

The Point

A magazine for and about the people of the
**U.S. Army Medical Research
and Materiel Command**
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USAMRMC and Fort Detrick hosted a change of command ceremony Jan. 11. The assumption of command is symbolized by passing the organizational colors. During the ceremony, Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin B. Stuart (right) stands ready to pass the organizational colors to the incoming commander, Brig. Gen. (promotable) Joseph Carvalho Jr. (center).

Photo by Sig Bruner, Fort Detrick VI

New Year Brings New Commander to USAMRMC

The U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and Fort Detrick changed command with Maj. Gen. James K. Gilman turning the reins over to Brig. Gen. (promotable) Joseph Carvalho Jr. in a ceremony at the Odom Fitness Center Jan. 11.

The change of command ceremony also marked Gilman's Army retirement, culminating a distinguished 35-year career. Gilman was the USAMRMC and Fort Detrick commander since 2009.

Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho, Army Surgeon General and commander of

the U.S. Army Medical Command, served on the official party and provided remarks, thanking Gilman for his "exceptional" service and ensuring him that his legacy will live on as he embarks on retirement.

"During Maj. Gen. Gilman's tenure as commander, the USAMRMC has been changing battlefield medicine," said Horoho. "The survival rate of those wounded on the battlefield far exceeds 90 percent and continues to go up. Much of the credit for that belongs here at USAMRMC and to its leaders who are committed to ensuring that we will protect our warriors and restore them to health."

Horoho added, "While we are losing one of our great Soldier leaders, we know that another leader with equally impressive credentials will continue to lead this team. Brig. Gen. (promotable) Joseph Carvalho Jr. understands that the good health of our Soldiers and their families demands careful and faithful attention to an infinite array of small details."

Gilman echoed Horoho's faith in incoming commander Carvalho. In his remarks, Gilman thanked family, friends, and colleagues and also

spoke about the honor and duty of leadership.

“The USAMRMC was never really ‘my’ command,” said Gilman. “It was simply a gift I was charged to use to accomplish a mission but also to do all that I could to make it even better than it was when it was handed to me. In this context, it gives me great pleasure to see the gift of the USAMRMC command bestowed upon Joe and Lorraine Carvalho because I know Joe well, and I know that he will use the gift wisely and make it even better for the commanders who will follow him.”

As a military leader, Carvalho has had a variety of operational experiences, including deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His most recent assignment was serving as the commanding general of the Northern Regional Medical Command.

He earned his medical doctorate from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences School of Medicine in Bethesda, Md. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., and a master’s degree in strategic studies from the Army War College. His

medical specialty training includes internal medicine, nuclear medicine, and cardiology. His military training includes Army Airborne and Flight Surgeon schools, as well as Navy Dive Medical Officer and SCUBA courses. He has also earned Special Forces and Ranger tabs, and the Expert Field Medical Badge.

“I give you my solemn word that I will do absolutely everything within my power to adeptly and honorably serve the fine men and women of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and to accomplish the missions assigned

USAMRMC Launches New Wellness Program

The U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command has introduced a new program designed to create a healthy working force. The USAMRMC Health and Wellness program encourages and promotes the “total fitness” concept to improve all aspects of health, including physical, mental, and spiritual, ultimately increasing productivity and enhancing the work environment.

The USAMRMC Health and Wellness challenge is designed to get employees up and moving.

“The program is designed to challenge participants every step of the way, and a positive attitude and strong motivation will help you while you’re trying to get fit in this process,” advises Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin B. Stuart, USAMRMC command sergeant major.

“Our country is becoming besieged with people who are not fit, putting them at risk for heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and other medical issues, such as cancer and back problems,” Stuart



to me,” Carvalho said during the ceremony. “I make this commitment not only to you but also to the warriors and to their families. I will ensure our personnel are well prepared to deliver top-quality work at home and abroad, and I will make it my personal goal to develop leaders at all levels to take Army medicine forward well into the future.”

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warns. “Just remember, we can beat these diseases and ailments by staying active, eating right, and getting an adequate amount of sleep every day.”

The goal of this all-encompassing total wellness program is to motivate and encourage employees to get fit and incorporate exercise and healthy dietary habits into a daily routine. Targeting all aspects of wellness, the program’s major categories are physical fitness, nutrition, and mental health.

The program operates under a points-based system that offers incentives to individuals and units earning the highest point totals at the end of the challenge.

“I challenge everyone to make health a priority and fitness a part of the everyday routine,” said Stuart.

Get started on the road to a healthier life today by visiting <https://wellness.amedd.army.mil/>.

USAMRMC Public Affairs

New Year Brings New Commander to USAMRMC	1	USAMRICD Introduces New Capability for Studying the Toxicity of Airborne Chemical Threats	19
USAMRMC Launches New Wellness Program	2	Natick Soldiers, Employees Help Soup Kitchen	20
“Fearless” Felix Historic Space Jump Has Natick Ties	4	Putting an End to Violence	22
USAMRICD Joins Forces with ECBC to Develop Proteomics Core Facility	6	USAMRMC Headquarters Company Soldier Completes WLC	23
USAMRMC Soldier Completes NCO Course at Fort Indiantown Gap	7	Taking Care of Soldiers Benefits Civilians Too	24
Major General James K. Gilman Retires After 35 Years of Service	8	USAMMCE New Year’s Reception 2013	25
Keeping the Spirit Alive	10	USAMRMC Combat Casualty Care Research Program Receives the 2012 Major Jonathan Letterman Award for Medical Excellence	26
First Afghanistan In-Theater Joint Trauma Conference	11	USAARL Research Optometrist Wins Aerobic Competition	27
“Larry the Cable Guy” Sees Natick Technology	12	Medical Revolutions Highlighted in 10-Year Supplement	28
U.S. and Israeli Medical Researchers Collaborate at Shores 2012	14	USARIEM Soldier Serves as Toxicology Subject Matter Expert During Massachusetts Drug Lab Panel	29
USAARL Soldier Named USAMRMC Equal Opportunity Leader of the Year	15	Army Studying Special Operators’ Nutritional Needs	30
USAARL: 50 Years of Research for Army Air, Ground Warriors	16	Awards and Promotions	31
Natick Researcher Says Farewell After 32 Years of Service	18		



The Equivital Life Monitor that “Fearless” Felix Baumgartner strapped on before his 128,100 foot, record-breaking jump was supported and developed with the assistance of researchers at USARIEM’s Biophysical and Biomedical Modeling Division in Natick, Mass.

Photo courtesy of Red Bull Stratos, Red Bull Newsroom

“Fearless” Felix Historic Space Jump Has Natick Ties

In October 2012, the world watched as “Fearless” Felix Baumgartner made his epic descent from a balloon 128,100 feet above the Earth.

But what the world didn’t know at the time is that the technology used to monitor Baumgartner’s heart and respiratory rate has ties to Natick, Mass.

The Equivital Life Monitor manufactured by Hidalgo Ltd. in Cambridge, U.K., which Baumgartner strapped on before his record-breaking jump, was supported and developed with the assistance of researchers at the U.S. Army Research

Institute of Environmental Medicine’s Biophysical and Biomedical Modeling Division in Natick.

This device monitors a patient’s heart and respiratory rates, skin temperature, oxygen saturation, body position, and motion. These data can then be transmitted to a smartphone or computer for analysis.

Today, the life monitor is used in a wide range of applications, including use by hospital patients, subjects of pharmaceutical studies, athletes, and military personnel. This has become possible because of the research conducted at USARIEM.

USARIEM began working with Hidalgo in 2000 after conducting a downselect process from which Hidalgo was chosen from four potential collaborators.

Researchers at USARIEM were looking for a company that could help them develop a wearable monitoring system that could collect physiological data, such as heart and respiration, from Soldiers doing a variety of physical tasks.

“We conducted a series of lab comparisons to find out which vendor would meet our research needs the best,” said Anthony Karis, a USARIEM research scientist. “In the end it was Hidalgo that gave us the most flexibility in terms of collecting the data we needed for our mathematical model development.”



Research conducted at Fort Polk, La., by USARIEM in 2003 demonstrated the important roles user acceptability and comfort play in the successful development of a wearable life signs detection system. Any successful system must be compatible with the uniform and equipment worn by the military. In other words, Soldiers have to like it.

“If a Soldier perceives that his/her comfort, performance, morbidity, mobility, and lethality will be negatively affected by a certain piece of equipment, then the Soldier will be unlikely to wear it despite its potential benefits,” the report’s author, Dr. Beth Beidleman, a research physiologist at USARIEM, wrote in the transcript of the study. “It is imperative to identify a physiological status monitoring design concept that is acceptable to the Soldier.”

In 2004, as part of the Warfighter Physiological Status Monitoring Initial Capability Program, USARIEM gave Hidalgo a list of specifications needed to develop a small form factor cloth chest belt system to be used as part of the Future Force Warrior Program.

From there, Hidalgo developed a chest belt to meet the comfort needs of Warfighters while providing the redundant measures of heart rate, respiration rate, and activity needed for research. As a result, the life monitor was developed and received U.S. Food and Drug Administration pre-market approval in 2006.

“The device was comfortable enough to be worn by Warfighters during

training and provided us with reliable high-quality data that we could use to develop our health state estimation algorithms,” Mark Buller, deputy division chief for BBMD said. “Now we had this FDA-approved device that gave us high-quality data in the field.”

Buller, who has been the principal investigator for this device since its inception, said that these new capabilities provided USARIEM researchers with a comfortable monitor that could be fielded directly to the Warfighter. This monitor not only put Warfighters’ wellness demographics at their commander’s fingertips, it led to a change in doctrine.

In 2008, USARIEM was contacted by the program manager for the Marine Expeditionary Rifle Squad who was concerned that Marines in Iraq were getting too hot in the blazing desert heat.

“The program manager at the time said he knew the Marines were getting hot,” Buller said. “But he wanted to know just how hot they were getting during missions.”

So USARIEM sent the life monitor to Iraq to answer this question.

“Our study showed that these Marines were getting so hot, with being overloaded with protective gear, ballistic equipment, and flame protection, that they were right at the edge of their physical capabilities in terms of heat stress,” Buller said.

The results of this study, according to Buller, were used by the Marines

to allow heat to be considered as a factor in determining the amount of ballistic protection a Marine would wear during a mission.

At the same time, Marines provided feedback that the monitor’s placement of sensors in the center of their chests was uncomfortable once they donned body armor. Researchers took this feedback and worked with Hidalgo to redesign a second-generation monitor that was more comfortable.

These improvements helped lead to the final product that Baumgartner wore during his descent.

