

MEDICAL NEWS

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CIVILIAN WINS LOCAL SERVICE AWARD

By Airman 1st Class Heather Heiney
81st Training Wing Public Affairs

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — Usa Jones, the 81st Medical Group’s volunteer services coordinator, was awarded the John Caranna Community Service Award by the Harrison County Triad in Gulfport Jan. 10.

The triad consists of the Harrison County Sheriff’s Department, county police departments and area seniors working together to address criminal issues that affect older citizens.

Jones was nominated for the award by Linda Brundidge, 81st Medical Support Squadron medical logistics administrative assistant.

“For the past 30 years Mrs. Jones has been a powerhouse at Keesler Hospital and in the community,” Brundidge said. “It was an easy task to nominate her, because you can see her accomplishments around the hospital every day. Her devotion has been tireless and phenomenal. Mrs. Jones fully understands the quality of compassion and what it means to serve others.”

Jones coordinates the work of the hospital’s 62 volunteers and works three to four times a week herself. She works the main information desk and assists in the women’s health clinic. She trained 15 volunteers on dispensing and filing procedures for the pharmacy.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Adam Bond)

Mrs. Usa Jones, volunteer services coordinator for the 81st Medical Group, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., was awarded the John Caranna Community Service Award by the Harrison County Triad in Gulfport Jan. 10, 2012.

She coordinates two fundraisers annually to support the hospital’s annual volunteer services awards luncheon, and Christmas party and purchase plaques, certificates and gifts for the volunteers.

During the holiday season, Jones invites active-duty military and retired personnel who are unable to be with their families into her home to share a holiday meal. She also volunteers with the Kiwanis Club of Gulfport, the Krewe of Gemini of Gulfport, the Mississippi City United Methodist Church and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Steve Pivnick)

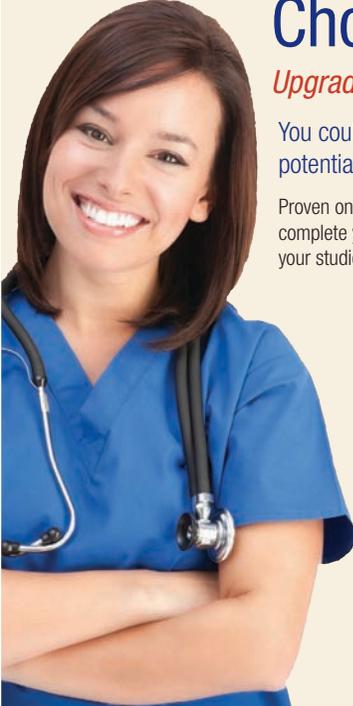
Krewe of Medics holds 24th annual Mardi Gras ball

The Krewe of Medics held its 24th annual Mardi Gras Ball Jan. 14, 2012, at the IP Casino Resort and Spa in Biloxi, Miss., with “Under the Sea” as its theme. This year’s court included Airman 1st Class Michael Velez-Grieco, 81st Medical Support Squadron; Staff Sgt. Brittney Velez, 81st Medical Group; Maj. (Dr.) Kraig Kristof, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron; Denise Landry, 81st MDG, as Queen Amphitrite; Lt. Col. Craig Lambert, 81st Medical Support Squadron commander as King Poseidon; Col. Martha Stokes, 81st MDG; Brad Jones, chief operating officer for Humana Veterans Healthcare Services, and 1st Lt. Kelly Miller, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron. More than 200 guests attended the event.

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(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Petty Officer 2nd Class John O'Neill Herrera/HIPAA Complete)

Wounded Marine

Commanding General, 1st Marine Division, Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Bailey, shakes hands with Naval Medical Center San Diego Marine Wounded Warrior Battalion West Detachment Cpl. Jose C. Armenta after presenting him with a Purple Heart. Armenta was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries he sustained during a combat mission while deployed to Afghanistan on Aug. 28, 2011.



February Is American Heart Month



(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jessica L. Tounzen/Released)

Color Guard at State of the City address

Above: Sailors of the Navy Medicine West Command Color Guard parade the national colors during San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders' annual State of the City address at Balboa Theatre. This is Sanders' final address to the city as Mayor.

Below: Sailors of the Navy Medicine West Command Color Guard parade the national colors during San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders' annual State of the City address at Balboa Theatre. This is Sanders' final address to the city as Mayor.



