

# MEDICALNEWS

# Army recruiter saves lives, credits combat medic training

By Nicole Celestine U.S. Army Recruiting Seattle Battalion

WASILLA, Alaska — Hall of Fame National Football League coach Jimmy Johnson once said, "Success happens when opportunity meets preparation." For Sgt. 1st Class Scott P. Samson, an Army recruiter with the Wasilla Recruiting Station, this quote rang true on two occasions in 2020 when he helped save lives.

Samson, who has been with the Alaska Army Recruiting Company since 2015, enlisted in 2010 and trained as an Army combat medic. Combat medics are military health professionals who provide emergency medical services, like emergency medical technicians or ambulance technicians in the civilian workforce. They receive CPR training as part of their basic life

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(Photo courtesy Sgt. 1st Class Scott P. Samson)

Sgt. 1st Class Scott P. Samson, combat medic,
completes his Table VIII training as part of his military occupational specialty re-certification requirements. This specific training exercise involves
Soldiers lifting and carrying a stretcher with a man-

nequin on it through a confined area and transporting the mannequin safely over an 8-foot wall.

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(Photo by Felicia Crosson)

Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton staff celebrate the implementation of MHS GENESIS at the hospital with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Pictured are Navy Cmdr. Adelaine Trask, pediatrician; Navy Lt. Andrew Veilleux, chief nursing informatics officer; Navy Lt. Raza Beg, chief information officer; and Navy Cmdr. Lauren Brown, physical therapy department head and NHCP's MHS GENESIS program manager.

# MHS GENESIS Goes Live at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton

**By Felicia Crosson**Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton

It's official. The switch was flipped at 7 a.m. as the Department of Defense's (DOD) new electronic health record (EHR), MHS GENESIS, was deployed at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton (NHCP), California on Oct. 31.

The deployment of MHS GENESIS was completed after months of extensive preparation, undertaken while also navigating through a global pandemic. The

transition included intensive training for staff, internal infrastructure changes, and equipment upgrades, all completed while continuing to serve those who serve. In addition to the main facility, this evolution included the hospital's 13 branch health clinics, along with the clinic in Port Hueneme that went live Sept. 23., and Branch Health Clinic Yuma, Arizona., will be flipping their switch in April 2021.

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## • **Training** (Continued from front page)

support certification and, like all Soldiers, certifications must stay current to remain in their career field.

Combat medics or EMTs are the first responders to military or civilian medical emergencies.

"Medical emergencies will never go away," Samson said. "Having Soldiers and civilians trained to handle them, wherever they occur, is imperative for effective medical treatment on the ground. Effective medical treatment at each level of care increases survival exponentially."

Echoing this sentiment, Wasilla Police Department Lt. Ruth Josten said, "Any type or degree of emergency medical experience a person has, would be valuable and beneficial for the person receiving medical attention."

Samson used his combat medic training over Father's Day weekend when a vehicular accident occurred along the Seward Highway. "I joined eight to 10 other individuals who jumped into action to help," Samson recalled. "When I got to

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the vehicle, a 6-year-old girl who had been pulled from the vehicle was unresponsive. I then performed chest compressions on her."

Crediting his height (5 feet 6 inches) and size, Samson reached into the front of the vehicle to check on the driver and passenger. On observing that the passenger was partially coherent but trapped, he cut her seat belt and pulled her free, after which EMTs took over.

On Oct. 8, Samson and fellow recruiters observed a man remove a woman from his car and lay her on the grass near their station. The combat medic said he noticed the woman seemed unresponsive, and as he approached the scene, someone had called 911. He performed chest compressions on her until EMTs arrived. Crediting his medical and Army training for programming him to jump in and help where needed, Samson said, "It's not really something you think about doing. I did what I would hope someone would do for one of my family members."

1st Sgt. Sheldon J. Hansen, Samson's first sergeant with the Alaska Army Recruiting Company, emphasized Samson's varied combat medic training for being able to help in the community.

"Sgt. 1st Class Samson is a very seasoned combat medic," Hansen said. "His extensive medical training from the Army allowed him to render aid on two occasions during his time as a recruiter in Alaska. His ability to handle very stressful situations and act with precision is a true testament of his military training. He has consistently shown how military medical training is very crucial in his normal day-to-day activities, and has directly impacted the community he lives in."

