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**Item of Interest:**

**Department of Defense Identifies Navy Casualty.** WASHINGTON - The Department of Defense announced Aug. 10 the death of a Sailor who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

**Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Anthony M. Carbullido, 25,** of Agat, Guam, died Aug. 8, in Sangatesh, Afghanistan, from injuries suffered when his convoy vehicle hit an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the Naval Hospital Corps School in Great Lakes, Ill.

# Navy and Marine Corps Medical News

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## Radiology Department Proves 'Insightful' to Humanitarian Mission

**By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Derek R. Sanchez, Pacific Partnership Public Affairs**

**PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea** – Since their first mission in the Republic of the Philippines, to anchoring off the coast of Port Moresby Aug. 4 at their fourth mission site, the Radiology Department aboard USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) has helped both patients and doctors.

With state-of-the-art equipment, x-ray technicians and radiologists, the Radiology Department can provide specialized support to Pacific Partnership, a humanitarian civic assistance mission in the Western Pacific and Oceania. The Radiology Department staff gets operational skills training as they

help doctors diagnose the ailments of patients seen at Pacific Partnership medical civic action programs (MEDCAPs).

"For individuals from Timor-Leste and Cotabato, Philippines, there was a complete lifestyle change," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Max A. Hawkins, Radiology Department leading petty officer, of Hiawatha, Kansas. "Because of what we do and because we've concluded diagnoses on a lot of these patients, we were able to answer a lot of questions, ultimately saving people's lives. It really is a great feeling."

The Radiology Department an-

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**PACIFIC OCEAN** - Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Angela Martinez and Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Michael Curcio respond to casualties during a mass casualty drill aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Tarawa (LHA 1) as the ship deploys to the multi-national training exercise, Fuerzas Alidas PANAMAX 2008, in the Panama Canal zone Aug. 2. *U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Bryan Niegel*

## Steering Corpsmen on the Right Course

By Douglas H Stutz, Naval Hospital Bremerton Public Affairs Office

**BREMERTON, Wash.** - When Chief Hospital Corpsman (HM) John Kelly was assigned to a frigate, he found out a young hospital corpsman had orders to the ship. The addition would certainly add to his understaffed medical department. When the corpsman in question reported to duty, it was with minimal experience and nominal background in a Navy sick call setting.

Kelly, along with a host of other Naval Hospital Bremerton chief petty officers, is going to ensure that scenario doesn't happen again.

The Naval Hospital Bremerton (NHB) HM Chiefs began their pilot Operational Hospital Corpsman Course the week of Aug. 8, with pronounced emphasis and practical application on Navy sick call screening procedures.

"Our objective is to provide the necessary introductory sick call training to our corpsmen," explained Kelly. "Going through this training will make them more qualified and more valuable when they reach the fleet."

According to Kelly, when a HN gets to an operational platform, whether it's on ship or with the Marines in the field, the entire command is dependent on that corpsman being able to evaluate and treat Sailors and Marines in a sick call setting.

"We will enhance current clinical competencies and build on their core corpsman training," said Kelly.

The course includes such topics as Anatomy and Physiology, Patient History, Pharmacy, Minor Procedures, and Physical Exam and Diagnosis. The corpsmen attending the course will learn how to recognize, deal, and treat some of the more common sick call concerns such as minor headaches, uncomplicated upper respiratory infections, minor musculoskeletal problems, minor surgical procedures, suturing minor wounds, toenail removals, minor incision and drainage, and minor dermatological conditions.

"I really like the training," said HM 3rd Class Leonard Thomas, course attendee. "My next duty station is with First Marine Air Wing, Okinawa, and my learning here is going to be applicable in that setting."

Thomas stated that the goals he hopes to get from the course are to learn the basic foundations of sick call, to be able to examine a patient properly for presentation to a medical officer, and to gain clinical experience.

Suturing minor wounds was one procedure that gave the corpsman students hands-on application practice.

"Suture techniques are a necessity for any corpsmen in any operational environment," explained Kelly. "A corpsman has to know not only how to suture, but also what doesn't require a suture. Our training here will give corpsmen the knowhow to handle and treat an abrasion, incision, laceration, or puncture wound."

"With practice, training and knowledge, there is no problem they won't be able to handle in the future," continued Kelly. "Step by step, we're setting them up for success in dealing with their people."