Keesler medics get decontamination training

By 81st Medical Group
Public Affairs

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. -- While most people prepared for the holidays, a contingent of "Dragon Medics" from the 81st Medical Group and nurses from the Biloxi Department of Veterans Affairs medical campus prepared for the worst during a training session Dec. 19-21.

DECON LLC Corporation instructors from Mississippi, Florida, Texas and Michigan conducted the Air Force Medical In-Place Patient Decontamination course at the Keesler Hospital at no cost to 15 Keesler medics and three VA nurses.

According to Tom Bocek, DECON LLC Corp. instructor and owner, "This was a volunteer preparedness effort for the Biloxi community. Bob Tash of the 81st Medical Support Squadron readiness flight and I coordinated the program."

Bocek noted the Biloxi VA staff and Keesler medics hadn't had any "formal" IPPD training since he conducted sessions for them in 2006 and 2007, respectively.

Bocek added his instructors -- Brent Fenton from Florida, Theresa Casey from Texas, Charlie Jansen from Michigan -- and he regularly train medical decontamination at Air Force, Navy, Army and Marine Corps bases, and occasionally at VA and civilian hospitals.

"Somehow, Keesler inadvertently was excluded in this fiscal year's funding for decon training," Bocek explained. "Since Bob and I have worked medical readiness programs as far back as the mid-1980s when we served together at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, we decided to arrange a mutually-beneficial program to help the Keesler medics, the VA nurses and ultimately the Biloxi community as well as the instructors."

The training course covered three full days. The first day was spent with Keesler medical patient decon assistant team chief Tech. Sgt. William Kiddy and other members of the team from the 81st MDG. Participants reviewed plans, removed the IPPD equipment from storage and conducted a thorough inventory. They also checked functions,



(U.S. Air Force photo by Adam Bond)

From left, 1st Lt. Sharon Eleby, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, and Capt. (Dr.) John Dusenbury and Senior Airman Sagan Barber, 81st Dental Squadron, triage a "simulated patient" and determine the type of agent they're dealing with during decontamination training, Dec. 19-21, 2011 at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. Students had to adequately identify agents and decontaminate the patient in order to pass.

repaired damaged equipment, prepared students' personal protective equipment bags and set up a classroom.

On the second day, the 18 students attended classroom instruction where they learned how a medical "warm zone" (contamination not expected, but possible) response interaction with other base agencies, medical considerations of different contaminants, antidote therapy, how to inspect and properly wear PPE, how to assess or triage casualties while in PPE and how to best organize the decon equipment to effectively decontaminate casualties.

The third day was entirely "hands-on" training during which students put into practice what they learned in the classroom.

Because the training was so intense, students wore physical-training garb. They first were taught how to select a site for a medical warmzone, set up each piece of equipment and learned the equipments' capabilities, limitations, care and maintenance. They erected the complete warm-zone and discussed each step down to the last sponge and pair of

scissors. Then the class tore it all down, donned their PPE and set it up again wearing PPE. Bocek explained that in many cases contaminated patients arrive before the equipment is in place and the only option then is to set-up in suits.

Students next faced "patients," both ambulatory and on litters. They assessed each patient, determined the potential contaminant, triaged, performed life-saving measures including antidote therapy and subsequently efficiently decontaminated each patient.

Bocek explained that in this class, "simulate" is a dirty word. "We simulate nothing," he explained. "Everything is as real as possible. We even use a training agent that is roughly the same consistency and persistency as a G-series nerve agent. The students must adequately decontaminate the patient or they fail."

The entire training session was reinforced by a timed exercise prior to which the equipment had been completely repacked. The students were given a contamination scenario and

then had to quickly and efficiently set up the entire medical warm-zone equipment package, triage and decontaminate victims.

Bocek said, "The standards in the USAF Quality Program Plan for IPPD training is 'mission capable' in less than 15 minutes, and 'set-up complete' in less than 20 minutes. 'Mission capable' means the decon tent is up, warm water flowing and at least four team members have donned their protective suits. At that point Headquarters Air Combat Command (the major air command assigned and responsible for patient decontamination oversight) believes the first patients who had arrived can be helped. 'Set-up complete' indicates all 20 team members are completely suited up and everything is entirely ready for full-scale operations.

He continued, "The combined Keesler and Biloxi VA medical team absolutely smoked the standard by reaching mission-capable in just five minutes, 20 seconds and completed set-up in just 10:48. In addition, the combined Keesler/Biloxi VA team sent all patients through decon clean the first time."

