



Fort Detrick The Standard

A Sustainable Community of Excellence



Wolfe Delights in Spreading Seasonal Spirit

By Jenni Benson

USAG Public Affairs

Over the years you've seen the oversized wreath take shape at Veterans gate during the holiday season. Adorned with live greens, red ribbon and finished off with a portrait of two doves and lights, the Fort Detrick wreath is truly a work of art.

Some of you may have seen the wreath come together over the years and have said to the artist, "beautiful job," while some of you drive past and wonder how it got there.

Well, let's meet the man behind the Fort Detrick wreath. Jerry Wolfe has been at Fort Detrick since 1985 and is currently working as a Sheet Metal Mechanic with the Directorate of Public Works.

Jerry is active in his church, as well as an avid gardener and farmer who often shares his bounty, bringing in fresh tomatoes and other vegetables for his coworkers throughout the year.

"I can't remember who came up with the idea to fabricate the large wreath, but about the second year after I got here, which would've been 1987, the Sheet Metal and Welding Shop designed and built the wreath," said Wolfe.

Each year, the wreath is erected

prior to the Fort Detrick Tree Lighting event and takes several days to complete.

"It takes a good three days to work on it," said Wolfe. "This year I had good weather, but I would do it in the rain or snow. I think it's important and, since it's right at the front of the gate, it has to look great."

"It takes truckloads of pine and I tie it together with plastic ties," Wolfe continued.

"This year I used blue spruce, which is a little harder to work with, but it works so nice in the wreath. The trees were coming down, so I just use what trees I have available since they are down anyway. The blue spruce is brutal on my hands and you have to handle it carefully, but it's worth it, the end product comes out really nice."

"This is one of my favorite things to do. If the wreath brings joy to one person then that makes me happy and keeps me going."

Well Jerry, I think it's safe to say that the wreath brings joy to more than just one.

If you haven't seen it at night, it's a beautiful piece of art work; a sign of hope and peace in a world that may seem a little hectic, especially



Photo by Jenni Benson, USAG Public Affairs

Jerry Wolfe is the man behind the holiday wreath at Veterans Gate. For over 20 years Wolfe has been bringing holiday cheer to the people of Fort Detrick with this work of art.

this time of year.

It's a good reminder to stop and appreciate the beauty around you. "It's a pleasure doing it knowing that it will be enjoyed by the people here at Fort Detrick," said Wolfe. "I am so blessed to do this each year because I've been so blessed in my life. It's amazing how God has worked throughout my life, and it's a joy to give back in this way."

Commentary: One Big Family



**Command Sgt. Maj.
Franklin D. Jordan**
USAG Command Sgt. Maj.

Often times, it is said cousins are your first friends. We look forward to family reunions and summer break to catch up and reconnect. We would laugh while talking about a new crush, or beg to attend a party with the guise of, my cousin will be there. After departing and settling in back home, we would anxiously wait for the mailman, crossing our fingers there would be a letter or package for us. Today, we have emails, text messages and video chat to keep us connected with our friends and family. We no longer have to miss a special moment. That same team inspired relationship established with our friends and family, should also be in the work place.

We all need our battle buddy where we can bounce ideas, vent, have someone cover down and assist us while navigating this course of life, while at work. Our battle always has our back.

My Battlefield Circulation is an opportunity to see the workforce firsthand and to thank you all for a job well done. During this time, I have observed numerous operations across the installation, and even identified areas needing extra guidance. What catches my eye quickly is how your team operates within the organization.

Together Everyone Achieves Much (TEAM). When working together as a team, we should have the same goals and mission to move forward.

What does teamwork look like in an office? A group of organized, synchronized people who are competent, understand one another and can step in and assist in the midst of absence. The office will have standards, pride and effective communication. Remember, there is no "I" in TEAM.

If components of teamwork are lacking in your office, how should you start to implement change? Go back to the basics. Put aside personal feelings, and focus on the mission and commonalities that draw people together. Approach your team with an open palm. People can sense if there is a hidden agenda or if your sincerity is not genuine. Start with synchronization huddles. Get an understanding as to what is going on in the office; identify where people are needed and express how the needs impact the team. Focus on your verbal and nonverbal communication; is it effective? Is your team or battle buddy receiving the message you are delivering? Are you listening to understand or to respond? Set team norms concerning how often to communicate and the methods used to share important tasks and messages. Incorporate off-sites to help with team building such as team lunches or outings. Get out of the office and learn each other beyond completing a project. Get involved with activities across the installation such as indoor dodge ball, volleyball or even the next cardboard regatta.

As we continue further into the holidays, think about your battle buddies. Ensure everyone has someplace to go and does not feel being alone is their only option. Now is the ideal time to extend an olive branch if it is needed or institute new teamwork practices as we are jolly and sharing in holiday cheer. Remember, a Soldier cannot make it alone and neither can you. We are one team and we need everyone to return safely.

To my civilian workforce, we are one big family. You are a warfighter, even without wearing a uniform. Your support greatly assists us with accomplishing our daily mission, and it is a tremendous value added. Each of you are in this with us and I believe you have the same desired outcome when it is all said and done. Let us continue to be One Team, One Mission, We Support and We Defend!

We are an Army Professional Team. What we do every day affects each other. Stay safe and celebrate this Holiday Season Safely.

Tree Lighting Kicks-Off Fort Detrick's Holiday Season



Photo by Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation

By Nick Minecci
USAG Public Affairs

Soldiers, civilians and family members gathered on Blue and Grey Field Dec. 1 for the annual installation holiday tree lighting.

As a wintry wind buffeted the crowd, the Frederick High School choir, under the direction of Ken Lewis, entertained the crowd with songs from the holiday season; followed by remarks from U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and Fort Detrick Commanding General Maj. Gen. Barbra R. Holcomb.

After wishing everyone happy holidays and talking about the spirit of the holiday season, Holcomb gathered the children in attendance around the tree and, after counting down from three, the tree was lit to applause and cheers. The children were then surprised when, on the back of a 1939 Ahren Fox fire engine from United Steam Fire Engine Co., # 3, Santa Claus appeared with helping elves.

