

# MEDICAL NEWS

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## Longest-serving civilian employee Recognized after 46-year career

Courtesy Story  
U.S. Army Medical Logistics Command

FORT DETRICK, MD. — In the 46 years that U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency has called Fort Detrick home, Linda Foltz has been there.

The longest-tenured civilian employee of the agency, Foltz served through several military conflicts and worked to forward USAMMA's mission of developing, delivering and sustaining medical materiel capabilities to build and maintain readiness for the Army and joint forces.

After contemplating retirement several times in recent years, Foltz, 66, finally called it a career on Sept. 30, retiring as deputy director of USAMMA's Force Projection Directorate during a ceremony at Fort Detrick.

"This is not fake news, so I am retiring," Foltz smiled as she opened her remarks. "I'm really humbled and honored."

USAMMA is a direct reporting unit to Army

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(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mozer O. Da Cunha)

U.S. Air Force Col. Rod Simpson, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, sorts between male and female mosquito specimens during a visit to the medical group at Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait, Dec. 12, 2019. The female mosquitos are separated and sent to a location within the United States for entomologists to examine for viruses or diseases.

## Air Force medical entomology supports wide-reaching mission, seeks candidates

By Shireen Bedi  
Air Force Medical Service

Whether on the job at home station or during deployments, the medical entomology mission fulfills a large role in keeping Airmen safe.

Operating with Public Health, medical entomologists, study various insects, pests, and the diseases they carry to determine how they could impact the health of service members.

"If it's going to make our troops sick, it's of medical significance to our entomologists," said Maj. Stephanie White, U.S. Air Forces in Europe

- Air Forces Africa command entomologist, Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center Detachment 4, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. "We consider if vectors or pests, such as ticks, mosquitoes, or rodents, are present in the environment. We examine if those vectors or pests carry known pathogens and if they can negatively affect our personnel. We then advise on mitigation recommendations to minimize the exposure."

Part of their mission includes active surveillance for the presence of vectors and pests that could

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(Photo By C.J. Lovelace)

Linda Foltz speaks during her retirement ceremony on Sept. 30 at Fort Detrick, Maryland. Foltz retired after 46 years working as a civilian in various roles at the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency. She was the agency's longest-tenured civilian employee.

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# • Recognized

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(Photos By C.J. Lovelace)

**Col. Lynn Marm offers remarks during the retirement ceremony. Marm served as commander of USAMMA from 2016 to 2018.**

Medical Logistics Command. Both organizations are headquartered at Fort Detrick.

First hired as a supply clerk/technician in 1974, Foltz was one of four graduates of then-Hagerstown Junior College brought on to work for USAMMA when it relocated to the post in Frederick, Maryland, from Valley Forge General Hospital in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, that closed the same year.

In numerous roles over the next five decades, Foltz, a native of Hagerstown, Maryland, gained extensive knowledge and expertise throughout the Army medical logistics and supply management enterprise as she worked her way up the civilian ranks.

Claudie Shelton, a longtime coworker at USAMMA, described Foltz's impact on the organization -- and wider Army medical enterprise -- as "immeasurable."

"I've known few who are as knowledgeable and passionate about medical logistics and the advance of the Army medical mission," he said. "Linda, thank you greatly for all of your contributions, including long evenings, and I wish you well in life's next adventure."

Col. Lynn Marm, who commanded USAMMA from 2016 to 2018, served as the guest speaker during the ceremony.

She said Foltz is "one of the most significant and humble leaders in the history of Army medical logistics."

Marm highlighted Foltz's impact on USAMMA, joining the organization on the heels of the Vietnam War and supporting Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Marm said Foltz's influence, expertise and dedication to medical logistics launched USAMMA into a new tempo to support the fight in the Gulf and beyond.

"Linda and her team were absolutely essential to the posture in theater and enabling power projection to Iraq," Marm said. "... And she ensured the best care was available for Soldiers."

Marm, who currently works as director of medical logistics for the Army Surgeon General, said that despite successes across the enterprise, Foltz always remained focused on "the Soldiers who didn't make it home."

"She constantly strives to help others, because 95% to 98% (survival rates are) not good enough," she said.

Col. John "Ryan" Bailey, current USAMMA commander, said Foltz was a valuable mentor when he was a young officer. He said terms often used to describe Foltz include "master logistician, icon and a legend" to the enterprise, but above all else, she's just "a wonderful human being."

"And someone mentioned 'hero.'

