

MEDICAL NEWS

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Sailors make no-cost eyeglasses for community during IRT mission

By Senior Airman Jonathan Padish
175th WG - Maryland Air National Guard

SIKESTON, Mo. — Sailors assigned to Naval Ophthalmic Support and Training Activity at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Va. deployed to Sikeston in support of Delta Area Economic Opportunity Corporation Tri-State Innovative Readiness Training 2019.

The Sailors are fabricating prescription eyeglasses for community members who undergo vision screenings performed by military optometrists at temporary clinics in Sikeston, Barlow, Ky. and Cairo, Ill.

According to U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Travis Rister, a hospital corpsman assigned to NWS Yorktown, NOSTRA fabricates eyeglasses for U.S. Department of Defense personnel, seeing upwards of 2,000 people per day.

During DAEOC Tri-State IRT 2019, the Sailors' mission is slightly different.

"Here, we're fabricating for the medically underprivileged community," said Rister. "There's a little bit of a different feeling."

The nature of the mission provides an opportunity for the Sailors to expand their experience.

"We get the opportunity to go on IRT missions

See MISSION, Page 2



(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Jonathan W. Padish)

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Javiera Sullivan, a hospital corpsman assigned to Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Va., fabricates a lens for prescription eyeglasses at the Sikeston Head Start in Sikeston, Mo., June 15, 2019. Sullivan deployed to Sikeston in support of Delta Area Economic Opportunity Corporation Tri-State Innovative Readiness Training 2019.



(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Seara Marcosis)

Team Army wins the bronze medal in wheelchair basketball, June 28, 2019, at Tampa Convention Center during the 2019 Department of Defense Warrior Games. The DoD Warrior Games are conducted June 21 - 30, hosted by Special Operations Command, Tampa, Florida. It is an adaptive sports competition for wounded, ill, and injured service members and veterans. Approximately 300 athletes representing teams from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Special Operations Command, United Kingdom Armed Forces, Australian Defence Force, Canadian Armed Forces, Armed Forces of the Netherlands, and the Danish Armed Forces will compete in archery, cycling, shooting, sitting volleyball, swimming, track, field, wheelchair basketball, indoor rowing, powerlifting, and for the first time in Warrior Games history, golf, wheelchair tennis, and wheelchair rugby.

Team Army brings home a bronze medal during wheelchair basketball competition at the 2019 DoD Warrior Games

By Annette P. Gomes
U.S. Army Warrior Care and Transition

TAMPA, Fla. — With a packed crowd and screaming fans at the Tampa Convention Center, Team Army battled Team Marines for the bronze medal. Team Army won the game 61-51.

Team Captain, U.S. Army retired Staff Sgt. Ross Alewine says the team kept their minds focused throughout the game.

"I honestly can say we really came together and gelled well. Each of us knew what our jobs were, we

See GAMES, Page 2

INDEX

School's out, but future docs are in at Naval Hospital Jacksonville.....page 3
 NAMRU-3's Ghana laboratory supports West African outbreak response.....page 4
 Career opportunities.....pages 5-12

• Mission (Continued from front page)

to get a little bit more field experience,” said Rister. “You never know what’s going to come your way. A lot of it is on the fly and adapting to get the job done.”

Although the IRT mission is different from the one at NWS Yorktown, its impact on the community is still felt by the Sailors.

“We get to travel around the country and help out a lot of people,” said U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Santiago Ortiz, a hospital corpsman assigned to NWS Yorktown. “It’s really nice.”

Other Sailors similarly found the unique nature of the IRT mission worthwhile.

“As rewarding as it is for the community to receive glasses, it’s just as rewarding for us to fabricate the glasses for them,” said Rister.

DAEOC Tri-State IRT 2019 is a joint service medical training exercise that leverages military and community resources to provide military training to service members and, as an added benefit, no-cost medical services to community members.



(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Jonathan W. Padish)
U.S. Army Spc. David Sullivan, an optical laboratory specialist assigned to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., performs a final inspection of newly fabricated eyeglasses next to U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Javiera Sullivan, a hospital corpsman assigned to Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Va., at the Sikeston Head Start in Sikeston, Mo., June 15, 2019. The Sullivans, who are married, fabricated prescription eyeglasses for community members in support of Delta Area Economic Opportunity Corporation Tri-State Innovative Readiness Training 2019.

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• Games

(Continued from front page)

executed and brought home the bronze medal baby,” Alewine said.

Team Army led Team Marines at the half 37-19.

First time participants U.S. Army Capt. Casey Turner and U.S. Army Sgt. Tanner Kane both agreed, hard work pays off.

“Wow, what a comeback from our loss to Navy,” said Turner. “I think that loss just recharged us to keep fighting and Soldiering on.

“I really look at it as simply doing your job. We came out to give it our best. My job was to shoot and score and the result was awesome. It all worked out really well,” Kane added.

Returning U.S. Army retired Spc. Brent “the champ” Garlic, led the team in total points, scoring 27 by the end of the game.

“Team positivity was key in this match up. There wasn’t any negativity at all at any time. We were very receptive to instruction. Basketball has always been my heart. Everything came together really well,” said Garlic.

After a haul of high fives and hugs, head coach Rodney Williams called for a team huddle after Team Army won the game.

“I am so incredibly proud of you guys. We’ve played some tough matches the last couple of days and you guys turned it around. There was great execution and I’m proud of you as a team. You should be proud of yourselves as well.”