“The reason that Felix could be monitored in such an extreme environment is because of years of work to meet USARIEM’s goal of providing Warfighters with real-time health-state feedback,” Buller said. “The original development, testing, and improvement that we have done has enabled a very versatile monitor.”

Buller said that BBMD’s goal going forward is to use this device along with similar devices and algorithms to provide real-time health-state information to Warfighters, commanders, and medics. Karis agrees.

“Ultimately, this technology strives to help us decrease heat casualties and optimize the amount of time a person can work at their full potential,” Karis said. “To think that this was the same device that Baumgartner wore during his descent is really cool.”

*Kelly Sullivan
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USAMRICD Joins Forces with ECBC to Develop Proteomics Core Facility



The U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center's technical director, Joseph Wienand, and USAMRICD commander, Col. Bruce Schoneboom, officially open the joint Proteomics Core Facility.
Photo by Sean Keif, DPTMS/VISD, U.S. Army Garrison

The U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., collaborated with the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, also at APG, to build a joint Proteomics Core Facility, which officially opened for business Oct. 10. According to Dr. James F. Dillman III, chief of USAMRICD's Science Program Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office, the Proteomics Core Facility "shows the spirit of cooperation that exists across the Edgewood campus."

"The fact that two organizations came together to build a joint capability is a wonderful testament to the true spirit of collaboration in support of common scientific research, and

I hope that this serves as a great example for other installations," said Col. Bruce Schoneboom, USAMRICD commander. "I am very excited to see the great strides the talented USAMRICD and ECBC staff will take in proteomics and genomics research."

Building the capability took well over a year and was supported initially by funding from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense/Chemical and Biological Defense Programs and augmented by both ECBC and USAMRICD investments.

One purpose of the facility is to support systems biology programs

of the Joint Science and Technology Office, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, which address toxicological target discovery research. The facility will also support efforts funded by the National Institutes of Health CounterAct program.

The 625 square foot Proteomics Core Facility is located on the third floor of the McNamara Life Sciences Building where ECBC has established a state-of-the-art Genomics Laboratory, an asset available to USAMRICD scientists. USAMRICD already has an exceptional transcriptomics and a Microarray Core Facility, which can be used by ECBC scientists. The newly added equipment of the Proteomics Core Facility allows ECBC and USAMRICD to extend their research using mass spectrometry-based proteomics, high-content image analysis of cells and tissues, and gel-based imaging.

"Both ECBC and MRICD saw this as a need," said Dr. Jennifer Sekowski, molecular toxicologist and ECBC lead for standing up the Proteomics Core Facility. "We already had some individual proteomics and genomics tools at hand but knew we both needed to expand our toolset."

"Rather than duplicate the capabilities, why not build our capabilities in one joint facility?" she said. Having a combined Genomics and Proteomics Core now allows us to more easily share our resources, provide new training opportunities, and expand the amount and type of research we both can do."

ECBC's technical director, Mr. Joseph Wienand agreed, saying, "In this time of fiscal awareness, it is a great example of our nation's leading scientists working together to share resources and save funding while working toward the common goal of the protection of our Soldiers and our nation."

Although the potential is there for collaboration in the future between USAMRICD and ECBC scientists, currently they will work on independent projects. USAMRICD scientists will focus their research efforts toward a thorough, foundational knowledge and understanding of the toxicology of chemical agents, toxic industrial chemicals, and toxins. Through this work, USAMRICD scientists will develop and test prophylactic and therapeutic countermeasures to protect Warfighters and civilians against the acute and long-term effects of exposure to such agents.

ECBC scientists will focus their research efforts on the detection and understanding of exposures to toxins and various chemical and biological threat agents. This knowledge is translated into the development of more capable masks and uniforms for the Warfighter as well as more effective decontamination materials.

In addition to Sekowski and Dillman, ECBC's Dr. Peter Emanuel, chief of the R&T BioSciences Division, and Dr. Mary Wade, acting chief of the BioDefense Branch, and USAMRICD's, Dr. Heidi Hoard-Fruchey, the Molecular Toxicology Team lead, were instrumental in the development of the facility.

USAMRICD Public Affairs

Katherine Smith from ECBC's Research & Technology Directorate contributed to this article.



Members of the USAMRMC and Headquarters Company command team attended the Battle Staff NCO course graduation ceremony to congratulate Staff Sgt. Easton P. Purkiss. From left, Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Stuart, USAMRMC command sergeant major; Purkiss; Capt. Sumesh Sagar, Headquarters Detachment commander; and Sgt. 1st Class Amadeo J. Fuentes, Headquarters Detachment first sergeant.

Photo courtesy of HHD, USAMRMC

USAMRMC Soldier Completes NCO Course at Fort Indiantown Gap

Staff Sgt. Easton P. Purkiss, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Headquarters Company, graduated from the Battle Staff Noncommissioned Officer Course, class #002-13, NCO Academy, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., Dec. 21. Purkiss began the course on November 30 and graduated with 14 other Soldiers after successfully completing all requirements to become an efficient and successful Operations NCO.

The Battle Staff NCO course is a single-phase, functional course used to prepare staff sergeants through sergeants major for duty as Operations NCOs in battalion- and brigade-level staff positions. The challenging and intensive course places emphasis on leadership skills to prepare Soldiers to be effective Operations NCOs. Utilizing small-group instruction methodology, the course focuses on planning future operations and

managing current operations of a battalion- and brigade-level command post. Subject areas include mission command, staff operations, brigade combat team, stability operations, urban operations, graphics and overlays, military decision-making processes, and plans, orders, and attachments, among others. Students must complete an intensive staff exercise as a culminating event prior to graduation.

Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin B. Stuart, USAMRMC command sergeant major, as well as the USAMRMC HQ Company command team, Capt. Sumesh Sagar and Sgt. 1st Class Amadeo J. Fuentes, attended the graduation to congratulate Purkiss and to wish him continued success in the Army as an Operations NCO.

USAMRMC Headquarters Company

Major General James K. Gilman Retires After 35 Years of Service

Soldier, doctor, teacher, leader, commander, husband, father, grandfather... Soldier.



While this term may produce different thoughts for different people, a clear definition begins to form in my mind as I listen to Maj. Gen. James K. Gilman reflect upon his 35 years of service in an Army uniform. I quickly realize the military career of this man goes far beyond that of the Hollywood-generated imagery of what a Soldier's life is supposed to be.

As the commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command at Fort Detrick, Md., Gilman will soon be retiring from the organization that he regards as family. And as we talk, I see that a wealth of stories and knowledge rests in the mind of this very deliberate man.

Considering his accomplishments as an Army officer, one would think that Gilman initially had set his sights on reaching the level he has — surprisingly, this isn't the case.

"I joined the Army to fund my education, and the school I chose was very good, but reasonably expensive, so the ROTC scholarship was an opportunity to help pay for college," said Gilman. "I had no thoughts of staying in the military for a long time. I planned on completing my degree, paying back the time I owed the Army, and then going to work as an engineer in the private sector."

Rewinding a bit, we travel back to the 1960s to the small town of Hymera, Indiana — a community in the southwest part of the state that today still maintains a population of around 800. A young boy named Jim helps with the family's food store near the heart of town. His father, the store's proprietor, and his mother, a high school teacher, are instilling in this future military officer the traits necessary to lead a command of more than 6,500 personnel.

"The people who were the most influential, for me, are my parents," said Gilman. "My father died when I was 18, but I worked with him in our family business for a number of years before he passed away. I was able to see the way he related to people, especially those that worked for him — and that experience has influenced my leadership style tremendously. And my mother's skills in relating to people were influential as well, but for different reasons."

Aside from two uncles who served, the general did not come from a military family. His father was

medically disqualified from serving during World War II, and his older brother was disqualified due to poor eyesight. Fortunately for Gilman, and certainly for the U.S. Army, he was fit as a fiddle and sharp as a tack. So sharp, in fact, that he eventually decided to add a medical degree to his resume, graduating from the Indiana University School of Medicine.

This medical training would set the stage for the general's military career. After a categorical medicine internship and residency in internal medicine at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Gilman served as the chief resident in Medicine at BAMC before becoming staff internist and chief, Internal Medicine Service, for the U.S. Army Medical Department Activity, Nurnberg, Germany.

Throughout much of the 1990s, Gilman developed into a well-versed cardiologist en route to serving as the chief of Cardiology and director of the Cardiology Fellowship Program at BAMC. Outside of his deployment in 1995 to Haiti with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in support of Operation Uphold Democracy, Gilman spent the better part of the decade as a military cardiologist in the great state of Texas, in and around Fort Sam Houston and San Antonio. It's probably a safe bet that during this time the general learned as much about heartburn as he did about heart disease — and if you've ever tasted authentic Texas chili, you'll agree.

However, this time spent practicing cardiology would eventually be considered by Gilman to be only the "first half" of his professional life.

"For the early part of my career — about 20 years — I was involved in clinical medicine and teaching, and for a large part of this I was a member of the cardiology training program at



San Antonio,” he said. “So I spent a great deal of time with people who were more like I was — a cardiologist. And I was concerned more with learning my craft as a medical doctor, alongside others who were doing the same.”

“Later on,” continued Gilman, “I was grateful for the opportunity to help many young men and women Soldiers progress in their own careers — learning about others’ goals and dreams, and encouraging them to work toward making those dreams come true. This was very gratifying for me.”

And this trait of being a selfless, straightforward individual has quickly become the two-star general’s trademark as a leader. It’s clear to see that the man truly cares about his Soldiers and his staff. He’s not just an “ordinary” leader — many would say he’s the model example of one.

“I consider myself to be a ‘student of leadership,’” said Gilman. “There have been many general officers and colonels that I’ve learned a great deal from. I’ve observed what I think worked well for some people, and I’ve adapted some of these methods a bit to suit my own style.”

Clearly, this has worked out pretty well for him.

It’s safe to say that becoming the leader of a large and integral command such as USAMRMC requires a work ethic second to none, and it also requires various tours along the way. This was no different for Gilman. On his road to USAMRMC, the general served as director of Health Policy and Services for the Office of the Surgeon General, as well as commander for the Walter Reed Health Care System, Great Plains Regional Medical Command, and BAMC during respective tours. One assignment as commander of Bassett Army Community Hospital

took him and his family all the way to Fort Wainwright, Alaska — which added to the unique chronicle he’s compiled over the years.

“My wife commented to me that we haven’t been any place that we hadn’t liked, and I would agree with her,” said Gilman. “We have very fond memories of the places we’ve lived in, but the memories center primarily around the people there.”

The general’s remark comes as no surprise because clearly he is a “people person.” Again, it’s a part of his trademark — a trademark that also includes the designation of family man.

