



# THE INNOVATOR

OPTIMIZING COMBAT CASUALTY CARE



MARCH 2013

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



## Burn Flight Team Sets Record

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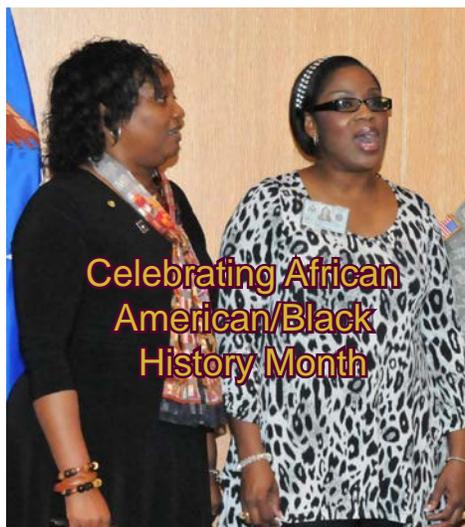
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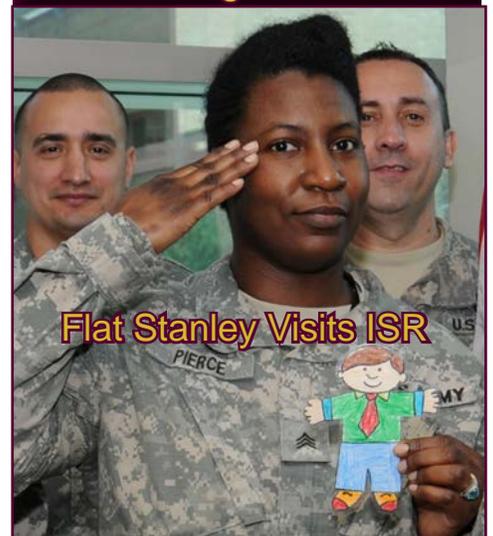
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Celebrating African American/Black History Month

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Flat Stanley Visits ISR

# CDR's Corner



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

## “Optimizing Combat Casualty Care”

Hello ISR,

There is a lot going on during the month of March that will fill us with uncertainty and opportunities for celebration.

As of the writing of this article, I do not know the results of the looming sequestration action. Your leadership, from the President to your Task Area Managers, understands the value that is created by all the members of our team: military, civil servants, and contractors. The unique capabilities that the ISR delivers every day are our best testimony of our stewardship of our Nation's resources. The Burn Flight Team just completed a record-setting mission, and everyone at the ISR can take pride in contributing to the success of this mission. Brig. Gen. (P) Joseph Carvalho created several sequestration video updates that are of high quality and transparency. The

updates may be viewed on the USAM-RMC website at <https://mrmc.amedd.army.mil/index.cfm>.

March brings many opportunities for celebration, starting with National Women's History Month. We are lucky to live in a time of historic opportunities for women to contribute to business and government at all levels. I look forward to the ISR's recognition program.

National Dentist Day is March 6. Please help our directorate Dental & Trauma Research Detachment feel our appreciation for what they do individually and collectively. On March 7, the ISR will host the Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute Innovation Day. The intent of this program is to showcase the incredible work that ISR, NAMRU-SA, and DECS perform for our community stakeholders.

The Ides of March is as always on the 15th and serves as a good milestone for Federal income tax filing in April. St. Patrick's Day is on March 17.

Please plan your celebrations to make sure you are ready for work on Monday the 18th. NCAA March Madness starts on March 19. Each year, President Obama has an open invitation for people to compete against his picks in the President Obama's Bracket Challenge. Check out his website if you want to register and compete to earn serious bragging rights. Doctor's Day is on March 30, and I will take the opportunity now to thank all our doctors for the contributions they make and the sacrifices their families make each day. The month closes with two very significant religious holidays: Passover on March 25 and Easter on the 30th.

During this time of uncertainty, ensure you make investments to maintain balance in your personal, family, and spiritual life. Maintaining balance and increasing the value of your relationships will make you more resilient during these uncertain times.

Thank you for all that you do.  
Hooah!



Col. Michael A. Weber welcomes U.S. Senator Ted Cruz to the Burn Center February 19.



# 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”

On February 21, the USAISR observed African American/Black History Month to celebrate two landmark anniversaries in American history with the theme, “At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington.”

I would like to share the theme and some of the words from President Barack Obama’s 2013 proclamation.

Here at the ISR, we are following in those footsteps toward a better future, especially for our combat-wounded. Our institute comprises many African Americans—both military and civilian—who contribute to its success. On the road to continued success, let us also remember Booker T. Washington’s words: “. . . success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.” Our combat-wounded rely on our successes to improve their quality of life.

