



THE INNOVATOR

OPTIMIZING COMBAT CASUALTY CARE



JULY 2013

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



Ray Takes Command of USAISR Company

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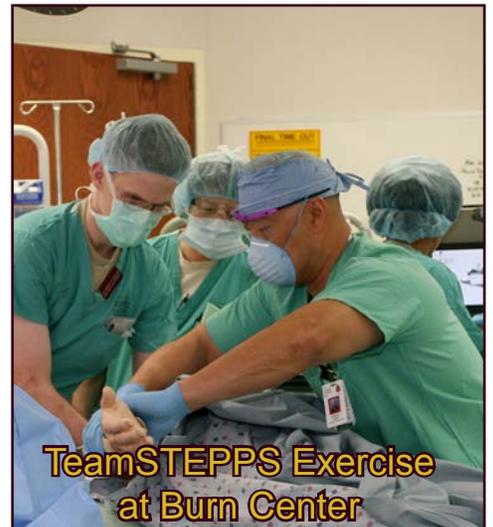
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Scan 2-D code for USAISR web site link

CDR's Corner



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

“Optimizing Combat Casualty Care”

Hello ISR,

The next month is one of our busiest at the ISR and there will be a lot of new places and new faces to get to know. The SAMMC dining facility will be closed for remodeling for the foreseeable future. Your leadership at the ISR and SAMMC has been active in providing alternatives to the DFAC for your meals. If our meal plans are falling short, please let us know so we can make adjustments.

Over the past year, we attained a high level of awareness in suicide prevention and our Sexual Harassment/ Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) programs. Over the summer, there will be many PCS moves that will bring us new ISR team members. It is important that our sponsors have the resources and support of their leaders during the on-boarding process. Our new teammates may



Col. (Dr.) Michael Weber, left, presents Col. (Dr.) Todd Rasmussen with a Meritorious Service Medal at his going-away luncheon June 28. Rasmussen is transferring to the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command where he will serve as the Deputy Director of RAS2 and the Combat Casualty Care Research program.

feel vulnerable as they learn their new work environments and communities. I charge everyone with creating an optimal work environment where we can all achieve our ultimate capabilities.

This month we celebrate our Independence Day July 4. As you enjoy this holiday, please start your plans with an emphasis on safety. Fireworks are very dangerous and must be used under adult supervision. July 9 is the start of Ramadan and its observance is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. If someone at work or in your community is observing Ramadan, consider encouraging them with one of the following: Ramadan Kareem (Noble Ramadan), Ramadan Mubarak (Blessed Ramadan), or Kul ‘am wa enta bi-khair (may every year find you in good health). The fast will be broken August 7 with the celebration Eid al-Fitr.

Texas is going through a heat wave making dehydration an important

consideration for all outdoors events. There are special risks with swimming and boating, make sure your swim plans and float plans are supervised and communicated.

As I think about the sacrifices made by our patriots since the original Independence Day, I think of the sacrifices made by or current military and civil servants. July marks the beginning of our civil servants furlough period. Our civil servants will be uniquely shouldering a burden over the next three months. I want us all to celebrate our civil servants at the next monthly awards ceremony. The ceremony will be held in the 4th floor auditorium of SAMMC on July 31. Let's make sure that everyone attends to demonstrate our great affection for our brothers and sisters who are civil servants.

Thank you all for what you do every day. Hooah!



ARMY MEDICINE
Serving To Heal...Honored To Serve

The Innovator is an authorized publication for members of U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, published under the authority of AR 360-1. Contents are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or the Army. Editorial content is prepared by the ISR Public Affairs Officer. 210-539-5470 or DSN 429-5470

SGM Says



ISR Sergeant Major
Vincent M. Herrington

“Protect and Sustain, Lead From the Front”

We all know that freedom is not free. As we celebrate Independence Day, let us remember the sacrifices of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen. In the following poem, the word Soldier refers to all those who have served in a military uniform. Thank you for your service to our great nation.



An Army Soldier places flags on gravesites at Arlington National Cemetery.

I Am A Soldier

I am a soldier.

My blood permeates the soil of many countries.
I have gasped my last breath on many a desolate stretch of beach. For you...all of you, the children who play in the parks, the mothers who watch over them, the fathers who struggle to sustain them.

There are those here who have belittled and reviled me, who have made a mockery of me and what I stand for.

You, also, have I suffered and died for.
I withstood heat, insects and disease
So the right to dissent would be yours.

I endured the pain and terror of battle and the maiming of my body to ensure that you might worship as you please. I died in agony in order that you, no matter who or what you are, Have the freedom to choose your own destinies.

