



THE INNOVATOR

OPTIMIZING COMBAT CASUALTY CARE



APRIL 2013

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S. ARMY INSTITUTE OF SURGICAL RESEARCH



Remembrance and Recognition Ceremony

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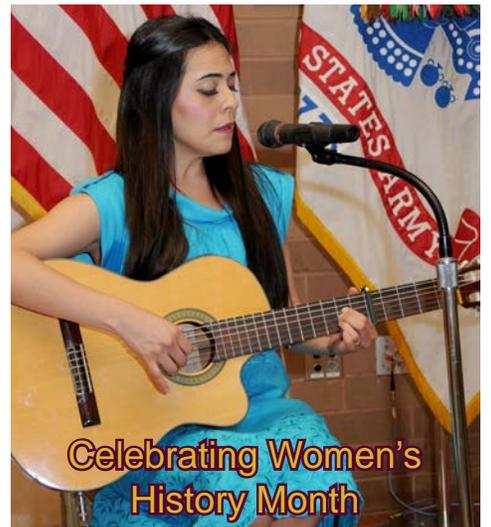
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ISR Hosts Innovation Day

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Celebrating Women's History Month

CDR's Corner



Col. (Dr.) Michael A. Weber
Commander, USAISR

“Optimizing Combat Casualty Care”

Hello ISR, the latest news on the furlough is that it has been delayed for several weeks. I appreciate the anxiety the furlough is causing all of us. I want you to know that I am grateful for everyone's service during this stressful time and ask that you continue to stay focused on our mission for our combat wounded. Our commander, BG(P) Joseph Carvalho Jr., has continued to share the latest news on sequestration and the furlough. The MRMC website has a link to a video with the latest update from the general.

A lot of events are happening this month. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which is designed to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence. The military has too



Col. Michael A. Weber, right, welcomes the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, to the Burn Center March 2.

many sexual assaults—one is too many. It is up to each of us to eliminate this problem within our ranks.

April is also the Month of the Military Child. The Army recognizes the commitment, contributions, and sacrifices that our children make for our Nation. I want to thank all military children for their support as we celebrate the month dedicated to their service.

Locally, it's Fiesta month in San Antonio. This year Fiesta runs from April 18-28 with five different parades and daily events for the entire family to enjoy. There are plenty of evening and night events for those of you who can't make it out during the day. Check out the Fiesta website: www.fiesta-sa.org for a complete listing of events.

Other significant days in April are:
 Today, April 1: April Fool's Day
 April 8: Holocaust Remembrance Day
 April 8-11: USAMRMC NCO/Soldier of the Year competition at Camp Bullis
 April 15: Tax Day
 April 16: National Librarian Day
 April 20: Volunteer Recognition Day
 April 24: Administrative Professional's Day
 April 22-26: ISR Army Physical Readiness Test window

I want to thank everyone for your continuing efforts to increase the value of your professional, personal and spiritual relationships. Keep up the great work!

Again, thank you for all you do.

Hooah!



ARMY MEDICINE
 Serving To Heal...Honored To Serve

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SGM Says



ISR Sergeant Major
Vincent M. Herrington

“Protect and Sustain, Lead From the Front”

Thank you for all that you do for our organization. We greatly appreciate the dedication and commitment you demonstrate daily. Congratulations to Sgt. Danielle Miller on her reenlistment.

We are also very proud of the team work displayed by the Burn Center

and the Research Division March 7. Everyone came together to make the Burn Center Recognition and Remembrance Ceremony and the Battlefield Health and Trauma Innovation Day successes. A special thanks to the Resource Directorate for playing a critical role in the success of both events. Lastly, we would like to thank everyone who attended the monthly awards ceremony and congratulations to all the awardees.

A big congratulations to our NCO of the Year, Sgt. John Newton; and Soldier of the Year, Spc. Stephen Holmes. Newton and Holmes will represent our unit in the Medical Research and Materiel Command (MRMC) NCO/Soldier of the Year competition. We will be hosting the MRMC NCO/Sol-



Sgt. Danielle Miller, right, is presented with an Honorable Discharge and Oath of Reenlistment certificates by 1st Lt. Natasha Benton March 1.

dier of the Year competition on April 7-11 at Camp Bullis.

The America’s Army--Our Profession theme for this quarter is **Army Customs, Courtesies, and Traditions**. In keeping with this theme, we invite everyone to our NCO Induction Ceremony which will be held on April 5 at 1100 in the SAMMC 4th floor auditorium. The guest speaker will be MRMC Command Sgt. Major Kevin B. Stuart.



Your baby photos.

Next month’s newsletter will feature a special section for Mother’s Day with your baby photos. You will be able to match them with current ones. Match this photo with one of the staff members on the right.

Since the American Army’s birth in 1775, the fate of the Nation has often rested in the capable hands of its Soldiers. From Yorktown to Gettysburg to Normandy to the Persian Gulf, to discovering and building a Nation and protecting others from aggression, ultimately, it is the Army that determines our success in war and peace—because we are the force of decision.

