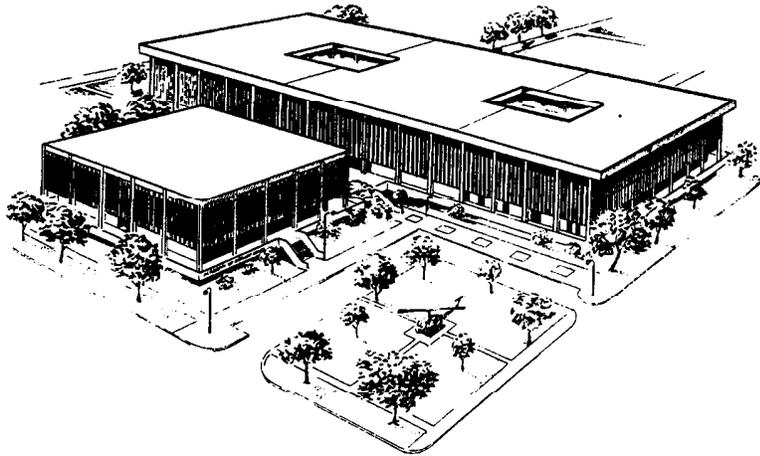




# AMEDDC&S OBSERVER

Summer 1998



## **AHS PROGRAM RANKED AMONG BEST IN THE NATION**

A recently-released survey conducted by U.S. News and World Market Facts, Inc, indicated that the U.S. Army-Baylor University Graduate Program in Physical Therapy is ranked 11th in the nation. Surveys were sent to deans, faculty members, and administrators of the nation's 125 accredited entry-level Master's programs. Each year, U.S. News and World Report publishes rankings for graduate programs offering Master's degrees in the arts, health fields, and public affairs as well as those offering Doctorates in the humanities, physical and life sciences, and social sciences.

The U.S. Army-Baylor Program, established in 1971, evolved from nongraduate physical therapy programs at Walter Reed General Hospital, dating back to 1922. The 18-month program, directed by COL Jean Bryan, has seven full-time and two part-time faculty members at the Academy of Health Sciences, who are also faculty members for Baylor University. Since 1971, the program has diversified so that each 24-student class includes officers from the U.S. Army, U. S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, and the U.S. Public Health Service. In 1997, the Committee for the Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education extended the program's fully accredited status for 8 years, the maximum possible period.

## **AMEDDC&S MEDICAL INSTRUCTION FACILITY PLANNED**

The AMEDDC&S is currently working in conjunction with several government agencies and a private architectural firm to design a state-of-the-art training center. The Medical Applied Instruction Facility (MAIF) is a proposed 34 million dollar project funded by the Defense Health Program appropriation. The project consolidates 11 AMEDD and interservice programs of instruction presently taught at various sites throughout Fort Sam Houston and other military installations. The MAIF will provide 200,000 square feet of classroom, laboratory, and staff office space. The proposed construction site is located west of the AMEDD Noncommissioned Officer Academy, within the established AMEDDC&S campus. The building design will consider small group instruction methods, distance learning technologies, and the Army Classroom XXI initiative.

The U.S. Army Health Facility Planning Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Medical Facilities Office manage the design and construction process for Army medical treatment, training, and research facilities. Final design authorization is anticipated in Sep 98.

**AMEDD READINESS STARTS HERE!**

# COMMANDER'S CORNER

## MG James B. Peake

*The 1990's have witnessed U.S.-led victories in two major conflicts, the Gulf War and the Cold War. Although our strong, proactive leadership has influenced the international environment, ongoing world situations have created new challenges and brought old ones to the forefront. With a world that is still so much in transition, the U.S. is taking a much broader approach to its global obligations. Overlaying these responsibilities is the national climate of fiscal austerity and military restructuring.*

*As the 21st century moves closer, our American Army continually deals with new challenges and national priorities. It must confront operational issues across the entire scope of conflict to ensure that we fully exploit our doctrinal and technological expertise. As we look to further reductions in resources and continuing changes in mission focus, our foresight must include organizations capable of being strategically and effectively employable. We cannot presume that the way we've done business in the past is an acceptable approach to the future—complacency is as much an adversary as any aggressor force.*

*In a previous issue of the Observer, I discussed the AMEDDC&S vision and indicated its definitive objective as One AMEDD. The AMEDD is a dominant element in any conflict scenario, from foxhole to fixed-base medical facility. Combat, combat support, and combat service support units must synthesize their efforts to provide an unexcelled continuum of care. The TOE and TDA medical unit commanders of today's Army are, in reality, partners in a precisely orchestrated agenda of medical care.*

*The U.S. Army is about soldiers, and the AMEDDC&S remains keenly aware of its responsibility to support the land combatant. We have a significant and ongoing role in sustaining the synergism of the healthcare continuum. Our developing medical doctrine will serve as the basis for incorporation of innovative new ideas, technologies, and organizations. Our training of military medical personnel is pivotal to the accomplishment of positive, decisive battlefield results.*

*The AMEDDC&S is a dynamic, visionary organization that has taken the lead in evolving the One AMEDD concept. Our insight to the future goes far beyond short-term goals. We will continue to explore cutting-edge technologies and bring innovative techniques to the training arena. We know what it will take to move into the new millennium ... and hold the high ground.*



### **New Chief for Department of Healthcare Operations**

Colonel Leonard J. Sly assumed the duties of Chief, Department of Healthcare Operations, (DHO) Academy of Health Sciences, on 1 May 98. He replaces COL William H. Thresher, who has been named Commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Sam Houston.