Thanks to our Equal Opportunity Team, led by Sgt. Arteshia Alston, for a great program.

Lastly, congratulations to Staff Sgts. Joseph Holtz and Angela Madoux on their reenlistments in February and welcome back Sgt. Shanelle McNair.



Sgt. Maj. Vincent Herrington welcomes Sgt. Shanell McNair from deployment February 8.

#### **President Obama’s 2013 Proclamation:**

“In America, we share a dream that lies at the heart of our founding: that no matter who you are, no matter what you look like, no matter how modest your beginnings or the circumstances of your birth, you can make it if you try. Yet, for many and for much of our Nation’s history, that dream has gone unfulfilled. For African Americans, it was a dream denied until 150 years ago, when a great emancipator called for the end of slavery. It was a dream deferred less than 50 years ago, when a preacher spoke of justice and brotherhood from Lincoln’s memorial. This dream of equality and fairness has never come easily — but it has always been sustained by the belief that in America, change is possible.

“Today, because of that hope, coupled with the hard and painstaking labor of Americans sung and unsung, we live in a moment when the dream of equal opportunity is within reach for people of every color and creed. National African American History Month is a time to tell those stories of freedom won and honor the individuals who wrote them. We look back to the men and women who helped raise the pillars of democracy, even when the halls they built were not theirs to occupy. We trace generations of African Americans, free and slave, who risked everything to realize their God-given rights. We listen to the echoes of speeches and struggle that made our Nation stronger, and we hear again the thousands who sat in, stood up, and called out for equal treatment under the law. And we see yesterday’s visionaries in tomorrow’s leaders, reminding us that while we have yet to reach the mountaintop, we cannot stop climbing.

“Today, Dr. King, President Lincoln, and other shapers of our American story proudly watch over our National Mall. But as we memorialize their extraordinary acts in statues and stone, let us not lose sight of the enduring truth that they were citizens first. They spoke and marched and toiled and bled shoulder-to-shoulder with ordinary people who burned with the same hope for a brighter day. That legacy is shared; that spirit is American. And just as it guided us forward 150 years ago and 50 years ago, it guides us forward today. So let us honor those who came before by striving toward their example, and let us follow in their footsteps toward the better future that is ours to claim.”

Barack Obama, President of the United States of America

# Burn Flight Team Completes Record-Breaking Mission



Staff Sgt. Daniel J. Nelson and Cpt. Michael Campbell, center, prepare to transport the patient with the assistance of medical personnel from Singapore General Hospital to an Air Force C-17 aircraft for the flight to San Antonio. Photos by Staff Sgt. Seth B. Holland

By Steven Galvan  
ISR Public Affairs Officer

For more than 60 years, the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research (ISR) Burn Center at Joint Base San Antonio, Fort Sam Houston, Texas has provided specialized medical response through its Burn Flight Team (BFT), to deploy and transport burn and critically injured patients throughout the world to the ISR Burn Center for definitive care. On February 22, the team set a new record for the longest continuous flight by flying for 19 hours on a non-stop flight from Singapore to San Antonio and traveling more than 9,850 miles, surpassing its previous longest flight by more than 3,000 miles.

Since its inception in 1952, the BFT has been able to deploy its five-person teams year-round within hours of no-

tification of a mission. The specialized team is normally composed of a burn surgeon specialized in critical care, a critical care registered nurse, a licensed vocational nurse, respiratory therapist, and an operations non-commissioned officer. The team usually departs from the San Antonio International Airport on a commercial flight with all the specialized critical care equipment necessary to transport one or more patients on an Air Force C-17 configured for patient care en route to San Antonio.

For the last decade, the BFT has conducted almost 100 missions between Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany and transported more than 350 patients injured in Afghanistan and Iraq. The recent mission to Singapore provided unique challenges for the team as they transferred the patient from the hospital

to the aircraft and on to San Antonio. According to Lt. Col. (Dr.) Booker T. King, Team Leader and Burn Center Deputy Director, the mission went precisely according to plan with a combined effort from all the branches of the U.S. military, the International SOS organization, and the TRICARE Pacific Area office.

“The success of the mission relied on all these agencies working together in order to coordinate multiple aspects of the transfer beyond that which we normally experience when flying in and out of Germany,” said King.