SMA Gene C. McKinney, address at MacDill Air Force Base, 10 May 1996
(SMA files, p. 2)



Mark Atkins



Leila Rathburn



Steven Galvan



Amy Apodaca

Burn Center Holds Remembrance Ceremony

By Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

On March 6, 2003, Lance Cpl. Ian Lennon, a motor transportation Marine with the 5th Marine Regiment in Kuwait, was burned in an explosion while fueling a tanker. The next day, Lennon, burned 33 percent of his body, was transported and admitted to the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Since that day and for the next 10 years, the Burn Center has cared for 1,147 other wounded warriors who sustained severe burns and/or associated injuries, most directly in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF).

Ten years to the day, March 7, 2013, the Burn Center staff members and more than 100 burn survivors gathered at the San Antonio Military Medical Center auditorium for a special ceremony of remembrance and recognition to honor all who served, in remembrance of those who died, and



Senior noncommissioned officers at the Burn Center read off the names of fallen warriors during a ceremony of remembrance and recognition March 7.

in recognition of those who survived OIF/OEF injuries.

“Seventy of these brave Americans subsequently died of their wounds,”

said Burn Center Director, Col. (Dr.) Evan Renz. “In some cases, they died during subsequent tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

To honor the 70 fallen warriors, Burn Center senior enlisted noncommissioned officers from the different departments read off their names as their photographs were projected onto a screen on stage.

“We just paid respect to some of the country’s greatest men and women,” said Renz, explaining the special bond formed among the staff, patients and families. “We know them, and more importantly we all love them. We will always love them, and that’s what makes this place [Burn Center] so special because this place doesn’t run on funding, it doesn’t run on schedules—it runs on love. It runs on love for our Soldiers and our fellow Americans in uniform, which is then passed on for the greater good of our community.”

“It was an incredibly emotional

BC continued on next page



Burn Center Director, Col. (Dr.) Evan Renz, right, welcomes attendees to the remembrance and recognition ceremony March 7 at the San Antonio Military Medical Center auditorium.

BC continued from previous page

event. I cried through the whole slide show,” said Burn Center physician-assistant Kelley Thompson, who helped organize the event. Thompson assisted during several of the missions to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany to transport patients injured in Afghanistan and Iraq back to San Antonio. “I had a lot to do with most of these patients from the time we picked them up in Germany to caring for them here. So to be with many of them at their bedside with their families and then to see them up there, it was tough.”

During his remarks, Renz also acknowledged the accomplishments of the burn survivors during the last 10 years. “It’s impossible to list them all. You have basically broken all the rules,” he said to the burn survivors. “I thought I had heard all the possible adaptive behaviors to deal with severe life-long injuries, but everyday I’m



Tours of the new Burn Center were provided for the remembrance and recognition ceremony March 5. Capt. Michael Campbell explains the role and equipment used by the Burn Flight Team.

hearing of a new one. I absolutely believe that it is the key to your resiliency.”

While not having appeared on a national dance show like J.R. Martinez or being a stand-up comedian like Bobby Henline, Lennon shares similar circumstances with Martinez and Henline. All three spent about a year or more recovering in the Burn Center from burns sustained in support of OIF/OEF, and they all lead productive lives despite their scars and disfigurements. Lennon now works for a nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring and empowering wounded warriors—many of them burn patients. “It’s overwhelming to be here, knowing there are lots of guys who are still around,” said Lennon.

To conclude the ceremony, Renz thanked everyone for their attendance, the families for their support, and the wounded warriors for their service.

“You are absolutely the key to our survival as providers,” said Renz. “You have touched our lives more than you’ll ever know, and we can never thank you enough, we can never repay you, and we owe you everything.”



Col. (Dr.) Leopoldo Cancio, left, reads a citation for Eddie Rodriguez and Beth Shields, who were presented the 2011 and 2012 William F. McManus Award for Clinical Excellence, respectively. The McManus award was created in 1996 at the ISR Burn Center to recognize people whose primary contribution to the burn center is in the field of direct patient care.

Company Notes



First Sergeant
Bradley G. Proud

Welcome to the ISR family: Spcs. April and Ryan Thrasher as well as Sgt. Shane Berry and his wife both welcomed baby girls to their families.

Autumn Rose Thrasher was born March 5 and Selene Athena Berry was delivered on the 3rd. All are doing well.

Welcome back Maj. Ian Driscoll from his deployment to Afghanistan.

Congratulations to Sgt. Leonardo Aviles

for winning the ISR NCO of the Quarter, first quarter of fiscal year 2013, as well as Sgt. Jorge Cabriales and Spc. Brian Brown for winning NCO and Soldier of the Month for March,



Sgt. Shane Berry gets his new rank pinned by his wife and son March 1.

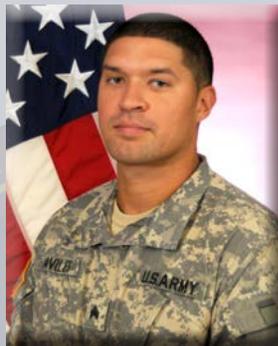
respectively. Their photographs will be on display in the company area. I want to thank Sgt. 1st Class Craig Anderson and the entire cadre for running an outstanding competition.