## Northwest Submariners Become Medics Through EMAT

By Mass Communication Specialist  
1st Class (SW) Hodges Pone III,  
Fleet Public Affairs Center, Det.  
Northwest

**SILVERDALE, Wash.** - Submarine Sailors from throughout Naval Base Kitsap, Bangor gathered at Trident Training Facility (TTF) for Emergency Medical Assist Team (EMAT) training Aug. 7.

EMAT members are Sailors who work outside of their Navy rating to give aid to hospital corpsmen (HM) aboard submarines during casualties.

"This is a baseline training, so when a submariner goes back to the ship they will be following the same procedures as Sailors around the fleet," said Naval Undersea Medical Institute Instructor, Chief Hospital Corpsman (SS) Steven Bradsher.

"Some of these guys are electronics technicians and sonar technicians. For a lot of them, this is the

initial medical training they have ever received."

This was the first visit to TTF, as the course is usually given in Groton, Conn., or by the assigned hospital corpsman. The purpose of the visit was to standardize the training throughout the fleet.

During the four-day course, the Sailors learned basic corpsman skills including administering an IV, giving patients oxygen, and getting the proper equipment for the corpsman to assist a patient.

"EMAT team members learn these basic medical emergency skills because there is usually just one HM on board a submarine," said Chief Hospital Corpsman (SS/SW) Blake West of USS Louisiana (SSBN 743) (Blue). "If there were to be a situation which causes multiple casualties on the ship, they would be extra hands to give care."

Students were also tasked with evacuating an "injured" Sailor from

an engineering space, which was the TTF's "Wet Trainer" for this particular course. Space is limited in the trainer, so the students in groups of six learned to properly maneuver the simulated victim using a stretcher.

"The course has gone really well," said Missile Technician 3rd Class (SS) Francis Lima of USS Henry M. Jackson (SSBN 730) (Blue). "This was somewhat of a refresher, but there was a lot of information put out. I was really interested in the course and my ship decided it was necessary for me to come."

"EMAT was a crash course," said Machinist's Mate 2nd Class (SS) Gerod Aleshire of USS Alabama (SSBN 731)(Gold). "It was very challenging, yet very relevant to what I have and what others may face on board their ships."

## Navy Health Professionals Reach Out to Veterans

**By Mass Communication Specialist  
1st Class Paul G. Scherman, Navy  
Reserve Fleet Public Affairs Center,  
San Diego**

### **PLEASANTON, Calif. -**

Twenty-six Navy nurses, dentists, and corpsmen from Navy Reserve Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton (NHCP) Detachments E, H, and G provided medical and dental care to nearly 500 homeless veterans from the San Francisco Bay area Aug. 7-10, during East Bay Stand Down (EBSD).

The East Bay Stand Down brings displaced veterans into a safe encampment site and provides them with free medical, dental, legal, employment, and spiritual assistance.

Veterans received food, clothing, shelter, showers, haircuts, and other basic necessities. Civilian and military health care providers assisted with physical, dental, and mental health needs. Counselors were available to address substance abuse issues, as well employment options, veterans' benefits and spiritual concerns.

"This is the perfect training opportunity for the military's humanitarian missions" said Capt. Lorrie Sammons, senior military executive for EBSD and member of NHCP Det. H.

"We equip and set up just the same way we would going into a disaster site with displaced populations in need of basic health care, and the extra benefit is we can help veterans who once served in uniform," noted Sammons.

Navy support for EBSD is performed as part of the DoD Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program. Through IRT, military units receive training by taking part in real-world, community-based projects.

IRT is a Department of Defense (DoD) civilian/military program that gives combat support and combat service support units the opportunity for hands-on, real-world training in their occupational fields, while providing support to underserved civilian communities.

"What we are doing is good training," said Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Teresita Jenkins, a Re-

servist with NHCP Det. H and three time veteran of EBSD. "The experience of giving and servicing the community feels good, and seeing the look on the vets' faces makes me feel good."

"These facilities are similar to what we have on ships or overseas facilities so it gives our Sailors great training," commented Lt. Cmdr. Phillip Abeldt, dental department head of NHCP Det. H.

"Many humanitarian missions overseas provide only oral surgery, but here we are able to deliver more services and increase oral health which increases a patient's overall health," he said.

One-hundred seventy military personnel played a part in EBSD, including 70 Army, 64 Air Force, and 26 Coast Guard personnel.

"This is a fantastic experience," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Charlene Watkins a Reservist from 349th Aero Medical Staging Squadron (ASTS). "It's been great to be able to integrate with naval forces towards a mutual goal of caring for our nations veterans."

