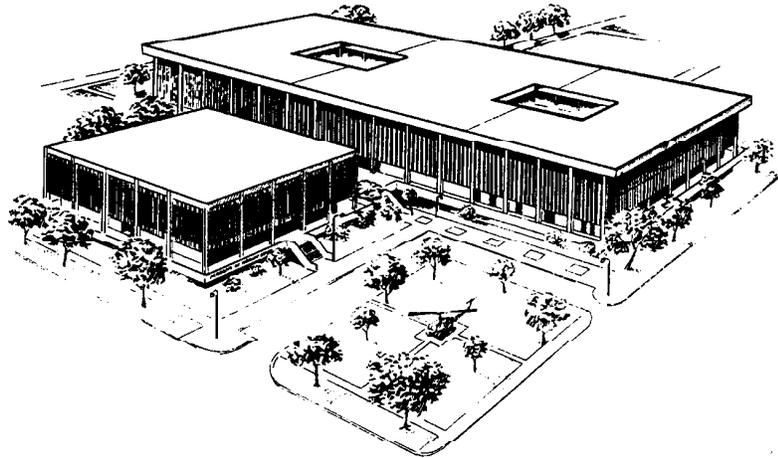




AMEDDC&S OBSERVER

Jan/Feb/Mar 1999



DL Classrooms Bring Future to AMEDDC&S Training

A new era in Army training technology at the AMEDDC&S began on 12 Jan 99, with the formal opening of three operational Distance Learning (DL) classrooms in Willis and Aabel Halls. Major General James B. Peake, AMEDDC&S and Fort Sam Houston Commander; COL Richard D. Shipley, Dean, Academy of Health Sciences; and Mr. Gary Winkler, Training and Doctrine Command Program Manager, Total Army Distance Learning Plan, headed up the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

In his remarks, MG Peake pointed out that the three DL classrooms represent a valuable resource for the entire San Antonio Army community. He went on to say that the DL network is part of an infrastructure that will spread across the entire spectrum of the Army and bring about a culture change regarding how the Army conducts business. Major General Peake indicated that the DL concept "...is leveraging technology to do our business better, in terms of training soldiers. Today, we open Phase I of a program that will bring more and more capability, not only here to the AMEDD Center and School, but capability throughout the Army." He noted our obligation, as

one of the first schools to have this kind of resource, "to do this kind of thinking and experimenting, to use testing and learning, and to fully explore where this technology will be able to take us."

Mr. Winkler's remarks focused on the selection of Fort Sam Houston as one of the first sites for Phase II DL networking. He said that "when we network these classrooms with the wide area network, soldiers can do Internet-based courses...the target date for Phase II with the Internet online is Spring 1999. We're going to learn a lot here in the next year. In Fiscal Year 98, we built 61 of these classrooms. In Fiscal Year 99, we'll build another 80 to 90 classrooms. This year, we're going over to Europe, Korea, and Hawaii, and we're putting them all over...soon Fort Sam Houston will be able to communicate, teach courses, and receive courses from any other installation in the world." He went on to say that "there's a lot to be said for the old way of doing training. Distance learning is not intended to replace all training, but really just to do portions of it more cost effectively, more efficiently, and in a shorter time frame."

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AMEDD READINESS STARTS HERE!

COMMANDER'S CORNER

MG James B. Peake

I am happy that all of you are back safe and sound...and I hope that each of you had a great holiday season. As we swing into 1999, it is a good time to reflect on the importance of each soldier and DA civilian in the accomplishment of our mission. It is why the Consideration of Others program is so important and why we are planning such emphasis on our Army Values, beginning in basic training, continuing throughout training here, and their inculcation in the way we do business day-to-day.



Without the contribution from each of you, we would not be able to see the success in training the soldiers for the force; could not make the giant steps forward in distance learning that need to be made; we could not design the medical force of the future and pursue the resources to field that force; and could not become the model installation of the future. It is because of each of you; the enormous talents and expertise that you bring to the organization; the credibility that you have with members of the AMEDD outside of the Center and School; and the values we share, that our AMEDDC&S is moving forward along each of these axes, building the future of our Army Medical Department. We are evolving into an ever more central role for the AMEDD, and so your individual contributions become ever more important.

Thank you for what you do. I'll see you on the high ground!

AHS Instructor Publishes in Specialty Research Journal

Lieutenant Colonel Timothy W. Flynn, Physical Therapy Branch, Academy of Health Sciences, was notified that his article "Does a single gait control strategy exist for both forward and backward walking," co-authored with three other research scientists has been recently published in *Gait and Posture*, (Volume 7, Issue 3, 1998), a leading journal in the field of biomechanics and physical therapy.

The article focuses on the results of a study conducted by the authors to quantify the differences in muscular activation patterns during constant-step forward walking and backward walking to determine existence of common locomotor conditions. The hypothesis was that both walking patterns are mediated by the same central pattern generator (CPG); therefore, only small modifications in the CPG would be

necessary to produce the differing characteristics of each walking mode. The authors' research supports that premise and further indicates that the nervous system appears to economize its function by using a minimum set of features to produce multiple muscle patterns during rhythmic activities.

Physician Assistant Program Testing Success

The Physician Assistant (PA) Branch, Department of Medical Science, Academy of Health Sciences, has been notified of recent Physician Assistant National Certification Examination results. Students from the Interservice Physician Assistant Program, located at the AMEDDC&S, achieved a 99% pass rate (59 out of 60) for first-time examinees. Of the PA students tested from 1998 classes, 100 out of 101 have successfully passed the examination, again a 99% success rate.

