

MEDICAL NEWS

News in Brief

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MADIGAN SAYS GOODBYE TO 'LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE'

By Julie Blakely

JOINT BASE LEWIS — McCHORD, Wash. — The sky was overcast with occasional raindrops, but staff from Madigan Healthcare System, along with Family and friends of Staff Sgt. Cheninblanc M. Iglowitz, gathered to celebrate the life of the Soldier they lovingly called "Little Miss Sunshine."

Iglowitz died on May 2 after an 18-month battle with cancer, and was honored at a memorial ceremony at Four Chaplains Memorial Chapel May 10. The 36-year-old native of Daly City, Calif., worked as a licensed practical nurse on Madigan's Labor and Delivery Unit.

"I was glad to know Chenin as three different people — as a Soldier, as a patient and finally, as a beloved daughter to a wonderful set of parents," said Madigan's Commander Col. Jerry Penner III.

Penner spoke about how Iglowitz's life and perspective changed after the events of Sept. 11. She prayed with her pastor and decided that she needed to serve her country, and two months later, on Nov. 20, 2001, she joined the Army.

"There was a Warrior spirit teeming through Chenin's heart and soul," Penner said. "But her combat tour was not in Iraq or Afghanistan — it was right here at home. I take my cues from the Iglowitz Family who know their daughter's short life should be celebrated instead of mourned. And honestly, that's the only way Chenin would have wanted us to remember her. Today, the glass remains half-full."

According to several of her peers, Iglowitz's positive attitude was her driving force. Lt. Col. Jon Van Steenvort, Troop Command commander, described Iglowitz as someone who never gave up and never complained.

★ See 'LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE' page 2



Photo by Julie Blakel
Madigan Army Medical Center and other community health partners celebrated the life of Staff Sgt. Cheninblanc M. Iglowitz May 10 at Four Chaplains Memorial Chapel at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Iglowitz passed away May 2 after an 18-month battle with cancer.

Military Veterinarians in Iraq tracking animal care electronically

By 51st Medical Detachment
(Veterinary Medicine) Public Affairs

Military working dogs (MWDs) play an important role throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. They sniff out explosives perform sentry duty, as well as contribute to the physical and mental rehabilitation of Service members.

Like their two-legged counterparts, these Soldiers visit local treatment facilities for medical care. One such clinic, operated by the 51st Medical Detachment (Veterinary Medicine) at Balad Airfield, Iraq, treats canines regularly.

There, veterinarians administer care for the local MWD population, seeing about 20 patients per week for wellness visits and sick call. The Balad clinic also treats many more animals with acute conditions, since it also serves as the level III referral treatment facility for every vet detachment throughout Iraq. As such, they provide services that smaller veterinary facilities are unable to perform, including surgery, radiology, laboratory services and intensive care.

Recently, the 51st Medical Detachment performed surgery on a dog that was shot in the face. While treating another patient from suffering acute liver failure with internal bleeding, doctors performed the first transfusion of fresh plasma for a canine in Southwest Asia (SWA). In the process, veterinarians worked with the apheresis section to extract plasma as part of the dog's treatment. Despite their hard work, the animal needed to be euthanized three days after it arrived at the facility.

In January, the Balad vets began documenting animal care electronically. They use the same system used by providers to chart the care for human war fighters—Medical Communication for Combat Casualty Care (MC4).

Cpl. Maria Florez, noncommissioned officer in charge of the veterinary treatment facility at Balad, understood the benefits associated with electronic

