

# OT Section

by LTC Karen Cozean, Chief, OT Section

This time last year we were recovering from the events of September 11, and as we begin this year, we prepare for a potential war. We have had military OT's and OTA's deployed all over the globe during the past year and they have made us proud with their professional contributions. It takes teamwork to keep the machine going and many of you over the past year have worked hard to cover the workload for those who have deployed. Everyone is important and needed to make sure our mission is complete, and I thank each of you for your tireless commitment, dedication, and for the quality health care you provide to your patients.

Have you heard the saying, "luck is opportunity and preparation"? We all have opportunities that arise before us daily, but very few of us are prepared for these opportunities. This saying makes me think of those of you who are PROFIS. Being prepared will help to reduce some of the anxiety caused by not knowing whether or not you will deploy. A number of you already have warning orders. Be proactive in getting your personal and professional effects in order, do not wait for the warning order to respond! Even if you are not PROFIS, it is important to be ready. And likewise clinic chiefs, have a plan in place on how you will operate with the loss of one, or possibly more, of your staff deployed. There is no guarantee that you will be backfilled, so look at your programs and develop a plan on what you can and cannot do with the loss of your staff. Market this through your chain of command so they are aware of the changes that will occur in your system. They will need to adjust and plan accordingly too. This is all common sense information but it is so easy to put it aside, "to do later", when trying to keep up with your day-to-day operations. Carve out time to prepare now so it will not be overwhelming to you should it occur.

Remember, we have a wealth of information to assist you should you deploy. The new SP Smart Book (actually it is a CD) is a valuable reference and the old smart book on the SP web page is great too. Call me if you would like a copy of the CD and we will mail it to you. There are OT's out there to assist you. MAJ Sharon Newton, CPT Robert Montz, and CPT Karen Luisi, our CSC OT's, have been very busy deploying this last year and I know they would be willing to answer questions you may have. MAJ Steve Gerardi is our expert for CSC, and he is a tremendous asset with valuable references. After action reports that I have received from therapists who have deployed, are on KE in the OT Section. Call or email me if you have questions and keep me abreast of your staffing deployments.

Two of our CSC OT's returned home in December after six-month deployments. MAJ Sharon Newton returned from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and CPT Karen Luisi returned from Camp Doha, Kuwait in support of Operation Desert Spring. We look forward to hearing about your deployments during our next VTC in March. Welcome home!

## Project Paratus

Project Paratus continues and I would like to provide you with the time line LTC (P) Bill Howard and MAJ Steve Gerardi forwarded to me so that you all have a visual of the dates and progress of the important work being done by this team. If you have an interest in joining this group do not hesitate to call me. We will arrange for you to join. We welcome our RC therapists input and membership as well! Again my thanks for the work you are doing with this project.

### Timeline for Project Paratus

1. All comments in on Definition and Objectives - 1 Feb 2003
2. SOP's/program statements from the field that encompass all facilities to LTC Howard/MAJ Woods for posting on KE- 15 Feb2003
3. Complete the review of current practice by teams\* - 15 March 2003
4. Complete research and compilation of practice models in the VA and other environments and review of literature. This includes review/research of evaluation/assessments tools, interventions/prevention models and techniques. 15-20 May 2003.
5. Ensure complete posting of all information gathered to include articles, any powerpoint presentations, bibliographies, etc. for transition to next step of establishing deliverables. – 30 May 2003
6. Upon completion of the literature/program review, the working group will need to establish what should be done and what tools programs will be used as the “standard” pieces of all OT psychiatric programs. Suspense – 15 July 2003

Project members will be divided into working groups. There are four groups:

- a. Jackson group (PTRP type work found at Jackson, Leonard Wood, Sill)
- b. MEDCEN group (similar type work should occur across centers)
- c. CSC/Prevention outpatient services group
- d. ASAP (Army Substance Abuse Program) group

Work done by groups can and will be posted as it occurs for the benefit of all group members to view, however, each group will first stay focused on their own area. Upon completion of the review by o/a 20 May 2003, we will then begin working through what to use, develop further, modify or discard.

Each group will have a team leader as well. LTC Howard and MAJ Gerardi will be involved in all groups.

Literature review will use the criteria model from the Stroke rehab guideline development process as presented by MAJ Walters in July 2002. I will post the entire power point presentation to KE for all.

Thanks for the support, LTC(P) Bill Howard and MAJ Steve Gerardi

Two courses were offered during this past quarter and I would like to thank the OT Branch Staff AMEDDC&S for the valuable contributions they made to the Enlisted Management Course held in San Antonio, 21 – 25 Oct. The feedback I received from this course was very positive! I'd also like to thank the WRAMC staff and Project Officer, CPT Lisa Smurr, for hosting the Comprehensive Management of the UE Amputee on 8-9 Nov with Diane J. Atkins, OTR/L, FISPO. Great feedback was received for this course as well.

### **Some important dates to remember**

Submit your articles by **28 Feb**, to LTC Sandra Harrison-Weaver who chairs the board for the Myra L. McDaniel Annual Writers Award. A number of you have published during the last year and this is a nice way to be recognized for your good works.

The Management of Combat Stress Casualties Course **11 – 23 May**.

Management of Burns and Multiple Trauma Course, **4 - 8 August**.

Evaluation and Treatment of UE Conditions, **18 – 29 August**.