“Everything I’ve achieved over the past 35 years has only been possible because I have a great Army family, a great Army spouse, and three wonderful daughters that love the Army,” said Gilman. “My girls have never hesitated to tell me that they were proud of what their dad did for a living. And if there is anything a father could ask for more than this, I don’t know what it could be.”

I’m genuinely taken aback by this prominent general officer who is coming across now as a regular guy, the typical father and husband. But he’s still a Soldier, so what do you do after spending more than half of your life in an Army uniform?

“I’m not sure — I may go back to practicing medicine,” said the general. “I probably wouldn’t be happy not working, but it hasn’t been determined yet what this might be. I can say that after the change of command, and the paperwork that goes along with it, my wife and I plan to take some time to relax and travel a bit, and visit our family in San Antonio.”

Again, it all comes back to family, as his definition of this seems to be far

reaching. It extends to encompass every man and woman in a military uniform. This is actually the very mission of his current command, to “create and deliver medical information and products for the warfighting family.” To be certain, “family” is at the top of Gilman’s list, and most likely will remain there.

As I wrap up my time with the general, I try to pry out of him what he deems to be his greatest accomplishment over the past 35 years. Put simply, this is a very difficult task, probably because of the man’s lack of ego. But I press him a bit, and he concedes, however slightly.

“I’m not sure I can single out one specific thing,” said Gilman. “I think my role as someone who was able to work with people and reaffirm their quality and value to the organization may be my greatest accomplishment.”

I press him a little further for some final thoughts on his career, and a smile comes across his face — well, possibly because he realizes this interview is coming to a close.

“When I started out at the age of 18, signing up for that ROTC scholarship, I had no idea where it was going to lead,” he said. “But my family and I have been extremely blessed to have done all we have over the last 35 years and to have met so many people who share the same ideas and goals as we do regarding taking care of our Soldiers and their families.”

“It’s been a wonderful way to spend the better part of my professional life, although it certainly went a lot faster than I thought it would.”

Well, sir, as they say, time flies when you’re having one heck of a life.

Jeffrey Soares
USAMRMC Public Affairs



Bill Dietrich, “Spirit of Hope” awardee and executive director of Two Top Mountain Adaptive Sports Foundation, poses with Bob Hope’s son, Kelly Hope, the Hope award artist, Don Wiegand, and volunteers from Two Top at the Spirit of Hope award ceremony at the Pentagon Nov. 15. From left to right: Tom Irving, Natalie Coleman, Sonny Naranjo, Col. Russell Coleman, Anna Caselle, Mike Caselle, Kelly Hope, Bill Dietrich, Stacey Schmader, David Henneberger, Jennifer Upton, Don Wiegand, and Gary Cox.

Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army

Keeping the Spirit Alive

Many service members return from duty severely injured, with lost limbs or other body parts, but they have not lost hope. In coming to terms with their injuries, wounded service members are showing a new kind of courage — the courage to overcome their newfound disabilities and return to normal activities. For some, this means returning to or learning to conquer the slopes.

Two Top Mountain Adaptive Sports Foundation is a nonprofit organization founded in 2007 as a chapter of Disabled Sports USA, dedicated to serving the physically and mentally disabled. In 2008, Two Top started a chapter specifically dedicated to wounded service members and supporting the wounded warrior, called the “Warfighters Sports Program.” Two Top works with severely wounded service members from the National Capital region and areas local to White Tail Mountain. Because of their service and dedication to helping wounded service members, Two Top and founder Bill Dietrich

were named as the Army awardee at the “Spirit of Hope” award ceremony at the Pentagon Nov. 15.

“Two Top is a volunteer organization, striving to provide a supportive and comfortable atmosphere where disabled individuals and their families can experience sporting activities,” said Michael Caselle, engineering technical supervisor at the U.S. Army Research Institute of Infectious Diseases. “Two Top volunteers give countless hours working with this country’s bravest and selfless men and women from all services.”

Many of the volunteers working at Two Top are active-duty or reserve service members, veterans, or retired military. All volunteers, regardless of background, are provided with training opportunities in teaching techniques for disabled snow and water skiing.

In addition to working with the disabled in sports activities, Two Top works closely with the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center,

Bethesda, Md., and the Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Belvoir, Va.

“[Two Top] offers assistance as a prosthetic testing center, helping to improve prosthetic performance for snow sports,” said Caselle.

All-in-all, Two Top provided volunteer and wounded service members with uplifting and inspiring experiences.

“When I come home from the ski slope or the water, I know I have had a positive effect on someone’s life that day,” said Caselle. “Working to give a person back a piece of their life, a small and what may even seem insignificant experience, can truly touch their soul. The impact can be life changing for both the participant and myself.”

Caselle and his daughter, Sienna, have been volunteering at Two Top for three years now.

“My daughter has been with me from the start,” said Caselle. “At 11, she has been the youngest volunteer in the program. She started by serving



lunches but has quickly moved to assisting on snow during both training and lessons.”

Although Sienna currently is not old enough, she someday hopes to become a primary instructor.

Last year, Caselle and nine other volunteers in the program became certified ski instructors through the Professional Ski Instructors of America.

Upon hearing about the mission of the Two Top Foundation, Col. Russell Coleman, commander of the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity, contacted Caselle to see how he and his daughter, Natalie, could become volunteers. In the winter of 2011–2012, Coleman and his daughter began helping wounded service members on the slopes as well.

“We are out there helping out in any way that we can,” said Coleman. “The wounded service members and their families get so much out of the program. It’s incredibly rewarding.”

According to Coleman, his daughter was so moved by her experience with Two Top that she has decided to attend college to become a biomedical engineer so that one day she may work to help improve prosthetics.

The work that the volunteers at Two Top Mountain Adaptive Sports Foundation do is an inspiration not only to the wounded, but also to the volunteers themselves. Two Top and its volunteers are truly the “embodiment of the values of the men and women of the military: Duty, Honor, Courage, Loyalty, Commitment, Integrity, and Selfless Dedication” and deserving of the 2012 Spirit of Hope Award.

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U.S. Navy medical personnel participate in the first JTTS out-of-hospital care conference at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, Nov. 9. Some of the medical personnel attending provide mentorship to Afghan military medical leadership and providers.

U.S. Army Photo by Maj. Charles Patterson

First Afghanistan In-Theater Joint Trauma Conference

The Joint Theater Trauma System hosted the first Afghanistan in-theater conference focused on best practices surrounding out-of-hospital trauma care at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, Nov. 8–9.

Entitled “Bridging the Gap Between In and Out-of-Hospital Care,” the two-day event increased situational understanding of cross-cutting medical issues for many senior coalition medical personnel within International Security Forces Afghanistan.

Some presentations from area subject matter experts included combat-related infection prevention, preparing patients for transport, blast imaging, and pre-hospital blood transfusions. Although multiple conferences in Afghanistan have occurred focusing on patient care once inside the hospital, this was the first conference hosted by the JTTS focusing on improvements to care provided from the point of injury through the arrival at the hospital.

This is about “process improvement,” said U.S. Air Force Col. Stacy Shackelford, Joint Theater Trauma System director and organizer of the conference.

As the knowledge and understanding of battlefield injuries evolves, the JTTS with the support of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research in San Antonio, Texas, analyzes and shares the best practices via Clinical Practice Guidelines. This is available to all levels of medical care in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Anyone in the world can learn from the JTTS analysis; the CPGs are available for review at the USAISR web site (http://www.usaisr.amedd.army.mil/clinical_practice_guidelines.html).

Discoveries made saving lives on the battlefield today could become medical school methods taught tomorrow.

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“Larry the Cable Guy” models a chest rig designed for him by Rich Landry, in background, during a Nov. 8, 2012, visit to the Load Carriage Design Lab while filming a segment at NSSC for his “Only in America” series.

Photo courtesy of USAG-Natick

“Larry the Cable Guy” Sees Natick Technology

When it comes to turning out the finest equipment in the world for American service members, no one else can “git-r-done” quite like the folks at the Natick Soldier Systems Center.

That’s what “Larry the Cable Guy” discovered when the comedian known for that blue-collar catch phrase brought the crew of his popular History Channel TV series “Only in America” to NSSC for a visit Nov. 8.

This wasn’t the first experience with the military for Larry, an American

history lover who uses humor to share information gleaned during his cross-country tours. The 49-year-old Nebraska native previously had shot his way through the U.S. Army Sniper School at Fort Benning, Ga., so it surprised no one to see him take a hands-on, lighthearted approach during his day-long quest to find out exactly what NSSC does for Soldiers.

Larry began his day at the Load Carriage Design Lab, which devised a modular chest rig to hold his beer, cigars, lighter, and TV remote control.

“This is so awesome,” Larry said.

He also had a look at the “Ironman” ammo carriage system, which holds 500 rounds for the M240B machine gun. The system was the brainchild of members of the Iowa National Guard.

“It just sounds cool,” said Larry, “the Ironman.”

Then it was on to the Thermal Test Facility where he fired a laser through fabric and Plexiglas, had his clothes set ablaze, and helped extinguish them using a spray bottle.



“Larry the Cable Guy” inspects a piece of Plexiglas with Peggy Auerbach of the Thermal Test Facility after it was hit by a laser Nov. 8, 2012, during filming at NSSC for a segment of his “Only in America” series.

Photo courtesy of USAG-Natick

“Whoa! Holy mackerel!” said Larry as he watched a four second burn test conducted on a manikin clad in a fire-resistant uniform. “Nothing caught fire! That’s great. That’s good technology. You help save lives of people.”

After lunch, Larry went to the Warfighter Cognitive Performance Building at the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine to try out the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000, a weapon simulator that measures physical and cognitive performance. There, he shot against a female Soldier, which he found challenging.

“I just want to let everybody know watching this, honestly, you’ve seen me shoot on other shows — I’m not a bad shot,” Larry said. “But when you’re out in the field and you’ve got to shoot in these conditions, it ain’t easy.”

“I’m trying to let people know how tough it is for those guys,” he continued. “It seems like people forget they’re out there doing this kind of work. It’s not easy.”

Next, Larry became a human test subject at the Doriot Climatic Chamber. Connected to a heart monitor, he climbed onto a treadmill wearing the Ironman and carrying the M240B as the tropic chamber temperature hovered around 108 degrees.

“It’s very hot in here,” said Larry, whose heart rate rose to 138 beats per minute and skin temperature climbed to 36 degrees Celsius. “I’m sweating already.”

He then repeated the test wearing a microclimate vest that cooled him down.

“This is very thinning, this outfit,” said Larry, joking as he was fitted to the vest.

