



THE INNOVATOR

OPTIMIZING COMBAT CASUALTY CARE



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MRMCG Commander Visits ISR

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Celebrating Lab Week

CDR's Corner



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

“Optimizing Combat Casualty Care”

There are several important celebrations and holidays during the month of May. Many communities will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo, and I suspect San Antonio will set a new high standard. Many years ago, our country started celebrating Victory in Europe Day on May 8. If you know a World War II veteran or someone who was alive during the war, please take the opportunity to thank them for their sacrifices of those that have been called “Our Greatest Generation.”

Last month we celebrated the amazing contributions of our civil servants and conducted a service ceremony that recognized career milestones from 5 to 35 years. Yes, we have two team members who have earned the 35-year service recognition.

On May 18 we celebrate all the men and women who are currently serving

in the military with Armed Forces Day. Please take the opportunity on that Saturday to find other military service members in your neighborhoods and thank them for what they do every day. We end the month on a more somber tone with Memorial Day, which is dedicated to the men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice for freedom and our country.

There is one more holiday that deserves special attention: Mother’s Day on May 12. Although this is not a federal holiday, I think it is a very special celebration. The greatest advantage most of us have comes from our mothers and the special lifelong relationship. Our mothers uniquely give us life, love, and nourishment for our bodies, minds, and souls. My mother was my first teacher and taught me how to speak and that the wheels on the bus go round and round. She was my first coach and got

me from crawling to cruising and walking. She was my first Sunday school teacher who taught me about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the power of faith and obedience. She was my first economics teacher who taught me the relative value of things while watching *The Price Is Right* and *Let’s Make a Deal*. She was my first cooking instructor as we compared recipes with the Galloping Gourmet. She was my first medical professor as she taught me how to take care of “boo-boos” with compassion. My mother gave me a tremendous start in life, and whatever success I achieve will be based upon her foundation of unconditional love and support; and for that I say “Happy Mother’s Day!”

Thank you all for what you do every day,

Hooah!



Col. Michael Weber presents Gale Mankoff her 35-Year Time in Service Award certificate during the Awards Ceremony April 25.



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”

I would like to wish Happy Mother’s Day to all the Institute of Surgical Research mothers. Congratulations to all the Civilians and Soldiers who received awards and recognition during last month’s awards ceremony.

Last week, the Burn Flight Team completed another successful mission and we really enjoyed Lab Week. We are very proud of the team work displayed by the clinical, research and support staff.

Sgt. Major of the Army (SMA) Raymond F. Chandler visited our Burn Center and Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston a few weeks ago. During a town hall meeting, the SMA focused on leaders’ enforcement of standards and discipline. He also expressed concern over the Army suicide rate and sexual harassment and assault. He stressed that in order to reduce the rates of suicides and sexual harassment and assault, all leaders must remain engaged with their Soldiers and family members.

“It was extremely important to keep troops everywhere aware of how important their families were to them, and remind them that folks up the ladder cared about them and their families.”

said the SMA at the town hall meeting. “I would take my wife with me to most places where enlisted men had their families. The military wife is an import-

ant part of the Army, and it is essential that military wives receive proper recognition for the role they play in their husbands’ careers.”



Sgt. Major of the Army (SMA) Raymond F. Chandler and Sgt. Major Vincent Herrington at the Burn Center April 16. The SMA was in San Antonio with Gen. Raymond Odierno, the Chief of Staff of the Army visiting wounded warriors at the Burn Center and the San Antonio Military Medical Center.

A happy Soldier performs his duties much better than an unhappy one. Most men are happier when they have their families with them, and I wanted to recognize these ladies and express appreciation, on behalf of Department of the Army, for the fine job they were doing. What better way could that be done than for me to demonstrate how important my wife was to me?”

[1990 interview of SMA George W. Dunaway, in *The Sergeants Major of the Army: On Leadership and the Profession of Arms*. Arlington, VA: Institute of Land Warfare, Association of the United States Army. 2009, p. 37.]

MRMC Commander Visits ISR



Brig. Gen. (P) (Dr.) Joseph Carvalho Jr., Commander, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (MRMC), visited the ISR April 9-10. This was the general's initial visit to the ISR since taking command of MRMC in January.

"This was my orientation visit. I'm so glad I had a chance to visit with each cohort of staff members, Soldiers, NCO, officers, civilians, and contractors," said Carvalho. "Morale is extremely high, I see passion in the eyes of everyone I met, the sense of purpose within everyone and what they do here. Everyone seemed genuinely happy with the work that they are doing, and I am very proud to be their commanding general. It was a wonderful visit."

