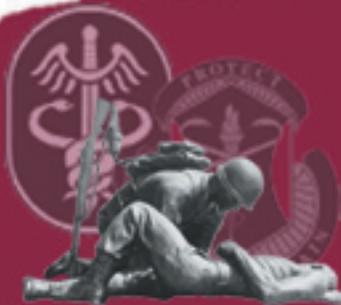


# THE POINT

A newsletter for and about the people of the  
U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command



## Inside

**Lab, Marines improve helmet—3**

**Lab of the Year honored—3**

**Scientists help Soldiers at high altitudes—4**

**Lab helps out veterans' organization—5**

**Center salutes its veterans—6**

**Air Force visits Center—6**

**IT pros showcase capabilities at conference—7**

**People in the news—8**

**News to use—15**

The Point is published quarterly in January, April, July and October. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Army.

Editorial content is prepared by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Public Affairs Office, 301-619-7549; DSN prefix 343. Deadline for the next issue is March 1.

## Meeting held on protecting research volunteers

Protecting volunteers who participate in the Defense Department's research studies was the topic of the day at a conference held in Washington Nov. 14.

More than 400 people, including surgeons general from the Army, Air Force and Navy, attended the day-long "Human Research Protections Programs: DoD Unique Perspectives" meeting.

"Research volunteers are a precious commodity," said Dr. Bob Foster. As director for Bio Systems for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, he is responsible for the department's human use regulatory affairs programs. "Unblinking protection of human subjects is a mandate," he said.

The event's organizers hope it will be the first of many DoD forums that address the topics of protecting research volunteers, informed consent, DoD-unique protections and the common rule, all of which are the vernacular of those who ensure military research is appropriately reviewed and monitored to protect volunteers while advancing science.

"We have to look out for Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Soldiers who are out there depending on us to take care of this research business for them to ensure that they get the best product," said Navy Deputy Surgeon General Rear Adm. John Mateczun during a key leader panel discussion. "I frequently think about whether I have done the best that I can do in making sure that we've taken our responsibility seriously in taking products and research out onto the tip of the spear."

Protecting volunteers in medical and non-medical research is implemented by an institution or organization's human research protection program. A key element to the institution's protection program falls to a group called an institutional review board,



At the "Human Research Protections Programs: DoD Unique Perspectives" meeting held in Washington Nov. 14, key leaders in DoD spoke of the need for the "3Cs—Communication, Cooperation and Collaboration" in protecting volunteers in medical and non-medical research. Panel participants included Lt. Gen. Kevin Kiley, Army Surgeon General, left, and Navy Deputy Surgeon General Rear Adm. John Mateczun.

which is tasked with reviewing researchers' proposed studies to make sure they're not only scientifically sound but also that they are moral, ethical and comply with all the laws and regulations governing research.

"We need to do these things right and vet these things. We need to make sure we've crossed all the t's and dotted all the i's," said Lt. Gen. Kevin Kiley, the Army's surgeon general and commander of the U.S. Army Medical Command.

One reason those t's and i's need crossing, Kiley said, is "there is clearly a sense within the American people that the work—for good or for bad—that members of the Department of Defense and its predecessors have done in human research, even with the best of intentions, has caused some real concern."

In a break-out session, Maj. Gen. Eric Schoemaker, the commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Ma-

**See "Conference" page 2**

**“Conference,” from page 1**

teriel Command and sponsor of the conference, gave an example of Army research conducted in the early 1950s that would clearly not meet today’s ethical standards. While a fellow at Duke University, Schoomaker asked his patient, an older veteran suffering from leukemia, if there were any chance he could have been exposed to ionizing radiation.

The patient told Schoomaker that when he was a 19-year-old Soldier, he was a member of a group that was taken from Fort Bragg, N.C., to the desert in Nevada. Once there, group members were told to dig a trench because they were to become the closest human beings to witness a nuclear explosion. The whole group witnessed the detonation, and then walked around ground zero, picking up glass formed in the sand by the blast. The Soldiers were taken back to North Carolina, but received no follow-up care or interviews.

“I thought, ‘This couldn’t have happened,’” the general said. “Ten years later, the first reports came out that this was done routinely to Soldiers. I can’t put myself in the mindset of a nuclear arms race with the Soviets, but what I know is that some group of people suspended what we refer to now as protection of human subjects.”

Today, researchers and institutional review boards work to ensure that studies involving military members and civilian volunteers uphold the regulations that are designed to protect research participants.

“There’s a mandate for us to do whatever we can to try to take care of our people,” said Mateczun, a former Joint Staff surgeon during the build up for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

An unfortunate consequence of combat operations is the amount of data that becomes available on trauma. The 28th Combat Support Hospital, for example, sees more trauma patients in one month than the busiest trauma center in the States sees in a year. For this reason, Army medicine developed a way to allow limited research to be conducted in Iraq to gather data that will help wounded servicemembers.