AND I WOULD DO IT AGAIN
because I believe in the ideals that made this country what it is today... FREE.

I love her with a deep and abiding love that transcends mere physical pain.

I AM A SOLDIER.

Pray that I will always be there, for if I disappear from this country, so will you.

~ Anonymous ~



Ray takes command of USAISR Company

Story and photos by Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research (USAISR) Company welcomed a new commander during a change of command ceremony June 28. Capt. Lashawanna N. Ray assumed command from Capt. Natalie D. Collins who is reporting to the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Texas, to study for a Doctor of Philosophy in Virology.

Col. Michael A. Weber, Commander USAISR, served as the reviewing officer for the ceremony. "This is a beautiful day for a change of command between two of the finest Medical Corps Service officers in the Army," Weber said. "Captain Collins created an outstanding legacy as the company commander. She's a consummate Soldier, scholar and athlete. As the company commander, she aggressively sought ways to improve the value of the Institute and optimized the careers of both military and civilians members."

During her remarks, Collins thanked the USAISR leadership and the Company Soldiers for allowing her the opportunity to lead the company. "I was lucky to have several people reassure me and remind me that command is both a blessing and a burden," said Collins. "You must lead with standards in mind but compassion in heart. You have to ask yourself what is the benefit for the military and for the Soldier."

"There is no other unit like the ISR. Not because of the way we are structured, but because of the bright and professional Soldiers we have. There are no other Soldiers like the ISR Soldiers."

Ray reports from the San Antonio Military Medical Center, where she served as the chief of the Patient Accountability Branch. She thanked the Institute Commander and Company



Top: Col. Michael Weber, Commander USAISR, presents Capt. Lashawanna Ray the USAISR Company guidon during a change of command ceremony June 28.
Right: The newest members of the USAISR family: Capt. Lashawanna N. Ray, center, with husband Ben and daughter Addison.



Soldiers for the opportunity to lead the Company. "As your Commander, I look forward to working with all of you," she said. "First Sergeant Proud, the company's discipline and outstanding dedication to the mission is a direct reflection of your leadership and superior standards."

A graduate of the University of Texas at San Antonio, with a Bachelors of Science in kinesiology, Ray earned her commission through the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps in 2008. Her military experience includes serving as the Treatment Platoon Leader of Charlie Company, 782nd Brigade Support Battalion of the 82nd Airborne Division, XVII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C.; Executive Officer of Char-

lie Company while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; and later the Executive Officer of the 248th Medical Detachment- 44th Medical Brigade, XVII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg.

"Captain Collins, you have lit a torch for other commanders to follow and I promise to carry on your dedication to continue to build this unit to be the one of the best organizations within the Army," said Ray. "One of my mottos has always been simply, 'Be the change.' Team, let's continue to do great work."

Company Notes



First Sergeant
Bradley G. Proud

We would like to welcome new members to the ISR family: Capt. Michael Meissel and wife, who welcomed a daughter, Clara Rose on June 19; Capt. Brandi Ruffo and husband welcomed a daughter, Julia Ann, on June 25; and Capt. Stephanie Kessinger and husband welcomed a son, Henry Kessinger, on June 26. All are doing well.

Congratulations to Sgt. David Trapolsi and Spc. Francisco Rosario for their selection as NCO and Soldier of the Month, respectively, for June. Their photographs will be on display in the company area.

In June we also conducted our NCO and Soldier of the Quarter for 2nd quarter FY13. Sgt. Soohyun Bang was the noncommissioned officer in charge of the three-day competition which entailed a three-mile road march, obstacle course, land navigation, weapons qualification, Army Physical Fitness Test, and an oral board. The winners for the 2nd quarter were Sgt. Jorge Cabriales and Spc. Brian Brown, both from the Burn Center 4E. Congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to all the NCOs and Soldiers who assisted in making the competition successful.

I want to thank and recognize the whole SHARP team and the leaders who ensured we completed the mandatory stand-down training. It was a very quick suspense handed to us, and we would not have completed this without the efforts of the whole team. Thank you all for everything. The training is not meant to be a “check the block” event. We need to ensure that everyone who works at the ISR is treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve. We want to continue to make the news for all the amazing things we accomplish on a daily basis, not for anything less.

On the June 28 we said goodbye to our company commander, Cpt. Natalie Collins, and welcomed Capt. Lashawnna Ray. The ceremony was a great success, and I want to thank Staff Sgt. Hipolito Ramos and all the NCOs who put it together. We will never forget Capt. Collins, as she was a leader who truly cared about everyone within the organization. Capt. Ray, we look forward to working with you and to continue on with the great legacy that Capt. Collins left.