"It was a thing of beauty to watch; they really took this training to heart," Tash remarked.

Bocek said upon completing training each trainee received certification in the Occupational Safety & Health Administration's hazardous waste operations up to the "operator's level." They also earned Air Force IPPD training certification and, if they were nationally-registered emergency medical technicians, they also were awarded 12 continuing education units towards recertification.

He commented, "The Biloxi VA nurses are trying to re-establish a decon team originally created after 9-11. They were very appreciative of this timely training and eager to return to the Biloxi VA with their new skills, get their equipment out of the closet and re-energize their team.

"The DECON Instructors meet annually to recertify their own hazardous waste operations instructor certifications, refresh on equipment repair and standardize future curriculum," Bocek stressed. "The Keesler training session provided so much to so many."

TRICARE beneficiaries have many easy options for flu protection

If your 2012 New Year's resolution included taking better care of yourself, one of the easiest steps you can take to achieve that goal is to protect yourself against the flu.

Everyone six months old and older should be immunized annually, especially those at high risk, including young children, pregnant women, people with chronic respiratory conditions like asthma and those 65 and older.

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participating TRICARE retail network pharmacies. Find a participating pharmacy near you at www.express-scripts.com/tricare/pharmacy, or by calling the TRICARE pharmacy contractor Express Scripts at 1-877-363-1303. You can also get vaccinated by your doctor or at one of the retail clinics found at many pharmacies, but keep in mind you may have to pay cost shares or copays associated with a medical visit.

An important part of maintaining readiness for active duty service members and members of the National Guard and Reserves is keeping immunizations up to date, including annual flu vaccines. Active duty members without access to military medical facilities

may be able to get the vaccination at a network pharmacy. Be sure to follow your Service's policy and always get documentation of the vaccination.

The 2011-12 flu vaccine protects against three strains of influenza - two type A and one type B. Two forms of the flu vaccine are approved for use in the United States - an injection and a nasal spray. Except for pregnant women, the nasal spray is licensed for healthy people from ages 2-49.

For more information and resources on the flu and TRICARE flu vaccine coverage go to www.tricare.mil/flu.

At Military Health System Conference in Maryland

NH Pensacola's Jones to receive DoD-wide innovation award

PENSACOLA — Naval Hospital Pensacola's Sheila Jones will be among four Defense Department military medicine personnel to be recognized for DoD-wide Healthcare Innovation Program awards at the Military Health System conference in Maryland.



courtesy photo

Sheila Jones talks with a patient.

The NH Pensacola's Infection Control program manager's project, designed for the „Identification and Mitigation of Risks and Hazards' related to a blood culture contamination, was submitted for consideration to DoD by the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. The awards are based on innovative programs created at military health facilities to improve access, cost and quality of care to enhance the military readiness of service members.

The project identified and implemented a regionally-tested check list for blood-draw professionals to follow and a strongly-stressed continual education system into the hospital system at a negligible cost. The check-list and education system was successful throughout FY-11 allowing NH Pensacola to record at or below the national average.

Blood culture contamination is a universal concern among healthcare providers. Physicians rely on blood cultures to monitor and treat patients. In some areas of the

hospital, there had been an above-the-national benchmark average rate of 2.5%.

When Jones joined the NH Pensacola team in 2009, following a stint with Sacred Heart Hospital, those above-the-national-benchmark-average began showing up as “red squares” on her dash-board charts. She soon began a search to determine what the cause was thanks to Patient Safety Manager Wayne Jensen's dash-board development.

The labs were scoring false positives due to contaminated blood cultures from the draw-site, which result in delays of treatment, redraws of blood from patients and potentially inappropriate use of antibiotics ... and at additional expense to the hospital, say Jones.

Beginning with personal observations, she found there was no standardization method to collect blood cultures from either babies or adults. There were a hodge-podge of lists, some of which “appeared to busy” and cumbersome to follow, she says.

So, she began a trial run in October 2010 in the Intensive Care Unit. ICU had apparently “had been doing something right,” she continues, because they were continually recording zero contaminants following blood culture draws.

What were they doing right? ICU was using a scaled-down, step-by-step checklist and “Ziploc-bag kits” complete with blood-draw supplies.

The idea was born, tweaked, modified and implemented. The check list, tested in FY-11, provided NH Pensacola with blood-contamination rates at or below the national benchmark.