ISR Celebrates Lab Week

by Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

Laboratory staff members from the ISR coordinated week-long activities from April 22-29 to celebrate Medical Laboratory Professionals Week. According to Sgt. Shanelle McNair from the ISR Laboratory Support Branch, "Medical laboratory Professionals week is an annual celebration of the laboratory professional and pathologists who play a vital role in every aspect of health care. Since they often work behind the scenes, few people know about the critical testing they perform every day. Lab Week is a time to honor the more than 300,000 medical laboratory profession-

als around the country who perform and interpret more than 10 billion laboratory tests around the world every year."

The daily activities coordinated by McNair and Anel Engst were held in the ISR lab area. Everyday had a con-



test activity with prizes for the winners. The week ended with a BBQ at Salado Creek. The Monday through Friday activities were the following:

Monday: *Micro Art Contest.* Empty, sterile Petri dishes were filled with Jell-o and decorated with various types of frosting and sprinkles. The winner was Staff Sgt. Joel McVay.

Tuesday: *Glove Shaving Contest.* Shaving cream was put on the outside of a glove that was blown up and shaved with scalpels. The winner was Spc. Samuel Gatitu. A Hot Dog Sale was also held.

Wednesday: *Scavenger Hunt.* Various clues for items located in the lab were given, and the participants had to find the correct items. The winner was Spc. Polly Busman.

Guess the cells Game. Cells or inclusions were presented on slides to be identified. The winner was Spc. Samuel Gatitu.

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Left: Micro Art Contest winning Petri dish by Staff Sgt. Joel McVay.
Top: Capt. Natalie Collins participates in the Urine Tasting Contest.

Company Notes



Company Commander
Capt. Natalie D. Collins

We would like for everyone to congratulate the winners of the April NCO and Soldier of the Month competition: Sgt. Mackneil Ramos and Spc. Andrew Ludescher, respectively. Their photographs will be on display in the Company area.

The ISR Semi-Annual APFT was completed on April 28. Congratulations, the APFT pass rate was 98 percent and 97 percent for height/weight. We still have 22 personnel that have not tested for various reasons, including profile, recovery, and TDY. However, I am certain that when they are tested they will perform just as well as the Soldiers who tested during the Semi-An-

nual APFT.

The Kilo community at ISR celebrated Laboratory Professionals Week April 22-26, culminating in a BBQ and some sweet-smelling senior NCOs. Sgt. Major Vincent Herrington and 1st Sgt. Bradley Proud were the winners, or should we say, losers for pie-in-the face. With a turn of events, besides earning



1st Sgt. Bradley Proud during the Pie-in-the-Face event of Lab Week.

the most money during the week, Soldiers started bidding on who would be doing the deed. Spc. Stephen Holmes returned 1st Sgt. for having to do push-ups and Sgt. Khanesha Murrell with contributions from her section earned the right to pie the Sgt. Major.

We ended the second quarter with no new discipline incidents resulting in the initiation of an Article 15 or separation, making this our third consecutive quarter without any serious infractions. In addition to conducting yourselves as professionals, you have also been adhering to the Army Safety Program. The ISR Company has earned its first streamer for going a full year without any Class A or B safety incidents. We will have our streamer ceremony on May 24.

We are currently at 38 percent completion for AWT. There will be two opportunities to complete this requirement: SAMMC will conduct AWT May 6-10, and the sharp NCOs of ISR will conduct AWT May 20-23. We will be 100 percent by the end of the May 23.



NCO of the Month
Sgt. Mackneil Ramos



Soldier of the Month
Spc. Andrew Ludescher

Burn Center Honors Award-Winning Volunteers During Luncheon



Suzanne Smith cuts a cake during the Volunteer Appreciation luncheon April 24.

by Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research (ISR) Burn Center staff held a

volunteer appreciation luncheon April 24 to celebrate the volunteer group being selected as the San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC) Volunteer Group of the Year. The Burn Center volunteer group is now competing for the 2013 Joint Base San Antonio—Fort Sam Houston Volunteer Group of the Year and the United Way Military Service Award—Group.

“We are extremely fortunate to benefit from the volunteers who give selfless of their time and experience to support the families of our burn survivors,” said Burn Center Director, Col. (Dr.) Evan M. Renz. “Our Volunteers remain a key component of our team.”