In order to make this mission a success, Army team members synchronized their efforts with the Marines on the ground; with the Air Force for the transport aircraft, the Navy for ground transportation and storage of the

***BFT continued on page 6***

## Company Notes



Company Commander  
Capt. Natalie D. Collins

We are excited to welcome back Maj. Ian Driscoll and Sgt. Shanelle McNair and from their tours in Afghanistan. They will return to the team shortly, after some much needed rest and relaxation. We would also like to say good luck and Godspeed to Maj. Wylan Peterson who left this month for a year-long deployment.

We would like to welcome Mason Eli to the ISR family. Sgt. James McAlister and family welcomed him February 23, weighing 6 lb 10 oz. Baby and mother are doing fine.

The Special Events Committee will be hosting an Egg'stravaganza April 23 from 1400 to 1600 at the Fisher House. There will be sweets, games, and activities. The committee has proven many times that they put on great events, so do not miss out on a day of fun for the whole family.

We would like for everyone to congratulate the winners of the Soldier and NCO of the Month competition. March winners were Sgt. Wilfred Alvarez and Spc. David Lyons; their photographs will be on display in the company area. Congratulations are also in order for Sgt. Brandon Bock on his recent promotion.

We will be making changes in coordinating our equal opportunity observances. As of next month the ISR will partner with the San Antonio

Military Medical Center (SAMMC) in conducting and celebrating diversity via observances. March is Women's History Month and will be hosted by our EO team. The observance is March 15

at 1100-1200 in the SAMMC Medical Mall. I expect each member of ISR to participate in each observance whether hosted by our EO team or not.



First Sgt. Bradley G. Proud, right, promotes Brandon Bock to Sergeant February 4 at the Burn Center.

## February NCO & Soldier of the Month



Sgt. Wilfred Alvarez



Spc. David Lyons

## **BFT continued from page 4**

equipment in Singapore; and the ISOS and TRICARE for the care management and transfer of the patient from the hospital to the aircraft.

“The success of the recent Burn Flight Team mission to Singapore exemplifies the dedication of military professionals demonstrating limitless commitment to care for their brothers and sisters in arms,” said ISR Burn Center Director, Col. (Dr.) Evan Renz. “It also reflects the collaborative efforts of a tri-service team whose skills have been honed over a decade of combat support.”

As with all transport missions, highly trained personnel and specialized equipment are used to stabilize the patient for the long flight home. Both Air Force Critical Care

## **BFT continued on page 8**



Burn Flight Team members, left to right, Capt. Michael Campbell, Lt. Col.(P) Booker T. King, Sgt. Nikenson Penette, and Staff Sgt. Daniel Nelson monitor the patient on the flight from Singapore to San Antonio.

## Help Reduce Our Utility Bill

The Department of Defense has been undertaking an aggressive campaign to mitigate its effects on the environment by mandating energy-intensity reduction and renewable-power generation on its many installations. These range from photovoltaic panels for solar power to gray-water recycling and reuse systems.

But what can you do here at the ISR to assist in reducing utility costs while simultaneously lowering the yearly carbon emissions? Here are some simple but effective ways to help us reduce our utility bill:

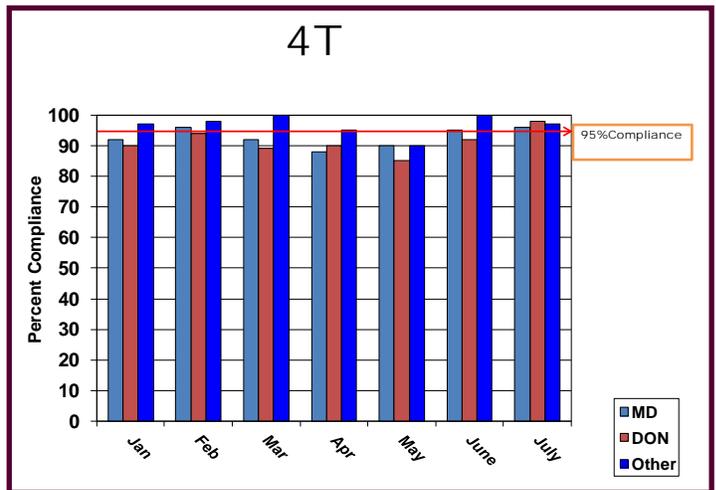
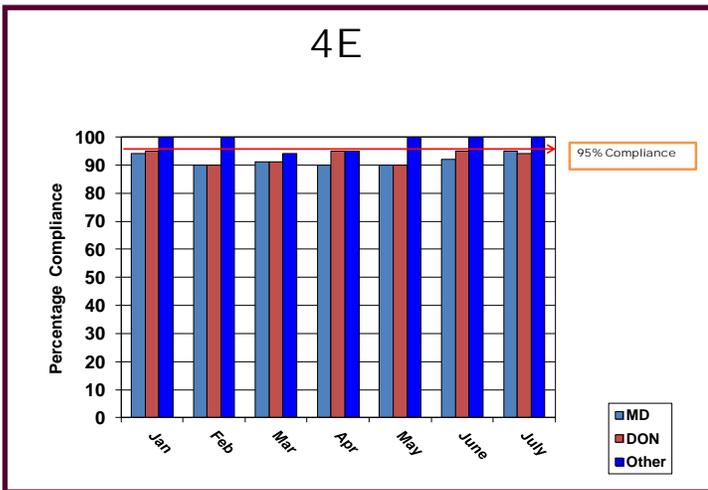
### **Office equipment**