After talking with the children, the group then moved to the Community Activities Center for light refreshments and pictures with Santa.

Loaning Out a Valuable USAMMDA Asset

By Jeffrey Soares, *USAMMDA Public Affairs*

When you have something good, you should share it, right?

In some respects, this scenario played out earlier this year when the Defense Health Agency was looking for an experienced Department of Defense acquisition professional who could assist the organization in establishing acquisition and program management processes, consistent with DOD requirements and best practices. Fortunately, the DHA was sent Kathleen Berst.

In her role as Deputy Commander for Acquisition at the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity, which serves as the premier developer of world-class military medical capabilities, Berst certainly understands the acquisition process, and the far-reaching capabilities of the organization she calls home.

“I came to USAMMDA in 2011, after working for Chemical Biological Medical Systems Joint Project Management Office [now called Medical Countermeasures Systems JPMO] for ten years, and I’ve held four different positions here before moving into my current role as deputy in 2013,” said Berst. “I am very passionate about USAMMDA because we are a highly innovative team that develops novel acquisition strategies tailored to our specific programs.” Berst’s long history with medical product development in the DOD has provided her with the knowledge and experience necessary to tackle many obstacles across the military medical landscape, and this is the primary reason she was asked to help establish

a new program management capability under the DHA’s Component Acquisition Executive during a six-month detail.

In short, the acquisition process within the DOD involves the development, management, procurement and sustainment of equipment, technology and products that are required to maintain national security and support the U.S.

Armed Forces. In fact, proper practice is so critical that the DOD established the Defense Acquisition University in 1991 to train military and civilian staff, as well as federal contractors, on various aspects of military acquisition.

“At DHA, my purpose was to establish the program management capability under the Component Acquisition Executive office,” explained Berst. “The former DHA Director signed an advanced development standard operating procedure that changes the way the DHA does business, starting in fiscal year 2018; so the focus of this effort was to help establish this new framework.

“In light of this, we began work on an acquisition publication, which we are still writing, and this document will define how DHA implements the DOD-5000 series [DOD’s acquisition guidelines] throughout the organization.”

Berst explained that this publication will serve as a critical document to establish the framework for creating an effective acquisition structure for Defense Health Program-funded efforts. It will define acquisition and Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Execution governance, and will de-

scribe overarching procedures as well as roles and responsibilities for the DHA Medical Materiel Product Acquisition Program, from Materiel Development Decision to disposal. Undoubtedly, this document will serve as the new “bible” for acquisition within DHA.

Berst said that she typically interfaces with two groups at DHA: the Research and Development directorate, and the Component Acquisition Executive office. As Berst explained it, the R&D directorate owns the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation funding, and the CAE office is the acquisition authority, which is unique to the DHA structure.

Although Berst’s six-month detail was scheduled from April 1 through October 1 of this year, she actually remains “on loan” one day per week, as she continues to help provide guidance to DHA. However, she believes the relationship is mutually beneficial, as the experience informs her current role at USAMMDA.

“My time at DHA will absolutely benefit our work here at USAMMDA,” said Berst. “A very large and growing portion of USAMMDA’s portfolio is funded by the DHP, and therefore, the lack of processes for acquisition — and for programming and planning — has a huge impact on the way we do business. So, helping to establish this infrastructure, as well as the program management competency and capability, is critical for our organization’s portfolio.”

USAMMDA Continued on page 10

Hydration Test May Be Army's Next Training Tool

By Crystal Maynard
USAMRMC Public Affairs

Staying hydrated is one of the most important ways to stay healthy, yet the majority of people today are dehydrated without even realizing it. Staying hydrated is something that many struggle with, being pushed to the wayside and too often forgotten amid busy lives and hectic schedules.

It is important that we all strive to stay hydrated, especially our Soldiers in training as water is an essential nutrient critical to reaching peak physical and mental performance. Dehydration leads to decreased balance, coordination, speed, strength and endurance, and degrades mood, attention, reaction time, memory and reasoning. It also increases risk of heat illness, hyponatremia and other environmental injuries that Soldiers in particular need to avoid during field training in extreme environments.

Heat, a heavy load burden and exertion all lead to sweating, which is good for you. However, the lost body water must be replaced to stay hydrated and mission ready.

“So how does one know when they are becoming dehydrated? Once you feel thirsty or develop a headache, it is too late. You are already dehydrated at that point,” said hydration researcher Dr. Sarka Southern,

founder and scientific director of the Gaia Medical Institute. “Dehydration is fully preventable if detected and treated early. However, there is currently no field-expedient dehydration test.”

Southern and her team are working with the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command's Military Operational Medicine Research Program to fill this capability gap in hydration monitoring technology. Their goal is to develop a rapid saliva test for objective hydration assessment.

The test will be a small, inexpensive device that will use a drop of saliva to deliver actionable results in less than five minutes, delivering innovative science to Soldiers. Saliva-based biomarkers of dehydration are a new, patented technology that provides a major advancement in hydration assessment.

“It's our goal that this new dehydration test will train individuals how to take care of themselves and acquire the new skill of being properly hydrated,” said MOM-RP's Lt. Col. James McKnight.

“We see this as a tool that can especially be used in training arenas, such as basic training and advanced individual training. The tool will help leaders to monitor the hydration status of their troops and alert them when they need to re-hydrate before they have degradation in performance or potentially succumbing to a heat injury, if the conditions are right.”

The new dehydration test has potential to bring multiple benefits to Soldiers. Soldiers could use the test to monitor and prevent dehydration in real time, which would improve Soldier performance and safety, increase effectiveness of training, mitigate injuries and overall improve mission readiness.

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark A. Milley has set readiness as his top priority. With the proper training, education and preparation, the number of Soldiers who suffer from dehydration can be minimized and curtail the dehydration before it leads to a heat-related illness.

“The thing about dehydration is that it is a completely preventable condition,” said McKnight. “With the proper tool in place to help us monitor Soldier hydration, we will be one step closer to being as prepared and ready as we can. It's our goal to have a tool in place within the next two to three years.”



