



USU *E-News*

USU's CFC poster wins first place

by Tech. Sgt. Ann Bennett
Office of University Affairs

A civilian employee's idea combined with an Air Force graphic artist's talents resulted in an award-winning Combined Federal Campaign poster for

the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Karen Dern, CFC manager for USU, and Tech. Sgt. Waverly A. Johnson, an audiovisual technician, along with the help of some other USU employees, created the

university's CFC poster for 2002 entitled, "Walk A Mile In Their Shoes."

The USU poster won first place in the Best Goal Poster category for the DoD CFC Communications Contest, which includes DoD agencies from the National Capital Area; and second place in the same category in the NCA Contest, which includes all of the other civilian Federal departments and agencies.

"I think the poster is a very good example of teamwork," said Dern, who is the university's protocol officer. She said the idea for the poster developed while talking with some friends in the cafeteria one day during lunch.

"Walk a Mile in Their Shoes" was Michelle Clampitt's (USU's Graduate Medical Education office) brain storm after I explained the image and the idea of having uni-



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ann Bennett

Tech. Sgt. Waverly Johnson displays the winning poster in the 2002 Best Goal Poster category of the DoD CFC Communications Contest.

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USU president lauds zero delinquent travel accounts

by JO2 (SW) Tom Keilman
Office of University Affairs

USU achieved a perfect record of zero delinquencies on travel card accounts during January, which kept the university in the top rank of all DoD agencies.

Out of 33 DoD agencies nationwide, 24 of them have more than 100 active accounts. Out of the 24 nationwide agencies, USU had zero delinquencies for their more than 1,000 active accounts.

"We try to impart a certain sense of duty and values here, and this record indicates we are doing a pretty good job," said retired Vice Adm. James A. Zimble, president of USU.

When a USU member is sent on temporary duty, their government-issued travel card can be used to pay for travel expenses such as lodging, transportation and rental car, as well as miscellaneous expenses such as food. As soon as individuals return from TDY, they have to submit the necessary paperwork to USU's Financial Management Office to be reimbursed for authorized travel expenses.

The first billing statement comes out on the 23rd of each month, and the bill has to be paid prior to the next statement, said Air Force Master Sgt. Thomas Hanck, chief of travel branch in USU's Financial Management Department.

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Poster

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versity people's feet photographed like they were walking along a path," Dern said.

"It was just an idea and it wouldn't have been much without Sergeant Johnson's artistic ability that translated that idea into art."

Johnson said when Dern originally approached him with this idea, "it took on a life of its own." He explained that Dern came up with the multiple feet idea and he came up with the design layout, text and colors. He enlisted the help of USU photographers Tom Balfour and Navy HM3 (E-4) Albert Dalmau to setup the studio for a rapid succession of walking feet. The feet photographed are those of USU CFC keyworkers and other employees.

According to Johnson, a native of Newport News, Va., "The saying 'Walk A Mile In Their Shoes' is one most of us learn as children when we began to understand the difference between empathy and sympathy. We learn that to understand other people's needs, we

must first try to see through their eyes and walk in their shoes, metaphorically. CFC is one of the many ways we can help others see, walk and live the same as we live."

He said he has supported CFC throughout most of his 17 years in the Air Force. "I have had the privilege of serving and living in parts of the world where I have seen firsthand what the power of giving can do for people less fortunate."

This teamwork has continued USU's award-winning tradition for CFC posters. The 2001 CFC poster, by Sofia del Castillo, also won first place in the same category in the DoD CFC Communications Contest. The 1998 and 1996 CFC posters, by Stacey Sachs, won Best Goal Poster in the NCA Contest; and the 1997 CFC poster, by Janet Rawls-Tull, won Best Goal Poster awards in the NCA also — this was prior to the establishment of the DoD CFC Communications Contest.

A portion of Rawls-Tull's poster became the CFC logo for the following year, and a portion of her poster also appeared on the front cover of the CFC Catalog of Caring and all of the supporting literature.



Photo by JO2 (SW) Tom Keilman

Air Force Master Sgt. Thomas Hanck, chief of travel branch in USU's financial management department, reviews IT2 Anika Jameson's travel settlement claim for completeness and accuracy. Jameson is an information systems technician for the University Information Systems Department.

Travel card

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"It is the member's responsibility to pay their bill on time," added Hanck.

If the bill is delinquent for more than 60 days, the cardholder will be put on the DoD report and his card will be suspended. After 90 days, the cardholder's travel card is permanently taken away and after 120 days, the cardholder is referred to a collection agency.