“The critical success of this project should also go to our Education Department, Medical/Surgical unit, nursery



(U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jessica L. Tounzen/HIPAA Complete)

‘Sam the Cooking Guy’

Above: Sam Zien, also known as “Sam the Cooking Guy”, cuts the meat off a roast chicken during a cooking demonstration for Naval Medical Center San Diego's wounded, ill or injured (WII) service members. Zien, host of the national broadcast television cooking show “Just Cook This!” prepared dinner for more than 30 WII service members.

Below: Zien mixes ingredients for chicken enchiladas.



★ See Jones page 6

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Individuals are invited to submit lecture proposals for the NMCWM's Twentieth Annual Conference on Civil War Medicine to be held October 5-7, 2012. Proposals should be one to five pages in length, typed and double-spaced, and must be accompanied by a bibliography. They also should include the title, speaker's full name, short biographical sketch including professional and academic affiliations, mailing address, email address, telephone and FAX numbers, and a brief statement as to why the topic is particularly appropriate for this forum. Presentations should be limited to 45 minutes, followed by a five-minute question-and-answer period. All presentations must be in a PowerPoint format.

Deadline for submission is April 1, 2012. Proposals should be sent to the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Attention Conference Program Committee, P.O. Box 470, Frederick, MD 21705. All proposals will be considered, but submission of a proposal does not guarantee an invitation to speak.

★ Jones

Continued from page 5

and laboratory personnel," says Jones. "But, we need to keep our finger on it," she continues, "and continue to push the continuous education piece."

The final results were a wide-eyed absolute: If you don't use check lists to prevent contamination of blood cultures, especially at the draw site, the contamination rate numbers are going up. NH Pensacola tweaked the system using evidenced-based guidelines and best practices to positively affect patient care.

"I think it's awesome. This type of project took months of work from all across the command," she says, "and leadership got behind it 100 percent."

It is the second consecutive year that NH Pensacola has been awarded a DoD medicine-wide award based on innovative and patient satisfaction projects.

"It's another first in Navy Medicine history," says Commanding Officer Jennifer Vedral-Baron, who is also attending the Maryland conference.

Last year, NH Pensacola earned an award in patient safety/satisfaction for partnering with patients in on the Women and Children's ward.



(U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jason J. Perry/HIPAA completed)

Freedom To Rock

Above: Freedom to Rock artist Chris Hodges performs one of his new songs for Naval Medical Center San Diego's (NMCSD) wounded, ill or injured (WII) service members during the Freedom to Rock Armed Forces Tour in NMCSD's Liberty Center. The tour brings popular bands as well as new up and coming musicians to meet with WII service members across the nation. Also included in the tour was drummer Raymond Herrera of the band Arkaea.

Below: Sonny Sandoval and Marcos Curiel of the band Payable On Death (P.O.D.) pose with Marines assigned to Naval Medical Center San Diego's (NMCSD) Wounded Warrior Battalion West detachment during the Freedom to Rock Armed Forces Tour.



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American Legion Auxiliary doantes golf cart

Diana Umdenstock, President of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Illinois has announced the donation of a 4 passenger golf cart to the Hines VA Hospital, Hines, IL.

Pam Ray, Past Department President for year 2010-2011 suggested that the Auxiliary raise funds for a much needed golf cart for Hines VA Hospital.

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Illinois has raised \$8,000.00 through Unit, County, District and Division and State donations.

The cart was custom designed by Prairie Land Golf & Utility Cars LLC, Bloomington, IL. and will be shipped to Hines VA Hospital.

The Golf Cart will be used to transport Veteran patients and families from the Fisher House to the Medical Facility.

A presentation ceremony will be held at Hines VA hospital, Hines, IL at a later date.

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Blood center part of tri-service drive

By Steve Pivnick
 81st Medical Group Public Affairs

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — Teams from the Keesler Blood Donor Center recently returned from a tri-service blood drive at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and Fort Gordon, Ga.

Five BDC members comprised the Air Force contingent among the 73 active-duty military and 25 civilians from the 12 Air Force, Army and Navy bases who participated in the Jan. 9-12 West Point drive, an annual event hosted by Fort Gordon. Following the drive, three additional Keesler BDC staff traveled to Fort Gordon to process the 1,828 units that had been collected.

