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MEDCOM NOW

Walter Reed celebrates centennial

From April 27 to May 1, Walter Reed Army Medical Center will celebrate the medical center's 100 years of caring for America's service members, retirees and their Families with a series of special events.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Staff Sgt. Randy Maurer (right), a medic serving with Company C, 299th Brigade Support "Lifeline" Battalion, shows the inside of a Heavy Armored Ground Ambulance to Command Sgt. Maj. Althea Dixon, senior enlisted advisor to the Army Surgeon General.

Top NCO visits troops

With top leaders in the U.S. Army naming 2009 as the "Year of the Noncommissioned Officer," the Army's senior medic flew from Fort Sam Houston, Texas to Camp Liberty to meet with Multi-National Division-Baghdad's Army medical enlisted leaders and Soldiers.

Medical Command's Command Sgt. Maj. Althea Dixon, senior enlisted advisor to the Army Surgeon General, paid a visit to medical Soldiers serving with the 299th Brigade Support "Lifeline" Battalion, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, at the Riva Ridge Troop Medical Clinic on Camp

Liberty March 5.

"One of the [reasons for] my visit was to see our medical people and to take a look at the services they are providing. Everybody knows the great medical support the Soldier's get when they are deployed," said Dixon.

"As the senior medic in the Army, I try my best to meet and talk with each and every medical Soldier, or as many of them as I can, and hear their concerns and ideas," she said.

"I am so proud of what these folks are doing out here. They are well trained, they are highly motivated and they are all about service, so I am really pleased at what I have seen so far," Dixon added.

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



SGT Nate Hunt improves balance by surfing at the Center for the Intrepid.

CFI marks two years of service

The Center for the Intrepid, a high tech rehabilitation facility at Brooke Army Medical Center, celebrated its second anniversary open house Jan. 29.

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

Hospital Corps marks anniversary

Noncommissioned officers and enlisted Soldiers of the Army Medical Department celebrated the anniversary of the Hospital Corps, established on March 1, 1887.

The corps gave professional recognition to Soldiers serving in Army hospitals and performing "all necessary hospital functions in garrison, camp or field (including ambulance service)."

MEDCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Althea Dixon noted 2009 has been designated the "Year of the NCO." She said MEDCOM is issuing all AMEDD enlisted medics a copy of General Order 29 establishing the Hospital Corps to help them learn the roots and history of enlisted medical Soldiers.

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



(Left to right) Command Sgt. Maj. Howard Riles of the AMEDD Center and School; Maj. Gen. Russell Czerw, commander of the Center and School; Sgt. Daniel Farrier, 2008 MEDCOM Soldier of the Year; and MEDCOM's Command Sgt. Maj. Althea Dixon cut the Hospital Corps' birthday cake at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Army nurses celebrate corps anniversary



(Left to right) Lt. Col. Jennifer Petersen, Capt. LaTonya Walker, Capt. Anna Stull, Sgt. 1st Class Latisha Robertson, Capt. Anthony Cooper, Lt. Col. Mimi Velosho and Maj. Paula Vincent of Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center fold the U.S. flag during a retreat ceremony at Fort Meade, Md., to honor the 108th anniversary of the Army Nurse Corps.

The Army Nurse Corps celebrated its 108th anniversary Feb. 2, with a new campaign based on the slogan "embrace the past, engage the present, envision the future."

The number of nurses in the Army Nurse Corps peaked during World War II with more than 57,000 members. That number is now down to about 3,000.

"Few appreciate a nurse more than I do," said Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center Com-

mander Col. Christopher Castle, noting that he has undergone several surgeries and has had Family members born in military hospitals around the country.

"Nurses have a lot of compassion, but also have a lot of practical advice," he said. "I want to thank you all for that. ... You are the soul of Army medicine."

