



THE INNOVATOR

OPTIMIZING COMBAT CASUALTY CARE



MAY 2015

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



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Programs Awareness Fair Informs Staff with Creative Fiesta Theme

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Medical Laboratories Professionals Week

CDR's Corner



Col. (Dr.) Michael D. Wirt
Commander, USAISR

"Optimizing Combat Casualty Care"

Greetings ISR,

April was an extremely busy month at the Institute; internally as well as outside the organization, we continue to communicate our important mission on the national and international stage. Throughout April we had staff members representing Army research on the national and international level through our critical scientific representation at the American Burn Association Conference in Chicago and at the NATO meeting in Warsaw, Poland. It is certainly an honor to be a member of an organization that is so well recognized around the world! Our continued success is due to your steadfast commitment to improving care for our combat wounded.

I am also proud of our team for organizing the in-house events that gave everyone the opportunity to share

in the work and programs available to all of us here at the ISR. Two great events that took place last month were the Programs Awareness Fair and Medical Laboratories Professionals Week. It takes dedicated planning and coordination to make events like these a success and I want to thank everyone who dedicated their time and effort to ensure both events were winners.

As we look forward into May I would like to remind you that during the first week of this month we observe Nurse's Week. At the ISR, this week provides an opportunity to celebrate the critical role that our nurses at the Burn Center play in delivering high quality care to our patients and the vital contributions that all nurses throughout our organization play in combat casualty care research. I am extremely proud of the outstanding bedside care and research that our nurses perform each and every day. Nurses work on the front line of medical care.

So thank a nurse for their service to patients each and every day and especially during this first week of May!

Other significant days in May include: May 5, also known as Cinco de Mayo; National Teacher's Day is observed May 6; V-E Day or Victory in Europe Day is celebrated on May 8; Mother's Day is always on the second Sunday in May and is May 10 this year; Armed Forces Day is on May 16 followed by Memorial Day on May 25. Other days to remember during the month are: Military Spouses Day—the Friday before Mother's Day; School Nurses Day—the Wednesday during Nurse's Week; Wear Purple for Peace Day on May 16; and World No Tobacco Day on May 31.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone at the Institute for all that you do on a daily basis for our Wounded Warriors and their families. Job well done!

Serving to Heal... Honored to Serve!



Col. (Dr.) Michael D. Wirt signs a proclamation April 20 to kick-off the Medical Laboratories Professionals Week at the USAISR.



ARMY MEDICINE

Serving To Heal...Honored To Serve

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SGM Says



Sergeant Major
Quinton Rice Jr.

Protect - Project - Sustain

Team,

I have recently engaged in a lot of dialogue pertaining to the Balanced Scorecard (BSC) as a strategy management, implementation and evaluation tool/framework. The BSC was first introduced to me in 2008 as a strategic management tool to align our multi-billion dollar organization (Army Medicine) in pursuit of a common goal. The AMEDD has extensive experience using the BSC methodology. The BSC methodology has been of value in our organization since 2001 and can definitely deliver value to the Institute of Surgical Research especially during this time of budgetary constraints.

The goal of using the BSC framework was to align all organizations to one strategy and communicate to customers and stakeholders the value we provide and how we utilize resources that are entrusted to us. All of Army Medicine's major subordinate commands and each of their eight corps were required to build a BSC and brief the Surgeon General. Seeing the BSC in action truly amazed me; the entire organization was aligned to a common strategy via the BSC methodology. This proved that the BSC wasn't just a document for a sophisticated erudite, but something that a common lay person

like me could understand and use in my day-to-day operations.

The BSC resonates with every employee in the organization. The question once was asked of a janitorial employee at NASA about his job, "What are you doing?" His response was that he was "helping to put a man on the moon." The significance of that story was that everyone at NASA was working towards the same common goal. That's our desired effect with the Balanced Scorecard here at the Institute of Surgical Research. Each of us should be purposefully synchronizing our efforts to strategically optimize combat casualty care. Our number one mission is a top priority of the Army's Surgeon General, Department of the Army, and the Military Health System.

The BSC is not an enigma that has given rise to much speculation; rather it is a living document that is designed to keep everyone on track while trying to reach our vision. I would further use the analogy of a symphony at this point. Picture the commander as the musical director who introduces the selections that will be played. Those selections are based on some specific guidance from higher headquarters with an understanding that the music sheet will have to be updated on occasions. The chief of staff is the conductor with the responsibility of making sure that all the sections play harmoniously together producing a magnificent ensemble. The division chiefs and task area managers are members of the team who had the opportunity to provide input into the musical selection (BSC) formulation process. They help to integrate our performance measurement system while empirically validating our performance indicators. In other words, they help us assess how well or how badly we are doing at executing our mission in pursuit of reaching our vision.

In keeping with the musical analogy, they ensure that their various sections are well polished, practiced and prepared to perform. The impact of this underlying premise has been showcased for many to see and the extraordinary customer/stakeholder

satisfaction and return on investment. The BSC methodology has led to several outstanding awards and multiple commendations for our organization.