We would also like to congratulate Sgts. Timothy Couchman and Shane Berry on their recent promotions. The last congratulations goes to Sgt. Danielle Miller, who reenlisted March 1.

The MRMC Best Warrior Competition is coming to Camp Bullis April 7-12 and will be hosted by the Soldiers of the ISR. We appreciate all the assistance from the ISR family to ensure that the event is once again a success. We were tasked again to host the Best Warrior Competition because last year's competition stressed the Soldiers and their resolve, contributing to successes at the MEDCOM level.

A big thank you to Sgt. Mary Alvarez, the events committee, and all of the volunteers for putting on such an outstanding Egg-stravaganza. We had a great showing, and the event was a huge success with fun had by all.

It is that time of year again. The semi-annual APFT will be conducted April 22-26. Times will be at 0530 Monday thru Friday with two afternoon sessions on the 23rd and 25th at 1500. The bike event will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. See you there!



NCO of the Quarter
Sgt. Leonardo Aviles

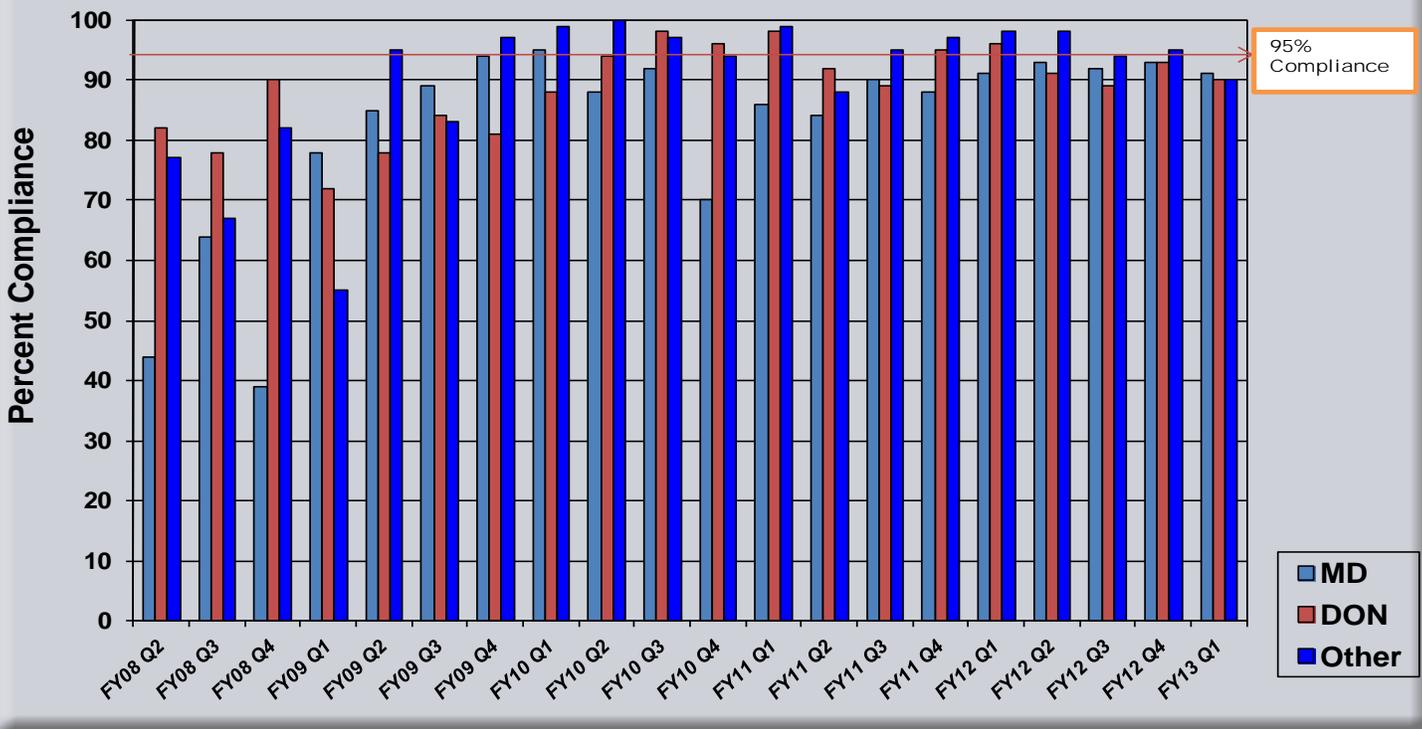


NCO of the Month
Sgt. Jorge Cabriales



Soldier of the Month
Spc. Brian Brown

Hand Hygiene Compliance



ISR/SAMMC Commemorate Women’s History Month

Story and photo by Steven Galvan
ISR Public Affairs Officer

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research (ISR) and the San Antonio Military Medical Center Equal Opportunity teams at Fort Sam Houston combined efforts to commemorate the 2013 Women’s History Month on March 15. The year’s theme was “Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.” Guest speakers for the ceremony were ISR Burn Center registered nurse Lt. Col. Elizabeth Mann-Salinas and Vicky Poenitzsch, Ph.D., a senior research scientist at Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio.