NCO of the Month
Sgt. David Trapolsi



Soldier of the Month
Spc. Francisco Rosario



NCO of the Quarter
Sgt. Jorge Cabriales



Soldier of the Quarter
Spc. Brian Brown



USAISR hosts mathematics, science camp



Justin Nguyen, a GEMS intern at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, compares a bite mark and teeth impression during the crime scene investigation activity June 20.

Story and photos by Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research (USAISR) hosted the Army’s Gains in the Education of Mathematics and Science (GEMS) camp for 23 middle school students (interns) June 17-20 at Joint Base San Antonio—Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Sponsored and funded by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, the USAISR’s parent command, and part of the Army’s Education Outreach Program, GEMS is a laboratory-based camp that provides interns the opportunity to participate in scientific experiments and trains them in basic laboratory skills. The Army developed GEMS to offer summer educational activities for students who have an interest in becoming scientists.

This is the second year that the USAISR has hosted the 4-day GEMS camp since the program began in the

early 1990s at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, D.C. With the help of five college students (near-peer mentors) and two staff coordinators to guide the young interns, the USAISR will host three camps this summer: June 17-20, June 24-27, and July 8-11.

Maj. Alejandro Gonzales and Stephanie Truss, GEMS program coordinators, have worked together for months to prepare for the three sessions. Two weeks before the first session, they met with near-peer lead mentors Capt. Natalie D. Collins and Kimberly Bristow to select activities that would be instructive and exciting for the interns.

“The program has a multidisciplinary educational curriculum where the students get to participate in hands-on activities which include blood typing, suturing, and culminates with a crime scene investigation (CSI) lab,” said Gonzales. “It is a great opportunity for middle school students to experience science in a real laboratory setting.”

According to Truss, “one the goals

“It’s a better experience than I could have hoped for.”

Jonathan Melton
Near-peer Mentor

of GEMS camp is to get students interested in science and math programs as their future careers.”

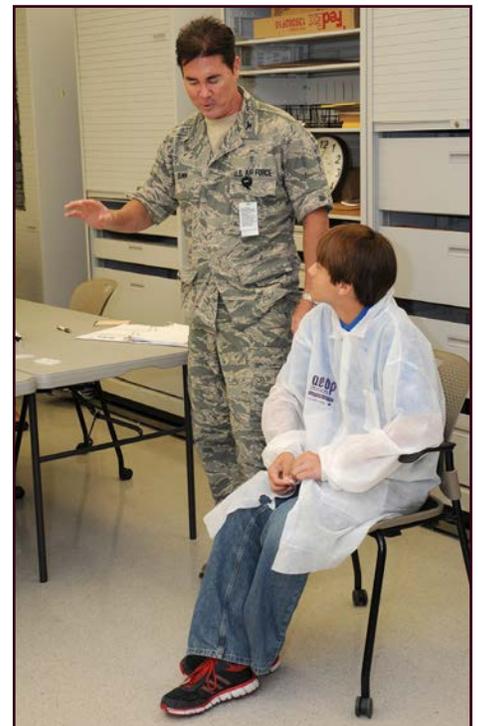
With the assistance of the near-peer instructors, the interns were divided into six groups and each group conducted experiments to learn about electricity, cardiology, blood typing, types of bacteria, DNA, dentistry, and CSI techniques. The small-group structure allows the near-peers to interact one-on-one with the interns to enhance the learning experience.

“The activities are designed to get the students to do some critical thinking,” said Texas State University student and near-peer mentor Vanessa Foster. The radiation therapy major said that

she was impressed with the students’ knowledge. “They are all very smart,” she said. “The activities are very challenging, and they all did a good job of accomplishing them. I’ve had a great time being their instructor.”