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Pierre-Etienne Courtejoie

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Gerardo Lopez, and Capt. Sean Raleigh, who hydrates himself, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Allied Forces North Battalion, U.S. Army NATO Brigade, perform their monthly ruck march, on Chièvres Air Base, Belgium, Aug. 25.

Exchange Director/CEO Focuses on Making Soldiers' Lives Better at Fort Detrick

By Julie Mitchell
AAFES Public Affairs

Army & Air Force Exchange Service Director/CEO Tom Shull is working to ensure Soldiers and their families at Fort Detrick receive exceptional service and value—whether they're shopping in-store or online.

"The Exchange is passionate about serving the Detrick community, and Exchange associates take their commitment to serving Soldiers seriously," Shull said. "The Exchange team appreciates all that Soldiers and their families sacrifice, and their sacrifices inspire us to work even harder to serve them." To understand how the Exchange can best meet the needs of the community, Shull toured Detrick Exchange facilities and met Garrison Commander Col. Robert O'Brien during his Dec. 9 visit. Shull discussed how the Exchange can better serve Detrick Soldiers and their families by offering exceptional customer service in-store and a robust shopping experience online at shopmyexchange.com. If Soldiers can't find the products they need in the Detrick Exchange, they can go to:

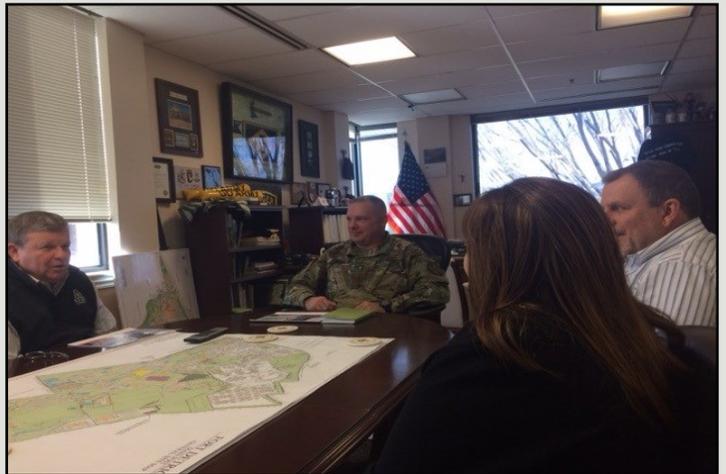


Photo courtesy AAFES

During a recent office call, Garrison Commander, Col. Bob O'Brien speaks with Bob White, AAFES eastern region senior vice president and Joanne Cahalan, Fort Detrick Exchange general manager to discuss commitments to customers here at Fort Detrick.

shop-myexchange.com, which has been improved to make shopping and order fulfillment easier, Shull said.

"The updated shopmyexchange.com brings the 'big store' Exchange experience straight to Soldier's doors," Shull said. "Soldiers will find the best name brands, including Michael Kors, GoPro, Disney, Apple, Bose, Samsung and more just a click away, at the same savings found in stores and with exclusive online deals."

Experts Delve into Issue of Wound Infections after Blast Injuries

Crystal Maynard, USAMRMC Public Affairs

The Department of Defense Blast Injury Research Program Coordinating Office hosted the 2016 International State-of-the-Science Meeting Minimizing the Impact of Wound Infections Following Blast-Related Injuries in Arlington, Virginia, Nov. 29 - Dec. 1.

Setting the tone for the meeting, Dr. John Holcomb, a retired Army colonel and director of the Center for Translational Injury Research at the University of Texas Medical School in Houston, presented the keynote address and shared the story of how a Soldier was injured in 2006 during a blast while riding in a Humvee. The Soldier lost both legs below the knee and has suffered chronic infections over the past decade since the blast.

"I am passionate about this subject, and I know that the rest of the panel is as well. I couldn't be more supportive of this effort," said Holcomb. "Think about how much suffering and morbidity could have been avoided in that one Soldier if his infections that followed the initial injury were successfully treated. Now multiply that one Soldier by the thousands in just this war. How would have receiving better diagnoses and better diagnostics changed the life of this Soldier? Rapid and accurate diagnosis is key."

Blast Continued on page 12

USAMRIID Hosts Native American Heritage Observance

By Crystal Maynard
USAMRMC Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases hosted a Native American Indian Observance at Fort Detrick's Community Activities Center Nov. 17. The observance celebrated the rich history and time-honored cultural traditions of American Indian Heritage. This month's theme was *Serving Our Nations*.

"This is a time to celebrate the very rich and diverse cultures, traditions and contributions of Native peoples. American Indians and Alaska Natives have a rich and often storied history amongst the melting pot that is America," said USAMRIID Commander Col. Thomas S. Bundt during his remarks.

"This month is also a time to help educate many of us about the 566 tribal nations which have a nation-to-nation relationship with the U.S. government and are known legally as 'federally recognized tribes.'"

As of the 2015 U.S. Census, the Nation's population of American Indians and Alaskan Natives

made up 1.8 percent of the total U.S. population.

In 1991, Congress passed Senate Joint Resolution 172, which authorized the President of the U.S. to proclaim the month of November, and each November thereafter, as American Indian Heritage Month. A proclamation by President Barack Obama was read during the ceremony.



Photo by Crystal Maynard, USAMRMC Public Affairs

On Nov. 17, Peter Giove of the Mohawk Tribe performed a traditional hoop dance during the ceremony during the Native American Heritage Observation at Fort Detrick's Community Activities Center.

"While many of us come from different backgrounds and diverse cul-

ture officer, has been a hoop dancer since 1993 for a wide range of audiences across the country and around the world.

Giove performed with a number of 'hula' size hoops accompanied by his wife singing a chant while rhythmically beating a drum.

The celebration concluded with a lively game of trivia with questions and answers drawn from clues from the observation and program.

"In many ways we owe a great deal to these original Americans and should take great pride in being able to recognize their substantial contributions today during this month of November 2016," said Bundt in closing.