“When I asked my coworkers who they think of when they think of great women in science, most of them said Marie Curie, a great female physicist whose discovery of radioactive

material is arguably one of the top inventions that changed the world,” said Poenitzsch. “I do not want to pay tribute to a renowned female scientist from over a century ago, but rather my fellow sister scientists and engineers

working on developing technologies and solving problems today.”

Poenitzsch said the same goes for great military females. “I believe it is not solely the female generals, like the first four-star general, Ann Dunwoody, who defines inspirational women in the military,” she said. “But rather the more common or everyday sergeant or lieutenant female soldiers who are among us, who lead by example and exhibit their own technical and tactical proficiencies on a daily basis.”

Mann-Salinas, who maintains three nursing certifications and has earned a Ph.D. in nursing, spoke on the contributions that nurses like Florence Nightingale have made in history. “She was a rule breaker and dedicated her life to the service of others,” she said.

As a nurse who conducts scientific clinical trials, Mann-Salinas appreciates the struggles Nightingale faced and pointed out that all women have

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San Antonio Latin singer Azul Barrientos sings during the Women’s History Month celebration March 15.

BHT hosts 'Innovation Day' for San Antonio



Maria Serio-Melvin, left, explain the uses of some of the equipment on display at the BHT Innovation Day March 7. More than 60 leaders from the San Antonio community attended the event hosted by the ISR Research Directorate.

military research laboratories conduct to serve combat-wounded,” said ISR Commander, Col. (Dr.) Michael A. Weber. “It was also a great opportunity for us to promote new collaborations between the military and other entities within the community.”

“This was our first effort to engage stakeholders in the San Antonio community to better coordinate our efforts in ways that are mutually beneficial,” said ISR Combat Casualty Care Research Director, David G. Baer, Ph.D. “We received great feedback both from the military participants and the visitors.”

The attendees were able to see first-hand some of the research conducted at the BHT and interact with researchers.

“I walked away with a deeper appreciation for the hidden gem at Fort Sam Houston and gained inroads to **see BHT continued on next page**

Story and photos by Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research (ISR) at Joint Base San Antonio, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, along with the Navy Medical Research Unit-San Antonio (NAMRU-SA) and the Air Force Dental Evaluation and Consultation Service (DECS), combined known as the Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute (BHT), hosted an Innovation Day March 7. More than 60 leaders from San Antonio, to include academia, biotechnology entrepreneurs, and city leaders, attended. The event was designed to promote awareness of the tri-service combat casualty care research programs in order to facilitate aligned and synergistic endeavors among these three commands and civilian entities.

“Our goal for this event was to make local community leaders aware of the invaluable work that the three



Researchers from the Navy Medical Research Unit-San Antonio and the Air Force Dental Evaluation and Consultation Service participated in the BHT Innovation Day March 7.



Maj. Paul Colthirst, center, explains some of the research conducted at the ISR's Dental and Trauma Research Detachment.

importance of the work going on here in San Antonio," said Baer. "The event was a great success."

David Spencer, the chief financial officer for Pryor Medical, Inc., agreed with Baer. "This day was a great start for the local community to better understand and support the BHT mission in support of the wounded warrior," said Spencer. "The MDs, PhDs and other researchers are a nationally unique capability and represent a huge business opportunity for San Antonio."

The ISR is a subordinate research command of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) at Fort Detrick, Md. USAMRMC is a major command in the Army that leads efforts in support of the full life cycle of medical supplies and equipment, to include research, development, acquisition and sustainment. The research part of the mission is executed through its laboratory commands and extramurally.

BHT continued from previous page

collaborate with our military peers," said Associate Professor Brent M. Nowak, Ph.D., director of Robotics and Intelligent Machines Laboratory, Mechanical Engineering Department

at the University of Texas at San Antonio. "If I were looking for a single word [to describe the event], it would be eye-opening."

"Many in our own community did not realize the extent, quality and



BHT Innovation Day attendees were divided into four groups and given the opportunity to discuss research with some ISR task area managers. Victor Convertino, Ph.D., left, explains the research being conducted in his area.



BHT Innovation Day attendees were given the opportunity to view and handle equipment at a display area in the conference room and see firsthand how it operates.

April Health News

By Maria G. Dominguez, R.N. COHN-S/CM Occupational Health



April is Stress Awareness Month and also National Humor Month. So what is stress? According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary: Stress is a constraining force or influence: pressure, strain, tension. It is a physical, chemical, or emotional factor that causes bodily or mental tension and may be a factor in disease causation.”

Chronic stress can take a physical toll on you. It can weaken your immune system and cause uncomfortable physical symptoms like headaches and stomach problems.

When stress is constant (chronic), your body remains in high gear off and on for days or weeks at a time. The link between stress and heart disease is not clear. However, chronic stress that causes an increase in heart rate and blood pressure may damage the artery walls.

Some physical signs of stress may be caused by a medical condition or by medicine. Think about how stress affects you. Common responses to stress are the following:

Aches and pains, headaches. Feeling tired without a good reason. Trouble sleeping. Anxiety, anger, depression. Easily irritated. Impatient. Forgetful.

Not all stress is bad. Speaking to a group or watching a close football game can be stressful, but they can be fun, too. The key is to manage stress properly. Unhealthy responses to stress may lead to health problems in some

In the Spotlight

Michelle Bernier-Reverón

Job title: QA Specialist

How long have you worked at the ISR? 6 months

What or who has been an inspiration to you in your work?