While no one can predict the outcome of



(Photos courtesy Sgt. 1st Class Scott P. Samson)

Family photo of Sgt. 1st Class Scott P. Samson, wife Carrie, and children Josiah and Naomi, during their outing along the Kenai Peninsula, June 21, 2020. On their return from this family outing, Samson applied his combat medic training and skills to assist patients due to a vehicular collision along the Seward Highway.

any emergency where human lives hang in the balance, Josten, a police officer for 27 years, said, "It is beneficial to have someone with emergency medical experience anytime someone goes down. A person with medical experience has the potential to change the outcome."

Samson, a native of Mason, Mich., said his Army training has led to further opportunities for personal and professional growth. "Both the medical field and my Army experience have been challenging and satisfying. Nothing I've done before has offered the variety and stability the

Army has. As a medic, I know I have a skill set I can use anytime, anywhere and that was the primary reason I chose it. As a Soldier, I have a level of training and preparedness that conditions me for success anytime, anywhere. It's a win-win."

For anyone interested in becoming a combat medic or joining the Army, Samson suggests they explore their options, ask the hard questions and see if the Army is a good fit. He also said, "Just because it may not be the time [to join the Army], life changes and later on, it may be the perfect fit."



Army Recruiters Staff Sgt. Steven Gonzales, left, and Sgt. 1st Class Scott P. Samson flank Colony High School Junior Army Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets for a team photo after a physical training exercise.



(Photo by Felicia Crosson)

Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton staff celebrate the implementation of MHS GENESIS at the hospital with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Pictured are Capt. Shelley Perkins, commanding officer; Capt. Sharon House, executive officer; Cmdr. Adelaine Trask, pediatrician; Lt. Andrew Veilleux, chief nursing informatics officer; Lt. Raza Beg, chief information officer; and Cmdr. Lauren Brown, physical therapy department head and NHCP's MHS Genesis program manager.

### • **GENESIS** (Continued from front page)

NHCP did not have to go it alone while implementing the new EHR, which was a massive undertaking in terms of hours and resources.

"The 'Pay It Forward' program, sponsored by the Defense Health Agency and Program Management Office, provides tremendous support to commands going live with MHS GENESIS," said Navy Cmdr. Victor Lin, Navy Medical Forces Pacific chief medical informatics officer. "The program leverages the experience of subject matter experts from current MHS GENESIS sites. These SME's impart invaluable knowledge to new users, enabling a successful go-live evolution.'

Staff from Naval Hospitals Twentynine Palms and the Air Force's 60th Medical Group Medical Center at the David Grant Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base both in California; and Naval Hospital Bremerton and the Madigan Army Medical Center both in Washington were all a part of the 'Pay It Forward' program and supported NHCP in their efforts to make this transition possible.

Once fully deployed across the enterprise, MHS GENESIS will provide a single, consolidated electronic health record for service members, retirees, and their families that will integrate inpatient and outpatient, medical and dental information across the continuum of care, from point of injury to definitive care.

One of the key features and benefits for patients is the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal, a one-stop shop for viewing personal health care and history that allows two-way communication between patient and provider. This portal is a secure website for around-the-clock access to individual and family health information, including visit notes, test results, scheduling appointments, and online prescription

Before MHS GENESIS deployment, patients were informed about the coming change via informational pamphlets, social media questions and answers, and provider education about the new system, especially the patient portal.

"We received a lot of great feedback streamline the workday for doctors,

and questions on our social media," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Lauren Brown, physical therapy department head and MHS GENESIS program manager. "Our patients were interested, engaged, and wanted to know what was going on."

Brown explained there are three different ways beneficiaries can access the new patient portal which all begin online at https://patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil. Once on the portal's site, beneficiaries can select one of the three options to logon: Department of Defense Self-Service Logon; Common Access Card; or Defense Finance and Accounting Service login. If beneficiaries already have a TRICARE Online (TOL) Defense Self-Service Logon, the user ID and password information will be the same.

Beneficiaries who transfer out of the area to another military hospital or clinic not using MHS GENESIS will resume using secure messaging through TOL.

MHS GENESIS will greatly benefit the staff at NHCP, as it will help nurses, and hospital corpsmen while caring for patients by eliminating double order entry and double documenta-

"This command has put in countless hours of training and time into this transition, which has stretched across two different bases and multiple branch clinics in Southern California, along with preparing Branch Health Clinic Yuma for their transition, all while navigating through a global pandemic and keeping the patients we

serve safe and healthy," said Brown.

NHCP is just one of many military treatment facilities across the DOD to implement MHS GENESIS. Full deployment of the EHR is expected to be completed by 2022 and serve more than nine million beneficiaries.