That's what you are: A true hero," Bailey said. "There is no doubt in my mind there are people who are living today who were involved in battlefield operations over the past many years, and your efforts directly contributed to saving lives."

During his remarks, Shelton emphasized the scope of Foltz's service to the agency, serving in one capacity or another under 23 of 26 commanders since the agency officially became known as USAMMA in 1965.

Shelton, a logistics management specialist and master of ceremonies for the event, thanked Foltz for her years of service to the nation, as well as to her military and civilian colleagues who benefited greatly from her knowledge and mentorship over the years.

"In the end, I'm just one of the many who have benefited from your experiences, knowledge, guidance and the example you have set," he said. "Thank you from all of us."

After receiving several awards and gifts, Foltz took to the podium to share stories from over the years, but, most importantly, to also thank the friends, family and colleagues who helped and supported her along the way.

"Without everyone, I would not be here today and the person that I am today," she said. "It's been my honor and privilege to work for USAMMA."

## Military Medical News

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**Col. Bradley Ladd presents a customized Baltimore Orioles jersey to Linda Foltz one of the longest-tenured civilian employees of the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency, during her retirement ceremony on Sept. 30 at Fort Detrick, Maryland. Foltz, an avid Orioles fan, retired after 46 years as a civilian employee with the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency.**

# A day in the life of medical at NSA Souda Bay, Greece

By Joel Diller

U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay

At NSA Souda Bay, the Branch Health Clinic works hard to take care of Team Souda's medical needs. Through physical health assessments, dental and eye exams, lab tests, and immunizations, they ensure our service members are fully medically ready – able to deploy and accomplish their mission.

On this day, General Duty Corpsman Hospitalman Caleb Newbill and Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Jordan Belthrop work the Clinic's front desk, greeting patients as they walk in and answering the main telephone line.

"Most of the day is answering phone calls, booking appointments, checking (patient's) vital signs for providers, and (we) screen the patients coming in so we know which provider they should see and if the provider will need anything," said Newbill. "We'll do blood draws, tests, screen for strep throat, just small things like that."

Taking care of Team Souda's pharmaceutical needs is Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Justin Preisler, a pharmacy technician who has been stationed at NSA Souda Bay for two years.

"For the most part, the pharmacy is my home," said Preisler. "That is what I have been doing the last eight years. I like it and I am one of them," he said, meaning he is the only pharmacy technician serving the base.

Preisler said he is also the clinic's supply petty officer and command pay and personnel administrator. He also gives on-the-job training to the other corpsman so they can fill in for him when he is not available, which is preparing him for his next duty station.

"I'm going to be a pharmacy instructor now," said Preisler. "So now I'll be teaching all the incoming technicians at the pharmacy school before they go out to the fleet. So I'm excited for that – it's different."

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Nicole Matera, independent duty corpsman, said she conducts research to prepare for seeing scheduled patients or contacting them to follow-up on their condition or a recent injury. Her research includes how certain conditions are presented, the various ways to treat and manage conditions, and how to educate patients on conditions that can be managed outside of a clinic setting.

"Usually when I'm anticipating someone with a particular condition or injury, I use my references online whether it be through books or even through other providers, especially the physicians here at the clinic," said Matera.

Matera, who graduated from the Navy's Independent Duty Corpsman school in San Diego in December 2019, is also the senior enlisted leader for the clinic.

"I am also taking care of my Sailors



(U.S. Navy photo by Joel Diller/Released)

**Hospitalman Caleb Newbill takes Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Jordan Belthrop's temperature at the Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, Greece, Branch Health Clinic on August 20, 2020. NSA Souda Bay is an operational ashore base that enables U.S., allied, and partner nation forces to be where they are needed when they are needed to ensure security and stability in Europe, Africa, and Southwest Asia.**

here, whether it be for their career development, their personal goals, scheduling, education," said Matera. "It changes every day but I always like to help benefit their own career, their own inspirations, in turn with my patient care."

The three general duty corpsman who work the regular clinic hours on weekdays also alternate weeks being on duty during nights and weekends.

"So once every three weeks I'll be on duty 24/7," said Newbill. "So that if anything that happens after hours, any flights, any patients, I'll be the one getting called to come in and handle that."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, medical personnel are needed to screen passengers arriving and departing at the air terminal.

"I'm now screening the incoming and outgoing flights," said Newbill. "So every time there is a flight, we have to go take temperatures and we screen those patients. Sometimes we'll be doing 6 to 7 flights a day."

