Navy Medicine Makes Historic Move As Naval Hospital Corps School Relocates

By L.A. Shively
Fort Sam Houston public affairs office

SAN ANTONIO — The Navy celebrated a major milestone in the history of its hospital corpsmen training with an April 21 rededication ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio, relocating the Naval Hospital Corps School from Great Lakes, Ill.

Hospital Corps training is now called the Basic Medical Technician Corpsman Program and consists of a variety of basic courses taught in an integrated environment, followed by service-unique classes. Inaugural class 130 began April 27 with 150 students broken into Alpha, Bravo and Charlie companies of 50 each, said Master Chief Hospital Corpsman HMCM (SW) Shanon Best, Navy Medicine Training Center (NMTC) senior enlisted leader for administration.

"METC is a place and an idea," said Rear Adm. William R. Kiser, Medical Education Training Campus (METC) inaugural commandant. “As a place it represents new buildings and infrastructure which is absolutely world class. As an idea, it is always good to train like we fight. It’s always good to come together to get know each other and develop trust in each other before we show up on the battlefield."

Guest Speaker Force Master Chief Laura Martinez, director of the Hospital Corps, expanded on the duality of the corpsmen’s training and mission.

"We have long heard the call Corpsman up! that we have answered in every major battle since the Corps’ founding. At the same time, the Hospital Corps has always shown up on the battlefield."

See SCHOOL RELOCATION.

NMMPT&E Holds Change Of Command Ceremony April 29

Naval Medicine Support Command public affairs

BETHESDA, Md. — Leadership of Navy Medicine’s education and training command changed during a change of command ceremony April 29 at the National Naval Medical Center’s Memorial Auditorium in Bethesda, Md.

Capt. Lee L. Cornforth, Medical Service Corps, relieved Capt. Barton R. Welbourn, Dental Corps, as commanding officer of the Navy Medicine Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education Command (NMMPT&E) during the ceremony. Surgeon General of the Navy Vice Adm. Adam Robinson served as the guest speaker, and Rear Adm. Eleanor V. Valentín, commander, Navy Medicine Support Command, and director of the Medical Service Corps, served as officiating officer.

NMMPT&E has oversight of the Navy’s Aviation Survival Training Centers. NMMPT&E commands and detachments are located across the nation.

Cornforth told the nearly 200 attendees that serving as commanding officer of NMMPT&E is an honor, and expressed his appreciation to Welbourn.

“I thank Captain Welbourn for his 30 years of sterling ser-

See NMMPT&E, continued on page 3
**From the Flag: Another Exciting Month**

Hello again Navy Medicine support Command.

In my March column, I wrote that April looked to be an exciting month. Indeed it was. I was pleased to spend much of the third week of April in San Antonio. On the 19th, I was witness to perhaps the most moving Navy ceremony I have ever attended. The Navy Medicine Training Center (NMTC) hosted a dedication ceremony for its two Navy dormitories at the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC).

The dormitories were named for two fallen corpsmen, HM3 John T. Fralish and HM2 Jaime S. Jaenke, who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The guest speaker was MCPON (SW/FMF) Joe Campa Jr., USN (Ret), the first hospital corpsman to serve as Master Chief of the Navy. Family of both corpsmen attended the ceremony and helped unveil plaques in front of each building as well as large portraits of each hero that will hang in the building named in their honor. From April 19 forward, every Sailor who trains to be a corpsman will live in either the Fralish or Jaenke building.

On April 22, NMTC and METC co-hosted a ceremony at the Fort Sam Houston parade field officially marking the relocation of Naval Hospital Corps School from Great Lakes to Fort Sam Houston. This was an historic event, especially when you consider that the school opened at Great Lakes in 1917.

RADM William Kiser, the METC commandant, spoke about the importance of integrated training. FORCE Laura Martinez was the guest speaker and talked about the importance of life-saving patient care provided by our Hospital Corps. There were two drill demonstrations by the local Smithson Valley High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC). And we were honored by performances by the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps. Congratulations NHCS, NMTC and METC.

I visited several sites in San Antonio that are very important to our education and research and development missions. I visited the two facilities where our directed energy, dental, and biomedical and combat casualty care research are being performed. These facilities house state-of-the-art equipment for our amazing scientists.

