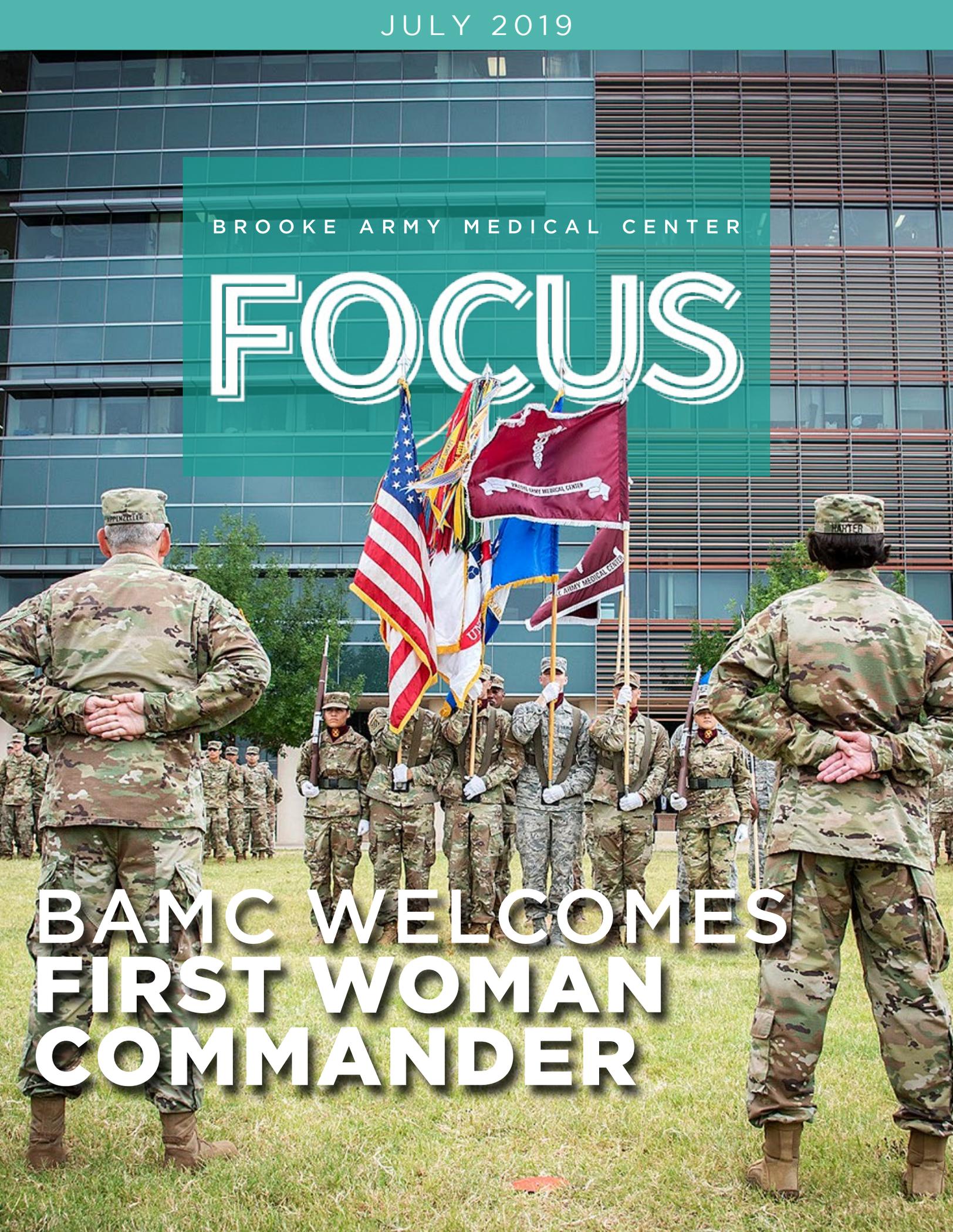


JULY 2019

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

FOCUS

**BAMC WELCOMES
FIRST WOMAN
COMMANDER**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

JULY 2019

4 BAMC Welcomes First Woman Commander

6 New Treatment Option Provided for Certain Types of Tumors

7 BAMC Receives Environmental Awards

8 Emergency Medicine Docs Participate in Joint Exercise

10 Let the Games Begin

11 Fighting & Overcoming Together
An Enduring Commitment With Warrior Games

12 Emergency Medicine Docs Participate in Joint Exercise

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We reserve the right to edit submissions selected for publication.