Hanck explained that if a member is TDY for 45 days or more, that person can submit partial settlements to FMG in 30-day increments. "This enables the member to pay their bill on time," he said.

Currently, the university has more than two years of excellent reports with only three charged off accounts in the USU's history of using the travel card. There has been zero

charged off accounts since 2001.

According to Zimble, a team from DoD and the Bank of America visited him and expressed their admiration for how well the university has performed.

"I was proud to tell them it is the result of the great group of people who make up our university family," said Zimble.

"If the university didn't have the management and oversight that we have, there is no way this could be done," said Jim Wolff, financial services officer and agency program coordinator for USU's Financial Management Department. "That's the bottom line."

More information about USU's travel procedures can be found on the USU homepage at www.usuhs.mil; under administrative listings, go to finance and then to "TDY Travel Claims -- messages from FMG."

Van Der Molen selected USU Service Member of the Year

Army Sgt. Elizabeth Van Der Molen, animal care specialist in USU's Laboratory Animal Care department, not only was named the university's Soldier of the Year, but also the Service Member of the Year for 2002.



Photo by JO2 (SW) Tom Keilman

Army Sgt. Elizabeth Van Der Molen fills out a checklist, called a round sheet, which is used to document information on animal health care, such as room temperature, humidity, food and water.

Achieving these awards comes at no easy task, explains Van Der Molen. In order to be eligible for a Soldier of the Year board, a soldier must first be selected as a soldier of the quarter. The four soldiers of the quarter compete against each other

in accordance with their written nomination package, which lists information about their leadership qualities, job performance and self-improvement. The airman, soldier and sailor of the year are the only individuals eligible to compete for service member of the year.

"I'm not going to lie, I really wanted to be service member of the year," said Van Der Molen. "My dad is my hero, and he thinks highly of military accomplishments. I wanted to show my dad that I could do it. No one back home thought that I would make it in the Army. I wanted to prove them wrong."

Van Der Molen's responsibilities in her department include maintaining inventory, ordering drugs and supervising procedures for the animal health surveillance program for more than 13,000 rodents used in research and training protocols. She also assists the USU Veterinary Medicine Division in veterinary care and administration support of 14 different animal species in support of the training and research missions of 800 medical students, doctors and nurses.

"Soldier of the year was pretty

Soldier continued on Page 4

Echelmeyer earns airman of the year

Senior Airman Thomas Echelmeyer, a bioenvironmental engineering technician in USU's Environmental Health and Occupational Safety Department, was selected USU Airman of the Year for 2002.

"It was an exciting and proud moment to be up in front of the airman of the year board," said Echelmeyer. "It was a good experience to be able to answer questions about Air Force history, customs and courtesies, and current events. The board members were great and I am thankful that I was able to progress as far as I did."

Echelmeyer's duties include managing the USU Infectious Waste Disposal Program, which ensures compliance with laws set by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Maryland Department of the Environment. He has collected, packaged, stored and disposed of more than 2,000 pounds of regulated medical waste. He also manages the USU Laboratory Chemical Ventilation Program, which ensures proper airflow and performance of about 65 ventilation hoods.

"It's good to be here. It's good stuff. The whole joint assignment thing here is really interesting. I enjoy it a lot," said Echelmeyer.

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Photo by JO2 (SW) Tom Keilman

Senior Airman Thomas Echelmeyer disposes of medical waste by loading sharps containers into a hazardous materials box.

Jenkins selected sailor of the year



Photo by JO2 (SW) Tom Keilman

HM2 (FMF) Isaac Jenkins studies a sample of lung tissue to ensure there is no bacterium inside the cells. Although histopathology technicians normally do not perform this type of work, Jenkins also performs the duties of a lab technician.

HM2 (FMF) Isaac Jenkins, a histopathology technician for USU's Veterinary Pathology Division achieved the status of Sailor of the Year for 2002.

"The competition was tough," said Jenkins. "There were some really good sailors competing here at USU."

"Going up for the board was tough because there's a lot of pressure representing the whole Navy and your division," said Jenkins.

As a histopathology technician, Jenkins is trained to collect, process and examine tissue and other related body materials, including preservation and shipment of pathological specimens, morgue duties and administration duties. He is also trained to perform routine surgical and autopsy accessioning.

Originally from Savannah, Ga., Jenkins graduated from Herschel V. Jenkins High School in 1990 before joining the Navy in 1994.