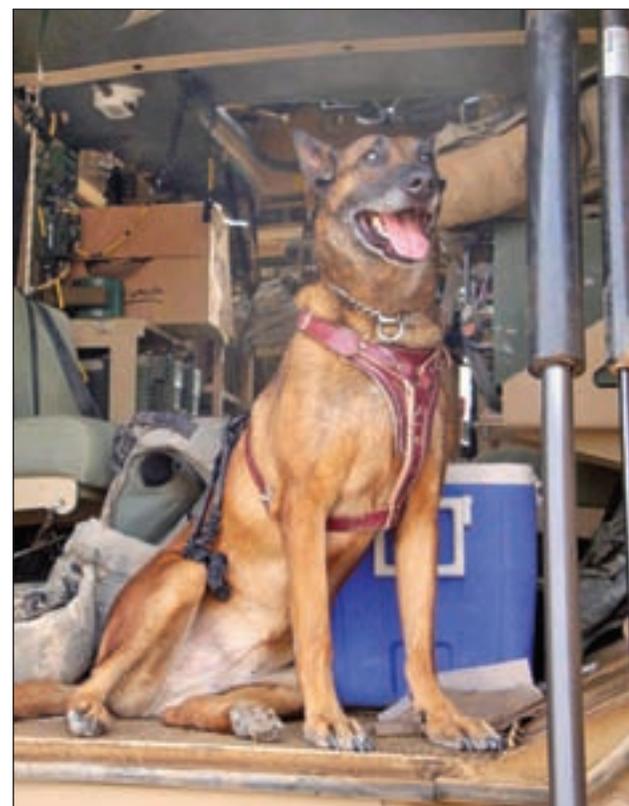


Photo courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Ikka, an Air Force working dog deployed to Balad, Iraq, was the recipient of the first transfusion of fresh plasma for a military working dog in Southwest Asia.

medical records (EMRs) and helped put the system into action.

"Military working dogs undergo a tremendous amount of movement in and out of theater, as well as support various missions," Cpl. Florez said. "It

★ See Veterinarians page 3

INDEX

Madigan pilots new patient safety reporting procedures	page 3
Keesler medic receives Purple Heart	page 5
Classifieds	pages 5-12

★ 'Little Miss Sunshine'

Continued from page 1

"She had an infectious personality," Van Steenvort said. "Chenin was a special person who will leave an indelible mark in the lives of everyone she knew."

After going to visit her in her hospital room recently, Van Steenvort presented Iglowitz with a Troop Command coin. She accepted the coin with gratitude, but told Van Steenvort that she would rather be taking care of patients.

"She will be remembered as a dedicated nurse, a leader, an outstanding Soldier, and a Warrior," Van Steenvort said.

Sgt. 1st Class Wendy Jarvis, who was Iglowitz's non-commissioned officer in charge, loved to have Iglowitz train new employees on the Labor and Delivery Unit because she was such a thorough and patient teacher.

"I admired how she did everything with finesse and professionalism," Jarvis said. "She never said I can't. She just found a way and did it with a smile."

That positive thinking carried her through her illness, and according to

Penner, helped Iglowitz handle her medical challenges with extreme courage.

"Soldiers on the battlefield usually don't know when a bullet or an IED or a piece of shrapnel is going to find them. Chenin, on the other hand, knew quite well. She knew her diagnosis and saw her own mortality," Penner said. "She turned her face to the sound of the guns and faced her enemy with a level of courage that quite honestly would earn most Soldiers in combat a Silver Star or even the Congressional Medal of Honor."

Iglowitz's military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Superior Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

Iglowitz is survived by her parents, Jerome and Christina Iglowitz, and her sister, Mook-Lan Iglowitz.

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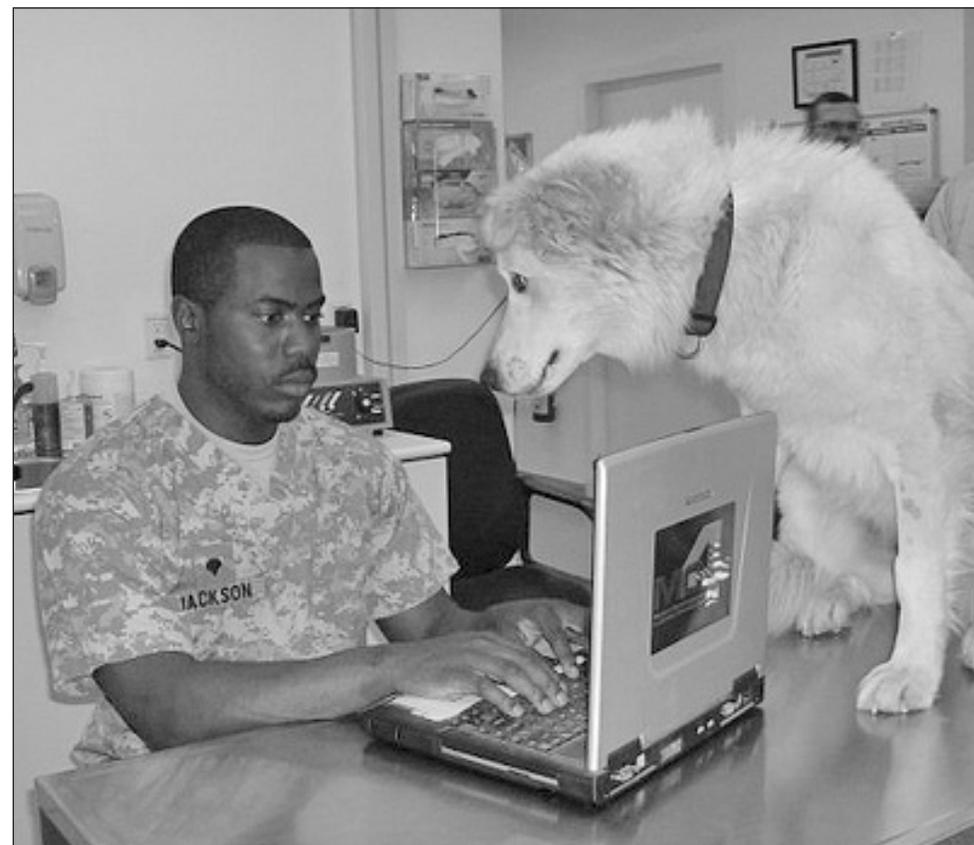
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Photos courtesy of the 51st Medical Detachment (Veterinary Medicine).
Left: Capt. Erin Long, officer in charge of the 51st Medical Detachment (Veterinary Medicine), electronically documents the care administered in the veterinary clinic at Balad Airfield, Iraq, to a military working dog with a fractured leg.

