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Avoiding Germs in Swimming Pools. Summer is here and that means Americans soon head to outdoor pools and water parks. While swimming can be fun and good exercise, pools can contain germs that can make swimmers ill. A study in Emerging Infectious Diseases looked for evidence of parasites in samples from swimming pool filter systems. Two parasites - *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* - cause most outbreaks of diarrhea among swimmers in the United States. *Cryptosporidium* causes particular concern because it's extremely infectious and isn't killed very well by chlorine, which kills many other germs. Swimmers can follow these basic steps to help protect themselves and other swimmers from these germs: don't swim when you or your children have diarrhea, don't swallow the pool water and avoid getting it in your mouth, and practice good hygiene. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/Features/PoolParasites.

CP 2008 Preventive Medicine Team Ensures Work Site Health and Safety

By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Matthew Jackson, USS Boxer Public Affairs

SONSONATE, El Salvador - Preventive Medicine (PREVMED) Team 2, embarked aboard USS Boxer (LHD 4), surveyed Salvadoran work sites, May 21, for safety in support of Continuing Promise (CP) 2008.

CP is a humanitarian civic assistance (HCA) mission enabling both U.S. and partner nation medical staffs to collectively address regional medical concerns and develop effective, economical solutions that can be used through the region.

PREVMED Team 2 traveled from

site to site where CP service members are at work with partnership professionals to identify safety hazards in the work environment and nearby natural resources. The team's work includes everything from collecting water samples for locating parasites, to testing noise levels of construction equipment used at civil engineering sites.

"The primary mission for PREVMED team members is worker health protection and how the work place affects the health of the worker," said Lt. Bernard McDonald, an industrial hygienist. "We split up the 13 members of the preventative

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ACAJUTLA, El Salvador - Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Linda Grant, embarked aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4), gives a Salvadoran girl a dental exam at the Canton la Sunza school during a Continuing Promise (CP) 2008 community relations project May 26. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Porter Anderson

Three NHCCC Corpsmen Commissioned in Navy Nurse Corps

By Bill W. Love, Naval Health Clinic
Corpus Christi, Public Affairs Office

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas -

Three former Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi (NHCCC) corpsmen accepted commissions to Ensign in the Navy Nurse Corps May 16 during a ceremony at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi (TAMUCC) Performing Arts Center.

Chief Hospital Corpsman (Fleet Marine Force) Rhys Aaron Parker from Carrollton, Texas, Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (Fleet Marine Force/Naval Aircrewman) Joshua John Morgan, from Cleveland, Tenn., and Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (Fleet Marine Force/Surface Warfare) Lisa Marie Davis, from Baltimore, Md., completed their requirements for a baccalaureate degree in less than 36 consecutive months while attending TAMUCC full-time.

Each pursued the advancement pathway through the Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program (MECP), an in-service procurement plan for qualified enlisted men and women wanting to earn a nursing

degree and a commission.

Parker, who was the leading petty officer for Patient Services Division at NHCCC from October 2004 until his transfer to school in August 2005, attributes his success to determination, teamwork, and leadership.

"It is not uncommon for Sailors and Marines to apply multiple times before selection for MECP," Parker remarked. "My selection was the result of the teamwork of my juniors and peers as well as the leadership guidance I received from the Chief's mess and Officers throughout my career."

Morgan was assigned to the Managed Care Department at NHCCC from January 2004 to August 2005, and Davis worked at the Branch Dental Clinic Ingleside from October 2002 to August 2005.

Lt. Steve Brewster, Medical Service Corps, a former NHCCC staff member, and currently the Logistics Officer, Medical Education and Training Campus, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, administered the Oath of Office.

Brewster said that he was privi-

leged to participate because Parker and Morgan were both his former white hats at NHCCC.

Besides graduating with top honors, *summa cum laude*, Parker also received the College of Nursing and Health Sciences O'Neil Award for Caring for his outstanding example as student leader and mentor, qualities that Parker says he will continue to draw on as a nurse.

"As a Nurse Corps Officer," promised Parker, "I will continue to rely on teamwork while providing leadership and opportunities for growth for my Sailors and those under my care."