The medical staff also are taking measures to protect themselves so that they stay mission ready through the pandemic. The number of patients coming to the building has been reduced by encouraging them to call before showing up and by conducting assessments over the phone if they are not required to be physically present.

"Anything administrative, we have been able to run that virtually or through the telephone rather than in person in order to help reduce the number of contacts between patients and providers here," said Matera.

## Uniqueness

NSA Souda Bay's medical facility is a Branch Health Clinic of the Naval Hospital Sigonella, Italy.

"We're like an arm off of the Naval Hospital in Sigonella," said Lt. Cmdr. Jackie Kessler, nurse clinic manager. "We have [Sigonella] to provide administration support and they have subject matter experts there for certain services that we don't have here."

Dental and optometry are two services that Naval Hospital Sigonella provides to Team Souda on a periodic basis.

Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Worley, senior medical officer, said the medical care at NSA Souda Bay is unique compared to duty stations in the United States where services members are used to all the medical care being provided by the military.

"One of the nuances or the uniqueness of Souda Bay is that we, due to our current limitations, we have to partner with host nation facilities to be able to accomplish the mission," said Worley.

Leading that partnership is Anna Farley, the medical liaison who facilitates and coordinates the care of active duty service members and their families, and other categories of beneficiaries as needed.

Farley said she works in concert with the medical officer on duty, especially after hours. "I ensure we follow up with all cases, from the beginning of the episode of care to the onset of the episode of care and until the case is closed – either (the) patient (is) home safe or transferred to a higher echelon

facility."

Whether it is a routine check-up or help during an emergency, the Branch Health Clinic staff are standing by to take care of all Team Souda's medical needs. If you would like to make an appointment at the clinic, call (DSN) 266-1590 or (Commercial) 282-102-1590. In the event of a medical emergency, call the emergency dispatch number (DSN) 9-1-1 or (Commercial) +30 282-102-1911.

• Team Souda, this is what your medical clinic wants you to know:

Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Worley, Senior Medical Officer:

"As a physician with a family physician background, I still really enjoy seeing family members as well as the active duty. I think that the goal is to provide patient-centered care to any and all who come in, but also being in a OCONUS environment [we have a] desire to keep operational forces forward deployed."

• Lt. Cmdr. Jackie Kessler, Nurse Clinic Manager:

"Take the Joint Outpatient Experience Survey (JOES). It is the clinic's report card so please complete it. It is a random survey that is sent through the mail that you can fill out and send back or scan the QR code to fill out online."

• Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Nicole Matera:

"I think it is important to know that you don't have to wait to have a visible injury to be seen. If you have questions in regards to your health or hygiene, it could be the littlest thing, medication-wise or nutrition, by all means, you're more than welcome to come in. You don't have to wait until there is an obvious problem to be treated. We're here for you mentally, spiritually, physically, and most important for education."

• Anna Farley, TRICARE Liaison:

"That they should follow the protocol and call the emergency dispatch. Active duty service members, per TRICARE policy, they can never self-refer. Unless it is a threat of loss of life, limb, or sight. Unless it is an absolute emergency, yes, they can go or be transported. Follow the protocol and Medical will be your guardian angel. We monitor (patients at host nation medical facilities) daily, we visit the patients, both myself and the duty medical officer. We take care of their needs, 24/7."

• Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Justin Preisler:

"You know you're neighbors with the people on base and you see them in the gym and the chow hall and they're, 'Hey, can you do me a favor?' or, 'Hey, can you hook me up with this?' You know, we can't really do that in Medical."

• Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Jordan Belthrop:

"We don't just give out Motrin and tell you to change your socks and drink water."

# • Entomology

(Continued from front page)

potentially harm Airmen in the operational environment.

“Surveillance allows us to identify insects or pests in our environment and the potential pathogens they carry,” said White. “We also assess when and why the insect or pest is present. This allows us to identify if they are a threat, and determine an acceptable level of that insect or pest in proximity to our personnel.”

Medical entomologists use this information and work collaboratively with pest management personnel who will begin or modify mitigation steps to control insect or pest populations. This information may also guide recommendations to the base population to implement other personal protective measures including the use of insect repellants and mosquito nets, based on the insect or pests behaviors.

As White explains, even if an insect or pest does not carry a disease, they could still pose a significant health problem.