Tech. Sgt. Debra Hafner, NCO-in-charge of the blood donor center, said, "This single blood drive supplied enough blood for two weeks worth of critical shipments from these 12 bases for support of forces in Southwest Asia." The Keesler team was also singled out by the Joint Blood Program Officer Forward for helping meet a State Department request for increased blood products.

Members of the West Point team were: Hafner, a lab technician; lab technologist Larry Bank, lab technician Kevin Nguyen and phlebotomists Rachel Necaie and Amber Lee.

The Fort Gordon team was comprised of medical laboratory technicians Staff Sgt. Jason Venable, Airman 1st Class Michael Brown and Nancy Evans.

The West Point blood drive followed a similar program held in September at the Air Force Academy.

The Keesler Blood Donor Center is located in the 81st Medical Group's Arnold Medical Annex, opposite the Meadows Drive tennis courts. They collect donations in the facility and on blood drives across base and throughout surrounding states.

The BDC is one of only three Air Force Blood Donor Centers. It's part of the Armed Services Blood Program which shares the joint mission of collecting, processing and distributing thousands of blood products for military medical centers at home and in theater overseas.

These units play a key role in the direct medical care of wounded Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines involved in worldwide contingency operations.

Capt. Heidi McMinn, officer in charge of Keesler's BDC, explained BDC personnel and their donors play a key role in ensuring the DOD ships more than 1,000 units of blood to more than 50 US military hospitals throughout Iraq, Afghanistan and the Middle East in direct support of Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn. Most of the blood shipped from Keesler reaches the theater less than a week after the day it's collected.

She added, "The donor center always needs AB positive and negative and O negative donors. Products collected from these blood types are in high demand at home and overseas."

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 376-6100. Donors are also accepted on a walk-in basis or during blood drives at units across the base.



(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Clay M. Whaley/HIPAA Complete)

Purple Heart recipients

Commanding General National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Army Brig. Gen. Terry R. Ferrell, right, congratulates three Purple Heart medal recipients recognizing the soldiers for actions while deployed to Afghanistan during an award ceremony at Naval Medical Center San Diego.



