



The U.S. Army Turns 245 Years Old

By Lanessa Hill, USAG PAO

Fort Detrick celebrated the U.S. Army's 245th birthday June 12, on the Blue and Grey Field. Brig. Gen. Michael Talley, commander of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command and Fort Detrick, gave opening remarks before being joined by the oldest and youngest Soldiers at Fort Detrick for the cake cutting.

This year was notably different, as Fort Detrick marked the 245th year of the U.S. Army while also recognizing another ongoing monumental event in the Army's long and storied history: the U.S. Army's response to COVID-19.

This year's theme is "America's Army: when we are needed, we are there," a fitting theme for this particular time in our Nation's history. The U.S. Army has always answered the call to serve, from its inception to today; the Army is bound to the nation it serves.

"A crystal-clear example is the recent events brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Army has proven once again that we

are always here to protect. You have all risen to the challenge, and we are showcasing our important work at a time when the world needs us more than ever," said Talley.

The U.S. Army is vital to the national COVID-19 pandemic response. It is unified with government authorities, assisting healthcare systems, cities and local communities across America, and the work done right here at Fort Detrick has global impacts.

The celebration concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony that followed tradition with the oldest and youngest Soldiers joining Talley for the cake cutting. This year, the youngest and oldest Soldiers stationed at Fort Detrick are Pvt. Perry Matthieu, born in 2000 and Col. Fernando Guerena, born in 1957. Both are assigned to the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases.

Thank you U.S. Army for answering the call to serve America since 1775.

– Happy 245th.



U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command and Fort Detrick Commander Brig. Gen. Michael J. Talley (center) is joined with the youngest Soldier assigned to Fort Detrick Pvt. Perry Matthieu (right), and the oldest Soldier Col. Fernando Guerena as they cut the Army's 245th birthday cake on June 12, 2020.

Photo by SSG Brenden Sherman, USAMRIID

FLAG LOWERING AT LOCAL SCHOOL



Due to early school closures because of COVID-19, students at Whittier Elementary in Frederick, Maryland, were not in attendance for the annual flag-lowering ceremony. Even though the sounds of cheers to wrap up the school year were not heard, Fort Detrick Soldiers kept the tradition of lowering the school's U.S. Flag on June 17, 2020.

Photos by Lanessa Hill, USAG Public Affairs

Answering the Call in the Battle Against COVID-19

By Jeffrey Soares, USAMMDA Public Affairs

For the past three months, populations throughout the world have been sheltering in place to avoid illness and stop the spread of COVID-19, a potentially fatal illness that typically affects the human respiratory system. In cases of extreme hypoxemia, or below-normal levels of oxygen in the blood, many healthcare providers have recommended the use of medical ventilators to treat COVID-19 patients in severe respiratory distress. As our Nation ramped up its efforts to produce much-needed ventilators for use in medical treatment facilities, senior Army leadership sought out a medical procurement expert with strong acquisition skills to help accomplish this critical mission.

Fortunately, Dr. Tyler Bennett fit the bill for the assignment.

As project manager for the Warfighter Deployed Medical Systems Project Management Office at the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity, Bennett spends most of his time overseeing a large team of acquisition and project management professionals working together to deliver and sustain deployable medical capabilities for our nation's Warfighters. On a daily basis, the WDMS PMO provides lifecycle management for more than 140 unique medical assemblages that are fielded to over 2,200 Army units. Each assemblage includes hundreds to thousands of medical items, including technical medical equipment. Not surprisingly, this includes medical ventilators, which made Bennett the right choice for the job.

"I was called on April 5th and asked to report the next day to the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency office in Washington, D.C.," said Bennett. "I worked on the Ventilator Integration Team under the Joint Acquisition Task Force-Supply Chain Stabilization, in support of the Department of Health and Human Services and DHS. The team leader was a high-speed Army Lieutenant Colonel with a very strong acquisition background, and I was assigned as his Ventilator Production Lead."

During his six-week assignment, Bennett was responsible for tracking the day-to-day production of ventilators under contract with 10 different commercial vendors across the country.

"We would call the vendors every morning to identify how many ventilators were sitting on their dock ready to ship, and coordinate deliveries with the HHS contract officer and the Strategic National Stockpile," he explained. "The team was composed of experts from the Department of Defense, HHS, and DHS, and we provided expertise to the contracting office on all aspects of the 10 contracts. Within four weeks, we delivered over 5,000 ventilators to hospitals and the Strategic National Stockpile, helping to ensure that everyone in America that needed a ventilator could get one."

Bennett said that his work at USAMMDA was very helpful in securing his temporary detail at FEMA, as the assignment related directly to his duties as project manager of the WDMS PMO.

"My team at USAMMDA is responsible for procuring and fielding medical equipment, to include ventilators. In fact, several of the vendors under contract for the Strategic National Stockpile are the very same ones we use to field medical equipment to our Army units," he said.

Despite the similarities between his regular position and the temporary assignment, Bennett believes the experience will prove very beneficial to his work at USAMMDA. He said he learned a new level of detail about ventilators and the ventilator supply chain that he never realized existed. He also complimented his teammates at FEMA, citing them as "extremely competent" and "very dedicated" to the task at hand. He considers the six-week detail as having been a phenomenal opportunity for him, both professionally and personally.

"Our team leader accepted no excuses in getting the job accomplished," said Bennett. "The hours were very long, but the team was focused and kept it fun at the same time. It was very rewarding."

While Bennett's knowledge of Army acquisition and medical capabilities allowed him to acclimate quickly to the

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team and the assignment, his effectiveness as the ventilator production lead helped to provide HHS leadership with a blueprint to stand up its own team.

During the latter half of the mission, the HHS team brought in additional experts from across the nation to serve as replacements for Bennett and his teammates, which ensured there would be no gaps or delays in the continual production of ventilators for the COVID-19 effort.

Army Col. Gina Adam, USAMMDA commander, is very proud of Bennett's work on this critical temporary assignment. She says this is indicative of the work he and his entire WDMS PMO team carry out on a daily basis in support of the organization's mission to develop and deliver quality medical capabilities to protect, treat and sustain the health of our Service Members.

"When the leaders of this team called and asked for an acquisition professional who could help lead in a fast-paced environment with a nebulous set of problems to solve, I thought of Dr. Bennett," said Adam. "Even though his team was heavily engaged with many important parts of the COVID response, I knew they were a strong team and would manage their mission, even with him detailed to another team. Sending Tyler to help with this mission was the right thing to do for the Nation's response, and I'm glad he found it to be a fulfilling opportunity as well."

Bennett said he greatly missed his USAMMDA family during his six-week detail, and he is very happy to be back in his role as WDMS PMO project manager. However, he knows he will never forget the fast-paced daily routine he experienced with his FEMA teammates during an unprecedented time in the history of our world.

"Although it's good to be back, I will miss the temporary DHS role and the people I met," said Bennett. "But I departed there knowing the mission was executed well and that the connections I made there will last a lifetime."

"I am very thankful to USAMRDC and USAMMDA leadership for allowing me the opportunity to serve on the Ventilator Team," he added. "It gave me a rare opportunity to work with HHS, DHS, and the DOD to solve one of the Nation's most difficult problems to date."

LOGISTICS READINESS CENTER EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING EFFORTS



Lt. Col. Phillip Moore, executive officer from the 406th Army Field Support Brigade presents letters of commendation from the Commanding General of Army Sustainment Command, Maj. Gen. Steven Shapiro, to Mr. Isopo Seumanutafa June 19, 2020 at the Logistics Readiness Center's Central Receiving Point Warehouse on Fort Detrick. Seumanutafa was recognized for receiving, storing, and distributing over 2,100 deliveries for multiple organizations on Fort Detrick in the first month of operations during COVID -19. Ms. Minhien Nguyen-Wolfe who was not present, was recognized for coordinating a maintenance contract to replace an engine on an installation mission critical vehicle in support of Garrison operations.

