

U.S. Army Medical Command/  
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# MEDCOM NOW

## USO proclaims Nurse Corps chief Woman of Year

The United Service Organizations (USO) of Metropolitan New York honored Maj. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho as Woman of the Year. Horoho is commander of Madigan Army Medical Center and Western Regional Medical Command. She also is chief of the Army Nurse Corps.

The annual award recognizes women who demonstrate their commitment to supporting service members and their Families.

“I know how USOs boost the morale of service members worldwide and understand how they serve

as a link between the service members, their Families and the American people,” Horoho said.

Horoho’s career has placed her on the firing line during two American tragedies. She was head nurse of the emergency department at Womack Army Medical Center when more than 100 Soldiers were injured during an airplane crash at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. She also was one of the first medical providers to respond to the terrorist attack on the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

For more information, [click here](#).



Miss USO 2009 Heidi-Marie Ferren, Stephen J. Scheffer and Brian C. Whiting present Maj. Gen. Patricia Horoho the military Woman of the Year award.



Lt. Col. Greg Gadson practices walking with his new prosthetic knees while his son, Jaelen, observes.

## Powered prosthetic offers more mobility

A new prosthetic leg being introduced at Walter Reed Army Medical Center may make it possible for above-the-knee amputees to walk with increased confidence, safety and a more natural gait.

For more information, [click here](#).

# ***Grueling competition selects MEDCOM's best warriors of year***

Sergeant David Dasilma, 28, originally from Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, and with MEDDAC Korea, won the title of MEDCOM NCO of the Year "Best Warrior". He has served three years in the Army.

Earning Soldier of the Year honors was Spc. Jonathan Jordan, 25, from Marietta, Ga., and with the Fort Huachuca, Ariz., MEDDAC. Jordan had the least Army service time compared to all the other candidates, with only a year and a half.

The competition was held March 29 to April 3 and was hosted by the Western Regional Medical Command and Madigan Army Medical Center. This was the first time the event was not held at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, the home of MEDCOM.

The tests included a written exam, essay, oral board, Army Physical Fitness Test, day and night urban navigation, rifle marksmanship, tactical scenarios, rescue a "drowning" person from a swimming pool, and a combatives tournament.

"We are proud of each and every one of you, and the training and development programs for these Soldiers is what it is all about," said MEDCOM Command Sergeant Major CSM Althea Dixon.

For more information [click here](#).

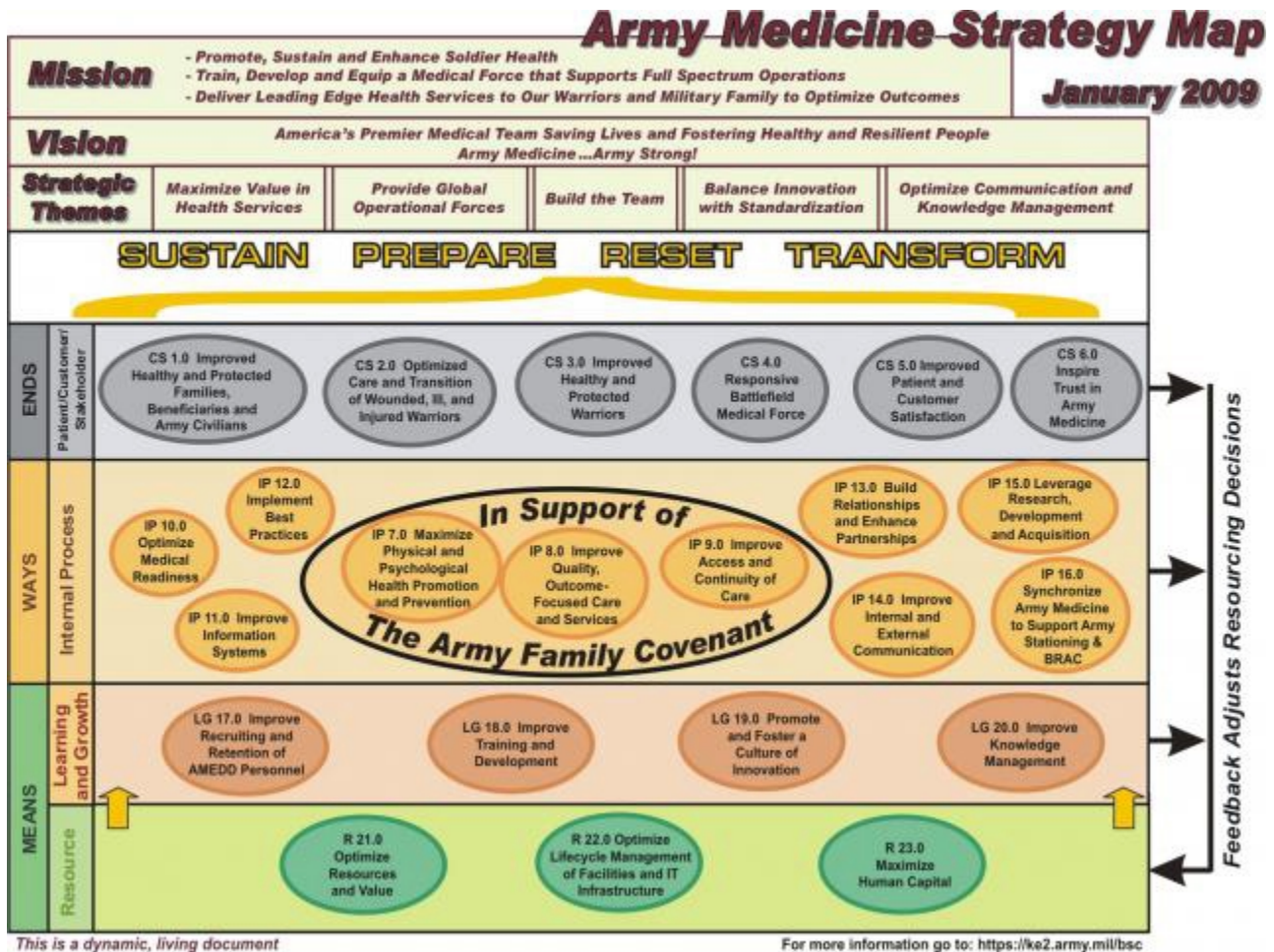
For a profile of NCO of the Year Sgt. David Dasilma, [click here](#).