Above: Spc. Jerome Jackson, patient administrator for the 51st Medical Detachment (Veterinary Medicine), registers a military working dog at the veterinary clinic at Balad Airfield, Iraq.

★ Veterinarians

Continued from page 1

“It would be extremely beneficial for providers to access the digital records from any location. With the records stored in a central location, it could help to avoid records from being misplaced or lost while in transition to a new location or treatment facility.”

While veterinarians deployed to theater could benefit from a central database of records for MWDs, the Balad facility is currently the only location electronically charting animal care. The staff currently uses a standalone system and is actively developing new business processes.

“We’ve had some growing pains as we learn to use the system,” said Capt. Erin Long, officer in charge of the 51st Medical Detachment. “Veterinary clinics in garrison typically use a different program, so it is taking us some time to adjust and determine how the animal data properly matches the fields in AHLTA-T [outpatient medical recording application]. We’re developing templates to help streamline the process and also to help standardize the data entry.”

Sgt. David Panaway, noncommissioned officer for the 51st Medical Detachment in Balad, explains that the handlers receive paper copies of the records before they return to their home base. “It allows the local providers to see the care we administered and use the information should similar conditions reappear. Occasionally, handlers arrive at our facility without historical data and we have to call clinics in theater and garrison for the medical histo-

ries. The lack of information slows the treatment process.”

Since the initial deployment of MC4 systems to SWA in 2005, vet detachments have explored the possibility of using EMRs in animal care. After various tests and internal discussions, units decided to continue with paper records.

The 72nd Medical Detachment at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, is the latest to look into the use of the EMR system. While the unit decided not to use the EMR functionality of the MC4 system, the 72nd Medical Detachment utilizes the medical logistics component to order medical supplies for their four-legged patients.

Although Capt. Long’s efforts to digitally chart animal care remains an isolated incident in the larger picture of vet care, she believes that using MC4 in this capacity can help other vet detachments use the system in their clinics.

“We’re helping to generate a medical history for the working animals we see in our clinic,” Capt. Long said. “I’m very proud of what we have been able to accomplish to date. We have some more hurdles to cross before we’re completely comfortable with the system and no longer use the pen and paper. I also believe that if we can be successful with our documentation, others will see that an option is available and in use. As a result, they may be less reluctant to incorporate the system into their clinics.”

Madigan pilots new patient safety reporting procedures

By Lorin T. Smith
 Madigan Healthcare System
 Strategic Communication Office

TACOMA, Wash. – The dangers of medical errors are prevalent in any hospital encounter, both military and civilian. Today, health care experts estimate that one in 10 patients suffers from a medication or non-medication related event while hospitalized.

To combat these dangers and minimize a patient’s risk, Madigan Healthcare System and the Military Health System have partnered to develop a new patient safety reporting pilot that reports patient safety issues anonymously and online. Any staff member can report anything they think is a patient safety issue, like medical errors, patient falls, visitor falls, and equipment problems— all with the use of their Common Access Card.

The patient safety tool was built by the Department of Defense using a commercial-off-the-shelf product that was successfully used throughout the United Kingdom and Canada. With online reporting, staff members can identify more near misses sooner and help prevent serious injuries from occurring in the future, than has been possible with paper reporting, said Marion Christiansen, Madigan’s patient safety manager. “Madigan gets to try it, pilot it and tweak it so it works the best to work well for everyone else in the U.S. Army Medical Command,” Christiansen said.

