



# THE INNOVATOR

OPTIMIZING COMBAT CASUALTY CARE



APRIL 2015

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

## The Honorable Heidi Shyu Visits the USAISR

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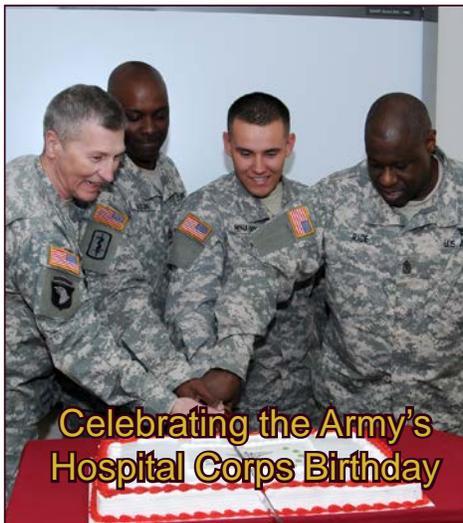
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Celebrating the Army's Hospital Corps Birthday



Easter Egg-stravaganza

# CDR's Corner



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



Col. (Dr.) Michael Wirt, right, welcomes the Navy Surgeon General, Vice Adm. Matthew L. Nathan to the USAISR March 30 as the Commanding Officer of the Naval Research Unit-San Antonio, Capt. Rita Simmons looks on. Vice Adm Nathan was here for a brief and tour of NAMRU-SA and the Tri-Service Research Laboratory at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

## “Optimizing Combat Casualty Care”

Greetings ISR,

I'd like to start off by wishing everyone a Happy Spring and to give out a big “kudos” to the Special Events Committee for their hard work to ensure the great success of our Egg-stravaganza Easter Party. Successful parties like this for our staff and families take much time and planning. Thanks again to everyone who made the party a success.

If you haven't noticed spring has sprung and the weather in San Antonio is gorgeous which marks the soon arrival of Fiesta here. This year's Fiesta will run from April 16-26 with daily events and parades for the entire family to enjoy. This is a great event in San

Antonio and I hope you have the time to enjoy some activities with family and friends.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month which is designed to enhance public awareness about sexual violence and to continue to educate us on how to prevent it. April is also the Month of the Military Child. The Army recognizes the commitment, contributions and the sacrifices that our children make for our Service Members every day. I want to personally thank all Service Members' children for their unwavering support as we dedicate this month to recognize their support.

Other significant days in April

include: April 3, Good Friday; April 5, Easter Sunday; April 15, the dreaded day for some when taxes are due; April 20, Patriot's Day; April 22, Earth Day; and the last Friday in April, April 24, is Arbor Day. April is also National Humor, Poetry, and Pecan Month, as well as Stress Awareness, Lawn and Garden, Keep America Beautiful, and International Guitar Month. There are many opportunities to get out and enjoy the spring weather!

I want to thank everyone for your continuing efforts to increase the value of this Institute and your dedication to our Wounded Warriors. Job well done!

Serving to Heal... Honored to Serve!



# 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



Sergeant Major  
Quinton Rice Jr.

## Protect - Project - Sustain

Team,

We recently celebrated our enlisted corps 128th birthday with a meaningful event that enhanced our historical understanding and rich traditions that support the Army's medical capabilities. I am often humbled when I think about how our Corps is poised at the very core of Army Medicine delivering quality standards of training, discipline

# USAISR celebrates Army's Hospital Corps Birthday

By Steven Galvan  
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research (USAISR) staff at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas celebrated the Army's Hospital Corps 128th birthday March 2 with the reading of the original general order and a cake cutting ceremony hosted by USAISR Sgt. Maj. Quinton Rice Jr. Rice stressed that this ceremony is important because it serves as reminders of the Hospital Corps long-standing proud and distinguished history and traditions.

"A lot of Soldiers don't know about the Hospital Corps history," said Rice.

and experience. We had the opportunity to showcase our most junior Warrior Pfc. Adres Penagosnino and our most seasoned noncommissioned leader Sgt. 1st Class Michael Mason effectively representing the competent health care professionals woven throughout our enlisted corps.