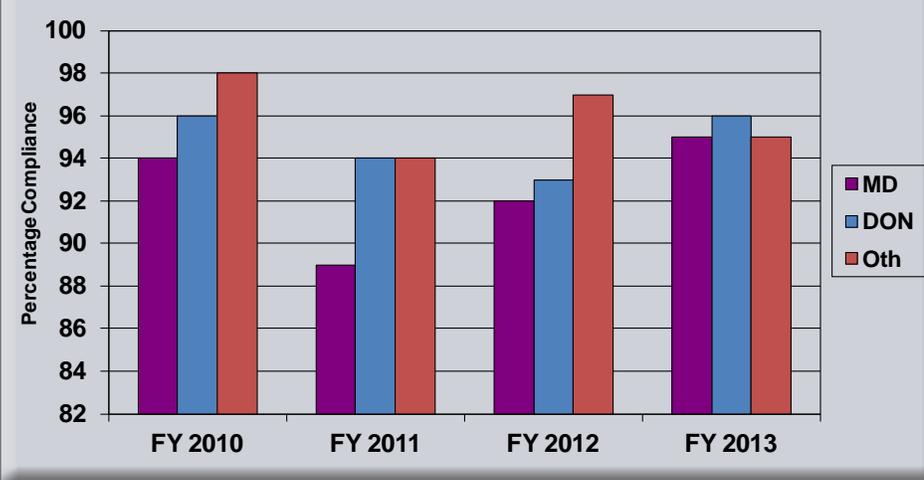
Jonathan Melton, a University of Texas at San Antonio accounting major and near-peer mentor, said he’s learning just as much as the interns in his group. “As an accounting major, I never knew any of this stuff,” he said. “It’s a better experience than I could have hoped for.”

Eighth grade student and GEMS intern Justin Nguyen said that his favorite school subjects are math and science, but he is unsure of what major he wants to pursue when he gets to college. He is now considering majoring in math or science after enjoying some hands-on activities in the GEMS and encourages other students to experience the **GEMS** continued on next page



Col. William J. Dunn, Commander of the Air Force Dental Evaluation and Consultation Service, explains the process of comparing teeth impressions during the CSI session.

Hand Hygiene Compliance



“In keeping with the goal of the Army Education Outreach Program, we hope to offer the Level II program so that we can invite our GEMS Level I alumni back to the ISR and offer them a more challenging program,” said Gonzales.

“This is yet another way that the ISR gives back to the community,” said Truss. “Hopefully this program promotes the desire for them [interns and near-peer mentors] to seek majors in these fields and seek future employment here or other research areas.”

GEMS continued from page 6

camp. “It’s great program,” he said. “A lot of hands-on activities with fantastic instructors. It’s also a great chance to meet new people and learn new things.”

“We don’t do these type activities in school,” said sixth-grade intern Hunter Straiting. “It’s a great camp.”

The plan is for the USAISR to host another GEMS camp (Level I for middle school students) next summer and then host a Level II camp in 2015 for students entering grades 9 through 11.



Top photo: Hunter Straiting views blood samples through a microscope.

Left: Texas State University student and GEMS near-peer mentor Vanessa Foster instructs the interns on the proper procedure for collecting samples for the “Where’s the Dirtiest” exercise.



Burn Center Receives Re-verification



Members of the Verification Committee (left) representing the American Burn Association (ABA) and the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Trauma listens to University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio medical student Sarah Mitchell during Burn Intensive Care Unit rounds May 15.

Story and photo by Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research (USAISR) Burn Center located within the San Antonio Military Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio—Fort Sam Houston, Texas, recently received re-verification by the American Burn Association (ABA) and the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Trauma.

“This achievement is a testament of our commitment to providing the best possible care for our patients and recognition of the enduring value returned on the investments by the Medical Research and Materiel Command and the U.S. Army Medical Command.”

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

“In order to maintain the highest possible standards of healthcare, the center voluntarily requests review and assessment by professional organizations to evaluate its performance,” said Burn Center Director, Col. (Dr.) Evan Renz. “The Verification Committee representing these two national organizations commended the Institute for its commitment to excellence and its commitment to providing quality burn care to its patients.”

The ABA is dedicated to improving the lives of everyone affected by burn injury. With more than 3,500 members worldwide, the ABA and its members dedicate their efforts and resources to promoting and supporting burn-related research, education, care, rehabilitation, and prevention.

The ACS is devoted to developing and implementing meaningful programs for trauma care in local, regional, national, and international arenas

through education, professional development, standards of care, and assessment of outcomes.

As the sole burn center for the Department of Defense, the USAISR Burn Center is one of the Nation’s largest, with approximately 800 annual admissions. It is also one of approximately 60 centers in the United States to receive verification by these prestigious organizations.

“Achievement of this distinction is a reflection of the enduring commitment to excellence,” said Renz. “The multidisciplinary team at the Burn Center is committed to providing the highest quality healthcare for its beneficiaries.”

Since 2003, the Burn Center has cared for more than 975 wounded warriors evacuated from Iraq and Afghanistan and more than 3,000 civilian emergency patients from the South Central Texas region. The Burn Center employs approximately 300 staff members (Army, civil service, and contractors) with multiple critical burn care skills. The USAISR is a subordinate command of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC). The mission to “optimize combat casualty care” is accomplished by conducting science and clinical research in the fields of damage control resuscitation, hemostasis, engineering, and tissue regeneration affecting combat casualties, to include burns.

