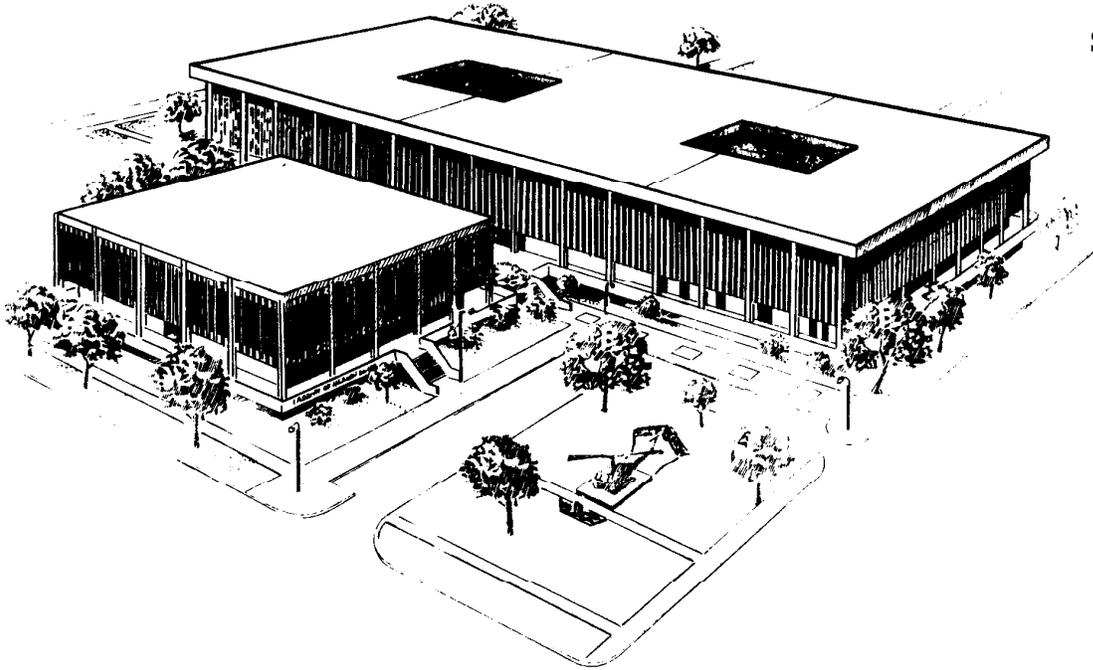




# AMEDDC&S OBSERVER

Spring 2000



## ***New Patient Administration Center Opens***

The Patient Administration Branch, Department of Healthcare Operations, Academy of Health Sciences, formally opened its newly renovated training center on 13 Mar. The 14,000 square foot facility is located in Building 1026, the former medical records building and auditorium behind the old Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) main building. The dedication and opening ceremony was held to coincide with the Patient Administration Officer symposium to allow patient administrators from locations around the world to be in attendance.

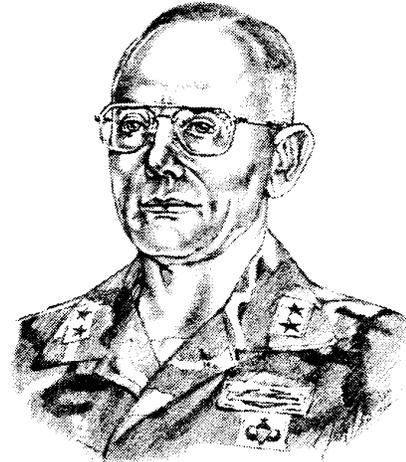
The Patient Administration Training Center renovation and modernization was a joint effort of the Army Medical Department Center and School and the Fort Sam Houston installation. The project received \$1.8 million to make substantial construction and information technology improvements. With the exception of the exterior brick facade, the building is entirely new.

State-of-the-art classrooms allow students to use their individual computer workstations to receive instruction on multiple hospital information systems, take on-line examinations, and access the Internet. The Patient Administration Officer (Area of Concentration 70E) and Patient Administration Specialist (Military Occupational Specialty 71G) courses will be the primary users of the building.

Building 1026 enjoys a long, rich history of service to the Army Medical Department, dating back to its initial construction in 1936. It was first used as BAMC's Medical Logistics warehouse, then as its biomedical repair facility. In the 1950's, the auditorium portion was added for medical staff training conferences. Most recently (until BAMC moved into its present facility in Mar 96), 1026 was used to house the x-ray records room, outpatient records, and the third-party collections program.