The DHO mission is to prepare and present instruction and provide subject matter expertise in military skills and sciences. The department also conducts simulations and exercises for specific Army and AMEDD requirements. The Chief, DHO, serves as the Course Director for 19 courses, including the AMEDD Officer Basic, Advanced, and Pre-Command courses.

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### **AMEDDC&S Instructor of the Quarter**

Staff Sergeant Heidi Miller, Company F, 232d Medical Battalion, Center Brigade, was selected as the AMEDDC&S Instructor of the Quarter. Staff Sergeant Miller is assigned as an instructor in the Combat Medical Specialist Course. She has already earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and is currently enrolled at San Antonio College, seeking a nursing degree. Upon completion of her nursing degree, SSG Miller would like to specialize in Emergency Trauma Medicine and become an Army Flight Nurse.

The Alamo Chapter, Association of the United States Army, presented SSG Miller with a membership in the organization for her accomplishment.

*6150; DSN 471-6916, FAX 471-8720; Comm 210/221-6916, FAX 210/221-8720. Timely articles of interest are always welcome. Contributions will be edited, if necessary, to meet format and space requirements, and are subject to approval by the "Observer" editorial staff. Copy deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication.*

## **Physical Therapy Branch Takes Battle of Flowers Parade Prize**

The Academy of Health Science's own "Physical Therapy Precision Beach Chair Brigade" was awarded First Place in the Amusement Division of the 1998 Battle of Flowers Parade. The group's theme was "Texas...life is a beach." Colonel Jean Bryan, Physical Therapy Branch Chief and Physical Therapy Director for the U.S. Army-Baylor University Master's Program at AHS, organized this comedy group. The brigade was dressed in coordinated patriotic baseball caps and shirts with stars and stripes and each member carried a beach chair. Their rhythmic marching routine was carefully choreographed by the group's "Chairmeister" LTC Tim Flynn. He initiated a variety of synchronized orders for the chair carriers, including an innovative "snap open" maneuver, positioning to form sunshades, and a smartly executed "right shoulder rest."

Colonel Bryan and her "Chair Brigade" were well received by the thousands of spectators lining the parade route and were particularly pleased with their first place award. She commented that "this typifies the spirit and bonding of her Tri-Service faculty and staff members. They always work hard and play hard." The brigade had representatives from the Army (COL Bryan, LTC Dan Battafarano, LTC Tim Flynn, MAJ Larry Musullo, MAJ Robin Rowell, MAJ Joe Moore, CPT Patti McGlinchy, SFC Terri Metzler, SFC Charles Campbell, SSG Theodore Artis, SSG David Buchheim, SSG Frank Hughes, SSG Terrance Fee, and SPC Jamal-Karim Dunbar); the Air Force (Capt Robert Hall); and the Navy (LCDR Jennifer Abasolo, LCDR Greg Ernst, and HM2 Cathy Werling.) As a first place winner in this year's parade, it is inevitable that the Brigade will be invited for the 1999 event.

## **AHS Department Completes Major Equipment Renovation**

The Radiology Branch, Department of Clinical Support Services, Academy of Health Sciences, recently completed a comprehensive 2-year renovation and replacement of major equipment. Twenty training rooms were updated with modern imaging equipment including three new portable x-ray machines and two processors. The new equipment will significantly enhance student training by exposing them to the equipment and technology they will encounter in Phase II training environments as well as medical treatment facilities and TOE units. It also has the added benefit of providing increased access for students to operate training units.

## **USAMEOS Graduates Last International Student**

The 20 Mar 98 completion of the Medical Equipment Repairer (Advanced) Course at the U.S. Army Medical Equipment and Optical School (USAMEOS), U.S. Army Garrison-Fitzsimons, CO, marked the graduation of the final international military student to attend USAMEOS. SGT Salem Al-Garzae of Saudi Arabia attended the MOS 91A10 and 91A30 courses consecutively, receiving 16 months of highly technical equipment repair training. During its tenure at the Fitzsimons site, the School has trained students from more than 28 different countries. The International Student Training Program for USAMEOS-sourced MOSs will be transferred to Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, TX.