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



Leaders sign Warrior Care Covenants

(Left to right) Col. Thomas Macdonald, Fort Benning garrison commander, Maj. Gen. Michael Barbero, Fort Benning commanding general, Col. Harry Warren, Martin Army Community Hospital commander, and Lt. Col. Sean Mulcahey, Warrior Transition Battalion commander, sign the Army Warrior Healthcare Covenant.



Capt. Jaison Bloom, commander of Fort Meade's Warrior Transition Unit, signs the Army's Warrior Healthcare Covenant.

For more information click:

- Fort Benning
- Fort Lewis
- Fort Meade
- Fort Sill
- West Point



Warrior in Transition Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Turnball (left) looks on as his wife Sunee signs the Warrior Care Covenant at Madigan Army Medical Center.



West Point Garrison Commander Col. Dan Bruno, left; Col. Mike Deaton, Keller Army Community Hospital commander; and Capt. Curtis Edwards, West Point Warrior Transition Unit commander, sign the Army Warrior Healthcare Covenant.

History comes alive at Belvoir

Fort Belvoir, Va., MEDDAC saw living history during celebration of the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., as Howard Maxwell, a former "Buffalo soldier" of the 9th Cavalry Regiment, spoke to hospital staff members.

The grandson of a slave, Maxwell enlisted in

the Army at age 18 and served as a horse-mounted cavalry Soldier in 1943.

Maxwell now is a retired social worker and director of a mental health clinic specializing in substance abuse in Washington D.C.

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



Command Sgt. Maj. James Diggs, North Atlantic Regional Medical Command (left), talks with Howard Maxwell, former Buffalo soldier with the 9th Cavalry Regiment. Howard was the guest speaker at DeWitt Army Community Hospital's observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

Provost marshal employee retires after 49 years

Hank Ross, who served 49 years of combined military and civilian service, including work at Medical Command's provost marshal office

since 1980, retired Feb. 20. He was responsible for many physical security upgrades during the global war on terrorism.

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

Madigan doctor receives DoD African American Award

Lt. Col. Franklin Wood was named one of the recipients of Department of Defense African American History Month Recognition Awards for 2009. Wood is chief of the adolescent medicine clinic at Madigan Army Medical Center. He has instituted changes including longer hours of operation to better serve adolescent patients.

"He is a dedicated physician and educator and represents the African American community with dignity and diligence," wrote Col. Ronald Place, deputy hospital commander.

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



Lt. Col Franklin Wood, chief of the adolescent medicine clinic at Madigan Army Medical Center, poses with patient Christian Fountain in front of a mural painted by Wood at the clinic.



Case manager Tim Elmore and TBI services director Dr. Lynley Ebeling represent the traumatic brain injury program at Fox Army Health Center.

New TBI service passes review

Redstone Arsenal, Ala., MEDDAC recently formed a new program to help Soldiers with traumatic brain injuries get back to functioning at normal levels. It recently passed its required review by Medical Command.

For more information, click here.

Neurologist strives to understand TBI cases

Maj. Shawna Sculley, the Army's senior neurologist in Europe, has been working for three years to understand traumatic brain injuries and the culture that used to shun the idea of seeking help.

"It used to be I would see Soldiers who had been sent to hospital for a chapter physical," she said. "Today, we are getting Soldiers from commanders who, instead of saying 'this guy is broke, get rid of him' are saying, 'this guy is stellar, get him back for me.'"

For more information, click here.

Heidelberg medic helps car crash victims



Sgt. Latoddia S. Maze takes Vencent Galvan's temperature during an exam at the Heidelberg Health Center.

Sgt. Latoddia S. Maze, a medic at the Heidelberg, Germany, Health Center, assisted two people whose car had left the German autobahn and struck a tree.

"Sgt. Maze was one of the first to come to the scene of the accident and provided first aid in an exemplary manner," said Peter Watzl, the local police superintendent.

Maze's initial actions helped keep the passengers stable. Emergency teams then cut the vehicle open to free the passengers and evacuated them to a hospital.

Maze said his actions that morning were a product of his Army training and his devotion to saving lives.