I have observed many of our organizational superstars and their efforts at helping us successfully achieve our mission. One line of effort (Leverage and Cultivate Relationships), in regards to our current Balanced Scorecard, is performed daily by our radiant staff at the front desk. They positively and proficiently welcome our guests and convey a professional cordial atmosphere. This helps to set the stage for a very productive and pleasant visit to our organization.

I am also confident that many of our staff expertly executes their daily mission with similar skillful competence. Another observation of mine was with line of effort number two (Acquire and Disseminate Knowledge). It is displayed by the numerous science seminars that are conducted almost daily by various conventional and creative professionals. Their forward thinking certainly demonstrates our unique capabilities with a trajectory of military relevance that are reliable and trustworthy. This has been stated by Army Medicine's senior leadership

SGM continues on page 16

On the Cover



Col. (Dr.) Michael Wirt and Sgt. Maj. Quinton Rice Jr. look at the various tables set up at the Programs Awareness Fair with the different internal and external programs available to the ISR and BHT staff.

See story on page 6

Company Notes



Acting Company Commander
Capt. Elaine D. Por

First Sgt. and I would like to welcome the following Soldiers to the ISR family: Spc. Thomas Spino and Pfc. Jordan Smith. Congratulations to Pfc. Stephanie Doyle for her selection as the Soldier of the Month for April. Her photo will be on display in the Company area. We would also like to welcome back Sgt. First Class Christopher Coats from deployment.

Thank you to the Equal Opportunity Team for their contribution in organizing the Holocaust Remembrance Day 2015 theme: "Learning from the Holocaust: Choosing to Act" held on April 17. The month of May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. The theme is "Many



Soldier of the Month
Pfc. Stephanie Doyle

Cultures, One Voice: Promote Equality and Inclusion".

I want to take the time to thank you all for your participation during the 2015 Medical Laboratory Professionals Week April 20-24. Special thanks to

all the USAISR personnel who helped in coordinating the various events throughout the week and making it an incredible success!

Thank you all for everything that you do each and every day!

Holocaust Remembrance Day



The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research and the Brooke Army Medical Center Equal Opportunity Teams coordinated the 2015 Holocaust Day of Remembrance April 17 at the San Antonio Military Medical Center auditorium. Guest speaker, Ms. Rose S. Williams (top photo) spoke of her time in Auschwitz and the hardships she and her family endured during World War II. Born in Radom, Poland, Williams recalled how her family's life changed when Germany invaded Poland. Williams explained how her family was forced to move into a ghetto and living in a one room shack in 1942 until she and her family were moved to Auschwitz until she was liberated by British troops in 1945.

Bottom photo: Staff Sgt. Scott Eriksen participates in a candle-lighting and poem reading event during the Holocaust Remembrance Day.



Honoring Army Nurses

A Commentary
by Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

April 25 marked my fourth year as the Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research and I can't begin to explain with words the amazing and inspiring daily interactions that I have been fortunate to experience at this Institute—the researchers, doctors, nurses, staff and patients are all phenomenal. During this time I have learned so much about combat casualty care research and have witnessed firsthand the benefits of this research for the combat wounded who were cared for at the Burn Center. There is a group of people who I have especially learned much from and they are the nurses working in every area of the USAISR.

I believe that nurses are the strong engine that keeps this illustrious institute functioning on all cylinders every day. Nurses have been instrumental at the USAISR since day one. They were part of the small staff that helped establish this institute in 1943 and can be seen today working in every component that makes up the USAISR—the Combat Casualty Care Research Directorate; Burn Center; Joint Trauma System; and the Dental and Trauma Research Detachment. From being a principal investigator or a member of a research team to patient care in the Burn Center, nurses are, have always been and will always be a vital part of

this organization.

To say that it takes someone special to be a nurse would be an understatement; especially at the only Department of Defense Burn Center. Some of the most critically injured warfighters have been cared by these caring and compassionate nurses. I've personally seen them at work at the Burn Intensive Care Unit and the Progressive Care Unit where they cared for wounded warriors. I once heard a patient say that his doctor saved his life, but his nurse kept him alive. I couldn't agree more with that statement.

What amazes me the most is that every nurse that I know has told me that they chose a career as a nurse because they want to take and enjoy taking care of people. And they prove it every day. It's not hard to notice which nurse care for what patient. Every time that I have seen a patient return to the Burn Center for a visit after being discharged goes straight to the nurse who cared for him and hugs the nurse.

It's heartwarming to see it happen every time that I get the chance to witness it at the Burn Center. And I'm confident that it happens at every ward of every hospital in the U.S., and even around the world for that matter because I'm sure that this applies to every nurse everywhere.

Nurses in the Army, whether active

duty, civilians or contractors, play a vital role in Army Medicine and the readiness of Soldiers. Every nurse deserves recognition or accolades every day. Unfortunately nurses are only officially recognized nationally once a year annually during Nurses Week every first week in May. Ask any nurse how they feel about the annual week-long recognition and chances are that they'll respond by saying that it's nice, but not necessary.