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O U R C O M M I T M E N T



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BAMC Family,

I am humbled and deeply honored to join this awesome, world-class team of military and civilian personnel, and I look forward to seeing firsthand your dedication to our patients and achievements in research, training and education. Our patients are our purpose, and I've already seen this commitment and compassion reflected in your professionalism and devotion to duty.

BAMC is truly the pinnacle of military healthcare and a producer of ready medical forces for the Department of Defense. The world remains a dynamic place, and BAMC will continue to be the cornerstone of global medical readiness providing critical capabilities for our nation.

Our joint environment is an integral part of what makes BAMC so special and its reputation so renowned. It will take every member of this outstanding joint team - military, civilian, contractor, Public Health Service and our volunteers - as well as our military and civilian partners, to ensure continued success.

Together, we have a unique opportunity to shape the future of military healthcare as we prepare to transition under the Defense Health Agency. CSM Oates and I are counting on you to share your ideas and unique perspectives to help guide these efforts as we embrace the joint environment you've already fostered here.

Your dedication, service and sacrifice are truly appreciated, and I couldn't be prouder to be here serving our active duty, retirees and family members as well as this tremendous community.

Wendy L. Harter
Brigadier General,
U.S. Army Commanding General

Thomas R. Oates
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major



Mission

We protect the Nation by ensuring Total Force Readiness through innovative, high quality care and the development of elite healthcare professionals.

Vision

*To be the pinnacle of military healthcare
— Anytime, Anywhere!*

BAMC Welcomes First Woman Commander



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. George Appenzeller, outgoing Brooke Army Medical Center commanding general, left, and Brig. Gen. Wendy L. Harter, incoming BAMC commanding general, stand before the formation during a change of command ceremony at BAMC, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, July 16, 2019. As Harter assumes command at BAMC, Appenzeller will move on to command Regional Health Command - Central. U.S. Army photo by Jason W. Edwards

BY BOB A. WHETSTONE
Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

Brooke Army Medical Center experienced a unique ‘first’ during the change of command ceremony at Fort Sam Houston, July 16. Brig. Gen. George Appenzeller relinquished command to Brig. Gen. Wendy Harter, making her the first woman to command BAMC in its storied history.

History within military units often goes unnoticed unless passed on by word of mouth. Being the first woman to command BAMC is no secret in the medical community, and it is significant to Harter personally and professionally.

“It is an honor, but just as importantly, it allows others to see themselves and opportunities for their future,” explained Harter. “Diversity is the strength of our Army and military. Everyone brings unique skills and dedication to the fight to contribute to BAMC’s success, and everyone has a leadership role. Being the first woman is historic for all.”

The officiating officer for the ceremony was Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson, Regional Health Command – Central commander. Johnson

added another unique aspect to the event. It was just 14 months ago that Johnson relinquished command of BAMC to Appenzeller. Later in the same day, Johnson and Appenzeller once again changed commands with Appenzeller taking over RHC-C. Johnson’s next assignment is yet to be determined.

Johnson recognized the 8,500-strong BAMC staff consisting of military, civilians, contractors and volunteers as being a compassionate team that supports and serves 250,000 beneficiaries in Military City USA. “The hard work that you completed to form an integrated health system, already sounds like the model we are moving toward with the Defense Health Agency,” stated Johnson.

Johnson listed a number of accomplishments achieved during Appenzeller’s tenure as BAMC’s commander, and he also welcomed Harter as the right leader at the right time.

One of those accomplishments was BAMC recently earning the Joint Commission Gold Seal of approval. It is only one of many achievements the organization has worked diligently to maintain as the standard for safe, quality

healthcare, and a success shared by the entire BAMC family.

Appenzeller told the crowd that BAMC is the Department of Defense’s premier joint live fire complex. “What you are going to see (at BAMC) are service members exercising every medical battlefield operating system in a phenomenal way,” stated Appenzeller. “This team you (Harter) are going to lead is the best at creating ready medical forces, creating ready medics, and training medicine. You are not going to find a better group; and you’re going to do it in a city that is more dedicated to taking care of service members than any I’ve ever seen.”