My father has been an incredible inspiration to me in all aspects of my life. As the daughter of a retired Air Force navigator, I have been influenced by his incredible work ethic, sense of adventure and fearlessness, and unconditional love for his wife and daughters, all of which have allowed me to achieve my goals thus far.

What is your favorite part of your job? I have greatly enjoyed both learning about and working on the quality system for both IDEA and BRDSS. As someone who is only proficient with computers on a basic level, it has been very interesting learning about these and other innovative medical software.

Your proudest achievement? My proudest achievements to date have been being accepted into a dual MBA/MPH program, and receiving my Bachelor’s degree from Texas A&M University.

Short- and long-term goals? In the short-term, I hope to successfully complete this year in my graduate programs while planning a fantastic wedding and continuing to excel here at work. My first long-term goal is to graduate with my MBA and MPH in 2015. With that, I hope to use the combination of my experience and education to continue to develop my quality assurance career in clinical research.

Hobbies: Traveling, reading, salsa/merengue/bachata dancing, and going to the movies

Favorite book: Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein

Favorite movie/TV show: Dirty Dancing/Sex and the City

Favorite quote: “In three words I can sum up everything I’ve learned about life: it goes on.” Robert Frost



people. If you aren’t sure what’s causing your physical symptoms, ask your doctor if stress might be the cause.

Humor, on the other hand, is:



“Something that is or is designed to be comical or amusing, the amusing quality or element in something.” Humor has been recognized by nurse researchers and practitioners as a constructive therapeutic intervention and has shown positive psychological and physiological outcomes for patient care.

When we are happy, we are light-hearted. We are open to others and ready to laugh and play. We laugh when we see things presented in unexpected ways. TV sitcoms and comics give us daily reminders of how to twist what we expect to see or hear to make

HEALTH continued on next page

Safety Notes

By Stephanie L. Truss
Health, Safety and Environmental Specialist



We often focus on our teen drivers when it comes to texting while driving and/or send a reminder message out to those on military installations on the fact that it is illegal to use anything other than hands-free devices while driving on post. I would like to task each of you on your walk and/or ride (for those that ride the parking garage shuttle) to notice how many people are texting and or pass by with their cell phones dialing and/or to their ear will driving around or out of the parking garage. They are now distracted drivers and can cause an accident that may involve you.

Distracted driving is a dangerous epidemic on America's roadways. In 2010 alone, over 3,000 people were

killed in distracted driving crashes.

The U.S. Department of Transportation is leading the effort to stop texting and cell phone use behind the wheel. Since 2009, we have held two national distracted driving summits, banned texting and cell phone use for commercial drivers, encouraged states to adopt tough laws, and launched several campaigns to raise public awareness about the issue.

<http://www.distraction.gov/> is your resource for learning more about distracted driving. Get the facts, get involved, and help us keep America's roadways safe

Did you know that traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for American teens? And when it comes to distracted driving, young people are among the most likely to text and talk behind the wheel.

Don't become a statistic. Here's how you can keep yourself and others safe when you're out on the road:

Take the pledge: <http://www.distraction.gov/content/get-involved/take-the-pledge.html>.

Commit to being a safe, distraction-free driver. Print out the pledge form, fill it in, and keep it in your car

or locker as a reminder to stay off the phone when you're driving.

Be seen: <http://www.distraction.gov/content/get-involved/teens.html>.

Share a "Faces of Distracted Driving": <http://www.distraction.gov/content/faces/index.html> video on Facebook or Twitter to let your friends know about the consequences of cell phone use behind the wheel. Change your social networking profile picture to remind your friends that "One Text or Call Could Wreck It All."

Speak up: <http://www.distraction.gov/content/get-involved/teens.html>.

Don't stop at being a great driver - be a great passenger! Make sure to call out your friends, and even your parents, if you see them using a cell phone behind the wheel.

Spread the word: <http://www.distraction.gov/content/get-involved/teens.html>.

Get involved in promoting safe driving in your community. Hang up posters, host an event on distracted driving, or start a SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) <http://sadd.org/formchapter.htm> chapter at your school.

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it funny.

Talk with family and friends. A daily dose of friendship is great medicine. Call or write your friends and family to share your feelings, hopes and joys.

Remember to laugh. Laughter makes you feel good. Don't be afraid to laugh out loud at a joke, a funny movie or a comic strip, even when you're alone. Laughter also triggers the release of endorphins, the body's natural painkillers, and produces a general sense of well-being. Research results indicates that, after exposure to humor, there is a general increase in activity within the immune system.

Perhaps, the biggest benefit of laughter is that it is free and has no known negative side effects. Keep in mind, "laughter is the best medicine."