Sgt. David Dasilma (left) immunizations NCO from MEDDAC Korea, and Spec. Jonathan Jordan (right) medical supply specialist from Fort Huachuca, Ariz., MEDDAC won the titles of MEDCOM Best Warrior-NCO and Best Warrior-Soldier, respectively.



Sgt. David Dasilma works with Soldiers at Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital in Yongsan, Korea.



# MEDCOM Balanced Scorecard cascades to regions, units

Regional medical commands have briefed Medical Command Commander LTG Eric B. Schoomaker on alignment of their Balanced Scorecards with that of

MEDCOM. This year the AMEDD corps and individual medical treatment facilities will follow a similar process. Schoomaker has indicated that

what is most important is having every member of the command understand how he or she supports the BSC. For more information, click here.

**DoD comptroller honors MEDCOM personnel**

Michael K. Johnson and Maria Jordan of the finance and accounting division at MEDCOM Headquarters were selected for Financial Management Awards presented by The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) These were the only Army award winners.

## Soldiers get better legal counsel for medical board process

Legal outreach counsels assigned to Warrior Transition Units are helping medically-boarded Soldiers understand the process and ensure their rights are respected.

They are legal advocates for Soldiers whose injuries or medical conditions might force them to leave the service. However, they don't just represent wounded war-

riors; they provide assistance to any Soldier who is in the process of being medically separated from the Army.

For more information, [click here](#).

## Lab NCO joins Sgt. Audie Murphy Club

Sgt. Melinda Griffin served an Army at war for five years, preserved her marriage through deployment and became a rising star among noncommissioned officers — all by the age of 24.

Griffin works in the laboratory at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., MEDDAC. She also volunteers in the personnel section. On March 17, Griffin was inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

Sgt. 1st Class April Summers, noncommissioned officer in charge of the lab, gave Griffin high praise.

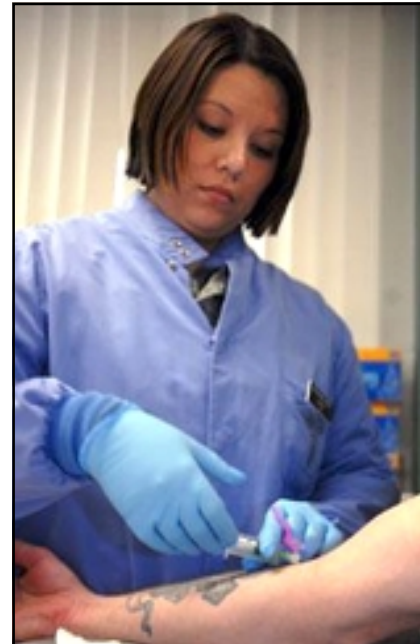
“She is an outstanding worker, she has a positive attitude, she goes out of her way to help her junior Soldiers and the rest of the

Soldiers within the unit,” Summers said. “She sends care packages downrange for our deployed Soldiers and officers. She is always ready for any situation and presents herself in a professional manner.”

But it wasn't always that way for Griffin. She said she transformed herself from a Soldier who had problems meeting weight and physical training requirements as well as attitude issues.