Parker, Morgan and Davis, are now scheduled to report to Naval Hospital Yokosuka, Japan, Naval Hospital Guam, and Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton respectively.

The MECP is open to active duty enlisted sailors, Marines, and Navy full-time support (FTS) in any rating or military occupational specialty in pay grades E-5 through E-9 at the time of application. Find more information at: <http://navmedmpte.med.navy.mil/mecp/>

Wounded Troops Increasingly Demand Assistive Technology

By Navy Lt. Jennifer Cragg, Special to American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON - Wounded service members in need of accommodations for their visual, hearing, dexterity and cognitive disabilities are the fastest-growing group requesting assistive technologies, a senior Defense Department official said in a May 29 interview.

"Recently, we have been overwhelmed with requests from our wounded service members as they are coming back and also learning that they need to have a different type of technology or can benefit from assistive technology," Dinah Cohen, director of the department's Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program, or CAP, said on the "Dot Mil Docs" program on Blog-TalkRadio.com.

When the war on terror began, it became clear that demand for assistive technology would grow from people with established needs to others who previously had no need for the help the technologies provide, Cohen said.

"Post-9/11, it was very obvious to me as men and women were coming back from the global war on terror that many of them were coming back with devastating injuries that would benefit from the same accommoda-

tions that are used to meet the needs for people with disabilities," Cohen said.

"I introduce them to assistive technology. Most of the men and women did not have a clue about it, since they did not need it, being very able bodied at one time. This allowed them to now learn about new technical solutions to be able to do some of the things they did before," she said.

When the new need became apparent, the CAP program introduced assistive technologies at military medical treatment facilities, starting with Walter Reed Army Medical Center here. CAP representatives worked with occupational therapists to explain to the wounded service members how these technologies work to benefit their lives.

The service members who received the assistive technologies suffered devastating injuries such as amputation, loss of vision or hearing, and cognitive disabilities. The CAP representatives showed them ways to use assistive technologies so they could continue to be a part of a computer environment.

"Many of the men and women wanted to e-mail their friends ... and stay in touch with their troops, so I was

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MSC Officer Earns Bronze Star for Year-Long Tour in Afghanistan

By Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Russ Tafuri,
Naval Hospital Pensacola Public Affairs Office

NAVAL HOSPITAL PENSACOLA — Navy Medical Service Corps Officer Commander (Cmdr.) Anne Swap, back stateside at Naval Hospital (NH) Pensacola following an Individual Augmentee assignment with the Combined Security Transition Command in Afghanistan, was presented The Bronze Star on Friday morning (May 30) for her service during the year-long tour.

NH Pensacola Commanding Officer, Capt. Kevin Berry presented Swap, who was the facility's Director for Administration prior to the Afghanistan tour, with The Bronze Star from the U.S. Army and Major General Robert W. Cone.

The Navy MSC officer won praise for exceptional meritorious service while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. She served in Afghanistan as the Senior Health Care Administration Mentor for the Afghan National Army, Command Surgeon directorate and the entire Combined Security Transition Command.

Laying the foundation for health services in Afghanistan, after having been disrupted by 23 years of war, Cmdr. Swap led nation-wide medical disaster preparedness efforts across the health sector.

She is also credited with the multi-disciplinary implementation of policy and procedures for casualty and medical evacuations and medical regulating within the Afghan Army's health care system. The efforts "directly, and greatly, improved" the delivery of medical care to the Afghan National Army, according to the Army citation.

The Bronze Star for meritorious service is the ninth highest U.S. Armed Services award.

In an end-of-tour award for outstanding service as NH Pensacola's DFA, Cmdr. Swap was also presented the



PENSACOLA, Fla. — Naval Hospital Pensacola Commanding Officer, Captain Kevin Berry (left) presents The Bronze Star to Navy Cmdr. Anne Swap on Friday morning (May 30) for year-long service with the Commander Combined Security Transition Command in Afghanistan. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Russ Tafuri

Meritorious Service Medal from Navy Medicine East. It was the fourth MSM in Cmdr. Swap's career.