"American Indians and Alaska Natives have a rich and often storied history amongst the melting pot that is America."
USAMRIID Commander Col. Thomas S. Bundt

tures, the integration of American Indians has had a distinct influence. My own heritage includes distant family members who were part of both the Ottawa and Nisqually Indian tribes dating back to the later 19th century," shared Bundt. Peter Giove of the Mohawk Tribe performed a traditional hoop dance during the ceremony. Giove, who is a USAMRIID securi-

Holiday Spirit from WRAIR

By WRAIR Public Affairs

In preparation for winter and the approaching holidays, the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and Naval Medical Research Center staff collected colorful scarves and hats for the children of a local elementary school, as well as 80 new, ready-to-wrap toys. A direct donation in the amount of \$200 will also aid Toys for Tots to fulfill special categories for gift-giving.

WRAIR has been partnering with Glen Haven Elementary for the past two years through WRAIR's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program. Hats and scarves were purchased and dropped in donation bins by both WRAIR and NMRC employees over the last month.

WRAIR's BOSS program also hosted a toy collection for Toys for Tots, a nonprofit organization run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. While staff from WRAIR and NMRC experiences the joy of giving, Toys for Tots does the heavy work to collect, wrap and distribute these toys to area children who may not otherwise receive any during the holiday season.



Soldiers from the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research stand in front of a winter scarf and hat drive display, with the WRAIR Commander Col. Deborah Whitmer and Command Sergeant Major Darryl Warren. WRAIR soldiers and civilians donated winter clothing in support of Glen Haven Elementary during the drive. (U.S. Army photos by Michael V. Walters)



Toys for tots: Soldiers from the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) stand in front of a Toys for Tots display, with the WRAIR Commander Col. Deborah Whitmer and Command Sgt. Maj. Darryl Warren. Toys for Tots is a nonprofit organization run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, which donates toys to underprivileged children.



Safety is Rule One when Hunting

By Kristen Haga, Installation Safety Office

Hunting is a fun outdoor sport, but like any sport participants must adhere to certain safety precautions to avoid injury or even death. Following the rules helps ensure not just your safety but that of your fellow hunters.

Keep the following rules in mind when hunting:

- Make sure any firearm is treated as though it were loaded and ready to fire, and always remember to keep the safety on, without exception, unless the weapon is about to be used. Keep in complete control of your weapon.
- Only aim your gun when you intend to shoot—and at no other time, again, without exception. Make sure there are no humans in your targeted area or in close range. Do not shoot at movement or sound, make sure you can clearly see your target.
- Always wear a blaze orange outer layer and hat, this is absolutely one of the best forms of hunters' safety one can practice. Be sure you are not the target. In addition to wearing bright orange, always have a flashlight with you when you move around in the woods before daylight and after dusk.
- Every hunter's safety depends on observation and ability. If you are impaired by sleepiness, medications or alcohol, you should not participate in hunting.
- Make sure that all the animals are lifeless before placing them in your vehicle.
- If you use a tree stand, be sure to use a harness or safety belt and do not climb outside of your physical limits. Do not climb with your weapon, use a haul line or a partner.
- It is best to go hunting with a partner. If you can't find someone to hunt with you, you should let your family/friends know where you will be going and what time you plan to return.

Not only is hunting a great form of exercise, but it allows you to spend quality time outdoors with friends and family. When you pick up your hunting license ask for safety brochures or check your state's Department of Natural Resources agency website.

FORT DETRICK

Army Family Action Plan

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

January 11, 2017 | 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Make A Difference - Get Involved!!

The AFAP annual town hall will be held as a virtual town hall on Facebook. To attend please access, <https://www.facebook.com/DetrickAFAP>. This is an opportunity to submit issues or concerns that effect you and the military's quality of life.

Issues are being collected now online, through email and drop boxes located at the Community Support Center, Bldg. 1520, Room 119, and Barquist Army Health Center, Bldg. 1434. On Forest Glen Annex the Commissary, and Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

To submit online please visit https://detrick.armymwr.com/files/1814/7757/8737/AFAP_form.pdf (please use Mozilla Firefox) or email at usarmy.detrick.imcom-fmwr.c.mbc.afap@mail.mil.



For more information call, 301-619-3385



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USAMMDA Continued from page 4

“From the start, I was very impressed with DHA’s director, Vice Admiral Raquel Bono,” she said. “She is very transparent, and such an outstanding communicator. She makes sure that their strategic objectives as a Combat Support Agency are posted and communicated everywhere — DHA exists to support the Combatant Commands, and their focus on this is incredible. I truly enjoyed learning more about the organization, and how it interacts with the Services.”

In addition to its role as a Combat Support Agency, DHA supports the delivery of integrated, affordable and high-quality health services to Military Health System beneficiaries, and it is responsible for driving greater integration of clinical and business processes across the MHS.

Regarding the Services, Berst explained that a number of her DHA meetings involved the transition of technology from service laboratories, such as the Office of Naval Research. She confirmed that several ONR projects will soon transition into the DHP-funded development portfolio, and these will be managed by various Services, including the Army.

“I think the collaboration between the services [Army, Navy, and Air

Force] and DHA has many positive aspects, and it shows how everyone can come together in support of our nation’s Service Members. I like using ‘defense-wide’ and ‘tri-service’ to describe the relationship here. There is certainly a great effort by all to work together on our advanced development programs even though we aren’t a true ‘Joint’ organization. I worked with Air Force and Navy personnel to move their products into the DHA acquisition process, with milestones planned for later in 2017,” said Berst.

While Berst certainly appreciates her connection with DHA, she is not shy about showing her feelings for her team at USAMMDA. She quickly admitted that during her six-month detail, she missed everyone while she was away.

“We have a tremendous, dedicated group at USAMMDA, and I truly love my job and the people I work with,” she said. “The breadth of this organization is so amazing, it’s impossible to know everything, so I learn something new every day, which keeps it fresh and exciting.”

Col. William E. Geesey, commander of the USAMMDA, spoke highly of Berst’s work for their organization, and he offered insight regarding her temporary assignment.