Late in the afternoon, Larry sampled apple sauce from the Department of Defense Combat Feeding Directorate at Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center before meeting with Soldiers to wrap up his day at Natick.

“I knew it was going to be awesome,” Larry said of the visit. “I love meeting the troops. I love seeing the things that they use out there and what they go through.”

The Natick segment on “Only in America” is expected to air sometime in April 2013.

*Bob Reinert
USAG-Natick Public Affairs*

U.S. and Israeli Medical Researchers Collaborate at Shoresh 2012

Representatives from U.S. and Israeli military medicine gathered at Fort Detrick, Md., to share information on current and future medical research at the 2012 Shoresh conference Oct. 15–17. Close to 200 attendees participated in the biannual seminar, which has been held for nearly three decades.

Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho, surgeon general of the U.S. Army and commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Command, welcomed participants to the meeting via teleconference.

“I encourage you to make keeping the military family healthy as well as safe an important goal of your work,” said Horoho. “International partnerships such as this between the U.S. and Israel for military health research can build on this approach to improve health in both developed and underdeveloped countries around the world. Healthy countries are stable countries.”

The Shoresh conference brings together top scientists and researchers from both countries to find solutions to issues involving the pillars of military medicine, which include chemical and biological defense, trauma and combat casualty care, psychological stress, and infectious diseases.

Maj. Gen. James K. Gilman, commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and Fort Detrick, provided an overview of USAMRMC and its various subcommands and laboratories. Among these are the



Maj. Gen. James K. Gilman, commanding general of USAMRMC and Fort Detrick, welcomed attendees to the 2012 Shoresh Conference on Military Medicine at Fort Detrick, Md., Oct. 15. *Photo by Sig Bruner, Fort Detrick VI*

U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

“We are involved in the full life cycle of the solutions to our medical materiel problems,” said Gilman. “The biodefense portfolio, and the biodefense program, has always been a very important part of Shoresh.”

After his synopsis, Gilman introduced the leader of the Israeli delegation to the conference, Brig. Gen. Yitshak Kreiss, surgeon general of the Israeli Defense Forces, who offered kind words for the host country.

Kreiss said, “Shoresh in Hebrew means ‘roots.’ The roots of the Shoresh meeting were planted decades ago, and this lovely meeting hosted by our American friends today is the fruit of long-standing tradition

of the mutual collaboration between our respective organizations.”

“We believe in Shoresh. We believe that our most important colleague, the U.S. Armed Forces, shares the same values, the same goals, and the way to get there. Above that, we feel that medicine is a true bridge to work on that.”

The three-day meeting offered more than 40 presentations, with topics ranging from “microbe hunting” to “physical training injuries.” Attendees appeared very engaged throughout the sessions, and the positive attitude visible throughout the room suggested that the conference was a success.

While pleased with the level of information exchanged throughout the meeting, this year’s conference held a special place for Gilman.



“The Shores conference was viewed by Brig. Gen. Kreiss as further affirmation of our strong strategic partnership,” said Gilman. “This outcome from Shores 2012 was well above our most ambitious expectations.”

While Kreiss remarked that the Israeli delegation was made to feel “at home” on the grounds of Fort Detrick, his

country will again play host when both parties gather for Shores in 2014. This method of alternating locations has been the tradition since the forum’s inception, which initially took place in the town of Shores, Israel, in the 1980s.

“Our ties ... run much deeper than a military partnership,” said Horoho. “We can move beyond our military

and political relationships and extend our health research partnerships to begin to change health. Our future for cooperative military medical research is bright. This continued sharing of our technology and health care research will keep both of our nations ready and resilient.”

Jeffrey Soares
USAMRMC Public Affairs

USAARL Soldier Named USAMRMC Equal Opportunity Leader of the Year

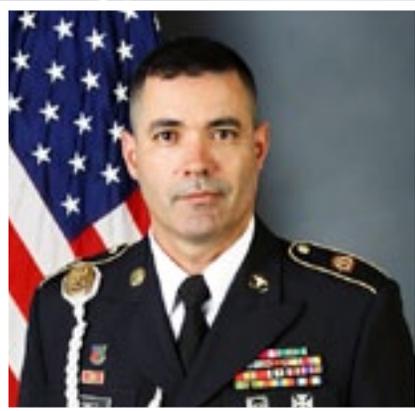


Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army

Staff Sgt. David Lopez of the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory at Fort Rucker, Ala., was selected as the 2012 U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Equal Opportunity Leader of the Year.

Lopez, USAARL’s Warfighter Health Division non-commissioned officer in charge, manages the laboratory’s EO program, which follows the Army’s EO program mission to formulate, direct, and sustain a comprehensive effort to ensure fair treatment for military personnel, family members, and civilians regardless of race, color, gender, religion, or national

origin, and provide an environment free of unlawful discrimination and offensive behavior.

“It’s a real honor to be selected as MRMC’s EOL of the Year. I would like to thank USAARL’s EO team, Staff Sgt. Craig Berlin, Staff Sgt. Jessica Madrazo, Sgt. William McGilberry, and Sgt. Arlene Breaux-Waltz, and USAARL’s command staff, Maj. Antonio Blue and Col. Dana Renta,” said Lopez. “Without their help, it would have been very difficult to accomplish the EO program mission.”

Lopez was selected due to his management of USAARL’s EO program, which led to commendable ratings during the recent USAMRMC and U.S. Army Medical Command EO inspections, and his essay response to the question, “Gays in the Military: Should Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual Questioning Be an Equal Opportunity Protected Category? Why or Why Not?”

“EO is an important part of my life. Everyone is born into a different family circle with different sets of values and beliefs. Because of our differences

in race, religion, gender, color, or national origin, we sometimes tend to separate from others and even become prejudicial against each other,” said Lopez. “Early in my career, I realized that the EO program was in place to protect all Soldiers. The Department of Defense is a pioneer when it comes to human relations so I am proud to be part of the EO program.”

“Staff Sgt. Lopez’s outstanding competence, initiative, compassion, and professionalism have a positive impact on the lives of many people,” said Master Sgt. Bobby Edmond, USAARL’s senior enlisted advisor. “His leadership serves as an example of how to treat others.”

“I can speak for WHD in saying that we couldn’t be prouder of our NCOIC,” said Dr. Art Estrada, director of WHD. “Congratulations, Staff Sgt. Lopez, for your care and concern for us all.”

“I am grateful for the opportunity to represent MRMC at the fiscal year 2012 MEDCOM EOL of the Year competition,” said Lopez.

Catherine Davis
USARRL Public Affairs



Photo courtesy of USAARL

USAARL: 50 Years of Research for Army Air, Ground Warriors

The U.S. reported a decline in the number of aviation mishaps during fiscal year 2011 (Oct. 1, 2010 through Sept. 30, 2011). The decrease in numbers from 237 mishaps in FY10 to 189 mishaps during FY11 may be due, in part, to the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory at Fort Rucker, Ala., which helps save lives by testing helicopter equipment for the Army.

Today, many air and ground warriors are thankful for USAARL's research accomplishments, which aim to provide medical research in the

military operations environment to sustain the Warfighter's performance.

The history began in the early 1960s when then Col. Spurgeon Neel, commander of Lyster Army Hospital at Fort Rucker, shifted the results of wars through his innovation.

Neel recognized that an expanding Army aviation community would need specialized medical and physiological support to help close the gap between Army combat aviation needs and human capabilities, and to

protect aviators from altitude, climate, noise, acceleration, impact, and other stressors in a growing hostile environment.

Therefore, in October 1962, Neel and Maj. Gen. Ernest Esterbrook, then commander of the U.S. Army Aviation Center at Fort Rucker, established the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Unit with a goal of solving aviation medicine problems.

But, in 1969, as USAARU's involvement in air mobility research



grew, the Army re-designated the unit as USAARL, making it a subordinate command under the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command.

During the past 50 years, USAARL's research has led to many innovations, such as the development of crushable ear cups, used in flight helmets, to aid in the prevention of basilar skull fractures.

An additional innovation includes the fielding and testing of the communications earplug, which provides aviators with hearing protection and state-of-the-art communications. By using the earplug, the aviator is able to fly extended missions without compromising hearing, safety, or operational effectiveness.

"Every time an aircrew member retires without a serious hearing disability, he can thank USAARL for giving him the best hearing protection available," said Dr. Dennis Shanahan, former USAARL commander.

In more than 50 years, USAARL has been involved with most medical aspects of vehicular occupancy, airworthiness testing, air safety, occupational hazard exposures, and personal protective equipment. In addition, USAARL has researched topics, such as vibration, jet lag and fatigue, tinnitus, spatial disorientation, helmets, visors, night vision goggles, seats and restraints, cockpit air bag systems, and fire protective clothing.

In 2006, USAARL developed the noise-immune stethoscope, which enables medical personnel to hear a patient's heartbeat and breath sounds in high-noise environments. In 2012, medics began using the NIS in operational environments. That same year, the lab developed the

facial and ocular countermeasure for safety head form to test and evaluate the performance of face and eye protective equipment without using human or animal subjects. FOCUS provides scientific data to improve equipment worn by Soldiers.

Today, USAARL's mission has expanded to cover research in preventing and mitigating aviator and ground warrior injuries.

"It is USAARL's promise to the aviator, the airborne Soldier, and ground warriors to find medical solutions that reduce health hazards, prevent injury, and protect and improve performance," said Col. Dana Renta, commander of USAARL.

USAARL does this by delivering medical research, testing, and evaluation solutions for air and ground warriors. The lab conducts medical research to develop return-to-duty standards for Soldiers suffering from neurosensory injuries as well as mild traumatic brain injuries. USAARL also conducts research to determine the effectiveness of life support equipment and to prevent and mitigate ground crew and aircrew biomechanical injuries.

For example, in 2009, USAARL codeveloped the tactile situation awareness system, which uses the sense of touch to provide situation awareness information to pilots. This multifunctional system reduces pilot workload and increases situation awareness, allowing pilots to devote more time to weapons delivery systems and other visual attentive tasks. TSAS also treats patients with balance problems due to traumatic brain injury.

"USAARL enhances product development by ensuring the products are optimized to the Warfighter or that

they improve Warfighter safety and survivability," said Shanahan.

Therefore, USAARL has a vital role to play in the development of advanced products that enhance a Warfighter's senses, increase his capabilities, or protect him from a hostile environment.

However, the mission would not be accomplished without USAARL's team of physicians, engineers, scientists, psychologists, pilots, and administrators.

Through the strengths and talents of its personnel, USAARL possesses a unique capability not available in any other Army laboratory.