Photo by Jim Shaheen, Logistics Readiness Center

USAMMDA's Force Health Protection Division Conducts Training in Germany

By Jeffrey Soares, USAMMDA Public Affairs

Members of the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity's Force Health Protection Division traveled to Germany earlier this year for a week-long temporary duty assignment, which included a one-day training session the group provided to staff at the U.S. Army's Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. The annual instruction provides refresher training for LRM staff members who work with the FHP Division's investigational new drug products and treatment protocols, as well as updated information on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Good Clinical Practices guidelines.

Army Lt. Col. Sandi Parriott, FHP director, led the training team, which included FHP staff members Dr. Chia-Wei Tsai, Sr. Scientist, and Marianne Erlichman, product management support, and Cyndi Donovan, protocol monitor from the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command's Office of Regulated Activities.

"USAMMDA's FHP Division is the Department of Defense's lead agent for rapid operationalization of investigational or emergency use products when no FDA-approved or feasible solution is available," said Parriott. "As a highly specialized DOD capability, opportunities such as these are imperative to educate command teams and staff on FHP's products and treatment protocols not available to the Warfighter elsewhere."

As a long-time member of the FHP team, Erlichman has been

involved in more than ten training exercises in Germany, which makes her extremely familiar with both the process and the military units stationed in and around Landstuhl. She feels the trip accomplished the team's intended goals.

"More than 25 staff members from groups including Infectious Disease, Pharmacy, Nursing, Traumatic Brain Injury, the laboratories, and the Human Research Protection Office attended the training," she said. "These attendees received an overview of the FHP Division, treatment protocol reviews with associated diseases, a review of additional FHP IND products, and refresher training for GCP principles, investigator and protocol team responsibilities, good documentation practices, adverse and serious adverse event reporting and recording, and product accountability."

Donovan provided GCP refresher training for staff members requiring GCP certification, and training certificates were given to all who completed the session.

In addition to the training they provided at LRM, the group conducted a review of treatment protocol regulatory binders with LRM regulatory staff members. Following this, they traveled to the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center-Europe in Pirmasens, Germany, to discuss various matters regarding the shipment of products, and to conduct an inventory of FHP products stored at USAMMC-E.

Throughout the week, the team traveled between Landstuhl and other U.S. military sites, which included the U.S. Army Europe Command, the Regional Health Command-Europe and the U.S. Army Africa Command, where they participated in meetings with the Surgeon's cell leadership of each organization. These face-to-face meetings afforded the FHP team the opportunity to assess firsthand information regarding the need for medical countermeasures.

Army Col. Gina Adam, USAMMDA commander, who was in Landstuhl in support of USAMMDA's Warfighter Health, Performance and Evacuation Project Management Office, was present at two of the leadership meetings.



Army Lt. Col. Sandi Parriott, director of the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity's Force Health Protection Division, provides an overview of the FHP Division during the annual refresher training session at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Landstuhl, Germany.

Photo courtesy of Marianne Erlichman

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“The work the FHP Division does is important for not just Army, but DOD Service Members around the globe,” said Adam. “Doing the work to conduct training, carry out inventory checks at product locations, and inform other commands of FHP’s capabilities is critical to ensuring the sites are ready when called upon to activate their treatments.”

As the team prepared to leave for Germany, the coronavirus epidemic was just beginning. Erlichman said the situation prompted much discussion overseas with others in the various commands, with regard to FHP’s then upcoming treatment protocol utilizing IND Remdesivir as a possible therapy for COVID-19.

“We were able to let people know what FHP was planning in response to the coronavirus if the spread worsened, because we didn’t know then just how bad it would be,” said Erlichman. “So, when the pandemic hit, many knew that FHP had a treatment protocol with IND Remdesivir for COVID-19. Since then, FHP has established sites at LRMC, Tripler Army Medical Center, William Beaumont Army Medical Center and 20 other locations worldwide for this treatment protocol.”

Erlichman said the team was very pleased with the outcome of the trip, and that it was very successful overall.

“Based on our evaluation sheets from the training session, the trip was very successful and we accomplished a great deal during the week we were in Germany,” she said. “Nothing replaces face-to-face visits, and everyone we met seemed very happy and appreciated how far we had traveled to come meet with them. We were very

pleased to find that all of our IND products at LRMC’s pharmacy and USAMMC-E were accounted for with no discrepancies, and all of the products are being stored appropriately.”

“Also, at LRMC, Lt. Col. Parriott and Dr. Tsai were able to meet personally with a number of protocol staff with whom they had only communicated by email or phone, including the principal investigator, sub-investigators, and the medical monitor,” Erlichman added. “I think it is very important to make the effort and meet people face-to-face in the places that they work.”

Erlichman said the team plans to return to Germany next year, if all goes well. The FHP team has recommended the continuation of annual visits to engage personnel at FHP IND pre-positioned product locations and their associated stakeholders. The group feels it is imperative for product managers and regulatory team members to meet regularly with protocol staff such as principal investigators, and pharmacy and logistics personnel, as all can benefit from this direct engagement. Erlichman believes these meetings enable a greater understanding of the challenges and requirements necessary for executing the IND products and treatment protocols during the often “short-fuse,” emergency scenarios.

“It is much easier, and more effective, to interact with people after you have made that face-to-face human connection — and I think many people are feeling this right now, in light of the situation we’re dealing with, having to work from home every day.”



Members of the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity team pose for a group photo with Lt. Col. Chelsea Payne (center), AFRICOM Command Physician. From left to right: Dr. Chia-Wei Tsai, Marianne Erlichman, Force Health Protection Division; Lt. Col. Sandi Parriott, FHP director; Payne; Col. Gina Adam, USAMMDA commander; and Steven Hawbecker, project manager, USAMMDA Warfighter Health, Performance and Evacuation Project Management Office.

Photo courtesy of Marianne Erlichman

USAMRDC: “Reasonable” to Expect Coronavirus Vaccine This Year

By Ramin A. Khalili, USAMRDC Public Affairs

Scientists with the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command confirmed during a virtual news conference today that a vaccine for COVID-19 will likely be available by the end of the year.

“It is reasonable to expect that there will be some form of a vaccine that could be available at some level to a certain population by the end of the year,” said Col. Wendy Sammons-Jackson, director of USAMRDC’s Military Infectious Diseases Research Program.

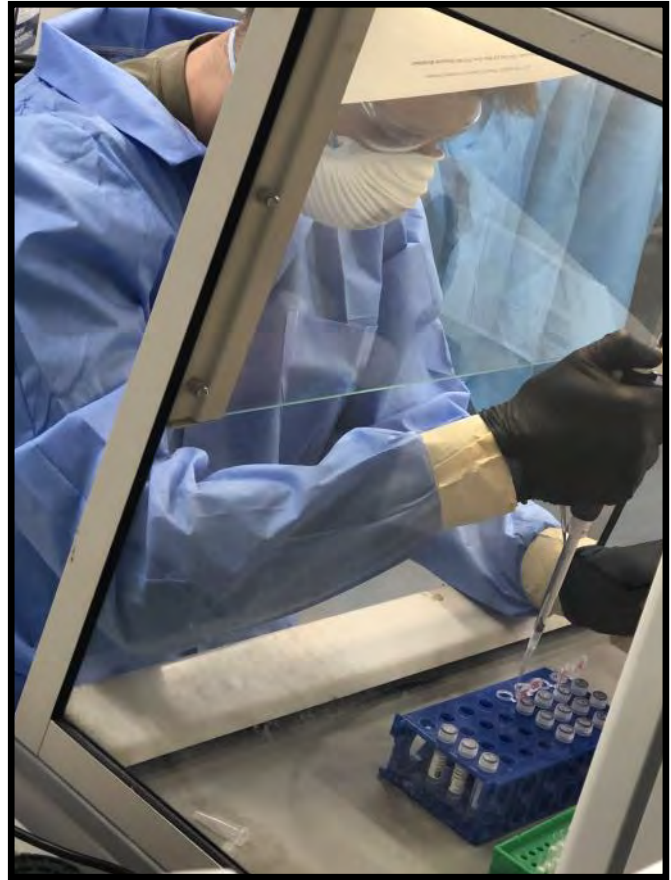
The news conference, which was hosted by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Talley, commanding general of USAMRDC and Fort Detrick, Maryland, featured a slew of top USAMRDC scientists and covered a broad range of topics related to the Command’s efforts to develop a coronavirus vaccine as part its commitment to Operation Warp Speed; the aggressive public–private partnership effort initiated by the federal government last month to facilitate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 related countermeasures.