In his spare time, Jenkins attends Southern Illinois University at the National Naval Medical Center campus here. In the future he plans on earning his bachelor's degree in health care management and becoming a Navy Medical Service Corps officer.

Soldier

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tough," said Van Der Molen. "I was prepared to lose."

Van Der Molen explains that it feels good to win soldier of the year and service member of the year and said that she would like to win it again.

"As a soldier, they (service member of the year and soldier of the year boards) provide me with the experience to go out and help other soldiers, especially if they're going up for a promotion board," said Van Der Molen. "I can help other soldiers

be successful by using my general experience."

Van Der Molen explains that the boards benefited her by helping her conquer her fear of public speaking.

Originally from Lemoore, Calif., Van Der Molen graduated from Lemoore High School in 1999 and joined the Army in July 1999

When she's not busy, Van Der Molen enjoys spending time with her fiancé, roller blading, mountain hiking, bicycling and swimming. She also enjoys sewing and cross stitching. In the future, she plans to get married and become an elementary school teacher.

Airman

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Echelmeyer graduated from Big Spring High School in Carlisle, Pa., in 1994. He joined the Air Force in 1997 to see the world and broaden his horizons.

In his spare time, he attends Prince George's Community College at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. He enjoys listening to music, playing the guitar and reading.

His future plans include earning his bachelor's degree and becoming a commissioned officer in the Air Force.

New assistant vice president for Learning Resources

by Tech Sgt. Ann Bennett
Office of University Affairs

Ursula D. Scott is the new assistant vice president for Learning Resources at USU. New to the university, Scott was previously the director of the medical library at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences in Tulsa, Okla.

She took over from Janice Powell Muller who was the interim replacement for Chester Pletzke who retired in 2001 after 23 years in that position, formerly known as director of the Learning Resource Center. Following Pletzke's retirement, the university created the new assistant vice president position with a new emphasis on outreach. Powell Muller is now the director of Campus Learning Resources.

With the help of 31 staff members, Scott oversees the LRC's mission of serving the USU community of medical, nursing and graduate students, as well as faculty, staff and researchers.

In the 25,941-square-foot facility, they provide the traditional library services with a circulation of more than 30,000. The three-story facility houses more than 44,000 books and 66,000 journal

volumes for reference, as well as a number of electronic resources.

According to Scott, the LRC maintains a database of faculty publications that includes all publications and journal articles published by USU faculty members, something not all medical libraries do.

"Our medical and bio-medical resources support the professional activities of USU, helping our patrons in their work and studies," Scott explained.

"We will continue to serve people who are currently here, and are looking at being able to support the alumni and the larger military medical community with electronic resources. We have the potential for other medical people to have access to our current medical information in order to make better practice decisions."



photo by JO2 (SW) Tom Keilman

Ursula D. Scott

Scott was born in Germany, but calls Dallas, Texas, home. She has worked in libraries almost 37 years. She said she was hooked ever since her mother volunteered her to work in a medical library one summer when she was about 15 years old. During high school and college, she worked at several libraries.

She received her Bachelor of Science degree in sociology at Temple University and then obtained her graduate degree in library science at Drexel University, both in Philadelphia.

University, AFRRI reach CFC goal

Mission accomplished! Uniformed Services Uniformed and the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute reached their goal of \$167,000 in February for this year's Combined Federal Campaign.

The CFC is the annual fund-raising drive conducted by federal employees in their workplace each fall. Each year, federal employees and military personnel raise millions of dollars through the CFC that benefits thousands of non-profit charities.

"Heartfelt gratitude goes out to all of the keyworkers, building captains, CFC committee

chairs, and special event participants who made this a successful campaign," said Karen Dern, protocol officer for USU and CFC manager.

"But most importantly, we couldn't have done it without all of your contributions. May God bless you as you have made it possible to bless others in the coming year."