‘Standards’ was one of the overarching themes of the remarks given during the ceremony. “As I walk around BAMC, the culture is one of a professional family committed to our mission, action oriented and standards based,” said Harter.

General David Hurley, former Chief of the Australian Defence Force and current Governor-General of Australia, once said, “The standard you walk past is the standard you accept.” Harter talked about the importance standards play for organizations like BAMC.

BAMC Welcomes First Woman Commander (Continued)



Above, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. George Appenzeller, outgoing Brooke Army Medical Center commanding general, left, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson, Regional Health Command - Central commanding general, and Brig. Gen. Wendy L. Harter, incoming BAMC commanding general, look on during a change of command ceremony at BAMC, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, July 16. Harter assumed command from Appenzeller, becoming the first woman to serve as BAMC's commanding general. U.S. Army photo by Jason W. Edwards

"We will remain a standards-based organization, transparent and introspective, and will sustain the world-class healthcare our beneficiaries enjoy today throughout this time of transition," said Harter. "DHA has the same goals, quality care, education and Joint Commission standard that is the pillar for all."

Harter said she was humbled and deeply honored to join BAMC's exceptional team. BAMC operates the only Level I Trauma Center in the Department of Defense, with cutting-edge research, education, warrior and family care, and training programs.

"BAMC is truly the pinnacle of military healthcare and a producer of ready medical forces for the Department of Defense," said Harter. "The world remains a dynamic place, and BAMC will continue as the cornerstone of global medical readiness providing critical capabilities for our nation."



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson, Regional Health Command - Central commanding general, presents the unit guidon to U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Wendy L. Harter, Brooke Army Medical Center commanding general, at a change of command ceremony at BAMC, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, July 16. Harter is BAMC's first female commanding general. U.S. Army photo by Jason W. Edwards

BAMC Offers New Treatment Option for Certain Types of Tumors

BY LORI NEWMAN

Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

The Brooke Army Medical Center Nuclear Medicine Department now offers a new treatment for certain types of neuroendocrine tumors.

The use of lutetium Lu 177 dotatate was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in January 2018 for the treatment of somatostatin receptor-positive gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (GEP-NETs), including foregut, midgut, and hindgut neuroendocrine tumors in adults.

"BAMC is the first military treatment facility to provide this type of therapy, and the first center in San Antonio," said Air Force Lt. Col. Penny Vroman, Nuclear Medicine Department chief.

"Until this treatment was created and approved patients have been getting (other treatments) that were not as effective," Vroman said. "Data has shown that this therapy reduced the risk of this type of cancer spreading or growing, and some patients even had their tumors shrink."

The inpatient procedure consists of four IV infusions spaced eight weeks apart, which must be administered by specially trained staff in a dedicated radiotherapy room.

"It's a radioactive substance that's injected through an IV into the patient," Vroman said. "It's targeted molecular therapy, or theranostics."



Air Force Lt. Col. Penny Vroman, Brooke Army Medical Center Nuclear Medicine Department chief, looks at scans of a patient with neuroendocrine tumors June 26, 2019 to see if the radiopharmaceutical drug is targeting the tumors. The use of lutetium Lu 177 dotatate was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in January 2018 for the treatment of somatostatin receptor-positive gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (GEP-NETs), including foregut, midgut, and hindgut neuroendocrine tumors in adults. U.S. Army photo by Lori Newman

Theranostics is a field of medicine that combines specific targeted therapy based on specific targeted diagnostic tests. With a key focus on patient centered care, theranostics provides a transition from conventional medicine to a contemporary personalized and precision medicine approach.

"The patient receives two IV's during the treatment," Vroman explained. "One is an amino acid infusion to protect their kidneys and the other is the peptide receptor radionuclide therapy drug. The process takes about five to six hours to complete."

Only two patients have started this course of therapy at BAMC to date. Not all patients meet the criteria for the treatment. A Hematology/Oncology doctor makes the referral to the Nuclear Medicine Department for a consultation. If the patient is a candidate for the treatment, Nuclear Medicine personnel will order the medicine and begin the process of scheduling the procedure.

One of the patients who is currently receiving the therapy was referred by Army Lt. Col. (Dr.) Lindsey Graham, Hematology/Oncology Department.