Cindy Dire, burn center volunteer group leader, stated, “The team that we have is just exceptional and it’s a privilege to work with the staff that is so supportive of us.”

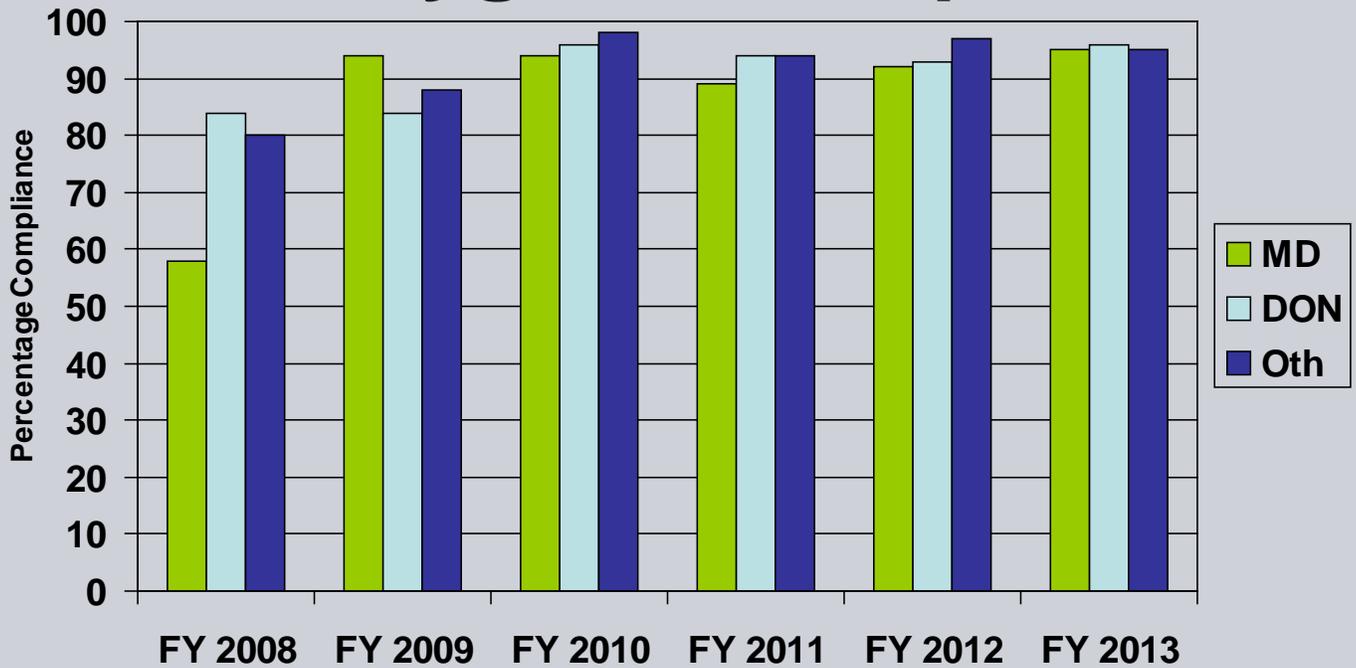
For the past nine years, Suzanne V. Smith has been a volunteer at the Burn Center and shared her sentiments with

the staff during the luncheon. “This is a wonderful place to work, it’s very stressful. We really appreciate all of your support and you’re a pleasure to work with and we just hope that we don’t ever add anymore stress to your days.”

Lt. Col. Paul B. Mittelsteadt, Burn Center chief of nurses, said that the volunteers staff the burn information desk and coordinate interactions/visits and plans of care communications for patients and families. “The group also provides a myriad of information on everything like directions or resources available for our burn population.

“Whether here for two days or nine years, we appreciate everything they do,” he said. “Far above the awards are the rewards of the great work they do with the staff and patients every day. This luncheon was just one way for us to say ‘thank you’ to the entire group. I would be surprised if they are not selected as the post’s and United Way volunteer group of the year.”

Hand Hygiene Compliance



Happy  *Mother's* Day

May 12 is Mother's Day. In honor of that special day, ISR staff members submitted baby photos. Match the baby photos with current staff photos.