“General Carvalho [USAMRMC Commander, Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Joseph Carvalho Jr.] and I are extremely proud of the re-verification,” said USAISR Commander, Col. (Dr.) Michael A. Weber. “This achievement is a testament of our commitment to providing the best possible care for our patients and recognition of the enduring value returned on the investments by the Medical Research and Materiel Command and the U.S. Army Medical Command.”

Burn Center uses Burn Navigator for burn resuscitation



Capt. Danielle Schaaf, a staff nurse at the USAISR Burn Center Intensive Care Unit (BICU), was one of the first staff members to use the Burn Navigator once implemented at the BICU.

Story and photo by Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research (USAISR) Burn Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston implemented the Burn Navigator or Burn Resuscitation Decision Support System (BRDSS)-Mobile, approved by the Food and Drug Administration, as part of the Burn Intensive Care Unit (BICU) resuscitation regimen.

According to USAISR Research Task Area Program Manager for Comprehensive Intensive Care Research Jose

Salinas, Ph.D, who helped develop the BRDSS algorithm which generates recommendations of fluid intake for burn patients, the Burn Navigator is designed to assist in avoiding problems related to over- or under-resuscitating by medical care providers who do not routinely care for burn patients.

“If you give a patient too much or too little fluid, the results can be fatal,” explained Salinas, describing the complex care necessary for burn patients who are often dehydrated and require precise rehydration.

Though the Burn Navigator was designed for use in a deployed setting by non-burn experienced care providers at combat support hospitals, the BICU staff will

utilize it with civilian patients admitted from the Southcentral Texas region. Capt. Danielle Schaaf, a staff nurse at the BICU, believes that the Burn Navigator will increase better patient outcomes. “The fluid resuscitation process happens within the first 48 to 72 hours,” she said. “This device will guide them [care providers] in the decision-making process as they begin to fluid-resuscitate a burn patient, and that will result in better outcomes down the road.”

Schaaf said that the advantages of

using the light-weight portable device are numerous. “But most importantly it helps to increase communication between the nursing staff and the physicians,” she added.

The software in the Burn Navigator meets military specifications and is expected to be deployed soon to combat support hospitals.

The Burn Navigator technology was licensed to Arcos Medical, Inc., of Houston, which worked with the USAISR to manufacture it with funding from the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) at Fort Detrick, Md. The USAISR is a subordinate research command of USAMRMC, which 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 like the USAISR and extramurally.

Companies such as Arcos, Inc., produce commercial devices, including the Burn Navigator, for use by the Army and at civilian burn centers throughout the world.



Burn Navigator

July Health News

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



Summer is here! Most of us will spend more time outside during the summer months and plan a vacation outdoors.

According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, more than one million new skin cancers are diagnosed each year; that's more than all the new annual cases of breast, prostate, lung, and colon cancer combined. An estimated 3,170 deaths from non-melanoma skin cancers will occur in the U.S. in 2013, and an estimated 9,480 people will die of melanoma in 2013. Close to 90 percent of melanomas can be attributed to exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation emitted by the sun and tanning beds.

So it's important to know what to look for:

- Moles with any of the following characteristics:
 - Irregular borders
 - Asymmetric shapes
 - Variable colors
 - Grow bigger than a pencil eraser
- Sores that bleed and do not heal or are itchy or painful
- Red patches, lumps, or new moles

As with any potential cancer, it's important to know what you can do to reduce your chances of developing it. In the case of skin cancer, protecting yourself from the sun's damaging UV rays is recommended as your best protection.

Teach your children the importance of sun safety measures, including seeking the shade, scheduling outdoor activities before 10 AM or after 4 PM,

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In the Spotlight

Ana M. Rodriguez & Rachael Vinson



Rodriguez
Job title: Medical Clerk, Burn Out-patient Clinic

How long have you worked at the ISR? 9 years

What or who has been an inspiration to you in your work? The people working here at the Burn Center for all the dedication and time they put into care for the burn patients.

What is your favorite part of your job? Seeing the patients heal and continue with their lives and also learning about the research that's done at the ISR, it is very interesting.

Your proudest achievement? Being able to survive on my own and caring for my children.