Combined Federal Campaign

Army Promotions



Sergeant

Sgt. Elizabeth Van Der Molen
 Sgt. Cynthia Moyer
 Sgt. Diana Tuten
 Sgt. Rosalba Rodriguez

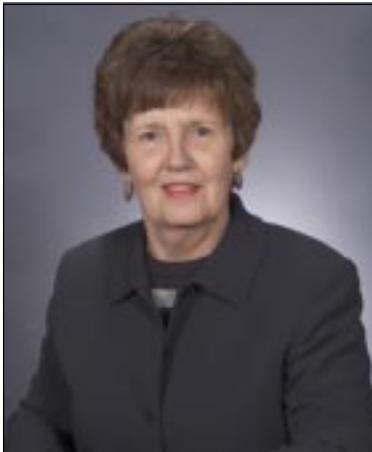


Staff Sergeant

Staff Sgt. Michael Junio

Borke receives Defense Department 40-year service pin

Rosemary Borke, Ph.D., professor of Anatomy, Physiology and Genetics at USU, has been recognized for having the longest civilian length of service during the



Rosemary Borke

awarding of service pins at the beginning of 2003.

Borke, who was among 15 individuals receiving longevity awards, had the longest service with 40 years.

Borke came to work at USU's Anatomy and Physiology and Genetics Department in 1979. Before that time, she worked as a biologist for the chief professor of neurosurgery at the National Institute of Health from 1962 until 1979.

Other longevity award winners are:

35 Years

Arnold Perkins

30 Years

Lenora Few

Andre Dubois

20 Years

James Schooley
 Eyvette Artis-Payne
 Gregory Mueller

15 Years

Laiman Tavedi
 Troy Coblentz
 Donald Roberts
 Tzu Cheg Kao

10 Years

Keith van Nostrand
 Vernell Shaw
 Yolanda Smith
 Gaynea Hudson

Army staff sergeant trades in stripes for Air Force bars



Photo by JO2 (SW) Tom Keilman

A rmy Staff Sgt. Neil Helbling, a research technician in USU's clinical pharmacology department, switched from being an Army staff sergeant to an Air Force second lieutenant on Jan. 24.

Helbling's wife, Jamie and Army Lt. Col. Michael Riel, associate director of clinical pharmacology and medical toxicology at USU do the honors of pinning on Helbling's new rank. The new second lieutenant will be attending Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala. He will then assume the new position of lab officer at Altus Air Force Base in Oklahoma.

What does it take to plan Operation Bushmaster?

By JO2 (SW) Tom Keilman
Office of University Affairs

Operation Bushmaster has always been one of the major ways that USU teaches its medical students field skills in a simulated combat environment.

Each academic year, Operation Bushmaster occurs three times -- September, November and January. Many staff, faculty or students may not know exactly how much planning, work or organization is put forth for each exercise.

According to Sgt. 1st Class Edward Whitt, Academic Non-commissioned Officer In Charge of USU's Military Emergency Medicine Department, Operation Bushmaster is used as a training event to evaluate and train the fourth year medical students in a field environment. It gives the medical students an opportunity to practice their skills that they have learned during their four years here, and it also gives them a



Photo by JO2 (SW) Tom Keilman

HM2 (FMF) Willie Greene, USU Operations Department, applies make-up to a casual's leg to help create an image of a wound.

chance to be evaluated on their leadership.

For the individuals who put together a Bushmaster exercise, they know "first hand" that it's a challenge all on its own.

"Logistically, the Bushmaster

exercises are a huge challenge, mostly because we have to borrow 80 percent of all of our equipment from units that are one time zone, or a four-hour flight away," said Army Capt. Edwin Champion,

Brigade Operations Officer for USU's Operations Department.

Champion explains that each Bushmaster requires between 60 to 80 casualties (usually soldiers from Fort Sam Houston, Coast Guard, or Air Force personnel); six ambulances; 10 heavy trucks; four HUMMVs; two four-hundred-gallon water buffalos; one General Purpose Large Tent; eight General Purpose Medium Tents; six General Purpose Small Tents; one Large Deployable Medical Tent; about \$200 a day worth of fuel; 30 kilowatts of power each day; 16 kerosene heaters; 20 M-16s; 30 artillery simulators; several thousand rounds of ammunition; 20 SINCGARS radios; 20 hutments at Camp Bullis in San Antonio, Texas; two 15-passenger vans; 60 compasses; 60 maps; 60 protractors; five gallons of kerosene per day (10 per day in January); 300



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ann Bennett

Air Force Staff Sgt. Rachel Broussard, a medical technician who works in USU's Family Medicine Department, inventories medication inside the medical treatment tent for Operation Bushmaster.

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Bushmaster

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cases of MREs; and about \$3,000 worth of medical supplies. Travel is about \$50,000 per exercise.