The DoD’s implementation of patient safety reporting across the Armed Forces will enable standardized reporting of both medication and non-medication patient safety events in the Military Health System. This allows MTFs to improve data collection, streamline processes, track errors and more effectively analyze the captured data. As a result, the MHS can offer faster safety alerts. In addition, the standardized web interface will improve data accuracy, increase data security and reduce paper consumption.

“Patient safety is everyone’s business,” said Defense Health Services Systems Deputy Director of Clinical Support, U.S. Public Health Service Cmdr. Donald Sawyer. “Using patient safety reporting will provide the MHS a greater ability to learn and share safety information,” Sawyer added.

The pilot launched at Madigan in April, will end in July, and the rollout for all MTFs is expected to start in October. “The new program allows better reporting feedback and has awesome outcome graphing tools built into it,” Christiansen said. “Partnering with the DoD’s program only makes our program better, and I’m convinced that this pilot is the right thing for Madigan’s involvement.”

While the new pilot utilizes staff computers, Christiansen emphasized that anyone, including patients, can still call the Patient Safety Hotline at 253-968-3322. (Defense Health Services System contributed to this article.)

Madigan named a Partner for Change, With Distinction awardee

By Lorin T. Smith

Madigan Healthcare System Strategic
Communication Office

Madigan Healthcare System has been awarded the Partner for Change, With Distinction Award from Practice Greenhealth. Madigan received the award May 12 at the CleanMed Conference in Baltimore.

The Partner for Change, With Distinction Award recognizes health care facilities that have achieved improvements in their mercury elimination, waste reduction and pollution prevention programs. This includes at least 15 percent recycling, an extensive sustainability program and a show of leadership in the local community and/or in the health care sector.

Accepting the award for Madigan was Linda Palmer, Logistics' Environmental Services branch. Also playing a pivotal role was Mike Kyser, Preventive Medicine, Environmental Health Services branch. "This award sets Madigan apart from the rest of the Military Treatment Facilities," Kyser said. "Madigan is the model for sustainability and protecting the environment."

Practice Greenhealth is the nation's leading membership and networking organization for institutions in the health care community that have made a commitment to sustainable, eco-friendly practices, according to the Practice Greenhealth Web site.

In 2009, the U.S. Army Medical Command contracted with Weston Solutions to develop a Sustainability Strategic Plan. Madigan had already met or exceeded many of the plan's requirements and MEDCOM nominated the hospital to compete for the Partner for Change award. The award's application process was extremely detailed, asking for a complete overview of Madigan's environmental sustainability programs and successes, Kyser said. "We have adopted the sustainability culture from the leadership on down and that is what makes Madigan stand out from the rest."

Some of the hospital's successes include:

- Green Committee Sub-Committee of Safety and Environment of Care — The Green Committee meets monthly to determine ways to promote initiatives in support of Joint Base Lewis-



Photo by Julie Blakely

Bobbie Clark, Strategic Communication Office, recycles a plastic bottle in one of Madigan's dozens of waste and recycling receptacles located throughout the hospital and surrounding clinics. Madigan Healthcare System received the Partner for Change, With Distinction award from Practice Greenhealth May 12.

McChord and MEDCOM's sustainability strategic goals and objectives. "Our Green Committee is the leader for all of MEDCOM in implementing the strategic sustainability plans," Palmer said. "The committee members feel strongly about sustainability and really want to make a difference for the environment."

- Earned "Most Consistent Recycler" Award from Army Garrison Joint Base

Lewis-McChord.

- Madigan is virtually mercury-free, and was the first hospital in MEDCOM to receive the accomplishment "The Making Medicine Mercury Free Award" by Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (now Practice Greenhealth). Madigan has set strict benchmarks for mercury elimination. Only mercury-free hospitals are able to apply for the Partner for Change award. "We were the first in

MEDCOM to be mercury-free, first to receive the Partner for Change award, and the first when it comes to sustainability," Palmer said.

- More than 40 percent of solid waste has been diverted from a landfill. The Partner for Change, With Distinction award required only a diversion rate of 15 percent.

- Robust Rideshare program — Madigan encourages employees to find alternative transportation methods to come to work. Staff members can establish a van or car pool, ride the bus or walk or bike to work. Currently, about 10 percent of the staff uses one of these alternative methods instead of driving a single-occupancy vehicle.