During her tour as administration director during

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CP 2008 continued...

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medicine directorate into two groups to measure and survey host country concerns and health standards in El Salvador. We can cover more ground that way."

PREVMED team members have multiple and varied levels of expertise based on experience. Most of their work in El Salvador consists of measuring various site safety issues such as hazardous materials and waste and industrial hygiene.

"We are focused on ensuring that the work spaces Salvadorans and Boxer crewmembers inhabit meet accepted safety standards," said McDonald. "We use those site

samples to determine whether a community could be overexposed to a particular hazard."

Other team members include experts in infectious disease, environmental and civil engineering, pediatric care and entomology.

"We're learning a lot from each other through subject matter exchanges with El Salvador," McDonald added. "I am impressed with the level of cooperation and knowledge here."

Boxer's mission exemplifies the U.S. maritime strategy which emphasizes deploying forces to build confidence and trust among nations through collective maritime security efforts that focus on common

threats and mutual interests.

Embarked units and organizations aboard Boxer for CP include Amphibious Squadron 5, Fleet Surgical Team 5, U.S. Public Health service, Project HOPE, Project Handclasp, Navy Seabee Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303, Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 14, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764, Tactical Air Control Squadron 11, Special Marine Air Ground Task Force 24, Helicopter Sea Combat Support Squadron 23, Assault Craft Unit 1, Fleet Survey Team, Maritime Civil Affairs Team 205 and Beach Master Unit 1.



PACIFIC OCEAN - The Military Sealift Command USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) transits the Western Pacific May 27. Mercy is supporting Pacific Partnership 2008, a humanitarian and civic assistance deployment to the Republic of the Philippines, Vietnam, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia. *U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Valcarcel*

Continuing Promise Med Techs Save Lives Through Equipment Repair

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW/AW)
Brian Gaines, USS Boxer Public Affairs

SONSONATE, El Salvador - Biological medical repair technicians (BMT), embarked aboard USS Boxer (LHD 4), visited El Salvador's Hospital de Nacional Sonsanate and Escuela de Miravalle for medical equipment repairs May 21, as part of the Pacific phase of Continuing Promise (CP) 2008.

CP is an equal partnership mission enabling American and host-nation health care providers and engineers to work together and share ideas to provide effective infrastructure solutions, while building long-term bonds.

BMTs specialize in maintenance and repair of various medical equipment including X-rays, compressors, dental equipment and sterilizers.

"We have focused primarily on repairing x-ray units, electrocardiogram units, defibrillators and oxygen tank gauges during the El Salvador portion of this mission," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW) John Renner, Naval Health Clinic Great Lakes, currently embarked aboard Boxer. "These pieces of equipment are a vital part to any medical team."

During the visit to Escuela de Miravalle, BMTs and Salvadoran technicians repaired a broken generator that kept various tools for dental procedures operational.

Many of the repairs performed were done alongside Salvadoran medical professionals to pass on knowledge that will last long after the teams leave El Salvador. A key element of this deployment is the potential for a variety of medical staffs to collectively address regional medical concerns and develop effective, economical solutions that can be used through the region.

"Working side-by-side with the Salvadorans has been an unforgettable experience," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Christopher Kott, from the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md. "From locating parts to installations and overhauls, the Salvadorans have been very accommodating and helpful."

In addition to repairs, the BMTs interacted on a personal level with staff and patients alike.

"The people here are very friendly," said Army Staff Sgt. Dustin Miller, of the 212th Combat Support Hospital, Miesau Army Depot in Germany. "The reception and support of the people here has been overwhelming."

Naval Medical Logistics Command Receives Award

By Lt. Richard Nixon, Naval Medical Logistics Command Public Affairs Office

FORT DETRICK, Md. - The Naval Medical Logistics Command (NAVMEDLOGCOM) was awarded a Certificate of Recognition in competition for the prestigious U.S. Senate Productivity Award.

The award, part of the University of Maryland's Performance Excellence Awards Program, honors role model organizations for successfully implementing systematic processes for continuous improvement and achieving outstanding results. Award recipients are evaluated by an independent Board of Examiners using the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence, which measures an organization in seven areas: leadership; strategic

planning; customer and market focus; measurement, analysis and knowledge management; workforce focus; process management; and results.