“We also use the entire MEM staff, key members of the commandant’s office, and about 40 additional USU personnel to work two shifts in the Tactical Operations Center; Administrative Operations Center; Patient Placement; Mouflage; Water, Power and Fuel; and to drive vehicles. We also get about 20 military doctors from outside USU to act as medical evaluators at the treatment sites,” said Champion.

Champion emphasizes that it’s the teamwork of personnel from AFRRRI and other USU departments that helps make each exercise successful.

USU’s MEM department does most of the planning for Bushmaster, and is comprised of two parts -- operations and academics.

“Operations do the majority of the tasking. They place all of the equipment and personnel in the right places. Academics put together the curriculum of what the students are going to learn or train on for the first two days before the exercise, and also get class instructors for the curriculum out there at the field sites,” said Whitt.



Photo by JO2 (SW) Tom Keilman

Servicemembers who work to support Operation Bushmaster can access water from water buffaloes, which are located in several places throughout the training area. Water buffaloes are one of the many logistical needs required to make Operation Bushmaster successful.

“The NCO’s have picked up a more integral part in teaching, training and mentoring these young lieutenants and ensigns to become good officers.”

—————*Sgt. 1st Class Edward Whitt*

With all of the planning, logistics and work, USU’s MEM department, along with supporting members from staff and faculty, work hand-in-hand to make sure each operation is as effective as possible. To enhance effectiveness, some changes have been occurring in the most recent exercises, such as NCOs and Petty Officers playing a more integral part during the exercise.

“The NCOs have picked up a more integral part of this operation where before their mission was basically to go down and assist in setting up. The NCOs have picked up a more integral part in teaching, training and mentoring these young lieutenants and ensigns to become good officers,” said Whitt. “Since they picked up this part, I have had a lot of good comments about NCOs from officers, students and faculty. I also had good comments coming back from the NCOs saying that it was worth their time, they had a good time out there, they felt that they were needed and they felt that they could enlighten the students on making their operations out there better.”

Operation Bushmaster is a major training tool which the university uses to teach fourth-year medical students field skills in a simulated environment. It’s these skills that will help students carry out the mission of military medicine while caring for those in harm’s way.

Operation Bushmaster ... a team effort



Army, Navy and Air Force personnel work together to help set up camp for Operation Bushmaster at Camp Bullis in San Antonio, Texas.

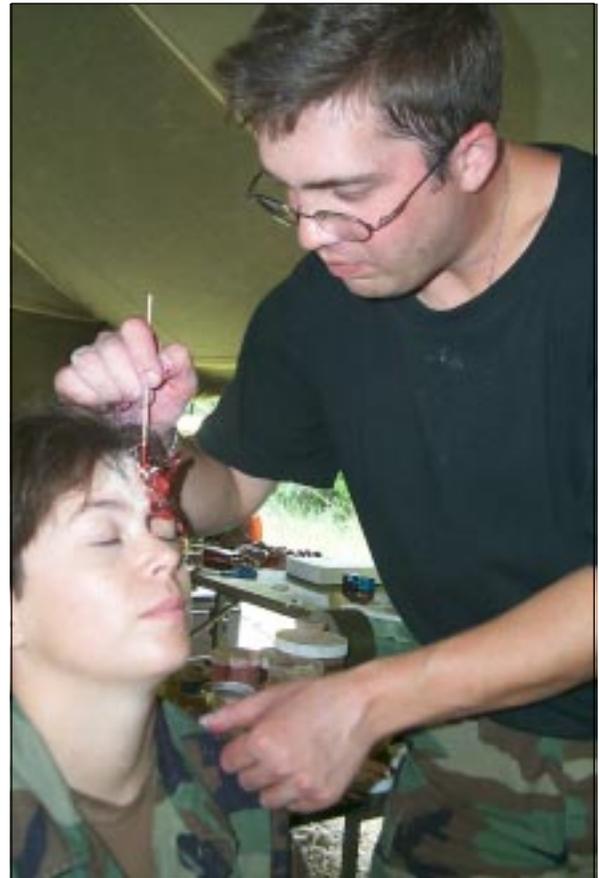
Photos by Tech. Sgt. Ann Bennett



HM3 Golda Winston helps set up one of 16 tents used during Operation Bushmaster.



Army Sgt. Cynthia Moyer secures lights to the inside of the large deployable medical tent.



Senior Airman Thomas Echelmeyer uses moulage material to simulate a wound on a soldier.

Faculty members achieve board certification

by JO2 (SW) Tom Keilman
Office of University Affairs

One current and two former USU faculty members passed their board certification exams and earned the title of certified health physicists.