Short- and long-term goals: Travel

Hobbies: Sewing, cooking, gardening, and handcrafts

Favorite book: *La Vida es Sueño (Life is a Dream)* by Pedro Calderon de la Barca

Favorite movie/TV show: *Star Wars/NCIS*

Favorite quote: "Don't do unto others what you don't want others to do unto you." Confucius

Vinson
Job title: Medical Clerk, Burn Rehab Center

How long have you worked at the ISR? 3 years 6 months

What or who has been an inspiration to you in your work? I enjoy assisting patients with their needs. Just being able help others is gratifying to me. Our patients inspire me by just seeing them persevere while having a positive outlook on life in spite of the issues they're having to deal with.

What is your favorite part of your job? Observing how well our patients progress from the first day they start rehab.

Your proudest achievement? My two teenagers applying "some" of what they've learned from our teaching and constantly preaching. I'm very proud of both of them.

Short- and long-term goals: Short-term: Focusing on my children and preparing them for college. For myself, pursuing a college degree and gaining more knowledge for our kennel/breeding business. Long-term: expanding and committing myself full-time.

Hobbies: Going to Starbucks, SPCA outings, and shopping.

Favorite book: *Matters of the Heart* by Danielle Steel

Favorite movie/TV show: *Men of Honor/Law and Order (SVU)*

Favorite quote: "Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never ever have enough."

Safety Notes

By Stephanie L. Truss
Health, Safety and Environmental Specialist



Sun Safety

With one in five Americans developing skin cancer, childhood education about sun safety is a vital step toward reducing risk and improving public health. Overexposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays seriously threatens human health. Besides the immediate effect of sunburn, over time excess UV radiation can cause skin cancer, eye damage, immune system suppression, and premature aging. About 23 percent of lifetime sun exposure occurs before the age of 18. Learning about sun safety and dangers of sunbeds is the key to reducing the risk of future health problems.

Water Safety

According to NSC Injury Facts, 3,858 people died in 2008 due to drowning, including swimming and water transport accidents. More than one in five drowning victims are children 14 years old and younger; and for every child who dies from drowning, another four receive emergency department care for nonfatal submersion injuries. Most drowning and near-drowning incidents happen when a child falls into a pool or is left alone in the bathtub.

Surviving the Hot Weather

Heat illness includes a range of disorders that result when your body is exposed to more heat than it can handle. Anybody not accustomed to hot weather is at risk of suffering from heatstroke (the most serious and life-threatening heat-related illness) as well as heat ex-

haustion and heat cramps.

Impaired Driving

In 2010, there were 10,228 deaths in crashes involving a driver with a BAC of .08 or higher – 31 percent of all traffic fatalities for the year. While it is illegal to drive with a .08 blood alcohol concentration in all 50 states, driving ability can be impaired below the legal limit too. If you are drinking, do not drive. If you plan to drink, designate a non-drinking driver.

Fireworks Safety

Summer brings picnics, barbecues, parades and fireworks displays, especially around the 4th of July. Summer also brings an increase in injuries from backyard grills, bonfires and fireworks. In 2010, fireworks caused an estimated 15,500 reported fires, including 1,100 structure fires. These fires resulted in an estimated 8,600 people treated in emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries, 39 percent of whom were under 15 years of age.



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covering up with clothing, and using SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum sunscreen for extended stays outdoors.

This summer, when you shop for sunscreen, look for the new FDA labeling. You should also look for The Skin Cancer Foundation's Seal of Recommendation. This seal is granted only to products that have been reviewed and meet the criteria of an independent photobiology committee. The seal is a respected symbol of safe and effective sun protection and can be found on close to 450 different sunscreens worldwide.

In 2011, the FDA issued its long-awaited "Final Rules" for sunscreen labeling, to aid consumers to identify sunscreens offering high-quality protection from the sun's harmful UV radiation. These rules went into effect in December 2012, and this year marks the first summer they are in effect for all major US manufacturers. With the new FDA rules, only sunscreens with an SPF of 15+ and comparable UVA protection may be considered effective broad-spectrum products. These sunscreens can state on labels or in pack-

aging: "If used as directed with other sun protection measures, [this product] decreases the risk of skin cancer and early signs of aging caused by the sun." Sunscreens that do not adequately protect against both UVA and UVB radiation, and/or have an SPF of less than 15 will have to state that they "have been shown only to help prevent sunburn, not skin cancer or early skin aging."

However, sunscreen alone is not enough: Avoid, Protect, and Examine are steps that correlates with a lower incidence of skin cancer.

In addition to discussing sun protection with your children, practice it yourself. Also discuss sun protection strategies with babysitters, camp counselors, athletic coaches, older siblings, family and friends. The more people you involve, the more you will spread the sun protection message, ensuring sun safety all day, every day, all summer long!

Read a full list of The Skin Cancer Foundation's prevention guidelines at <http://www.skincancer.org/prevention/sun-protection/prevention-guidelines>.