Photo by Erin Bolling, USAMMDA Public Affairs

Kathleen Berst, Deputy Commander for Acquisition, briefs Col. William Geesey, commander of the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity, on information regarding her six-month detail with the Defense Health Agency.

“This detail was a valuable opportunity for Kathy to not only learn about DHA, but to help shape and influence new processes and procedures related to medical product development at DHA,” said Geesey. “This was a double win, because understanding and shaping how DHA will manage medical product development will impact USAMMDA as we manage DHP-funded products. “In addition, Kathy’s absence provided us with an opportunity for others to step up and take on some of her duties,” he continued. “Again, this was a double win, as others benefited from Kathy’s detail. I’m happy to have her back, as she is now applying her new found skills and information to her position as Deputy Commander for Acquisition.” It would be difficult to argue that the entire

USAMMDA team greatly missed Berst as well, especially in light of all she offers in terms of her leadership. Clearly, Berst’s influence goes far beyond her post as an acquisition expert.

“I view my role here as a champion of our team, so anything I can do to make USAMMDA successful is my job,” continued Berst. “I try to remove any obstacles that may get in the way of our product managers, because their job is to focus on developing and delivering products to our Warfighters. Anything I can do to lessen their load, I’ll do it — no questions asked — because our men and women in uniform, who are working to keep us safe, need us to do our jobs successfully.”

Despite the difficulty of “wearing dual hats” while she continues to assist the

Continued on page 11

DHA, Berst truly believes this experience has helped her to appreciate USAMMDA, and the capabilities that exist throughout the organization, even more. Through it all, however, she remains steadfast in

her pledge to help DHA establish its acquisition processes so it may move forward with its own development efforts.

“Although DHA may have a way to go in learning all of the ins-and-outs of the acquisition process, it will certainly get there, and I’m

glad to help,” said Berst. “The main thing is to make sure that we’re always trying to enable the development of a product, rather than slow it down, because our Service Members are counting on this from us — that’s our job.”

USAMMA Invites Vendors to Showcase Noninvasive TBI Assessment Devices

By Crystal Maynard
USAMRMC Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency Noninvasive Neurological Assessment Devices program invited vendors to showcase their assessment devices for detecting mild to moderate traumatic brain injuries in Baltimore, Maryland, Dec. 6-7.

The USAMMA, which is a subordinate command of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, invited 35 vendors to an industry day with subject matter experts from the Department of Defense.

“The objective of the day was to capture information from the latest medical products developers and bring mild TBI device manufacturers and DOD subject matter experts together for open forum discussions,” said USAMMA Advanced Developer and Product Manager Brian Dacanay.

TBI is a significant issue that affects not only individual Service Members, but subsequently the level of unit readiness and troop retention.

The impacts of TBI are felt within each branch of the military. Since 2000, more than 350,000 U.S. Service Members have been diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury.

A TBI can be classified as mild, moderate, severe and penetrating,

and sustaining one can lead to changes in cognitive abilities and control of emotions, mobility, speech and senses. Left undiagnosed and untreated, a TBI can have a huge impact on how a person thinks and acts, and on his or her mental health. The severity is determined at the time of injury. Nationally, TBI is responsible for more than 52,000 deaths per year in the U.S., making it the fourth leading cause of death in the country.

The USAMMA’s mission is to develop, acquire, provide and sustain world class solutions and capabilities to enable Army medical readiness globally, and the command strives to advance the development of noninvasive neuro-trauma associated assessment devices to help ensure their mission’s success.

The USAMMA is currently seeking information on technologies that have shown, through clinical studies, will provide improved assessment of patients with mild to moderate traumatic brain injury and other forms of neurological trauma, which is currently lacking in some roles of military care.

Increasing triage effectiveness, through early detection and patient evaluation of mild to moderate TBI or associated head injuries, is critical for the care of patients as this will lower the incidences of secondary neuro-traumatic injuries. Proper diagnosis will also reduce

fatalities.

“The NINAD Industry Day provided the most efficient means of meeting with industry face-to-face, discussing the specifics of their company’s technology, gleaning applicability to the Warfighter’s health and medical care, and fostering collaboration among industry and government representatives,” said Col. Sidney R. Hinds II, Department of Defense Brain Health Research Program coordinator.

“This event allowed discussions to occur which would otherwise have taken several months to accomplish via telephone or email.”

Devices will be prioritized, and the USAMMA may provide regulatory expertise (programmatic expertise that includes regulatory advise, funding, etc.) to assist with obtaining Food and Drug Administration clearance for the designated indication to aid in the diagnosis of patients over the age of 18 presenting with suspected mild to moderate TBI (Glasgow Coma Scale 9-15) or associated head injury. Such a device will assist clinicians and medics to further define medical intervention requirements.

“The goal was to identify portable medical device technologies that are capable of diagnosing mild to moderate TBI with the intent to field them as far forward in the field as possible, and I believe that the day was successful,” said Dacanay.

The International State-of-the-Science Meeting series was established in 2009 to assist the DOD Executive Agent for Blast Injury Research in identifying knowledge gaps pertaining to key blast injury research issues.

“The International State-of-the-Science meeting series supports the executive agent’s responsibilities to identify knowledge gaps that inform the medical research community and program managers of research that they can build into their portfolios to close those gaps,” said Michael Leggieri, director of the DOD Blast Injury Research Program Coordinating Office and meeting planning committee chair, as he kicked off the meeting. “Our goal is to identify what we know and what we don’t know about wound infections following a blast-related injury, and then to try to develop some recommendations that can advance the science and deliver needed solutions to Service Members.”

The widespread use of explosive weapons reinforces the need for research on blast injuries for both military and civilian victims of conflict and terrorism. Victims of explosions often suffer from multiple traumatic injuries; the mechanism, severity and complexity of these injuries contribute to the risk for wound infection. At the

same time, multi-drug resistance is growing worldwide, with very few new or next generation anti-infective drugs in development. As a result, effective prevention, mitigation and treatment strategies for wound infections remain a critical need for both the U.S. military and civilian populations.