"USAARL personnel apply their knowledge and skills to make effective and functional systems for the end user — the U.S. Army Warfighter," said Shanahan. "In doing so, the laboratory has had an immeasurable effect in improving Army systems and has helped save countless lives."

In the future, USAARL will continue to pursue its vision of becoming innovators in aeromedical and operational medical research. This vision will be achieved by USAARL's commitment to aviators and ground warriors to find medical solutions that reduce health hazards, prevent injury, and protect and improve performance.

Catherine Davis
USAARL Public Affairs

Natick Researcher Says Farewell After 32 Years of Service



After more than 30 years of service to the U.S. Army, one of our own has retired.

Dr. Michael N. Sawka began his career at the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine as a research physiologist in 1980. He then became chief of the Thermal Physiology and Medicine Division in 1990 and chief of the Thermal and Mountain Medicine Division in 1996. Sawka served as division chief of Thermal and Mountain Medicine until retirement.

Sawka received a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science from East Stroudsburg University, East Stroudsburg, Pa., in 1973 and 1974, respectively. He then earned a Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill., in 1977. Finally, he

was a postdoctoral fellow for the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio, in 1978. Prior to his work at USARIEM, Sawka worked as an assistant professor for the Department of Physiology, School of Medicine, Wright State University, in Dayton, Ohio, from 1979 to 1980.

Over his 30-year career, Sawka published more than 300 full-length manuscripts, book chapters, and reports and edited graduate textbooks on environmental physiology and exercise physiology. He presented more than 80 invited symposia and keynote lectures at national and international scientific meetings.

Sawka has also served in many leadership roles throughout his career. From 2002 to 2005, he was the chair of the Water Task Group for the National Academy of Science, Institute of Medicine, Panel for Reference Intakes for Fluid and Electrolytes, in Washington, D.C. He then served as elected chair for the Environmental and Exercise Physiology section from 2007 to 2010. He was a founding member of the Partnership for Clean Competition Scientific Advisory Board from 2008 to present. He was also the commencement speaker at the East Stroudsburg University winter graduation in 2002.

Sawka was also the chair of the NATO Research Task Group on Thermal Management for Health and Performance from 2009 to 2012. Sawka is also the environmental section editor for *Comprehensive*

Physiology. Sawka has also been awarded a number of patents for his research, including a patent for the Body Thermoregulation Using Skin Temperature Feedback.

Sawka's awards include the 2001 Alumni Honor Award from East Stroudsburg University. He also received the Military Medical Merit Medallion from the Order of Military Medical Merit and U.S. Army Medical Department in 2005. Other awards include the Superior Civilian Service Award and the Citation Award from the American College of Sports Medicine. At his farewell ceremony, Sawka was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for his more than 32 years of federal service and dedication to the U.S. Army.

During his farewell, Sawka showed his gratitude for the coworkers and employees he has been with throughout the years and wished them well for the future.

"I want to thank everyone in the USARIEM family for the pleasure of having worked with you for the past 30-plus years," Sawka said. "I greatly enjoy working at USARIEM. Keep up your exceptional productivity."

Sawka will retire to Georgia with his wife, and he plans to spend time with his grandchildren.

USARIEM Public Affairs

USAMRICD Introduces New Capability for Studying the Toxicity of Airborne Chemical Threats



With a traditional ribbon cutting, Maj. Nizamettin Gul (left) and Col. Bruce Schoneboom, USAMRICD commander, marked the introduction of the institute's state-of-the-art glovebox system, seen in the background, Oct. 19.

Photo by Stephanie Froberg, USAMRICD

The U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., presented its newest advanced capability for inhalation toxicology research Oct. 19. The novel system, developed jointly by USAMRICD research and facilities staffs, Edgewood area garrison engineers, the Baker Company, and the STERIS Corporation, is the first to combine a large, multistation glovebox with an automatic vapor decontamination system.

“Congratulations to everyone who played a role in this multiyear, multimillion dollar effort,” said Col. Bruce Schoneboom, USAMRICD commander, at the opening of the renovated laboratory that houses the system.

“This is a new concept,” continued Schoneboom. “It has never been done before and makes the MRICD unique among the various organizations developing medical countermeasures

for chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial compounds.”

The system is composed of a 19 foot Baker glovebox with two 6 foot work areas and two pass boxes. The glovebox is combined with a STERIS hydrogen peroxide/ammonia vapor decontamination system to neutralize chemical agent within the workspace and to allow for rapid reconfiguration of the equipment within. Both work areas also feature gull-wing doors to facilitate equipment reconfiguration between experiments after proper decontamination has been performed.

USAMRICD's Inhalation Toxicology Research Group, led by Dr. Alfred Sciuto, has used a small glovebox for several years to study the effects of inhaled chemical agents.

“This new system was devised to increase overall safety, capability, versatility, and convenience for performing gas and aerosol studies,”

explains Dr. Dorian Olivera, a principal investigator in the Inhalation Toxicology Research Group. “The added ability to thoroughly decontaminate between different experiments eliminates cross-contamination when different agents are used. Additionally, each work area features a rapid transfer port to facilitate safe introduction of new materials or removal of contaminated materials during agent operations.”

“Overall, the system will allow us to increase our throughput in experiments, giving us a higher turnaround than was previously available,” added Olivera.

According to Maj. Nizamettin Gul, chief of USAMRICD's Analytical Toxicology Division, which has management oversight of the lab, “The enhanced capability of this system further establishes MRICD's designation as the Department of Defense Center of Excellence for Medical Chemical Defense Research.”

The glovebox will be used in important studies to discover therapeutics to treat exposure to a wide variety of toxic chemicals in support of Department of Defense and National Institutes of Health CounterAct programs.

“As our projects move forward concurrently with the development of protocols addressing agent-specific decontamination,” said Olivera, “the glovebox will be the centerpiece for the institute's Inhalation Core Center, a customer-driven, broadly capable center for toxicant gas, vapor, and aerosol research.”

USAMRICD Public Affairs

Natick Soldiers, Employees Help Soup Kitchen

A Soldier's boots tend to get a bit more wear than those of the average person. This is especially true for Spc. Rebecca Fant of Natick Soldier Systems Center who gave up an extra pair of her boots to a woman without shoes during a weekly trip to a local soup kitchen.

"I was proud of her," said Staff Sgt. Sharalis Canales, training noncommissioned officer for the NSSC Headquarters Research and Development Detachment. "That's something I would have done. It was just nice to see that those values and morals are instilled in her."

Fant wasn't looking for praise or credit after performing such a selfless act. It was only after Canales posted the kind deed a Soldier performed as her Facebook status that the Public Affairs Office was able to track down Fant.

A woman who was a regular patron of the Framingham (Mass.) Salvation Army Soup Kitchen was walking around in socks. Fant told Canales that she should ask where the woman's shoes were. The pair went outside to speak to the woman and found out that she didn't have any shoes.

Fortunately, Fant wears the same size shoes as the woman and had a pair of Army winter boots in the trunk of her car. She and Canales went, without anyone else knowing, and put the boots on her. The woman gave them both a hug and said "thank you."

"It's a nice thing to do," said Fant when asked about why she helps out at the soup kitchen. "I was always raised that you're supposed to give back when you have an opportunity because you're blessed to be a blessing — so give back. I've never been homeless or anything, but I know about hard

times. So, hopefully, I will always have the opportunity to give back."

Soldiers and employees from NSSC have been assisting the "Miracle Kitchen" for years. Outreach from the base began in 1998 with Combat Feeding Directorate employees, and the NSSC community has participated ever since. On the third Thursday of each month, workers from the base donate time to give back to those in need in the local community.

Canales decided to take this community service a step further. As president of the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program at Natick, Canales has brought Soldiers to the Miracle Kitchen every Thursday night since March as part of the BOSS program.

"The Soldiers wanted to go more often," Canales said. "They enjoyed going so we decided to go every Thursday from now on."

Fant was actually in charge of taking the Soldiers to the soup kitchen every week while Canales was away for training.

"She was providing transportation for them and taking them on her own personal time," said Canales, "and she influences my Soldiers now to go."



Civilians and Soldiers from NSSC stand side-by-side as they pass down empty plates to fill with a variety of food for the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen in Framingham, Mass.

Photo courtesy of NSRDEC Public Affairs

Canales was, at one point in her life, very much like the patrons who come to the soup kitchen — homeless and alone. Now she goes back to help, and it reminds her of when she used to be in the same position as the patrons.

"It feels good to go back and help the cooks there out," Canales said. "Some of the homeless people ask me why we come, and I tell them I used to be in your same shoes."



Spc. Rebecca Fant is pictured with her fellow Soldiers who take time to volunteer once a week at the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen in Framingham, Mass. Fant gave a pair of her boots to a woman there who needed shoes.

Photo courtesy of NSRDEC Public Affairs

“I just find it very rewarding, and what I like is the fact that the Soldiers like to go and give back to the community. It opens their eyes to a lot of things and helps them appreciate the small things that we have, especially because a lot of the homeless people that go there are veterans that served.”

Soldiers and civilians alike help out with tasks such as cooking and cleaning. Whatever soup kitchen coordinator Jimmy Williams needs, they do their best to accomplish.

“I love when the U.S. Army comes,” Williams said. “They’re hard workers.”

Williams makes a monthly schedule and knows he can count on Natick Soldiers to be there every week. He also has a “wish list” of items the kitchen needs. Items like nine inch

Styrofoam plates, drink mixes, metal serving spoons, coffee, and canned goods are helpful. Big cans of soup top his list.

“With winter coming, I like to be able to have some hot soup going for our patrons,” Williams said.

Williams also coordinates delivery of meals to approximately 20 elderly homeless people who cannot make it to the soup kitchen.

Lee-Ann Barkhouse, S&T Environmental Program coordinator at Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center, coordinates the civilian part of the service outreach with the soup kitchen. She got involved when a friend from CFD asked her to help when they were short-handed.

“She knew how much I love cooking,” Barkhouse said. “I am thankful that I am able to give back to the community.”

“Over the years, I have met a lot of great friends I would normally not have the opportunity to interact with,” she continued. “Knowing that we as a team go to the kitchen with one goal, to prepare a fabulous meal, while having fun and making a difference to just one person — that really makes me thankful.”

Serving the community in this way allows the NSSC community to give back. After all, Fant is right: Having the opportunity to help those in need is a blessing.

*Alexandra Foran
NSRDEC Public Affairs*

Putting an End to Violence

The presence of violence — domestic, sexual, and workplace alike — has regrettably made itself a firm place in the society we live in today. This type of violence is certainly not exclusive to the civilian world and has become steadily more problematic in the military realm as well.