Cmdr. David Schauer, MSC, Sc.D., chief of radiological sciences and assistant professor of Radiology and Radiological Sciences; Air Force Lt. Col. William Roach, former professor of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics; and Lt. Cmdr. James Cassata, MSC, Ph.D., former adjunct assistant professor of PMB; achieved their board certification from the American Board of Health Physics last year.

USU's two former faculty members, Cassata and Roach, and current faculty member, Schauer, have proven that they are among the best in the field of health physics after becoming board certified. They all agree that becoming a CHP is by no means an easy task with a nation-wide success rate of about 20 percent.

According to Schauer, the job of a health physicist is to maximize the beneficial uses of radiation while minimizing the adverse effects on people and the environment. For example, at USU there are health physicists teaching graduate and medical students who are conducting basic and applied research, working in the Radiation Safety Office and serving on the Radiation Safety Committee.

Schauer explains that of all the eligible candidates, less than 20 percent of those individuals

actually achieve certification to become a CHP.

"In order to become certified you have to successfully complete two written exams," said Schauer. "Last year, the success rate on the first part was 18 percent. The second part was about 45 percent."

The first part of the exam is strictly multiple choice and covers the fundamentals of radiation protection or health physics. The second part is more of a problem solving, essay-type format where the individual has to show depth of understanding in radiation protection.

"With a national certification rate of about 20 percent, we feel pretty good that all of our eligible USU faculty are now board certified," said Schauer. "Within the Department of Defense, about 15 percent of practicing health physicists are board certified."

Cassata explains that with achieving this certification comes a responsibility to do two things. First, the certified individual is no longer solely representing himself, but is upholding the reputation of the community of health physicists collectively. Second, it is incumbent upon the individual to find a way to give back to the field and help it grow in some way.

"Achieving certification to me shows a level of proficiency attained in the field and is a way to gain the respect of health physicists in the civilian community. What it doesn't mean is that one has achieved all the knowledge and experience possible. Far from that, it is a beginning to continual

growth in the field," said Cassata. "It would be a huge mistake to sit back at this point and think one could rest on their certification. To continue to be respected by your colleagues, one has to invest time and effort in the field."

Schauer says that although not everyone working in the health physics field is a CHP, it certainly should be a goal of all health physicists to become board certified.

"USU has a health physics graduate program that was created as an interdisciplinary program by RAD and PMB. (<http://hp.usuhs.mil>) "On our website we list everything about the program, the curriculum for our students, the faculty members and other tools for certification," said Schauer.

He explained that one of their goals is for the students to be prepared to become CHP's when they finish the program. "When we stated this goal, we realized that we should have faculty who are all board certified. As of this last test, all of our eligible faculty members are now board certified."

"We also run a certification course at USU every Tuesday and Thursday night to prepare eligible candidates for the exam. We do this for the military, civilians or for anyone in the local Baltimore/Washington area who want to achieve board certification," said Schauer. "In addition to that, we run one other course taught by Dr. Tom Johnson, assistant professor of PMB."

Enduring Freedom veterans share experiences

By JO2 (SW) Tom Keilman
Office of University Affairs

The Armed Services Biomedical Research Evaluation and Management Committee held a panel discussion Dec. 16. in USU's J.P. Sanford Auditorium.

The panel included experienced military medical personnel who shared their insights into combat casualty care, mainly from their recent experiences during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

The members of the discussion panel included Sgt. 1st Class Cory Lamoreaux, regimental senior medic for the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment in Fort Campbell, Ky.; Sgt. 1st Class Robert Miller, a combat medic for the 75th Ranger Regiment; Army Maj. Brian Burlingame, MC, commander of the 274th Forward Surgical Team, Womack Army Medical Center in Fort Bragg, N.C.; Air Force Maj. Todd Carter, MC, SFS, chief of Rapid Response Systems at the Air Force Surgeon General's Office, Bolling Air Force Base; and Cmdr. Peter Rhee, MC, director of the Navy Trauma



Photo by HM3 Albert Dalmau

Army Col. John Holcomb (left) served as the mediator during the ASBREM panel discussion. The panelists (from left) are Carter, Rhee, Burlingame, Miller and Lamoreaux.

Training Center in Los Angeles who is a 1987 USU graduate.

The panelists provided both clinicians and researchers insight of their first-hand experiences and perspectives on practicing operational medicine.