Approximately 120 subject matter experts from the DOD, other federal agencies, academia, industry and international organizations participated in the meeting.

“Each year, we [the DOD Blast Injury Research Program] assemble a very diverse meeting planning committee comprising stakeholders from across the DOD and outside the DOD that goes through a very intensive process on determining what is the topic of greatest importance to the DOD that needs to be addressed, and this year wound infection rose to the very top of the topic list,” said Leggieri.

“It takes diverse disciplines to solve these very complex blast injury problems. It’s not possible to solve these problems within a single community, so we try to include as many disciplines as possible in these meetings.”

This is the sixth year that the International State-of-the-Science Meeting has been held and the first year that wound infection has

been the focus. Approximately one quarter of combat wounds become infected, which has a significant impact on patient outcomes and healthcare costs.

Leggieri challenged the audience, “Think not just about future research, but what can be done now or in the very near future in terms of changes in policy or other practices that could make a difference and move us forward.”

Following the keynote address, a series of topic and scientific sessions were held to examine specific issues relating to wound infections following a blast-related injury.

Each session involved a question and answer session from the subject matter experts probing further into the research presented.

After the presentations, participants broke into working groups that addressed four specific questions formulated by the meeting planning committee

1. How can our understanding of risk factors of wound infections, bacterial or fungal, following blast-related injuries be applied in advance prediction, prevention, detection and treatment strategies?

2. What candidate biomarkers, from either host or pathogen, can potentially enable rapid and accurate diagnosis, management and prognosis of wound infec-

Blast Continued from page 12

management and prognosis of wound infections and biofilm formation following blast-related injuries?

3. What prevention strategies, to include the use of vaccines, can be employed to reduce the incidence of wound infections across the continuum of care (point of injury to U.S. military hospital setting) following blast-related injuries and what are the challenges in fielding these?

4. What strategies hold the most promise for the treatment of wound infections associated with blast-related injuries and what are the challenges in fielding these?

“If you bring diverse disciplines together and ask each group to answer the same questions, you get perspectives on each of those questions that you wouldn’t have gotten otherwise,” said Leggeri.

“It is our goal to take these an-

swers and to drive change in policy, care and treatment for Service Members that develop infection following a blast-related injury.”

The findings from the meeting are synthesized into a report that will be publicly available on the DOD Blast Injury Research Program website, and it will also be formally staffed up to the executive agent and seen by DOD leadership.

USAMRMC, Fort Detrick Leaders Participate in Mid-Atlantic Procurement Conference

Crystal Maynard, USAMRMC Public Affairs

On Nov. 18, leaders from the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and Fort Detrick participated in the 14th Annual Strengthening the Mid-Atlantic Region for Tomorrow Procurement Conference at the Francis Scott Key Holiday Inn & Conference Center in Frederick, Maryland.

The SMART Organization executes the vision of the SMART Congressional Caucus from Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware by providing a membership organization promoting tech enterprise in the region. The conference goal is to build stronger relationships, provide teaming partnerships and discuss upcoming procurement forecasts among industry, community, government

and academia.

“Our strategic participation in the SMARTPROC conference translates into enabling business firms to compete, win and provide innovative products, services and business solutions in support of the Warfighter and Armed Forces,” said Jerome Maultsby, USAMRMC assistant director, Office of Small Business Programs.

“Since the inception of the SMART PROC conference, we have consistently supported this outreach event.”

Dr. Kenneth Bertram, USAMRMC principal assistant for acquisition, and Col. Robert O’Brien, commander of the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Detrick, participated in the keynote panel.

“Our customer is the



Photo by Crystal Maynard, USAMRMC Public Affairs

U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Principal Assistant for Acquisition Dr. Kenneth Bertram addresses the audience at the 14th Annual Strengthening the Mid-Atlantic Region for Tomorrow Procurement Conference in Frederick, Maryland, Nov. 18.

Warfighter, and we provide them only the very best products and tools to help keep them healthy and safe,” said Bertram during his keynote address.

“For you to do business with us, you need to bring

your ‘A game’ because we can accept no less for our men and women in uniform supporting our country. We will help drive you to provide us the best so that we can supply the best.”

Sharing With Those in Need



With the help of employees, Barquist Army Health Clinic is set to make a valuable Christmas contribution to Hearty House, a local organization that provides comprehensive services to victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault. Fort Detrick works very close with Hearty House throughout the year. Mrs. Hope Baum and Lt. Col. Brian Spangler spearheaded the idea for the collection and as a result, Barquist is donating enough bedding for four rooms which accommodates mothers and single women.

Photo By Lanessa Hill, USAG Public Affairs

Happy Hanukkah



Hanukkah Service

Thursday 29 December 2015

1700

Chapel Class Rooms 5 and 6

We will dedicate our new Chapel Menorah.

Call 301-619-7371 for more information.



DRONE POLICY REMINDER

The holidays are upon us once again and one of the biggest selling gifts remains remote controlled aircraft, also called drones. While these gifts are fun, those who live on Fort Detrick must remember there are rules everyone must follow while enjoying themselves.

Fort Detrick policy 95-2-1: Aviation Airspace, Airfields/Heliports, Flight Activities, Air Traffic Control, and Navigational Aids; Interim Policy For Use of Radio Controlled (RC) Model Aircraft on Fort Detrick/Forest Glen Annex outlines the do's and don'ts of operating these aircraft on Fort Detrick.

It's important to understand that radio controlled aircraft and just that, aircraft, and the Federal Aviation Administration has stated that unmanned aircraft systems are aircraft, not toys. People may wonder "What are the rules, how do they apply to me?"

FD Policy 95-2-1 is based on Secretary of Defense and Secretary of the Army guidance, Army Regulations, and FAA rules. Title 49 U.S.C. 40102(a)(6) defines an "aircraft" as "any contrivance invented, used, or designed to navigate or fly in the air." Because an unmanned aircraft is just such a contrivance or device it is classified as an "aircraft". Operators are considered pilots.