"As Army Medicine Soldiers, we need to know where our roots come from because just like in the past, we're all cream of the crop Soldiers and our attitude should be that of servitude."

General Order 29, issued on March 1, 1887 established the Hospital Corps and a new chevron for hospital stewards to wear that was similar to the ones worn by all Army noncommissioned officers. Hospital stewards, up until then, were Soldiers detailed from the line and had no official rank.

Staff Sgt. Kevin Johnson, a respiratory NCO at the USAISR Burn Center and Master of Ceremonies read the enduring history of the Army Medical Department (AMEDD), General Order 29 and the establishment of the Hospital Corps.

"The Hospital Corps of the United States Army shall consist of hospital stewards, acting hospital stewards, and privates; and all necessary hospital services in garrison, camp, or field (including ambulance service) shall be performed by the members thereof, who shall be regularly enlisted in the

**CORPS BD continues on page 6**



Col. (Dr.) Kirby Gross, Acting Commander, U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, left, Sgt. Maj. Quinton Rice Jr., right, cut a ceremonial cake March 2 with the oldest and youngest USAISR Soldiers, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Mason, second from left and Pfc. Adres Penagosnino to celebrate the Army's Hospital Corps 128th birthday.

## On the Cover



The Honorable Heidi Shyu, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology receives a brief March 26 of the Compensatory Reserve Index from Lt. Col. Robert Carter.

See story on page 5

# Company Notes



Acting Company Commander  
Capt. Elaine D. Por

First Sgt. and I would like to welcome the following Soldiers to the ISR family: Master Sgt. Natasha Tsantles, Sgt. Luis Sanchez and Pvt. Raymond Calzada. We would also like to welcome some new members to the ISR family baby: Sgt. Chiquita Thomas-Benson and Pfc. David Watson welcomed baby boys to their families. Congratulations to Sgt. Kenneth Venable and Pfc. David Watson for their selection as the NCO and Soldier of the Month for March, respectively.

And we'd also like to welcome back Maj. Julie Rizzo from deployment.

The Semi-Annual APFT is this month from April 27-30; height/weight and tattoo validation will be April 20-24. We will start sending out e-mails and more information soon.

Thank you to the Equal Opportunity Team for the contributions made during the Women's History Month Observance held March 25, it was a successful event. The next observance is Holocaust observance ceremo-

ny in May. The Events Committee also planned a very fun-filled Easter Egg-stravaganza on March 28. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication!

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The Department of Defense theme for this year is "Eliminate Sexual Assault: Know Your Part, Do Your Part!"

I will be the Acting Company Commander until early June. I appreciate all of your support and all that you do!



NCO of the Month  
Sgt. Kenneth Venable



Soldier of the Month  
Pfc. David Watson



USAISR Easter Egg-stravaganza--see more photos on page 7.

# The Honorable Heidi Shyu Visits the USAISR



The Honorable Heidi Shyu, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology was at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research March 26 for an overview brief and tour of the Institute. Acting USAISR Commander, Lt. Col. (Dr.) Kevin Chung provided the brief and escorted the Assistant Secretary of the Army to the Tactical Combat Casualty Care task area for a brief and demonstration of the Compensatory Reserve Index and to the Ocular Trauma and Vision Restoration task area for a brief on research involving the blast tube.



Top: The Honorable Heidi Shyu, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology is greeted at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research March 26 by Lt. Col. (Dr.) Kevin Chung. The Assistant Secretary of the Army was accompanied by Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Gabbert, Commander, U.S. Army Mission and Installation Contracting Command. Right: Gary Muniz, right, provides a brief on the use of the lower body negative pressure chamber used in the Tactical Combat Casualty task area.



Left: Col. (Dr.) Jeffery Cleland, left, Officer in Charge of the Ocular Trauma and Vision Restoration briefs the Honorable Heidi Shyu, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology on the use of the blast tube in his task area.

## USAISR Commander Signs Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation

Col. (Dr.) Michael Wirt, Commander, U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research signs a proclamation April 1 to kick off Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Accompanying the Commander were the USAISR leadership and the USAISR Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program members.

