



Fort Detrick The Standard

A Sustainable Community of Excellence



2019 National Preparedness Month: Prepared, Not Scared

By Jenni Benson, USAG Public Affairs

September is not only the month when parents prepare to send their little ones off to another year of learning, but it is also a month dedicated to a different type of preparation... emergency preparedness.

National Preparedness Month promotes family and community disaster and emergency planning now and throughout the year. The 2019 theme is "**Prepared, Not Scared.**"

This is the time to reflect and take inventory on what we would do IF we needed to respond to an emergency in our home or workplace.

Each week the [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) website will share valuable information on various topics relating to emergency preparedness.

Week one will cover [how to plan financially for disaster related costs](#). Week two will focus on [how to make and practice an emergency plan](#). Week three will discuss [how to prepare youth to respond in the event of an emergency](#). Finally, week four will stress [how to get involved with your community's preparedness efforts](#).

Knowing what disasters and hazards are prevalent in your area helps you know how and what to prepare for. Some things however, cannot be predicted; therefore, educating yourself and your family, putting plans into place and practicing those plans will make a difference.

Ready.gov is a valuable tool when preparing your home and your office in case of an emergency. Specifically <https://www.ready.gov/be-informed> provides checklists and information dealing with a variety of emergencies from an active shooter incident to severe weather.

One common theme throughout the Ready.gov site is to embrace the personal responsibility to be prepared; to get training in first aid and emergency skills; and to volunteer to support local emergency responders, disaster relief, and community safety.

Fort Detrick will be rolling out the ALERT system starting mid-September. Through this system those living and working on Fort Detrick and Forest Glen can receive e-mail, text message and telephone alerts at work or at home when the installation is experiencing an emergency or serious incident. In addition, there is the option of getting alert messages on home phones and other personal communications mediums. Stay tuned for more information on how to sign up for the ALERT system.

Take action to be "Prepared, Not Scared".



PREPARED, NOT SCARED

National Preparedness Month 2019

GEMS Program Opens Doors, Young Minds to the Future of Technology, Innovation

By Ramin A. Khalili, USAMRDC Public Affairs

When Nick Ranallo walks into the classroom, all of his students – grade school kids mostly, but a few a little older– sit up straight, stop talking, and start copying everything their teacher writes on the chalkboard.

Their favorite part is when he talks about blood spatter.

“We get to make this fake blood,” says Ranallo, grinning as he pulls on a pair of safety goggles. “And these kids, they just love it – they’re just really interested in this stuff.”

Ranallo is just one of a group of more than 130 mentors, resource teachers, and clinicians nationwide taking part in the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command’s annual “Gains in Education of Mathematics and Science” program, which is designed to promote science, technology, engineering, and math education to students in grades five-through-twelve. As a soon-to-be senior at the University of Maryland, Ranallo, a bioengineering major, operates as a “near-peer” mentor for sessions held at Hood College near the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command headquarters in Frederick, Maryland – which means he physically teaches classes, as opposed to sitting in a lecture hall.

“I try to keep it basic,” says Ranallo, whose forensic science lessons are a consistent winner with kids of all ages. “I try to keep it simple, try to keep it like I was their age and trying to learn.”

Of course it’s how, exactly, those young kids learn that makes the GEMS program so popular. Over a series of individual, one-week sessions held across July and August each year, students are schooled in everything from basic engineering theory to the science behind crime scene investigations to the impact of technology on everything from robotics to football games. More than 1400 students participated in the program across all USAMRDC lab sites during this year’s session, with the highest participation rate –more than 580 students total– taking place at the USAMRDC headquarters site.

“It’s a beautiful thing,” says Cicely Smith, an elementary school teacher from North Carolina who makes the trip to Maryland each year to volunteer as a

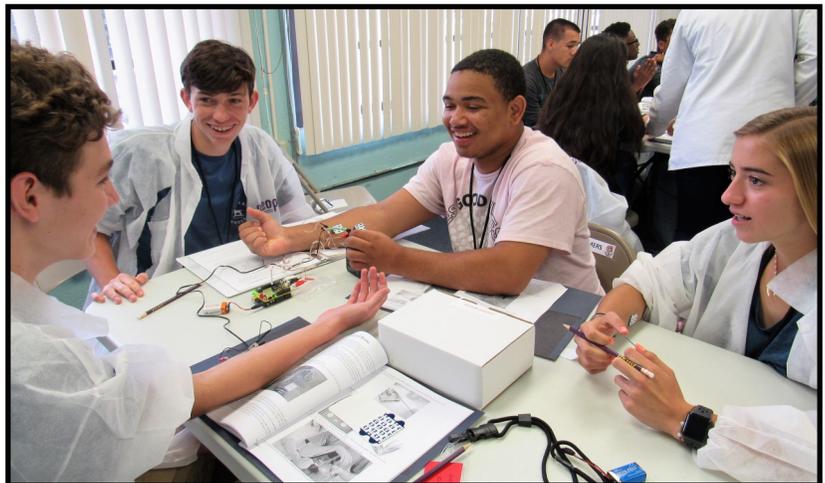
resource teacher for the Frederick-based program. “Everything these college kids get from the younger students, and everything the younger students get from the curriculum. It’s just eye-popping.”

“Watching the students dig into the actual, real-world applications of science, technology, engineering, and math concepts is absolutely amazing,” says Amy Baker, STEM Education Administrator for the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory at Fort Rucker, Alabama, where more than 430 students took part in GEMS classes this summer. “We know these kinds of efforts encourage critical thinking, increase the motivation to learn, and provide additional opportunities for the students to work collaboratively, which ultimately promotes better communication and social skills.”

If that weren’t enough of a benefit, students receive a \$100 stipend for simply attending the free program, though they must submit an online application per the guidelines of the selection process. Specifically, the program is funded through the Army Educational Outreach Program via the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) – or, ASA(ALT) for short.

Says Smith, a seven-year veteran of the program, “This whole efforts really brings me back to why I do what I do for a living.”

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High School students participate in a medical challenge activity during a GEMS class session at Fort Rucker, Alabama, in July 2019.