These types of tumors are slow growing and someone's best chance is if they are found early and can be surgically removed, Graham explained. There isn't a cure for this type of neuroendocrine tumor, but it can be controlled with medications.

"It's like a chronic disease that may over time get worse, but if you take your medicines you can keep it from getting bad quickly," Graham said. "We really don't have a chemotherapy that will cause reliable shrinkage of these tumors."

"This type of therapy has been talked about

in literature and presented at conferences for a while," Graham said. "Studies have shown this is an effective therapy for neuroendocrine tumors."

Before offering this treatment at BAMC, a comprehensive team of personnel from several departments throughout the hospital was formed. Staff members were training on the use of the drug, and checklists and policies were created to ensure the safety of staff members and patients because this medicine uses radiation to kill cancer cells.

"We make sure the radiopharmaceutical being used for treatments and diagnostic purposes are used safely," explained Dexter Brathwaite, physical science technician, Health Physics Service. "My role was to train the staff before we started to administer this therapy to the patient."

A dedicated radiopharmacist, who has had several years of additional training in nuclear medicine, handles these types of radiopharmaceuticals. A radiopharmaceutical is a radioactive drug used for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.

"It is very much a team approach to this treatment," Brathwaite said. "We are working urgently to make sure it is a smooth process, and are hopeful this treatment will be a main staple offered here."

Graham and Vroman agree.

"I definitely love my team members in Nuclear Medicine," Graham said. "I'm so thankful they found out all the steps and hoops they had to go through to get approved to do this here."

"We are all very excited because we have been waiting for this type of targeted molecular therapy to treat these patients who have metastatic neuroendocrine tumors," Vroman said.



Jeff Kuehnhoff, radiopharmacist, puts a vial of lutetium Lu 177 dotatate into the dosage calibrator June 26, 2019, in the Nuclear Medicine Pharmacy. The dose calibrator calibrates the quantity of radiotracer activity in the radiopharmaceutical. This process is done to make sure the radiopharmaceutical is the accurate dose before it is administered to the patient. A dedicated radiopharmacist, who has had several years of additional training in nuclear medicine, handles these types of radiopharmaceuticals.

BAMC Receives Multiple Environmental Awards

BY DANIEL CALDERÓN

Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

The staff at Brooke Army Medical Center received three Practice Greenhealth Environmental Awards at the CleanMed 2019 conference for their efforts in innovating sustainability and environmental best practices throughout the facility.

BAMC received the Greening the OR Award for the second time and the Partner for Change for the third time. This year, BAMC also received its first Circle of Excellence – Chemicals Award.

“It is important that BAMC work towards the goals covered by the Greenhealth awards,” said Kevin Nikodym, BAMC facility manager, “because we are recognized as the flagship of Army Medicine and have a responsibility to set the example for all other military medical sites to follow.”

Practice Greenhealth’s Environmental Excellence Awards recognize health care facilities, health sector suppliers, and member organizations for making a commitment to and progressing toward environmental stewardship and sustainability. According to Army Capt. Jennifer House, the chief of Environmental Health at BAMC, each Circle of Excellence award highlights the efforts made by hospitals driving innovation in sustainability performance across an array of categories. The Chemicals category honors hospitals where staff work to address toxicity through greener cleaning programs and avoidance of chemicals of concern in purchasing products, services and equipment.

“The Department of Nutritional Medicine continues to only purchase safe chemicals needed to wash and sanitize our food service areas,” said Army Maj. David E. Elliott, DNM deputy chief. “We don’t use bleach. We have zero mercury-containing thermometers.”

The Partner for Change Award recognizes health care facilities that continuously improve and expand upon programs to eliminate mercury, reduce and recycle waste, source products sustainably, and more. Winning facilities must



Margarita Reed, a cook at Brooke Army Medical Center’s Dining Facility, cleans the flattop cooker following breakfast on June 21, 2019. BAMC earned three Practice Greenhealth Environmental Awards at the CleanMed2019 conference, including its first Circle of Excellence – Chemicals Award, for its overall commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability practices. U.S. Army photo by Daniel J. Calderón

demonstrate that they are recycling at least 15 percent of their total waste, have reduced regulated medical waste, are on track to eliminate mercury, and have developed successful sustainability programs in many areas.