Briza Horace



SSgt. Tiffany Baldwin



Renee Williams



Michelle Foster



Steven Galvan



Col. Michael Weber

Algorithm Gauges When Patients Are in Danger

By Steven Galvan
 USAISR Public Affairs Officer

Researchers at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research (ISR) at Joint Base San Antonio—Fort Sam Houston, Texas are improving medical monitors that have been used in clinics and hospitals since the early '70s to assist physicians and medical staff in assessing a patient's condition. The Compensatory Reserve Index (CRI) is a new algorithm that utilizes the information obtained from a standard pulse oximeter and gauges whether a patient requires resuscitation or immediate medical attention.

“The physiology of using the LNBP machine looks the same as if someone were bleeding out. “It’s a way of ‘bleeding’ someone without taking a drop of blood.”
Victor A. Convertino, Ph.D.

“This [CRI] can evaluate information from waveforms generated by taking a standard pulse oximeter, which is a non-invasive medical device routinely placed on a finger or ear and measures levels of blood oxygen saturation and heart rate,” said Victor A. Convertino, Ph.D., Tactical Combat Casualty Care Research Task Area Program Manager at the ISR. “The algorithm provides a decision support system that could help a young medic who doesn’t have much experience in pre-hospital care make life-saving decisions.”

The standard measurements displayed by a pulse oximeter cannot detect whether a patient is in danger of crashing [going into shock] like the CRI. The CRI has a gauge much like a fuel gauge in a motor vehicle to indi-

cate when fuel is running low. The CRI gauge begins to show a loss in “fuel” well in advance of changes in blood oxygen or heart rate measured by the pulse oximeter.

According to Convertino, when a person is injured and bleeding internally, the body compensates by increasing heart rate and constricting blood vessels responses that elevate blood pressure. This compensation creates a patient with vital signs and cognition that appear normal to the attending clinician. The CRI will show that the patient is in danger whereas the pulse oximeter alone does not.

“A person can be bleeding out internally and seem normal until the body can no longer compensate and ‘crash’ [go into shock] in a matter of seconds,”

said Convertino.

Convertino and his team have conducted experiments on more than 230 participants using a lower negative blood pressure (LNBP) machine as a model of hemorrhage to collect the data that has been downloaded onto the algorithm.

“The physiology of using the LNBP machine looks the same as if someone were bleeding out,” he said. “It’s a way of ‘bleeding’ someone without taking a drop of blood.”

The CRI now requires Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval.

“We have developed a protocol to conduct clinical trials,” said Convertino. “We’re pretty confident that the CRI will receive FDA clearance within the next year.”



The Compensatory Reserve Index can evaluate information from waveforms generated by a standard pulse oximeter, which is a non-invasive medical device routinely placed on a finger or ear and measures levels of blood oxygen saturation and heart rate.

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Bake Sale. Contestants made baked goods with a lab theme, and they were judged on Most Creative and Best Tasting. The winners were Stefanie Shiels for best tasting and Sgt. Mary Alvarez for most creative.

Thursday: Urine Tasting Contest. There were various liquids in 24-hr urine jugs, and contestants had to guess what ingredients they tasted in each jug. A doughnut sale was also held. The winner was Spc. Andrew Ludescher.

Friday: Annual Lab Week BBQ; Pie-in-the face; and Awards Ceremony.

Other daily activities included a *Daily Crossword Puzzle* and a *Guess How Many Bacteria* a candy jar filled with “bacteria.” The winners for the crossword puzzles were McVay, Audrey Premdas, Kerfoot Walker, and Sgt. William Vidal. The winners for the “Guess How Many Bacteria” were Jennifer Trevino and Matthew Jarrell.

“This was one of the most memorable lab weeks at the ISR,” said McNair. “I would like to thank all the lab techs at ISR for making this week enjoyable for everyone.”

important item in my life. So I decided to take a chance and headed back to that Home Depot and asked whether someone had turned it in to Customer Service. The employee pointed to some items in a corner, and I was surprised to see old “faithful.” I was so excited, I started walking with it and thinking just how much I loved it.

Wow, it surely was strange to have such feelings. I guess being attached to something for so long can leave a void when you are without it. Welcome back, old mighty Mjolnir! Someone did a kind act by taking it to customer service.

Last Friday I pulled into WalMart and reached in the side door for my disabled placard. It was not there. I frantically looked everywhere and I could not find it. So I had to park farther away from the entrance. When I got home, I asked my wife whether she knew what happened to it. She did not know. On Sunday I went to various stores asking their Customer Service departments if anyone had turned in a disabled placard.

Each responded, “Good luck on that. Someone is probably using it!”