Have a safe and happy summer!

Happy 238th Birthday U.S. Army



photo by Ricardo Anzaldúa

Col. Michael A. Weber, USAISR Commander, and Pfc. Rodgers cut a cake to celebrate the Army's 238th birthday June 14.

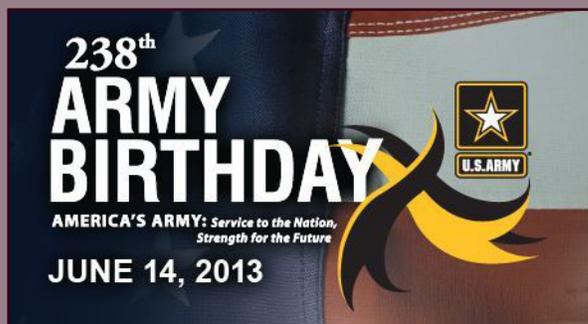
A message from the U.S. Army Surgeon General and Commander, U.S. Army Medical Command

Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho

Dear Army Medicine Team:

Today, our Army celebrates more than two hundred years of personal sacrifice, commitment and selfless service to our country. CSM Brock and I extend our best wishes to each and every one of you and wish you a happy 238th birthday. We never cease to be amazed at the adaptability, moral character, commitment and competence of our Soldiers and the dedicated service of our Army Civilians. We thank you all for being part of the Army team and wish you continued success as the Army continues its transformation from a healthcare system to a system for health.

Serving to Heal...Honored to Serve!



Johnson Earns AAO Achievement Award



By Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

Col. (Dr.) Anthony J. Johnson, U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Task Manager for Ocular Trauma, was recently informed that he is a recipient of the American Academy of Ophthalmology's (AAO) Achievement Award. The award recognizes individuals for their contributions to the AAO on a point system based on their contributions and participation in the Academy's annual meetings, scientific and poster presentations, papers, or other areas of service to the Academy.

With more than 32,000 members worldwide, the AAO is the largest national membership association of eye M.D.s devoted to advancing the life-long learning and professional interests of ophthalmologists to guarantee that everyone around the world gets the best possible eye care.

"I think it is quite an honor," said Johnson. "I only know of one other military ophthalmologist who has received the award."

Throughout the last few years, Johnson has sponsored courses, presented research posters, and has given talks on his research. His contributions will be highlighted during the Academy's annual meeting.

"The award winners' photos will be posted in the Academy magazine for the international meeting," he said. "So it is an opportunity to show that military ophthalmology is making significant contributions to the specialty."

Burn Center holds three-day TeamSTEPPS exercise

By Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

Improving patient safety, teamwork, and daily processes, those were the goals of a three-day Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety (TeamSTEPPS) exercise held at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research (USAISR) Burn Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston June 18-20. The TeamSTEPPS exercise evolved around the Burn Center's perioperative [care given before, during, and after surgery] system.

"The purpose of the exercise was to look at how we move a patient through the perioperative system and look at what tools we use every day, because there are specific tools that we teach in TeamSTEPPS that have scientifically been shown to improve safety, to improve job satisfaction and communication," said Lt. Col. Paul B. Mittelsteadt, Burn Center Chief of Nurses, TeamSTEPPS master trainer and exercise coordinator.

Mittelsteadt coordinated the exercise with staff members from the U.S. Army Medicine Command TeamSTEPPS Surgical Services and the San Antonio Military Medical Center simulation department. Mittelsteadt explained that TeamSTEPPS is a systematic approach developed by the Department of Defense and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to integrate teamwork into practice, which is designed to improve the quality, safety and efficiency of healthcare.

"What we elected to do was to use the TeamSTEPPS principles to move a simulated patient through the outpatient burn clinic for a same-day surgery procedure," said Mittelsteadt. "The beauty of this exercise is that everyone [preoperative, intraoperative and postop-



Anesthesia resident Capt. Andrew Feldman and Assistant Head Nurse of the Burn Center Operating Room, Eddie Alberto, move a surgical patient (a high-fidelity manikin patient simulator) from his bed to the operation table during the TeamSTEPPS exercise June 19.

erative staff] was able to experience the entire process same-day surgery from admission to discharge, something that doesn't happen on a daily basis."

Day 1 of the exercise consisted of identifying the exercise trainers—staff member from each area to assist in designing the simulated-exercise and to coach/mentor the other staff members. The Day 2 was the hands-on portion of the exercise. The volunteer patient was admitted and prepped for the surgery. As the exercise progressed and moved into the operating room, a high-fidelity manikin patient simulator was used to complete the complex problem-solving training.