Nursing

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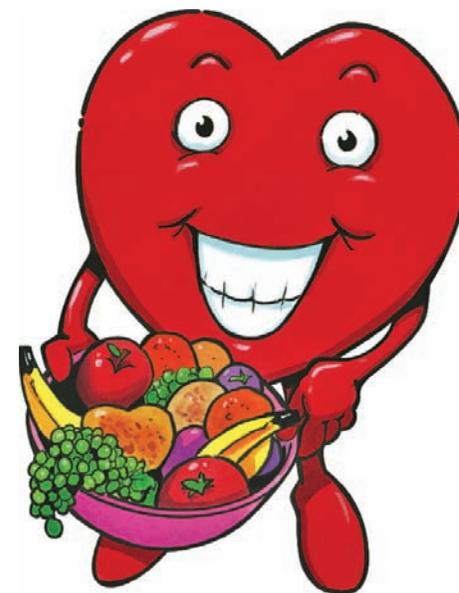
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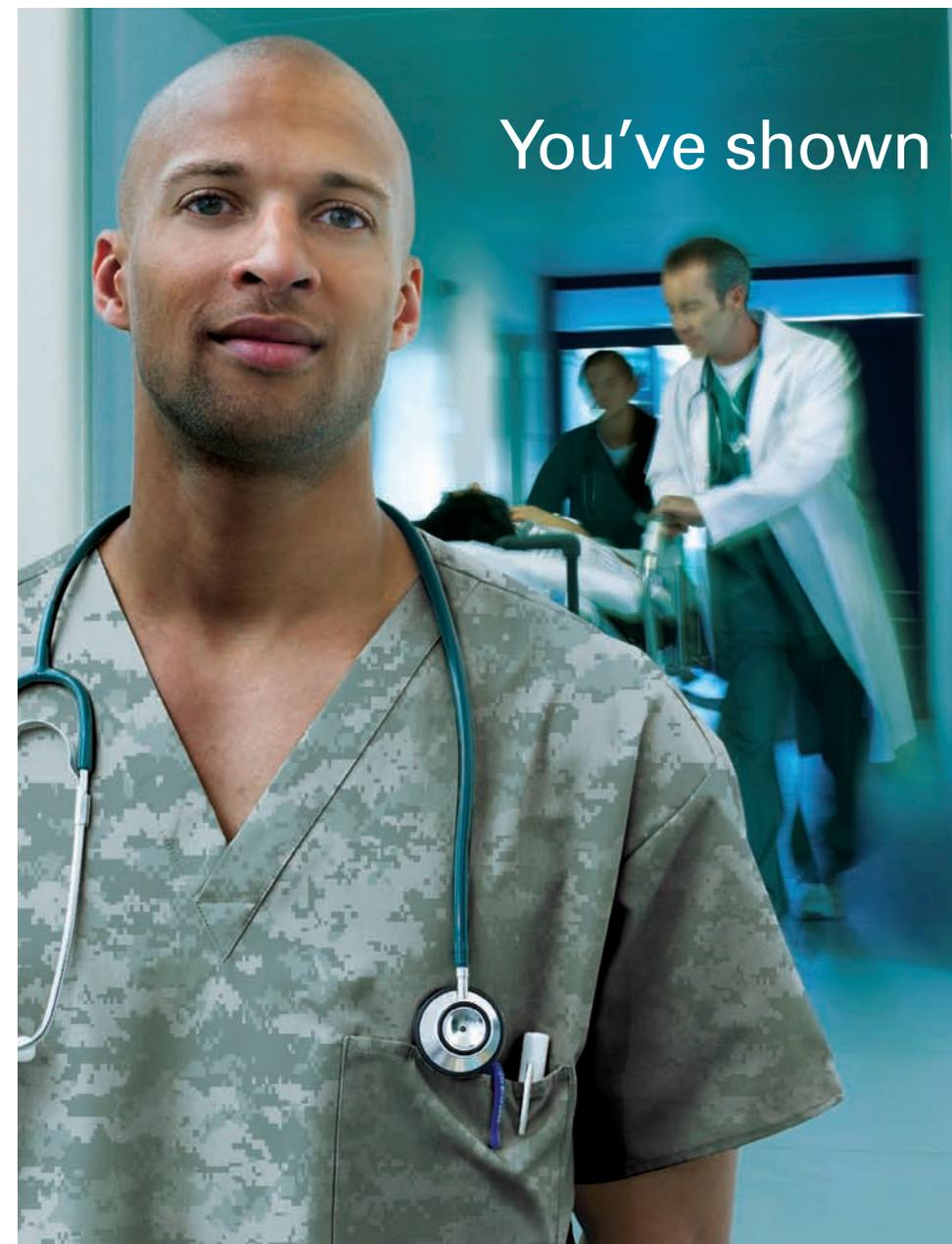
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(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Clay M. Whaley/HIPAA Complete)

Naval medical Center San Diego Army Warrior Transition Unit Awards Purple Heart

Above: Commanding General National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Army Brig. Gen. Terry R. Ferrell, left, shakes the hand of Sgt. Odin Ayala after presenting him with the Purple Heart at Naval Medical Center San Diego. Ayala received the Purple Heart for wounds received in action while deployed to Afghanistan.

Dental squadron urges early care for baby teeth

By Capt. (Dr.) Jessical Milburn
 81st Dental Squadron

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — It is important to establish what the dental community calls a “dental home.”

When children start practicing good oral hygiene habits at an early age, they will need less expensive dental care and can prevent avoidable emergency situations in the future. A “dental home” starts with routine, comprehensive and family-centered care by a licensed dentist. Because the child’s physical home serves as an extension of the “dental home,” this process can actually begin with increasing a parent’s dental knowledge.

A child’s first dental appointment should be scheduled with the appearance of their first tooth (usually around 6 months) and no later than 1 year old. At this time, a pediatric or general dentist will help the parent establish and maintain a “dental home.” They will discuss the child’s dental treatment needs and risk factors for cavities. Parents can ask any questions they may have regarding nutrition and oral hygiene.

During infancy, a softbristled tooth brush or wet washcloth may be used to clean an infant’s teeth. As children develop the ability to spit (around age 3), they may start using fluoridated

toothpastes in a pea-sized amount. Typically, children 8 years old and younger should be supervised when they brush their own teeth.

A common but avoidable mistake is giving an infant or child a bottle containing something other than water right before bedtime. It is not advisable to put a child to sleep with a bottle filled with juice, soda or milk as this can lead to “baby bottle tooth decay.” As the child nurses through the night with these drinks, teeth are constantly coated with sugar, leading to an acidic environment which can lead to painful cavities.

If infection develops, it can cause further pain, affect the adult teeth and even become life-threatening.

