

# MEDICAL NEWS

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## 115th CSH shows off new technology

By TC Bradford  
Fort Polk Public Affairs Office

FORT POLK, La. — The 115th Combat Support Hospital traces its roots to Fort Riley, Kansas in World War I when it was constituted as Evacuation Hospital No. 15. It came into service while deployed to France where it earned a battle streamer for service during the Meuse-Argonne Forest offensive. If you could take a trip in a time machine and examine the hospital, you would see how primitive the facilities and medical practices of the day were compared to the modern CSH.

Through the years, evacuation hospitals were replaced by the Mobile Army Surgical Hospital made famous by the hit CBS television series, “M\*A\*S\*H” starring Alan Alda, Loretta Swit, Harry Morgan, Wayne Rogers, McLean Stevenson and a host of others.

As technology and medical practices evolved, so did the CSH. Today’s modern hospital is a modular unit that can be set up in a matter of hours after reaching its deployment theater. It is a hard shell, climate-controlled unit that can be staffed by up to 600 Soldiers and is equipped with up to 248 beds. It has a pharmacy, sterile operating rooms and X-ray facilities and can even offer dental care.

The main purpose of the CSH is to serve as a midway point of care between medics on the battlefield and a fixed hospital unit in the rear. They triage, stabilize and prepare the most seriously wounded for evacuation to a hospital like Landstuhl Army Hospital in Germany or Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

They are there to care for U.S. forces, but in certain cases may treat enemy combatants and even civilians. Another bonus from being modular is that the entire hospital does not have to deploy for every mission. If a small clinic is needed or radiological services, just those sections of the hospital can be packed up and deployed.

The 115th Combat Support Hospital falls under the 32nd Hospital Center at Fort Polk. The 32nd HC is commanded by Col. Lee Burnet and Command Sgt. Maj. Dolores Kiyoshi. The 115th CSH trained on setting up the hospital and practicing patient drills Aug. 12.

Burnett invited Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital commander, Col. Jody Dugai, to tour the facility. It was the first chance Dugai had to check out the updates the Army has incorporated into the hospital.

“The changes made to the tents and medical equipment are fantastic. The tents are easier to erect, not so labor intensive for the Soldiers,” she said.

“The medical equipment has been updated to give

See **TECHNOLOGY**, Page 2



(Photo By Capt. Jennie Armstrong)

*Eleven Medical Soldiers earned the Expert Field Medical Badge after completing 144 hours in a weeklong exercise at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, that ended Aug. 14.*

## Eleven medical professionals earn EFMB

By Sgt. 1st Class Miriam Espinoza  
593rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, WA — Eleven medical professionals earned the Expert Field Medical Badge Aug. 14 on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. The badge is designed to test Soldiers both physically and mentally during 144 hours of testing in a one-week period.

Seventy-four Soldiers began the competition on Aug. 8 with the Army Physical Fitness Test and a 60-question written test.

“The Expert Field Medical Badge is the highest proficiency for medical Soldiers, it represents your ability to survive in today’s modern battlefield,” said

Command Sgt. Maj. Clark Charpentier, Regional Health Command-Pacific’s command sergeant major.”

Soldiers, ranging from 22 to 61 years old, attained the badge after passing all tasks in a competition that only awarded 14 percent of Soldiers who began on day one.

The Soldiers were tested on medical tasks, Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear tasks, land navigation -- both day and night -- weapons, communication tasks and their physical capabilities including the ability to load and transport casualties weighing more than 200 pounds.

“The skills, ability and knowledge that each and

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# Doctor's orders: Report to medical photography

SAN DIEGO – Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCS D) medical photography department plays a significant role in ongoing care of our active duty military patients and their beneficiaries. Select NMCS D patients in virtually all surgical departments will meet our medical photographers.

"We see about 50 patients per week from different clinics, to include plastic surgery, ENT (ears, nose, throat), ophthalmology, pathology, virtually anywhere that patients have ongoing care that needs to be documented," said William Gomez, a NMCS D medical photographer.

Patients go to the medical photo department for both pre-operation and post-operation photos. These photos provide medical providers with a visual documentation of the procedures that are performed, so that they can physically see a side-by-side comparison of the "before" and "after" photos. This is particularly helpful for patients who have had reconstruction surgery.

"We document progression through pho-

tographs," said Gomez. "Sometimes we see patients multiple times throughout their care plan."

The medical photography team works hand-in-hand with the rest of a patient's care team to provide the best possible ongoing care.

"Two-thirds of our job is providing photos for everything and anything medical related," said Dwyane June, a NMCS D medical photographer. "The other one-third of our work is doing official Navy photos, like officer photos, passport photos and photos in support of our security team. We also work with wounded warriors."