- To conserve energy and reduce internal heat gain, turn off computers monitors, printers, and copiers during non-business hours.
- Ensure that your screen saver is compatible with the computer's power management features, and that the setup allows the system to go into power-save mode.
- Install plug load controllers in cubicles to control multiple loads like monitors, task lights and fans. These devices use a motion sensor that is incorporated with a plug load surge suppressor. Inactive equipment can be shut down when the cubicle is unoccupied.

### **Lighting**

- Turn off lights when not needed. For example, turning off fluorescent lights saves energy, extends overall lamp life, and reduces replacement costs. Myth: Turning lights on and off uses more electricity than leaving the lights on.
- Request a replacement of inefficient, outdated, or excessive lighting within your office space.
- Where practical, replace incandescent lamps with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs).
- Replace incandescent “EXIT” signs with LED signs. LEDs use about one-tenth the wattage and last 50 times longer than incandescent-lamp signs.
- Take advantage of natural daylight: turn off or dim electric lighting when adequate sunlight is available to illuminate interior space.
- Report any outdoor lighting on during daytime.

# Hand Hygiene Compliance



## Library News

By Gerri Trumbo  
Library Manager  
Technical  
Information  
Specialist



We have had a busy first quarter at the ISR Library. All subscriptions have been renewed. We have added 4 new titles and deleted 5, which had little or no usage. Online access is still available for 4 out of the 5 deleted titles.

**New Journal Titles:**

- ILAR Journal (print and online)
- JAVMA
- Journal of Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care
- Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine

**Deletions:**

- Chaos
- Current Opinion in Anesthesiology (Online available – LEAP, OVID)
- Journal of the American Statistical Association (Online available – 1989-2004 LEAP)
- Journal of Bacteriology (Online available – LEAP, PMC, Highwire)

Journal of Trauma Nursing (Online available – LEAP, OVID, EBSCO)

We would like to remind you to register at the library to assure you are able to access all of our services, including gaining a MyAthens account. A MyAthens account will give you electronic access on any computer using your username/password. That means you can access the library online services on TDY, at home, or anywhere else.

Another handy habit is to use the PubMed LinkOUT service available on both LEAP and MyAthens. By accessing PubMed through the library links you can get directly to the full text to print, save or read. Briefly, it works like this. Choose PubMed LinkOUT from our LEAP or from MyAthens. Search as you normally do. When the citation appears look up in the right hand corner for the MRMC symbol like this one:



Follow that link to retrieve full text. There is a printable FAQ on the LEAP home page that answers most questions on the PubMedLinkOUT feature.

Finally, we would like to mention that there is a best practice to order articles from the ISR Library Interlibrary Loan. You should use PubMed or OVID or Web of Science to do your basic searching. You should NOT send us printouts from the publisher, Google, or anything that does not contain a citation that is properly composed. You should always provide the PMID (PubMed Identifier) or the DOI if it is available.

We may be forced to return ILL requests that are not sent as a proper citation. This means author, title, volume, issue, and pagination MUST be present. We do NOT need the abstract. We do NOT need publisher's ads, comments, or anything other than the short citation as described above.

We have PubMed brochures and online tutorials on our intranet home page. We need you to help save time and effort and your articles will get to you much quicker.

As always, we thank you for using the ISR Library.

## **BFT continued from page 6**

Air Transport Teams (CCATT) and BFT can be utilized to transport burn casualties.

“Many burn patients are transported by CCATT,” said King. “We are usually involved with patients who sustain burns over 40 percent of their body or those with inhalation injuries.” King also explained that the BFT is ideally suited to care for casualties with complex traumatic injuries—such as those with a combination of burns, amputations, chest, abdominal and head injuries.

The six team members on the Singapore mission were King; Cpt. Michael A. Campbell, a critical care nurse; two licensed vocational nurses—Sgts. Macneil Ramos and Nikenson Pennette; and two respiratory therapists—Staff Sgts. Seth B. Holland and Daniel J. Nelson.