"After the surgery was over, we moved the patient into the postoperative area and looked at some potential issues that could occur there," Mittelsteadt said. "In every area, the trainers were able to teach, coach and mentor on how to use

the TeamSTEPPS tools to deconflict issues, make things more efficient, and to keep the patient safe, which is what TeamSTEPPS exists for."

Day 3 was used to look back at the exercise and see how it affects and impacts patients. The staff went to their respective areas and worked with actual patients in the morning and looked at how their process relates to TeamSTEPPS.

"We came back in the afternoon and put together a plan on how to sustain TeamSTEPPS in the Burn Center and at the Institute based on what we learned," said Mittelsteadt. "TeamSTEPPS is a great program. It's not just something that can be used in hospitals. It's a way of living. We implemented it here almost two years ago and we have great leadership support. I'm a firm believer in TeamSTEPPS because bottom line, it saves lives."

Around the ISR



Top left: Staff Sgt. Juan Villegas cuts his birthday cake June 4.

Top right: Supporting the San Antonio Spurs--Connie Frias, Michelle Bernier-Reveron, and Marissa Rodriguez.

Center right: Lt. Col. Paul Mittelsteadt gives a tour of the Burn Center to members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart June 13.

Bottom right: Staff Sgt. Joseph Holtz demonstrates some of the dangers in a typical backyard during the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Safety Day June 11.

Bottom left: Capt. Natalie Collins presents newly promoted Sgt. Micah Korff with his Certificate of Promotion June 18.

Around the ISR, continued



Top left: Members of the most recent Joint Combat Casualty Research Team take time during their training to pose for a photo June 28.
Top right: David Baer, Ph.D., Director of the Research Directorate, is presented with a birthday gift June 19.
Bottom right: Staff Sgt. Mike Calaway is interviewed by NCO Journal reporter Meghan Portillo June 26 for an upcoming print story about burn rehab.
Bottom left: Capt. Natalie Collins, right, is presented with a gift at her going-away luncheon June 27 by Lt. Col. Booker King and Lt. Col. Sandra Escola.
Center left: Sgt. Khanesha Murrell promotes Jacqueline Mason to Sergeant June 7.



Back When...



Can you guess who this ISR staff member is? This photo was taken in Hohenfels, Germany, in 1977 when he was a Spc. and an armored personnel carrier driver with the Mechanized Infantry.

Last Month's Answer:



Gary W. Muniz
Tactical Combat Casualty
Care Research

Library News

By Gerri Trumbo
Library Manager



The new literature search requests forms are now on our intranet page under Forms and Publications. Please DO NOT use any other form except these two so we can comply with required searches, IACUC policies, and protocol submission policies.

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The library also maintains a print collection of reprints. If you would like an original reprint of some of the older papers, please stop in and we'll see if it's available.

All authors should send a copy of newly published papers to the library for inclusion on the J drive. Please note that we accept first-author papers only to control filing space.

We would also like to make you aware of the electronic book collections available both on the AMEDD Medli-net database and on the My Library AKO site. The Medli-net collection is basically medical and pre-clinical textbooks. The AKO offerings are a little of everything, much like a public library. You can "check out" the books electronically and read from your computer.

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June Awards Ceremony

Meritorious Service Medal

Military Outstanding
Volunteer Service Medal

- Col. Leopoldo Cancio
- Lt. Col. Booker King
- Staff Sgt. Juan Villegas

- Sgt. Mary Alvarez
- Sgt. Joseph Lewis
- Sgt. Cedric Mason

Army Commendation Medal

Certificate of Achievement

- Sgt. 1st Class Michael Popa
- Sgt. Mary Alvarez x2
- Spc. Belinda Becoat-Rogers

- Sgt. Soohyun Bang
- Sgt. Mackneil Ramos

Army Achievement Medal

Commander's Coin

- Staff Sgt. Tiffany Baldwin
- Staff Sgt. Juan Villegas
- Staff Sgt. Tirana Ward
- Sgt. Khanesha Murrell
- Sgt. Antoniette Pierce
- Sgt. Jaime Torres-Mendoza
- Sgt. Alfredo Villareal
- Spc. Edwin Demars
- Spc. Eunjoo Kim
- Spc. Yong Lee

- Maj. Drexel Forbes
- Master Sgt. Jon Gran
- Sgt. 1st Class Hugo Roman
- Staff Sgt. Hipolito Ramos
- Sgt Michael Cavallo
- Sgt. Joseph Lewis
- Sgt. Olarewaju Magreola
- Cpl. Jamar Williams