New ISR Stats Class Beyond the Basics

Odds Ratio (OR)

Contingency (or 2 x 2) Table

	Cases	Controls	Total
Exposed	a	b	a+b
Unexposed	c	d	c+d
Total	a+c	b+d	a+b+c+d

$OR = (a/c) / (b/d)$
 $= (a*d) / (b*c)$

Relative Risk (RR)

Contingency (or 2 x 2) Table

	Cases	Controls	Total
Exposed	a	b	a+b
Unexposed	c	d	c+d
Total	a+c	b+d	a+b+c+d

$RR = I_e / I_u$
 $= P(D|E) / P(D|U)$
 $= [a/(a+b)] / [c/(c+d)]$

- ODDS RATIOS VS. RELATIVE RISKS
- LINEAR REGRESSION
- TESTING FOR EQUIVALENCE

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2013
1500 – 1600 HRS.

BHT1 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

Where Are They Now

Marine Perseveres Despite Injuries

Photos and story by Steven Galvan
ISR Public Affairs Officer

Most 8-year-old kids don't know what they want to be when they grow up. That wasn't the case with Douglas F. Cianchetta. At that age, he was taken to a naval base in Norfolk, Virginia, to witness the christening of a ship—a guided missile destroyer named after his grandfather's cousin, Donald Cook. That was the first time the 8-year-old native of New York saw a United States Marine. From that point, Cianchetta knew that he wanted to be a "Devil Dog."

"The moment I graduated from high school, I went to boot camp," he said.

Cianchetta attended recruit training in June 2005 and then on to the Infantry Training Battalion course to become an infantryman. "I didn't want to do anything but infantry," Cianchetta said.

Three years later, Corporal Cianchetta was a fire team leader with the Marine 24th Expeditionary Unit, 1st Battalion, 6th Marines Alpha Company, leading a group of Marines in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. After a helicopter insert into an Afghan village to search for weapons, his team took on small arms and automatic weapons fire and came across a weapons cache where the pointman discovered a bag containing purple powder. Cianchetta took the bag and ordered his team back while he inspected it. "It was booby trapped with an IED [improvised explosive device] that lit me on fire," he said.

His arms, sides, back and legs were burned—in all, 48 percent of his body had been incinerated. Cianchetta was medically evacuated to San Antonio where he spent 9 months as a patient

at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. For almost 2 years after being discharged from the Burn Center, he spent his time rehabilitating and undergoing reconstructive surgeries as an outpatient. His goal was to recover and stay on active duty as an infantryman.

That didn't happen. During a medical board brief to determine whether Cianchetta could stay in active duty as an infantryman, Burn Center Physician's Assistant, Charles "Kelley" Thompson, explained his options now that his right pinky had been amputated and the limitations burn scars have on a body.

"I was given the option of staying in, but not as an infantryman," said Cianchetta. "It was a very difficult decision, but I felt that I had to leave because at that point I didn't feel that I was in the best shape to give 100 percent to the Corps. I was still recovering, and it was going to be a long road before I returned to the infantry. I didn't want to do anything but infantry, so I decided to leave."

During the same brief, Thompson asked Cianchetta what he wanted to do when he got out. "I want to be a policeman," he said.

"I told him that he may want to reconsider that career because it could be very difficult to achieve," said Thompson, who spent several years in law enforcement.

Persistent on setting a goal, Cianchetta told Thompson that he was going to do it.

Life after the Marines

Cianchetta credits his determination to the training he received while on active duty and the people he has surrounded himself with. "My wife has been a big inspiration for me from the



Windcrest Police Department,
Patrolman Douglas F. Cianchetta.

day I met her," he said.

The road to the couple's encounter had been paved long before they met. While an outpatient, Cianchetta and other wounded warriors were invited on a hunting trip in West Texas at the ranch of Charles Lackey where he met Lackey's sons, Craig and Brad. He and Craig hit it off and became best friends. When Cianchetta moved back to New York in 2010, the economy was in shambles and hundreds of NYPD police officers were being laid off. The prospect of being on the NYPD was slim.

So after 5 months of being home and before pursuing his goal of becoming a police officer, Cianchetta decided to go on a road trip to visit Marines from his unit. The trip took him to Virginia, Florida and Alabama and ultimately ended in San Antonio to visit the Lackeys. That's when he decided to stay in Texas.

"I told him [Craig] that I did not want to go back home," he said. "Craig
MARINE continued on next page

MARINE continued from page 12

told me to stay with them until I figured out what I was going to do.”

As a public works director, the elder Lackey knew about the Alamo Area Regional Law Enforcement Academy. Cianchetta applied for and was accepted to attend the academy and began training in January 2011. While waiting for the training to commence, Cianchetta went out with a group of hunters on Lackey’s ranch. While on that hunting excursion, one of the hunters suddenly fell ill and died. It was at his funeral where he met Hannah Thompson.

“I saw her sitting alone, and I started talking to her,” said Cianchetta. “I immediately felt something that I had never felt before in my life.”

“It was interesting,” said Hannah. “I knew something significant had just happened.”

“We like to say that it was the end of one life and the beginning of another,” said Cianchetta.

Hannah said that her best friend’s father, James, was a very charismatic person and would approve of their encounter. “He would have loved it,” she said.

A few days later, the couple got together to go out on their first date. “I went to her house to pick her up and meet her parents.”

The first thing he heard when he got to the front door was, “Corporal Cianchetta!” It was Thompson, the Burn Center physician’s assistant who had cared for him and briefed him on his medical board.