Baby teeth serve a number of functions and are critical to the overall growth process. They’re far too important to be looked at as something that will just fall out. In fact, in some cases, adult teeth don’t replace the baby teeth, and these baby teeth may remain in a person’s mouth throughout their life.

Proper oral hygiene begins at home before the first dental visit even occurs. With increased dental knowledge, help with hygiene and access to care, parents can help their children have a more healthy future and beautiful smile.

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Physicians

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Physicians

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Beu Health Center
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Initial screening of applications will begin February 14, 2012. AA/EO employer. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, and veteran status.

Physicians

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Physicians

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Physicians



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Physician Assistant

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Physicians

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Please contact:

Matthew Reinhardt, MD

Phone: (910) 692-8224

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Email: madju@nc.rr.com

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Physicians

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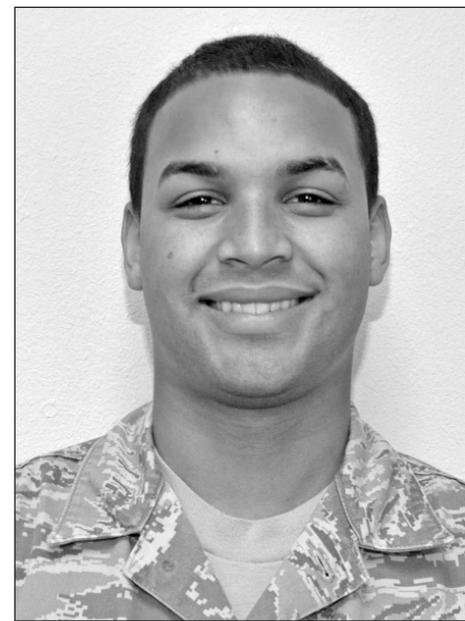
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(U.S. Air Force photo by Steve Pivnick)

Senior Airman Emmanuel Maldonado-Rosario, 81st Dental Squadron dental technician, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., has been selected to become a member of the Air Force's "Tops in Blue" entertainment group.

Keesler Airman selected to perform with 'Tops in Blue'

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — Senior Airman Emmanuel Maldonado-Rosario is following a family tradition of Air Force service

among the family's eight children, with one exception -- he's the only one to have been selected to become a member of the service's "Tops in Blue" entertainment group.

Maldonado-Rosario, a dental technician with the 81st Dental Squadron here, learned he had been selected Jan. 25 when squadron commander Col. (Dr.) Nicholas Miniotis and superintendent Chief Master Sgt. Tracy Putt approached him with the news.

"At first I didn't realize what they were talking about -- they asked me how I'd like to go on a year-long TDY (temporary-duty assignment). Then they told me I had made 'Tops In Blue.' I was really surprised!"

He was equally surprised when he learned earlier he was among the finalists for the team. He had submitted a self-made video to the Air Force entertainment staff -- filmed in his dormitory room with his camera-phone -- and was among the finalists named in November.

The 22-year-old singer said, although he has been singing since he was a child and sang in his high school choir, this was the first time he had actually participated in an audition.

"I sing just about anything but specialized in classical music when I attended college (Inter-American University in San German, Puerto Rico.)"

Maldonado-Rosario, who is from Manati, Puerto Rico,

described the 10-day "Talent Search" tryout Jan. 8-17 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, was "a lot of work, but fun. We would perform in vocal, dancing and specialization auditions from 10 a.m. until 3 the next morning and then be up at 6 a.m. We were told the actual tour, which runs from March 2012 to March 2013, will be much more intense. But I'm ready for it and really look forward to the experience of traveling throughout the U.S. and world."

He expects "Tops in Blue" will return to Keesler so his local "family" will have the opportunity to see him perform with the troupe. He reports to Lackland in mid-March to start the one-year stint.

He added, "I want to thank my family and coworkers who have supported me throughout the process."

"Tops in Blue" is an all active-duty Air Force special unit made up of talented amateur performers selected for their entertainment abilities. According to its website, "Tops in Blue is one of the oldest and most widely traveled entertainment groups of its kind. Composed of 35 to 40 of the most talented vocalists, musicians, dancers and technicians anywhere, their primary purpose is to perform for military personnel and their families throughout the world. However, the enormous popularity of the group has also made them America's goodwill ambassadors around the globe."





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Maria Darasz, Vice President of Ambulatory Care, Wing Memorial Hospital
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