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School's out, but future docs are in at Naval Hospital Jacksonville

By Yan Kennon

Naval Hospital Jacksonville

Naval Hospital Jacksonville hosted its annual Science, Service, Medicine and Mentoring (S2M2) internship at the hospital June 10-14 with 13 high school students from Darnell-Cookman School of the Medical Arts.

"With S2M2, we're growing the next generation of medical professionals," said Capt. Matthew Case, NH Jacksonville commander. "And the students have the privilege of helping us heal our nation's heroes: our active duty, retired military, and families."

The goal of NH Jacksonville's S2M2 program is to nurture high school students' commitment to science and medicine in a welcoming and intellectually stimulating environment. The S2M2 partnership with Darnell-Cookman complements the school's focus on equipping high-performing students with the skills to pursue advanced medical degrees.

"It was an awesome experience to venture out into the different clinics around the hospital and see military medicine first hand," said Cali Gozum, a rising 10th grader from Darnell-Cookman School of the Medical Arts. "If anyone plans to have a career in medicine, this is the internship for them."

In addition to clinical rotations through the operating suites, outpatient clinics, and inpatient units, students participated in hospital corpsman skills training and Trauma Combat

Casualty Care's obstacle course. They witnessed how Navy first responders conduct combat trauma care. Students also performed medical procedures on life-like mannequins in the hospital's simulation laboratory, and performed orthopedic procedures on artificial bone and joints.

"It was really cool to experience the different medical careers available in the Navy," said Ashton Penrod, a rising 11th grader from Darnell-Cookman School of the Medical Arts.

S2M2 was developed in 2004 by the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, and launched in 2010 at NH Jacksonville. It includes two activities each academic year: a kick-off event in the fall at Darnell-Cookman for about 80 ninth and 10th graders, and a week-long immersion program the next summer at NH Jacksonville for a select group. To date, the hospital has hosted 85 Darnell-Cookman students at its summer internship.

Naval Hospital Jacksonville and Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Jacksonville deliver quality health care, in an integrated system of readiness and health. NH Jacksonville includes five branch health clinics across Florida and Georgia. It serves 163,000 active-duty and retired sailors, Marines, soldiers, airmen, guardsmen, and their families, including about 83,000 patients who are enrolled with a primary care manager. To find out more, visit www.med.navy.mil/sites/navalhospitaljax.



(U.S. Navy photo by Jacob Sippel, Naval Hospital Jacksonville/Released).

Haley Correa performs a surgical hand and arm scrub outside Naval Hospital Jacksonville's operating suites. Thirteen high school students from Darnell-Cookman School of the Medical Arts are participating in the hospital's Science, Service, Medicine and Mentoring summer internship. The goal of S2M2 is to nurture students' commitment to science and medicine in a welcoming and intellectually stimulating environment. The S2M2 partnership with Darnell-Cookman complements the school's focus on equipping high-performing students with the skills and experiences to pursue advanced medical degrees.

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NAMRU-3's Ghana laboratory supports West African outbreak response

By Steve Vanderwerff
Naval Medical Research Center

ACCRA, Ghana — Over the past two years Naval Medical Research Unit Three's (NAMRU-3) Ghana Laboratory and several collaborative partners have supported multiple infectious disease outbreaks declared by the World Health Organization.

Since early 2019, the Ghana Lab has performed positive testing and next generation sequencing (NGS) on Lassa fever samples from Benin as well as dengue virus and Chikungunya virus whole genome sequences in collaboration with the Institute Pasteur in Cameroon.

The data gathered from virus samples is essential to an outbreak response. Next generation sequencing provides the exact genetic code or 'blueprint' of what the virus is composed of. This data can be used for medication development, analysis of transmission and spread of the virus and aedes surveillance efforts.

In the past samples from Ghana had been sent to western countries for NGS, which affected response efforts because of the length of time

involved to receive results. By having the capability to perform NGS in the region it allows for the rapid processing of data.

"In an outbreak, time is lives and the getting the data sooner means quicker intervention. Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research is now able to stand up projects that focus on public health and medical research questions relevant to their citizens and the Ghana Armed Forces," said Cmdr. Andrew Letizia, director, NAMRU-3 Ghana Laboratory. "The capacity to perform NGS in Ghana and other West African countries is a result of numerous collaborative partnerships. The Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch and its Global Emerging Infections Surveillance provided funding."

Through partnerships with the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Infectious Diseases, the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, the Ghana Laboratory uses MiSeq machines to perform NGS. Dr. Michael Wiley, assistant professor, College of Public Health at the University of Nebraska

Medical Center, provided the training to the staff on how to process virus samples as well as bioinformatics training to analyze the data.

"The NGS work is performed alongside West African partners. Additionally, the supporting partners are also collaborating in the publishing of outbreak response articles in peer reviewed journals," Letizia said.

The data gathered from NGS is shared with U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) to inform force health protection and posted on public genomic websites to allow the free and open exchange of genomic data. This helps to provide epidemiologic analysis and the development of improved diagnostic and therapeutics.

"This is a perfect example of supporting both NAMRU-3's mission of conducting medical research that improves force health protection and AFRICOM's efforts," said Letizia. "With NGS samples processed in a partner country we're seeing our partner's capability enhanced and our partner networks strengthened."



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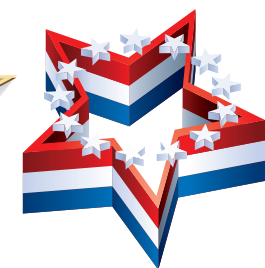
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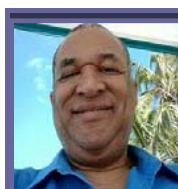
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For more information please contact:
 Barbara S. Green, Human Resources Director
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