The new Battlefield Health and Trauma facility is where the Naval Medical Research Unit – San Antonio (NAMRU-SA) headquarters is located. I also toured the Tri-service Directed Energy Facility where final construction is wrapping up and expected to be completed this month. This facility will be operational by June with a formal ribbon cutting ceremony in the works for September.

I also went to the Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute (DMRTI) at Fort Sam Houston. DMRTI is a tri-service organization staffed by Navy, Army and Air Force personnel. DMRTI offers training in trauma care, burn care, disaster preparedness, humanitarian assistance and CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high yield Explosives) preparation/response. More than 4,000 students are trained annually at DMRTI.

On April 29, I was in Portsmouth, Virginia, where I was honored to serve as the officiating officer for the Navy Medicine Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education Command (NMMPT&E) change of command ceremony. CAPT Barton Welbourn was relieved by CAPT Lee Comforth. CAPT Welbourn is retiring after 30 incredible years of service. CAPT Comforth was CAPT Welbourn’s XO at NMMPT&E. Before that, he was the Naval Operational Medicine Institute (NOMI) CO. CAPT Welbourn is a hard act to follow, but he leaves NMMPT&E in very capable hands.

**NMSC Reorganization Update**

Monday, April 4, was the second meeting of the NMSC Transition Tiger Team (T3) led by Rear Admiral Flaherty, the Deputy Surgeon General, and me. We discussed the organization of and chain of command for NAVMISSA, NMRC, and NMLC after they transition to BUMED Command and Control. Then Mr. Lorenzen presented the recommendations on approximately 120 support functions that NMSC currently provides the commands transitioning to BUMED.

The decision of the T3 was that the great majority of those support functions will continue to be provided by NMSC. Support functions that are going to be covered by BUMED for those three commands include: some administration support such as awards, correspondence control, fitness reports for the Commanding Officers, recognition programs and civilian awards, Judge Advocate General functions, Public Affairs Office functions, enlisted manning issues, monthly performance metrics, Diversity Program compliance review, Career Development program review, and some manpower/personnel functions.

The final item was the NMSC headquarters move to San Antonio. I had submitted proposals for the headquarters move that varied in size. It looks like about 12 personnel will move. The goal is to have a staff in place by May 2012.

As always, when I get more information about the reorganization and the move to San Antonio, I will pass that information quickly to all of you. Thank you for all that you do for Navy Medicine and the great people we support.
From the NMSC Command Master Chief

Master Chief Petty Officer
James R. Perry
Command Master Chief
Navy Medicine Support Command

Shipmates,

In the early morning hours of May 1, U.S. Armed Forces struck a highly visible blow in the global war on terror, neutralizing one of the key figures in a fight in which many of our medical officers and corpsmen have played a significant part over the past decade.

They were able to accomplish their job, because each and every one of you is doing yours.

Now, more than ever before, the interoperability between sections of the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Armed Forces and the Allies is at the highest point it’s ever been – corpsmen are performing missions with Army counterparts, Air Force personnel and Allied physicians and nurses. Their ability to do so stems directly from the support Navy Medicine Support Command provides, and the critical roles each and every one of you fill.

That being said, as we enter a new era in the fight that many of you have seen first-hand, constant vigilance is important. U.S. interests are scattered throughout the world, and simply because of the allegiance we hold to our country, any of us – regardless of where – could be a potential target.

Two corpsmen who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country during this ongoing conflict were memorialized April 19. The Navy Medicine Training Center (NMTC) at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio named two barracks after Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class John T. Fralish and Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Jaime S. Jaenke. These two corpsmen were killed supporting contingency operations in Afghanistan and Iraq respectively, and their likenesses will forever serve as a reminder to every corpsman transiting the schoolhouse of the importance of their duties as a medical professional in the world’s greatest Navy.

Additionally, the long awaited relocation of the Naval Hospital Corps School from Great Lakes to Fort Sam Houston was officially marked by a ceremony April 19. While classes will continue at Great Lakes until July, courses are ongoing at METC now, and are happening in a joint environment. Our corpsmen attending ‘A’ School are being exposed to working with Army and Air Force personnel from the inception of their Navy careers, something I feel will pay dividends for the Fleet, the Armed Forces and the United States for years to come.

