

AUAB nower Volume 26, Number 4 WWW.militarymedical.com APRIL 2019

AUAB power projection: Aeromedical Evacuation

By Tech. Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

If any servicemember throughout U.S. Central Command needs medical care beyond what they are able to receive locally, they don't need to worry. The 379th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron has them covered.

From injuries to illnesses, aeromedical evacuation technicians and flight nurses from the 379th EAES are trained and equipped to provide in-flight medical support for patients who need to make the journey to Al Udeid for more advanced medical care.

"Our mission is to bring back patients that are

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(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal) Staff Sgt. Monica Otholt, left, 379th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (EAES) duty controller, and Staff Sgt. Lyndsey Glotfelty, 379th EAES aeromedical evacuation technician, move medical equipment onto the back of a truck at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, before a recent mission. Technicians and nurses from the 379th EAES provide a variety of aeromedical evacuation services for patients at various deployed locations across U.S. Central Command to include pain management, psychiatric, and medical emergency response.



(Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Maj. Michael R. Meyers II)

Army Maj. Michael R. Meyers II, the battalion executive officer for 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 4th Infantry Division and the All-Army Women's basketball team meet Basketball Hall of Fame coach and player John Thompson Jr. (center) during their training for last year's tournament. Thompson has multiple NBA championships and is a three time Big East Coach of the Year.

Hardwood healing; Passion for basketball

By Sgt. James Geelen 4th Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade

As a young boy growing up in Tacoma Park, Maryland, U.S. Army Maj. Michael R. Meyers II, the battalion executive officer for 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, had a passion for the game of basketball and was a fan of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Meyers attended a private school where he met an inspirational basketball coach named Chuck Faust, who fostered his love for basketball and helped develop Meyer's coaching ethic.

"I credit all of my success to Coach Faust and his

coaching style," Meyers said. "He's helped me do so many great things."

Meyers played basketball in middle school and some in college before joining the Army.

"I felt my basketball skills were at a peak when I commissioned as a lieutenant," Meyers said. "But I felt there wasn't a future for me as a player."

While assigned to the "Black Jack Brigade" in Fort Hood, Texas, Meyer's would deploy to Iraq.

"I came back from deployment in 2007 and I had trouble adjusting at times," he said. "I had strange

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Healing (Continued from front page)



(Photos courtesy of U.S. Army Maj. Michael R. Meyers II) Army Maj. Michael R. Meyers II, coach for the All-Army Women's basketball team discusses strategy with Kimberly D. Mulkey, head women's basketball coach at Baylor University. Mulkey is the first person in NCAA history to win a basketball national championship as a player, assistant coach, and head coach.

feelings, anxiety, and trouble staying focused and for a while it looked like I would never be associated with basketball again. But then I started coaching. Basketball has been a great way for me to maintain resiliency."

Coaching basketball not only lets him to continue working with and developing young players but it has also turned out to be a way for him to manage the negative effects of deployment.

"I realized that by building these programs and coaching, it helped to keep me grounded and allowed me to do the same for others," Meyers said. "Whenever you're checked in mentally on something, you're checked out of all the negative things that happened to you."

Meyers used his military basketball career to help his disorder and those around him. He began establishing teams at each base he was stationed.

"The team at Fort Riley was amazing," he said. "We produced an all Army player and an all Army trainer. I coached the Daegu, South Korea, team and we won

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Army Maj. Michael R. Meyers II, (left) coach for the All-Army Women's basketball team and Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) Albert Mayon (right) an assistant coach present a jersey to NBA Hall of Fame player and current Head Coach of Georgetown University, Patrick A. Ewing (center), during a team practice last year. Meyers will be the head coach for this year's All-Army Women's team starting May, 11 2019.



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the all-Korea championship, and the Fort Hood team won back-to-back championships too."

Throughout his military career Meyers has been able to find a balance between his volunteer work and his Army career, where he has been able to promote the game of basketball and help other Soldiers handle their PTSD.