In 2012, three research proposals dedicated to better understanding the factors underlying violence within the military were awarded within the Military Operational Medicine Research Program, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command.

Col. Carl Castro, MOMRP director, is responsible for the entire program of researching violence within the military.

“In particular, I am responsible for developing the strategic plan to address this issue,” said Castro.

The first grant, “Multimodal Retrospective and Prospective Unit-Level Analyses of Military Workplace Violence,” was awarded Sept. 30, 2012, and will run through Sept. 30, 2016.

“This is a four-year project that will use complementary studies that examine historical administrative data and newly collected survey data to conduct analyses that will identify factors that predict targeted violence in the U.S. military workplace,” said Dr. Pamela Lattimore, principal scientist at the Research Triangle Institute’s Crime, Violence, and Justice Research Program, and principal investigator for the study.

Harvard Medical School received the remaining two grants dedicated

to studying violence in the military context. The first grant, “Sexual Trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Among Warfighters in Army STARRS,” was awarded Dec. 30, 2012, and will run through Dec. 2, 2015. The second grant, “Behavioral-Based Predictors of Workplace Violence in the Army STARRS,” was awarded for the period of Oct. 1, 2012 through Sept. 30, 2016.

“In terms of objectives, both grants are funded to carry out secondary analyses of data collected in the Army Study to Assess Risk and Resilience in Servicemembers,” said Dr. Ronald Kessler, McNeil Family Professor of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School and principal investigator of both HMS grants.

Kessler’s team at HMS will work closely with the Army STARRS collaborators at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences for the duration of this project.

“We will work through these USUHS collaborators to seek input from relevant Army leaders and keep these leaders actively informed about directions and findings as the work progresses,” said Kessler. “The purpose is to provide practical and actionable information to Army leadership about the predictors of, and modifiable interventions for, workplace violence and MST in the Army.”

Army STARRS is the largest study of mental health risk and resilience that has ever been conducted among military personnel. The five-year study, scheduled to run through 2014, presents researchers with a unique

opportunity to develop targeting formulas and to carry out statistical analyses that will hopefully refine the existing interventions currently available for use in the Army.

“Workplace violence and MST are important problems in the Army,” said Kessler.

Rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment continue to occur at alarming rates year after year.

According to the Service Women’s Action Network, a national civil rights organization currently spearheading a national movement to end rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment within the military, 3,192 military sexual assaults were reported in fiscal year 2011 alone.

Shootings at Fort Hood, Texas, in 2009 drew attention to the issue of workplace violence as well, and last year’s premeditated murder conviction of a male Soldier at Fort Carson spurred even greater awareness of this problem.

“Department of Defense-sponsored studies, including the review related to Fort Hood and the investigation of homicides at Fort Carson, have concluded that DoD programs, policies, processes, and procedures to identify indicators for violence are inadequate and in need of revision,” explained Lattimore, “and that new data, approaches, and recommendations are needed.”

Current preventive interventions have proven effective in reducing the incidence of both workplace violence and military sexual trauma; however, these labor-intensive methods tend to focus only on Soldiers deemed “high



risk,” leaving many low- to medium-risk individuals out of the equation.

Our hope is to “increase understanding of the factors related to the perpetration of violence by members of the military and identify appropriate points for intervention at the individual and unit levels,” said Lattimore.

“Together these three awards, along with other ongoing and future research efforts, will enable the U.S. military to identify early individuals with propensity to workplace violence so effective prevention and interventions can be initiated before the violence occurs,” said Castro.

Investigators involved in the projects are hopeful of the results to come.

“I have been studying the prediction of criminal behavior, including violent behavior, for more than 25 years,” said Lattimore, “and myself and the RTI/NHRC team are pleased to have this opportunity to further our growing understanding of the predictors of MWV and the development of appropriate interventions.”

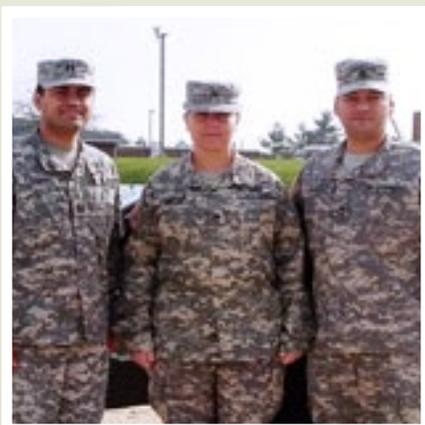
“I fully expect that this project will lead to the development of

practical risk targeting tools and insights that can be used for intervention refinement that, if implemented, will lead to meaningful reductions in the prevalence of workplace violence and MST in the U.S. Army,” Kessler said.

Melissa Miller
USAMRMC Public Affairs



USAMRMC Headquarters Company Soldier Completes WLC



Sgt. Aidaliza Pantoja (center), USAMRMC Headquarters Company, successfully completed the WLC at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., Nov. 18. Capt. Sumesh Sagar (left), USAMRMC Headquarters Detachment commander, attended the WLC graduation ceremony along with Sgt. 1st Class Amadeo J. Fuentes, to congratulate Pantoja.

Photo courtesy of HHD, USAMRMC

Sgt. Aidaliza Pantoja, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Headquarters Company, graduated from Warrior Leader Course class #002-13, Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., Nov. 18.

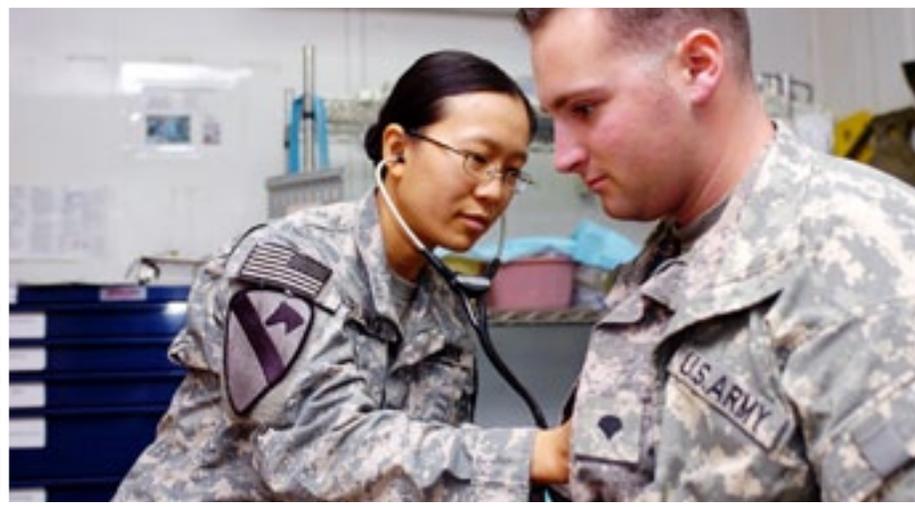
Pantoja began the course in early November 2012 and graduated with 145 other Soldiers after successfully completing all requirements to become an efficient and successful NCO. During the graduation ceremony, the school commandant and guest speaker, Command Sgt. Maj. James J. McDonald, congratulated the WLC graduates and encouraged each to lead Soldiers by listening to and caring for them, but he stressed that, above all, they should provide outstanding leadership to their Soldiers.

Previously known as the Primary Leadership Development Course, WLC is the first leadership course NCOs attend. WLC is a month-long course that teaches specialists, corporals, and recently promoted sergeants the basic skills required to lead small groups of Soldiers. The course is physically challenging and intensive, and places emphasis on leadership skills that prepare Soldiers to become effective NCOs.

The Headquarters Company command team, Capt. Sumesh Sagar and Sgt. 1st Class Amadeo J. Fuentes, attended the graduation to congratulate Pantoja and to wish her continued success in the Army as an exemplary NCO.

USAMRMC Headquarters Company

Taking Care of Soldiers Benefits Civilians Too



Medical research conducted by the U.S. Army often leads to advancements that benefit civilian medical practice worldwide.

Photo courtesy of MEDCOM

For more than two centuries, the medical advancements of the U.S. Army have benefited millions of Warfighters and civilians. Preventing illnesses from yellow fever to malaria to influenza, the Army has faced great challenges in trying to secure a nation despite attacks from enemies that could not be seen with the naked eye.

“Since 1775, America’s medical personnel have stood shoulder to shoulder with our fighting troops,” said Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho, surgeon general of the Army. “They are ready when called upon to put their lives on the line to care for our wounded Soldiers. Often this care translates to benefits for the civilian world as well.”

From vaccine development to casualty evacuation, many methods considered common medical practice throughout the world today originated from military innovation. During the American Revolutionary War, the U.S. military immunized its army against smallpox and developed ways

to construct isolation wards to guard against cross-infection. During the War of 1812, improvements continued when the Army was ordered to vaccinate instead of inoculate its troops to prevent smallpox — a milestone in military preventive medicine that continues to this day. However, widespread vaccination is only one facet of military medical protocol that has transcended the barracks and battlefields to become a modern medical standard.

In 1819, the surgeon general ordered the collection of troop records regarding sickness and mortality to collate these data and compare them among geographical areas. These reports led to the first widespread American health statistics published in 1840. The compilation of these valuable data prompted research that would overcome various health problems in both the military and the civilian sector. At the end of the 19th century, military research led to the discovery that tropic anemia in the Caribbean

was caused by a hookworm. Using this knowledge, Army researchers developed a successful drug therapy combined with an effective prevention and control program that reduced the endemic disease to a sporadic occurrence for hundreds of thousands of people at risk.

Circa 1910, military scientists developed the process of chlorination to purify drinking water for Soldiers in the field, and this technique became the basis of water purification throughout the world. During World War II, military studies of whole blood preservation led to the development of kits for sterile collection of blood from donors and for the rapid typing of blood — globally used today in emergency medical treatment.

In recent years, the Army’s MEDEVAC (medical evacuation) system, which involves transporting battlefield victims to military hospitals, has helped to define the current practice of “life-fighting” civilian patients with traumatic wounds to hospitals via helicopter directly from the accident scene.

Tourniquets, shunts, local hemostatic dressings, and various other medical items are going from the battlefield, sometimes directly, into civilian practice. Military doctors with their invaluable experience are coming out of the services and bringing their knowledge to the civilian sectors.

“The partnerships that academia forms with private industry and government allow us to develop ideas and products for success,” said Horoho. “These partnerships, which include research into facial reconstruction, burn treatment, healing without scarring, limb salvage, and limb

reconstruction, can result in effective treatment and rehabilitation for those service members and civilians who have suffered traumatic injuries.”