Instructors are needed at the new schoolhouse; we are searching for outstanding corpsmen who can bring their wealth of knowledge and experience from around the Fleet to the next generation of corpsmen. Enlisted Navy medical professionals with the 9502 Navy Enlisted Classification code are being sought to help train both ‘A’ and ‘C’ school students, and personnel are encouraged to contact their chain of command if interested in this challenging and rewarding duty.

At the NMSC Headquarters in Jacksonville, Fla., we hosted the Tri-Command picnic May 6. This involved two of our area commands (Navy Drug Screening Laboratory Jacksonville and the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence) along with staff from NMSC Headquarters and the Centralized Credentials and Privileging Directorate. This annual event allowed local NMSC commands to get together in a relaxed, informal setting and enjoy some friendly competition, some great food (Bravo Zulu to the NMSC Chief Petty Officers for taking over the grill duties) and to meet new members of the NMSC family as well as bid farewell to others. This event, involving more than 200 personnel, was organized by the NMSC Morale, Welfare and Recreation volunteers, and I would like to personally thank them for a job well done!

As always, shipmates first. Take care of each other.

NMMPT&E, continued from page 1

service to our nation and for his support, guidance and friendship,” Cornforth said. “He leaves a legacy of excellence in his wake and has turned over a command second to none. I look forward to serving all of you as together we shape the future for the heroes of our nation and their families.”

Cornforth was the NMMPT&E executive officer before assuming command. He has also served as the commanding officer of the Naval Operational Medicine Institute in Pensacola, Fla. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from Oregon State University, a Master of Business Administration with honors and an emphasis in Health Services Management, and a Doctor of Optometry degree with distinction from Pacific University College of Optometry.

Welbourn, a graduate of the Indiana University School of Dentistry and 30-year Navy veteran, is scheduled to retire. Accredited by the Council on Occupational Education, NMMPT&E is designed to deliver the right number of personnel at the right time with the right skills at the best value in support of multiple Navy Medicine missions.

ASIAN PACIFIC, continued from page 1

1942 became the first Korean American woman in the U.S. military and the first female Navy Gunner Officer.

-Rear Adm. Gordon Pai'ea Chung-Hoon, of Chinese and Hawaiian heritage, became the Navy's first Asian American flag officer and was a recipient of the Navy Cross and Silver Star for his actions as commanding officer of USS Sigsbee (DD 502) from May 1944 to October 1945.

-Rear Adm. Eleanor Valentin, the first female director of the Navy Medical Service Corps and recipient of the 2010 National Women of Color Technologist of the Year Award.

-Cmdr. Michael V. Misiewicz, Commanding Officer of USS Mustin (DDG 89), who in December 2010, arrived in Sihanoukville, Cambodia, for training with the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, his first visit to his native country since emigrating to the United States in 1973.

-Dr. Ying Xia of Naval Undersea Warfare Center and Capt. Jon Hill, Naval Sea Systems Command, recipients of the 2011 Asian American Engineer of the Year awards.

Background on the contributions of Asian Pacific Americans to the U.S. legacy can be found at http://asianpacificheritage.gov.
NMCPHC Cyclist Participates in Face-of-America Bike Ride

By Hugh Cox
Navy & Marine Corps Public Health Center public affairs

PORTSMOUTH, Va. – Dr. Steve Heaston, public health educator with the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center (NMCPHC), participated in the annual Face-of-America bike ride that took place Apr. 15-17, originating in Washington, DC.

Approximately 500 riders, including 45 Wounded Warriors, participated in the 106-mile event that began at the U.S. Capital and concluded at the historic battlefields in Gettysburg, Pa.

The annual event, hosted by World T.E.A.M Sports, in conjunction with the National Naval Medical Center and Walter Reed Army Medical Center, pays tribute to the U.S. military, including veterans, retirees, and active duty, with special emphasis on Wounded Warriors.

Heaston, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, received an invitation to join the ride and immediately signed up.

“I had recently visited the Wounded Warrior program in San Diego and had seen how sports can provide veterans with a fantastic opportunity to regain their confidence, be socially active, and demonstrate the unstoppable American spirit,” said Heaston.