# Active duty, Maryland National Guard Soldiers train together during mock mass casualty event

By Staff Sgt. Tawny Schmit Joint Multinational Readiness Center

HOHENFELS, GERMANY -- Two mopeds were tipped over in front of a light medium tactical vehicle in the middle of an intersection in Hohenfels, Germany. Role players sported fake injuries ranging from burns and broken bones to sharp objects sticking out of body parts, and calls for help were made between short breaths as active duty and National Guard Soldiers responded to the realistic training scenario.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Raines, assigned to the Maryland Army National Guard's 29th Military Police Company, had his unit conducting routine patrols during a rotation at the Joint Multinational Readiness Training Center when he received a call about a mass casualty traffic accident Nov. 4, 2020. His Soldiers responded quickly and were first on scene.

"My MPs started providing first aid immediately," said Raines. "Once the medical team showed up, we were able to start preserving the scene and coordinate further assets to process the scene and protect life."

The unit is completing a JMRC rotation to prepare for its upcoming deployment as the MP task force for Kosovo Force 28 in support of Operation Joint Guardian. KFOR 28 is a NATO organization which will be headquartered by the Iowa National Guard's 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division. When the medics arrived, active duty and National Guard Soldiers worked together to accomplish the mis-

Spc. Markell Pinkett, assigned to the 566th Area Support Medical Company in Fort Hood, Texas, is a dental specialist. He will be the only dental asset for KFOR 28's Task Force Med. When his medical team realized the gravity of the situation, he jumped in and assisted several injured individuals while taking guidance from the MPs and combat

"There was fluidity, a lot of communication," said Pinkett, who is combat lifesaver certified. "I worked with a couple of MPs on the scene who were also CLS certified and that gave me a boost because I was able to leave a patient in their care and attend to another patient. It was good to have them there.'

Keeping track of patients and the type of treatments they were given could be challenging. It was all notional, so constant communication between all the responders helped the process run smoothly. As Pinkett took care of injuries, he said it was important to stay grounded and not get caught up in the

Pinkett also said it was great to have a transfer of knowledge from a different

unit. Task Force Med and Task Force MP Soldiers assigned to KFOR 28 will have unique opportunities to work with different components of the U.S. Army and international forces.

"It's important to establish relationships early on, on a professional level," said Raines. "In this training environment, we can overcome any challenges or synchronize our efforts in order to accomplish the mission abroad.

Raines, who is also a police officer at the Alexandria City Police Department in Maryland, deployed to Afghanistan in 2011 for a combat support mission, which is par for the course for most MP

Soon, his unit will be taking on a completely different mission by leading law enforcement operations at Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo. Raines will be serving as the provost sergeant for Regional Command-East and said he couldn't be more excited for the posi-

"I really wanted to help the state of Maryland take a step in a law enforcement direction for military police rolls," said Raines. "We have had a great time. The Soldiers have done fantastic jobs."

Raines noted one of his Soldiers, Spc. Brianna Nolen of Frederick, Maryland, showed strong leadership potential throughout the 29th MP Company's JMRC training. Nolen was on patrol when they got the call about the accident and cordoned off the area. She took statements, scanned for witnesses and prioritized patients based on the seriousness of their injuries for when the med-

"I tried to make sure they stayed conscious and got tourniquets on them if I needed to stop the bleeding," said Nolen. "Once the medics got there, I gave them the reigns and made sure nearby buildings were cleared."

Joining the military was never the plan for Nolen, but after she graduated college with a degree in criminal justice and psychology, she said she needed direction. Her parents are both veterans of the Marine Corps and Navy, and many of her ten siblings have careers in civilian law enforcement, so her family was extremely supportive when she

Nolen's four-year career in the Maryland National Guard has provided the clarity and purpose she was searching for after her undergraduate career. When people can look up to you no matter your rank and see you as a protector, it gives you a good feeling, she said.

"When I came to the 29th MP Company my first drill, they didn't see me as a brand new specialist or someone who just came out of basic and advanced individual training," said Nolen. "They looked at me, said I already have a degree. They gave me paperwork and



(U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Tawny Schmit)

Spc. Brianna Nolen, a military police Soldier with the 29th Military Police Company, Maryland Army National Guard, assesses a patient during a mass casualty training event at the Joint Multinational Readiness Training Center in Hohenfels, Germany, on Nov. 4, 2020. Role players at JMRC set up a vehicle collision scenario for the unit to respond to in preparation for its upcoming deployment to Kosovo Force 28 in support of Operation Joint Guardian.



A Maryland Army National Guard Soldier assigned to the 29th Military Police Company applies a tourniquet to a mock patient.

put me in a leadership position."