Meyers' dedication to basketball is now being recognized, as a month ago he was selected to be a part of the inaugural class of the Military Basketball Association Hall of Fame, taking place April 12, at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"The Hall of Fame selection committee was gracious enough to look at so many volunteers," Meyers said. "I feel fortunate and blessed that they thought of me."

The people selected were mostly coaches who have made big contributions to the game and are great mentors to Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Soldiers.

"He's very passionate about what he does," said Meyers' boss, Lt. Col. Gavin Luher, commander 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th SB. "You can tell he's pouring his heart and soul into work and with sports. People can tell when you're 'going through the motions' and I never see that with him."

While Meyers was waiting to hear about the Military Basketball Association Hall of Fame, he decided to put in an application to coach the All-Army Women's team.

On February 8th Maj. Meyers was selected to be the coach of the All-Army Women's team for the second straight year, and hopes to be able to bring the gold medal back to Fort Carson.

"He's a great guy, a great coach, who knows the game very well," said Sgt. Radiance Felton a human resource specialist with 4th SB, 4th ID. "He gives us his insights on the game, teaches us and trains us to be on that level."

Felton has been playing on the All-Army Women's Team since 2014. Maj. Meyers being the head coach again this year has influenced her desire to try-out for the team this summer.

"Last year was a great experience," Felton said. "It was intense playing with people from all around the world, who are in the military and played collegiate basketball as well."

Lt. Col. Luher echoed the beliefs of Sgt. Felton.

"He's always developing his people and you can always see progress, they're achieving more each time," Luher said. "I think that through a month of practices, that team will build, become more cohesive and really progress through that trainup and preparation for their tournament."

While the goal is to improve upon last year's silver medal, Meyers wants his fellow Soldiers to represent their units and the Army with pride.

"I'm really excited that I get to represent the 4th Sustainment Brigade and Fort Carson as a head coach, building and supporting military athletes."

WWW.militarymedical.com Wilitary Medical News • April 2019 • Page 3 **Veterinarians' mission includes pet care**

By Anna Morelock U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden

WIESBADEN, Germany — The Wiesbaden Veterinary Treatment Facility has three main missions, the most visible to the community being the care of its pets.

Whether they've traveled overseas, or been adopted locally, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden's cats and dogs need to ensure their owners register them with the VTF upon arrival. While they are welcome to, pets don't even need to stop in to the VTF, but simply need to send their vaccination records along with their owners to complete the registration process.

The registration process with the VTF may be simple, but owners should still remember that moving is not only stressful on them, but also on their pets.

"It's always important to keep a close eye on our pets while traveling and transitioning to a new environment to make sure they are acclimating well," said Capt. Kathleen Stewart, veterinarian and officer in charge of the Wiesbaden VTF.

Stewart recommended keeping pets' routines as consistent as possible. Make sure they are getting attention, the same number of walks and the same food, and have a blanket that smells like home or a favorite toy, she said.

After they are registered, pets can be seen at the VTF for routine wellness appointments, vaccines and preventive medications, and minor sick call appointments. For more serious issues that require major diagnostics, overnight hospitalization or surgery, pet owners should be prepared to take their pets to a German veterinarian.

Owners with pets on special medications and diets should talk with the VTF staff about the best way to fulfill their pets' needs. The VTF can import certain medications and food, but it may be necessary to purchase these items on the German economy.

"We share (the owners') love for fourlegged critters, and we strive to provide the best service for everyone and their pets," Stewart said. "We want to make visits to the VTF as happy and low stress as possible."

When traveling with their owners throughout the European Union, it is important for pets to have an EU pet passport, which can be obtained from a German veterinarian. After its initial issuance, the Wiesbaden VTF staff can update the passport with any additional vaccines. And, while the pet passport facilitates travel within the EU, owners need to check the websites of the countries they are visiting in case there are extra requirements instead of, or on top of, the passport.