CPDR celebrates 10th anniversary

The Center for Prostate Disease Research celebrated its 10th anniversary with a symposium in USU J.P. Sanford Auditorium on Nov. 22.

The symposium was an opportunity to provide current findings in state-of-the-art prostate cancer research, including molecular genetic and clinical research discoveries to an audience of national and internationally renowned experts in the prostate cancer field. Other audience members included local scientists in the prostate cancer field, clinicians, general public and cancer survivors who may directly benefit from these findings.

Many speakers attended the symposium, including Dr. Andrew Von Eschenbach, director of the National Cancer Institute, whose lecture was entitled the David G. McLeod Lecture "Prostate Cancer: A model for Translational Research."

This lecture highlighted that pros-

tate cancer is really a collection of several different clinically distinct disease states. Most of these states may persist as showing no evidence of disease for several years, but ultimately the transformation to full malignant expression can occur as cancer patients progress to metastatic, androgen-independent disease.

The symposium also included presentations by other nationally recognized experts in the prostate cancer field like Dr. Donald Tindall, Mayo Medical School; Dr. Deborah Lubeck, University of California at San Francisco; Dr. Anthony D'Amico, Brigham and Women's Hospital; Dr. Esther H. Chang, Georgetown University Medical Center; Dr. Kenneth J. Pienta, University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center; Dr. Leland W. K. Chung, Winship Cancer Institute; Dr. Harvey B. Pollard, USU School of Medicine; Dr. Harry Burke, George Washington University; and

Dr. John Rhim, associate director of CPDR.

The symposium was supported by educational grants from associations such as Amgen, Applied Biosystems, AstraZenecal, Avalon, Aventis, Bayer, Ciphergen, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer Steere and TAP Pharmaceuticals.

CPDR was established in 1991 to combat the increasing rate of occurrence of prostate cancer. This unique center integrates basic and clinical science practices to develop refined detection techniques and promising treatments for prostate disease.

The CPDR is a Department of Defense program affiliated with USU, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, and many tri-service military medical centers, and in collaboration with the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine.

Army Spec Ops Medic tells Story of Robert's Ridge

by JO2 (SW) Tom Keilman
USU Office of University Affairs

You are an Army special operations medic. You and your crew are riding in a helicopter to your mission's destination when suddenly the helicopter is shot down. You are in an enemy-infested area with gunfire coming from every direction.

You are pinned down in one place. If you move an inch from your area, you risk getting yourself killed. The loud gunfire has your ears ringing, causing you to faintly hear your injured comrades' cries for help. Sweat on your face, blood on your hands, tears in your eyes and with gunshot wounds of your own, it is up to you to save their lives. What do you do?

Army Sergeant 1st Class Cory Lamoreaux, regimental senior medic for the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Fort Campbell, Ky., experienced a similar situation when the helicopter he was riding in was downed at

Robert's Ridge during Operation Anaconda on March 4, 2002, in Afghanistan.

"I was a flight medic on this mission. We were going to do an infield (fly and put troops on the ground). The mission itself was to go rescue a downed Navy SEAL operator. During the mission, the lead aircraft, which I was on, was shot down," said Lamoreaux.

Lamoreaux explains the hostile environment of having two enemy bunkers connected by a trench with two more nearby. All enemy firing positions were spread out.

"They were kind of waiting on us. Unfortunately, we went in during daylight. We were actually the third aircraft going to the same LZ (Landing Zone) during a period of about six or seven hours. Since our mission happened during daylight, they had a better shot of getting us."

Lamoreaux also explains that while entering the hostile environment, he and his fellow crewmembers came under heavy fire.

"When we went in, we got shot up pretty bad. I got shot in the helmet three times and was knocked down. Not really sure, but I was semi-unconscious because when I came to I had blood all over my face and was extremely happy that I wasn't dead or hurting. I woke up and was like hey, what's the deal and then I'm like hey, I'm okay, I'm okay. And about that time this guy comes bailing out of the

cockpit, he was the pilot in the right seat and he had been shot in the wrist. He was holding his wrist and was hysterical. The arterial blood was spurting about three feet. He tripped and fell down face to face with me. I just pulled a tourniquet out of my vest and put it on his arm. It was like clockwork. It was beautiful. He also had a gunshot wound to the left upper leg. I didn't find it for a while because he didn't have any obvious bleeding. He didn't even know he had it."

Lamoreaux's crew consisted of 10 Rangers (assaulters), three Air Force Special Tactics Squadron members -- two pararescuemen (PJ) and one combat controller -- and eight aircrew members, which included Lamoreaux.