During an Army breakout session, Col. Laura Brosch of the U.S. Army Medical Research and

Materiel Command presented an update on the process for the review and approval of research conducted in the Iraq theater of operations.

Proposals in the Iraq theater are reviewed by the chain of command in Iraq and ultimately end up in San Antonio at the Brooke Army Medical Center’s institutional review board. The committee at Brooke reviews protocols for scientific merit and human subjects protection compliance to ensure patients’

rights—such as the autonomy, safety, privacy and well being—are protected, she said. If the study is approved by the board, the Multinational Corp Iraq Command Surgeon and the combat support hospital commander, the research moves forward.

“The pressure is upon us to deliver good products, protective equipment, better drugs and better devices. Breakthroughs are happening because of the data being collected in Iraq,” Schoomaker said, “but that can’t lead us to suspend what we know are protections of our human subjects.”

During the Army session Col. Julie Zadinsky also explained the mission and function of the newly established Army Human Research Protections Office that reports to the Army Surgeon General.

The session concluded with a discussion of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission’s recommendations and how they may result in streamlining some of the processes in place to protect the military’s research volunteers. For example, research approved by the institutional review board at the Air Force’s Wilford Hall in San Antonio is automatically approved for the Brooke Army Medical Center and vice versa. Teams planning the new Walter Reed Army Medical Center, which will combine Army and Navy medicine in the National Capital Area, are also looking at ways of streamlining some of the processes involved in approving human subjects research.

“BRAC is an opportunity to take collaboration (in human subject research protections) to the next step,” said Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. James Roudebush.

**“There’s a mandate for us to do whatever we can to try to take care of our people.”**

**—Rear Adm. John Mateczun  
U.S. Navy Deputy Surgeon  
General**

## Lab teams with Marines to improve helmet

Based on research recently completed by the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory and the University of Virginia, the Marine Corps Systems Command purchased more than 89,000 sets of combat helmet pads.

Congress directed the research in response to questions about the sling suspension system in the Marine Corps combat helmet, the lightweight helmet.

The USAARL conducted research on six commercially available padding systems, as well as the sling suspension system. The lab determined that the pad suspension systems provide greater protection against non-ballistic blunt impacts.

“Early results of testing between the pad suspension system and the sling suspension system for Marine Corps and Army helmets indicate pads offer more protection,” officials with Marine Corps Systems Command in Quantico,

Va., said in an Oct. 5 Marine Corps news release. In follow-on, congressionally mandated tests, “the pad system demonstrated greater non-ballistic blunt impact protection.”

Given this data, the Marine Corps has changed to the pad system with plans for immediate fielding.

The Marine Corps and the Army will continue to work together to ensure helmets provide optimal protection for Marines and Soldiers in the field, according to the Oct. 5 release.



*U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory's Joe McEntire tests a helmet at laboratory at Fort Rucker, Ala.*

## Lab of the Year collaboration honor bestowed

For the second year in a row, the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine and the Natick Soldier Center won a Department of the Army Research and Development Laboratory of the Year Collaboration Team Award at the 2006 U.S. Army Acquisition Corps Award Ceremony.

Claude M. Bolton Jr., assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology and Army acquisition executive, presented the awards at the ceremony Oct. 8 in Crystal City, Va.

“We serve a nation at war and a military force that is

transforming while fighting and winning the global war on terrorism,” Bolton said. “It is clear that we have charted the right course—increasing capability, flexibility and sustainability—and that we must maintain the tremendous momentum we have built.”

The Collaboration Team Award was won for the joint efforts of NSC and USARIEM in developing the nutritionally-optimized First Strike Ration, a compact, eat-on-the-move ration designed to be consumed during the first 72 hours of intense conflict by forward deployed warfighters. The ra-

tion is substantially reduced in weight and cube and enhances warfighter consumption, nutritional intake and mobility.

“These collaborative efforts and early accomplishments from the First Strike Ration program are a perfect example of how a diverse group of talented individuals and a shared vision can make an immediate and lasting impact on a warfighter’s health and performance in operational environments,” said Col. Beau Freund, commander, USARIEM. “USARIEM is absolutely delighted to be a part of the FSR team and this important ration development.”

## Scientists help Soldiers at high altitude

Scientists at the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine are investigating ways to help Soldiers adjust to high-altitude environments.