## Radiology continued...

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swers both patients' and doctors' questions, whether on ship or shore, through specialty services, such as the Impact 6.3 picture archiving system, the latest digital processing software, ultrasound technology and other radiography.

"If you know how to work the machinery you are using, you're able to get the job done quickly and efficiently. It makes for a much more comfortable environment to work in," said Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Rose Adan, x-ray technician aboard Mercy and a native of Pangasinan, Philippines.

Pacific Partnership has offered the opportunity for the technicians to learn more about their field and make a difference in patients' lives.

"It's definitely interesting to see the things we see while working in the different countries," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Sean Simmons of San Diego, a Computerized Axial Tomography (CT) technician aboard Mercy. "I know they don't always have what we have access to."

Mercy is currently deployed to Papua New Guinea in the Western Pacific, collaborating with other military and non-governmental organizations on humanitarian assistance efforts.



**PAPUA, New Guinea** - Dr. Harold Forney, a member of an international relief team working with Pacific Partnership, studies a patient's X-ray during a surgical screening at Port Moresby General Hospital before referring the patient to the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) for treatment Aug. 6. *U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class James Seward*

## Bataan Chaplain Keeps Sailors Mentally and Physically Healthy

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW/AW)  
Pedro A. Rodriguez, USS Bataan Public Affairs

**USS BATAAN, At Sea** - The command chaplain aboard the multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), began an aerobics and yoga program July 21 to help Sailors stay in shape and reduce stress.

Cmdr. Brenda F. Bradleydavila, Bataan chaplain, began the classes with a focus on Sailors' mental and physical readiness.

"We were looking at creating a program to help the crew to stay healthy," said Bradleydavila. "Something that was fun and motivational at the same time."

With the Physical Fitness Assessment rapidly approaching the program is very timely.

"It's a fun and energetic alternative from the regular Navy physical training," said Storekeeper 2nd Class Omo-

lade E. Jones. "With the music and the participation, it motivates everyone to come out."

Along with the aerobics session, Bradleydavila started a yoga session conducted by Lt. Cmdr. Mike E. Johnston, Bataan's helicopter direction control officer, to help Sailors relax after their daily duties.

"Yoga increases your balance and strength using your own body weight," said Johnston. "It helps to control different conditions like high cholesterol."

Bataan is the fifth ship of the Navy's Wasp-class ships. She was commissioned Sept. 20, 1997, and is the second U.S. Navy warship to bear the name. CVL-29 was an Independence-class small aircraft carrier that was commissioned in November 1943. After serving in both World War II and the Korean conflict, CVL-29 was decommissioned in 1954.

## Naval Hospital 'Institution' Retires After 45 Years of Service

By Rod Duren, Naval Hospital Pensacola Public Affairs Office

**PENSACOLA, Fla.** - The bedrock of Naval Hospital (NH) Pensacola's Command suite and executive assistant to 11 commanding officers, 'Sammie' Twitty, retired from federal service August 1 after more than 45 years.

"Today, we celebrate service," Capt. Mary Alice Morro, Naval Hospital Pensacola commanding officer told a gathering of more than 120 co-workers and family. The captain also noted it was an "historical" celebration as well. Twitty predates the current 32-year-old Naval Hospital building - the sixth built in the command's 182-year existence - back in the days when she was known then as 'Charlene.'

In honor of the event, which her family didn't believe until after arriving for the "royal celebration," three former, and retired, commanding officers were in attendance - former Captains D.J. Wildes, Ralph Lockhart and Rich Buck - and spoke about Ms Twitty's service in terms of family- and patient-centered values.

Two other former commanding officers - Rear Adm. Matt Nathan and retired Rear Adm. Marion Balsam - sent letters and poems praising her steadfastness and Southern charm.

Twitty's reputation precedes her. She is known in Navy-wide circles as having an "acute radar system" and the person most likely to save a commanding officer from a serious faux pas.

When Nathan received orders to Pensacola, a colleague told him about Twitty and her reputation; and indicated that the two of them had a similarity: 'Twitty is an institution; and Nathan belongs in one,' the admiral's letter to the retiree read.

The long-time Pensacola resident was presented with the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service award and a Career Service Award signed by Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter.

Twitty also received a certificate and an encased flag that had been flown over NH Pensacola on July 28. Hospital Command Master Chief Tim Fox presented the flag on behalf of the Chiefs' Mess.

"It's been a distinct pleasure serving with this young lady for three years," said Fox. "The entire Chiefs' Mess thinks very highly of you ... except when you send those fitness evaluations back for corrections."