# COMMANDER'S CORNER

## MG James B. Peake



*This will be the last Observer column that I will write as your CG. In these columns I have talked to you about everything from safety to major restructuring initiatives like the 91W.*

*From the beginning, I have emphasized your role in building the future of our Army Medical Department and the importance of the open exchange with our fellow medics doing the missions across CONUS and around the world. Whether it is in training the force on the entry-level medical skills, building the leaders of the future, designing the medical organizations for the next century, or building The AMEDD - Active, Guard, Reserve, with a promotion-feasible force imbued with our Army values, or providing a garrison that supports all of that and the more than 60 other tenants ... you have had a hand in building that future.*

*Your professionalism is extraordinary and in this last column I just want to thank you for that professionalism and for all that you have brought to our AMEDD and our Army through your talent, dedication, and energy.*

*In my 4 years here, you have trained more than 100,000 soldiers, instituted values training, reduced attrition, upped the bar on EMT-B training, reorganized the battalions to prepare for a new MOS, 91W, that will put us on the right training axis for the medics of the 21st century. Our OBC and our OAC have been revised through your dedicated efforts and the feedback is most positive. You have shown those new to our Army that you value them and appreciate their time and care about their needs - exactly the way we want them to care about those who will be in their charge. You have embraced the International Students who have come through our doors - impressed and made friends with these future coalition partners. Many of you have taken on the additional responsibility to serve in one of our international CINC-based focus groups and so contributed to the informed hosting of the senior International Officers who visit.*

*In this same time, the lessons learned from Desert Storm were incorporated in the Medical Reengineering Initiative modified by the axis set by General Sullivan and shaped by General Reimer into Force XXI. Linked to the Army vision of a digitized information-integrated future, programs like the Theater Medical Information Program and Medical Communications for Combat Casualty Care have evolved from concept to programmatic azimuth to the in-the-dirt testing. As our new chief, General Shinseki, begins the transformation of the Army, you have kept Army Medicine visible, relevant, and integrated in the Interim Brigade Combat Team design. The AMEDD has gone from an uninvited guest to a sought-after player with credibility because of you.*

*You have begun the blurring of the TDA/TOE "barrier" with the first doctrine that talks to the crosswalk. The 50% Reserve Component student load is only one manifestation of the recognition of the importance of the Reserve Components to the AMEDD. Major efforts that cut across all our AMEDD Center and School as in*

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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.

## Commander's Corner

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*the Golden Medic and AMEDDEX, set an example for training to one standard and leveraging technology to do so.*

*All of these are on the backdrop of Fort Sam Houston—the Home of Army Medicine, an installation now merged inextricably with the AMEDDC&S and yet supporting 60 other tenants. Initiatives have leveraged civilian utilities, grey water, industry capital, and work force redesign in quest of the most efficient organizational structure as we seek to win the A-76 competition in the Army's first large installation whole base study.*

*I started writing this column intending it to be a short - "Thank You." Your accomplishments have just welled up in my mind. Each of you could sit and write even a longer page on what has been accomplished in your own area - actually not a bad thing to do!*

*But clearly, this is all less about "things" than it is about people. We have retired some on our parade field - officer, NCO, civilian; we have sadly buried some; we have had those in our ranks ill and return recovered; we have celebrated the birth of your children. There has been sure discipline when standards of conduct were violated, but much, much more often, together, we celebrated your excellence at events like our Civilian of the Quarter luncheon, the recent superb soldier and NCO, Drill Sergeant and Instructor recognition, and our community Volunteer awards.*

*You are the best! I will be forever grateful for your dedication to the important mission of the AMEDD Center and School and Fort Sam Houston - namely the future of our AMEDD! ... and always for the chance to share this assignment with you.*

*I'll see you on the high ground!*

## AHS Physical Therapy Graduate Program Ranks 13th in Nation

The *U.S. News and World Report* magazine has ranked the U.S. Army-Baylor University Graduate Program in Physical Therapy (PT) in the top 10% of all U.S. PT schools. In the most widely recognized ranking of graduate school programs in the U.S., the AHS program was ranked #13 out of 203 entry-level programs in PT. This represents the 94th percentile which is the same relative ranking the program received when the rankings were last announced in 1998. Surveys are sent by *U.S. News and World Report* to deans, faculty, and administrators of accredited graduate programs. They were asked to rate the academic quality of programs on a five-point scale based on their own assessments of the quality of curriculum, faculty, and graduates.