“Everyone on this team has to be proficient with their job,” King said. “Also, it’s not uncommon for a team member, for example a respiratory technician to assist the nurse and help with wound care while we are mid-air. We all work as a team for the benefit of

the patient.”

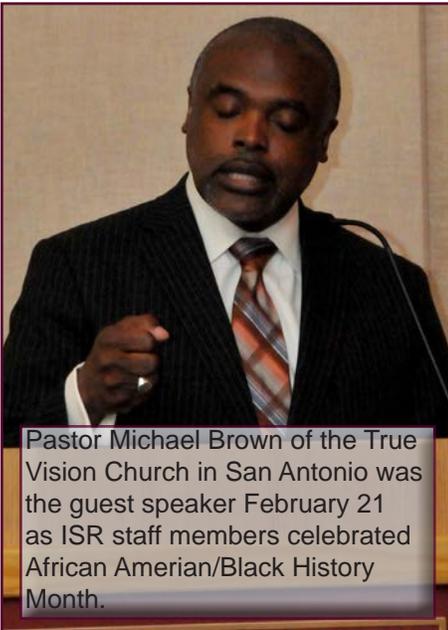
Not all Soldiers assigned to the Burn Center will become members of the BFT. Before anyone is selected to be a member of the team they have to work on the burn ward for many months and be selected from among their peers. “And successfully complete Air Force CCATT training,” said Holland, who has been with the BFT for more than a year.

Once a mission is complete the BFT members immediately prepare for the next one and stand ready to live up to their motto “Anytime, Anywhere.”



Burn Flight Team members Lt. Col. (Dr.) Booker T. King, Team Leader and Burn Center Deputy Director; Cpt. Michael A. Campbell, a critical care nurse; licensed vocational nurses—Sgts. Macneil Ramos and Nikenson Pennette; and respiratory therapists—Staff Sgts. Seth B. Holland and Daniel J. Nelson, with staff members of the Singapore General Hospital Burn Center February 22.

## ISR Celebrates African American/Black History Month



Pastor Michael Brown of the True Vision Church in San Antonio was the guest speaker February 21 as ISR staff members celebrated African American/Black History Month.

The following speech was delivered by Pastor Michael Brown during the ISR African American/Black History Month celebration February 21.

"It has been said of public speaking, 'a good speech consists of a good beginning and a good ending, preferably close together.' So it is my desire to share with you brief but important words today during this Black History Observance program.

Dr. King said in his last speech *I've Been to the Mountaintop*, 'It's alright to talk about long white robes over in yonder,' in all of its symbolism. But ultimately people want some suits, dresses and shoes to wear down here. It's alright to talk about 'streets flowing with milk and honey,' but God has commanded us to be concerned about the slums down here, and his children who can't eat three square meals a day. It's alright to talk about the new Jerusalem, but one day, God's preacher must talk about the new New York, the new Atlanta, the new Philadelphia, the new Los Angeles, the new Memphis, Tennessee. This is what we have to do."

And I believe the same sentiment Dr. King shared in 1968 still exists

today and consequently has brought us together even now. Some of us understand that though we have made great strides in this country to live peaceably and tolerantly as a culturally diverse people and while we have experienced some gains in our fight for gender and racial equality we still have a way to go. We have a great deal of work to do to ensure that every citizen of this country is not only tolerated, but has the opportunity to live at the intersection of Freedom St. and Equality Lane.

The reality is while many people of us presently reside or at minimum work at Freedom and Equality there are countless Americans who are stuck in gridlock several streets behind us and have yet to arrive.

Looking back to look ahead, we should note that the civil rights movement of the sixties made such a difference not because everyone suffered the same prejudices, but because as Dr. King said, "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." And with that knowledge men and women of all nationalities, ages, and socio-economic statuses stood up and fought together until their plight was no longer able to be pushed to the back burner of American society and politics.

Robert Louis Stevenson said, 'Keep your fears to yourself, but share your courage with others.'

You may find it hard to believe it but America, Corporate America, Wall Street, Washington and--dare I say--our military is still in need of leadership that fights for the voiceless and refuses to cower under pressure. Until every worker, every citizen, every student, every business – every American, every soldier reaches the place where they are free to worship, free to congregate, free to express their political and religious beliefs in a way that they are not penalized or retaliated against – leaders have work to do!