Photo by Amy Baker, USAARL

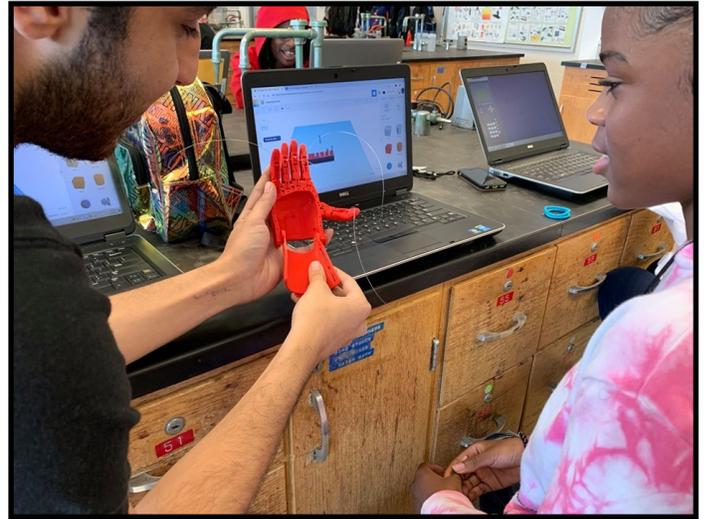
Indeed, that same sense of joy and achievement is echoed in Ranallo, who –in turn– recognizes his students’ looks of amazement from his own youth – the awestruck face, the wide-eyed disbelief. It wasn’t all that long ago, he says, that he was eager to see how far science –and perhaps a few drops of fake blood– could take him.

“We do a lot of high-tech stuff here,” says Ranallo. “And the kids just love seeing cool results.”



A near-peer mentor participates in science project with students during a GEMS class session at Fort Rucker, Alabama, in July 2019.

Photo by Amy Baker, USAARL



A GEMS student receives instruction during a robotics lesson during a class session at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in July 2019.

Photo by WRAIR Public Affairs



GEMS students participate in an engineering challenge during a class session at Fort Rucker, Alabama, in July 2019.

Photo by Amy Baker, USAARL

OVERALL GEMS PROGRAM PARTICIPATION STATISTICS

Lab: USAMRDC Headquarters
 Students: 588
 Near-Peer Mentors: 20
 Peer Mentors: 8-15
 Resource Teachers: 2

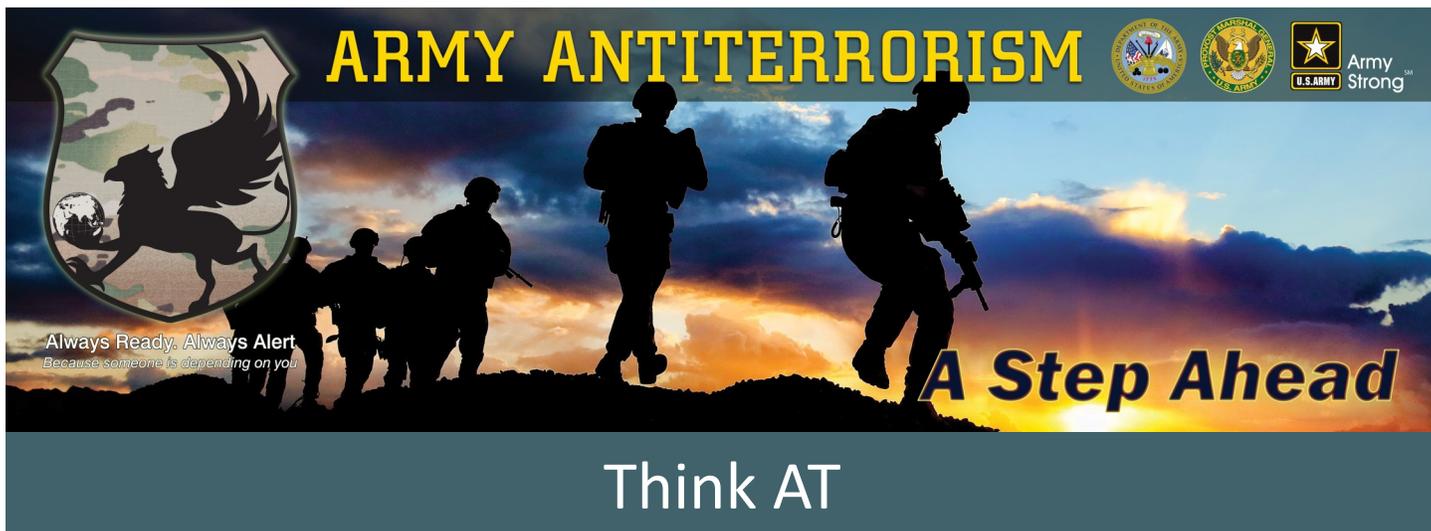
Lab: USARIEM
 Students: 194
 Near-Peer Mentors: 5
 Peer Mentors: 12
 Resource Teachers: 1

Lab: WRAIR
 Students: 517
 Near-Peer Mentors: 15

Peer Mentors: 7
 Resource Teachers: 2

Lab: USAISR
 Students: 97
 Near-Peer Mentors: 5
 Peer Mentors: 24
 Resource Teachers: 3

Lab: USAARL
 Students: 436
 Near-Peer Mentors: 27
 Peer Mentors: 31
 Resource Teachers: 4



By Jenni Benson, USAG Public Affairs

Army Senior Leadership designated August 2019 as Anti-terrorism, or AT, Awareness Month.

The purpose of AT Awareness Month is to instill Army-wide vigilance to prevent terrorist attacks and protect critical Army resources from acts of terrorism. Although August is recognized as AT awareness month, it is important to stay alert every day of the year.

The threats are real. News reports constantly feature those wishing to do harm to others. Now more than ever, law enforcement and security personnel need us to be engaged to ensure our safety and security. It is not just the responsibility of law enforcement to keep us safe, it takes all of us and is truly a team effort.