Today, the Army continues its work of medical research that may be translated into effective medical practice for the civilian sector. Recent accomplishments over the past decade include a malaria rapid diagnostic device, which is being used to help prevent approximately three million deaths claimed by this disease annually, and a Japanese encephalitis vaccine to halt the spread of this deadly disease throughout Asia and other parts of the world. Army-developed products to be used by civilians in the future include the CO₂ generator, the bed net, and the environmental sentinel biomonitor.

From cancer and HIV research to the development of advanced prosthetics, the Army’s medical research programs have helped to advance the “state of the science” for civilian medical facilities and practitioners across the U.S. and throughout the world. The establishment of a regenerative medicine program to treat severely wounded and disfigured Soldiers returning from combat also provides hope to civilian trauma patients in communities everywhere. It is this hope that continues to drive the field forward.

“The medical advancements made by our military medical personnel helps not only our men and women in uniform, but potentially every family and child on the playground as well, everywhere in the world,” said Horoho.

Jeffrey Soares
USAMRMC Public Affairs

USAMMCE New Year’s Reception 2013

The U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center, Europe hosted its annual New Year’s reception Jan. 26. Col. Thomas C. Slade, USAMMCE commander, welcomed nearly 140 guests from the host nation government, local communities, and German and U.S. military leaders.

After the commander’s welcoming speech, Lt. Ruediger Leilich, a German Army reservist, was promoted to Captain. Capt. Leilich said that he was very happy and proud to be promoted at USAMMCE.

Oberst (Col.) Rolf Stichling, commander of the Bundeswehr Rheinland Pfalz State Command,

said, “Holding the promotion at the USAMMCE New Year’s reception is a testimony of the friendship between the German and U.S. military, and especially between the local reservist chapter and USAMMCE.”

The local reservists participate in many partnership events with USAMMCE.

After the official part was concluded, guests spent the afternoon socializing and making new friends. The U.S. Army Europe Army band and chorus brass quintet provided the afternoon’s musical entertainment.

Doris Crittenden
USAMMCE Public Affairs



Col. and Mrs. Slade with the Grenadiers (historic German Soldiers).



Col. Thomas C. Slade, USAMMCE commander, and Oberst (Col.) Rolf Stichling promoting German reservist.

Photos courtesy of USAMMCE



Col. Dallas Hack (center), director of USAMRMC's CCCRP, accepts the 2012 Maj. Jonathan Letterman Award for Medical Excellence for his team from Betsy Estilow, National Museum of Civil War Medicine board president, and George Wunderlich, NMCWM executive director, Oct 24.

Photo courtesy of Nylec Photography

USAMRMC Combat Casualty Care Research Program Receives the 2012 Major Jonathan Letterman Award for Medical Excellence

The U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command's Combat Casualty Care Research Program received the 2012 Maj. Jonathan Letterman Award for Medical Excellence at a ceremony held in Bethesda, Md., Oct. 24. Four individuals and four organizations were nominated for the prestigious award, which was presented by the National Museum of Civil War Medicine. In true pioneer style, all of the nominees continue to work tirelessly to advance medical care and conditions for our fighting troops and civilian population.

In honor of Letterman and his accomplishments in the field of medicine, the award is given to individuals and organizations whose efforts contribute to the advancement of medical processes and improved patient outcomes and quality of life.

USAMRMC's CCCRP was formed to reduce the mortality and morbidity resulting from injuries on the battlefield with the primary goals of (1) reducing the mortality rate of American troops by 16 percent, (2) reducing the morbidity of combat injuries, and (3) reducing the medical footprint on the battlefield. To date, the CCCRP has approximately 1,000 combat casualty care research projects from basic research through clinical trials.

The Letterman Award for Medical Excellence was established in October 2008 to pay tribute to the visionary medical practices of Maj. Jonathan Letterman during the Civil War. Known today as the "Father of Battlefield Medicine," Letterman's critical care planning saved countless lives during the Civil War and continues to save lives in current wars, including those in Iraq and

Afghanistan. The CCCRP continues this mission and has contributed to numerous lifesaving medical breakthroughs on the battlefield.

"This award recognizes the deep commitment of the researchers, clinicians, and staff in the Combat Casualty Care Research Program to save lives and mitigate injuries of wounded warriors," said Col. Dallas Hack, director of the CCCRP. "Thousands of lives have been saved and troops returned to duty as a result of this program over the last 11 years."

New York Times best-selling author and philanthropist Lee Woodruff offered the keynote address at this year's awards ceremony gala dinner.

USAMRMC Public Affairs

USAARL Research Optometrist Wins Aerobatic Competition

Dr. William McLean is a part-time research optometrist working at the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory at Fort Rucker, Ala., who enjoys figure flying in his aerobatic airplane.

McLean recently competed in the Sebring Fall International Aerobatic Club, Chapter 23 event Nov. 2 and won first place in the sportsman category, first place overall sportsman, and the grass roots award for receiving the highest score for an aircraft with 180 horsepower or less.

“I have been flying since 1957,” said McLean. “I’ve always wanted to own an aerobatic airplane and compete in an IAC contest so in 2004, I scratched a major item off of my bucket list and bought my first aerobatic plane and have since put over 700 hours on it.”

The IAC’s aerobatic competitors are graded by a team of judges who, based on the aerobatic figures the pilot flies, look for precision of the lines and angles, symmetry of figures, and other factors spelled out in the IAC official contest rules.

Competitors with powered aircraft can participate in five categories known as primary, sportsman, intermediate, advanced, and unlimited. Each category of competitors flies a different set of sequences with varying degrees of difficulty.

The Sebring event consisted of three categories, which included three competitors in the sportsman category, seven in the intermediate category, and two in the unlimited category.

This event was McLean’s fourth contest as an IAC competitor but was his first time receiving first place. His previous highest award was in Keystone, Fla., in 2011 where he won second place against 11 competitors.

So when you look to the skies and the weather is good, don’t be surprised if you see McLean soaring through the air in looping, rolling, and vertical figures.

Catherine Davis
USAARL Public Affairs



ABOVE: Dr. William McLean completes an aerobatic figure during the Sebring Fall IAC competition Nov. 2.

LEFT: Dr. William McLean, a research optometrist working at USAARL at Fort Rucker, Ala., enjoys figure flying in his aerobatic airplane.

Courtesy photos

Medical Revolutions Highlighted in 10-Year Supplement

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research announced the release of a capstone publication in the *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery* summarizing key medical advances from the war-time experience of the U.S. military. As a subordinate command of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command at Fort Detrick, Md., USAISR strives to be the nation's premier joint research organization, planning and executing registry-based and translational research and providing innovative solutions for burn, trauma, and combat casualty care from point of injury through rehabilitation.

The publication describes a triad of military medical revolutions in three key areas of military trauma medicine: pre-hospital care, deployed hospital care, and trauma systems and restorative medicine. Together these articles provide an important milestone in military medical care and highlight how the lessons learned in war have translated to improving trauma care delivered in U.S. civilian trauma centers.

“The goals of this supplement are twofold, to document the landmark medical advances from this war and to document the gaps along the continuum of combat casualty care from a historical perspective so that in the future medical personnel can bridge these gaps and save lives,” said senior editor of the supplement and former USAISR commander, Col. (Dr.) Lorne H. Blackbourne. “Documenting the revolutionary advances from these wars can help with the translation of military

advances to civilian trauma care so that all Americans can benefit in addition to our wounded warriors.”

“This supplement documents the extraordinary progress in saving lives on the battlefield that combat casualty care research has affected during the last decade,” said David G. Baer, Ph.D., director of the USAISR Combat Casualty Care Research Directorate.

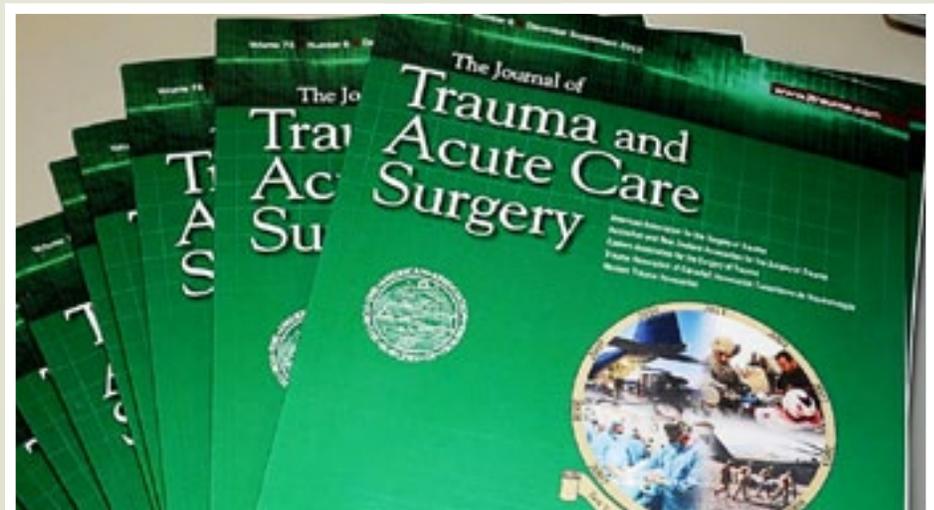
To ensure the widest distribution possible, the journal has made these three articles available on an open-access basis at <http://journals.lww.com/jtrauma/toc/2012/12005>. These articles are supported by focused reviews of tactical combat casualty care, analysis of the peer-reviewed combat trauma literature, burn care, coagulation monitoring, causes of death on the battlefield, amputations, blood product use, head and neck injuries, trauma training programs, innovations in treatment for pain, and moderate to severe brain injury.

“The best way to optimize and direct research and trauma system efforts for the greatest good is evidence-based information on the burden of injury and capability gaps extrapolated from outcome data — the publications in this supplement provide the data to help guide all future efforts in these areas,” said Blackbourne, current director of the U.S. Army Trauma Training Center in Miami.

Together these articles document extraordinary progress in saving lives on the battlefield and highlight areas for continued innovation and translation of military medical expertise to saving the lives of civilian trauma victims.

“We’re dedicated to optimizing combat casualty care,” said USAISR commander, Col. (Dr.) Michael A. Weber. “The research that we are conducting at this institute is saving lives — on and off the battlefield.”

Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs



Courtesy photo



USARIEM Soldier Serves as Toxicology Subject Matter Expert During Massachusetts Drug Lab Panel



A Soldier from the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine, in Natick Mass., was recently invited to speak as a subject matter expert on lab best practices during the Massachusetts House Committee on Post Audit and Oversight Hearing on the State Drug Lab.