Riders took to the road early Saturday morning, following a kick-off dinner on Friday evening that featured several high-profile speakers including Ambassador Francis X. Taylor, former assistant secretary of state and current vice president and chief security officer for General Electric; and Maj. L. Tammy Duckworth, a former U.S. Army helicopter pilot who lost both legs in Iraq and serves as the assistant secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Veteran Affairs.

“These exceptional athletes really redefine a handicap as something to overcome, rather than to limit a person,” said Heaston. “I spoke with many Wounded Warriors that had been told after they were wounded that they would never be able to be physically active again. In fact, they completed a ride that most Americans would never even attempt.”

According to Heaston, riders braved a cold, driving rain throughout most of Saturday without complaints, in spite of the occasional spill and a few concerns over hypothermia. All the riders, including the medical support team, provided mutual support and kept spirits high.

The weather cleared Sunday, and the cyclists were met by hundreds of appreciative locals as they passed through numerous small towns. The ride finished by passing through the Gettysburg battlefield to the acclaim of hundreds of locals, including veterans from WWII and Korea.

Overall, riders raised over $400,000 that enabled the Wounded Warriors to participate in this and other World T.E.A.M. sporting events.

Additional information on Face of America can be found at [http://worldteamsports.org/events/face-of-america/](http://worldteamsports.org/events/face-of-america/).
Navy Medicine Training Center Dedicates Barracks to Fallen Corpsmen

By L.A. Shively
Fort Sam Houston public affairs

SAN ANTONIO – Two fallen Navy corpsmen were honored during a ceremony dedicating a new barracks to each at the Navy Medicine Training Center (NMTC) aboard Fort Sam Houston on April 19.

Both were killed while supporting contingency operations.

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class John Fralish was killed Feb. 6, 2006, by enemy fire during a fire fight with insurgents while on patrol in Afghanistan. Assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Fralish served as a corpsman for the Marines supporting provincial reconstruction and stabilization efforts in that country.

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Jaime Jaenke was killed June 5, 2006, by a roadside bomb in Iraq. Assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 25, Fort McCoy, Wisc., Jaenke served as the unit corpsman. NMCB 25 personnel were involved in building schools, housing, airstrips and water wells among other projects in an effort to assist in restoring Iraq's infrastructure. Jaenke completed 25 missions, escorting 375 personnel in convoys across the country.

Calling a corpsman "Doc" is an honor fellow service members bestow on a Corpsman, communicating their trust that the corpsman will care for them. A service member's life is in the "Doc's" hands in combat because immediate access to a physician is not always possible, according to Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Robert Browning, who helped Seabees from San Antonio-based NMCB-22 construct the cement pad and raise the flagpole for the Fralish and Jaenke barracks.

"It doesn't happen out of school. It happens when you bond with your Seabees, Sailors and Marines. It's a wonderful feeling," Browning said, recalling the first time he was called Doc. "It gives me a sense of pride to drive by and see the flagpole."

See BARRACKS, continued on page 6

SCHOOL RELOCATION, continued from page 1

ways provided care for family members and retirees at military treatment facilities around the globe. This dual commitment will never waver, no matter where our Sailors and Marines go or what they do."

Martinez recognized the importance of the bond between providers, patients and service to country.

"We honor and celebrate that A corpsman for more than 30 years, Martinez also recognized the contributions of corpsmen to the country and the Navy. "It is no accident that we are experiencing the lowest battle mortality and non-battle injury rates in the history of armed conflict. This is due in large part to our exceptional corpsmen and their training. The Hospital Corps is the largest Navy rating and the most decorated in the United States. Twenty naval ships alone have been named after hospital corpsmen," she said.

Navy Seaman Josue Espinoza expressed pride in his training as a hospital corpsman.

"I feel honored to say that when I put on my uniform, I not only represent the U.S. Navy, I also represent generations of Sailors who have gone before me to fight for my freedom."

Student Navy Seaman Daniella Summers echoed Martinez' commitment to service. "No matter the situation, a shipmate will never be left behind," she said.

The program included performances by The United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps and by the Smithson Valley Armed/Unarmed Drill Teams. Several enlisted members modeled uniforms of the Hospital Corps spanning decades.

Navy students began training at METC in a variety of both advanced and basic courses beginning in May 2010.