Because he was under fire the majority of the time, Lamoreaux decided to establish the casualty collection point in the back of the aircraft.

"I started out there with a couple of guys who were wounded and it ended up being a great place to be. It provided some limited cover as long as we were on our bellies. Since there were two or three feet of snow, it kept the casualties out of the snow and protected them a little bit more against hypothermia."

When Lamoreaux and his crew were shot down, initially there were four wounded and four who were killed in action. Five hours later, there were two more who were wounded in action, one of whom later died from his wounds.

"I had a limited amount of crystalloids and colloids (IV solutions). We had two units of blood and, obviously, we didn't

Medic continued on Page 13
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Photo by HM3 Albert Dalmou

Sgt. 1st Class Cory Lamoreaux, regimental senior medic for the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Fort Campbell, Ky., shares his insights on combat casualty care with staff, faculty and students from USU on Dec. 16.

Medic

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have any surgical capability with us.”

According to Lamoreaux, his second patient was the left gunner who had either a gunshot wound or fragment in his right upper leg. He had an open femur fracture with no exit wound.

“I didn’t treat this guy for, I’m not sure for how long, 30-45 minutes because he was in the danger area. To get close to him, I had to cross the right cabin door. By the way the aircraft was facing, the enemy in the bunker could see straight into the aircraft. Every time I got near the door, they started shooting the aircraft. After a little while we got over there. I dressed his wound on his leg and put him in a SKEDCO (encapsulating-type of stretcher).

Lamoreaux also explains about a particular member of his crew that bailed out of the helicopter door because they were shooting him so heavily into the cockpit.

“He wasn’t safe to be there anymore. One round hit his helmet and ripped it clean off his head. He probably thought it was the best time to leave.”

After approximately four hours of receiving heavy fire from the

bunkers, the Ranger leader made a plan to move the patients to high ground.

“We were down to seven assaulters, two PJs, a medic and four aircrew, I believe. The crew members weren’t trained on the ground, so they’re not necessarily assaulters. They weren’t a lot of help for the Rangers. They were just shooting and moving.”

According to Lamoreaux, the Ranger leader said he wanted to wait for chalk (team) two.

“Chalk two, as we later found out, was going to infield down at the bottom of the valley and walk up. There was about 2,500 feet in elevation difference. It took them about three hours to walk up. Once they got up there, they assaulted the bunkers.”

A PJ worked with Lamoreaux by moving patients while the area was being secured.

“After they successfully moved through the target and secured it, it was kind of a sense of okay fine, we can relax. There were guys actually standing up and walking around.”

Things quickly changed for them though when Lamoreaux and his comrades once again came under attack by the enemy.

Lamoreaux explains

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————— Sgt. 1st Class Cory Lamoreaux

that he and the PJ had moved one patient halfway up the hill.

“The Rangers were behind rocks and shooting back obviously. We were all shooting back. The two litter patients, myself and the PJ, Jason Cunningham, were all caught in the open in a small area that had cover from the bunkers, but nothing from the rear. Because we were unable to move the patients by ourselves, we decided to stay there and shoot it out.”

About 20 minutes into the shootout, Lamoreaux said he and the PJ had both been shot.

“The firefight still went on after we were shot. We were talking and he (PJ) was losing a lot of blood.”

A Ranger medic came to their aid after the shootout was over.

“He (PJ) got an IV and they attempted to give him one of the units of blood later on. He arrested about eight hours after the injury.”

Lamoreaux explains that his wounds consisted of two gunshot wounds to his lower left quadrant and one in his buttocks.

“I was pretty stable.

As the day went on, I realized I was going to be alright because I didn’t notice any change in my mental status.”

After the Ranger medic treated all of his patients, he had them moved to higher ground. Lamoreaux spent the rest of the day and into the night on a litter.

“The temperature went down significantly. They literally stripped everything out of the aircraft they could to cover us up. One guy I can remember had about four feet of stuff on top of him.”

When help arrived, Lamoreaux and the rest of the wounded were flown by helicopter to a different site where they were triaged then flown to a safer location.

“As medics, we treat to look for the blood and that’s how we find the wounds. Well, there was a couple of times when the gunshot wounds weren’t bleeding and didn’t catch them right away,” said Lamoreaux. “I’m a firm believer in carrying blood on known CASEVAC (casualty evacuation) missions. I figure it will save lives.”