Griffin said there were two major turning points in her life: attending the Warrior Leader Course and getting married to Sgt. Luke Griffin.

For more information, [click here](#).



Laboratory NCO Sgt. Melinda Griffin draws a blood sample for a cholesterol check.

## Clinic work leads patient to medical career

Spc. Shaun Crow needed to work while recovering at Baumholder Army Health Clinic, Germany, so he took a job at the clinic, which led to the idea of becoming an emergency medical technician.

He studied for three

weeks at a course given in Landstuhl, covering everything from administering medication to patching up trauma injuries. At the end, he passed a written test and a nine-part, hands-on exam, earning a professional certificate.

“He took the initiative

to make sure that he could transition from the Army to civilian life,” said 1SG Michael Clevenger. “That certification makes it so he can get a civilian job. And we want to encourage others here to do the same.”

Crow will continue to

study when he returns to North Carolina, with the goal of becoming a nurse.

“In a way, I'm going from taking someone's life to saving someone's life,” he said.

For more information, [click here](#).

## Leaders sign covenants promising quality care

Throughout the Army, hospital, installation and Warrior Transition Unit commanders and noncommissioned officers are signing the Warrior Care Covenant, promising to provide the care and support needed by Warriors in Transition.

“This shows, in writing, how well we’re going to take care of each other,” said Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Lester Williams of the Warrior Transition Battalion at Fort Gordon, Ga.

For more information, see:  
Fort Gordon  
Fort Carson



Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Lester Williams signs the covenant for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center Warrior Transition Battalion.



Col. Kelly A. Wolgast signs the covenant at Fort Carson, Colo.

## Two medics make All Army chess team

Capt. Chris Pitts from William Beaumont Army Medical Center claimed the title of Army chess champion during a tournament at Fort Myer, Va., April 4-10.

Spec. Jhonel Boniel of Landstuhl Regional Medical Center also made the All Army team that will compete for the interservice championship.

Pitts is a 12-year veteran of the chess team and only the second All-Army champion to win the round-robin with no losses (his final record was seven wins and four draws).

He said he noticed this year how

much physical fitness helps mental fitness. Processing the possible outcomes of a move and concentrating on the board is tiring, he said, and he definitely felt more up to the task this year than in years previous.

“These guys are good players. They make it really tough to win. You have to have a lot of mental stamina,” Pitts said. “You’re watching for every possible consequence, and you’re always watching and paying attention to the board.”

For more information, [click here](#).



All-Army Chess Tournament Champion Capt. Chris Pitts, from William Beaumont Army Medical Center.



This aerial view shows the new Forward Operating Base Courage training area at Camp Bullis, Texas.

## New facility boosts training

A new training site, Forward Operating Base Courage, which offers realistic, state-of-the-art training for combat medics was unveiled March 20 at Camp Bullis, Texas.

The 25-acre site features a layout much like FOBs in Iraq and Afghanistan, including guard towers, bunkers and entrance gates.

For more information, [click here](#).

## Fort Knox begins ENT service

Ireland Army Community Hospital at Fort Knox, Ky., has been without an otolaryngologist since 2002. That changed Feb. 1 when Dr. Euclid Isbell Jr. began seeing patients in the hospital's ear, nose and throat clinic.

"We see patients for all disorders of the ear, nose, and throat," said Isbell.

The clinic treats sinus and ear infections, problems with allergies, tonsils, and adenoids, and nose bleeds. One of the most common conditions treated is sleep apnea.

For more information, [click here](#).

## Fort Drum clinic named for first dentist

The former North Riva Ridge Dental Clinic at Fort Drum, N.Y., was memorialized March 31 in honor of Capt. John Sayre Marshall, the first commissioned dental officer in the U.S. Army.

"Capt. John Sayre Marshall opened an office in Cato, N.Y., in 1869, and later practiced in Waterford and Syracuse, just short drives from this clinic. He was commissioned first lieutenant, Dental Corps, on April 13, 1911; then on June

17, 1911, retired in the rank of captain, which was granted to him by reason of his service in the Civil War," said Col. Bonita Pruitt, DENTAC commander.

Three of Marshall's great-granddaughters thanked the men and women in uniform for their service, and presented Pruitt with an 1897 book written by their great-grandfather, for display within the clinic.

For more information, [click here](#).



Gathered before a portrait of Capt. John Sayre Marshall, for which the dental clinic at Fort Drum, N.Y., is named, are (left to right) Col. Bonita L. Pruitt; Master Sgt. Tina L. Pirofsky; Sharon Johnson, Christine Steigelman and Jackie Marshall, great-granddaughters of Marshall; Sgt. Maj. William R. Fitzgerald; Col. Priscilla Hamilton and Col. Donald L. Gebhart.