We need every person on Freedom and Equality to keep working until our country and all of her citizens

experience as the Declaration of Independence puts it, "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

We can't say that we have all truly arrived until every woman in our country is paid equal to their male counterpart who does the same job and has obtained the same education. We can't say that we have all truly arrived until every American, regardless of their career field or community they choose to or are forced to live in, has access to a quality education for their children. We can't say that we have truly arrived until racial profiling in certain neighborhoods by those charged to protect and serve comes to an end.

When we look at the history of our country, I believe it's important to understand that each good leader made decisions with the future in mind and it is our task to make decisions, be they tough or not, anticipating that when we transition out of this life someone else has to live with the decisions we make.

Abraham Lincoln thought about the future of more than his race when he penned the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. Dr. King saw an America of equality regardless of their creed when he marched on Washington in 1963. Congress saw leaders of all genders when they passed the Civil Rights Acts of 1964.

So as you and I sit at the corner of Freedom and Equality, remember it's too early to take our rest. We need leaders of all ages, leaders of all races and leaders of all ethnicities to stand up and fight for the equality of all peoples and classes.

We need leaders to stand up to politicians and let them know that just as we voted them in if they don't work for the good of our communities they can and will be voted out at the next opportunity. We need leaders who will stand up and make tough decisions for the future of others.

'We herd sheep; we drive cattle; we lead men.' Let's lead others to Freedom and Equality. Thank you."

March Health News

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



Spring forward to your completed Occupational Health Assessment. During 2012 all employee occupational health files were reviewed, and needed requirements have been identified. The ISR Occupational Health policy went into effect July 2012. All research personnel must be screened by the occupational health nurse. The results of the risk assessment will be maintained by the ISR Occupational Health Office. A memorandum outlining the approved risk category will be prepared for, and maintained by, the Regulatory Compliance Office. Also, all personnel requiring vivarium entry and those who work in the vivarium must complete the Vivarium Risk Assessment Form prior to the occupational health appointment.

After review of the required documentation in your credentialing file, Regulatory Compliance will prepare a research approval letter for the Commander's signature. For more information, view the policy letter that can be found on the ISR Intranet.

Remember, enrollment in the Occupational Health program is mandatory for all personnel who have a specific need for vivarium access. This includes, but is not limited to veterinary staff, investigators, technicians, IACUC members, contractors, students, summer hires, facility maintenance/housekeeping, logistics,

In the Spotlight

Sgt. Joseph D. Lewis

**Job title:** Research Technician

**How long have you worked at the ISR?** 3 years

**What or who has been an inspiration to you in your work?** I like to believe I am a self-motivator.

**What is your favorite part of your job?** Getting Staff Duty (it's the best!).

**Your proudest achievement?** Being a father.

**Short- and long-term goals?** Short-term: reclass in August to 35F (intel analyst). Long-term: retire from the Army and start a second career.

**Hobbies:** Hunting and fishing

**Favorite book:** *Killshot* by Elmore Leonard

**Favorite movie/TV show:** Movie: *Animal House*. TV Show: *The League*

**Favorite quote:** "It's 5 o'clock somewhere."



and information management staff. All personnel who have a legitimate need for vivarium access must be referred to the Occupational Health office for an initial employment health consultation/risk assessment when in-processing or when vivarium access becomes necessary to perform job assignments.

A risk assessment will be determined by the individual medical evaluation and potential for exposure to hazards in the workplace. Access to the vivarium will only be granted after completion of a risk assessment and occupational health training. The Occupational Health office will provide appropriate services and recommendations determined by exposure category, other workplace exposure/duties, and the results of a medical evaluation.

After initial in-processing, an employee's occupational health category status will be reviewed annually by Occupational Health services. Written

reminders/follow-up will be sent to those employees who require updated exams, tests or vaccinations. Tracking will be by birth month in AMEDD Personnel Education and Quality System (APEQS) online training. Contract labor (non-USASIR) will comply with the aspect of this program that affects their work. Cost (if any) for compliance (exams and vaccinations) will be the responsibility of the individual's contracting agency.

Congratulations to the Burn Center smoking cessation program attendees who completed the 6-week course February 26. This was our first ISR graduating class!

The next ISR on-site smoking cessation class starts March 12. The sessions will run from 1130-1245. Class 2-6 would be on March 19, 26, and April 2, 9, and 16 respectively. Only 20 slots available.

Sign up soon.

# Safety Notes

By Stephanie L. Truss  
Health, Safety and Environmental Specialist



Where do you and/or your mission fit on the ISR Strategy Map? What are you, or can you, do to incorporate safety into your mission? Why, you ask? It is to foster and enhance the improvement of quality and safety within our mission and our work environment. It is not just a slogan but a fact. Safety is everyone's business. Our business is not only to accomplish the mission but to do it safely. This is why our safety culture is important in this mission.