The reason is that nurses do not do their jobs for the recognition or the awards—they do it because they want to make a difference in someone's life. The only recognition that matter to them, and I get this from every nurse that I talk to, is the "thank you" that they get from a patient or a family member of the patient.

So the next time you see a nurse, thank them for what they do every day. Nurses are a special breed. I believe that they deserve a lot more than a thank you from us, but that's all they want. A genuine thank you and/or a hug means more to them and any award that could be given to them. And don't just do it the first week of May, but often throughout the year. They deserve it and they have earned it. Nurses live by the Army Medicine's motto: "Serving to Heal...Honored to Serve."



Staff Sgt. Maria Thomas, a Licensed Vocational Nurse and Burn Center Chief Wardmaster takes a blood-pressure reading for Maj. Rose Grimm during the USAISR Programs Awareness Fair April 10.

USAISR holds fiesta theme Program Awareness Fair

Story and photos by Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research held a fiesta theme Program Awareness Fair April 10 to promote awareness on the various National, Department of Defense, local community, and internal formal and informal programs. Eighteen programs covered during the fair included safety, health, Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention, Equal Opportunity, the Voluntary Protection Program, burn education, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, and the Army Surgeon General's Health Promotion Triad to name a few.

The idea for the Program Awareness Fair came about when the VPP communicator team of Stephanie Truss, safety officer; Maria Dominguez, occupational health nurse; and Staff Sgt. Jason Williams were looking for ways to promote VPP.

"At the same time Staff Sgt. Khane-sha Murrell (a member of the USAISR



Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program) noted that April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month," said Truss. "As we thought more about it we decided that it would be a great way to promote and feature not just these two programs, but every

program within the USAISR and the local community."

Truss added that the intent of the Program Awareness Fair was to provide a new creative way to promote awareness of the various programs and their point of contacts while having fun.

"We wanted the staff to walk away with some new information and or a refresher with a smiling face," she said.

In order to promote a method of ensuring that attendees visited every table at the fair, a card printed with the icons of the programs was given to the participants at the entrance to the event. As the participants visited each table a signature was given to check-off that event on the card and once all of the events were checked-off, the participant's card was placed with the other completed cards for a drawing of a prize.

"I really think that the event was a success," said Truss. "We had well over 200 participants and 118 staff members completed their cards for the drawing."

Truss went on to say that based on e-mails and comments from the staff that the fair went very well and the different methods of disseminating the information of the different programs was much appreciated.

FAIR continues on page 7



Top: Maria Dominguez, USAISR Occupational Health Nurse shares information on the Army Surgeon General's Health Performance Triad during the Program Awareness Fair with Bernadette Couteau April 10.

Bottom: Charlie Guymon provides information on shipping dangerous goods to Col. (Dr.) Michael Wirt and Sgt. Maj. Quinton Rice Jr. during the Program Awareness Fair April 10.

FAIR continued from page 6

“We are already working on having another one at the same time next year,” she said. “We are hoping to make it into an annual event. We received recommendation on other programs to add and we will continue to grow and improve.”

Here are some of the comments made via e-mail to Truss by some of the staff members who attended the fair:

“Great event, I learned a lot of information in a short amount of time.”

Beatrice Stevens

“Thank you so much. I wanted to thank you for taking the lead on this. All of your hard work is appreciated!” *Alberto Mares*

“I would like to congratulate you and your team on the Awareness Fair... It was well organized and each of my team members learned something new.” *Susan West*

“I really enjoyed this Awareness Fair! Everyone did a great job! Thank you for all the information and all the goodies too!” *Patricia Garza*



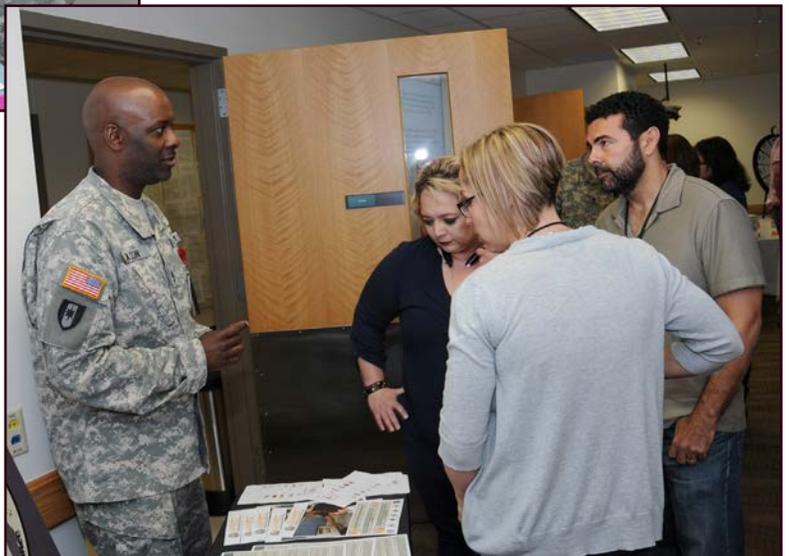
Top right: Stephanie Truss, left, an organizer of the Program Awareness Fair presents Dale Prince with the grand prize from a drawing at the fair.