This year's AT Awareness Month focused on recognizing and reporting suspicious activity. Several Army sources help us do just that. The iWatch site is a tool consisting of videos and other training materials regarding Antiterrorism, family awareness, travel restrictions and advisories, to name a few.

If you are unfamiliar with what iWatch Army is, think of it as a "neighborhood watch" with a focus on the threat of terrorist activity. iWATCH Army encourages and empowers the Army community to be aware of surroundings and take action to report suspicious behavior.

By now, we should all know the saying "See Something, Say Something." But what does that actually mean? Simply put, if you see something suspicious you should say something to local law enforcement, even if the information you have is not complete. On Fort Detrick and Forest Glen Annex, report suspicious activity to the Fort Detrick police department at (301) 619-7114 or the Forest Glen Police Department at (301) 319-5502.

In your local community, report suspicious activity to your

local law enforcement agency.

Government agencies, such as the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security that track and monitor terrorist activity, report staggering numbers on investigations throughout the Nation that involve terroristic motives. Due to their diligence and the diligence of those who report suspicious activity, many threats have been and will continue to be thwarted.

The landscape of terroristic activity spans across the globe. The threats are sophisticated and wide-ranging; from cyber-attacks, to attacks on our military, to homegrown terrorists that want to create chaos and harm the masses. That is why it is so important to educate yourself and to remain vigilant at all times.

Here are a few things to remember when thinking AT:

Awareness and training is key. Take trainings on Antiterrorism and Operations Security to hone your skills in this area to keep you and those around you safe.

"See Something, Say Something!" How many of us have heard of an instance or a case where something horrific was being planned but because someone was brave enough to report it, saved the lives of hundreds?

Always be aware of your surroundings, look for things out of the ordinary and if something doesn't feel right, report it, even if you do not have all of the information- what you do have could be the missing puzzle piece.

Here are few things that you may want to report:

- People drawing or measuring important buildings.
- Strangers asking questions about security forces and procedures.
- Unattended bags, suitcases, packages etc.
- Cars or trucks left in a "No Parking Zone" in front of important buildings.

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- Intruders found in secure areas.

Remain watchful, report suspicious activity and educate yourself to keep you and those around you safe.

Remember, August may be AT Awareness Month, but vigilance and awareness should be practiced every day!

Contact the Fort Detrick Antiterrorism Officer, Richard King at (301) 619-3446 for additional information including trainings, active shooter or insider threat awareness and other AT topics of concern.

Resources for information and training:

- ⇒ <https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something>
- ⇒ <https://www.myarmyonesource.com/familyprogramsandservices/iwatchprogram/default.aspx>
- ⇒ <https://www.army.mil/standto/2018-07-25>
- ⇒ <https://www.inscom.army.mil/isalute/>
- ⇒ iSALUTE: 1-800-CALL-SPY
- ⇒ <https://militarybenefits.info/antiterrorism-awareness-month/#ixzz5xZZN7AaH>
- ⇒ AT Level 1 Training is now at <https://jkodirect.iten.mil/Atlas2/faces/page/login/Login.seam>. (JS-US007: Level I Anti-terrorism Awareness Training).

Tabletop Exercise Walks Through Coordinated Response and Recovery

By Lanessa Hill, USAG Public Affairs

Preparation, preparation, preparation. This is the key when responding to a disaster. Disasters come in many forms both man-made and by Mother Nature, ranging from tornados to downed aircraft and many other scenarios in between. How much and how often we exercise to prepare for them dictates how smoothly our response and recovery efforts will be when and if a real disaster strikes.

On Aug. 15, individuals representing various units, directorates and community partners such as the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, Frederick City Police and many other partners both inside and outside the fence line came together for a tabletop exercise to prepare for a coordinated response in the event of an emergency at Fort Detrick. The exercise scenario

tested was response to a downed aircraft at Fort Detrick.

Attendees walked through stages of an event and discussed items such as fire and rescue response with the local community, evacuating the installation, maintaining privacy of victims, the use of common language between organizations, and how the community and media would be informed.

Installation Emergency Manager, Garth Phoebus, thanked everyone for their participation and stressed the importance of this kind of event.

“We accomplished our objectives for this tabletop exercise and were able to identify gaps and areas where we need to do some work. Everyone coming together to talk our way through a scenario like this allows us to improve and work through potential



Representatives from Fort Detrick and the Frederick, Maryland community walk through a scenario of a downed aircraft during a recent tabletop exercise on the Installation Aug. 15, 2019 in the Fort Detrick Auditorium.

Photo by Lanessa Hill, USAG Public Affairs

issues before a real life event occurs,” said Phoebus.

Exercises are required each year by either tabletop or full scale. Past exercises included pandemics, earthquakes, collapsed infrastructure, active shooter and overturned trucks on the highway emitting dangerous fumes. Fort Detrick will once again test itself during a full-scale exercise evaluated by the U.S. Army Installation Management Command in 2020.

Tabletop and full scale exercises are not the only way Fort Detrick prepares its systems and employees. The Fort Detrick Police Department offers a training session on active shooter response that provides what to do and how to increase your chances of survival during an active shooter incident. If your office is interested in receiving the training, call (301) 619-4765 to speak with Capt. Phillip Stokes.

Housing Town Halls Identify Solutions and Provide Progress Updates to Residents

By Lanessa Hill, USAG Public Affairs

Transparency, enforcement, accountability and teamwork were all words said repeatedly during recent housing town halls held August 20 and 22 at Fort Detrick and Glen Haven Apartments in Wheaton, Maryland. As the Army Housing Campaign continues, leaders from Fort Detrick and partnering Balfour Beatty Communities met with residents about efforts to improve Army housing and the way ahead.

U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command and Fort Detrick Commander, Brig. Gen. Michael Talley opened up the afternoon town hall on the installation expressing his dedication and expectations to correct the issues at hand.

“We need to roll up our sleeves as leaders and get after it. It’s time for results, it’s time to stop talking and making promises,” said Talley.