The AMEDDC&S "Observer" is published by the AMEDD Journal Branch, Department of Academic Support, Academy of Health Sciences. Special distribution is made to all elements of the AMEDDC&S. Additional copies may be obtained by contacting the AMEDD Journal Branch, Room 250, Aabel Hall, 2250 Stanley Road,

Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-6150; 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.

DL Classrooms Bring Future to AMEDDC&S Training

continued from page 1

The Total Army Distance Learning Program focuses on multiple goals:

- *Increase Army readiness.* Train soldiers and units when and where needed by exploiting information delivery methods and technology.
- *Deliver standardized training.* Provide standardized collective and individual training at Active and Reserve Component locations worldwide.
- *Institutionalize use of DL means and technologies.* Take advantage of state-of-the-art and emerging DL development and delivery means for individual and collective training.
- *Reduce the distinction between training and real-world practices.* Blend institutional training, operational assignments, and self-development into a cohesive, workable combination that provides optimum integration into a seamless DL environment.

In the future, soldiers will attend streamlined resident courses in high-performing small groups. They will prepare themselves through diagnostic-driven, self-paced DL modules delivered at home station unit learning centers, at the job site, or in their residence. Individual training in units for both job performance and sustainment will also be available through standardized task-based DL modules. Proponent schools will provide expertise and mentoring to both resident and DL students through electronic on-line assistance. An Internet library of digitized materials will link students worldwide to continuously updated task information.

Distance learning resources are available not only for training AMEDDC&S students but also for individual, collective, and unit training for all Active and Reserve Component Army members and Department of Army civilian employees within a 50-mile radius of Fort Sam Houston. The Dean of the Academy of Health Sciences provides command and control of these facilities while the Center for Healthcare Education and Studies provides classroom management and operational control. The DL classrooms are accessible for 8 1/2 hours each day, 7 days a week. Individual computer-based training is welcomed on a walk-in basis. Students are invited to bring their own CDs or select from a variety of computer-based programs.

Additional information regarding operation of the DL classrooms or scheduling of training can be obtained by calling the classroom manager, Gilbert Gutierrez, at 221-6400/6468.

(Photos on page 4. Information provided by the AHS Distance Learning Program Manager and by Cleo Brennan, Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office.)

AHS Activity Chiefs Receive Promotions

The heads of two Academy of Health Sciences activities have recently been promoted to the rank of Colonel:

Colonel Daniel F. Battafarano, Chief, Department of Medical Science, was promoted by MG James B. Peake, AMEDDC&S Commander, on 8 Jan 99 at the Army Medical Department Museum. Colonel Battafarano has been assigned to the AMEDDC&S since Jan 98; his previous assignment was Deputy Director of Medical Education, U.S. Army Medical Command.

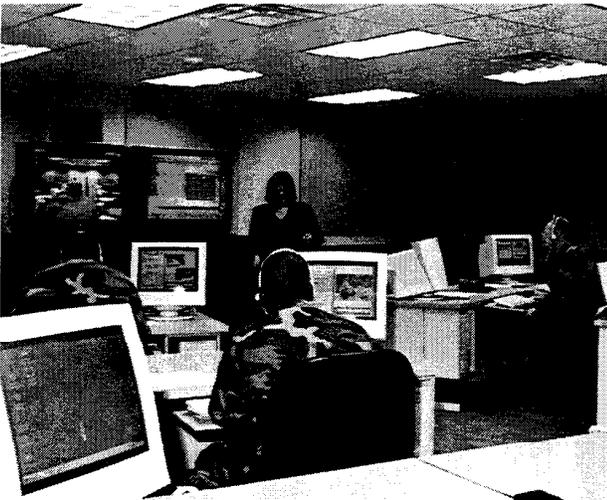
Colonel James S. McGhee, Dean, U.S. Army School of Aviation Medicine (USASAM), Fort Rucker, AL, received his new rank from MG James B. Peake in a ceremony conducted at the School on 30 Dec 98. Colonel McGhee was assigned to USASAM in Jul 98; his previous assignment was Chief of Primary Care, DeWitt Army Community Hospital, Fort Belvoir, VA.

Building 615 Re-Opens

One of Fort Sam Houston's historic buildings has gotten a new lease on life. Building 615, located off Hood Street, in the southeast corner of the post, was constructed in 1891. Most recently, it has served as the classroom venue for the MOS 91D (Operating Room Specialist) Course. The building was re-opened on 29 Jan following a major renovation. Major General James B. Peake, AMEDDC&S Commander, officiated at the ribbon-cutting, assisted by COL Lynne M. Connelly, Chief, Department of Nursing Science; LTC Lu Ann Peralta, Chief, Operating Room Branch; and two 91D students. Following the ceremony, guests were able to tour the newly-remodeled facility.

A CLOSER LOOK . . .

AHS Distance Learning Center



(Top left): During his Oct 98 visit to the AMEDDC&S, Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera (left center) observes training in DL Classroom 1, accompanied by AMEDDC&S Commander MG James B. Peake (left); Gary Winkler, TADLP Program Manager (right center); and COL Richard D. Shipley, AHS Dean (right). (Photo by Cleo Brennan, FSH Public Affairs Office.)

(Top right): MG James B. Peake presents his remarks during the grand opening of AMEDDC&S DL classrooms. **(Bottom left and right):** Students in the DL classroom undergo state-of-the-art instruction with computer-based training technology. (Photos by SGT Robert Funk, Photo Branch, Health Sciences Media Division.)

Editor's Note: The Oct/Nov/Dec 98 Observer inadvertently omitted photo credits on page 4. All photos were courtesy of SGT Robert Funk, Photo Branch, HSMD.

AMEDD READINESS STARTS HERE!