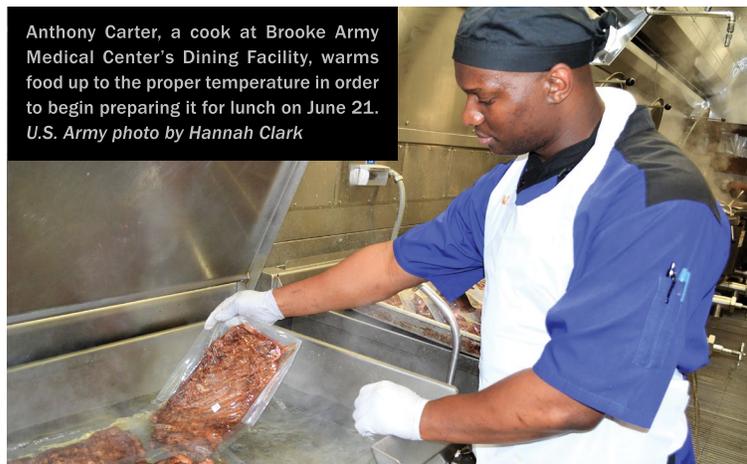
The Greening the OR category honors hospitals for leadership in implementation and innovation in the surgical department. Winners demonstrated innovative approaches to waste minimization, clinical plastic recycling, reformulation of operating room kits, and a range of other programs and associated metrics.

The staff at BAMC are not content to rest on their current victories. House said there are five new goals for continued improvement in 2019.

Although the awards are appreciated, Elliott said they of secondary importance. “Awards aren’t that important,” he said. “Sustainability is a priority for us all to ensure a future for our children and continue to provide a fit and ready force.”

The New Goals Are...

- Reduce facility energy use intensity and facility potable water use intensity. In addition, ensure construction and renovation projects achieve LEED Silver, or equivalent. LEED, or the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is an industry standard set by the U.S. Green Building Council which provides a framework for creating efficient and cost-effective “green” buildings. The rating system, which runs from Certified all the way to Platinum, is the most widely used rating system of its type in the world.
- Increase community outreach programs to develop stakeholder partnerships.
- Enhance indoor air quality and reduce other exposures through reduction in use of hazardous and toxic materials found in furnishings, building materials, and cleaning supplies.
- Implement an electronics life cycle management plan and data center “energy management place” in support of energy use reduction and waste diversion goals as detailed in the Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan.
- Reduce waste by 10 percent through recycling and management of pharmaceuticals.



Anthony Carter, a cook at Brooke Army Medical Center’s Dining Facility, warms food up to the proper temperature in order to begin preparing it for lunch on June 21. U.S. Army photo by Hannah Clark

PERFORMANCE TRIAD MONTH

Strength training is essential to being a tactical athlete, yet only 60-70% of Soldiers properly strength train!

Build strength & toughness by focusing on the Essential Seven Movements that work all your major muscle groups found at:

p3.amedd.army.mil/performance-learning-center/activity/strength-activity-goals



Click the icon to learn more about the Essential Seven Movements

Emergency Medicine Docs Participate in Joint Exercise

BY JOHN FRANKLIN
BAMC BRAG Volunteer

Doctors at Brooke Army Medical Center realize the importance of training new emergency medicine physicians to face the difficult conditions they see when deployed. BAMC conducts an annual joint emergency medicine exercise to ensure their readiness.

The 2019 Joint Emergency Medicine Exercise hosted by BAMC and Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, was recently conducted at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis. This year, 28 Navy, Marine Corps, Army, and Air Force emergency medicine doctors participated.

“I think it is vital that we give newly graduated military physicians the opportunity to understand how care is delivered in deployed and combat environments from the point of injury, to advanced resuscitative and surgical capabilities before they arrive there,” said Dr. Paul Allen, assistant professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio.

Allen is a former Special Forces medic who returns every year to help with the exercise. Some of the other volunteers travel to San Antonio at their own expense to assist. This year, physicians from Fort Hood, Fort Lewis, and the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, as well as UT Health-San Antonio participated.



Two physicians experience the challenge of providing enroute care in the Combat Flight Medic Helicopter Simulator June 11, during the 2019 Joint Emergency Medicine Exercise.