Recently released results of the Army Housing Survey show that performance as seen by residents has decreased. At Glen Haven, rates dropped by 10 percent to 65.7 percent in 2019 from 76.1 percent in 2018, resulting in an overall “needs improvement” rating. Fort Detrick dropped 3 percent ending at 73 percent, resulting in an “average” rating.

The top concerns of residents at both locations are the quality of maintenance and the lack of responsiveness by Balfour Beatty Communities. Residents of Forest Glen also placed security and pest control as their top concerns.

“I hope to engage the Montgomery County Council Executive in discussion. I need him to know what our security concerns are. I need him to know that we have children we are concerned for,” said Garrison Commander, Col. Dexter Nunnally.

Nunnally reminded attendees at each session that housing is his priority.

Nunnally stressed that some issues will take longer than others to remedy but day-to-day concerns, such as basic customer service and responsiveness will change now. Balfour Beatty determined that new leadership was necessary to move forward and appointed two new community managers for Fort Detrick and Glen Haven. The manager for Balfour Beatty at Fort Detrick is Teresa Steele and the manager for the Glen Haven complex is Russell Downey.

Progress continues at both locations with the hiring of new staff in the Fort Detrick housing office and the hold on incentive payments to RCI.

Steps such as inspections prior to move in ensuring the units are up to Army standards after a resident moves out to ensure security deposits are not unnecessarily held are occurring. Lastly, the Garrison Commander directed pest control prevention to occur prior to anyone moving in.

Another topic discussed at several town halls was the issue

of “brown water.” This issue has been reported by 39 homes, to date. Aged infrastructure across the Army is a concern and the 70-year-old water lines at Fort Detrick are just one example impacting the post.

In a recent letter to residents the Garrison and Balfour Beatty announced that Garrison and Fort Detrick Family Homes will work together to install water filters in a limited number of homes as part of a pilot program to determine the filters’ effectiveness in resolving the brown water issue. This pilot program will last for a period of 30 days. The installation of the water filters is expected to begin in a few weeks. At the end of the trial period, the results will be provided to the tenants.

The filters may not be a final solution, but it is a start to making progress towards correcting the issue. If the filters are found to be effective, work will continue to install them in the remaining homes that previously reported brown water.

Feedback from residents about concerns and issues while living in Army housing is vital. This is truly a team effort and together leadership and residents will improve housing.

Nunnally also stressed how important it is for any resident experiencing brown water to submit a work order. “I need everyone who has brown water to report it. I don’t know what I don’t know and the only way I can get a clear picture of the extent of the problem is to know where it is occurring. Currently I am tracking 39 impacted homes but I hear from many of you that this may be affecting more.”

Long-term solutions to fix brown water issues are also in the works and the request for funding is at the U.S. Army Installation Management Command level.

“We have two projects submitted for 9.9 million dollars each. The first is to replace sewer lines and the second project would replace the infrastructure of the water distribution system,” said Nunnally.

Both projects come down to available funding by the Army.

Lastly, leadership discussed communication. Residents will receive a notice when maintenance is done to their homes and online resident portals will be used more frequently to notify residents of housing improvement progress.

The Garrison Commander set high expectations and several measurable due outs for Balfour Beatty to complete. Balfour Beatty owes the commander answers regarding pest control, specifically what terms are in the contract and what is an acceptable amount of time residents should expect to wait after they place a maintenance call.

He also asked the managers at both locations to ensure maintenance worker qualifications and licensures are up to date and maintained.

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To improve communication and add another layer of information sharing to the residents, both locations will begin posting events and notices in commonly used areas.

To submit a work order at Fort Detrick call (240) 379-6410. At Glen Haven Call (301) 649-9700. The community

managers at both locations can also be reached at those numbers.

Active duty residents and their families also have the option to work through their chain of command. Lastly, any resident who is not satisfied with the work or response should contact the Garrison Commanders Hotline Number at (301) 619-7114. This phone is

answered 224 hours a day and sent directly to the Garrison Commander upon receipt.

More information on Levels of Escalation can be found on page 14.

Army Policy Revision Requires Reporting Child Abuse By More Professions and Chain of Command

By Lanessa Hill, USAG PAO

An Army directive regarding child abuse reporting has recently been updated and now incorporates legislative requirements for individuals within the chain of command and covered professionals to report allegations of child abuse occurring in military families and homes.

In a Department of the Army memo dated July 11, 2019, the updated policy states that all allegations of child abuse in military families and homes will be reported to the Family Advocacy Program on the installation to which the Service Member is assigned. Here at Fort Detrick that is Mrs. Lisa Long.

Prior to the revision, Soldiers, employees and members of the military community were encouraged to report. Now individuals within the chain of command of a Service Member will report credible information, which may include a reasonable belief that a child in the family or home of the Service Member has suffered an incident of child abuse and/or child neglect, to the installation FAP.

The new policy also describes certain professions which are required to report. Covered professionals are required to report any suspected incidents of abuse and/or neglect of a child in the family or home of a Service Member to the local Child Protective Service agency and the appropriate FAP office.

In emergency situations, covered professionals will also report child abuse and/or neglect to the appropriate law enforcement or security personnel. Reports will be made whether the incident occurred on or off the installation.

Covered professionals include:

- Physicians, dentists, medical residents or interns, hospital personnel and administrators, nurses, healthcare practitioners, chiropractors, osteopaths, pharmacists, optometrists, podiatrists, emergency medical technicians, ambulance drivers, medical examiners, alcohol or drug treatment personnel, and persons performing in

- a healing role or practicing the healing arts.
- Psychologists, psychiatrists, and mental health professionals.
- Social workers and licensed or unlicensed marriage, family, and individual counselors.
- Teachers, teacher's aides or assistants, school counselors and guidance personnel, school officials, and school administrators.
- Child care workers and administrators.
- Law enforcement personnel, probation officers, and criminal prosecutors.
- Foster parents.

Lastly, the policy revision requires persons engaged in providing child and youth services and anyone else who may serve in a caregiving role to children to adhere to the requirements.

There are several ways to report suspected abuse and neglect.