When pets are ready to leave Germany for their next duty stations, it's important for the owners to research pet importation requirements for their new home and engage with the VTF early to ensure



(US Army photo by Ashley L. Keasler)

Team members from U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Wiesbaden's Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) interact with a pet before taking X-Rays on Clay Kaserne, Wiesbaden, Germany on 14 November 2018. USAG Wiesbaden's VTF helps to maintain Soldier readiness in ways such as prepping families and their pets for Permanent Change of Station (PCS) moves, and ensuring that health standards are met in food items throughout the Post Exchange, Commissary, and dining facility.

everyone is ready to move.

The VTF can set up pre-travel appointments to make sure pets' vaccines are up to date before the required timeline is in motion for the health certificate. Most stateside destinations require the health certificate to be signed within 10 days of the pets' arrival. The VTF can also help owners with any extra veterinary requirements from airlines or pet transportation companies.

The Wiesbaden veterinarians can write health certificates back to the United States, U.S. territories and Japan. For other destinations, owners should consult the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and talk to VTF staff on the best way to complete requirements. Other destinations may require a visit to a German veterinarian, so it is important to plan early.

When not tending to the community's pets, VTF staff are fulfilling their other missions. The same services they provide to pets also are provided for the military working dogs who call U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden home. And, VTF staff also protect the garrisons' Families by performing food safety and public health inspections on the installation.

"We inspect on-post facilities that serve or sell food to our community members," Stewart said. "It's a very important part of keeping our service members and their Families safe and healthy. Food-borne illnesses can be spread from various sources; we do our best to prevent that from affecting our community." Visit the Wiesbaden VTF in Building 1038 on Clay Kaserne

Hours: 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8 a.m. to noon, Thursday (0611) 143-546-0700 Wiesbaden VTF

https://phc.amedd.army.mil/organization/Pages/VtfDetails.aspx?VtfID=23 Traveling with pets: https://www. aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel



sick or injured from all over the CENTCOM area of responsibility," said Capt. Aline Putnam, 379th EAES flight nurse. "I think that the people out there doing the missions, forward deployed, fighting the good fight can do their jobs easier, and their leadership can make decisions with confidence knowing that if something happens, there is aeromedical evacuation to come pick them up and bring them home to safety."

Aeromedical evacuation technicians and flight nurses provide a variety of medical services, to include pain management, psychiatric care, and medical emergency response.

"We train for the worst possible scenario," said Putnam. "We're trained and qualified to handle a cardiac arrest if it should happen on the aircraft. That's bearing in mind that we don't have doctors on board, so [we have] more extensive training for the nurses and technicians."

Because the need for an aeromedical evacuation can come without warning, Putnam said the team must be able to respond quickly once they receive a mission notification. "We got alerted out of the blue for an urgent patient, a wounded warrior downrange," said Putnam. "We got the call and were out the door in twenty minutes. We had already had our crew rest and were ready to go, bags packed."

Senior Airman Robert McCabe, 379th EAES aeromedical evacuation technician, said the unique capability his team brings to the region is both important and challenging.

"It wouldn't be possible to move critical patients back from the frontlines without trained aircrew medical technicians and flight nurses," he said. "It's not an easy job, but we all make the best of it. It's worth it."

With 11 successful missions under their belts, Putnam said she and her crew take pride in caring for servicemembers who put themselves in harm's way.

"It's rewarding knowing my crew plays an integral part getting that wounded warrior home," said Putnam. "We get the privilege of picking up battle injuries and playing that role in getting them to higher care. That's the most rewarding part in my whole nursing career, taking care of those kinds of patients."