On Monday I walked by the ISR front desk reception and was surprised to see my disabled placard on the counter. Once again, someone did a kind act. I was told that a soldier turned it in Thursday evening upon finding it in the parking lot. I thought, “what are the odds?” I had seen someone park in that slot right after I pulled away. This soldier returned to the building from the parking lot to give the disabled placard to the Staff Duty that day.

I immediately started remembering the Army Values. The words honor and integrity stay in my mind. There are a lot of honest people in our organization. Finding out that a soldier did the right thing makes me proud that I am still serving those who serve.

The soldier is Staff Sgt.(P) Hipolito Ramos.



Spc. Samuel Gatitu and Spc. Jaffster Daus compete in the Glove Shaving Contest.

A minor act leads to major gratitude

Special Feature



By Donaya T. A. “Shoke” Ashoka Jr.

About a year ago I misplaced something very dear to me. It was a worn-

out black metal adjustable cane that I had had for over 20 years. I had left it in a shopping cart at a Home Depot after loading my car.

I did not realize it until I got home. Right away I wanted to be like Thor and summon my cane by simply extending my hand out for it. But I ended up going to the nearest Walgreens to buy another cane. They did not have the exact one that I had used for so many years. I went for two weeks using it, and it just did not feel the same.

I realized that I was missing a very

April Health News

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



May is Hepatitis Awareness Month. Do you know your ABCs? Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver. Toxins, certain drugs, some diseases, heavy alcohol use, and bacterial and viral infections can all cause hepatitis. Hepatitis is also the name of a family of viral infections that affect the liver; the most common types are Hepatitis A, B, and C. Rare forms of hepatitis are D, E and autoimmune hepatitis.

Hepatitis A, B, and C are diseases caused by three different viruses. Each can cause similar symptoms, but they have different modes of transmission and can affect the liver differently.

Most people don't know they have it until they are ill. There is a lot of ignorance and stigma associated with this disease, especially Hepatitis B.

There is a strong link between Hepatitis B and liver cancer. The hepatitis virus repeatedly attacks the liver causing damage that can result in cancer. Hepatitis B accounts for 80 percent of liver cancer cases, and more than half a million people die from liver cancer annually. Worldwide hepatitis B is the third most common cause of death from cancer in males.

What is the difference among Hepatitis A, B, and C?

Hepatitis A appears only as an acute or newly occurring infection and does not become chronic. Hepatitis A is an acute liver disease caused by the Hepatitis A virus (HAV), lasting from a few weeks to several months. It does not lead to chronic infection. People with Hepa-

In the Spotlight

Sgt. Tonja J. Morrow

Job title: PT NCO

How long have you worked at the ISR? Just shy of three years

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

My co-workers, because it takes a whole lot of special something to do what we do.

What is your favorite part of your job? Seeing the patients after they have been discharged.

Your proudest achievement? Five beautiful children.

Short- and long-term goals? Short-term: I am working on getting promoted so I can reenlist. Long-term is going to college so I can get a degree in Computer Animation.

Hobbies: , Reading, writing, Dungeons & Dragons (any edition, currently 4th), and massively multiplayer online (MMO) games.

Favorite book: Mary Anything Star Wars

Favorite movie/TV show: Movie-Star Wars, TV show-Face Off

Favorite quote:



Never ever give up !

titis A usually improve without treatment. Hepatitis A can sometimes cause liver failure and death, although rarely and occurs more commonly in persons 50 years of age or older and persons with other liver diseases, such as Hepatitis B or C.

Hepatitis B is a liver disease caused by the Hepatitis B virus (HBV). It ranges in severity from a mild illness, lasting a few weeks (acute), to a serious long-term (chronic) illness. In the United States, approximately 1.2 million people have chronic Hepatitis B. An estimated 40,000 people now become infected each year that can lead to liver disease or liver cancer, long-term health prob-

lems, and even death. Unfortunately, many people do not know they are infected.

Hepatitis C (HCV) is transmitted when the infected blood of one person gets into the blood stream of another person. More than 75 percent of adults with Hepatitis C are baby boomers. Baby boomers are five times more likely to be infected with Hepatitis C. As baby boomers age, there is a greater chance that they will develop serious, life-threatening liver disease from Hepatitis C. The reason that baby boomers have the highest rates of Hepatitis C is not completely understood. Most

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Safety Notes



By Stephanie L. Truss
Health, Safety and Environmental Specialist

May is the month of motorcycles and motorcyclists. Motorcyclists are much more vulnerable to crashes than other drivers. Many crashes occur because motorcycles are hidden in a vehicle's blind spot. It is important that motorists always make a visual check for motorcyclists by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic.