*Pvt. Jerrod Howard performs a task that measures marksmanship under both high-altitude and low-altitude conditions.*

Soldiers being sent to Afghanistan are often quickly deployed to high-altitude environments via helicopter, leaving little time for their bodies to adjust and putting them at risk for contracting high-altitude sickness. Adjusting to less

oxygen and thinner atmosphere can affect even the most fit Soldier.

According to the institute's Dr. Stephen Muza, high-altitude conditions, at a minimum, affect stamina and cause Soldiers to fatigue much more quickly. The most prevalent type of altitude sickness is acute mountain sickness, which can cause headaches, dizziness, nausea, and make it difficult to fall asleep. According to Muza, acute mountain sickness typically occurs within 4-12 hours.

Although most people experience the aforementioned symptoms of the sickness, 100 percent of the population experiences a decline in performance.

"Soldiers can still make accurate decisions, but it takes them longer to do so. Altitudes above 5,000 feet can impair vision, especially the ability to see color," Muza said.

Research institute scientists are investigating the use of pre-exposure to high-altitude conditions to prevent altitude sickness to help Soldiers who need to make sudden, prolonged ascents to altitudes of 5,000 to 14,000 feet.

Soldiers will perform myriad tasks in the research institute's hypoxia room and hyperbaric chamber, which replicates a high-altitude environment. The hypoxia room is a low-cost, low-oxygen environment.

The study will document changes in performance under both high-altitude and low-altitude conditions. It will also document changes in performance and well-being before and after hypoxia room treatments. The institute's investigation will reveal exactly how much time Soldiers need to be exposed to high-altitude conditions to offset the effects of altitude sickness.

Based on observations so far, Muza said it appears Soldiers exposed to 10,000 to 14,500 feet for three or four hours a day are ready to undertake their mission with less sickness and higher performance. Muza said hypoxia room treatments done over six to seven days can increase physical stamina by 30 percent and reduce or eliminate acute mountain sickness. Research institute scientists have found that two-thirds of improvement occurs during the first week of treatments.

One result of the study will be the creation of altitude preparation guidelines. Muza said that the institute's research will develop predictive models to determine rates of decline in physical and cognitive abilities in correlation to how fast Soldiers need to ascend.

In addition to the hypoxia room treatments, Muza's team determined that a high-carbohydrate diet in high-altitude conditions improves stamina and appears to reduce acute mountain sickness. However, taking anti-oxidants or creatine did not lessen the effects of high-altitude exposure. Muza said future studies will examine several other ways to lessen the effects of exposure to high-altitude conditions.

—By Chuck Paone  
Electronic Systems Center

## Research 069 helps out veterans' organization

The U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory provided fill-in helicopter support for a fund-raising event Oct. 6 for Still Serving Veterans, an organization whose goal is to help the severely wounded servicemembers get back to a normal way of life.

The Aviation Warfighting Center at Fort Rucker, Ala., planned to carry out the highlight mission of the fund-raising event: dropping members of the 82nd Airborne Parachute Team from 6,000 feet. However, other missions that day prevented the center's participation.

That's when USAARL stepped in.

Just after 1 p.m. its JUH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, called Research 069, flew over the green hills of northern Alabama and the sky divers exited the aircraft. With smoke trailing them, they fell for more than a mile, making a pinpoint landing on the target near the gathered participants.

"This was a great opportunity for us to make a difference for these veterans, said Maj. David Zimmerman, the mission commander. "It was also a great training



*USAARL pilots, in green, dropped the 82nd Airborne Parachute Team, in black, from the lab's JUH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, called Research 069, over the green hills of northern Alabama Oct. 6.*

opportunity to work with the 82nd Parachute Team."

At the end of the day, more than \$57,000 was raised for Still Serving Veterans, which strives to meet the needs of amputees, veterans with severe head trauma and those with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, said the organization's vice president, Becky Pillsbury.



### Army careers

Sgt. Brian Viskup, left, and Spc. Nekkeya Tillman, along with Sgt. Alisa LaPrath (not pictured) of the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory visited Enterprise-Ozark Community College's annual career fair for high school seniors Nov. 2. The fair showcased career opportunities to local high school seniors and provided a venue for these Soldiers from Fort Rucker, Ala., to present the various research and career paths the Army offers.

## Air Force medical staff visits IT pros

Air Force Medical Service staff visited the U.S. Army Medical Information Technology Center Nov. 15 to better understand how the Army supports the information management/information technology needs of the U.S. Army Medical Command. Led by Lt.

Col. Debra Miesle, chief, Information Technology Services, Office of the Air Force Surgeon General, Modernization, the Air Force members learned how USAMITC is providing corporate IM/IT services that enable the Army Medical Department to do its job.

USAMITC staff briefed the Air Force team on the various ways it centrally manages IT support for the enterprise, including new joint initiatives to better support the medical needs of Defense Department beneficiaries who frequently use military treatment facilities across services and the Tri-Service clinicians who provide them medical care.