“When I was in Charleston, the Navy had training assets along the salt marshes where the mosquitoes are aggressive biters and can occur in very large numbers,” White explains. “Large swarms of these mosquitoes have been responsible for the exsanguination and death of cattle along the Gulf Coast. So, when these mosquitos

started attacking and causing problems for the dock workers who then couldn’t do their job, this impacted the Navy’s ability to complete their training.

“We needed to conduct appropriate pest mitigation that would allow the dock workers to return to work and the Navy program to continue. For this case, we implemented control through aerial spraying, provided by our reserve Airmen from the 757th Airlift Squadron in Youngstown, Ohio.”

Another part of the medical entomology mission is educating Airmen on potential threats in their workplace and how to keep themselves safe. This is especially important when preparing Airmen for deployment where they may encounter insects or pests they are less familiar with and which require different safety precautions.

“Often, the threats we see at home are different when we deploy,” said White. “For example, many of us learned the rhyme about patterns to identify venomous coral snakes that goes, ‘Red and yellow, kill a fellow. Red and black, safe for Jack.’ But that only keeps you safe in the U.S. Applying this rhyme in South America can actually get you in quite a bit of trouble. We work to get Airmen to understand that what they

know at home is not necessarily effective when overseas.”

Medical entomologists also bring their expertise to global health engagements and assist foreign military partners with vector disease outbreaks. They also support humanitarian responses, especially after a natural disaster where insect control measures are required so responders can continue to do their job.

According to Lt. Col. Timothy Davis, Medical Entomology Consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General, between courses, training, and experience, medical entomologists are skilled in understanding how insects and pests can impact the overall mission.

“Medical entomologists have to be vector-identification specialists,” said Davis. “We have to also be vector-borne disease ecologists in order to understand the complex life-cycles of the pathogens that can pass through different hosts, multiply in great numbers, and move to a human, resulting in disease. Knowing the many steps and stages to the disease cycle can assist in identifying the weak link in the chain of infection. Medical

entomologists have to have a strong natural science background to truly understand what steps should be taken to keep our members safe.”

The Air Force has 12 active duty medical entomologists and is looking for candidates to fill more positions around the world.

“Whether it’s protecting Airmen from bedbugs and leishmaniosis in Southwest Asia, catching mosquitos in the Caribbean to study Zika, working with local health departments in the U.S. and overseas to combat diseases, or leading a base’s public health mission, the Air Force has many diverse and rewarding opportunities for medical entomologists,” said Col. James Poel, Chief, Public Health Branch, Air Force Medical Readiness Agency.

To be a medical entomologist, Airmen must have at least a master’s degree in entomology or in another scientific field with an entomology specialty.

To learn how you can become an Air Force medical entomologist, Air Force Specialty Code 43H3E, visit: [www.airforce.com/careers/detail/medical-entomologist](http://www.airforce.com/careers/detail/medical-entomologist).