“Newly graduated resident physicians have been exposed to how medical care is delivered in the best possible environment available – the hospital,” Allen said. “Taking the crucial step toward how to apply the concepts and methods of patient care from the hospital environment to the forward deployed, austere environment should not be a journey of discovery or trial and error.”

“We have a treasure trove of combat medical experience in our senior leader population and the newly retired population here in San Antonio, who can assist in making the learning curve less steep for these new graduates,” he added. “Which, in turn, may translate into saving the lives of young Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines.”

The exercise started by focusing on the point of injury and prioritizing field medical care under strenuous conditions, explained Army Maj. (Dr.) John Knight, JEMX project officer for BAMC.

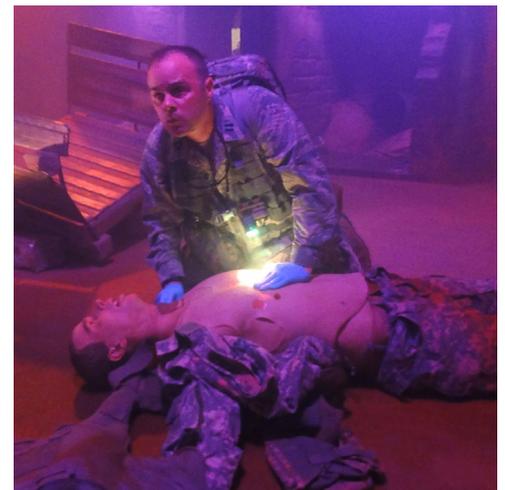
Next, the participants were introduced to the challenges that come with special evacuation circumstances and movement. They also encountered critically traumatized patients in limited-resourced work environments.

“In these scenarios, our goal is to push each of them to the edge of their comfort zone with expectations to deliver the same optimum care as though they were functioning in a Level I trauma facility,” Knight said.

Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Peter Cole, department chair, Emergency Medicine at Naval Medical

Center Portsmouth agrees.

“JEMX is an important send-off to our graduating residents,” Cole said. “It is an opportunity for them to focus their skills to the operational environment in which they may soon find themselves. It is invaluable training that sets them up for success as they prepare to practice medicine in some difficult places.”



An emergency medicine doctor experiences the environment medics face trying to care for wounded during combat as part of the 2019 Joint Emergency Medicine Exercise June 10, at the Combat Medic Training Simulation Lab on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas.



Dr. Paul Allen, assistant professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio, speaks to new emergency medicine physicians June 10, during the 2019 Joint Emergency Medicine Exercise.



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Lamers watches the opening ceremony at Amalie Arena in Tampa, Florida, June 22, during the 2019 Department of Defense Warrior Games. The DoD Warrior Games are conducted June 21-30, hosted by Special Operations Command, Tampa, Florida. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Katelyn Strange



Above, comedian Jon Stewart takes a picture with Staff Sgt. Matthew Lamers and his wife Alicia during the opening ceremony at Amalie Arena in Tampa, Florida, June 22, during the 2019 Department of Defense Warrior Games. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Katelyn Strange

BY BOB A. WHETSTONE
Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

TAMPA, Fla. -- The opening ceremony of the 2019 Department of Defense Warrior Games began with the traditional procession of service member athletes representing their countries. The national anthem for each country was played marking the international participation of the games, but when wounded warrior U.S. Army Maj. Luis Avila sang the Star-Spangled Banner, you had a sense these games were going to be special.

Comedian Jon Stewart was once again the master of ceremonies to officially open the games. He mixes humor with a compassion and seriousness about wounded warriors that seems to resonate with service members and families. "Thank you very much for coming out to the Warrior Games", said Stewart. "We have had a tremendous day or two of competition. The athletes are finding out what it is like to be in a city that was built inside of a humidifier."

"We are here to celebrate these unbelievable athletes from all of the branches (of military service)," continued Stewart. "These are men and women that refuse to allow themselves to be defined by their worst day, but define themselves by their reaction to that day and the resilience, and the perseverance, and the dedication, and the camaraderie, and the family you are going to witness this week."

Stewart stated the athletes have gone through a lot to get to the games, but no one gets here by

themselves. "The families and the caregivers so often work as hard as the athletes to get them prepared and to get them going and to be there," said Stewart.