Currently, USAMRDC scientists are collaborating with several private sector partners on multiple vaccine candidates, one of which is likely be the first major vaccine to be tested in a Phase Three clinical trial according to statements made during the news conference. Further, scientists at USAMRDC’s Walter Reed Army Institute of Research are scheduled to decide next week which of their many internally-developed vaccine candidates will move forward into the manufacturing phase, with human clinical trials of that same candidate scheduled to begin in the late summer. The data culled from these initial trials will then direct the advancement of the vaccine towards larger clinical trials near the end of the year.

“Going to a vaccine in a matter of months, from concept all the way to phase three clinical trials and potentially licensure is unprecedented, but in this case I think it’s very much possible,” said Dr. Kayvon Modjarrad, director of WRAIR’s Emerging Infectious Diseases Branch.

Said Dr. Nelson Michael, director of WRAIR’s Center for Infectious Disease Research, in an effort to provide context to the accelerated pace of coronavirus vaccine development, “Typically, getting from concept into a Phase One study is usually two-to-four years, and then getting to the time [where] you’re beginning to look at Phase Three studies can be up to ten years.”

USAMRDC has been situated at the forefront of the billion-dollar research effort since the beginning of the global pandemic, with both WRAIR and USAMRDC’s U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases making significant contributions, the latter notably participating in efforts to safely replicate the



A USAMRIID scientist works in the lab during a training event on March 10, 2020. Photo Credit: Ramin A. Khalili, USAMRDC Public Affairs

virus to support countermeasure development, among other endeavors.

“As we move at top speed in the fight against COVID-19, the work being done by our scientists at both laboratories is yielding promising results,” said Talley, touting USAMRDC’s central efforts to prevent, detect, and treat the virus.

Additionally, USAMRIID is exploring possibilities in the field of therapeutics as they relate to COVID-19, moving forward on multiple lines of effort along several parallel tracks; work that includes studies on the impact of convalescent plasma, efforts to find new uses for re-purposed drugs, and, lastly, the development of monoclonal antibodies for use in various cocktails designed to stop the spread of the virus.

Elsewhere, according to Talley, USAMRDC’s U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine is evaluating the use of wearable technology to diagnose early symptoms of COVID-19, while their U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory is currently working to secure the airworthiness certifications required to transport COVID-19

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patients requiring isolation on military aircraft.

While scientists are quick to point out that any successful vaccine would still require substantial collaboration at the federal level – allowing for policy and safety considerations, among others – they remain bullish on current timelines, as they admit their collective, singular focus on the virus in recent months, along with the requisite federal funding boost, has allowed them to learn about COVID-19 at a faster pace than any other virus before.

“This is truly an all in effort, this is something that affects the entire United States as well as the world,” said Michael.

For continuous updates on USAMRDC response to COVID-19, please visit the following website:

<https://mrdc.amedd.army.mil/index.cfm/resources/covid-19>



Brigadier General Michael J. Talley, commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command and Fort Detrick, Maryland, during a virtual news conference with media on June 2, 2020.

Photo credit USAMRDC Public Affairs

Congratulations to Fort Detrick Retirees



Fort Detrick held its quarterly Retirement Ceremony June 11, 2020 on the Blue and Grey Field.

Those retirees include:

Teresa Thomas from the Odom Fitness Center. Thomas retires after 32 years in the federal government.

Kay Markin from the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation retires after 34 years of service.

Maj. Angela Hawkins from Barquist Army Health Clinic is retiring after 20 years of service in the U.S. Army.

Command Sgt. Maj. Marcos Muñoz is retiring after 30 years of service. Muñoz retires as the U.S. Army Garrison Command Sergeant Major at Fort Detrick.

Thank you all for your service. We wish you the best in your retirement.

(Pictured left to right: U.S. Army Garrison Commander, Col. Dexter Nunnally, Theresa Thomas, Kay Markin, Command Sgt. Maj. Marcos Muñoz and U.S. Army Garrison Fort Detrick Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Gusman.)

Army Medical Logistics Command Issues Maintenance Directive for Oxygen Generators

By C.J. Lovelace, AMLC Public Affairs

U.S. Army Medical Logistics Command is requiring all units with portable oxygen generators to report their maintenance compliance status and concurrently execute a required preventive maintenance check on services on their devices.

Status reports should be made immediately through the Modification Management Information System (MMIS) in the AESIP Army Enterprise.

The Oxygen Generator Field Portable, or OGFP (Model: 3000, NSN: 3655-01-648-5957, LIN: P05027), is vulnerable to damage from humidity and other sources of moisture, which can degrade performance or require repairs, according to the directive issued by AMLC's Medical Maintenance Policy and Analysis (M2PA) directorate.

The most susceptible component is the Advanced Technology Fractionator (ATF), a module within the device through which the incoming air passes. Moisture can cause the ATF's molecular sieve, a material with tiny pores that blocks certain larger molecules while allowing smaller ones to pass, to lose its ability to perform gas separation resulting in the OGFP's inability to produce oxygen to purity specifications, according to the directive.

If this malfunction occurs, the device will need to be returned to a U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency Medical Maintenance Operations Division for a depot-level repair.

"This isn't a device flaw. This is about maintenance," said Chief Warrant Officer CW5 Jesus Tulud, director of M2PA. "The likelihood of ATF damage can be reduced by strictly following the manufacturer's recommendations for periodic services and routinely running the OGFP."

On a monthly basis, operators should turn on a full-charged OGFP and let the device run until the power is fully drained, which takes approximately 30 minutes. It is highly recommended to do so "especially in humid or non-climate controlled environments or storage locations."

Failure to adhere to manufacturer's recommendations can lead to increased downtime, including the need for a depot-level repair. The OGFP can be found in numerous medical materiel sets, such as the ground ambulance, air ambulance and forward resuscitative and surgical team sets.

AMLC has released an equipment fact sheet to help units better understand how to properly maintain the device. It can be found here: https://www.amlc.army.mil/Portals/73/Documents/Oxygen%20Gen%20Field%20Portable_Tip%20Sheet_FINAL.PDF?ver=2020-05-22-111219-257

When units report their maintenance compliance via MMIS, the system utilizes a centralized database to facilitate automated, web-based message processing. In this capacity, it serves the Army's coordinated process for development, application and documentation of hardware and software changes that are made to end items, components and information systems based on publication of Modification, Safety and Class VIII message requirements. This system assists users in determining the status of equipment end item and component modifications at the Serial Number (SN) level as well as non-serialized pharmaceuticals, vaccines and medical supplies.

MMIS is available through the [AESIP Army Enterprise \(https://idmng.army.mil/oamcustomlogin/\)](https://idmng.army.mil/oamcustomlogin/) for account holders with Internet access, a .mil e-mail address, a Secret security clearance and an ability to login using a Common Access Card (CAC). Learn more at: <https://www.amlc.army.mil/About-Us/Medical-Maintenance-Policies-Analysis/Modification-Management-Information-System-MMIS/>.

Questions about this maintenance action directive can be forwarded to the M2PA team at usarmy.detrick.medcom-usamma.mbx.m2pa@mail.mil or by phone at 301-619-8578 (DSN: 312-343-8578).