Right: Karliss Kimbrough, right, provides information on burn safety and prevention during the Program Awareness Fair.



Top: Staff Sgt. Kevin Johnson talks about the Army’s Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program to Renee Greer.

Right: Sgt. 1st Class Michael Mason discusses the Army’s Master Resilience Training course during the Program Awareness Fair April 10.



ISR Physician Accepted into Prestigious Capitol Hill Fellowship

Story and photo by Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

For the first time since its inception in 1973, an active duty Army Medicine doctor will be a Fellow at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellows program. Lt. Col. (Dr.) Robert L. Mabry, the Joint Trauma System Director for Trauma Care Delivery at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research will begin his year-long fellowship in September as a member of the 2015-2016 RWJF Health Policy Fellows Program. For more than 40 years the RWJF has worked to improve health and health care. The Foundation strives to build a national culture of health that will enable all to live longer, healthier lives now and for generations to come.

“The reason I wanted to do this was to improve my capacity as an AMEDD leader by seeing first-hand how things work at the political and strategic level, and to see how senior leaders deal with tough challenges,” said Mabry.

With an illustrious 31-year Army career thus far, Mabry believes that his experience as an enlisted Soldier and a commissioned officer on the Colonel promotion list gives him a unique perspective on trying to improve combat casualty care.

“I’ve have served as an Infantryman, a special operator, a combat medic and now as a doctor,” he said. “I’ve taken care of Soldiers under fire on the battlefield, during tactical evacuation on board MEDEVAC, at remote, forward aid-stations and in the hospital. I think my prior enlisted and special operations combat service gives me a unique insight into casualty care that is rare within the AMEDD.”

Through personal experience while treating casualties on the battlefield and research, Mabry has been effective in changing how combat casualties are treated at the point of injury. As a high-speed Special Forces medic, well-trained with the latest tools and techniques available, Mabry served with an elite special operations unit in



Lt. Col. (Dr.) Robert Mabry was selected for a Fellowship at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellows program.

Mogadishu, Somalia—the operation made famous by the movie *Blackhawk Down*.

“Back then, we were taught to perform civilian oriented prehospital care under fire on the battlefield. Care that was based on car wrecks and heart attacks,” recalled Mabry. “Things like immobilizing someone’s spine if they had any injury to above the shoulders, using tourniquets only as a ‘last resort’ or putting an IV into someone with a simple gunshot wound when the bleeding is under control. Looking back, it did not make much sense, but that’s how we were trained.”

Based on research that Mabry did while assigned to the ISR during his first tour, the Army spent \$70 million to upgrade flight medic training to meet that of civilian critical care flight paramedics. The research compared outcomes of casualties flown by critical care paramedics from the National Guard to those flown by Army flight medics. The data showed a 66 percent reduction in death by National Guard flight medics who were trained critical care flight paramedics.

“One of my most prized possessions

is a patch from the Critical Care Flight Paramedic Class 001,” Mabry said.

Another accomplishment that Mabry is proud of, one that he has been working with for the last four years, is establishing the current Military Emergency Medical Service and Disaster Medicine Fellowship Program.

“It’s the only program in the Department of Defense that trains doctors to understand out-of-hospital care,” he said. “The research that we’ve done here at the ISR shows that prehospital setting is the area where we can make the most significant difference in combat casualty care survival, yet today, I am the only board certified prehospital specialist on active duty in the DoD.”

Mabry said that his experience in Somalia planted a seed in him to dedicate his career to improving combat casualty care. It’s something that stuck with him when he went from Sergeant First Class to Second Lieutenant Mabry to attend medical school at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences shortly after the Mog-

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adishu incident.

“Mogadishu was a big game changer for me,” he said. “I have been driven to improve the care of Soldiers on the battlefield since then.”

Nowadays his motivation remains the same, except that there’s an extra incentive for him. Both of his sons are in the military—one is an Army

Ranger and the other is in the Naval Academy with aspirations to become a Navy SEAL or a Marine.

“So I’m personally invested to taking care of Soldiers out in the field,” said Mabry.

Mabry believes that the fellowship at RWJF will help him to continue to make a difference in Army Medicine and combat casualty care.

“We are organizationally focused on hospital based care. Once a casualty reaches the hospital, most survive,” Mabry said. “But our data shows the vast majority of combat deaths that are potentially salvageable die before reaching the hospital. We need more focus on prehospital care. That’s where I believe that I can continue making a difference for our Soldiers.”

USAISR Observes Medical Laboratory Professionals Week

Story and photos by Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

The Commander of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, Col. (Dr.) Michael D. Wirt proclaimed April 20-24 as Medical Laboratory Professionals Week. During the MLPW proclamation signing ceremony April 20 at the Soldiers formation, Wirt read the Commander’s Proclamation.