At the conclusion of the lauding, Twitty began by saying, "I hope you're not waiting for me to say anything. I'll start crying ... and I'm not going to ruin my make-up!"



**PENSACOLA, Fla.** - Capt. Paula McClure, Naval Hospital Pensacola executive officer, sets the tone for the 'royal celebration' at Sammie Twitty's retirement August 1. Twitty retires from federal service after more than 45 years. She was the executive assistant to 11 commanding officers at the hospital. *U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class(AW) Russ Tafuri*

## Sailing Among the Stars: The Story of CAPT Mark Lyles, Navy Dentist and Prospective Astronaut

By Andre Sobocinski, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Office of the Historian

**WASHINGTON** - For one Navy dentist the frontier of the inner mouth may soon extend into outer space. Capt. Mark Lyles, a Navy dentist and scientist with 25 years of military experience, was recently selected by the Navy to take the next step toward that final frontier.

For this West Kentucky-born and bred naval officer the prospect of working for NASA is a dream come true. "When the message came through from NASA I was very numb," Lyles related in a recent interview with *Navy Medicine*. "Back in the early 1960s I was so enamored of rockets that I got up early one Saturday morning with my little sister and watched the first *Mercury* rocket blast-off. If you had to place my number one dream of all time becoming an astronaut was always number one but it always seemed too impossible. When this opportunity presented itself I was in the right time and right place."

Lyles learned that NASA was looking for astronauts while reading *The Navy Times*. "I thought, wait a minute, what about this astronaut program? I hadn't heard anything about it. I called Millington and asked about it. They said 'don't worry about the deadline. The Navy selection board meets on May 5th. If you get all your stuff to us before the meeting we will ensure it is added to the other applications.'" At that point Lyles was 2 weeks

away from the deadline. Within that short time, he went through all his physicals and blood tests, and had transcripts sent in from all the schools he attended. This last requirement posed a minor problem for Lyles. To date, Lyles has amassed over 705 college credit hours and his degrees include a doctorate of dental medicine (DMD), a doctor of philosophy (in cellular and structural biology), two masters degrees (in analytical/physical chemistry and national security strategies), and two bachelors degrees (in chemistry/Russian language and physics/math).

In addition to his knowledge of the Russian language and an intensive science background, Lyles believes that NASA is interested in the extensive research he has done on the health effects of dust. As Lyles explains, "There has been a lot of talk about another lunar mission. NASA has actually identified that the dust on the moon is incredibly fine and mineralized. And it did cause problems for some astronauts that went to the moon. When they removed their clothes in the lunar lander the dust clung to everything and they had some breathing problems. The dust exposure is definitely a concern if we ever establish long-term habitats prior to the Mars watch."

With just days away from the looming Navy deadline, Lyles successfully submitted his application. His package was one of several hundred submitted to the Navy and only one of a mere 50 to be selected for submission to NASA. As it stands at the time of his interview with *Navy Medicine* Lyles was readying his NASA application. In essence, as he puts it, "I have just passed the first quarter of the Kentucky Derby and hoping for the best down the long-stretch." If chosen he will become not only the first military dentist ever chosen by NASA, but the first dentist. Lyles adds, "It's like I told the Chief of



Naval Operations (CNO) while in Newport, RI, if there's going to be a first for a dentist-astronaut don't you think they should be wearing a Navy uniform? And he said, 'Absolutely!'"

In addition to the CNO and the Navy Medical Department, Lyles has received tremendous support from the Navy and civilian dental communities throughout the application process. Recently, the current and future presidents of the American Dental Association sent letters of recommendation on his behalf to the director of NASA stating that organized dentistry, also, supports this.

Lyles is scheduled to be interviewed by NASA in October. A final notification of his selection status is slated for February 2009. Once selected, he would report to Houston, TX, in late August 2009 to begin training. Lyles admits that if selected he would like to work on the lunar dust program as well as some of the tissue growth in space. "I've got about 20 issued patents and about 20 pending. A lot of them have to do with different types of material. I think there is a lot of material that I have knowledge of that could be beneficial to NASA and aerospace in itself. I think it would be an immense opportunity to do some research that would be cutting-edge stuff. This more than anything else excites me. I was telling someone the belief that if I never went into space and I could just be part of the astronaut corps and do these research projects my life would be tremendously fulfilled."



Bureau of Medicine and Surgery  
Public Affairs Office  
2300 E Street NW  
Washington, DC 20372-5300  
Phone: (202) 762-3221  
Fax: (202) 762-1705