Matt Hernandez repairs an Oxygen Generator Field Portable, or OGFP (Model: 3000, NSN: 3655-01-648-5957, LIN: P05027), at the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center Medical Maintenance Operations Division at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, Jan. 10, 2018.

U.S. Air Force photo by R. Nial Bradshaw

Barquist Army Health Clinic Change of Command



Col. James D. Burk, commander of the United States Army Medical Department Activity, Fort George G. Meade, passes the colors to incoming Barquist Army Health Clinic Commander, Lt. Col. John J. Evans during a Change of Command ceremony June 16 at Fort Detrick, Maryland.

Photo by Lanessa Hill, USAG Public Affairs

Army Emergency Relief Special Campaign Coming in July

Based on COVID-19 impacts, it was announced that the Army will execute a special Active Duty Army Emergency Relief (AER) Campaign from July 1 to July 31, 2020. Our Army is currently facing unprecedented challenges and the AER Team wants to remain totally flexible and responsive to the financial needs of Soldiers and their Families.

AER will work hard to continue the AER legacy of "Soldiers Helping Soldiers." No one in our military family should face financial hardship alone. We hope to create greater awareness of AER's programs as well as providing Soldiers the opportunity to donate to their fellow Soldiers.

Locally, the Fort Detrick AER will be at the Installation Run on July 2 and at the FMWR July 4th Blast to kick-off the 2020 AER Special Campaign.

For more information on how to donate, talk to your unit representative or visit <https://give.armyemergencyrelief.org>

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Employee Spotlight

USAMMDA Bids Farewell to Sharon Walters

By Jeffrey Soares, USAMMDA Public Affairs

At the end of May, the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity bid a fond farewell to Sharon Walters, as she retired after more than four decades of federal civilian service. Beginning her career in 1978 as a clerk-stenographer with the National Institutes of Health, she spent a decade serving the NIH's Bethesda, Maryland, campus in various roles within its National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke, National Cancer Institute, and National Institute of Mental Health. In the spring of 1988, Walters joined USAMMDA's Pharmaceutical Systems Project Management Division, which launched her 32-year association with the organization.

As one of four siblings, Walters was born in Bethesda and raised in Rockville, Maryland. She recounted her days at Colonel Zadok Magruder High School, where she focused on a business track that included typing, shorthand and accounting. Her academic training served her quite well, as she was fortunate to enter the federal civilian workforce at NIH the year following her graduation.

"Being a federal civilian wasn't something that I thought about when I was young, but I guess you can say that I followed my education path straight from high school," said Walters.

Although Walters began working at the NIH campus in Bethesda in 1978, she moved to the Frederick area in 1981. After the birth of her two sons in the mid-1980s, she realized the commute was too difficult to maintain, and she began searching for positions at Fort Detrick.

"In 1988, I was living in Frederick and caring for our young sons, who were four-years old and eight-months old at the time," she explained. "I found that working in Bethesda every day was just too much traveling, and it did not allow me enough time at home with my boys."

Fortunately, Walters joined USAMMDA's Pharmaceutical Systems team in May of 1988, and her days of commuting "down the road" were over. Little did she know that her initial position would lead to numerous promotions within the organization — and wonderful friendships that would last a lifetime.

Throughout her USAMMDA career, Walters has spent the majority of her years as a member of the Medical Support Systems Project Management Office, which is now the Warfighter Health, Performance and Evacuation PMO. She wraps up her 42 years of federal civilian service as a



USAMMDA's Sharon Walters has retired after 42 years of federal civilian service.

Photo courtesy of USAMMDA

Management Analyst for the WHPE PMO, and she will be missed by all throughout the organization.

Looking back over her lengthy career, Walters recalled the early days when she arrived at Fort Detrick.

"The organization has changed so much since I came to USAMMDA 32 years ago," she said. "When I came in 1988, we were in a temporary building where Building 693 now stands. Everyone welcomed me into the fold with open arms. We were just a small organization, and you knew everyone, just like a family. They helped me through some difficult times in my life, including a divorce, health issues and the death of my father."

"The organization has grown so much now, you mostly see only those few people that you work with on a daily basis," she added.

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Over the years, Walters has received numerous awards for her outstanding work at USAMMDA. She was also acknowledged for her federal civilian service in 1982, when she was honored with a Recognition and Appreciation of Special Achievement award by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, from the National Institutes of Health. Of special note, in January 2009, Walters was recognized for her exceptional performance when she served as USAMMDA's team leader responsible for coordinating with the U.S. Army Medical Information Technology Center to implement the Automated Time and Attendance Payroll System within the organization.

Army Col. Gina Adam, USAMMDA commander, offered words of praise and encouragement with regard to Walters' upcoming retirement after her four decades of federal civilian service.

"To see a civilian teammate retire after 42 years of service is really remarkable," said Adam. "Sharon's dedication to serving the Nation through her time at USAMMDA is truly outstanding, and we are so grateful for her time and commitment, and wish her all the best in her retirement."

Having worked with military personnel throughout her civilian career, Walters said she is very proud of her family's history of military service. Her father, brother, and one cousin served in the Navy, and her maternal grandfather served in World War II. Both her father and mother were interred at Arlington National Cemetery, which is considered our nation's most historic and hallowed ground.

As she begins her retirement, Walters says she will miss all of the friendships and acquaintances she has made over the years, in particular her teammates from the WHPE PMO. However, she certainly has many more enjoyable times in store for her future.

"In the years ahead, I am looking forward to spending time with my husband," said Walters. "We like riding our motorcycle, traveling, and watching NASCAR races on the weekends. I am also looking forward to working on our house, doing more gardening and yardwork, and playing with our dog Harley."

Although Walters is looking forward to the upcoming years and the exciting times ahead, she remains grateful to all of her many co-workers. For most, retirement provides a chance to look back over a career and recall the many shining moments — and people — that made life special. For others, it provides an opportunity to create new plans for carefree adventures with friends and family.

And for some, such as Sharon Walters, it can provide both.

"I have made many friends and acquaintances over my 32 years at USAMMDA, that I will cherish always," said Walters. "But in my retirement, I definitely will not miss the work."

The entire USAMMDA team wishes Ms. Walters only the best in her retirement, and she can rest assured that her work for the organization will always be appreciated.



Members of U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity's Warfighter Health, Performance and Evacuation Project Management Office gather in the Medical Prototype Development Laboratory at Fort Detrick, Maryland. From left to right: Jake Fox, Sharon Walters, Jaime Lee, Alan Harner, Teal LaRocca, Mark Brown, James Cromartie, Jay Bartlett, Denis Heaton, Maureen Milano, and Mark Easterday.

Photo courtesy of USAMMDA

AMLC Provides Training, Works to Increase Accountability for Medical Devices

By C.J. Lovelace, AMLC Public Affairs

The complexities of medical devices can be confusing, especially when it comes to devices contained within larger medical sets.

Without correct cataloging procedures, medical devices can be difficult to track and maintain, which can jeopardize readiness levels. Accurate records for medical devices in the field enable readiness by ensuring they can be properly maintained, as well as provide maintenance personnel situational awareness on their whereabouts and functional status.

To help educate the force on best practices and usage of preferred information systems, U.S. Army Medical Logistics Command hosted a series of online training classes to help Soldiers and civilians create records and account for medical devices within sets.

Over 150 participants across active-duty, Reserve and National Guard units took part in at least one of the four sessions, held between May 28 and June 2.

With goals of increasing accountability and overall readiness, education remains a priority for medical maintenance leaders within AMLC, headquartered at Fort Detrick.

“We think this class is very beneficial in support of getting true visibility of these devices and providing support to the force,” Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joshua Barto told participants at the start of one session.

During the online classes, offered by AMLC’s Medical Maintenance Policy and Analysis (M2PA) directorate, trainers overviewed steps to identify on-hand equipment, generate set component hand receipts and reconcile maintenance-significant components found within a set.