Nolen said the unit's willingness to include even the most junior Soldiers in decisions and leaders who push everyone forward has inspired her reenlist when the time comes.

"Sgt. 1st Class Raines is amazing," said Nolen. "I am really fortunate to have leadership that tells me every day I'm going to move forward and do great things."

Nolen and Pinkett are deploying for me proud."

the first time, and whether it's the chance to perform their duties in a real-world mission or an eagerness to work in a new international environment, both of these junior leaders said they are ready and capable to be assets to KFOR 28.

"I have been humbled and honored to serve with every single one of my Soldiers on every level," said Raines. "I can go to bed knowing they're doing what needs to be done. They have made



(Courtesy photo)

An Operation Warp Speed contingent in Atlanta is working with regional coordinators on the distribution efforts for the COVID-19 vaccine.

# Operation Warp Speed technology, expertise help determine vaccine distribution

By Lisa Simunaci

Office of the Secretary of Defense Public Affairs

ATLANTA - Ten military officers assigned to Operation Warp Speed are embedded at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to assist the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vac-

Operation Warp Speed, led by the Department of Health and Human Services and DOD, employs a "whole of America" approach to develop and deliver 300 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutics to treat the virus.

More than 600 miles from Operation Warp Speed headquarters in Washington D.C., each of the Army, Navy and Air Force officers in Atlanta are teamed with a CDC regional coordinator responsible for a specific area of the country and its

"The country's existing public health infrastructure is well tested – we see evidence every fall when Americans receive the flu vaccine in large numbers. But these are not normal times," said Army Gen. Gus Perna, Operation Warp Speed's Chief Operating Officer. "Leveraging our military planning and logistics capability and combining that with proven methods will allow existing systems to scale quickly to get the vaccine to the American people."

The military liaisons and partner regional coordinators are communicating daily with various agencies within their assigned regions to discuss how vaccines will be prioritized, packaged and shipped. Information exchanges are continuous as regions work through the special handling instructions – like cold storage – and other considerations surrounding delivery.

"Like most of America, public health professionals are working through the challenges brought on by quarantines, telework and social distancing," said Deacon Maddox, Operation Warp Speed's chief of plans, operations and analytics.

"While the pandemic stresses both people two information systems are the same." and systems, our expertise and technology tools provide a disciplined and deliberate approach to prioritize vaccine delivery and ease the burden of public health officials throughout the nation."

Operation Warp Speed is using a cuttingedge data platform to collect, correlate and visualize data across the entire operation. The "Tiberius" platform is loaded with data from various sources - U.S. Census, Department of Health and Human Services, State Health Offices, and the CDC. Tiberius integrates the data related to manufacturing, clinical trials, supply chain, allocation, state and territory planning, delivery and administration of both vaccine products and kits containing needles, syringes, and other supplies needed to administer the vaccine. No personally identifiable or personal health information is contained in the Tiberius system.

All 50 states recently submitted COVID-19 distribution plans to the CDC, and the Operation Warp Speed team is involved in helping the CDC review those plans. Once the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices makes its recommendations on who should first receive the vaccine, the HHS secretary, in consultation with national leadership, will decide how to prioritize the initially limited doses. Operation Warp Speed will input these decisions into Tiberius, and using several other logistical factors, compute the quantities to be allocated to each jurisdiction. The jurisdictions will work inside the Tiberius platform to decide where every allocated dose will go — from local doctors' offices to large medical centers. These decisions will then be sent to distributors to complete deliveries across the

"We still have several unknowns, but that is what the military is best at - planning for every contingency, and that is what we are helping states with now," Maddox said. "Every state is different - no

Through the Tiberius software though, Maddox said the team has visibility within one system to see a full snapshot across all U.S. jurisdictions to provide decision support for distribution and allocation using 2020 technology.

While most of the nation is eagerly anticipating the first vaccine delivery,

Maddox noted the Atlanta team is looking beyond initial distribution to the hundreds of millions of doses expected in subsequent shipments.

"Timing for the first dose is the beginning, but we are going to be in continual distribution as production comes off the line daily or weekly – and it must be distributed," Maddox said.





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# USU leaders among American Academy of Nursing honorees for advancing health equity and improving care

Uniformed Services University

Three Federal health care leaders with ties to the Uniformed Services University will be honored by the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) for their outstanding contributions to improve health and health care. Public Health Service Rear Admiral Susan Orsega, Ms. Sheila Burke, and Dr. Patrick DeLeon, will be lauded during the AAN annual conference occurring October 29-31, 2020.