Palmer and Kyser work closely together to integrate other departments into a sustainability culture. Credit-card holders can only buy cleaning products that can be put safely down the drain and will not harm fish. Contracting and Materials must find a product that is mercury-free or look for a substitute. "By bringing more individuals within the facility on board, we really make this a team effort and everyone has buy-in," Palmer said.

The new Nisqually Family Medicine Clinic scheduled to open soon has been certified by Leadership Energy and Environmental Design as a "Gold" standard building, and is the first in MEDCOM to achieve that rating. The new clinic's restroom stalls are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act by having the capability to swing both ways and can be unlocked from the outside. The building has many initiatives to recover recyclable materials, there are plug-in outlets for electric motor vehicles and parking spaces have been designated for low-emission vehicles. All future MEDCOM buildings will be certified as being at least LEED "Silver."

MEDCOM has defined a successful sustainability program as one that "recognizes the need for an organization to accomplish its mission and be both financially and environmentally responsible while also contributing to and protecting the surrounding community." Madigan's sustainability program has been recognized by both MEDCOM and JBLM as meeting and exceeding these goals, and is a major factor to why the hospital won this award, Kyser said.



Keesler medic receives Purple Heart

By Steve Pivnick
81st Medical Group Public Affairs

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — Master Sgt. Kenneth Gestring, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, was honored Tuesday with the Purple Heart for wounds he suffered while deployed to Afghanistan.

Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Kory Cornum, 81st Medical Group commander, pinned the award on Sergeant Gestring during a ceremony in the hospital's Don Wylie Auditorium as family, friends and coworkers looked on.

Sergeant Gestring, 81st MSGS anesthesia flight superintendent, was wounded Jan. 6 while assigned to the Combined Joint Task Force 82, 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Mountain Warrior, as the senior medic for a provincial reconstruction team in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

Background on the incident stated, "While on a dismounted combat patrol, his medical skills proved critical following an anti-Afghan forces sub-munitions attack. He provided care under fire without regard to his own personnel safety and injuries he sustained from the blast. He triaged and rendered treatment to nine other injured coalition forces and three Afghan National Police. His immediate response and swift tactical treatment during this mass casualty event saved their lives by preventing their injuries from becoming life threatening. Due to his superior medical skills,

all coalition forces returned to duty with a full recovery."

Sergeant Gestring said he had been hit in the back body armor by five pieces of shrapnel and three more in the leg with two pieces ricocheting, one going through his calf and underlying skin.

After treating the other wounded at the site, they returned to the forward operating base, where he redressed their wounds. Once he had taken care of them, ensured they were situated and completed necessary paperwork, he immediately contacted his wife, Corina.

"I would Skype and video cam with her daily," he said. "If I didn't, she knew either I was on a mission or something was wrong. I was upfront with her, telling her I had been injured but that I was all right and had taken care of all the other personnel. She was worried, that's for sure. I tried to reassure her I was OK, although I was still limping. She seemed to handle it pretty well -- she's a strong woman."

The wound had resulted in some nerve damage, Sergeant Gestring explained, and the shrapnel was removed the next week.

Sergeant Gestring, a veteran of 24 years of Air Force service, came to Keesler in December 2008 and was selected for deployment shortly after arrival. After training for 2½ months, he left for Afghanistan in June, returning in March.



U.S. Air Force photo by Kemberly Groue

From left, Military Order of the Purple Heart members Pringle Jordan Jr. from Pascagoula Chapter 682 and Mike Bass and James Jackson from Biloxi Chapter 676 salute the flag as the Keesler Honor Guard posts the colors at the May 4 ceremony at which Master Sgt. Kenneth Gestring received the Purple Heart. Sergeant Gestring, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, received the award for wounds he suffered in January in Afghanistan.



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We provide acute medical-surgical, rehab/extended and psychiatric care, and deliver a broad range of primary care and multi-specialty outpatient services. VA Central Iowa includes the Des Moines Campus with Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC's) in Knoxville, Fort Dodge, Marshalltown, and Mason City. There are many exciting things happening at our VA, such as the opening of a brand new Community Living Center and expanding the services available to our Veterans through another CBOC addition. Competitive pay and benefits.

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Physicians

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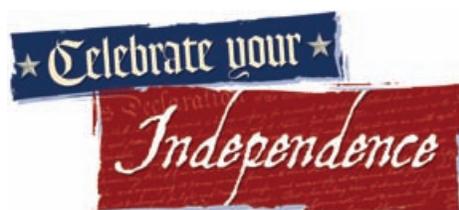
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