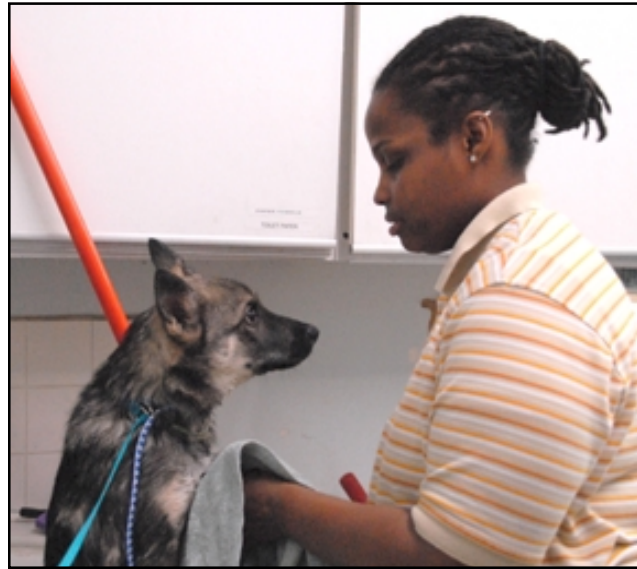
For more information, click here.

New best friends get help from WTU Soldiers

Soldiers recuperating at Walter Reed Army Medical Center take classes in animal behavior and practice training dogs twice a week at the Humane Society. The dogs get training that makes them more adoptable and some much-needed at-

tention. The Soldiers get out of the hospital with something to take their minds off their treatments or medical boards. They get exercise, affection and some positive re-enforcement.

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



Spc. Kimberlyn Blake dries off puppy Emmett after learning how to give him a bath at the Washington Humane Society.

Fort Lee WTU addresses issues

The Warrior in Transition Unit at Fort Lee, Va., was activated in February 2008, and has grown in unit strength and support.

The unit has grown to 54 wounded warriors and has a much larger staff to provide care and support. This includes four nurse case managers, two primary care managers and a support staff including two human resource technicians, a training coordinator, a social

worker, a financial advisor, a Family Readiness Support Assistant and a contract representative among others. Also, the Army Community Service supports wounded warriors with a Soldier and Family Assistance Center that has a staff of four who assist the Soldier and their Family as a whole.

The Fort Lee WTU has been proactive to increase support for its wounded warriors, said Col.

Donna Diamond, health clinic commander.

"It's an evolving program," said Diamond. "This type of rehabilitation support had never been done before. As things come about and we go through the process, we recognize we need this or we need that or we need to change this or we need to change that. We feel we've adjusted accordingly."

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

Joint chief's chairman praises new SFAC at Campbell

The construction of a new Soldier and Family Assistance Center at Fort Campbell, Ky., underscores the nation's commitment to those who sacrifice so much, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said during a groundbreaking ceremony.

"The entire capability of the SFAC - but the broader commitment to men and women who've been wounded and the support of their Families - is one we have spoken to [and] have invested in," Navy Adm. Mike Mullen said. "Today is certainly a critical day in terms of

meeting that commitment."

The 15,000 square-foot center will be the focal point of the future Warriors in Transition complex, an overall 18-month, \$43 million endeavor.

"This groundbreaking of this world-class facil-

ity, which we'll soon be able to inhabit, goes a long way to ensuring that we can provide that outstanding health care to our Soldiers and their Families for years to come," said Col. Richard Thomas, hospital commander.

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



Nurse practitioner becomes Fellow

Cindy Cooke, Nurse Practitioner (CRNP) at Fox Army Health Center, Redstone Arsenal, Ala. was recently selected as a 2009 Fellow in the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.



First Algood award presented

Maj. Gen. Russel Czerw, commander of the AMEDD Center and School, presents the Brian D. Allgood Award to Spec. Mark Pilar as distinguished honor graduate of the 68W course.