When piloting a remote controlled aircraft there are some general rules to always keep in mind:

You must always give way to manned aircraft; airplanes, gliders, hang gliders, a blimp, etc. Remember, if it flies or glides, it has the right of way.

Always remain within visual line of sight of the small unmanned aircraft. If you cannot see your remote controlled aircraft then you can't see other aircraft either.

Also, because the FAA says the remote aircraft operators are pilots, any person owning one must register it with the Federal Aviation Administration's Unmanned Aircraft System registry. Federal law authorizes civil and criminal penalties for failing to properly register the aircraft.

For more information, and to register, go to: <http://www.faa.gov/uas/registration/>. Registrants will need to provide their name, home address and e-mail address. Upon completion of the registration process, the web application will generate a Certificate of Aircraft Registration/Proof of Ownership that will include a unique identification number for the UAS

owner, which must be marked on the aircraft.

Because living on an Army installation is unlike living off-base, there are also other issues you need to ensure you keep aware of.

Radio Controlled aircraft fitted with cameras create an additional security threat, so photography from a RC model aircraft is allowed only in the

housing area and between Veteran's Drive and Army Ave. on Fort Detrick; all other areas, to include all of the Nallin Pond area and Forest Glen Annex are prohibited. Never operate and RC model aircraft in the vicinity of high tension wires.

Photography or video which includes sensitive sites and posted on social media is prohibited and could result in or put out on an open source for public consumption may initiate a federal law enforcement investigation.

If for some reason the Fort Detrick police confiscate your aircraft, such as if it's launched/recovered in areas outside the housing area, or crosses into restricted areas, the sponsor can retrieve confiscated aircraft by contacting the Directorate of Emergency Services at (301) 619-7114.



Program Helps Children Reach for the SKIES

By Nick Minecci

Children enrolled at the Fort Detrick Child and Youth Services have a multitude of clubs, programs and activities they can choose take part in. Those looking for even more to do can look at the Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills program, also known as the SKIESUnlimited program.

“Using the SKIESUnlimited program, children and youth have access to opportunities that expand their knowledge, using a four-school system,” said Wendee Bitto, Fort Detrick SKIESUnlimited program manager. “The four schools are: School of Fitness and Health, School of Art, Recreation and Leisure, School of Life Skills and School of Academic Skills.”

Bitto explained that the School of Fitness and Health has programs such as martial arts, gymnastics and nutrition classes; the School of Art, Recreation and Leisure offers arts and crafts, dance, music and photography classes; the School of Life Skills teaches about citizenship, leadership and domestic life skills; and the School



of Academic Skills includes sign language classes, vocational skills training and literacy classes.

“The SKIESUnlimited program is growing on Fort Detrick, with classes of varying length,” said Bitto. “Some of the classes are long-term and some are short-term, and provide the children and youth with a flexible, creative environment dedicated to excellence.”

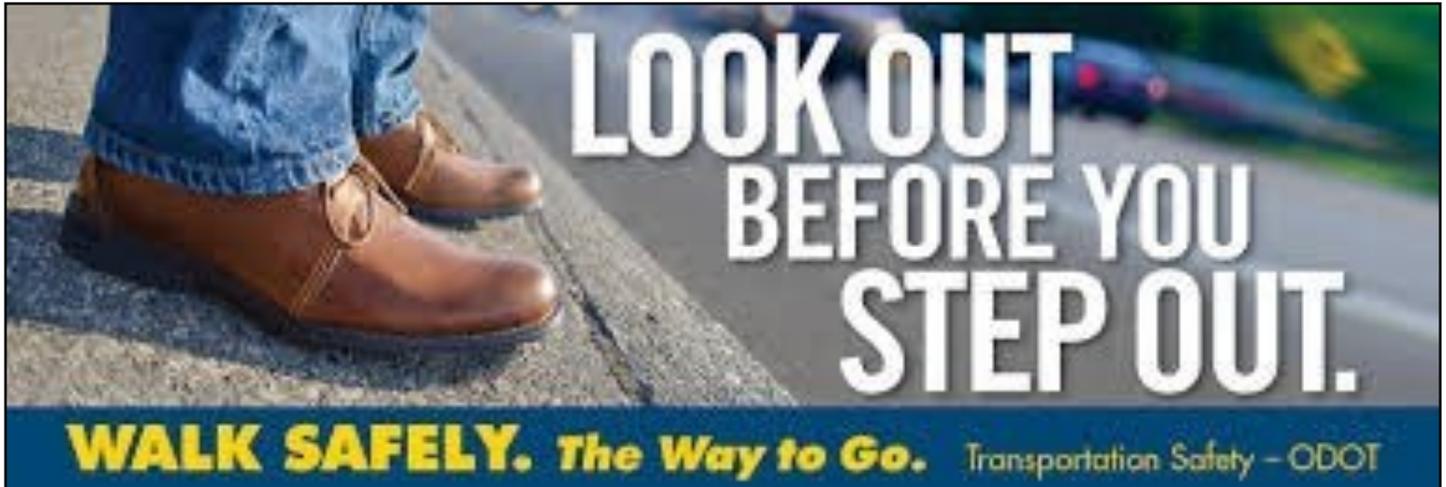
Bitto continued, “We have some exciting programs coming up. There is a gymnastics program for children ages 3, 4 and 5 years old. After Jan. 1, we will have a martial arts program for children ages 4 to 18 years old, and a Kindermusik program for children from 3 to 18 years old.”

Spring will bring a slew of new classes, including an art program called “Young Rembrandts” for school aged children, Kinderdance for children ages 3-18 and a sign language class for children ages 3 to 6 years old.

“We will also have a cake decorating class for kids 10-18 years old, a sewing class for 8-18 years old youth and will be having a series of one-day classes including knitting in January, scrapbooking in February and cross stitch in March,” said Bitto.

For more information, call (301) 619-3246.

Simple Rules for Safety At Crosswalks



By Nick Minecci
USAG Public Affairs

With construction underway in populated areas of Fort Detrick and some organizations moving to new locations, it is important for both drivers and pedestrians to remember some simple safety reminders and crosswalk etiquette rules.