The First Date and Life After

When asked what it was like seeing Thompson again, Cianchetta said, “It was breathtaking. I was nervous. I didn’t know what to say.

“First of all, he’s not very friendly looking and he’s a big man. It wasn’t fun.”

It’s not like they hadn’t talked before. Thompson had been at his



Cianchetta family: Douglas, Hannah and daughter Shelby Renee.

bedside countless times talking to him about the type of treatment or medications he needed. But this time it was different. It was no longer professional; it was on a personal level. The two headed off to a room where they talked for the next two-and-a-half hours and got caught up.

“I took my shoes off and got comfortable on the couch with my mom,” said Hannah. She knew it was going to be a while before they went out on their date.

“He [Thompson] was supportive of our relationship from the start,” said Cianchetta.

Life was good for him, he was about to start training at the police academy, and he was in love.

After a few months of dating, the peace officer trainee proposed. “At first, he [Thompson] told me no.”

His persistence paid off. The couple married on April 2012 and have a two-and-a-half month old baby girl.

“Life is great,” said Hannah. “I’m very happy and I couldn’t imagine anything different.”

Cianchetta achieved another one of his goals when he was hired as a

patrolman in October 2011 with the Windcrest Police Department, a suburb of San Antonio. “I am very grateful for the opportunity the Windcrest P.D. has given me.

“The Corps taught me from day one to never quit, to always prosper, and to always do your best regardless of your limitations,” he said.

The burn scars will always remind him that he can accomplish what he sets out to do he just has to push himself a little more. And that’s the message that he wants told.

“We all have the same opportunities, but not everyone takes advantage of them,” he said. “I know of Marines with amputations, but they don’t allow them to be disabilities. They go on with life and don’t let anything stop them.”

Since the age of 8, Cianchetta has known what he wants and he’s not remotely close to being done.

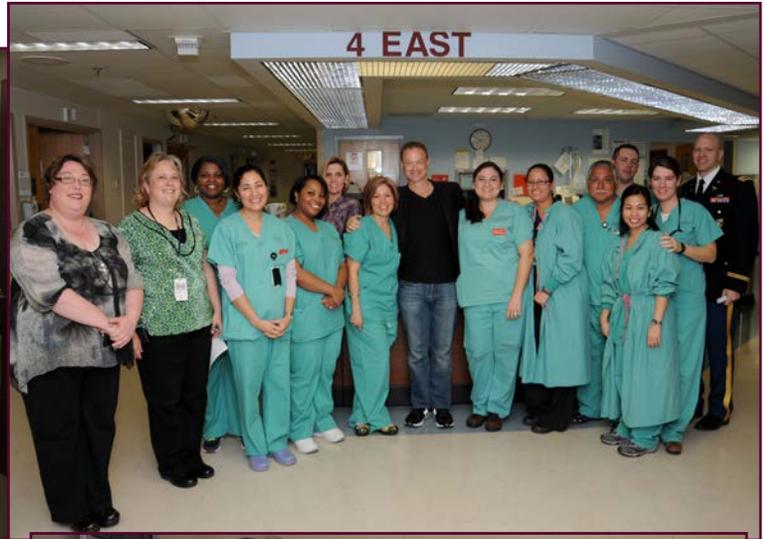
“The next set of goals that I have is to be a good husband and to give my family everything that I possibly can,” he said. “The future looks great. I’m very happy. I’m blessed to have all this, I really am.”

Around the ISR



Top left: Lt. Col. Paul Mittelsteadt and Elizabeth Channell provide fire prevention material during National Public Health Week at the SAMMC Medical Mall March 18. Top right: 2013 Spring Deployment Team with JTS staff. Center right: Gary Sinise talks with physician's assistant James Williams, center, and Maj. Christopher Vanfosson during Sinise's visit at 4E March 7. Bottom right: Col. Michael A. Weber, left, presents Lt. Col. Elizabeth Mann-Salinas with a memento March 15 at the Women's History Month celebration--Mann-Salinas was one of the guest speakers. Bottom left: A familiar sight, Miriam Chavarria keeping the BHT entrance and lobby clean.

Around the ISR continued



Top left: Col. Evan Renz talks with the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, and his wife at the Burn Center March 2. Top right: Staff members from 4E pose with Gary Sinise March 7. Center right: Wenjun Martini, Ph.D., left, presents Jessica Guerra with a going-away gift March 15. Bottom right: Lt. Col. Paul Mittelsteadt gives a tour of the burn center to Judson High School CNA and dental students March 21. Bottom left: Capt. Theresa Nowak is interviewed by Rick Robinson from Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps Combat Visual Information Center March 5. The Marine Combat Camera crew were shooting a video for the Commandant that captures the successful reintegration journey of wounded warriors. Center left: Col. Michael A. Weber, left, welcomes Maj. Ian Driscoll back from deployment March 4.

The ISR Events Committee sponsored an Egg-stravaganza March 23 for staff members, families and friends, and warriors in transition at the Fisher House playground. Attendees were treated with snacks, games, and various egg hunts. The Easter Bunny was also available for photos. Top right: Various egg hunts were provided from 1400 to 1600. Center right: Games throughout the day. Bottom right: Sgt. Joseph Lewis and son Jackson. Bottom left: Sgt. Wilfredo Alvarez and family. Top left: Heidi and Hailee Hinkle.