#### Rear Admiral Susan Orsega

Rear Adm. Orsega, an alumna of USU's Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing, will receive the AAN President's Award, which recognizes an individual who has made extraordinary, lifelong contributions to improving the health of individuals, families, or communities. According to the AAN, it is their highest individual achievement award and is only presented when someone has been identified as being truly worthy of the honor.

"[Rear Adm. Orsega's] distinguished career epitomizes public service in the

public health crisis Rear Adm. Orsega served in a variety of prominent leaderhas faced. She has extensive experience ship roles, including as Chief of Staff in responding to public health emergencies ranging from the HIV/AIDS epidemic to the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks to the Ebola outbreak, as well as, 14 other national and international disaster and humanitarian deployments over the course of three decades. Her leadership, especially in directing the on-the-ground coordination of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps' response during the coronavirus pandemic, is admirable," according to a release from the AAN.

#### Ms. Sheila Burke

Ms. Burke is a member of USU's **Dr. Patrick DeLeon** Board of Regents. She was presented with the AAN's Health Care Leader Award for her impact in shaping health policy. According to the release, "The award is presented to an influential national leader dedicated to improving the health of the nation through contributions to organizational excellence. Ms. Burke currently serves as Chair of the Baker Donaldson Government ness of individuals and communities is of Government at Harvard University. Senator Daniel Inouye and then after School of Nursing.

to former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, Deputy Staff Director of the Senate Finance Committee, Secretary of the Senate, and Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer of the Smithsonian Institution. Ms. Burke leveraged her expertise to help advance key legislative issues related to Medicare, Medicaid, and the Maternal and Child Health programs. Over the course of her career, her dedication to placing the patient first has benefited countless lives, families, and communities, inspiring a generation of nurses to pursue policy careers.'

USU GSN and Medical and Clinical Psychology department faculty member, Dr. Patrick DeLeon, will receive the AAN's Lifetime Legacy Award. DeLeon was selected for the honor based on his lifetime dedication to advocating for positive health system changes.

"Dr. DeLeon began his career as a Peace Corps volunteer in Hawaii before working at the Hawaii Department of Relations and Public Policy Group and Mental Health. He then transitioned pursuit of global health where the well- as faculty at the John F. Kennedy School to policy work, first as an intern for

paramount. COVID-19 is not the only Throughout her career, Ms. Burke has 40 years of service, retired as his Chief of Staff. During his tenure with Senator Inouye, Dr. DeLeon was a tireless advocate for improving care for children and families, advancing changes for mental health services, and ensuring that healthcare professionals could practice to the full extent of their education. He helped to spearhead countless legislation to support nurses, most significantly, the establishment of the National Center for Nursing Research, and later the National Institute of Nursing Research within the National Institutes of Health. Dr. DeLeon is a strong supporter of future health policy scholars as demonstrated through his roles at the Uniformed Services University, Vanderbilt University, George Washington University, and the University of Hawaii in Hilo and Manoa," the AAN release noted.

"We are excited and proud of the achievements and recognition so well deserved by these individuals. It is an honor and a privilege to have each of them associated with the Daniel K. Inoye Graduate School of Nursing and with USU. They are shining role models for our faculty, staff and the future generations of nurses that we educate," said Dr. Carol Romano, dean of the Graduate

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Cardio Resting EKG: \$1,895.00 Cardio Holter: \$2,995.00 Cardio Stress: \$2,995.00

#### **Hb 801 Hemoglobin Analyzer**



Hemoglobin Results available in less than 1 second!

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PC Based and Direct-to-Printer Astra 300 USB\* \$898.00 \*Touch Screen Display

#### Integrated Diagnostic System (Oto/Ophth heads are Included)



Coaxial Ophth, Fiber Optic Oto, Speucla Dispenser, Aneroid BP, Wall Transformer and Wall Board

without Thermometer: \$979.00 with Thermometer: \$1,416.00

Coaxial Ophth, Fiber Optic Oto and Wall Transformer

without Specula Dispenser: \$825.00 with Specula Dispenser: \$866.00

#### **Screener Audiometer**

Only \$878.00



### CardioChek Plus Analyzer Promo Pack with Printer (Full Lipid Panel and Glucose)

The CardioChek® Plus analyzer provides rapid on-site lipid panel plus glucose screening to help identify at-risk individuals. Includes (60) Lipid Test Strips, (60) Electrochemical Glucose Test Strips, (1) Set of Multi-Chemistry Controls (Level 1 & Level 2), (64) 40uL Capillary Tubes and a printer until December 31st, 2020. Only \$1,129.00



Only \$121.00 Clinton Power Imaging
Echo) Table with Window
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