The sun shines, the birds sing and riders across the country swing their leg across their two-wheeled steeds to hit the open road. According to an article by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF), there are a few basic rules to follow to ensure that everyone, riders and non-riders alike, can enjoy a beautiful and safe spring season. And with all motorcyclists (including me) hitting the streets, we ask that car drivers keep vigilant and look not only once, but several times, for riders. We are smaller than cars and harder to see in traffic.

1. Get properly trained and licensed — the best first ride is an MSF Rider Course. Riding is serious fun and proper training is crucial. However, half of all riders today have never taken a proper safety class.
2. Wear all protective gear, all the time — T-shirts and shorts are good for the beach but not for riding a motorcycle. Riders should gear up properly before every ride, even if just riding down the street on an errand
3. Ride unimpaired by alcohol or other drugs — bikes and booze don't mix.

Government studies show that 46 percent of riders killed in motorcycle crashes had been drinking. While under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, a motorcyclist's necessary skills, including agility, perception and awareness, are decreased dramatically.

4. Ride within your own skill limits and obey traffic laws — every rider should know the limits of their ability, and not attempt to exceed them. Humans weren't designed to fly; and unless you're a trained professional on a closed course, stunting, high speed or tricks can only cause you trouble.
5. Be a lifelong learner by taking refresher Rider Courses — motorcyclists should keep in mind that no matter how often or how long they've been riding, there is always room to learn something new.

The MSF hopes riders will follow these rules and suggestions for everyone's benefit, and to ensure a safe Motorcycle Awareness Month for 2013.

The MSF promotes safety through rider education and training, operator licensing tests and public information programs. The MSF works with the federal government, state agencies, the military and others to offer programs for all skill levels so riders can enjoy a lifetime of safe, responsible motorcycling. Standards established by the MSF have been recognized worldwide since 1973. For additional training information contact the ISR Safety Manager.

In keeping with Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month the ISR Motorcycle Safety Team will host their 2013 Spring Ride May 3 with a 0630 meet time. If you are interested in participating clear it with your supervisors and contact the Motorcycle Safety Team NCOIC Staff Sgt. Daniel Nelson, Asst. NCOIC Sgt. 1st Class Michael Popa and or the ISR me, the ISR Safety Manager for additional information.

Always keep Safety first!

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boomers are believed to have become infected in the 1970s and 1980s when rates of Hepatitis C were the highest. Since chronic Hepatitis C can go unnoticed for up to several decades, baby boomers could be living with an infection that occurred many years ago.

Danger: Even with treatment, some people may develop cirrhosis, liver cancer and ultimately, liver failure. Liver disease, liver cancer, and deaths from Hepatitis C are on the rise. Of the estimated 4 million persons infected with HCV in the United States, approximately 10,000 die each year from liver failure.

If a person has had one type of viral hepatitis in the past, it is still possible to get the other types.

Talk to your health professional, contact your occupational health office or health department, or visit www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis.

Good Clinical Practice Training Course for new investigators and research staff

Tuesday May 7 0800-1600
Wednesday May 8 0800-1200
BHT 1 2nd Floor Conf. Room
Please plan for full-day attendance if you are involved with IND/IDE and AFIRM research studies and have not taken a GCP Course within the past year. Good Clinical Practice Training Course Refresher will be offered May 8 for anyone needing just the refresher course. This presentation is aimed at those individuals involved in an FDA study and have attended a GCP Course in the past year.



'Bad Day at Work' Just Another Day for Marine

Story and photo by Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

The scars are a testament to what he calls “a bad day at work.” A 2006 improvised explosion device attack on the Light Armored Vehicle (LAV) he was riding in while deployed to Iraq burned 40 percent of his body and shattered his left ankle. Although the explosion knocked him down and changed his life, it didn't change his outlook on life and it certainly didn't keep him down.

“I knew from day one that I was going to get through this,” said Marine Corps Master Sgt. Blaine L. Scott.

The 20-year veteran “Devil Dog” recalls the 18 months he spent at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center at Joint Base San Antonio—Fort Sam Houston, Texas. He spent three months as an inpatient at the center where, as soon as he was able to, he began a rehabilitation program that consisted of countless hours in the rehabilitation gym. “They [physical therapists] would tell me to do 10 and I'd do 20. They'd tell me to go 100 meters and I would go 200.”