“Medical Laboratory Professionals Week is a time of recognition for the medical laboratory professionals and board-certified pathologists who play a vital role in every aspect of healthcare,” said Wirt.

Since 1975 MLPW has been observed during the last full week of April and is designed to provide the profession the opportunity to raise public awareness, appreciation and understanding of laboratory employees.

Staff Sgt. Khanesha Murrell and personnel at the Comparative Pathology Branch of the USAISR Laboratory Support Section planned daily activities including trivia games, a lab coat decorating contest, Lab Olympics and a scavenger hunt. The final event will be a brunch where the winners of the week-long festivities will be awarded prizes.

“Beyond meeting this public need, the celebration of MLPW will increase recognition for the profession as it improves the individual practitioner’s sense of self-worth,” said Staff Sgt.



Sgt. Maj. Quinton Rice Jr. and Col. (Dr.) Michael Wirt cut a cake during the proclamation signing ceremony to kick-off Medical Laboratory Professionals Week at the USAISR April 20-24.

Gina Chang, non-commissioned officer in charge of Laboratory Support Section. “Further, as the various professional groups within laboratory practice work together on this project, the sense of unity and purpose necessary to further the goals of the laboratorians are reinforced.”

There are six research areas at the USAISR where medical laboratory professionals are assigned including bone tissue injury, clinical trauma, hemostasis, resuscitation, soft tissue injury, and trauma informatics.

Chang added that as team members

of one of the largest industries in the United States, the dedicated efforts of laboratory professionals often go unnoticed by the general public, as well as by the very institutions employing their services.

“With the public now demanding the assurance of quality healthcare and professional accountability, organizations representing practitioners of this critical science have a responsibility to ensure that the public is well informed about laboratory competence,” added Chang.

see more MLP Week photos on page 15

Safety Notes

By Stephanie L. Truss
Health, Safety and Environmental Specialist



Personal Safety Tips

Most of us leave our home at least once each day. Whether driving to the grocery store or going on your daily walk, it's important to be aware of your surroundings. By using simple precautions, you can safely enjoy the time you spend outside of your home.

Walking/Running Precautions:

- Take a friend (even a furry one). Walking a dog, especially one inclined to bark at strangers, is better than venturing out alone.
- Take your cell phone with you so you can call 911 if you see something suspicious.
- Let a friend or family member know where you're going and when you plan to return.
- Avoid walking too closely to bushes or areas with any kind of tall overgrowth.
- Walk in well-lit, populated areas; avoid cut-through paths.
- Stay attentive to your surroundings and if listening to music, keep the volume at a low level so you can hear what's going on around you.
- Only run or walk in familiar areas.
- Use caution when out at night. If you are out after dark, always carry a flashlight with fresh batteries.
- Always walk on the sidewalk facing traffic. Facing traffic makes it more difficult for someone to drive up behind you without being noticed.

In the Spotlight

Bernadette L. Couteau

Job title: Secretary III, IM Dept.

How long have you worked at the ISR? 2 months

What or who has been an inspiration to you in your work?
Phyllis Turner and Kaye Neer

What is your favorite part of your work? The people and learning new things every day.



Short- and long-term goals: Short-term: finish my schooling and completing my degree. Long-term: to live by example, with gratitude, generosity, compassion and love.

Hobbies: Enjoy home projects and casual reading.

Favorite book: Oh, so many to choose from.

Favorite movie/TV show: I admit, I am a huge fan of comic book movies, I never really read comic books.

Favorite quote: "You can do anything, but not everything."

David Allen

- Always use the designated crosswalks and streetlights when crossing intersections.

Driving and Parked Car Precautions:

- Before heading to your destination, make sure you have enough gas to you there and back. You don't want to be stranded alone.
- If you feel like you are being followed, drive to the nearest gas station or open business. Do not drive home until you are completely sure you are alone.
- Roll up the windows and lock all car doors every time you leave your car.
- When you approach your car, have the key ready.

- Get into vehicle and lock your door immediately.
- Avoid parking in isolated areas especially at night. If possible, park your car under a lamppost.

If You Are Attacked:

- Noise is your most immediate defense. Not only will sound attract attention to you and make your location known but it may also cause the would-be attacker to flee.
- If possible, run in the direction of help. An assailant usually will not engage in a pursuit because it could increase the possibility of detection or apprehension.
- If the assailant demands your purse, keys or money, give it to him or her. Don't risk your life.

While these tips can be helpful, they do not guarantee your safety. Immediately contact the police if you detect any suspicious behavior.



Health News

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



For the last couple of months we have been training on multiple health and safety topics. The Voluntary Protection Program, the Army Surgeon General's Health Promotion Triad, and Readiness. You may recall me talking about a Workers' Memorial Day. It is observed every year on April 28. It is also the day the Occupational Safety and Health Administration or OSHA was established in 1971. It is a day to honor those workers who have died on the job. OSHA reports 4,405 workers died on the job in 2013. We live in a very connected world. Many of us find it hard to disconnect from work when we are away from the office.

OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. I'll share a story with you to help you understand.

The hospital nurses all called him "Blue Eyes." They asked if he was Frank Sinatra's twin. He was only in his 50's, very young. His body was lean and frail. He barely weighed 80 pounds. He started working at the age of 12 or perhaps 10. Like many of our ancestors he migrated to the US to "the land of milk and honey." He was a great steel contractor. He welded, primed and made the steel and metal shine in its bright red metal color. If you have driven on San Antonio freeways you have driven over his overpasses, if you have seen

the Hemisfair Plaza gates or the spiral staircase in the Woods Federal Courthouse, these are only some of his.

But alas he was born before 1971. And he worked before 1971. He wore a welding hood but not a respirator. He learned how to quickly remove the foreign bodies from his eyes but no medical follow-up. The job had a rush on it. His socks had all the welding marks, so did his skin. He never did have a pulmonary function test or medical surveillance until his diagnosis of undifferentiated cell carcinoma. He smoked. Every day. Smoking was allowed everywhere any time. Except of course "too close to the tanks." No one taught him to wash his hands before smoking a cigarette. He was putting the cigarette in his mouth with his paint and oil clad fingerprints on it.

You could warm up your lunch with a torch, no break room or microwaves yet. And the walls were chain link fences. There was a metal roof. Mother Nature was your air conditioner and heater. And like many others he helped his family with a part time job. A skilled mechanic, he fixed many cars in his backyard. Brake jobs were quick and paid well. But no one mentioned asbestos.

From steel mills to hospitals, from construction sites to nail salons, hazardous chemical exposure is a serious concern for countless employers and workers in many, industries, in every part of this nation. Veterinarians, fishermen and animal handlers in laboratories can develop allergic reactions to animal proteins. Healthcare workers can develop asthma from breathing in powdered proteins from latex gloves or from mixing powdered medications. Many people with persistent asthma symptoms caused by substances at work are incorrectly diagnosed as having bronchitis. If occupational asthma is not correctly diagnosed early, and you aren't protected or removed from

the exposure, it can cause permanent changes to your lungs.

American workers use thousands of chemicals every day. And every year, tens of thousands of workers are sick or die from occupational exposures to hazardous chemicals. On April 13, 2015, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration renewed its alliance with the Society for Chemical Hazard Communication to reduce and prevent worker exposure to chemicals hazards. This alliance also works to increase awareness of the requirements of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals and the rights and responsibilities of workers and employers under the Occupational Safety and Health Act. In addition, OSHA has developed a step-by-step toolkit to provide employers and workers with information, methods, tools, and guidance on using informed substitution in the workplace.

As you prepare for the VPP visit and transition to the new Globally Harmonized System (GHS) complaint label and safety data sheets keep "blue eyes in mind." Blue eyes was my father.

So how does it all come together? Achieving Work-Life Balance. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) defines Total Worker Health (TWH) as "an organizational strategy that integrates occupational safety and health protection with health promotion to prevent worker injury and illness and to advance health and well-being." This provides opportunities for workers to: safeguard and improve their health; lengthen their working lives, and enjoy both the economic benefits and improvements in well-being that come from safe, satisfying work.

Celebrate life, health and happiness this month. Happy Nurses Week and Happy Mother's Day. Enjoy end of school year, graduations and of course May flowers.

Around the ISR



Top left: Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey presents Staff Sgt. Melissa Arizmendi with a coin during a visit to the Burn Center April 8.

Top right: Staff Sgt. John Newton recites the Oath of Reenlistment April 29 administered by Capt. Mollie Christiansen.

Center right: Sgt. Jamar Daniels, left, supports the ISR Special Events Committee fundraiser April 10.

Bottom right: Sgt. Silvia Matchenske cuts a cake during her promotion ceremony April 6.

Bottom left: Sgt. Ryan Morris is pinned on with his new rank by his wife during a dual promotion ceremony April 2.