Miesle expressed particular interest in the USAMITC Enterprise Service Desk and said she was “especially impressed” with the Data Center.

After her visit, Miesle said she gained “a greater appreciation for the many things we have in common.”

She also inquired about the possibility of establishing a USAMITC internship for her information management officers.



*Arlan Arabe, U.S. Army Medical Information Technology Center, far right, tells Air Force Medical Service visitors about the services the USAMITC Video Network Center provides to more than 1,500 customer sites from various DoD and civilian communities worldwide.*

## Center salutes its veterans

In conjunction with Veterans' Day, the U.S. Army Medical Information Technology Center honored its veterans with a special lobby display. Coworkers who have served and are currently serving in the military were invited to bring a basic training or new recruit photo of themselves and provide information about their length of service, career field, the last rank held and more.

The exhibit subtitled “Early Photos of Patriots in the Making” received such positive response that it was extended through December.

In looking over the photos, one veteran said, “It’s an honor to be included with these servicemembers.”



*Some young faces were easier to recognize than others, but about 30 USAMITC employees participated in the 2006 veterans' display. The program may be repeated each year.*

## IT pros showcase capabilities at conference

The annual Chief Information Officers' Strategic Planning Conference



At the annual Chief Information Officers' Strategic Planning Conference, USAMITC facilitated participant collaboration through the use of case scenarios. Participants gained insight into each others' processes for problem resolution and the perspective from another's "foxhole."

was held in the U.S. Army Medical Information Technology facilities from Oct. 30 to Nov. 2.

U.S. Army Medical Command regional medical command and major subordinate command CIOs, special guests and representatives from USAMITC and the MEDCOM Deputy Chief of

Staff for Information Management met to discuss the U.S. Army Medical Department's IT strategic plan and its implications on how to execute IT support in the MEDCOM.

On the first day, USAMITC hosted a day-long program to brief about 25 attendees on how the center supports the MEDCOM IM/IT enterprise, the joint collaboration initiatives underway and several key projects.

Based on attendees' comments, they were very impressed with USAMITC's capabilities, support the centralization of selected IT services within the MEDCOM enterprise and believe the center is the right organization to execute this centralization.

In the words of one CIO, "I came, I saw, I believe."

## People in the News

### Contracting reconstruction

In a situation most contracting specialists would not typically encounter, Cheryl Miles, a contracting officer with the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity, volunteered in July to serve for six months with the Joint Contracting Command-Iraq Reconstruction.

"I have been challenged to do things that I have never done before," she said. "As a contract administrator in Iraq, I have a greater appreciation for a contract writing system, a well-written contract and adequate documentation for the contract file."

Miles, who has now extended



Cheryl Miles

her tour so she'll serve an entire year, said the biggest challenges she faces are personnel turnover and the lack of an integrated information system.

"The constant transition of personnel creates confusion about who to contact and frustration in trying to locate someone who knows anything

about the project" she said. "It also has the potential for fraud, waste and abuse. Contractors have been known to wait until personnel change to make a request that was previously denied."

Not having an integrated information system means specialists are constantly chasing after information, so generating reports and tracking information is laborious and tedious.

"Without an integrated information system, we make unnecessary mistakes and spend time correcting mistakes—time that could be better utilized in administering contracts," Miles said.

See "Miles," page 8

## People in the News

### Soldier listens in on promotion

Staff Sgt. Dustin “Dusty” Stover missed his fiancée’s promotion to sergeant in 2002 because he was in Korea. Sgt. Connie Stover, now his wife, made sure that wouldn’t happen a second time.

With an audio link from Camp Bucca in Iraq to the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Silver Spring, Md., Dusty was able to “be there” for Connie’s promotion to staff sergeant Nov. 17.

The original plan was for Dusty to witness the event by video teleconference, but difficulty getting a secure connection led them to plan B.

“Dusty wasn’t able to watch the promotion but was able to listen,” she said. “It really made a big difference for both of us.”

While Connie, a South Carolina native, spends her days as a medical laboratory research specialist, Oklahoma native Dusty serves as a medical lab noncommissioned officer with the 21st Combat Support Hospital.

Technology has helped bridge the distance gap for the couple. Either by telephone or instant messaging, they

talk every.

“It has been hard with all the time away from each other,” Dusty said in an e-mail interview, “but I think that that has made us stronger.”



Staff Sgt. Connie Stover

The couple, married since December 2004, met at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. They created an instant family with Dusty’s two daughters from a previous marriage, Hope and Grace, now 11 and 6.