Someone who plays a huge role in helping the families is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Fisher House, Kenneth Fisher. Fisher acknowledged the work with wounded warriors that Jon Stewart continues to do as an advocate for service members in and out of uniform, and focused on family support. "I have had the great honor of meeting so many of this nation's wounded people and never a day goes by when I am not inspired by you, amazed by what you have accomplished, and humbled by the unconditional support given to you by your families, your friends, your spouses, your children, by all those who love you the most."

Former President George W. Bush and U.S. Senator Rick Scott, Florida, sent videotaped messages to the athletes, wishing them well during the competition. Congresswoman Kathy Castor noted the fantastic job U.S. Special Operations Command has done hosting this year's Warrior Games.

Deputy Secretary of Defense David Norquist had an opportunity to watch the Team Army wheelchair basketball team practice earlier in the day. "Coach Rodney Williams has those three-time defending champions looking pretty good," he noted. "They got Spc. (retired) Brent Garlic who was part of last year's team, and Staff Sgt. (retired) Ross Alewine, who is the defending Warrior Games Ultimate Champion."

Norquist welcomed and thanked all the international participants at this year's competition, and alluded to the qualification to participate in the games. "To compete in the Warrior Games, it is not enough to be strong, it is not enough to be fast. In the Warrior Games, there is a level of resolve; a unique ability to embrace and overcome adversity, that is the price of admission. Just to get to this event, it requires unbelievable grit and resilience."

Team Army family members could not hold back their emotions about how the DoD Warrior Games and supporting programs are honoring their sons, daughters, husbands, wives, mothers and fathers. "Wow!" said Sue and Rich McLimans, parents of son Capt. Shannon McLimans. "This is amazing. The atmosphere is just electric. Everybody is in the same situation as everybody else. It is just something magical."

Tim Kane, father of Sgt. Tanner Kane, said, once their son got involved with adaptive conditioning sports, he found a purpose to get up and out in the mornings. "Tanner didn't speak for two years and then he connected with other Soldiers, it all changed. Tanner realized his former state was wasting away at his spirit and this program was here to help and aid other Soldiers on their progress to healing."

Tiffany Weasner, wife of Sgt. Retired Johnathan Weasner said, "I know what this program has done for my husband Jonathan and our family. To look around this arena and see the joy on other families faces, I can only imagine what adaptive conditioning has done for other families; it's a blessing."



U.S. Army service members, veterans, and family members pause for a photo with Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville June 22, 2019, at The Bobby Hicks Swimming Pool after a training session for the Department of Defense Warrior Games. The DoD Warrior Games are conducted June 21-20, hosted by Special Operations Command, Tampa, Florida. It is an adaptive sport competition for wounded, ill, and injured service members and veterans. Approximately 300 athletes representing teams from Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Forces, Special Command, United Kingdom Armed Forces, Australian Defense Force, Canadian Armed Force of the Netherlands, and the Danish Armed Forces will compete in archery, cycling, shooting, sitting volleyball, swimming, track, field, wheelchair basketball, indoor rowing, powerlifting, and for the first time in Warrior Games history, golf, wheelchair tennis, and wheelchair rugby. U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Evens Milcette Jr.

Fighting & Overcoming Together

An Enduring Commitment With Warrior Games

BY BOB A. WHETSTONE
Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- Families of the United States have been allowing their sons and daughters to fight for the nation's freedom for over two centuries. This fact was recently honored and celebrated during the Army's 244th birthday - reminding the country of the extreme price that has been paid for the freedoms enjoyed here.

This week adds another reminder of the sacrifices made by U.S. service members of all branches of service. The DOD Warrior Games, now in its 9th year of competition, is being held in Tampa,

Florida, from June 21-30, hosted by the U.S. Special Operations Command.

Leaders at every level, from all services, both military and civilian, make time every year to honor the sacrifice and resilience of the service member/athletes and their families participating in the DOD Warrior Games.

A frequent visitor to the games, Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville, stopped by to support the Soldiers and veterans that make up Team Army. "We have a sacred obligation to take care of our Soldiers and to help them overcome their wounds, injuries and illnesses, and this (DoD Warrior Games) is one of the ways

we do it," said McConville.