Average daily student load is estimated at about 9,000 Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen at completion, making the tri-service Medical Education Training Campus the world's largest military medical education and training facility.

"We look forward to the collaboration. We look forward to making this version of hospital corps school the finest it's ever been in the history of the Navy," Kiser said.
NMSC Names Level 1 and Level 2 Civilians of The Quarter

Navy Medicine Support Command
public affairs

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Navy Medicine Support Command headquarters selected its top junior and senior civilian employees for the first quarter of 2011 during a selection board held in April.

Navy Medicine Support Command (NMSC) COQ Level 1 awardee Mr. Denver Singletary and Level 2 awardee Ms. Iris Hines were recognized for their significant contributions and dedication to their jobs.

Singletary, an NMSC assistant coordinator of the Bureau of Navy Medicine’s (BUMED) Enterprise Knowledge Management (EKM) system, is responsible for evaluating, tracking and coordinating new tasks with action officers. He additionally prepares command endorsements for completed taskings, and manages a comprehensive archive of administrative taskings relevant to NMSC operations.

Hines, the NMSC Medical Research Financial Management analyst, is solely responsible for resource management duties for the entire Navy Medicine research enterprise. She is considered one of the Bureau of Navy Medicine’s foremost authorities on budget issues related to Navy Medicine’s research activities.

Denver Singletary
Navy Medicine Support Command
Civilian of the Quarter
Level 1
(First Quarter, 2011)

Iris Hines
Navy Medicine Support Command
Civilian of the Quarter
Level 2
(First Quarter, 2011)

Perform to Serve (PTS)

Perform to serve is a human resources management tool that utilizes performance criteria within individual ratings and year groups (YGs) to ensure long-term sustainment of experience throughout the Navy.

Visit the Fleet RIDE/PTS policy, information, and training materials page located on the Navy Personnel Command website:

http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/career/careercounseling/Pages/FleetRIDE-PTS.aspx

Several hundred Sailors, Airmen, Soldiers, Marines and civilians attended the event, where former Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (ret.) Joe Campa, the first hospital corpsman to serve as MCPON, was the guest speaker.

“All of us here know of the sacrifice these two individuals made while serving in distant lands,” Campa said. “But the stories of these two Sailors go well beyond the sacrifice they made on the battlefield. Their stories are of a young man and young woman who had a great love for their families, their country and the work they found in being corpsmen.”

Helping people and serving her country was what Jaenke loved, according to her cousin, Tiffani Eisentrager. As a civilian Jaenke had volunteered as an emergency medical technician and was planning to become a nurse.

Fralish was inspired to join the Navy because of 9/11. His uncle, John Fralish Jr., said that military service was a family tradition and the younger Fralish had wished to help others by becoming a doctor.

During the ceremony, larger-than-life portraits of each corpsman were unveiled. The Fralish and Jaenke portraits will grace the quarterdeck of each of the named barracks, and bronze plaques chronicling the circumstances under which each corpsman lost their lives were also unveiled.

“I am deeply honored that his name is there,” said John Fralish Jr. “For years to come, that plaque will serve as a beacon for many classes of corpsman.”

Family members then released gold and navy blue balloons, officially opening both barracks.

Capt. Greg Craigmiles, NMTC commanding officer, addressed the significance of the Fralish and Jaenke barracks, pointing out that from this point on, every Sailor who becomes a hospital corpsman will reside in those barracks.

BARRACKS, continued from page 5
JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Members of the U.S. Navy’s sole medical support organization providing oversight to dozens of Navy Medicine activities gathered May 6 aboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville for the Tri-Command Spring Picnic.

Navy Medicine Support Command (NMSC), headquartered at NAS Jacksonville, along with Navy Drug Screening Laboratory (NDSL) Jacksonville and the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE) participated in the annual event.

The Travelling Trophy Challenges, a series of sporting events, highlighted the day, including volleyball and free-throw shooting contests. A spades tournament and egg relay race were also organized, with NDSL Jacksonville participants capturing top-honors in the point-system driven contests.

Both NDSLJAX and NECE are Echelon Five commands, falling under the oversight of NMSC, which provides a single point of accountability for all support services within Navy Medicine and exercises command and control and financial management oversight over subordinate commands and ensures the economical and effective delivery of Navy Medicine enterprise-wide support services.