Professing a fascination with the Army, Connie enlisted after graduating from the College of Charleston. In fact, her military occupational specialty code is the only one in the Army that requires a bachelor’s degree in science. She re-enlisted in June 2003 for six years because she enjoys her job and taking care of Soldiers—a sentiment her spouse wholeheartedly echoes.

Though they’re thousands of miles and eight hours apart and Dusty’s deployment has been difficult at times, Connie said she’s still thankful for what the Army’s brought her.

“Had it not been for the Army, I never would have met Dusty,” she said.

---

### “Miles,” from page 7

The Joint Contracting Command team on which she serves includes Air Force, Navy, Army, Marines, civilians and contractors. Despite the challenges, working as a team has been very satisfying, Miles said.

“Working with such a diverse group of people, you learn to be more accepting of the differences and how to work as a team to get the job done,” she said. “I have worked with some really great people who I plan to stay in touch with

after we leave theater.”

Throughout her time in Iraq, Miles has kept her eyes on the goal.

“If we can effectively rebuild Iraq and turn it over to the Government of Iraq, we can all go home,” she said. “Through our efforts, I hope we are the helping the government and people of Iraq realize how different—better—their lives can be after Saddam Hussein,” she said.

## People in the News

### Raising alpacas

When Ray Boell retired from the Army in 2000, he thought he'd watch some television, do a little fishing, maybe a little traveling.

His wife, Rita, made different plans.

Today, the couple keeps 25 alpacas on their eight acres near Martinsburg, W. Va., and has 10 additional animals at other farms. A labyrinth of fences crisscrosses their yard and separates the

pasture so mothers and babies and like ages and sexes are together.

"I don't have time for a hobby," said the senior analyst with U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command's directorate of Research Plans and Programs at Fort Detrick. "When I come home from work, I go to work here."

The couple met in Germany during a ski trip to France set up by mutual friends in 1988. She was a widow with three teenagers, and he was a bachelor. Eight months later, they wed.

Rita, raised on a farm in Bavaria, swore that if she ever had a farm of her own, she would make sure none of her animals ended up on the dinner table.

The couple's approaches to life are reflected in their alpaca farming. Rita is a jump-into-the-deep-end-of-the-pool type; Ray is more measured and methodical. A "reluctant farmer" who was raised in the Seattle suburbs, Ray likens his situation to a "reverse Green Acres," referring to the 1960s-era television show where a husband moves his urban wife to a rural farm.

First the couple raised ducks, geese, chicken, rabbits and doves on their land, but they couldn't keep the foxes at bay so they gave them away.

They then looked at llamas, the much-larger cousins of alpacas, but one visit to a llama farm dissuaded them. Several of the animals came thundering at the couple, and Ray found himself bracing for impact.

"I decided that the last thing I wanted was to come home from work and find Rita trampled to death in the pasture, so I said no to llamas," Ray said.

Alpacas, as the Goldilocks story goes, were just right for the Boells. Bred for their fiber that's spun into soft yarn, Alpacas never end up as dinner, don't need a lot of land and are amiable, amusing creatures.

Members of the camelid family, which includes camels and llamas, alpacas are indigenous to Peru, Bolivia and Chile. Rita's and Ray's herd were all born in the USA, namely in Virginia, Oregon, Washington, Maryland and Ohio.

"I like to watch the little ones charge around, bouncing along and kicking up their heels, especially at dusk," Ray said.



*Ray Boell mingles with a few of his alpacas.*

## People in the News

### Institute mourns loss of chief scientist

Dr. Brennie E. Hackley Jr. was chief scientist and scientific advisor to the commander of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

During his 57 years of government service, he authored or co-authored more than 75 publications and 15 U.S. patents. His publications and patents contributed significantly to the development of medical antidotes for chemical warfare agents.

MB4, one of the compounds he synthesized, was designated as standard U.S. Air Force therapy for treating chemical exposures. TMB4 was also fielded by several Eastern Bloc nations, including Russia.

As instructor and course director for training in the Medical Management of Chemical Casualties, Hackley delivered lectures worldwide to medical and health professionals. He served on numerous panels as a subject-matter-expert and was the chairman of the Task Force on Long-Term, Low-Level Effects of Chemical Warfare Agents, as well as a NATO study group on skin toxicity.

He received numerous honors and commendations during his government service. He was an honorary, life member of the American Chemical Society and a fellow of the American Institute of Chemists. The Honorable Francis J. Harvey, Secretary of the Army, posthumously awarded Hackley the medal for Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service.

Hackley was commissioned by the Reserve Officers Corps and retired as a colonel with 31 years of enlisted and officer service. He served two terms as president of the Reserve Officers Association, Chapter 28.

He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors Dec. 29.



