

Chief, Occupational Therapist Message

COL Karen Cozean

Chief, Occupational Therapist Section

On July 8th we had a change of command for the Surgeons General and I'd like to share a snapshot of what I observed. It was an impressive ceremony and this tradition reinforced that we all are part of a bigger whole and the tremendous responsibility each member of the AMEDD has in providing medical care to our beneficiaries. The soldiers on the parade field did an outstanding job, they were sharp, and they impressed the many dignitaries present for this occasion. Army Chief of Staff, General Peter J. Schoomaker, during his speech, respectfully acknowledged how the line appreciates and counts on the medic to save Soldiers lives. MG Kiley, during his speech, shared four important points worth repeating. They were: 1) Always strive to provide the best **Quality** care to our patients; 2) It is about **Service** to the Soldier, to the Army and to our Nation, 3) **Discipline** to maintain the Army core values in all that we do, and 4) To **Empower** people to do their jobs. I invite each of us to incorporate these directives in our day to day.

Deployments

We welcome back CPT Joanna Atherton and SSG Tina Hamilton who have just returned from serving six months with the 31st CSH. We thank them for their service and look forward to having them share their lessons learned and experiences with you. CPT Charles Quick, SFC Berrie Land, and MAJ Kurt Brower continue to do a great job, returning Soldiers to duty while serving with the 31st CSH. Rehabilitation in Iraq is minimal and CPT Quick has been working with a local 4-year-old girl to help her regain function after sustaining a SCI from a GSW to her back. Both OT and PT have helped her regain function and her mobility with a walker beats the WC she started with. CPT Michael Kim is deploying with the 115th FH, and is presently making preparations at Ft. Polk this week. SSG Damon Rush, SSG Tim Jones, SSG Rachelle Neal and SSG Ryann Ortiz will also deploy with the 115th. SSG Darryl Suarez deployment was extended and we hope it won't be long before he returns home safely with the 98th CSC Detachment. SPC Megan Martin is supporting the 67 CSH. Continue to keep all of our Soldiers in your prayers.

To capture our deployment lessons learned, we will be hosting an after action review September 11th at the AMEDDC&S, utilizing video teletraining technology to broadcast this day conference. OT's in the RC will be participating with us as well. OT/OTA's who have deployed to OIF/OEF will need to forward their AAR to me by 6 August so that your information can be incorporated into this program. All OT's are welcome to attend, just let me know, so we can find you a VTT site to participate.

Updates

A number of you have shared with me that we need a leadership course to prepare you for clinic chief positions. MAJ Matt Garber, posted a survey in early May on the Corps community web page to get Corps members feedback on the types of topics you would like offered during the Officer Captain Career Course. I thank those of you who gave us valuable suggestions and we will begin working to incorporate your recommendations into the Captain Career Course. Some of the suggestions included: database management and utilization; how to do a business case analysis; more on leadership and mentoring; logistics, how CEEP and the PBAC process works; OER and NCOERs; and a number of operational training needs were identified to better prepare for deployment.

SFC Lee, MSG Kinsey, and SSG Robinson continue to work on our enlisted staff shortages and are making head way. They have established a process to better monitor the locations of N3's working in N3 positions and 91W positions. They will cross-reference this with our TDA (clinic) and TOE staffing shortages so that we have objective evidence to take forward to HRC. The present way we do business is not working. MSG Kinsey is working with the enlisted chain of command to open the lines of communication between HRC and the enlisted consultants, with the goal of a more responsive system to move N3's to the locations that need them. Presently, 16 TDA/TOE authorized positions are unfilled. Know that we are working to correct this problem.

Remember, to begin the process of requisitioning an N3, make sure your local personnel has entered the requisition into the Enlisted Distribution Assignment System (EDAS), 90 days prior to the departing N3. We continue to miss this critical step and without it, the system will not know of your staffing need.

SFC Lee has a new exit survey for our N3's and will begin to capture the reasons our N3's are leaving the Army or leaving the Occupational Therapy profession. All N3's who ETS or work in the 91W MOS permanently, will be asked to complete this survey so again we may capture this important information.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to CPT Colleen Daniels who was this year's recipient of the Myra L. McDaniel Writers Award for her article, [An Ergonomics Based Approach Towards Preventing Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders in the Army](#). I thank all the therapists who submitted, and for your hard work to promote research and publish. We had four excellent submissions this year, and I'd like to share the other three submissions:

1. [Restoring Function – EIP Opponensplasty in a USAF F-16 Pilot, A Case Study](#) by CPT David Admire.

3.The Role of the Occupational Therapist in Combat Stress Control Operations
by LTC Steve Gerardi and MAJ Sharon Newton

4.The Proper Treatment of Lateral Epicondylitis: An Evidence Based Practice
Case by CPT Katie Yankosek

LTC Robinette Amaker received the American Occupational Therapy Association prestigious Fellow Award for her contributions to AOTA, research and teaching. This was presented to her during this year's national conference.

CPT Arthur Yeager received first place, Maddack Award for his Ergo-Knife during this year's AOTA national conference. Please see his article in this Medallion.

I'd like to thank LTC Steven Gerardi and SFC Carlton Lee for providing another outstanding Management of Soldiers with Combat Operational Stress course this past May. LTC Gerardi incorporated the lessons learned from OIF for a timely and relevant course, and it received high marks by the participants who attended. Please see LTC Gerardi's article in this Medallion.

Just a reminder, the Corps Chiefs Award of Excellence for Company Grade Officers is just around the corner. We have outstanding Company grade Officers who deserve this recognition and please submit your applicants by 30 October. Look for the Corps message coming out this week.

Departing Therapists

It is always difficult to say goodbye to wonderful therapists and the following will be leaving the Army this summer:

CPT Carlos Stanford has been with us for 10 years. Carlos, we thank you for your many contributions to Army OT. You always stepped up to the plate when there was a need and you were always a team player. Your clinical skills in hand rehabilitation helped to heal many Soldiers and we thank you for your service. You will be missed and we wish you well in the PHS.

CPT's Marianne Pilgrim and Philip Guzman, we were graduates of our WR Internship program and they completed their obligation and have decided to continue their careers in the civilian community. We thank you and wish you great success and hope our paths will cross with all three.

Winner of the Myra L. McDaniel Writers Award goes to CPT Colleen Daniels.

Nominations for the SP Chiefs Award of Excellence are due by **30 OCT**. This award recognizes our outstanding company grade officers. Information about this award is on the SP web site. Please send your completed form to the **Office of the Chief SP Corps, ATTN: MCCS CA, 2250 Stanley Road Suite 276A, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-6100**.