## Percy Bonefish



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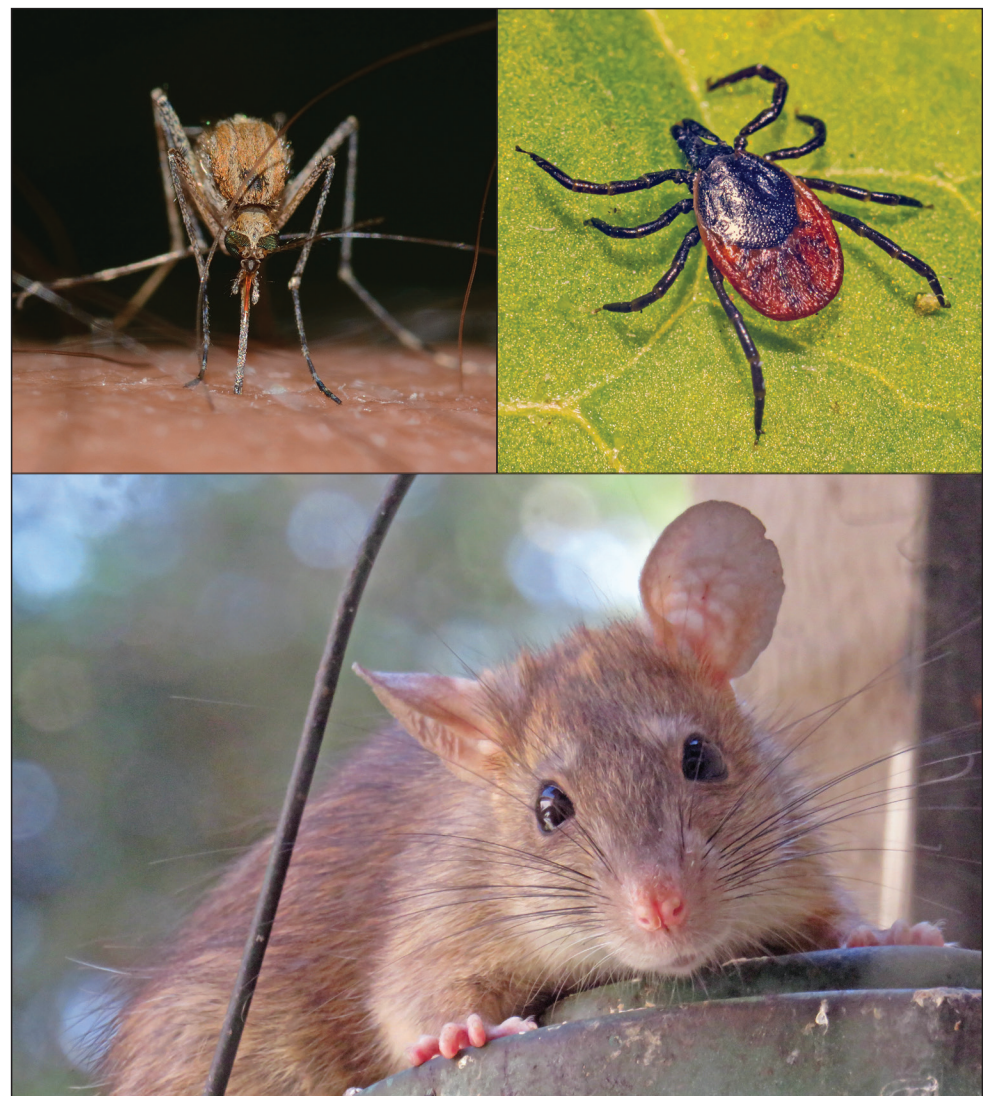
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*“We consider if vectors or pests, such as ticks, mosquitoes, or rodents, are present in the environment. We examine if those vectors or pests carry known pathogens and if they can negatively affect our personnel. We then advise on mitigation recommendations to minimize the exposure,”* said Maj. Stephanie White, U.S. Air Forces in Europe - Air Forces Africa command entomologist, Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center Detachment 4, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

# NMCP's new oncology nurse navigators are making a difference

By Seaman Ariana Torman  
Naval Medical Center - Portsmouth

PORTSMOUTH, VA. — Naval Medical Center Portsmouth's (NMCP) new Oncology Nurse Navigator program is making a positive impact on patient care by helping cancer patients navigate their diagnosis.

As Oncology Nurse Navigators, Melinda Powers and Whitney Ogle work with patients to overcome barriers to care and gain access to information that they may not receive otherwise.

"We help navigate newly diagnosed cancer patients through the initial process of getting set up with appointments and making sure they have all the information they need," said Powers. "We are also a support system, someone they can call at any time for any reason, that hopefully makes the process smoother and less stressful."

Oncology is a branch of medicine that deals with the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. Powers sees gastrointestinal oncology patients and Ogle sees breast and pediatric oncology patients.

"Oncology is a very specialized field," said Powers. "When a patient hears the word 'cancer', they immediately think the worst and fear is stricken through their body. Nothing can take that feeling away, but hopefully knowing that they have someone who is there for them makes the process a little less scary."

Before Powers and Ogle took on this new position in March, it did not exist at NMCP.

"This position is brand new to the command, so we are building it from the ground up," said Ogle. "But we are very happy to be here and to finally be up and running."

As the U.S. Navy's oldest, continuously-operating military hospital since 1830, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth proudly serves past and present military members and their families. The nationally-acclaimed, state-of-the-art medical center, along with the area's 10 branch health and TRICARE Prime Clinics, provide care for the Hampton Roads area. The medical center also supports premier research and teaching programs designed to prepare new doctors, nurses and hospital corpsman for future roles in healing and wellness.



(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Ariana R. Torman/Released) *Melinda Powers, left, and Whitney Ogle, Oncology Nurse Navigators, pose for a photo in the Hematology/Oncology Department at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth (NMCP) Sept. 29. NMCP's new Nurse Navigator program is making a difference by helping cancer patients navigate their diagnosis.*

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# WRAIR continues its fight against wound infections and drug-resistant bacteria

By Samir Deshpande

Walter Reed Army Institute of Research

Though the COVID-19 pandemic remains a top priority for the U.S. Army and government's healthcare and medical research apparatus, SARS-CoV-2 is just one of many ongoing infectious disease-related public health concerns. Antibiotic-resistant bacteria remain a significant threat to the public as well as Service Members, on and off the battlefield.