*Dr. Brennie E. Hackley Jr.  
July 29, 1924 to Nov. 5, 2006.*



### German badges

*The U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory's Staff Sgt. Bryon Pieper received his fourth gold medal and Sgt. Julie Bass, left, and Spc. Nekkeya Tillman received gold medals Dec. 4 after competing for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge. Pieper was the point of contact for the competition, leading and supervising the training and testing. The USAARL co-sponsored the train-up and testing for the badge with the German liaison sergeant major.*

# People in the News



Harvey



Booms



Breaux-Sims



Bass



Hart

## USAARL re-enlistments



Inthalangsy

Sgt. Brian Viskup, the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory’s retention noncommissioned officer, has an outstanding record, including re-enlisting three people in the same day. By the end of October 2006, Viskup had met the quota for initial term re-enlistments for fiscal year 2007.

◆ Staff Sgt. Amy Harvey, a flight medic, re-enlisted for three years Sept. 18.

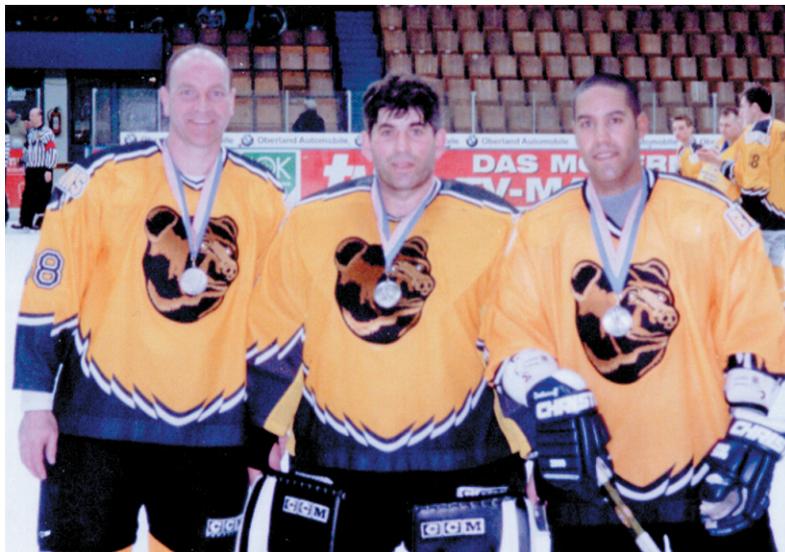
◆ Spc. Shawn Booms, a medical laboratory specialist re-enlisted for five years Oct. 6.

◆ Sgt. Arlene Breaux-Sims, a laboratory technician with research skill identifier, re-enlisted Oct. 6 for six years.

◆ Sgt. Julie Bass re-enlisted for six years Oct. 6. Bass is a medical laboratory specialist with more than 13 years of service in the Army.

◆ Spc. Jessie Hart, a medical laboratory specialist, re-enlisted for three years Oct. 26. Hart has been assigned to USAARL since 2004 and has applied for Officer Candidate School.

◆ Spc. Phouththasone Inthalangsy, a medical equipment repair technician, re-enlisted for three years.



## Puck chaser

Capt. Eric Ansorge, right, of the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory was selected to play on the Army’s “unofficial” ice hockey team, for the second year in a row, in the U.S. Air Force European Ice Hockey Championship in Garmisch, Germany, Feb. 6-11. Last year’s Army team won the silver medal. The tournament consists of the U.S. Army team, based in Mannheim, Germany, and U.S. Air Force teams from bases throughout Europe and the United States, as well as teams from other NATO countries.

# People in the News



### Army 10 Miler

Master Sgt. Gordon Nero, left, and Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Justice, right, of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command's Retention Office complete the Army 10-Miler in Washington Oct. 8. Capt. Trisha Stavinoha, a dietician in the Military Nutrition Division at the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine, came in first in the 30-34 age division and eighth overall for females. She completed the run in 1 hour and 1 minute.

### Promotions

In the last quarter of 2006, U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory's Shawn Booms was promoted to specialist and Alisa LaPrath was promoted to sergeant.

Wanda King of the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity was promoted from a procurement technician to a contract specialist effective Oct. 15. She also serves as secretary of the National Contract Management Association-Frederick Chapter.

### Lab's Soldier of the Year

Sgt. Julie Bass of the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory was named USAARL Soldier of the Year for 2006 Nov. 30. She will compete in the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command's Soldier of the Year board in February.

### Audie Murphy Club inductee

Sgt. Dineen Peterson-Parker of the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory was inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Dec. 6. The club is an elite organization of noncommissioned officers who have demonstrated performance and inherent leadership qualities, professionalism and regard for the welfare of their Soldiers. Acceptance into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club is one of the highest honors an NCO can achieve.