- To report a suspicion of or actual incident of abuse/neglect

Fort Detrick Police	(301)-619-7114
Forest Glen Annex	(301)-319-5501
MC Child Protective Services	(240)-777-4417
FC Child Protective Services	(301)-600-2464

- Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy Program

Lisa Long, Victim Advocacy Program Manager	(301)-619-7453
24/7 Victim Advocate Hotline	(301)-514-9544
Montgomery County Abused Persons Program	(240)-777-4195
Heartly House	(301)-662-8800



Professional Postgraduate Short Course Meeting for Military Medical Acquisition Personnel

By Carey Phillips, USAMMDA Public Affairs

On the Sunday leading into the Military Health System Research Symposium, the Department of Defense's premier scientific meeting at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center in Kissimmee, Florida, the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity hosted the first Professional Postgraduate Short Course meeting for all 8X military personnel across the Army Futures Command, Army Contracting Command, Army Materiel Command, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, and the Defense Health Agency.

For Army officers currently serving in the Army Medical Department's acquisition career fields, achieving the designator of 8X is a significant professional growth milestone. The Army 8X is an additional skill identifier entered into the officer's permanent record, showing they have successfully completed acquisition skills training for an AMEDD acquisition officer.

"This was the first PPSC meeting," said Army Col. Ryan Bailey, Army 8X medical acquisition consultant. "This was an opportunity to pull folks in and ask questions, talk about what is going on in the acquisition community, and strategically in the Army and the DHA."

As Bailey is currently attending the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy in Washington, DC, he was unable to attend the PPSC seminar. However, in a prerecorded video, Bailey welcomed the attendees to this first-ever meeting, acknowledging the senior leaders and officers speaking on a multitude of topics across medical acquisition that affects the AMEDD, the joint Services community and the Army. Later in the meeting, he surprised attendees with a live video conference call during the panel discussion, and Bailey encouraged the group to meet and engage with peers at the PPSC and throughout the MHSRS week.

Dawn Rosarius, principal assistant for acquisition for the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command, USAMMDA's higher headquarters, opened up the meeting with a look at the past 20 years of conflicts, and the future 20 years – highlighting injuries, challenges and solutions.

"No matter what these conflicts are, the value of the acquisition workforce remains," said Rosarius. "Everything that we do — that *you* do to bring products to the Warfighter — is essential."

Rosarius highlighted the need for partnerships and teamwork to develop solutions to bring the right products to the Warfighter, at the right time.

"We must do our best to figure out those solutions, and they might not come from us," she said. "They might not all come from our labs – but some of them will."

"We also have to reach out to academia and industry," she continued. "What a better place to do that than [at MHSRS] this week."

One of the key topics discussed during the session was career paths, which included training opportunities.

Army Col. Gina Adam, USAMMDA commander and host of the PPSC on behalf of Bailey, invited senior leaders and officers to share the career path that brought each to their current careers, and to the meeting as PPSC presenters. This discussion quickly led to the topic of training opportunities.

The Program Management–Acquisitions Internship Program was among the training opportunities discussed by the group. Designed to recruit junior officers to the field earlier in their careers, the PM–AIP is a one-year AMEDD Long-Term Health Education training program offered at USAMMDA aimed at helping military professionals begin developing acquisition skills for future positions within the workforce.

In addition to 8X training priorities, the PPSC meeting focused on synchronizing, collaborating and communicating medical acquisition policy and procedural changes, as well as DOD and Army acquisition re-organization efforts.

Among the presenters on hand were staff members from the Army's Program Executive Office Simulation, Training and Instrumentation Product Manager for Medical Simulation, the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research representing Science & Technology management, DHA, Army Futures Command, and a panel discussion featuring Army acquisition leaders.



Panel members field questions from participants during the Professional Postgraduate Short Course meeting for 8X military personnel, hosted by the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity, August 18, 2019. Panel members included, from left to right, Eva Rosvold, Acquisition Workforce Development Manager, U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command; Kathleen Berst, Deputy Commander of Acquisition, USAMMDA; Army Maj. Dana Love, Military Deputy for the Medical Devices Assemblage Management Product Management Office, USAMMDA; Army Lt. Col. (P) Robert Carter III, USAMRDC Liaison Officer to Army Futures Command; and Army Col. Gina E. Adam, Commander, USAMMDA. On video conference call (center) is Army Col. Ryan Bailey, Army 8X Acquisition Consultant.

Photo by Carey Phillips, USAMMDA Public Affairs

Thank You For Your Service

By Lanessa Hill, USAG Public Affairs

Retirees at Country Meadows Assisted Living Facility in Frederick, Md., requested Command Sgt. Maj. Aubrey Russell of 21st Signal Brigade come visit and tell them what life has been like for him serving. They were excited to hear his story. But the tables turned and Russell quickly became interested in their stories and contributions. During his remarks he specifically thanked them for their service saying without them there would be no him.

Over 30 residents joined Command Sgt. Russell for a luncheon at Country Meadows for what was meant to jump start a new program for veterans at the facility.

Organized by Mr. David Guralnick, a resident and WWII Veteran, he hoped the comradery would bring people together. The luncheon concluded with a lot of story sharing and overall pride to serve this great nation.



David Guralnick, resident at Country Meadows and WWII Veteran salutes as Taps plays during a Veterans luncheon held at the retirement community Aug. 21, 2019.
Photos by Jenni Benson, USAG Public Affairs



Command Sgt. Major Aubrey Russell, from 21st Signal Brigade joins veterans for a Veterans luncheon at Country Meadows Retirement Community in Frederick, Maryland on Aug. 21, 2019.



Over 30 residents of Country Meadows Assisted living gathered for at a luncheon to hear Col. Aubrey Russell from 21st Signal Brigade talk about his time in serving.

2019 U.S. Army Best Medic Competition



Six U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command Soldiers compete for the 2019 U.S. Army Best Medic. The competition began August 26, 2019 across Fort Detrick and Frederick, Maryland with several rigorous training courses spanning the entire day. The competition continues at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania August 27-28. Two winners will be announced on August 29 at an award ceremony held in the Fort Detrick Auditorium, both of whom will then go on to compete with all of Army Medicine, for the title of Best Medic.