What is this thing called culture?

Culture is a combination of an organization's:

- Attitudes,
- Behaviors,
- Beliefs,
- Values,
- Ways of doing things, and
- Other shared characteristics of a particular group of people.

Culture Can:

- Socialize newcomers.
- Define influence.
- Determine values.

A strong safety and health culture is the result of:

- Positive workplace attitudes – from the president to the newest hire.
- Involvement and buy-in of all members of the workforce.
- Mutual, meaningful, and measurable safety and health improvement goals.
- Policies and procedures that serve as reference tools rather than obscure rules.
- Personnel training at all levels

within the organization.

- Responsibility and accountability throughout the organization.

When these criteria are consistently and effectively aimed at accident reduction, a positive safety and health culture is created.

What are the basic elements of a safety and health culture?

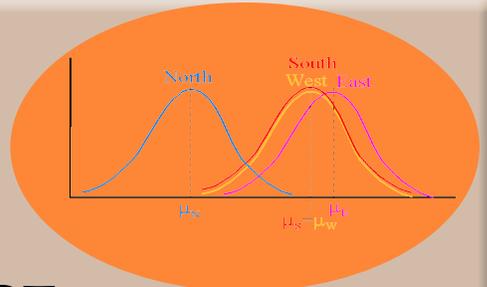
- All individuals within the organization believe they have a right to a safe and healthy workplace

- Each person accepts personal responsibility for ensuring his or her own safety and health.
- Everyone believes he or she has a duty to protect the safety and health of others

I ask you now to really think about this question prior to answering it. What are you, or can you do, to incorporate safety into your mission and daily activities? Then act on it in your daily functions.

## New Basic Stats Class

# ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE (ANOVA)



### Learn

- how to compare data for 3 or more groups
- different types of ANOVA (One- and Two-way)
- how to do ANOVA using JMP

Thursday, May 31, 2012

1100 to 1200

BHT1 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room



# Flat Stanley visits Soldiers at the ISR

Story and photos by Steven Galvan  
ISR Public Affairs Officer

During a trip to San Antonio, Flat Stanley took time to visit with the staff and Soldiers at the U.S.

Army Institute of Surgical Research (ISR) at Joint Base San Antonio, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Flat Stanley's brief visit at the ISR was part of his journey that began in January from Higbee Elementary School in Higbee, Mo., where Hailey Derboven created him and sent him on his voyage.

Derboven, the niece of ISR Logistics Chief, Leila Rathburn, is participating in her second grade classroom literacy project that facilitates letter writing.

"The moment I heard Flat Stanley was coming to San Antonio, I knew I had to bring him to work and have him take a picture with some of our amazing Soldiers at ISR," said Rathburn.

Flat Stanley is a character created in a 1964 children's book written by Jeff Brown. According to the book, the character was flattened when a bulletin board fell on him. Being flat meant that he was able to take adventures around the world by putting a post-

age stamp on himself and dropping into a mailbox. Eventually, his brother changed him back to his original shape with a bicycle air pump.

Schools like Higbee Elementary

implement their own version of the original character into their writing and social studies curriculum and have students mail Flat Stanley anywhere in the world. Photos are then sent

back to the students who create posters of their Flat Stanley that highlights his travels.

From San Antonio, this Flat Stanley will travel to Dallas and then on to London before ending his journey back in Higbee. When Rathburn heard of her niece's project, she encouraged her to send Flat Stanley to San Antonio and



Soldiers at the ISR pose with Flat Stanley February 6 while Sgt. Annoniette Pierce renders a salute.



Flat Stanley from Missouri visited the ISR during his trip to San Antonio.

visit the staff at the ISR.

"I felt it was important to show the children of Higbee Elementary just how proud we are of our Soldiers and what an honor it is to support our military," Rathburn said. "Most of the Soldiers knew the story of Flat Stanley which I thought was very cool." Sgt. Annoniette Pierce said she was familiar with Flat Stanley because her daughter participated in a similar project. "It's always good to help our children at school because we just don't serve our country, we serve our communities," she said. "When I heard he was at the ISR, I rushed to meet him and have my picture taken with him. It was an honor to be in his presence."

## Berg wins MRMC monthly essay contest for January



Rosann G. Berg, the executive assistant to the Commander of Dental and Trauma Research Detachment, was the winner of the “America’s Army: Year of the Army Profession: U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Monthly Essay contest for January. The essay was judged by a five-person panel consisting of military and civilian members. The essay is titled

### *Traits of a Professional*

The classical definition of professionalism encompasses self confidence, courage, knowledge and expertise – skills of the head and hand; however, virtues of integrity, trustworthiness, and altruism attributes of the heart are far more important traits of a professional.