For more information, click here.



Lt. Col. Edward Falta (left) and Dr. Rahul Jindal of Walter Reed Army Medical Center Organ Transplant Service, perform the first kidney transplant operation in Guyana.

Doctors bring kidney transplants to Guyana

Lt. Col. Edward Falta, chief of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center organ transplant service, and Dr. Rahul Jindal, assistant chief, performed the first kidney transplant in the South American country of Guyana last July, and returned for the country's second kidney transplant in February.

It took four months to set up the

infrastructure necessary to perform the procedure at Georgetown Public Hospital prior to the initial operation. Falta said there were no special challenges in the second transplant, other than the lack of medications and monitoring methods readily available in the United States.

For more information, click here.

Worker overcomes colitis

Patrick McKinney, safety and occupational health specialist at Fort Detrick, Md., was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis at 15 years old. His struggles, including multiple surgeries, his mother's death, his daughter's death, his divorce, and the diagnosis of ulcerative coli-

tis in his oldest son, recently were recognized with a regional Great Comebacks Award from an organization formed by former pro football player Rolf Benirschke to provide information and inspiration to those with the disease.

For more information, click here.



Soldiers treat casualties from a simulated IED blast during an exercise at the Medical Simulation Training Center at Fort Lewis, Wash., which uses techniques based on the principles of Tactical Combat Casualty Care.

Soldiers learn about combat care

The Medical Simulation Training Center at Fort Lewis, Wash., has an array of courses that teach life-saving techniques

based on the principles of Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TC3) including Combat Medical Advanced Skills, Basic Life

Support CPR, EMT National Registry as well as the EMT Refresher course.

The center's broad-

and-butter course, however, is the Combat Life-saver course.

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

Medics meet extreme challenges to earn EFMB

Statistically, the Expert Field Medical Badge is one of the toughest badges a Soldier can earn. With an attrition rate of 84.7 percent in 2008, only the best of the best ever get pinned.

Testing for the EFMB includes a written test, a day and night land

navigation test, three different combat testing lanes and a 12-mile road march.

Soldiers who fail any part of the testing as the week goes on are dismissed, leaving only a fraction of those who began testing once the final day arrives.

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



West Point psychology classes meet Army leaders in Europe

Six members of the West Point Behavioral Sciences and Leadership Department cut classes Feb 23-28 to educate the active Army.

According to Col. Tom Kolditz, the group was invited by Gen. Carter F. Ham, commander of the Army in Europe, to spend three

days with 26 of his general officers and senior executive service civilian equivalents and their spouses to discuss the head-on approach to un-

derstanding the psychology of deployment, combat experience and redeployment on Army Soldiers and their Families.

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

Troops train for combat

Eight medics "deployed" to Liberty City training area at Fort Sill, Okla., for Combat Medic Advanced Skills Training and gained more than completion of an annual training requirement.

CMAST is part of the Army's Medical Education and Demonstration of Individual Competence, or MEDIC, program that familiarizes, refreshes and recertifies combat medics on lifesaving techniques

and procedures.

Since August the hands-on portion moved outdoors providing more meaningful training to the 57 medics who've completed the training so far.

"On today's modern battlefield, leaders need to be creative and critical thinkers, and able to adapt regardless of the situation," said Fort Sill MEDDAC's Command Sgt. Maj. Ray Mixon.

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



Staff Sgt. James Wilson Jr. puts finishing touches on the new pharmacy he built at Jalalabad Airfield, Afghanistan.

Medic builds pharmacy in Afghanistan

Staff Sgt. James Wilson Jr., a pharmacy technician with C Company, 710th Brigade Support Battalion, built from scratch a pharmacy to serve the Level II medical facility at Jalalabad Airfield in Afghanistan. He expects it to be fully functional with computers, a pill counter and label printer within a few weeks.

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



Pfc. Michell Lefave calls in casualty information and requests a helicopter MEDEVAC during a training exercise at Fort Sill..