## **First Tri-Service Dental Course Graduates 27**

The military's first tri-service dental enlisted course graduated 27 students from the three services recently at Sheppard Air Force Base, TX. The 11 U.S. Army, seven U.S. Navy, and nine U.S. Air Force students received their certificates of training from the commander of the 381st Training Squadron's Dental Flight. The Flight, along with the Naval School of Health Sciences, San Diego Detachment, and Company F, 187th Medical Battalion, Center Brigade, AMEDDC&S, are all stationed at Sheppard. They provide a coordinated and cohesive program of instruction for enlisted dental assistants under the innovative ITRO instructional concept.

The graduates will complete their service-specific training at Sheppard before proceeding to their individual duty assignments throughout the world.

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## **A Closer Look...**

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tests to diagnose asthma and fibrotic lung diseases, give oxygen and humidity to infants with croup, provide bronchodilator nebulizer breathing treatments, and sustain life by using sophisticated ventilator machines in intensive care units. Most importantly, the 91V20 graduate conserves the fighting strength with quality medical care.

The Respiratory Specialist Course continues to be one of the most challenging and demanding enlisted programs in the U.S. Army. The 85% military versus 67% civilian pass rates for the 1997 certification examination reinforces the fact that the AMEDDC&S is producing outstanding student soldiers.

# **A CLOSER LOOK...**

## **MOS 91V20 Respiratory Specialist Course**

The objective of the 91V20 Respiratory Specialist program is the development of the clinical competencies necessary for sustaining sophisticated and complex therapeutic life support measures. Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCPs) provide bedside care for patients needing acute/critical care. They must become proficient in therapeutic modalities and knowledgeable in the indications and contraindications of disease states. The RCP must understand and react to a wide array of cardiopulmonary disorders, to include asthma, emphysema, and other forms of obstructive and restrictive diseases. Respiratory specialists/therapists play a vital role by diagnosing, managing, and rehabilitating patients in neonatal, medical, intensive care wards, outpatient departments, and emergency rooms.

Since its inception in 1975, the 91V20 course has graduated some of the most highly trained respiratory technicians in the U.S. The course is organized under a medical technical directorship to ensure that students entering the course can meet the exacting educational standards. The AMEDDC&S (the course's Phase I site) works closely in conjunction with Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) and the Naval School of Health Sciences (NSHS) (Phase II sites) to make sure that the highest standards of respiratory care are achieved. Approximately 100 to 130 students successfully complete the program each year and subsequently are eligible to challenge the National Board of Respiratory Care (NBRC) licensure examination. Although the primary goal of the course is to prepare technicians to perform a wide array of medical duties in any military environment, it consistently has one of the highest pass rates in the country on the NBRC certification examination.

Active component, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, and U.S. Navy component personnel all begin their training at the AMEDDC&S. This portion is completed in 8 months, as opposed to 24 months for comparable civilian courses. The 16-week Phase I (academic) and Phase II (clinical) training segments were established in 1986. Graduates are awarded the Military Occupational Specialty of 91V or the Naval Enlisted Course designator of 8541 for U.S. Navy students.

The 91V20 Course Director (who is also the Chief, Department of Medical Science) and the 91V Program Director currently oversee Phases I and II for the AMEDDC&S. The course also has the guidance and

supervision of the Chief Clinical Education Coordinator, who is responsible for the Phase II training at BAMC and NSHS-San Diego. These three individuals jointly administer the course; consult with the Medical Director, BAMC; maintain national accreditation through the Joint Review Committee for Respiratory Care Education; and coordinate curriculum issues with external professional organizations. In accordance with Army Regulation 621-5, the American Council on Education recommends that 91V20 graduates receive 32 semester hours of college credit which can be applied toward an Associate degree. Accredited through 1998 by the Joint Review Committee for Respiratory Therapy Education, the program is the only accredited respiratory technician course of its kind in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Phase I currently utilizes eight instructors in addition to the Class Advisor and the Program Director to conduct lectures and administer 27 examinations. Testing for this phase is designed to measure a student's cognitive and patient management skills. Practical examinations are included in the program of instruction to help students learn first-hand how equipment performs under specific circumstances. This assures that they will expand their clinical skills and abilities to check equipment functions and test equipment performance. Throughout the course, students receive additional study halls and one-on-one counseling to assist in deciphering the complex formulas and simplify the volumes of written reference material. Computer-assisted instruction and interactive video discs prove an efficient and cost-effective mechanism for remedial training. Long-range academic goals include implementation of a computer network system to export training products, establishment of an MOS website and newsletter, and CDROM interactive computer training.

The 91V20 clinical phase of training at BAMC includes rotation in eight specific areas: pulmonary functions, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, wards, Institute of Surgical Research, Surgical Intensive Care Unit, Medical Intensive Care Unit, emergency care, and home care. Clinical competency training consists of intense real-life clinical experiences with sick/injured patients who require constant care and monitoring. The U.S. Navy Phase II site at NSHS San Diego mirrors the BAMC training in almost every respect.

Respiratory Specialists serve the military community in a variety of roles. They administer pulmonary function

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