It has been said that people decide ten things about us within ten seconds of our first encounter based on our appearance and behavior. Our subconscious mind act far more quickly than our conscious mind. A professional that exudes integrity instills an aura of fairness, achievability and confidence. That person is able to draw me into the conversation not only by their words, but through their acts and appearance. A professional sends messages by their outward appearance fitness, posture, handshakes, facial expressions, eye contact, and use of space and time. Professionals speak

volumes without speaking a word.

A professional must be trusted at all times. They must know when to be silent and when to listen. Their mannerism, speech, standards of practice and leadership should emanate empathy and trustworthiness. We expect that a professional who is trustworthy has the best intention for their organization, subordinates and peers. We expect that they will correct ill-conceived behaviors and agendas. We expect them to tell us the truth at all times irrespective of the fact that we may not want to hear it. The professional can be trusted to use their talents and ethically devise ways forward from adverse situations detrimental to their organizations. The professional does not engage in play to “win” others trust, but rather, they are trusted because of who they are.

Much has been said about an altruistic character, however, of all the traits, this is by far the most important.

A professional is not a professional because of their accolades and degrees hanging from their wall. The professional is so considered because of selflessness in caring for the welfare of others, without being pretentious or having ulterior motives. Although not a traditional virtue in many cultures; altruism is expressed daily in our military. We see this everyday as our men and women enlist to protect the freedoms of America. We hear about it when a Soldier sacrifices himself/herself for the survivability of a unit. Altruism is distinguished from duty and honor by the motivating factor of sacrificing self for others, not as a moral obligation toward an individual or government but providing value to anyone except self.

Lastly, attributes of the heart are oftentimes considered un-military like. We hear that Soldiers should be hard and tough, and they should not cry. On the contrary, a Soldier, who is a professional, oftentimes cries which shows humanity. Likewise, all professionals should have the characteristic of humanity. This keeps the professional grounded in who they are. It enables the professional to see others as human beings and not subjects, pawns or unequals. This way the professional can assist in the vertical or horizontal transmittal of educational information among each other. Attributes of the heart invariably include sympathy, empathy, and love.

Although the definition and character traits of a professional can be vast, the core traits of an admired professional are attributes of the heart - integrity, trustworthiness, and altruism. With these traits, a professional is not only admired for their technical expertise and achievements, but they are respected by their peers, subordinates and superiors.

# Around the ISR



Top left: Staff Sgt. Erick Pisauro was presented with a going-away February 1.  
Top right: Maj. Scott Phillips administers the "Oath of Enlistment" to Staff Sgt. Joseph Holtz February 4.  
Right center: Lt. Col.(P) Booker T. King gives Iraqi Military Medical School Commander, Brig. Gen. Yassir Kamal Rasheed Al-Ani and his staff members a tour of the Burn Center February 12.  
Bottom right: Roosevelt Cunningham is presented with gifts during his retirement ceremony February 28.  
Bottom left: Capt. Yadira Del Toro conducts a tour of the Burn Center for Navy students at the AMEDD Center and School.

**Around the ISR continued**

Top right: Col. Evan Renz welcomes U.S. Senator Ted Cruz to the Burn Center February 20 as new Brooke Army Medical Center Commander, Col. Kyle D. Campbell, looks on.

Bottom right: Staff Sgt. Angela Madoux signs her reenlistment contract February 28.

Bottom left: Capt. Theresa Nowak, left, conducts a tour of the Burn Center to nursing students from Texas Central University February 8.

Top left: left to right, Beverly Ash, Teresa Mommuet, Sgt. Anntoniette Pierce, and Pat Gerald sing a hymn during the ISR African American/Black History Month celebration February 21.



**Back When...**



Can you guess who this ISR staff member is?  
This photo was taken January 1986 while he was attending the Air Force Basic Military Training, Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Last Month's Answer:



Catherine A. Rauschendorfer  
Clinical Division

**March Awardees**

**Commander's Award for Civilian Service**

Gale Mankoff

Lynn Valo

**Army Commendation Medal**

Spc. Timothy Couchman

**Army Achievement Medal**

Spc. Timothy Couchman

Staff Sgt. Joseph Holtz

**Army Good Conduct Medal**

Spc. Yong Lee

**Certificate of Appreciation**

Lt. Col. Paul Mittelsteadt

Maj. Mabel Salas

Cpt. Johnnie Robbins



Staff members of 4 East pose with Operation Enduring Freedom Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. 1st Class Leroy A. Petry (center) February 7.