That information must then be uploaded for inventory in the Global Combat Support System-Army (GCSS-Army), allowing for identification of set components in the Medical Materiel Information Portal when component lists do not exist in GCSS-Army.

Barto, chief of publications for M2PA, said the training aimed to assist Soldiers and civilians in “understanding the intricacies of identifying medical devices within sets.”

“That tends to be a challenge for supply managers that aren’t as familiar with medical as a commodity,” he said. “We want to educate and provide best practices to help assist so the Army has better accountability of our devices.”

The training sessions were geared toward unit-level maintenance managers, supply Sergeants and hand receipt holders, but also brigade-level non-commissioned officers, property book officers and company commanders.

Organizers urged class attendees to take what they learned and help share it among their units to ensure readiness and stay up-to-date with maintenance requirements.

“Use what you learn today, share what you learn today,” Barto told participants.



Soldiers from the 28th Combat Support Hospital take part in a joint inventory at Sierra Army Depot in Herlong, California, before the medical equipment and supplies are shipped to their home station at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Photo by Ellen Crown, AMLC Public Affairs

MC4 Shifts to Remote Support of COVID-19 Relief Effort

By Paul Clark, MC4 Communications

Medical Communications for Combat Casualty Care continues to sustain Army and Navy units that have deployed to aid COVID-19 relief efforts.

Since March 19, MC4 field service representatives (FSRs) have deployed alongside medical forces, primarily in Seattle and in the New York metropolitan area. In response to Army units leaving those sites or redeploying to their home stations, support has shifted from on-site to remote.

“When military units needed MC4 systems, the systems, training, and support were available on time for units to accomplish their COVID-19 missions,” said Tracy Ellis, product director for MC4.

In an email to staff, he praised the entire MC4 team for doing an exceptional job in support of the COVID-19 pandemic. “I am particularly pleased in the on-site support provided by our MC4 FSRs and the behind-the-scenes support that was accomplished almost exclusively by telework,” said Ellis.

MC4 FSRs provide hardware and software support to operational health IT personnel and medical providers who document healthcare electronically. The systems are also used to manage and order Class VIII medical supplies and pharmaceuticals.

The FSR teams consist of trainers, system administrators and engineers who are accustomed to responding in support of deployed medical personnel using MC4’s Army Operational Health Information Systems during overseas operations, as well as for disaster relief and emergency efforts in times of crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Health Assessment Lite Operations, MC4’s newest software application, was put to use almost immediately to document patient treatment provided to any military personnel deployed in support of COVID-19. From mid-March to the middle of May, medical providers documented more than 1,700 patient encounters using MC4 systems. Training was provided to 330 medical personnel from 72 Army and Navy units, and a total of 248 MC4 systems was fielded to units assigned COVID-19 missions.

Skip Boston, MC4’s logistics management chief, explained that it’s not only about assisting military units and DOD organizations such as the Army, the Defense Health Agency and the Office of the Surgeon General with on-site systems support.

“MC4 partnered with other federal agencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Department of Health and Human Services, which are involved in the fight against the coronavirus,” said Boston.

To date, MC4’s largest support efforts have been in the New York/New Jersey area, including Manhattan where the 369th Sustainment Brigade of the New York Army National Guard is in Harlem, and the 69th Infantry Company, NYARNG, has occupied

the Armory at Fort Washington Avenue. The 85th Combat and Operational Stress Control Medical Detachment is also receiving support in New York City.

The 36th Area Support Medical Company has moved its operations from the Javits Center to a nearby hotel. The unit has been providing sick-call support to military teams that are augmenting civilian providers at three sites in New Jersey: Newark, Edison and Atlantic City. The 501st ASMC is supporting teams in Boston and Tewksbury, Massachusetts, as well as in Philadelphia and Stamford, Connecticut.

Although MC4’s support mission in Seattle was initially substantial, as of mid-April, all FSRs have redeployed to their home stations or augmented other regions.

Due to self-quarantine mandates following travel for the Army’s civilian, contractor and military workforces, MC4 contractors undergo a 14-day self-quarantine at home immediately after their return from deployment.

However, as with most of the workforce, the FSRs telework and support the missions after their on-site tour of duty is complete.

“By shifting to remote support, these FSRs will be available to support other priority missions once they complete their self-quarantine,” said Ellis. “They also are a valuable source of lessons learned, which the program will be able to apply to future support missions.”

MC4 is continuing to support COVID-19 missions in Guam, Japan, Korea and Kuwait. In Guam, support personnel are providing remote support to the Navy in re-configuring 44 systems. This work includes applying the latest Information Assurance Vulnerability Alert updates and security patches, and providing training materials and new software like HALO. MC4 also has expedited shipment of four systems to Guam that are configured with the latest Defense Medical Logistics Standard Support Customer Assistance Module, the medical logistics ordering tool that enables operational units to order and manage Class VIII medical supplies and pharmaceuticals.

[Learn more](#) about MC4’s support for Army units worldwide in combating COVID-19.

Tags:

[MC4](#)

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[Medical Communications](#)

[COVID19](#)

[Coronavirus](#)

[Electronic Health Record](#)

U.S. Army Garrison Fort Detrick Holds Change of Responsibility Ceremony

By Jenni Benson, USAG Public Affairs

During a change of responsibility ceremony, the U.S. Army Garrison bid farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. Marcos E. Muñoz and welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. Jason L. Gusman as the garrison's senior enlisted advisor June 11, 2020 at the Fort Detrick Auditorium.

Though the crowd for the change of responsibility ceremony was mainly virtual due to COVID-19 restrictions, the sentiment and time-honored tradition held strong. Soldiers, family and friends joined together via Facebook Live as Muñoz relinquished responsibility to Gusman by passing him the garrison colors. The passing of the garrison colors signifies the relinquishment of responsibility and authority from the outgoing to the incoming garrison command sergeant major.

U.S. Army Fort Detrick Garrison Commander, Col. Dexter Nunnally praised Muñoz for his work and commitment to Fort Detrick during his remarks.

"Your guidance, mentorship, ability to listen, your problem-solving expertise, whatever was needed, you provided to this installation," said Nunnally. "I could not have picked a better command sergeant major as my battle buddy myself."

Nunnally went on to praise Muñoz's dedication to leading, mentoring and growing leaders during his 30-year career.

Muñoz enlisted in the Army in 1990 to serve as a 63B Light Wheel Vehicle Mechanic at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. During his career, Muñoz served in leadership positions from squad leader to command sergeant major.

Muñoz addressed attendees both in the crowd and via the live feed by thanking them for supporting him during his time at Fort Detrick. "I have enjoyed my time with all of you. This has truly been the best assignment in my career. You thought I was helping you grow but really you were helping me grow, thank you for that."

Munoz will be retiring from the Army in July 2020.

Nunnally encouraged Gusman during his remarks, "You now assume responsibility for the Garrison team, the Fort Detrick team, and me. It is an awesome responsibility and I'm sure you are up to the challenge."

Gusman spoke briefly, assuring the Fort Detrick community that he will sustain and build upon the relationships that Muñoz

developed during his time at the installation.

Gusman is a native of Houston, Texas and has served in the Army since 1994. Gusman joins us from his last duty station at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he served as the Battalion Command Sergeant Major, Special Troops Battalion, 528th Sustainment Brigade (Special Operations) (Airborne).



U.S. Army Garrison Fort Detrick Commander, Col. Dexter Nunnally passes the Installation Management Command's colors to incoming Garrison Command Sgt. Major Jason Gusman during the Change of Responsibility ceremony June 11, 2020 at the Fort Detrick Auditorium.

Photo by Jenni Benson, USAG Public Affairs

Medical Logistics Management Internship Program

Celebrates 103rd Graduating Class

By C.J. Lovelace, AMLC Public Affairs

U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency leaders recognized the 103rd graduating class of the Medical Logistics Management Internship Program (MLMIP) during a ceremony June 24.