Left to right: 1st Sgt. Natasha Turrell; Terry Owens, Chief of Staff; Capt. Elaine Por, Acting Company Commander; Staff Sgt. Melissa Arizmen-di; Col. Wirt; Sgt. Maj. Quinton Rice Jr.; Staff Sgt. Khanesha Murrell; Staff Sgt. Kevin Johnson; and Kaye Neer.



## Congratulations

In an e-mail dated March 3, Maj. Gen. Jimmie O. Keenan, Deputy Commanding General-Operations MEDCOM congratulated Lt. Col. Elizabeth Mann-Salinas with this statement:

"I personally would like to congratulate you and your Team on winning the "Best Improvement in Patient Outcomes" category of the 2014 Shared Accountability awards.

Shared governance is defined in the literature as "an organizational model that allows nurses to have control over their practice, as well as, influence administrative areas. You and your Team have adeptly demonstrated that in the USAISR with your work on Central Line Infection Control. Great Job!"

### Multi-Year Team

Lt. Col. Elizabeth Mann-Salinas  
 Maj. David Allen  
 Maj. Scott Phillips  
 Maj. Johnnie Robbins  
 Capt. William Chappell  
 Capt. Amy L. Martino  
 Capt. Justin Miller  
 Colleen Mitchell  
 Soohyun Bang  
 Mayra Castillo

Kristine Chafin  
 Jeffrey L. Fields  
 Darik Forrest  
 Arthur M. Hatem  
 Gerald Laxson  
 Daniel M. Martinez  
 Daniel Rubalcalba  
 Mickey Sweet  
 Leanna Thompson  
 Rachel Trichel

**CORPS BD continued from page 3**  
 military service; said Corps shall be permanently attached to the Medical Department, and shall not be included in the effective strength of the Army nor counted as a part of the enlisted force provided by law," read Johnson from General Order 29.

General Order 29 further stated "that the Secretary of War is empowered to appoint as many hospital stewards as, in his judgment, the service may require; but not more than one hospital steward shall be stationed at any post or place without 'special authority' of the Secretary of War."

Since 1887, hundreds of thousands of Soldiers have proudly served in the Hospital Corps and Rice added that he's honored to be a member of the Army's most premier corps.

"Army Medicine continues to select the best Soldiers to serve in its ranks," said Rice. "A lot of our Soldiers have college degrees and certifications not needed in other fields of the Army. We should always remember that we are part of the best enlisted corps and should live the Army Medicine motto: Serving to Heal...Honored to Serve."

## Easter Egg-stravaganza

The USAISR Special Events Committee sponsored the annual Easter “Egg-stravaganza” March 28 at the Warrior and Family Support Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Staff members, families and friends were invited to enjoy an afternoon filled with games, face painting, an Easter egg hunt, photos with the Easter Bunny, and lots of candy.



Photos by Sgt. Ben Ray and Adriana Monreal

# Safety Notes

By Stephanie L. Truss  
Health, Safety and Environmental Specialist



## Safety Starts With You!!

Most of us have had some type of safety training during childhood. We were taught to look both ways before crossing streets, and not to play with matches. As adults, we were warned by others and by the media not to smoke in bed, not to stay out in the sun too long, and not to drive while under the influence of alcohol. And yet, common as these safety rules may be, how many of us can truthfully say that we have not broken a safety rule at one point and time in their life.

Employees often neglect safety rules because they:

- are in a hurry
- figure accidents always happen to others, or
- are resentful of their supervisors.

Every time employees engage in unsafe acts, they are betting that an accident will not occur. Is health, safety, or even life itself, really worth such a gamble?

When employees are aware of safety rules and break them anyway, we say they have unsafe attitudes.

The following are examples of unsafe attitudes:

- Not using proper lifting techniques when lifting patient and or equipment Neglecting to keep the work area clean, free of clutter and trip hazards
- Rushing, hurrying, participating in horseplay or any other distracting activities
- Driving distracted

# In the Spotlight

Sgt. Kenneth W. Venable

**Job title:** Physical Therapy NCO

**How long have you worked at the ISR?** 2 years

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

Marine Lt. Col. Bryan Forney and Army 1st Lt. Micah Andersen, Burn Center patients.