It was that determination that got him promoted to Gunnery Sgt. in 2009 and back in the fight to support the overseas contingency operations in Afghanistan in 2010.

Nowadays Scott spends his time as the Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge (SNCOIC) at the San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC) Marine Corps Detachment assisting wounded Marines during their hospitalization and rehabilitation at the Burn Center and SAMMC.

“We oversee the non-medical side of the Marine's stay here,” he said. “From admin [leave, pay, accountability, etc.] to assisting their families and making sure they have everything they need during their stay here.”



Master Sgt. Blaine L. Scott is the Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge at the San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC) Marine Corps Detachment assisting wounded Marines during their stay at the ISR Burn Center and SAMMC.

Mentoring and leading Marines in battle as an infantryman is what Scott was trained for and did for many years. But now, instead of being a platoon sergeant overseeing 40-plus Marines in a LAV reconnaissance unit, he is ensuring that wounded Marines have the best healing environment possible and that their personal and professional is-

“I knew from day one that I was going to get through this.”

Master Sgt. Blaine L. Scott.

sues are taken care of.

“I feel I owe it to them,” said Scott. “I know exactly what they are going through. When they first get here their future is uncertain. They don't know what's going to happen to them. We

help teach them how to survive their new life. And that's exactly what it is [a new life]. Their lives will never be the same no matter what type of injury it is—from a minor or major burn to an amputation. It's a new life for them. I've been there—my life has never been the same.”

“As a combat-wounded Marine and former patient, Master Sgt. Scott is an extremely valuable asset to motivating wounded, ill and injured Marines to return to full duty or to reintegrate into their civilian communities,” said Lt. Col. Richard Riley, Marine Detachment Officer in Charge. “He understands the intricacies and healing process for Marine patients and their families. He is also knowledgeable of the resources available to Marines during their rehabilitation process and knows how to synchronize those resources on behalf

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of Marines to help them focus and remain motivated to reach their goals.”

Scott was able to reach his goal of getting through his injuries and staying active duty, but he had some help along the way—his wife and kids.

“If it weren’t for them, I probably wouldn’t be here,” he said.

Not only did Scott spend countless hours in the gym rehabilitating, but he also had a routine at home of taking care of a newborn and his wife.

“My son was born a few days after I was discharged from the hospital,” Scott said. “Believe it or not, taking care of a newborn is a lot of physical therapy.”

Scott said that even though taking care of a newborn was challenging, he didn’t mind since his wife had just had a cesarean section and especially since she was the main reason for his recovery.

“She’d push me around on a wheelchair to my appointments and hit me in the back of the head when I needed it,” he said. “She kept me going and kept

“Do I have a good life? Of course I do. I enjoy what I do and where I’ve been. I would never trade it for anything. Even the day I got injured.”

Master Sgt. Blaine L. Scott

me strong. She’s a strong lady.”

The support from his family and the Marine Detachment while he was a patient was key during his recovery phase and returning to work. Since being released from the Burn Center, Scott transferred to California to the 1st Marine Division (Division Schools) and 1st Marine Expeditionary Force with an eight-month deployment to Afghanistan. After returning to California from the deployment and up for orders, Scott was given the choice of transferring to Washington, DC, Hawaii or San Antonio.

“I picked San Antonio because I

knew this was a good place for me to come and give back to what was given to me when I was here,” he said. “I just want the wounded Marines to know that they’ll be fine. I’ve been there. My life has never been the same and it wasn’t easy, but I made it through and they can do the same.”

Being able to give back to the wounded Marines and their families is not only what Scott is doing, but also his wife Lilly.

“It’s unbelievable what she does for the wives,” he said. “The wives are forgotten about a lot, and they are going through as much as the Marines. It takes a strong woman to get through something like this and they do a phenomenal job. I’m proud of all of them and I let them know.”

Scott will be leaving the active-duty ranks and retiring in 2014. At this point he doesn’t have any plans for a new job, but he knows that the family will settle in the area and doesn’t have any regrets.

“Do I have a good life? Of course I do. I enjoy what I do and where I’ve been. I would never trade it for anything,” said Scott. “Even the day I got injured.”

The most important thing that he wants everyone to know is that he does not want anyone to feel sorry for him. “I had a bad day. I choose to be here and I choose to do this. I’d do it all over again. It’s what I do. So even though you’re injured or having a bad day, don’t let it keep you down. You gotta live life to the fullest.”