The class included 11 Soldiers and was the first group to complete the course's revised 11-month program designed to develop strong medical logisticians through classroom training and on-the-job experience.

While always a demanding program, this year's MLMIP class also experienced the unique challenges of supporting medical logistics during a global pandemic. Guest speaker Col. Michael Lalor, commander of the Army Medical Logistics Command, spoke of how the class "rose to the occasion" to support missions worldwide.

"I cannot think that any class in the history of this program is more ready to head out on their utilization tours across the Army and the enterprise than this one," said Lalor. "You are grounded in skills that we need to generate materiel readiness and deliver life-saving medical products to the warfighter."

Started in 1967, MLMIP is designed to develop and strengthen the skills of mid-career medical logistics officers, warrant officers, noncommissioned officers and civilians.

Instructional focus areas include advanced technology; modern business practices and management techniques; Department of Defense systems and processes; DOD and civilian health care logistics; medical logistics support; and materiel acquisition.

Since its inception, MLMIP has graduated 500 Army officers, 154 noncommissioned officers, 13 warrant officers, four Navy officers and four civilians. The newest graduates include:

Maj. Tolulope Adeyemi
Maj. Aaron Shramek
Maj. Jorge N. Osorio-Rodriguez
Maj. Christopher A. Baisa
Maj. Michael Baisa
Capt. Tonya N. Johnson
Capt. Andres Gil
Sgt. 1st Class Brian J. Ockimey
Staff Sgt. Shakina Lewis
Staff Sgt. Jose F. Negron
Staff Sgt. Cenisha Glass

"This is a feisty and eager group," MLMIP program manager LaTrish Jones said. "They have big hearts and it has been a great honor to work with them. They want to be better leaders and logisticians. It was a breath of fresh air to see an entire group with such a positive outlook and willingness to become better leaders."

Led by distinguished graduates Adeyemi, Osorio-Rodriguez, Gil and Glass, the class took part in not only educational programming in a classroom setting, but on-the-job training within both private and public sector medical logistics organizations.

"I recommend every future medical logistics leader take this program," said Adeyemi, who will be transitioning to the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center-Europe in Germany for his next assignment.

"The overall experience contributes to creating well-rounded medical logisticians," said Osorio-Rodriguez, a medical operations officer and logistician with the Army Reserve.

Osorio-Rodriguez was selected to support USAMMA's COVID-19 response, providing valuable experience in a real-world emergency situation. In that role, he interacted with customers about prepositioned medical stocks, processed requests for support and routed communication through the appropriate channels.

"Learning how responsive USAMMA is when needed and witnessing the deployment of medical assets at a moment's notice was simply amazing," Osorio-Rodriguez said.

Adeyemi said it was the site visits to different industries, depots and distribution centers that he found most beneficial, providing a glimpse into how logistics works and similarities to the military enterprise.

"The program really solidified my confidence at directing medical logistics at the strategic and operational levels," he said.

For Glass, who plans to apply for warrant officer school in supply systems, the program provided education and experience that she can now share with her future logisticians and others within the military's medical logistics community.

Continued on page 17

"The knowledge I have gained will provide me with the ability to influence others and give back to others who want to be well-rounded logisticians," she said. "Together, we will continue to improve our abilities to better serve the customer and our organization."

Gil, who is stationed at the Capabilities Development Integration Directorate in San Antonio, Texas, agreed that the program's site visits helped him better understand supply chain management and "adopt demand-driven planning and business operating models based on real-time demand" that will benefit the Army enterprise.

"I have been exposed to seeing how the Army logistics operates and how we should operate in order to be efficient," he said. "This program has prepared us to one day run major logistics operations."

Lalor echoed that sentiment as he told the group they "will make lasting differences wherever" they serve.

"You will be brilliant and you will serve with distinction," he said. "Where ever the road takes you, we will all be better for it ... With the talent in this room, we can only win."



Eleven Soldiers were recognized for completing the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency's Medical Logistics Management Internship Program during a graduation ceremony on June 23, 2020 at Fort Detrick, Maryland. The class was the 103rd since the program's inception in 1967.

Photo by Kathryn Ellis-Warfield

Somewhere Between a Soldier and a Civilian

By Jeffrey Soares, USAMMDA Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity at Fort Detrick, Maryland, is comprised of military, civilian and contractor personnel working together to fulfill the organization's mission to develop and deliver quality medical capabilities to our Warfighters throughout the world. Included among USAMMDA's staff are members of our nation's military reserve force, and one such member, Timothy Hales, was called up recently to active duty in support of our global response to the COVID-19 effort. Hales, a Department of the Army civilian who serves as assistant product manager for USAMMDA's Medical Modernization team in the Warfighter Deployed Medical Systems Project Management Office, was mobilized from March 19 through May 12, to assist with direct medical supply and maintenance support for all mobilized Urban Medical Task Force teams in the eastern United States.

"I was mobilized for about 60 days as the commander of the 341st Medical Logistics Company in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania," said Hales. "Under the 3rd Medical Command, five distinct urban augmentation medical task forces were mobilized to create teams of 85 personnel each to serve in the built hospitals within urban environments, including New York City and New Jersey."

"We were tasked with providing and ordering personal protective, cleaning and medical equipment, such as combat lifesaver bags, for the 15 teams that were activated," he continued. "We immediately took action and expanded our warehouse capacity — we ordered and filled these requests, resulting in more than \$150,000 worth of much-needed equipment, and we also arranged the shipment of these items to the centers."

Now a captain, Hales has served in the U.S. Army Reserve for the past 18 years and was part of the Active Guard/ Reserve program from 2012 through 2019. His steadfast commitment has sent him all across the country, with assignments in Tennessee, Maryland, Massachusetts, California and Pennsylvania. In July 2019, Hales returned to traditional reserve status and joined the WDMS PMO's Modernization team, primarily supporting the group's multi-year Hospital Center conversion project.

Given the passion Hales displays for both our nation and its military, his role at USAMMDA was a perfect fit for him. Clearly, he is dedicated to saving lives, wherever this may be. Therefore, when the COVID-19 pandemic arose earlier this year, Hales was well-suited for a frontline role in fighting the highly unusual, albeit dangerous threat.

"When I heard about the research being conducted on [the

drug] remdesivir, and what the USAMRDC [U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command] is doing in support of the effort, I felt such a sense of pride, and I thought, 'This is exactly why we do the things we do here at USAMMDA,'" said Hales. "I am so proud to be part of a team that truly is spearheading the campaign against the pandemic."

In directly supporting the frontline healthcare providers during this unprecedented time, Hales and his Soldiers worked diligently to ensure the stock and functionality of various types of medical equipment, including ventilators, which were in high demand. In addition, their company fielded the equipment orders for all of the brigades and all of the Urban Medical Task Force teams throughout the U.S. eastern seaboard.

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Army Reserve Capt. Timothy Hales dons a protective mask during his work as commander of the 341st Medical Logistics Company in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania.

Photo by Timothy Hales

"We were in direct contact with the division staff every day, completing orders and servicing our customers," explained Hales. "Because of this, the unit now supports more than 100 internal and external customers with medical logistics, compared to before the pandemic, when we had less than 20. Although this has created much more work for the unit's full-time staff, the situation has shed a positive light on our ability to respond quickly and efficiently in times of crisis."

Clearly, the effects of COVID-19 have been far-reaching, impacting the entire world in various degrees. From the national economy to our personal relationships with family and friends, normal life throughout the country was halted abruptly and indefinitely, which created a sense of uncertainty, and perhaps fear, for many. However, this unexpected health crisis actually helped to solidify Hales' commitment to his duty as both a Soldier and an American citizen.