Around the ISR continued

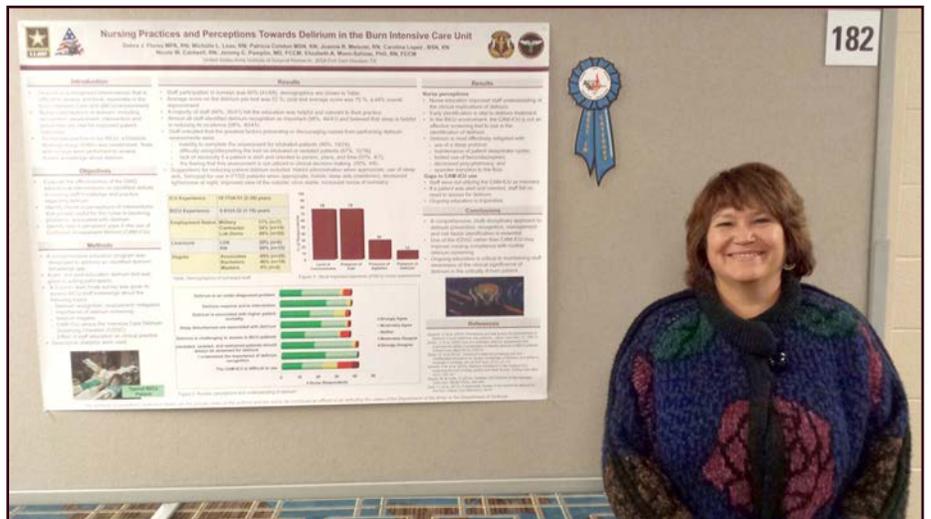
Top left: Col. (Dr.) Michael Wirt cuts a cake April 16 and celebrated his birthday April 18.
Top right: Stephanie Truss celebrates her birthday April 28.
Center right: Maj. Erik Johnson, left, explains the capabilities of the Burn Rehab Gym to medical officer from Saudi Arabia April 21.
Bottom right: Lt. Col. James Leith welcomes Dean and Professor, College of Nursing at South Dakota State University, Nancy Fahrenwald, Ph.D. to the Burn Center April 15 for a tour.
Bottom left: First Sgt. Natasha Turrell, left, congratulates Sgt. Nguvan Uhaa during her promotion ceremony April 2.
Center left: Sgt. Robert Loya is pinned on with his new rank by his wife during his promotion ceremony April 3.



ISR Staff Attends ABA Annual Meeting

Thirty ISR staff members attended the American Burn Association (ABA) meeting April 21-24 in Chicago. It is the most important annual meeting for the Burn Center where the military burn care community strongly contributes to the meeting's success. The staff chaired three breakout sessions, ran four Sunrise Breakfast Symposia, provided 12 podium presentations and gave eight invited lectures during major sessions, presented 12 posters and led three poster professor walk rounds. Staff members also ran or participated in three principal investigator meetings for major multicenter trials, and are members of 11 sub-committees within the ABA.

According to the ABA website, "the ABA and its members dedicate their efforts and resources to promoting and supporting burn-related research, education, care, rehabilitation, and prevention. The ABA has more than 3,500 members in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Members include physicians, nurses, occupational and physical therapists, researchers, social workers, firefighters, and hospitals with burn centers. Our multidisciplinary membership enhances our ability to work toward common goals with other organizations on educational programs."



Top photo: The majority of the ABA attendees gathered for a group photo. 1st row: Sarah Zayas, Maria Serio-Melvin, Vicky Barrera-Garcia, Lt. Col. Sandra Escolas. 2nd Row: Lt. Col. Elizabeth Mann-Salinas, Elsa Coates, Dina Pina, Jimmy Rodriguez, Debra Flores. 3rd row: Sarah Murray, Nicole Caldwell, Manny Hernandez, Bonnie Jackson, Wanda Segroves, Bryan Rhie. 4th row: Robert Oliver, Mustafa Amani, Lt. Col. Kevin Chung, Maj. John Graybill, Maj. Ian Driscoll, Beth Shields, Dr. Andriy Batchinsky, Michael Barba. Last row: Jose Salinas, Ph.D., Dr. Lee Cancio, Matthew Rowan, Ph.D., Ceasar Ricci, Judson Janak, Ph.D., Jay Aden, Ph.D., Reg Richard. Bottom photo: Debra Flores poses with her poster "Nursing Practices and Perceptions Toward Delirium in the Burn Intensive Care Unit." Flores received a Blue Ribbon for Best Poster in the "Pain, Agitation, Delirium, and Itch" category. Reg Richard's abstract "Small and Large Burns Alike Benefit from Lengthier Rehabilitation Time" was selected as a "Top 6 Abstract."



Library News

By Gerri Trumbo
Library Manager



Our LEAP (TDNet) portal has recently undergone some changes. Teldan is now calling this platform TDNet Discover.

I have found some areas that were not working properly on my computer and have reported them. I have been told to be sure to click on the "Show content" tab at the bottom of the screen. This allows the javascript to run properly on our computers. After

you click once, you may have to click again on the screen that follows. Be assured I have reported these little irritations, and hope that the developers can work things out for us.

In the meantime, please bear with us and continue to click on the Show content.

One new feature I wish to point out is that the ISR holdings for locally held content will now show when you hit the + sign under the title of the journal. If it says "contact ISR library for username/password," e-mail the library for the information. Or simply go to the ISR Library Intranet, click on Journal Holdings and e-Journals 2015, and scroll down until you find the title you are looking for. The username/ password will be shown in the eLink

column. If the credentials don't work, please let me know.

Another change is the need to use your MyAthens username/password to gain access via LEAP. Some of the publishers are requiring an Athens validation to gain access, so we must follow those instructions. If you do not have a MyAthens account, check the Library intranet page for instructions on how to obtain one.

Our new subscriptions have arrived. We are just about up to date on the print holdings for 2015. If you prefer reading a paper copy of any of our subscriptions, stop in the library and check the current issues shelves located across from the leather chairs.