### Ivy league time

Paul G. Michaels, the command's principle assistant responsible for contracting and director, U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity, attended the Senior Executive Fellowship Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, from Feb. 26 to March 24, 2006. The intensive, month-long resident training program focuses on both the government decision process and ethical behavior in preparation for attendees' potential selection for senior executive service. Michaels said the training was superior and the professors outstanding as the class analyzed many of the contemporary and current issues facing the nation and government.



Michaels

### Medals

In the last quarter of 2006:

- ◆ Sgt. Breaux-Sims, U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory, received the Army Achievement Medal.
- ◆ Staff Sgt. Michael Cooper-Nurse, USAARL, received the Good Conduct Medal.
- ◆ Spc. Shawn Booms and Spc. Catherine Wayt, USAARL, received Good Conduct Medals.

## People in the News



### **Score Two for USAMITC B-Ball**

*Periodic play between two basketball teams at the U.S. Army Medical Information Technology Center continues to heat up. Games between the Mean Green team (mostly military) and the Old School Ballers (civilians, and no one ‘fesses up to the name) have been fun to watch. Surprisingly, the teams play well considering there are no practices. Plans are already underway for the fourth rematch. Richard Castillo of the Logistics Branch is the only one who plays regularly. Castillo is 74 years young and can score two points fairly regularly from his “sweet spot” on the court.*

### **Lioness at work**

Denise Heck of the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity attended the 30th USA/Canada Leadership Forum sponsored by Lions Club International in September in Columbus, Ohio.

The Lioness Club in Waynesboro, Penn., where Heck serves as the liaison, sponsors Kids Sight First, a program offering free eye exams to local children who can’t afford to go to an eye doctor. The club also collects eye glasses, frames and lenses for distribution to Third World countries.

The club is currently embarking on Campaign Sight First Two, a crusade to eradicate blindness and build clinics and hospitals in Third World countries.

### **Center wins secure messaging award**

CipherTrust, a global e-mail security company that offers solutions to block spam and provide e-mail anti-virus protections, named the U.S. Army Medical Information Technology Center “Outstanding Customer of the Year in Secure Computing.”

Each day, USAMITC ensures the safe, reliable transmission of more than two million messages, protecting the U.S. Army Medical Department’s network by blocking 330,000 spam messages and more than 800 viruses.



People in the News



von Tersch

**Awards at headquarters**

During the last award ceremony of 2006 for the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command headquarters, several honors were bestowed.

◆ Lt. Col. Robert von Tersch received a Meritorious Service Medal for serving as former deputy director for Research Plans and Programs from January 2003 to June 2005. Von Tersch now works with the Pentagon's Office of Counterproliferation.

◆ Maj. Wilson Ariza, formerly of the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity, received the Arthur S. Flemming Award recognizing his outstanding achievement while working for the federal government in the administration field. He was also recognized for being nominated to represent the U.S. Army Medical Command for the 2006 League of United Latin American Citizens Excellence in Military Service Award. Ariza currently serves as the assistant product manager for the Medical Communications for Combat Casualty Care.

◆ Ellen Strock, secretary to the commanding general, received a certificate and pin recognizing her 25 years of federal service.

◆ Jerome Maultsby, associate director of the office of small business programs, received a three-star note and coin from Lt. Gen. Kevin Kiley, The Surgeon General, for winning the Blacks in



Ariza



Strock



Maultsby

Government Meritorious Service Award (Civilian Category) as the Department of the Army representative. Maultsby also received a two-star note from Maj. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, for his win.

◆ Dr. Jean-Louis Belard of the Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center received the Order of Military Medical Merit. Earlier in the year, Belard was made a Knight of the Academic Palm at the home of the French ambassador to the United States.

◆ Bill Howell, principal assistant for acquisition, accepted a certificate as a team member for the Combat Application Tourniquet that was named one of the Army's 10 greatest inventions for 2005. Howell said that the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, Phil Durango LLC, North American Rescue Products, Program Executive Office Soldier and Steve Reichard also deserved to be recognized for their roles with testing and fielding the tourniquet.

◆ P.J. Showe of International Affairs received a certificate of appreciation from the Republic of Korea's Armed Forces Medical Command for preparing and assisting the Korean delegation with a medical working meeting held in the United States.



Belard



Howell



Showe



## News to use

### **Force Health Protection Conference**

The U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine’s 10th Annual Force Health Protection Conference, “Force Health Protection through Collaboration,” is Aug. 5-10 in Louisville, Ky. Registration is open at the conference’s Web site, <http://usachppm.apgea.army.mil/fhp>. To be considered as a potential speaker, e-mail Irene Sacilotto, the Science and Technology Track Chief for the conference, at [Irene.Sacilotto@apg.amedd.army.mil](mailto:Irene.Sacilotto@apg.amedd.army.mil).