"It has been a tough situation for everyone across the country, because people are scared and it's difficult to know what risks we take when walking out the door," he said. "But from the moment I put on the Army uniform for the very first time, I knew that I was doing it for a higher calling. That was my goal — to make a difference, serve our country and the people that I love so much; to take pride in wearing that uniform, and most of all, to save lives."

As a DA civilian, Hales is also very dedicated to his work as a product manager for the WDMS PMO and realizes the importance of his group to the mission of USAMMDA. He believes their numerous projects will provide current and future Warfighters with the tools they need to be successful.

"Our Medical Modernization team is utilizing new business practices to ensure things are done correctly, so that in 15 to 20 years, when the



A sample of the medical supplies, otherwise known as "push pack" orders, sent by Army Reserve Capt. Timothy Hales' unit to the Urban Medical Task Force teams for individual bed stations, to sanitize both the areas and the clinical workers in between and around the patients.

Photo courtesy of Timothy Hales

equipment must be modernized again, the Army will have a stable foundation to increase capabilities and engage disruptive technology to further advance care as far forward in the battle space as possible," said Hales.

While he admits maintaining an effective balance between being a Soldier and a civilian may be difficult at times, Hales says he would not have it any other way.

"People may not understand how hard it is to wear two hats," said Hales. "The key for me has been keeping a proper work-life balance, and understanding what is important versus what is urgent. Also, ensuring that I am engaged and present when I am with my family has been my number one concern, especially within our present scenario involving COVID-19."

"It truly requires mental compartmentalization on my part to ensure that I am fully present in these different functions throughout my daily life," he continued. "There is an inherent challenge in serving as a civilian product manager for USAMMDA while also serving as a military commander who can be called up at any time, for any given assignment. We will always have stress, and to-do lists, and multiple 'things' happening, but if you lean into this and realize that you are living for a purpose, life can be very rewarding."



A convoy of U.S. Army vehicles transported medical supplies to brigade elements before the teams left their respective home stations to begin their Urban Medical Task Force missions at their makeshift hospitals.

Photo courtesy of Timothy Hales

DOD Increases Money for Do-It-Yourself Moves

By Joseph Lacdan, Army News Service

Soldiers now have an added incentive to choose the personally-procured move, or PPM option, when moving to their next duty stations this summer.

Aside from limiting exposure to COVID-19, a revision to the Defense Department's Joint Travel Regulations has increased the monetary payment to Soldiers who choose to move their household goods.

From May 26 through Dec. 31, Soldiers using the PPM program can receive a payment equal to 100 percent of the estimated cost the government would pay to move their items. When Soldiers choose the option, they shoulder the cost and responsibility of packing and moving their belongings themselves and the payment compensates them for those expenses.

The PPM program gives Soldiers an alternative to a traditional permanent-change-of-station move, where a government-contracted moving company ships their household goods to their new duty station.

With more Soldiers expected to make PCS moves during the latter part of the peak moving season, an updated policy couldn't have come at a more opportune time, said Larry Lock, Army compensation and entitlements chief G-1.

While much of the country remains under COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, making a PPM might be the more practical option for some Soldiers and their families, he said. Safety restrictions vary by state and commercial movers will be heavily tasked, he added.

The change could help increase the number of PCS moves in what the Army's G-4 predicts will be a busier moving season. Moving more Soldiers to their new duty stations helps the Army maintain readiness and meet its global force requirements, said Derrick Candler, chief of Transportation Policy Division, G-4.

"Industry may face challenges to support this huge increase during the summer season," Candler said. "This initiative can help increase the number of moves to ensure our people can get to their next duty station as quickly as possible. This will have positive effects on the entire Army and DOD. The PPM also reduces the strain on families and moving companies."

As part of the continued efforts to improve quality of life for its military families, the Defense Travel Management Office had pursued the change to ease the burden of families who prefer the PPM over a traditional move, Lock said. He added that PPM

moves typically result in a cost savings for the government and the policy update will pass those savings onto the families.

In April, the DOD signed a \$7.2 billion contract with a single company, New Jersey-based American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier Group, to move household goods for the military.

After Dec. 31, Candler said the policy will be re-evaluated in conjunction with each military branch on whether the reimbursable costs will remain at 100 percent or return to 95 percent.

The DOD has made monetary allowance payments of 95 percent for PPMs since 1998 when it bumped the sum up from 80 percent. Candler said that each service must collectively agree to make the change permanent.

"Now, we're hoping based on this change and the moves that take place during the summer, that we can justify continuing this," he said. "All the services benefit from this increase."

Lock said typically younger, single Soldiers, or young couples with no children choose the PPM option. Soldiers with more time in service and those with larger families often choose to have their household items shipped by a government contractor.

Also possibly boosting the number of moves this summer is a change to granting exceptions to policy for the COVID-19 stop-move order. Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy delegated approval authority for PCS moves, temporary-duty assignments, and military leave to the first brigadier general or Senior Executive Service officer in a Soldier's chain of command.

Approval authorities may grant exceptions for Soldiers determined to be mission essential, for changes necessary for humanitarian purposes, and for extreme hardship.

Soldiers who fall under an exception must travel with printed copies of the approved exception to policy. Soldiers exempt from travel restrictions will be required to carry a memorandum signed by their supervisor that states the reason for exemption.

Soldiers and civilians enrolled in military education programs qualify as exempt from travel restrictions and do not require an exception to policy. These programs include officer training and education programs, non-commissioned officer professional development and specialty training programs and civilian training, education and development programs.



Fort Detrick Holds Face-to-Face Chapel Services for the First Time in Weeks

On July 21, 2020, the Fort Detrick Chapel hosted its first face-to-face service since the COVID-19 health crisis began. It was a combined Catholic and Protestant gathering held outdoors on the Blue and Grey Field at Fort Detrick.

The chapel opened its doors for indoor services on June 29, operating at a 25 percent capacity after a 14-week hiatus. Chaplain Lt. Col. Gregory Jackson held online services during the hiatus and will continue to broadcast weekly sermons via the Protestant Woman of the Chapel's Facebook page.

Although there are restrictions regarding capacity, mask guidelines and physical distancing, members are happy to be back to be able to fellowship with one another again.

"Even though we have all this technology and can still deliver services to our members, it's not the same. Everyone was so excited to be able to talk to friends face-to-face and interact," said Jackson.

Fort Detrick Chapel holds Catholic Mass every Sunday at 9:15 a.m. and Protestant Service service at 11 a.m.

To tune in via live stream visit, <https://www.facebook.com/FortDetrickPWOC>



STAY FREE & SAFE THIS JULY 4TH



IF YOU DRINK, DON'T DRIVE



INSTALLATION SAFETY BULLETIN SB 20-07-01

Fireworks Safety

- ALWAYS obey local laws.
- ONLY ground-based, sparkling devices are permitted in the State of Maryland.
- Always have water handy.
- Only use fireworks as intended. Don't try to alter them or combine them.
- Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Spectators should keep a safe distance from the shooter and the shooter should wear safety glasses.
- Only adults shall light fireworks.
- Light only one firework at a time & move quickly away from the firework.
- Never light fireworks in your hand.
- Think about your pet. Animals have sensitive ears and can be extremely frightened or stressed on the Fourth of July. Keep pets indoors to reduce the risk that they'll run loose or get injured.
- Never try to make your own fireworks.



SAFETY BULLETIN

SAFETY BULLETIN



INSTALLATION SAFETY OFFICE
1520 FREEDMAN DRIVE SUITE 217
PHONE 301-619-7318
USARMY.DETRICK.USAG.LIST.ISMO@MAIL.MIL



MISSION CRITICAL

Make it Your Mission to Save Lives

DONATE **BLOOD**

Ft. Detrick COVID-19 Blood Drive

Thursday, July 2nd @ 0900-1300

Appointments Only!!!!