Wounded warriors come to the medical photography department to document both the progression of their surgeries and their healing processes.

"We also provide photos for the emergency department," said June. "We photograph everything our patients and beneficiaries could need photographs of for their medical care."

NMCS Ds medical photography depart-

ment supports NMCS Ds mission: to prepare to deploy in support of operational forces, deliver quality health care services, and shape the future of military medicine through education, training and research. By providing pre-operation, post-operation, and continuing care photos for our hospital

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For more information about NMCS D visit [www.nmcsd.med.navy.mil](http://www.nmcsd.med.navy.mil) or [www.navy.mil/local/sd](http://www.navy.mil/local/sd)



(Photo By Chuck Cannon)

*Members of the 115th Combat Support Hospital brief Col. Jody Dugai (right) commander of Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, on the new capabilities of the CSH during her tour of the facility Aug. 12.*

## • Technology (Continued from front page)

providers more capabilities in a deployed setting. The equipment upgrade also allows for better patient care in the event patients have to remain in a field hospital longer than they did in the past. I am very excited about the improvements."

Dugai said the CSH and BJACH are on the same team with the same mission of providing quality care to patients in their respective facilities.

She said it's important for BJACH and the CSH to work together as any health care provider from medical technician to physician can be tasked to work in either facility.

"We both provide training in different ways to our healthcare providers," she said.

"BJACH provides the daily clinical care that allows our medical team to have the skill proficiency to provide care worldwide at a moment's notice. The field hospital allows our medical team access to deployed medicine by training on equipment and processes that are different from a typical stateside facility."

She explained how BJACH and the CSH fit into the "one team, one fight" concept.

"There is a close relationship with a field hospital and the installation medical treatment facility because we have the same purpose: Taking care of Soldiers and returning them to the fight. At some point, my team or I will be performing duties within one of these units."

Dugai said she was impressed with the technology and staff of the 115th CSH and was confident in their ability to provide first class care to patients treated in a deployment situation.

"We have proven this over the last 18 years. We have the highest survivability rates ever during conflict. This is due to close relationship between fixed facilities like BJACH and field hospitals like the 32nd Hospital Center," she said.

## Military Medical News

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• **EFMB** (Continued from front page)

every one of you have demonstrated represents your readiness to save lives on the battlefield," Charpentier said.

The EFMB had several changes this year. One of the major changes was only medical professionals are allowed to compete for the badge. Last year the competition was open to all military occupational specialties.

The competition also added the Army Physical Fitness test and a requirement for candidates competing to have a weapons qualification score of expert before being entered in the competition.

"I trained for the last couple of months during my time, I reviewed my previous performance and had great support from people in my unit," said Col. Fernando Güereña, chief medical officer, Madigan Army Medical Center.

Güereña, a native of Baja California, Mexico, has competed for the badge five previous times and was the oldest and highest-ranking medical professional to attain the badge during this year's competition.

"This has been a great day," Güereña said. "I felt I was not a complete medic till I had the badge – it's the happiest day in my military career."

For the third consecutive year, the task to validate and set up for the EFMB fell onto the 56th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, 62nd Medical Brigade. The battalion required more than 290 personnel to help set up, test and maintain accountability of the candidates.

"To the cadre; we could not conduct and continue the legacy of the expert field medic without all of you," Charpentier said.

The EFMB was designed as a special skill award for recognition of exceptional competence and outstanding performance by field medical personnel and approved by the Department of the Army in 1965.

"The best part was all the people along the way," said Sgt. Justin Herman, combat medic, 56th Med. Bn. "If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be here."



(Photos By Capt. Jennie Armstrong)

*Medical Soldiers plot points for day land navigation on the second day of testing during the Expert Field Medical Badge at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, Aug. 9*



*Col. Fernando Güereña, chief medical officer from Madigan Army Medical Center, evacuates a casualty on the fifth day of testing on a combat testing lane during the Expert Field Medical Badge competition at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, Aug. 12.*



*Sgt. 1st Class Juan Ramirez, front, a medic from Fort Carson, Colorado, reacts to contact on the fifth day of testing on a combat testing lane during the Expert Field Medical Badge competition at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, Aug. 12.*



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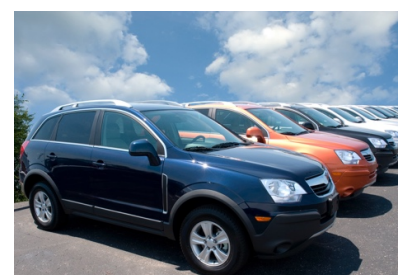
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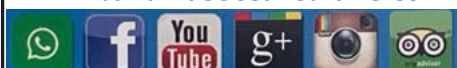


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