Photos by Ramin Khalili, USAMRDC Public Affairs

Opening Remarks Deliver Purpose, Emotional Power at 2019 MHSRS

By Ramin A. Khalili, USAMRDC Public Affairs

Just a few minutes after retired Army Ranger Sgt. Oliver Campbell took the stage on the first day of the 2019 Military Health System Research Symposium in Kissimmee, Florida, he delivered what may, eventually, turn into the most memorable line of the entire event.

“I never truly understood the finality of death,” he said, “until death came for me.”

As a survivor of nearly unimaginable pain and circumstance, Campbell’s presence alone is a testament to the importance of military medicine and all its associated entities. In January 2016, he sustained five gunshot wounds – suffering two to the chest– during maneuvers with his unit in Afghanistan; an injury which ruptured his pulmonary vein and, later on, eventually stopped his heart. Following an immediate trip to the hospital at Bagram Airfield, he was transferred to a facility in Germany before finally being sent back home to the U.S.

“Ultimately,” said Campbell of the military surgical team that saved him, “it was the right people coming together at the right time in the right place.”

In many ways, that viewpoint crystalizes the reasoning for the existence of the MHSRS, an event which has long been considered the crown jewel of the military medical research world – an annual event where clinicians, academics, and industry experts can meet to share emerging research and forge new partnerships to pursue common goals.

“This is truly the kind of story that brings us together,” said Col. Todd Rasmussen, Associate Dean for Research at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, of Campbell’s experiences.

For his part, Rasmussen served as the moderator for Campbell’s address, a mid-morning speech to a crowd of more than 3,000 people, many of whom were in attendance specifically to hear remarks from Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Tom McCaffery and Vice Adm. Raquel C. Bono, the Director of the Defense Health Agency. Yet just as McCaffery focused on the key medical achievements of the U.S. military over the past several years, and Bono –in kind– focused on the challenges facing



Navy Vice Adm. Raquel C. Bono greets retired Army Sgt. Oliver Campbell after his moving presentation at 2019 MHSRS about how he survived near-fatal gunshot wounds during a 2016 Afghanistan mission. (MHS photo)

military medicine on the future battlefield, Campbell’s remarks served as the white-hot intersection of those two worlds; the point at which new medical breakthroughs are required in order to balance the threats posed by emerging adversaries and situations.

“In short, I received the second chance that so many never got,” said Campbell, in a succinct-yet-touching summary of his experiences.

Immediately following his injuries back in 2016, surgeons wearing night-vision goggles inserted a pair of tubes into Campbell’s heart and, upon failing to resuscitate him, eventually cut open his chest and massaged his heart manually until he could receive better, more comprehensive care.

And so perhaps it is that very experience that drives Campbell even today. The San Marino, California, native is studying to be a trauma surgeon in order to –in his own words – cobble together some type of honorary repayment to the people who gave his own life back to him just a few short years ago.

Said Rasmussen during an extended standing ovation following Campbell’s speech, “If all of us aren’t standing up and thinking about how to save the lives of people like this – then shame on us, right?”

Brain Health in Spotlight as TBI Researchers Stake New Ground at 2019 MHSRS

By Ramin A. Khalili, USAMRDC Public Affairs

After a marathon three-hour session on traumatic brain injury (TBI) at the 2019 Military Health System Research Symposium in Kissimmee, Florida, the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command's J.B. Phillips picked through his notes in an effort to boil-down the details.

"There's a lot to be excited about," said Phillips, Program Manager for the Neurotrauma and TBI Portfolio at the USAMRDC's Combat Casualty Care Research Program. "We've got excellent data coming forward using saliva and blood as possible pieces to this puzzle."

The puzzle Phillips is referring to is, of course, TBI as a whole; that massive and often-amorphous monster the DOD has been grappling with in earnest over the past two decades. According to the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, more than 383,000 Service Members have been diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury since the year 2000, making emerging research into the causes, effects, and parameters of TBI a top priority –and an equally hot commodity– within the military medical research community.

"We've advanced to the point now where prognosis of TBI is at the level of concussion," said Phillips, "and we've also got two approved biomarkers to aid in computer tomography (CT) referral."

In short, that means researchers now have a pair of biomarkers –which are, essentially, measurable indicators of the presence of a disease– to help guide computer imaging of the brain. Ultimately, that means scientists now have approved parameters for certain types of head injuries – a huge win by all accounts. Now, all that's left is to fill in are the –still relatively sizable– blanks.

Jessica Gill, a clinical researcher at the National Institutes of Health, wants to move that relatively fresh achievement in biomarker science even further down the field, translating military work into the public sphere by determining when, exactly, to allow young athletes impacted by head injuries back onto the field.

"Up to 80 percent of Americans will receive a concussion over the course of their lifetime," said Gill during her presentation. "And to me, that really cements the fact that we need an objective biomarker for 'return to play' concepts."

To that same end, and with a similar test group –young athletes– Los Angeles-based data scientist Corey Thibeault found that male athletes reported much milder symptoms as a result of the same general type of TBI than females; an issue he described as problem for the future of research into the subject. According to

Thibeault, variables such as age and physical growth are also issues moving forward.

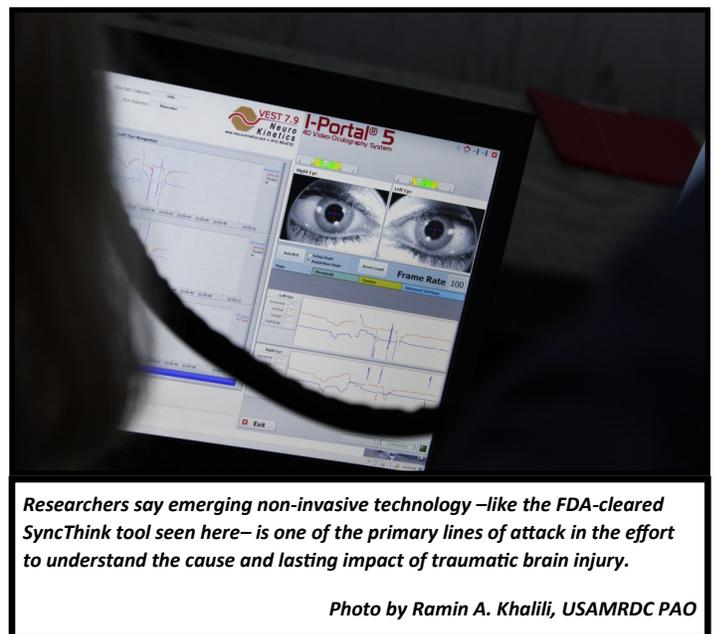
"We assume individuals and their injuries are heterogeneous," he said, "but we have to consider how they change over time."