(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal)

From left, Senior Airman Robert McCabe, 379th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (EAES) aeromedical evacuation technician, and Capt. Aline Putnam, 379th EAES flight nurse, fasten a litter and medical equipment into place on a C-130 Hercules at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, before a recent aeromedical evacuation mission. Technicians and nurses from the 379th EAES provide a variety of aeromedical evacuation services for patients at various deployed locations across U.S. Central Command to include pain management, psychiatric, and medical emergency response.

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Dr. Clayton Ramsue, MD, Retired Lt. Col. US Air Force Statewide Medical Director, Centurion of Mississippi

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April 2019 · Military Medical News · Page 5 Thank a doctor on Doctor's Day

By Nyla Pete Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — March 30 marks Doctor's Day, a day set aside each year to show appreciation for doctors' positive influence on individuals and their communities.

The holiday dates back to March 30, 1933, when Eudora Brown Almond, wife of Dr. Charles Almond, decided to set aside a day to honor physicians, according to the National Doctors Day website. The date marked the anniversary of the first use of anesthetic in surgery. On March 30, 1842, Dr. Crawford Long used ether to remove a tumor from a patient's neck.

President George W. Bush designated March 30 as a national holiday in 1991. In his proclamation of National Doctor's Day, President Bush wrote, "There are countless others who carry on the quiet work of healing each day in communities throughout the United States -- indeed, throughout the world. Common to the experience of each of them, from the specialist in research to the general practitioner, are hard work, stress, and sacrifice."

The reasoning that resulted in the national holiday still rings true today.

Physicians undergo nine-plus years of academically challenging education and training to become a doctor and serve others. In honor of Doctor's Day, BAMC encourages everyone to take time to show their appreciation for these hard-working individuals.

A BAMC patient recently had high praise for the Rheumatology Service and the care they provided to his wife. "The Rheumatology Clinic front desk staff were incredibly professional and kind upon check-in and check-out," he wrote



U.S. Army Col. (Dr.) Frank Valentin, chief of ophthalmology, checks a patient for double vision and convergence at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Jan. 17, 2019. The Ophthalmology Clinic is open to all eligible beneficiaries.

in an email. "Dr. [Jay] Higgs was, of course, superb – he performed a thorough evaluation, reviewed all the data in detail, and then discussed his impression at length, taking time to answer all of my wife's (and my own) questions patiently and clearly. He was thorough, compassionate and reassuring." Fellow BAMC patient Chaya Taylor gave a shout out to several of her doctors. "I appreciate the ophthalmology clinic doctors here at BAMC because they are helping me with my glaucoma issues," she said. "I was scared when I first found out I had it but they are giving me confidence ... that everything will be alright. So I make sure I come to my appointments, and they always make me feel comfortable. Thanks BAMC!"

Doctor's Day places these dedicated medical professionals at the forefront. Whether it's this month or any day of the year, take a moment to thank doctors for what they do.

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New mobile-friendly electronic physical health assessment format makes annual assessment easier

By BUMED PAO

U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Starting your electronic physical health assessment, or ePHA, just got a little easier with the completion of a mobile-friendly format.

The new format became available February 2019 as a way to make starting the annual assessment accessible from mobile devices. The Navy, along with the other services, was required to fully implement the standardized Department of Defense PHA by the end of December 2017, but like any broad change, there have been a few challenges along the way.

"We've found in making the switch there still are some instances of difficulty in completing the process, said Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Medical Readiness deputy director, Cmdr. Scott Welch. "Many of our junior Sailors and Marines have specialties that don't require a typical workstation with a computer, yet the vast majority have personal or work cell phones. Creating a mobile-friendly version has made the process easier for these military members."

There is no special application necessary, and the mobile friendly version is accessed by navigating to the Navy's PHA website through your mobile device. The site will automatically recognize the user is on a mobile device and be displayed in a way that is more easily viewed on a mobile device. The site is also easier to navigate on a mobile device, allowing service members to more easily complete the selfassessment on their phone or tablet. Users will have to create a username and password to login and complete the self-assessment portion of their PHA. The rest of the PHA process must then be completed by medical personnel on a CAC-enabled computer.