NAVMEDLOGCOM, located at Fort Detrick in Frederick County, is responsible for handling all medical logistics needs of the United States Navy, including procurement of healthcare professionals, operational and medical logistics, production and manufacturing, and external training. With 150 military, civilian and contract workers, NAVMEDLOGCOM provides medical logistics services, supplies and equipment to 130 military treatment facilities and over 300 naval ships and U.S. Marine Corps units located throughout the world.

Since 1983, Maryland's U.S.

Senators and the University of Maryland have joined together to help Maryland organizations achieve excellence and world-class results using the Maryland Performance Excellence Awards process to inspire, coach and recognize role model organizations for their successful implementation of systematic processes and achievement of outstanding results. The awards program provides an opportunity for organizations to improve their performance through self-assessment, writing an application, receiving an external analysis, participating in workshops and conferences, benchmarking with other high-performing organizations, and sharing best practices.



EXETER, R.I. - Capt. Elizabeth Nelson, Commanding Officer of Naval Health Clinic New England, and Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Shelia Lorraine Bell participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the Rhode Island Women Veterans Memorial, RI Veterans Cemetery, Exeter, RI, on 23 May 2008. Bell was honored as the 2008 RI Military Woman of the Year at a luncheon following the wreath laying ceremony. *U.S. Navy photo by Kathy MacKnight*

Wounded Troops continued...

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able to introduce them to the technologies that would allow them to do that," Cohen said.

This year alone, CAP has received more than 3,500 requests from wounded service members, which has been the fastest-growing population needing assistive technology, she said. Since Oct. 1, CAP has filled more than 7,000 accommodations from both wounded service members and federal employees, and from its inception in 1990, CAP has filled 66,000 accommodations.

People eligible for CAP assistance are given an assessment to make sure the accommodation meets their requirements, Cohen said. CAP has a variety of software and hardware provisions available, depending on the disability.

"We always look and talk to the individual and find out what works best for them, and then try to match it up to the right solution," said Cohen.

For example, for people with dexterity disabilities, it might be as simple as providing a different pointing device, or it could be on the high end, such as voice recognition, which allows the user to talk into a microphone and have the words appear on the computer screen.

For some wounded service members, this allows them to keep up with today's technology. "They can use their voice to still be part of today's fast-moving information environment, still surfing the Web, still being able to do all their typing, still being able to do all of their e-mails," Cohen said.

She added the people who are eligible for CAP include DoD employees with disabilities, employees with disabilities who work at other federal agencies that have a partnership with CAP, and wounded service members.

"Any one of us can become disabled at any time, and if we have an environment -- and managers and leaders that truly understand and support the employment of people with disabilities and support the re-employment of our wounded service members -- then we have a truly inclusive environment for all Americans," Cohen said.

Bronze Star continued...

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2005-07, Cmdr. Swap's "inspiring leadership, vision and professional ability" made lasting and significant improvements in providing the highest quality medical care to 168,000 beneficiaries within the region.

Shortly after arriving at the NH Pensacola command, she became an integral part of the hospital's Incident Command Center that provided leadership and logistical support, coordination and assistance to Gulf Coast Navy branch health clinics during and after Hurricane Katrina.

Among some of her more prolific accomplishments as DFA, was:

- * A \$111,000 remodel and upgrade to the Internal Medicine Department;
- * The supervision and re-engineering of many information management, and administrative support processes, enabling clinicians to function as a partner in planning facility and patient services;

* Taking the lead in operational training, deployment readiness and accountability while dual-hatted as the Executive Officer of Fleet Hospital Pensacola;

* Becoming a proactive member of the hospital's Executive Steering Council where she led an initiative to provide operational briefs developed from a Plans, Operations and Medical Intelligence strategic perspective in order to provide senior leadership with a periodic snapshot of the command's current and emerging operational issues with a global and situational perspective.

The MSC Officer's next tour of duty is to be with the Secretary of the Navy's office in Washington, DC.



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