### **MeRITS Training**

The MeRITS Regulatory Information Systems Course 100 Series training program, available on CD-ROM, provides basic regulatory information systems instruction as it pertains to FDA-regulated activities performed every day in the command. Any individual conducting FDA-regulated activities should receive this training. It is a prerequisite for any MeRITS PMO regulated system, including FDA Regulated Electronic Documents, also called FRED. Documentation of this training is also required by 21 Code of Federal Regulations Part 11 and the associated predicate rules.

The Course 100 Series training program is available from the MeRITS PMO office. To obtain a copy of the training on compact disk, e-mail [USAMRMC.MeRITS@amedd.army.mil](mailto:USAMRMC.MeRITS@amedd.army.mil).

To complete the Course 100 Series Training Program in its entirety, trainees are expected to complete its four training modules on the CD:

Course 100—An Overview of FDA-Regulated Activities, Information, Records and Systems,

Course 101—Relating FDA Regulations to USAMRMC Regulated Activities,

Course 102—Understanding Information Assets in FDA Regulated Settings, and

Course 103—Introduction to Regulated Computerized Information Systems.

When users complete the four modules, they then take a 10-question, multiple-choice final exam. The exam is located at the end of the Course 103 module after the practice set of exam questions for that module.

Each end user must complete the exam and submit an electronic or hard copy to the MeRITS PMO. To receive an account on any MeRITS

PMO-regulated system, end users must pass this exam with a grade of 80 percent or higher. Personnel who do not complete the Course 100 Series Training Program will not be granted user accounts or passwords for information systems as they are introduced across the command.

FRED (FDA Regulated Electronic Documents) End User Training will be offered at various command sites throughout the winter. This training provides end users with skills to perform basic functions within FRED, including logging in, searching for information and viewing and downloading documents. At the end of training, attendees will be issued a username and password. The prerequisite for this training is the MeRITS Regulatory Information Systems Course 100 Series Training Program.

An online training calendar is available at [www.merits.army.mil/training.html](http://www.merits.army.mil/training.html).

### **Learn a language**

Free foreign language training courses are available to Army personnel via Rosetta Stone®. All active Army, National Guard, Reservists and Department of Army civilian personnel worldwide can access the courses via Army e-Learning on the Army Knowledge Online.

Since the Army began offering courses from Rosetta Stone in November 2005, more than 66,000 users have accessed the courses more than 213,000 times and completed 84,500 units as of October 2006.

The Army offers Soldiers and civilians 30 languages used throughout the world. In addition to Tagalog (Filipino) and Hebrew, Rosetta Stone offers courses in Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, Danish, Dutch, British English, American English, Persian Farsi, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Pashto, Polish, Brazilian Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Latin American Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Thai, Turkish, Vietnamese and Welsh.

For additional information on how to access Army e-Learning, log on to [www.us.army.mil](http://www.us.army.mil), click on Self Service, My Education and then the Army e-Learning portal page.



## News to use

### **Outlook Web access/CAC logon solved**

When faced with the forced shutdown of a critical enterprise tool for remote e-mail access—Outlook Web Access—the U.S. Army Medical Information Technology Center took immediate action to solve a complex problem.

Guidance from the Army in late November provided for the ability to continue to use OWA only if the DoD's requirement for two-factor authentication (Common Access Card) was met.

Under the direction of Janine Oakley, the USAMITC Core Technology team engineered a way to use a new technology to CAC-enable the U.S. Army Medical Command's OWA remote e-mail tool. Per Army regulations, a government-furnished computer is required to access network messaging services.

Though CAC-enabling OWA appears to defeat the whole purpose of Web-based e-mail, it is crucial for healthcare providers from one service to access their e-mail when working at another service's military treatment facility. It

also preserves the ability of specialists to receive consults from the theater via the existing AKO-to-Outlook routing mechanism.

Significant highlights are as follows:

- ◆ CAC-enabled OWA will be hosted in three geographic regions: continental United States, Pacific and Europe. Unlike traditional OWA, users will need to use the URL that corresponds to the region in which their mailbox resides. These URLs are available at <https://medmail.amedd.army.mil>.

- ◆ Users accessing CAC-enabled OWA will be prompted to select a CAC certificate and enter their PIN. Users should select the certificate with the word "EMAIL" in the Issuer field. Updates to this information can be found at: <https://mitc.amedd.army.mil>.

Call 1-800-USAMITC (1-800-872-6482), or open a support request via e-mail: [EnterpriseServiceDesk@amedd.army.mil](mailto:EnterpriseServiceDesk@amedd.army.mil) with any problems.