Other presenters at the TBI-centric session focused on a variety of other efforts and achievements within the field. Research into the relation of the blood-brain barrier –or, the semi-porous barrier that separates the blood from the brain– to the neurologic issues following a TBI were highlighted near the top of the session, along with research efforts by the USAMRDC-funded Transforming Clinical Knowledge in Traumatic Brain Injury Network (TRACK-TBI) spearheaded by the University of California, San Francisco. Further, and as always, attendees were eager to entertain news on emerging technologies promising a non-invasive pathway to gauge TBI severity.

"A lot of exciting things are happening with fluid-based biomarkers, sure," said Nsini Umoh, Assistant Program Manager for the CCCRP's Neurotrauma and TBI Portfolio, "but advancements in neuroimaging are big as well."

Yet a single, one-size-fits-all solution for all instances of TBI remains elusive – and will forever, perhaps. Regardless, experts say the path forward is becoming clearer by the day, the month, and the year. Indeed, by teaming measurable progress in blood and biomarker-based research, along with emerging technological research, perhaps the day will come when the public will be able to see and feel the benefits of TBI research in their own lives – no translation required.

"It's a lot to sift through," said Phillips, "but it's very real."



New Tax Withholding Estimator Makes it Easier to Tailor Your Withholding

By IRS.gov

The IRS's Tax [Withholding Estimator](#) makes it easier for everyone to pay the correct amount of tax during the year. The Estimator replaces the Withholding Calculator. The redesigned tool is a convenient online way to check and tailor your withholding. It's now more user-friendly for taxpayers, including retirees and self-employed individuals.

New and improved features:

- Easy to understand language
- The ability to switch between screens, correct previous entries, and skip screens that don't apply
- Tips and links to help you determine if you qualify for tax credits and deductions
- A progress tracker
- A self-employment tax feature
- Automatic calculation of taxable Social Security benefits

This tool helps you tailor the amount of tax withheld from your income to target a tax due amount close to zero or a refund of around \$500. New features for pension income provide more accurate estimates of withholding. It even automatically calculates any taxable Social Security benefits.

Use the Tax Withholding Estimator's recommendations to complete a new Form W-4P, if needed, and give it to your payer.

When using the Withholding Estimator be sure to:

Gather your most recent pay stubs and tax return.

Use the links within the Estimator to see if you qualify for credits and deductions.

Include other sources of income, like self-employment income and Social Security benefits.

Revisit this tool if your circumstances change.

If you're self-employed, this new tool makes checking your tax situation easier by helping you tailor the amount of tax you have withheld from your income during the year and avoid surprises at tax time. New features now provide more accurate estimates of withholding if you have a regular paycheck and self-employment income.

Once you've completed a Paycheck Checkup, review the results and, if necessary, change the amount of tax your employer takes out of your paycheck.

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

INFORMATIONAL & RECRUITMENT MEETING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

6:00 - 6:15 p.m. IRS VITA Presentation

6:15 - 6:30 p.m. Volunteer Testimony

6:30 - 6:45 p.m. Volunteer Testimony

6:45 - 7 p.m. Q & A Session with the IRS

7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Meet & Greet Session

ADDRESS

North Point Library Branch
1716 Merritt Boulevard
Dundalk, Maryland 21222
North Point Meeting Room
Event Time: 6:00 - 7:30pm

CONTACT US

The Internal Revenue Service
Stakeholder, Partnerships, Education &
Communication Division
Washington D.C. Territory Group:
Tammy M. Burrell | (240) 613-5715 |
Tammy.M.Burrell@irs.gov
Lillie Williams | (240) 613-5705 |
Lillie.Williams@irs.gov

THE I.R.S. INVITES YOU TO LEARN ABOUT BECOMING A VOLUNTEER TAX PREPARER...

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) service is a community **cause** that prepares more than 3 million free individual income tax returns nationwide each year. Low-income families, seniors, and other vulnerable populations receive free tax preparation assistance from local I.R.S. certified volunteer tax preparers. The I.R.S. partners with local community action agencies to implement and deliver service during the tax season. Tax professionals may earn continuing education credits for volunteer hours. Students may be eligible for academic credit with their school's approval. High school students may be eligible to volunteer. New tax law changes are taught to all volunteers via an I.R.S. training curriculum. Join us September 5th to learn more and how you can become a local volunteer for the 2020 filing season!

Fort Detrick Influenza Vaccination Schedule 2019-2020

Unit	Time	Place
Garrison CMD	07 October 0900-1200hrs	TBD
MRMC HQ	07 October 0900-1200hrs	TBD
Marines	01 October 0730-1530hrs	Bldg. 1520 Classroom 5A/5B
Navy	01 October 0730-1530hrs	Bldg. 1520 Classroom 5A/5B
Air Force	01 October 0730-1530hrs	Bldg. 1520 Classroom 5A/5B
MRMC and USAG	01 October 0730-1530hrs	Bldg. 1520 Classroom 5A/5B
114th SC BN STRAT SIG BN	01 October 0730-1530hrs	Bldg. 1520 Classroom 5A/5B
53d SC BN CO A	01 October 0730-1530hrs	Bldg. 1520 Classroom 5A/5B
302d SC BN A CO	02 October 0730-1530hrs	Bldg. 1520 Classroom 5A/5B
302d SC BN HHC	02 October 0730-1530hrs	Bldg. 1520 Classroom 5A/5B
21th SC BDE HHC (STRAT)	02 October 0730-1530hrs	Bldg. 1520 Classroom 5A/5B
6th MLMC	02 October 0730-1530hrs	Bldg. 1520 Classroom 5A/5B
USAMMDA	02 October 0730-1530hrs	Bldg. 1520 Classroom 5A/5B
USAMRIID	03 October 0730-1530hrs	Auditorium (USAMRIID Bldg.)