Special ISR Statistics Lecture
Survival Analysis

Brad Pollock, PhD

Professor and Chairman
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Tuesday, 28 May 2013
1500 - 1600
BHT 1 – 2nd Floor Conference Room

Around the ISR



Top right: Lt. Col. Sandra Escolas, left, is presented a Command Coin by Maj. Gen. Adolph McQueen April 12.

Center right: Col. Evan Renz conducts a tour of the Burn Center April 11 for Medical Strategic Leadership Program officers.

Bottom right: Col. Evan Renz presents Helen Wessel with a 30 Year in Service certificate April 19.

Top left: Sgt. Timothy Couchman, left, is presented a Certificate of Promotion by Col. Mirang Kim April 1.

Center left: Stacey Robinson being celebrated at a party for her on Administrative Professionals' Day April 24 by the Blood and Coagulation Task Area.

Bottom Left: Lt. Col. Paul Mittelsteadt conducts a tour of the Burn Center for EMT students from Lehman High School April 29.

Around the ISR continued



Top left: Col. Evan Renz welcomes Gen. Raymond Odierno to the Burn Center April 16.

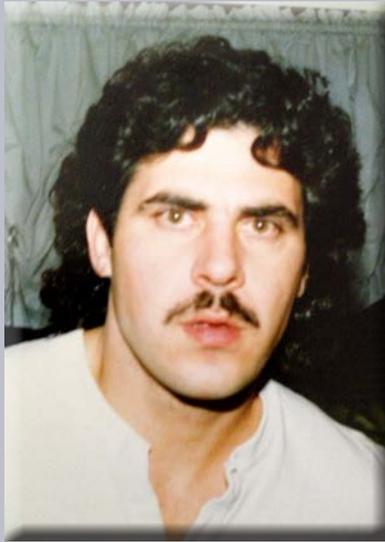
Center left: 4 East staff members from the Burn Center pose with the Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Raymond Odierno and Sgt. Major of the Army Raymond Chandler April 16.

Top right: Capt. Michael Campbell, left, meets Adm. William McRaven, Commander, United States Special Operations Command April 15.

Center right: Maj. Scott Phillips gives a tour of the Burn Center to Vietnam veterans April 24.

Bottom right: left to right, Ivo Torres, Ph.D.; Lt. Col. Andre Cap; Michael Dubick, Ph.D.; Melanie Valenciana; Jennifer Fedorka; and Sgt. Virgil Moore celebrating their birthdays April 19.

Back When...



Can you guess who this ISR staff member is?

This photo was taken in 1992 when he was a graduate student at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

Last Month's Answer:



Jose Salinas, Ph.D.
Comprehensive Intensive
Care Research

10 Year
Hope Greeley
Bijan Kheirabadi
Wenjun Martini
Mai Nguyen
David Smith
Ross Springer
Lefty Wright

15 Year
Johnathan Abercrombie
Kathleen McKay
Gary Muniz
Sheralyn Wright

20 Year
Marietta Mercado
Jean Orman
Reuben Salinas

25 Year
Victor Convertino
Carlos Donato
Jill Sondeen

30 Year
Bridgette Adams
Harold Klemcke
Sergio Martinez

35 Year
Andre Akers
Gale Mankoff

April Awards Ceremony

Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Betty Nelson
Mai Nguyen
Carol Raymond
Marissa Rodriguez
Darlene Tubera

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

Susan Juana Barbosa
Phillip Berry
Sterrin Cate
Wendy Chang
Chaya Galin
Victoria Hatem
Marissa Rodriguez

MRMC Essay Contest Winner

Rosann Berg

Civilian of the Quarter

Ricardo Anzaldúa
Mariam Calderon
Michael Shiels

Civilian Time in Service Award

5 Year

Robert Christy
Daniel Darlington
Paul Fonda
Angie Greer
Lindsey Hansler
Sharanda Hardy
Monica Lamadore-Martinez
Michelle Leas
Alison Leon
Daniel Martinez
Belinda Meyers
Tammy Neer
Johnny Nelson
Audrey Premdas
Marissa Rodriguez
Michael Scherer
Gerardo Smith-Salinas
Tina Somers

Army Commendation Medal

Staff Sgt. Seth Holland
Sgt. Brandon Fitzgerald
Spc. Ahmed Metwally

Army Achievement Medal

Sgt. Roman Castaneda
Sgt. Cedric Mason
Sgt. Alfredo Villareal

Certificate of Achievement

Sgt. Shane Berry
Sgt. Brandon Bock
Sgt. Khanesha Murrell