Antibiotics are critical tools for healthcare providers to treat bacterial infections. However, through evolution, bacteria can develop resistance to antibiotics, diminishing the drugs' utility. Overuse of antibiotics in humans and animals, counterfeit antibiotics and other misuse can accelerate the development and spread of resistance.

Most Americans encounter multidrug-resistant infections in hospital settings, where bacteria can spread rapidly from patient to patient when unchecked. In 2019, more than 2.8 million antibiotic-resistant infections occurred in the U.S., resulting in over 60,000 deaths.

For the Warfighter, combat wounds are easily infected in field environments. Limited access to evacuation and resupply, paired with decreasingly effective antibiotics, only heightens the risk. These bacteria move with patients as they transfer to other hospitals, increasing the danger to other healthcare facilities.

Recognizing this global threat, the White House released a National Action Plan in 2015 outlining steps for implementing the 2014 U.S. National Strategy for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria. On October 9, it released the next iteration of this plan.

Leading the DOD's efforts to support the National Strategy, the Multidrug-resistant organism Repository and Surveillance Network at WRAIR serves as the primary surveillance organization to track antibiotic-resistant bacteria across the military healthcare system and beyond. Celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2019, it has thus far collected and analyzed in excess of 82,000 bacterial isolates from over 60,000 patients.

The 2015 National Action Plan specifically tasked the MRSN to expand its detection capabilities for high-risk drug-resistant pathogens from Army military treatment facilities to the entire MHS. This capability paid off in 2016 when the MRSN was the first organization



(Photo By Samir Deshpande)

*Maj. Anthony Jones, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, streaks bacteria on a petri dish.*

to identify a bacterium with MCR-1, a gene that confers resistance to the antibiotic of last resort colistin, from a patient in the United States.

"Using bacterial genomics, the MRSN can quickly identify bacteria that may be closely related from different patients, suggesting possible transmission between patients. Analyzing antibiotic resistance genes can also provide insight into possible treatment options for physicians," said Col. Jason Bennett, director of the MRSN. "Performing bio-surveillance on the movement of antibiotic-resistant bacteria enables us to provide an early warning signal to military and civilian hospitals around the world, informing antibiotic stewardship, infection prevention and research."

The 2015 National Action Plan also tasked WRAIR to transition one antibiotic drug candidate from discovery to advanced development. "Working closely with our partners in industry, academia and other government agen-

cies, we are evaluating and advancing novel antibiotic classes through our antibacterial high-throughput drug discovery platform and applying cutting-edge artificial intelligence and machine learning screening approaches to identify candidate antibiotics," said Lt. Col. Charlotte Lanteri, director of WRAIR's Experimental Therapeutics Branch.

"A unique aspect of our strategy is leveraging the MRSN's bacterial diversity panels to test novel drug candidates using relevant, clinical samples, allowing us greater confidence in a new drug's clinical utility for our military population," Lanteri continued, referring to existing diversity panels covering a number of bacterial species.

Product development efforts also include bacteriophage, or viruses that inactivate specific strains of bacteria. WRAIR scientists have seen success with these phages, using them to save the life of a patient with a multidrug-resistant bacterial infection in 2019.

Leveraging overseas laboratories in Southeast Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and the Republic of Georgia, WRAIR also works closely with governmental and others partners to track and sequence multidrug-resistant organisms in local health systems, expanding understanding of disease threats circulating around the world.

In support of the next five year National Action Plan, WRAIR will continue its product development efforts, serve as a resource to industry partners looking to test new antibiotics, provide expanded real-time pathogen surveillance within the MHS and Veterans Health Administration and improve data-sharing partnerships.

*CARB National Action Plan 2020-2025: [aspe.hhs.gov/pdf-report/carb-plan-2020-2025](https://aspe.hhs.gov/pdf-report/carb-plan-2020-2025)*

*CARB National Action Plan 2015-2020: [www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/pdf/national\\_action\\_plan\\_for\\_combating\\_antibiotic-resistant\\_bacteria.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/pdf/national_action_plan_for_combating_antibiotic-resistant_bacteria.pdf)*

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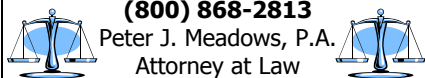
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