**What is your favorite part of your work?** Seeing my patients return to their lives able to take care of themselves.

**Your proudest achievement?** My 23rd wedding anniversary on April 29 and watching my three adult children doing well in their lives.

**Short- and long-term goals:** Attain E-6. Retire.

**Hobbies:** Running, biking, swimming, climbing, hiking, hunting, shooting, camping, fishing, reading, and spelunking.

**Favorite book:** *The Bible/The Silmarillion/Lord of the Rings*

**Favorite movie/TV show:** *Second Hand Lions/Vikings*

**Favorite quote:** "I love my country. I fear my government."

Thomas Jefferson

- Not wearing personal protective equipment such as hard hats, respirators, eye and face protection, gloves or lab coats.

Safety managers, fire and safety monitors, employers and fellow employees can give great safety tips, orientations, briefs and trainings however you may know all of the safety rules and be able to demonstrate them effectively but failing to use them will not protect you. So always do the job correctly in the safe way. In doing so, you will be promoting and fostering a safe workplace for you and others. Safety can be one of the best habits that you learn to practice.

Let's have a quick review of a few basic safety rules or tips:

- Use good body mechanics when lifting and moving objects, get help when you need it.
- Practice good housekeeping to avoid slips, trips and falls. Clean up spills and keep your areas free

of clutter. This can be even the drops of coffee that seem to go from one room, hall and/or floor to the next.

- Take the time to teach safety to your coworkers, especially if you see them violating a safety rule. Safety is everyone's business and yet another reminder on the 3 meaningful ways.

Keys to reducing workplace injuries while creating and fostering three meaningful ways for participation in the Safety and Health Program. By everyone knowing and following the tips noted below you can easily articulate your participation in The USAISR/BHT Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) doing so you are creating yet another meaningful way to be involved in the Safety and Health Program IAW VPP. Remember ALL employees must have at least three (3) meaningful ways to participate.

**Safety Starts with You!**

## Health News



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

What do child abuse prevention, stress, sexual assault, alcohol abuse, allergies, and asthma have in common? The month of April! All of these topics have awareness activities in the month of April. But more than that, they seemed to be weaved into a blanket of togetherness. Many of these situations happen hand in hand or as a result of each other.

**Child Abuse Prevention:** According to the Military Times, in 2011 and 2012, there were 12,881 cases of child abuse and neglect in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. Of those, 67 children died, and more than 753 of the cases were sexual assaults. Child maltreatment causes stress that can disrupt early brain development, and serious chronic stress can harm the development of the nervous and immune systems. As a result, children who are abused or neglected are at higher risk for health problems as adults. These problems include alcoholism, depression, drug abuse, eating disorders, obesity, high-risk sexual behaviors, smoking, suicide, and certain chronic diseases. Family environment also plays a great part. Abuse and neglect can occur in families where there is a

great deal of stress. Stress can result from a family history of violence, drug or alcohol abuse, poverty, and chronic health problems. Families who do not have nearby friends, relatives, and other social support are also at risk

**Stress Awareness:** Stress happens. Sometimes it's unavoidable; at times it's unbearable. That's why taking time for yourself is a necessity. Stress Awareness Month is a national, cooperative effort to inform people about the dangers of stress, successful coping strategies, and harmful misconceptions about stress that are prevalent in our society. How we react to stress and deal with stressors decides the outcome positive or negative.

**Sexual Assault Awareness:** Sexual assault may include attacks such as rape or attempted rape, any unwanted sexual contact or threats. Usually a sexual assault occurs when someone touches any part of another person's body in a sexual way, without that person's consent. Some types of sexual acts which fall into the category of sexual assault include forced sexual intercourse (rape), sodomy, child molestation, incest and attempted rape. Assailants can be strangers, friends, acquaintances and family members. Assailants commit sexual assault by using violence, threats, manipulation or coercion. Sexual assault happens without the person's consent, including if someone is unconscious or drugged.

**Responsible Alcohol Consumption Week and Alcohol-Free Weekend:** Occur in April 3-5 as part of Alcohol Awareness Month. Six Americans die from alcohol poisoning daily on average, and mortality rates are highest among middle-aged men, federal health authorities reported January 2015. The report is the first in a decade by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to tally alcohol poisonings for the entire American population.