Warrior Care in the transition units is designed to equip Soldiers with the capability to recover and return to duty or to overcome their wounds, injuries, or illnesses and prepare for veteran status. It falls right in line with some of McConville's top priorities of people, dignity, and respect.

McConville attended swimming and wheelchair basketball practices, speaking with and listening to Soldiers and veterans tell their story of how they obtained their noticeable physical injuries, and some invisible wounds as well. "We take care of them from the time they enter the

Fighting & Overcoming Together (Continued)

service, and even after they leave the service; it is an enduring commitment,” he explained.

The United Kingdom Armed Forces, Australian Defence Force, and Canadian Armed Forces, are no strangers to the DOD Warrior Games, having competed against U.S. military wounded warriors in the past. This year however, the games have five international teams competing, with the addition of the Armed Forces of the Netherlands and the Danish Armed Forces.

McConville explains that military to military relations are not only important on the battlefield, but are far reaching in ways only those who have and are serving understand.

“I think it is very important that we’re here with our military allies and partners,” said McConville. “We don’t fight alone, and we shouldn’t recover alone. We fought the last 18 years on the same battlefield, and I think we should recover on the same playing field.”

When the services come together for competitions like Warrior Games, the ‘friendly rivalry’ is evident from start to finish. But like all military operations, winning is extremely important. “I believe that winning does matter,” added McConville. “By winning, it is how you define what winning looks like for these Soldiers while they are competing at these games. For some it is overcoming that wound, it is overcoming that illness, it is overcoming that injury. But at the end of the day, I want to make sure our Soldiers are winning on the battlefield and the playing field.”

McConville offered his heartfelt gratitude to leaders at all levels and services about the spirit of the DoD Warrior Games and the transition units and programs that support them. “I want to thank them for taking care of our Soldiers,” he said. “I am very inspired by what I see. I have had a chance to see the athletes, coaches and supporters who are very passionate about taking care of our Soldiers. I’m very glad this whole team has come together to make this a great event.”

With Warrior Games taking place during the summer, McConville offers some familiar advice to Soldiers who, not so long ago, may have deployed to similarly hot places like Afghanistan and Iraq. “It is Tampa, it is summer, the weather is at its hottest so you need to hydrate,” he said. “This is where conditioning will allow you to overcome adversity.”

“One of the great things about our Soldiers is they never quit,” McConville proudly said. “They never accept defeat.” I am really proud of the Soldiers and their families that are down here because they are overcoming the adversity of their wounds, illness, and injuries. Very, very proud because they are living up to that warrior ethos.”

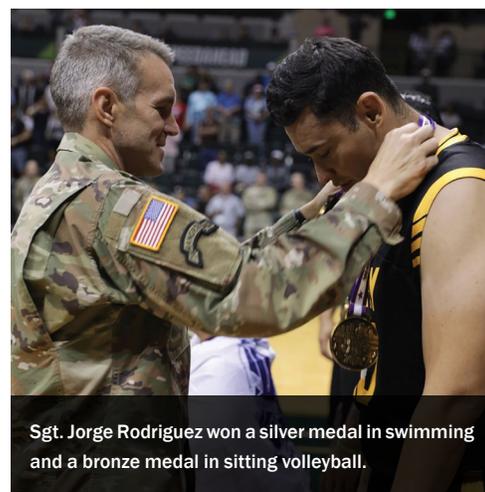


U.S. Army retired Staff Sgt. Matthew Lammers speaks with Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville June 22, 2019, at the Bobby Hicks Swimming Pool during a training session for the Department of Defense Warrior Games. U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Evens Milcette Jr.

Congratulations to our Warrior Transition Battalion Soldiers who competed for Team Army in the Department of Defense Warrior Games in Tampa, Florida, June 21-30, 2019



Spc. Kevin Holyan won two bronze medals in the Field events Seated Discus; Seated Shot put.



Sgt. Jorge Rodriguez won a silver medal in swimming and a bronze medal in sitting volleyball.



BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

OUR FAMILY TAKING CARE OF YOURS

MISSION

We protect the Nation by ensuring Total Force Readiness through innovative, high quality care and the development of elite healthcare professionals.

VISION

To be the pinnacle of military healthcare
— Anytime, Anywhere!