ISR Easter Egg-stravaganza



Photo by Staff Sgt. Joel McVay



Photo by Amy Polykratis



Photo by Sara McVay



Photo by Sara McVay



Photo by Rozelli Haynes



Photo by Sara McVay

ISR Main Laboratory Receives Accreditation

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research (ISR) Main Laboratory at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, recently received accreditation from the College of American Pathologists (CAP). The accreditation is based on results of an on-site inspection as part of the CAP's Accreditation Programs.

"CAP accreditation exemplifies ISR's commitment to high-quality laboratory services," said Richard R. Gomez, MD, Chair, CAP Council on Accreditation. "We commend its participation in the CAP's internationally recognized program, launched more than 50 years ago, for the benefit of the patients we collectively serve."

The facility's director, Seung H. Kim, MD, was advised of this national recognition and congratulated for the excellence of the services being provided. ISR's main laboratory is one or

more than 7,000 CAP-accredited facilities worldwide.

"CAP accreditation serves as a benchmark of excellence that Laboratory Support strives to achieve as we process the research samples entrusted to us," said Charles H. Guymon, chief of ISR Laboratory Support Branch. "The various CAP guidelines, requirements, and checks help us to identify our strengths and weaknesses and to continually seek to improve upon them."

The U.S. federal government recognizes the CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program, begun in the early 1960s, as being equal to or more stringent than, the government's own inspection program.

During the CAP accreditation pro-



Spc. Polly Busman, Laboratory Support Branch.

cess, designed to ensure the highest standard of care for all laboratory patients, inspectors examine the laboratory's records and quality control of procedures for the preceding two years. CAP inspectors also examine laboratory staff qualifications, equipment, facilities, safety program and record, and overall management.

Lt. Dan Band Performs for ISR/SAMMC Patients, Staff



Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band performed March 6 for ISR/SAMMC patients and staff. Chef Robert Irvine from *Restaurant Impossible* was also here cooking for the event. The five-hour event was part of an Appreciation Day for wounded warrior, families and caregivers.

Top right: Jorge Villarreal with Chef Robert Irvine. Bottom right: Gary Sinise poses with the crowd before the Lt. Dan Band performed.



Back When...



Can you guess who this ISR staff member is?

This photo was taken in 1994 when he was teaching at Fairleigh-Dickinson University Department of Mathematics and Computer Science in New Jersey.

Last Month's Answer:



Gerardo J. Smith-Salinas
Information Management
Division

Dr. Arthur Dixon Mason Jr.



A surgeon who helped bring world-class stature to the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center Dr. Arthur Dixon Mason Jr. died at his

home March 5 from organ failure at the age of 85.

Friends outside the Burn Center may not have known he was a doctor because he never emphasized that title, and he made friends everywhere. "He could turn everyday relationships into long-lasting friendships. Even the greeters at Sam's knew him on sight," said one of Mason's daughters, Pamela Marie Duke. "He had a profound interest in humanity."

Jan Marie Mason, whom he married 21 years ago after his first wife's death, said "everybody had value" to her husband and that he was never too busy to help.

Family members said that although he could have made a fortune in private medicine, Mason instead remained chief of the laboratory division at the ISR until retiring in 1995.

His wife said that just the day before his death, he told her, "I'm so rich." "It was not about the money. It was about all the friends and the love (he received)," she said.

Raised in New Orleans, Mason received his medical degree from the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and was stationed in San Antonio during a two-year stint with the Army. He returned to the burn center as a civilian employee in 1958.

He became president of the Amer-

WHM cont. from page 7

made history.

"Because women gave birth to all history makers," she said. "Every person has been impacted by a mother, a sister, an aunt, a daughter or a spouse. We all make history, so let it be positive that improves the world for all of our children and for generations to come."

Poenitzsch ended her speech with her own inspiring words for female innovators. "Foster a curious mind. Constantly challenge yourself. Trust your instincts. And realize that you do bring something to the table."

Since 1982 women's contributions have been observed in the United States with "Women's History Week," a national celebration that Congress passed with Pub. L. 97-28 authorizing and requesting the president to proclaim it a week in March. In 1987, Congress changed it to a month-long celebration when it passed Pub. L. 100-9 designating March "Women's History Month." For more information on Women's History Month, visit <http://womenshistorymonth.gov/>.

ican Burn Association in 1979, and in 1986, he received a \$10,000 Presidential Rank Award for helping develop a groundbreaking burn cream, Sulfamylon, that inhibits infections in burns.

Dr. Basil A. Pruitt, director and commander at the ISR from 1968 to 1996, said that cream and affiliated antimicrobial applications significantly improved survival rates for burn victims. Mason also was involved in pivotal research on inhalation injuries and the prevention of kidney failure with burn patients, Pruitt said.

Dr. Richard Becker, an endocrinologist who conducted research with Mason and was his personal physician, said Mason had a hand in all the key discoveries at the burn center during his tenure.

Courtesy San Antonio Express News