The U.S. Army-Baylor University PT program was established in 1971, evolving from a nongraduate PT education program dating back to 1922 at Walter Reed General Hospital. Currently, the 19-month program has

seven full-time and two part-time faculty members. It awards a Master's degree to graduates through its affiliation with Baylor University in Waco, Texas. The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in PT Education. Twenty to 24 students are admitted each year through a competitive selection process. To be eligible, applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree, have an undergraduate grade point average of 3.1 or higher, and score 1000 or higher on the Graduate Record Examination. Students in the program are from the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, and the U.S. Public Health Service. Entering students may be directly commissioned with no prior service or may enter from active duty status in any of the uniformed Services. They incur a 5-year active duty obligation, a portion of which is satisfied by the time spent earning the graduate degree.

The success of the U.S. Army-Baylor University Program can be traced to its national reputation for being an important part of the history of military leadership in the PT profession; the high caliber of students enrolled in the

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program; the strong performances of graduates, faculty excellence in teaching; and a strong research program for both students and faculty.

The graduate PT program fosters clinical and professional excellence and a lifelong pursuit of continued professional development. Current research is primarily related to the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of neuromusculoskeletal injuries that affect the health and well being of soldiers and beneficiaries on Fort Sam Houston and Army wide.

The Texas PT Association's award for outstanding research presentation has been given to an Army-Baylor faculty member or graduate poster or platform presenter for 11 of the past 16 years that the awards has been given. Faculty members are authors of four separate research grants that have brought external research funding into the program from civilian research foundations. The AHS recently set aside additional space in Willis Hall to help create a dedicated PT research laboratory.

National regard for the program was demonstrated in 1999 in Washington, DC. At the annual convention of the American PT Association, numbering over 70,000 physical therapists in the nation, three of the individuals making presentations were military members delivering the results of their research, which was conducted at the Army-Baylor program.

*(Editor's note: Information for this article courtesy of the Fort Sam Houston News Leader)*

### **DCSS Branch to Get State-of-the-Art Training Equipment**

The AHS Department of Clinical Support Service's Radiology Branch will soon have an even greater capability to teach and orient student radiographers on new equipment that is being fielded in many medical facilities worldwide. This high-technology device, known as a Computed Radiology Digital Imaging Network, will allow high-resolution digital radiographs to be taken without the use of film or the hazardous chemicals currently necessary in the developing process.

Network capabilities will allow radiology personnel to view and manipulate the images remotely, ultimately saving time and unnecessary procedures in the diagnostic

process. The Physician Assistant, PT, and other AHS branches will be able to take advantage of the system's network capabilities by presenting digital images over computer displays for class discussions, medical case presentations, and diagnostic exercises.

### **Flannigan Wins Instructor Honors**

Follow-up to an item reported in the Jan-Mar 00 issue of the Observer:

Staff Sergeant John P. Flannigan, an instructor assigned to the Flight Physiology Branch, U.S. Army School of Aviation Medicine, Fort Rucker, AL, (an AHS off-site campus), was selected as that installation's "Academic Instructor of the Year" in the Enlisted Category for 1999. In a ceremony conducted at Fort Rucker's Army Aviation Museum on 23 Mar, SSG Flannigan was awarded the Army Commendation Medal by Installation Commander, MG Anthony R. Jones; a crystal eagle statuette by the local chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America; and a savings bond.

This award is particularly significant since it represents the second consecutive year that an AMEDDC&S/USASAM instructor has earned the coveted Academic Instructor of the Year, Enlisted Category, award at Fort Rucker. Sergeant First Class Milton Padua, a USASAM Aerospace Physiology Instructor, was the recipient for 1998.

### **PT Branch Instructor Awarded Research Grant**

Lieutenant Colonel Timothy W. Flynn, Instructor, U.S. Army-Baylor University Graduate Program in PT and Research Director, PT Branch, Department of Medical Science, has been awarded a one-year research grant by the Foundation for PT. The \$40,000 grant is for research in "Identification of Patients with Acute Low Back Pain (LBP) Who Respond Best to Sacroiliac Region Manipulation." The project is a collaboration among the Army-Baylor Graduate PT Program, the Orthopedic PT Residency program at Brooke Army Medical Center, and the University of Pittsburgh Department of PT. It will evaluate the validity of diagnostic tests proposed to lead to a classification of sacroiliac joint dysfunction. Project results will provide physical therapists treating LBP with the diagnostic information they need.