-BLDG 1520, Auditorium

**For appointments: militarydonor.com using sponsor code
FTDETRICK**

#SUPPORTTHEWARFIGHTER





ARMY NATIONAL HIRING DAYS

JUNE 30 - JULY 2

Army National Hiring Days is a national, Total Army campaign to hire 10,000 new Soldiers in three days (June 30 - July 2).

- The Army is hiring! Join us to find your inner warrior.
- Diversity in our ranks and unity in our profession make us stronger.
- The Army serves America and cares for Soldiers.

Those interested in Army opportunities should visit goarmy.com/hiringdays.

We're offering career opportunities in 150 fields, including cyber, artificial intelligence, healthcare, aviation, big data analysis and many more.

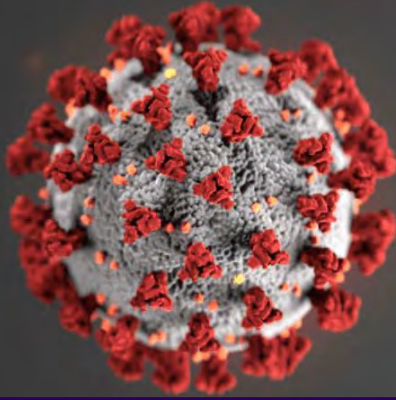
Qualified applicants may choose their job and start dates.

Executive leadership opportunities are open for college students and graduates. Learn more during National Hiring Days at www.goarmy.com/hiringdays.

The Army is the largest provider of scholarships in the nation, enabling scholars and athletes to attend college and become officers.



U.S. ARMY NATIONAL HIRING DAYS JUNE 30 - JULY 2



CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19) UPDATES

Current Operations, Closures and Event Updates

In observance of the Fourth of July holiday, all visitor centers and gates EXCEPT Nallin Farm Gate at Fort Detrick and Brookville Gate at Forest Glen will be closed on the following days:
Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4, 2020.

****Vetting operations at Fort Detrick for all Holidays will occur at Nallin Gate.****

Nallin Farm Gate and Brookville Gate will be open 24/7.

Gate Operations: In response to operational changes due to COVID-19, Nallin Farm Gate and Old Farm gates will remain operational for entry and exit. Nallin Farm Gate will be open 24/7 at Fort Detrick and any vetting operations at Fort Detrick will occur at Nallin Gate.

Old Farm Gate is open Monday - Friday from 6 a.m. - 6 p.m. and on weekends from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

UPDATE Beginning July 6, Veterans Gate will open Mon-Fri from 6 a.m.- 2 p.m.

At Forest Glen, Linden Lane Gate is closed until further notice. Brookville Gate will be open 24/7 and any vetting operations at Forest Glen will take place at the Brookville Gate.

The Fort Detrick Barbershop is Open—The Barbershop reopened May 4 and operates by appointments only for authorized users. No walk-in appointments.

Authorized users include DoD uniformed personnel and mission essential personnel with grooming standards such as first responders, military dependents and DA Civilians.

UPDATE: The barbershop will expand access to retirees beginning July 6.

Customers are asked to arrive no earlier than 5 minutes prior to appointment and are not permitted to wait in PX or Food Court. To schedule an appointment call (301) 619-2345.

Hours:

Mon-Fri - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday - 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Sunday - Closed

Dental Clinic: Now providing almost all routine services such as readiness exams, cleanings, fillings, routine crown and bridge, etc. Patients can call and schedule these services. Sick call each day from 7:30-9 a.m. Walk in sick call is not accepted. Call 301-619-7675 to be triaged by a provider and schedule appointments.

Child and Youth Services Starting June 15— Operating hours will be 8 am – 5 pm. Expanded care will be offered to serve mission essential employees and Priority 1B and 1C patrons. Staff is currently reviewing enrolled listings to identify those in these categories and will notify parents if a space is available to accommodate their child and while remaining in compliance with regulatory and state guidance.

The Auto Skill Shop is open by appointment only by calling 301-619-2759. Physical Distancing and all patrons will be asked screening questions prior to entry. Vehicles can be dropped for full service only e.g. oil changes by DFMWR Staff. No vehicle bays are available at this time.

Golf Driving Range: Open to everyone. To ensure physical distancing, every other space will be blocked off.

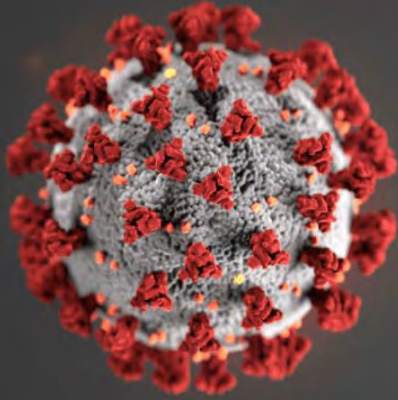
Pet Lodging and Doggie Daycare - Open from 7:30-9 am and 3:30-5 pm for pick up and drop off. Appointments are required and pickup/drop off are curbside. Patrons must wear facial coverings to drop off pets. Please call 301-619-3950.

Outdoor Pool Opening with limited capacity July 4, 2020

Outdoor Pool, 839 Chandler Street

Hours of operation:

Monday-Friday, 6-8 a.m. (ACTIVE DUTY ONLY)



CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19) UPDATES

Current Operations, Closures and Event Cancellations

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 2 – 6 p.m. open to all eligible patrons
Weekends and holidays: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 2 – 6 p.m. open to all eligible patrons

Fees and Payments:

Daily fee: \$5 per patron
30-day individual pass: \$35
30-day family pass: \$60
Credit card payments only.

*Physical distancing will be maintained and all patrons will be asked screening questions prior to entry. For additional information, please call 301-619-2498

Pavilion and Nallin Pond Reservations now accepted. Physical distancing and facial coverings are required to use the site. Call 301-619-2839 for reservations.

Chapel: Sunday Chapel Services are indoor at limited capacity of 25% and sign up is required to ensure capacity.

9:15 a.m. Catholic Mass
11 a.m. Protestant Service

You can live stream the Protestant Services at 11 a.m. on the Chapel Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/FortDetrickPWOC>

Sign up links for the Protestant Service on July 5
SANCTUARY LINK:
<https://allevents.in/frederick/ft-detrick-chapel-protestant-service/80001715925537>

OVERFLOW LINK: <https://allevents.in/frederick/ft-detrick-chapel-protestant-service-overflow/80002627081521>

STANDYBY LINK:
<https://allevents.in/frederick/ft-detrick-chapel-standby-list/80001286416493>

DA Photos: All official Department of the Army photos are suspended. Once this suspension is lifted, appointments will become available through the Visual Information Ordering site at <https://vios.army.mil>.

Leisure Travel Services is open to receive telephone sales for all your attraction ticket and vacation needs. All sales will be conducted telephonically and credit cards will be the only acceptable form of payment. Ticket purchases will be mailed directly to the customer. Open Mon-Fri 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Please call (301) 619- 2892.

Odom and Forest Glen Fitness Centers— UPDATE: Beginning June 29, the facility will open to DoD civilians and dependents.

Fort Detrick Fitness Center Hours are:

6-9 a.m. Active Duty Only
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m. Active Duty, DoD Civilians, and AD Dependents. Dependents must be 15 or older to access the Fitness Center due to capacity limitations. Retiree access is tentatively scheduled for July 20.

Forest Glen Fitness Center Hours: Mon-Fri, 6-8 am.

To provide active duty military with facilities and resources to maintain physical readiness. Temperature check and screening questions will be asked. Locker rooms, saunas and showers will remain closed. Facial covering required except when exercising. No 24/7 access or group classes offered.

SJA: Tax Center Update - Tax Center limited re-opening on 1 June 2020. Beginning on 1 June 2020, active duty members assigned to Fort Detrick will be able to make telephonic appointments for assistance with preparing and e-filing 2019 federal and state income tax returns before the 15 July 2020 deadline. Appointments are required. Please call (301) 619-1040.

Remote Legal Services available by calling (301) 619-2221 to schedule a telephonic appointment.