Lt. Col. Robert Roussel, deputy commander of USARIEM and forensic toxicology consultant to the Army Surgeon General, provided his insight into best lab practices at this hearing that took place in light of recent Massachusetts state lab scandals on Nov. 28, 2012.

Roussel, who was previously involved in the Army's forensic toxicology urine lab program for 10 years, shared some of his experiences as an Army forensic toxicologist. He said that for a lab to be successful, it is vital that employees at every level work

together to ensure proper procedures are being followed.

"There is no magic formula or any one thing that yields a laboratory capable of producing scientifically valid and forensically supportable results," Roussel said. "It takes a comprehensive system of well-trained, capable, and dedicated employees; hands on supervision; internal and external quality systems; proper resourcing; and carefully crafted policies and procedures with multiple layers of review."

This hearing happened as authorities continue to deal with the fallout from a scandal that threatens to unravel thousands of criminal cases after a Massachusetts chemist was accused of faking drug test results.

Roussel said that he shared some of the practices of the Army forensic toxicology labs that he has been a part of and supervised in the hope

that there would be information that could help the Commonwealth of Massachusetts correct deficiencies in their labs.

"I believe that forensic labs are much like any other industry," Roussel said. "We all have a challenge to ensure that employees that are motivated for whatever reason to do wrong are detected early."

While the type of labs that Roussel has led where not criminal labs, but rather meant to test drug usage in an individual from a specimen, Roussel said the methods for handling this sensitive material are methodical and must be supervised closely.

"Our policies and procedures manual, or standard operating procedures known as SOPs, are inches thick," Roussel said. "And virtually everything that we did in the lab, we had an SOP for... that was reviewed and updated annually. It was my job to ensure all employees read and understood these policies and procedures."

Roussel said that it is up to the management and employees in the lab to ensure that they are doing quality work 365 days a year that makes a lab efficient, effective, and most importantly credible. Equally important, Roussel said is that each person at every level must work together to ensure that any specimen that enters a lab is accounted for at all times.

"Chain of custody (of specimens) is absolutely critical," Roussel said. "Without it, it's not forensic work."

USARIEM Public Affairs

Army Studying Special Operators' Nutritional Needs

A typical service member in garrison needs to consume about 3,250 calories a day for sustenance. Maj. Aaron Crombie, Ph.D., is in the process of estimating how much more a special operator should eat.

Crombie, who works for the Military Nutrition Division at the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine at Natick Soldier Systems Center, Mass., is leading a team that has been studying special operations forces at training venues around the country to discover that. Results will be used to adjust the basic daily food allowance for dining facilities that serve their meals.



Maj. Aaron Crombie, Ph.D., and Holly McClung, a research dietitian, are studying the nutritional needs of special operators in garrison as members of a team from USARIEM in Natick, Mass.

Photo by David Kamm, NSRDEC

“We know that these guys move a lot,” Crombie said.

“They train a lot. Some of them are doing two-a-day workouts. They spend a lot of time in the gym, a lot of time at the ranges.”

This isn't the first time USARIEM has studied special operators' needs in garrison, said Andrew Young, Ph.D., chief of the Military Nutrition Division.

“The Special Forces have long argued that their people work harder and sustain much higher rates of energy expenditure than the average Soldier when they're training in garrison and subsisting in dining facilities,” Young said. “As a result, they argue that their dining facilities should be able to be provided more money per diner to provide more food and extend their operations accordingly to better meet

the nutritional requirements of these more highly active special operations units that are training in garrison.”

The current USARIEM study began at the Combat Diver Qualification Course in Key West, Fla. Crombie said preliminary results indicate that service members at that venue needed 4,600 calories a day. Data from Fort Bliss, Texas, and Fort Bragg, N.C., will also be included in the study.

“Dive school is probably going to be the high end of the spectrum,” Crombie said. “We should be done collecting data (by the) end of March.”

According to Young, nutritional energy requirements are assessed using the “doubly labeled water technique.” At the beginning of

testing, service members drink water enriched with natural isotopes.

“You can then measure the decline in those isotopes in the body,” Young said. “Based on the rate those isotopes decline, we can actually calculate the rate of carbon dioxide loss from the body, which in turn provides an accurate estimate of the rate that the body is burning calories. We compare the caloric burn rate in the Special Forces Soldiers to data we have measured in Soldiers from other types of units.”

“We get a representative sample of the Special Forces unit members who are engaged in representative activities. We track them during the course of about five to seven days of training.”

Crombie said that previous studies have shown special operators burn as many as 40 percent more calories in garrison activities than other service members do. The report from the current USARIEM study should be available sometime this summer, he added.

“They’re bigger guys,” said Crombie of the special operators. “They have more muscle so that’s more calories they’re burning just moving around. They carry a lot of equipment.”

Crombie had nothing but compliments for the study subjects and their high level of cooperation with his team.

“They’ve been really compliant. They’ve been really interested in what we’re doing,” Crombie said. “It’s been a good experience working with the units and working with the guys that coordinated (it) because they are really on point.”

*Bob Reinert
USAG-Natick
Public Affairs*



USAMRIID

Army Commendation Medal

Staff Sgt. Duane Padilla
Spc. Julia Puentes
Staff Sgt. Raymond Stanford

Meritorious Service Medal

Col. Sherman A. McCall
Staff Sgt. William Robinson
Lt. Col. Wendy Sammons Jackson
Staff Sgt. Antonio Sessoms
Staff Sgt. Jesse A. Stephens
Sgt. 1st Class Reginald E. White

Promotions

October

1st Sgt. Marc Daniel Ervin
Spc. Christopher Paul Klimko
Lt. Col. Robert Gaspard Rivard
Staff Sgt. Forest Emmanuel Whiting

November

Sgt. Jesse Benuel Glick
Sgt. Thomas Sanchez Solis Jr.
Sgt. Daniel Robert Vita

WRAIR

Meritorious Service Medal

Sgt. 1st Class Glen Collins
Sgt. 1st Class Corey L. Powell

Promotions

November

Maj. Walter Spencer Carr

December

Sgt. Alice Angeline Craig
Sgt. Nicholas Lee McCulley
Sgt. 1st Class Michael Lee Thomas
Lt. Col. Eric James Wagar

USAMMCE

Meritorious Service Medal

Sgt. 1st Class Jenifer A. Miller

Promotions

October

Pfc. Dominique Robert Williams

December

Spc. Bryan Paul Cantu
Lt. Col. Matthew Warren Voyles

USARIEM

Meritorious Service Medal

Sgt. David M. Arvizo
Staff Sgt. William M. Mills

Promotions

October

Spc. Shauna Louise Watts

November

Sgt. 1st Class Eleuterio Eliud Baez

December

Staff Sgt. Michael J. Sanchez

USAMMA

Meritorious Service Medal

Sgt. 1st Class Larry Campbell
Maj. Stephen Flannery

Promotions

October

Sgt. 1st Class Jose Alberto Garcia Jr.

December

Lt. Col. Joseph Adam Chapman

USAMMDA

Promotion

November

Lt. Col. Jeanne Alleva Norwood

HFPA

Promotion

October

Lt. Col. Glenn Edward Marsh

AFMES

Promotion

October

Col. Louis Niel Finelli

USACEHR

Promotion

December

Lt. Col. Mark G. Hartell

USAMRMC

Meritorious Service Medal

Capt. Jeffery Froude

6MLMC

Meritorious Service Medal

Master Sgt. Antonio D. Rowe

USAARL

Meritorious Service Medal

Capt. Michael Dretsch
Chief Warrant Officer 5 Leann Fraka

USAARL Commander's Coin

Sgt. Kathleen Caplinger
Maj. Jonathan Deeter

Soldier of the Quarter

Spc. Monica Ang

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

Sgt. Oris Webster

German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge

Staff Sgt. Craig Berlin
Maj. Tim Cho
Spc. Daniel Lopez

Sgt. William McGilberry
Capt. Stephanie Traynham

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

Alex Austermann
Catherine Davis
Dr. Lori St. Onge
Liz Stokes

Certificate of Appreciation

Andrew Alvarado
Vicky Anderson
Spc. Monica Ang
Dr. Khalid Barazanji
Kelley Beavers
Staff Sgt. Craig Berlin
Fred Brozoski
Stacey Brunson
Sgt. Kathleen Caplinger

Kimberly Carter
Spc. Yesenia Contreras
Matt Cox
Jill Emerson
Brad Erickson
Victor Estes
Spc. Tabitha Garcia
Elmaree Gordon
Casey Harris
Andy Higdon
Jeffrey Holemo
Sylvia Hughes
Rose Jackson
Dr. Amanda Kelley
Dr. Ben Lawson
Staff Sgt. David Lopez
Robin Madderra
Mary Mayo
Sgt. William McGilberry
Deborah McKinnon

Stephanie Moon
Janet Pray
John Ramiccio
Dan Ranchino
Spc. Sarah Red
Dr. Efreem Reeves
Alan Roddy
Dr. Angus Rupert
Spc. Stanslaus Simiyu
J.R. Stefanson
Katie Stokes
Liz Stokes
Dr. Leonard Temme
Sgt. Oris Webster

Promotion November

Spc. Monica Biancabernal Ang

USAMRICD

Army Commendation Medal

Spc. Leslie Greenway
Spc. Melissa Thomas

Army Achievement Medal

Spc. Danielle Vaughn

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Michael Berecz
Staff Sgt. Nicholas J. Rogers

40 Years of Civilian Service

Sharon Cullum

30 Years of Civilian Service

Dana Anderson

25 Years of Civilian Service

Sandra Loukota
Gary Rockwood

15 Years of Civilian Service

Lois Caron
Juana Langford
Jonathan Oyler

10 Years of Civilian Service

Charles Hurst
Pamela Starkloff

5 Years of Civilian Service

Denise Kniffin

Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Joanne Holloway
Erin Sarricks
Group – Don Mathis and Larry Presley

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

Karen Clemens

Certificate of Appreciation for Patriotic Civilian Service

Tracey Hamilton
Erin O'Keefe
Kim Whitten

Certificate of Achievement

Denise Kniffin

Officially Commended

Christopher Morris
Alan Otto

Promotions October

Lt. Col. David Alan Sartori
Lt. Col. Patterson Ward Taylor

November

Master Sgt. Timothy Howard
Frock

USAISR

Legion of Merit

Sgt. Maj. Ella M. Lalone

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. Sandra Fresh
Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Jenkins
Maj. Mabel A. Salas
Col. Louis R. Stout

Promotions October

Sgt. Danielle Lee Miller
Capt. Kari L. Rodden

November

Staff Sgt. Angela Rose Madoux
Col. Louis Richard Stout

December

Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Lee Gibson
Sgt. James Roy McAlister IV