Completing the process requires a record review, mental health assessment review, and final PHA review. Members who are serving in remote areas or far from a military clinic will complete the self-assessment online and then contact the closest military clinic to complete the process. The PHA process is not complete until all steps are accomplished,.

Visit the official ePHA website at https://data.nmcphc.med.navy.mil/pha/ index.aspx. Any difficulties with the website should be directed to the Navy Marine Corps Public Health Center Help Desk at (757) 953-0737 or email at usn.hampton-roads.navmcpublthcenpors.list.nmcphc-phahelpdesk@ mail.mil. MOVE IN READY DENTAL OFFICE SHAWNEE, OK

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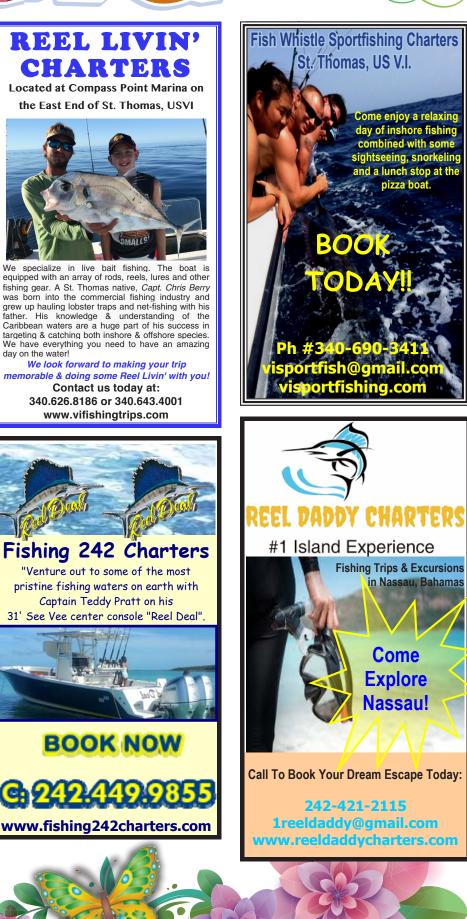
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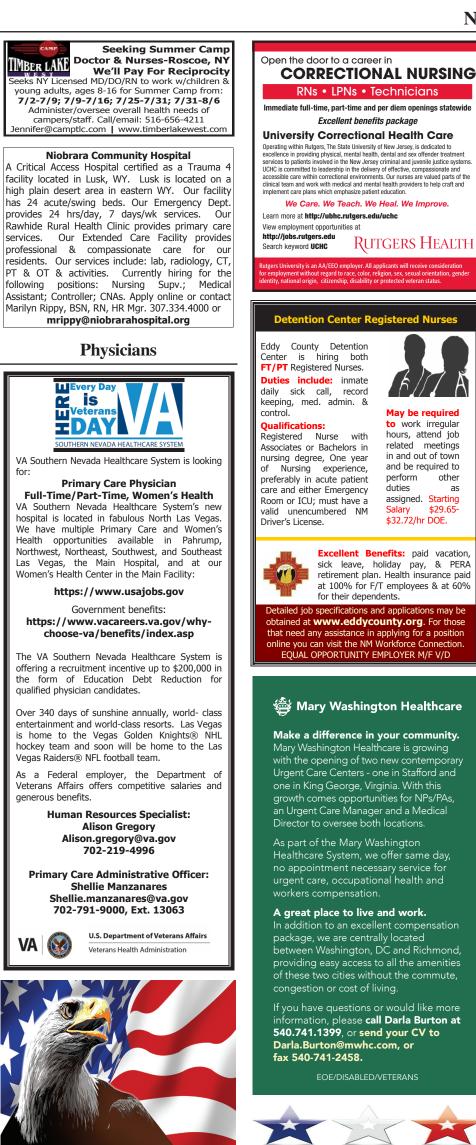
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