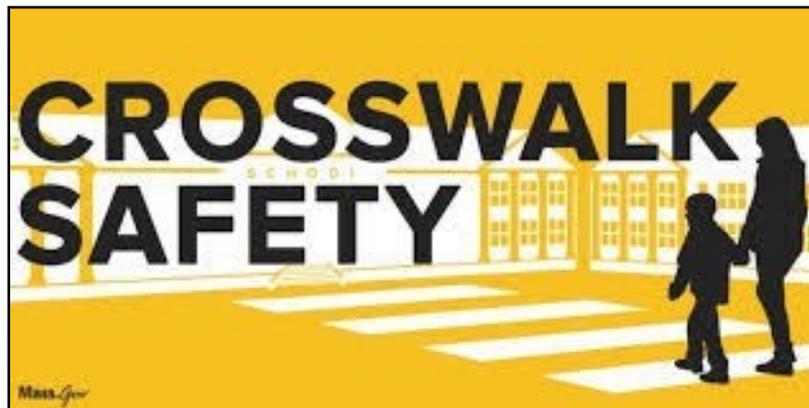
The Fort Detrick Police Department ask that during the winter month's limited visibility, especially the morning and evening rush hours, drivers turn on headlights prior to dusk and before dawn, avoid distracted driving and be prepared to stop for pedestrians as they enter designated crosswalks.

They also remind drivers that Fort Detrick Regulation 190-5, Fort Detrick Traffic Code, states when approaching a crosswalk that, "drivers will yield the right of way at intersection crosswalks occupied by pedestrians." This means coming to a complete stop and allowing the pedestrian to cross the road.

Also, according to the Maryland Transit Administration, when at a crosswalk, the "passing of a vehicle stopped for pedestrian(s) is prohibited. If, at a marked crosswalk or at an unmarked crosswalk at an intersec-

tion, a vehicle is stopped to let a pedestrian cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear may not overtake and pass the stopped vehicle."

Pedestrians are reminded to always exercise caution when approaching and using a crosswalk, and according to the MTA, "a pedestrian may not suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield."



Fort Detrick police say pedestrians should wear brightly colored or reflective clothing, as well as avoid distracted walking.

They also say pedestrians at designated crosswalks should make it a habit to establish eye contact with drivers prior to stepping into the

crosswalk to show your intent to cross and confirm that motorists are aware of your intentions.

They also remind the community that pedestrians crossing a roadway, other than at an intersection or marked crosswalk, will yield the right-of-way to all approaching vehicles, and personnel should always use sidewalks when available. When sidewalks are not available, the left side of the road, facing oncoming traffic will be used.

In and Around Fort Detrick

AFAP Virtual Town Hall

Jan. 11, 2-4 p.m.

The Fort Detrick Army Family Action Plan virtual town hall will be held Jan 11, 2017.

AFAP is accepting issues and concerns now. A Facebook page has been developed to collect issues.

The Fort Detrick Army Family Action Plan Facebook page can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/DetrickAFAP/>.

Issues can also be send directly to AFAP via email at: usarmy.detrick.imcomfmwrc.mbx.afap@mail.mil.

Lastly, forms and drop boxes are also available at Barquist Army Health Clinic and at the Community Support Center, Building 1520 in Army Community Service.

For additional questions or concerns call (301) 619-3385.

University of Maryland Athletics

UMD is having a Hometown Heroes night at the Men's Basketball game on Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. To show their appreciation, University of Maryland invites military, police, firefighters and EMTs who serve in our community to a night dedicated to them and their families.

For \$55, individuals will receive a pair of discounted tickets and a \$10 food voucher for the Rutgers vs. Maryland Men's Basketball Game.

To order tickets or if you have question please feel free to contact Melanie Baker at (301) 405-8408 or mbaker10@umd.edu.

Gate Hours During Holidays

Main Post of Fort Detrick

Nallin Farm Gate will be the only open gate for ingress/egress 24/7 during holidays.

Those holidays are:

- Jan 1-2 for New Years

At Forest Glen the Brookville Gate will be open 24/7 for ingress/egress for ID card holders and visitors.

Forest Glen Inauguration Day Announcement

For our teammates at Forest Glen Annex, a holiday has been authorized for Jan. 20, 2017 for FGA employees only.

OPM has declared that federal worksites in the District of Columbia, Montgomery County and Prince Georges County Maryland will have a legal public holiday on Friday, January 20, 2017 due to the impact on those locations but only applies to those employees if they would have actually worked at the official worksite on that day.

There is no "in lieu of Inauguration Day" holiday for employees who are off that Jan. 20, 2017 duty day or who are away from the impacted official duty station area on that day.

Racquetball Tournament

Jan. 23-27, 2017

Odom Fitness Center

Men's & Women's Open & Novice Divisions. All divisions must have a minimum of four entrants. Must wear licensed eye protection and be 18 or older. Call (301) 619-2498 for more information.

Dr. Seuss Stories Take the at the Weinberg Center

The Weinberg Center for the Arts' 2016-2017 Family Series continues with a performance of *Seussical* on Saturday, Jan. 21 at 11 a.m.

Free children's books will be distributed prior to the show courtesy of Wonder Book and Video.

Tickets begin at \$10 and may be purchased online at WeinbergCenter.org, by calling the Box Office at 301.600.2828, or in person at 20 West Patrick St. Discounts are available for students, children, military, and seniors.

Free Yoga Classes

Every 2nd and 4th Monday, 5-6 p.m. At the Fort Detrick Chapel. Suitable for everyone, all levels welcome. Bring a yoga mat, towel, & water.

Waynesboro Vanpool

Waynesboro Vanpool currently has an opening for work schedule 6:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday – Friday Pickup location is the Shop & Save parking lot.

Departure time is 5:45 a.m.

Please contact Ms. Donna Taylor via email at Donna.r.taylor.civ@mail.mil or by phone (301) 619-3713 if interested in joining this vanpool.