**Asthma and Allergy Awareness:** Allergies are diseases of the immune system that cause an overreaction to substances called "allergens." Allergies are grouped by the kind of trigger, time of year or where symptoms appear on the body: indoor and outdoor allergies (also called "hay fever," "seasonal," "perennial" or "nasal" allergies), food allergies, latex allergies, insect allergies, skin allergies and eye allergies. Asthma is a chronic condition; allergies are just one of the factors that can trigger an asthma attack. Although episodes of asthma can sometimes be brought on by strong emotions, it is important to know that asthma is not the result of emotional factors such as a troubled parent-child relationship.

**Common Asthma Triggers:** Outdoor allergens, such as pollens from grass, trees and weeds. Indoor allergens, such as pet dander, dust mites and mold. Irritants in the air, such as smoke, chemical fumes and strong odors. Stress.

So as we celebrate Spring, spring into action during the month of April, to observe all of the above in conjunction with National Public Health Week as a time to recognize the contributions of public health champions caring for the health of all people and communities creating a "healthy me." Promise to eat well, exercise and get regular checkups. Get Yourself Tested (GYT). Make healthy choices that improve your health and set an example for family and friends.

World Health Day is April 7. This year WHO chose food safety to be the theme of World Health Day 2015? Make informed and wise food choices and adopt adequate behaviors. People should know common food hazards and how to handle food safely, using the information provided in food labelling.

"Nature always wears the colors of the spirit." Ralph Waldo Emerson  
Safe Fiesta !



# Around the ISR



Top left: Maj. Laura Kraemer, left, gives a tour of the Burn Center to members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart March 11.

Top right: Phyllis Turner cuts a cake March 12 to celebrate her birthday.

Center right: Dr. Alan Young, left, gives a tour of the Burn Center to members of the 514th Air Mobility Wing Civic Leaders March 10.

Bottom right: Andy Wallace, right, demonstrates the use of some of the items used to care for burn patients at 4 East to a group of nurses visiting from Brigham and Women's Hospital March 25.

Bottom left: Lt. Col. (Dr.) Wylan Peterson, left, presents Dr. Alan Young with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service March 27 during a going-away dinner.



**Around the ISR continued**



Top left: March 9 Chili Cook-Off winners: 1st Place-Spc. Amber Buckelew; 2nd-Sgt. Jaffster Daus; and 3rd-Bonnieface "Prem" Premdas. Center right: Maj. Thomas Rountree, right, gives a tour of the Burn Center March 20 to members of the foreign military officers attending the Medical Strategic Leadership Program. Bottom right: Lt. Col. John Melvin, right, gives a tour of the Burn Center March 26 to Brig. Gen. Hana Mahmoud Mohammed, Director, Egyptian Military Nursing Training Academy. Bottom left: Staff Sgt. Joseph Holtz and his son Hank holding a command coin and a gift presented during a going away luncheon March 31. Center left: Maj. Erik Johnson, left, gives a tour of the Burn Center March 24 to Army nurse student attending the Basic Officers Leadership Course.



# Promotions



Top: Staff Sgt. Michica Trillo, left, presents Staff Sgt. Danny Girela with a Certificate of Promotion March 5.

Left: Sgt. Andrew Ludescher, left, pins on the new rank to Sgt. Jessie Rodriguez March 6.

Bottom: Capt. Caitlin Scarborough, right, recites the Oath of Promotion during a mass promotion ceremony at the San Antonio Military Medical Center March 20.



### Celebrating National Women's History Month

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research and the Brooke Army Medical Center collaborated to commemorate Women's History Month March 25 at the San Antonio Military Medical Center Medical Mall.

This year's theme "Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives" was the topic of the guest speaker, Adena Loston, Ph.D., President of St. Phillips College in San Antonio.



### 2nd Quarter Birthday Celebration

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research celebrated the 2nd Quarter birthdays March 30.

Left to right:

Ricardo "Rick" Anzaldua, Staff Sgt. Pablo Sierra, CJ Zulaica, Michelle Foster, Jorge Villareal, Stephanie Roth, Maria Chapa, Sgt. 1st Class Russell Gilmore, and Lt. Col. John Melvin.