Units not listed above and AD Make-up dates (All Service Members)

All Service Members	04 October 0730-1530hrs	Bldg. 1520 Classroom 5A/5B
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AD, DOD Civilians, Eligible Military Beneficiaries and Children (Children 3 years and older)

7 October 19	0730-1600hrs 1630-1900hrs	Bldg. 1520 Classroom 5A/5B Barquist Army Health Clinic
8, 9, 10, 15 October 2019	0730-1530hrs	Bldg. 1520 Classroom 5A/5B

TBD	<u>NMCI</u>	Occ Health will schedule
TBD	<u>CYSS</u>	Occ Health will schedule




FORT DETRICK

LEVELS OF ESCALATION TO RESOLVE HOUSING CONCERNS

LEVEL 1- SUBMIT YOUR WORK ORDER ONLINE, BY PHONE OR IN PERSON

Detrick Homes:

- Maintenance (240) 379-6410
- Emergency Line at: (240) 379-6518.
- Go to the Detrick Homes website at: <https://detrickhomes.securecafe.com>

For Glen Haven Apartments:

- Maintenance and 24-Hour Emergency Line at: (301) 649-9700.
- Go to the Glen Haven Apartments website at: <https://glenhavenapartments.securecafe.com/>

LEVEL 2 – MAKE CONTACT

- Detrick Housing Property Manager, Teresa Steele, Management Office, at: (240) 379-6410.
- Glen Haven Apartments and Townhomes Community Manager Russ Downey at: (301) 649-9700.
- Contact your Chain of Command

LEVEL 3- CONTACT GARRISON COMMANDER

- Call the Garrison Commander's Housing Hotline: (301) 619-7114.
- Submit your concerns to the Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) system:
http://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site_id=438&dep=DoD
- Contact the Fort Detrick Inspector General at: usarmy.detrick.medcom-usammmc.other.mrmo-ig@mail.mil

In and Around Fort Detrick

USAG Fort Detrick on Social Media

You can follow USAG Fort Detrick on social media for daily updates and information. On Facebook go to: www.facebook.com/DetrickUSAG and “Like” us or follow us on Twitter: @DetrickUSAG.

As a reminder, all social media sites must be registered with Army. For more information, contact the Public Affairs Office.

The Fort Detrick Weeklies can now be found on the Fort Detrick homepage <https://home.army.mil/detrick/> under “Weeklies” and “Announcements.” For a complete list of upcoming FMWR events, visit the Fort Detrick FMWR website: <http://detrick.armymwr.com/us/detrick/>.

USAG Security Office closures:

Sept. 3-6, 2019. The office will remain closed.

Services will resume Sept. 9 at 8:30 a.m.

Passing Clearances only:

USAG Personnel contact the 21st Sig Bde for assistance (301) 619-6125).

MRDC and AMLC personnel contact USAMRIID (301) 619-8396)

Annual Dog Swim

September 7, noon – 2 p.m.

Outdoor Pool, Building 839 Chandler Street

\$5 per dog. Proof of vaccinations and leash required.

For more information, call (301) 619-4079

Fort Detrick Commissary Sidewalk Sale

Sept. 12-15

While Supplies Last

Newcomers Orientation

Community Activities Center, Building 1529.

Sept. 18

Sign in begins at 8:45 a.m., orientation begins at 9 a.m.

Come meet the Fort Detrick Leadership, take a tour of Fort Detrick and the Frederick Community.

To register or for more information, call (301) 619-6364.

Public Affairs Roundtable

The Public Affairs Roundtable will be Sept. 25 from 9-11 a.m. at the Fort Detrick Chapel. Those serving in an official public affairs role or in an “other duty” capacity are welcome to attend. Please email the

USAG Public Affairs office to RSVP.

usarmy.detrick.usag.mbx.pao@mail.mil

Annual Holiday Craft Show Vendors Wanted

Looking for crafters, knitters, woodworkers and painters to be vendors in our annual craft show.

November 20, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Odom Fitness Center, Building 1507 Porter Street to reserve a space or for more information, call (301) 619-4079

CHAPEL NEWS

Quarterly Prayer Breakfast

September 26

Community Activities Center, Building 1529

7-8 a.m.

Protestant Women of the Chapel kickoff (PWOC)

September 12

9:30 a.m. - noon

Fort Detrick Chapel (next to CDC)

1776 Ditto Road.

Phone: 301-619-7173

FREE childcare, Homeschool Program, and Brunch

Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC)

Women’s Bible Study. Meal and childcare provided. Thursday from 9:30 a.m. – noon. For more information, call (301) 619-7371.

Chapel – Men’s and Women’s Bible Study

The Fort Detrick Chapel holds a Men’s and a Women’s Bible Study Class every Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. Meal and childcare provided. For info. call (301) 619-8665.

BARQUIST ARMY HEALTH CLINIC

Barquist Upcoming Closures:

Monday, September 2 - Labor Day (Entire Day)

Friday, September 20 – Training Day (11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

Fort Detrick Annual Flu Rodeo

Extended Hours

Oct. 7, 2019

7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Building 1520 Freedman Drive, Classroom 5A/B on the 2nd floor and

4:30 – 7 p.m. at the Barquist Army Health Clinic.

October 8, 9, 10, 15

7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Building 1520 Freedman Drive, Classroom 5A/B on the 2nd floor.

Flu vaccines are FREE for eligible Tricare beneficiaries.

No appointment required.

Children under 3 years old will receive vaccines at Barquist Immunization Clinic only.

Dates subject to change based on vaccine availability.

Common Access Card (CAC) or DoD Beneficiary ID Card required.