Thank you for using the ISR Library!

MLP Week photos continued from page 9



Top left: Spc. Shawn Lackey models a decorated lab coat during the lab coat decorating contest of the Medical Laboratory Professional Week.

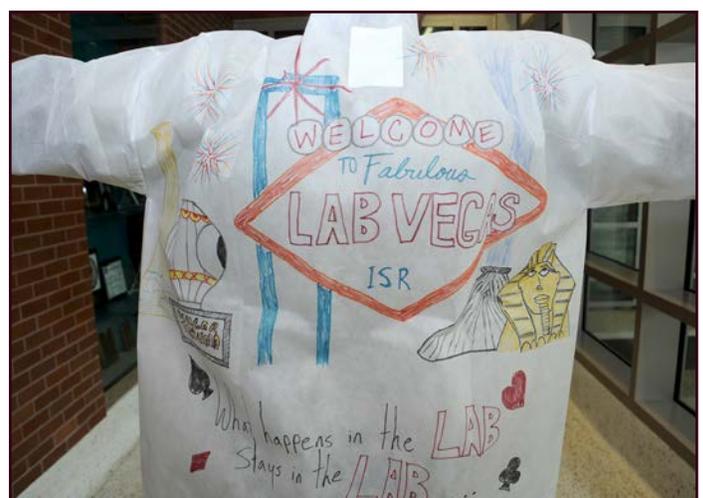


Top right: Winners of the various games and contests held throughout the week were presented prizes during the closing ceremony of the Medical Laboratory Professionals Week.

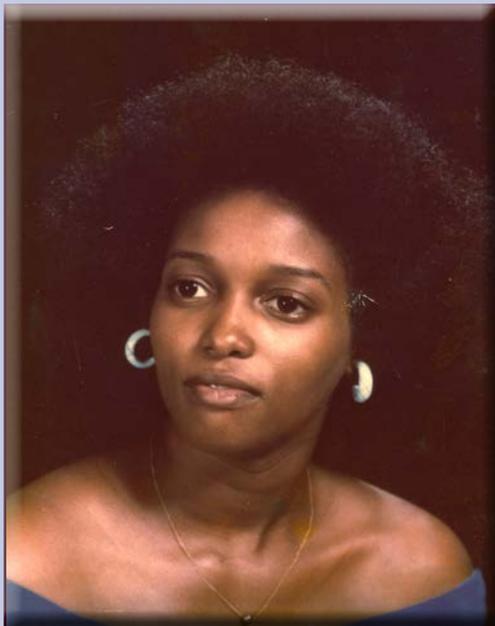
Front row: Staff Sgt. David Trapolsi, Spc. Tae Kim, Pfc. Raymond Calzada, and Sgt. Jamar Williams.

Top row: Sgt. Benjamin Joiner, Spc. Shawn Lackey, Sgt. Polly Busman, Lt. Col. Joseph Novak, and Sgt. 1st Class Michael Mason.

Bottom right: Sgt. Jamar Daniels models a decorated lab coat during the lab coat decorating contest.



Back When...



Can you guess who this ISR staff member is? This photo was taken in 1978 when she was a senior at Port St. Joe Senior/Junior High School at Port St. Joe, Fla.

Last Month's Answer:



Donaya T. Ashoka
Desktop Systems
Support Manager

Submit your photo for publication in upcoming issues.

April Awards

Government Time in Service Award

- Gerri Trumbo (35 yrs)
- Anya Kuylen (5 yrs)

Commanders Award for Civilian Service

- Nicole Caldwell

Army Achievement Medal

- Spc. Harvey Harper

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

- Calvin Cooper
- John Jackson
- Audrey Premdas
- David Smith
- Christopher Wiseman

Certificate of Achievement

- Sgt. Silvia Matchinske



SGM continued from page 3

during multiple award presentations.

I have personally and proudly observed the sharing of quality information both internally and externally on several occasions by some of our well-qualified team members. Line of effort number three (Train and Develop the Workforce) hits the ground roots of our foundation. I see many theoretical and practical thinking leaders developing the talents of their subordinates in a wide variety of ways as I walk throughout the organization. They establish fresh new perspectives that lead many of our team members to acquiring proper skills, attitudes and a knowledge base synergizing appropriate technical competence in optimizing combat casualty care.

In summary, every one of our staff has a crucial part in helping us reach our goals. The Balanced Scorecard is simply a tool to help us stay on course and assess how we are doing while we are on the journey. Any of our staff should be able to look at that document, and identify how they contribute to each strategic objective at any given time knowing that their significant effort really counts. This allows the entire staff to see their contributions in helping our organization meet its mission objectives. I cannot overstate how good I feel about the loyal true professionals who help make this organization shine.

The Research Regulatory Compliance Division will be conducting a Good Clinical Practice Training Course on May 20 (0800-1600 new to GCP) and May 21 (0800-1200 half day refresher) in the BHT2 1st floor conference room.

Plan for full day attendance if you are involved with IND/IDE research studies.

