Helping our Environment
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BAMC FOCUS
MAY 2017
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BAMC Focus is an authorized publication for members of Brooke Army Medical Center and Regional Health Command-Central, published under the authority of AR 360-1. Contents are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or Brooke Army Medical Center.

BAMC Focus is published monthly by the Communications Division, 3551 Roger Brooke Drive, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234.

Questions, comments or submissions for BAMC Focus should be directed to the editor at 210-916-5166 or by email to lori.a.newman.civ@mail.mil.

Deadline for submission is six business days before the first of the month. We reserve the right to edit submissions selected for publication.
Team,

As a high reliability organization focused on quality and safety, Brooke Army Medical Center is continually searching for ways to improve the medical services provided to those entrusted to our care.

Last week, we hosted a team of experts from Army Medical Command to identify further improvements in the sterilization workflow process. This is the second team we have invited over the past month to solicit feedback from outside the organization on all aspects of surgical care.

We are taking a number of steps to ensure high quality surgical care for our patients. An initial step taken in mid-April was to temporarily reduce the number of elective surgical procedures while we actively evaluated staffing, equipment, space and processes to ensure we are ready to meet the surgical demand.

The Staff Assistance Visit team includes experts in clinical engineering, sterile processing, infection prevention and control, and quality, as well as a master’s prepared expert in Human Systems Integration and Human Factors, who examines how people and technology are interfacing.

The team will provide feedback within a few days of the visit. We will take their suggestions and track those items within our governance structure until they have been completed.

A backlog in sterilized surgical instrument sets was a key indicator that we needed to temporarily reduce the number of surgical procedures. Surgeons need multiple sets on hand to ensure they are equipped for everything from routine surgeries to complex trauma cases that may require a vast number of surgical instruments. We are in the process of bringing on more personnel to support the sterilization process and will gradually increase surgical procedures in the coming weeks.

We are sorry for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience. We are working diligently to get back to full operating capacity so we can continue to care for our patients and generate readiness. Our unwavering commitment is to our patients’ care. That drives everything we do.

Patients whose surgeries have been delayed and have questions should contact their surgeon, surgical clinic or primary care manager.

A Team of Teams ... Creating Tomorrows Today

JEFFREY J. JOHNSON  DIAMOND D. HOUGH
Brigadier General, U.S. Army  CSM, USA
Commanding General  Command Sergeant Major
BAMC Auxiliary provides needed items to support BAMC’s mission

By Lori Newman
BAMC Public Affairs

The Brooke Army Medical Center Auxiliary held its annual welfare recognition ceremony April 19 in the auditorium.

This year, the welfare committee approved 23 grants totaling $33,000. The grants provide funding for a variety of items for several departments within BAMC as well as the Fisher House and the Warrior and Family Support Center.

BAMC Commander Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson praised the commitment the BAMC auxiliary members have to the organization.

“We are trying to focus this incredible gift the BAMC auxiliary has provided into places where we can’t provide that service, function or item,” the general said. “But, what the BAMC Auxiliary does is way more than that.”

The staff from 5 East requested more Comfort Cubs this year because they received such positive feedback from their patients. The 7-pound stuffed bears are presented to parents who have suffered the loss of a newborn to help with their grieving process. Another unit requested a Yacker Tracker to monitor the noise level on the ward, so the patients are not disturbed if staff is talking too loudly.

“It’s exciting to see all the new advancements in patient care that we are able to provide through these grants,” said Katie Barbera, BAMC Auxiliary welfare chair.

Other requests included taxi vouchers, gift cards, shower shoes, computer tablets, books, stickers and patient literature.

“There is a different flavor [within the auxiliary]—it’s service,” said Paula Johnson. “We want to get back to our roots, being there to partner with people in a way that is needed, in a timely fashion. We are really pleased that you all have taken the time to go through the application process.”

The funds to support the welfare grants comes from the sales of popcorn by the BAMC Kernel Club.

Johnson used the Kernel Club as an example of the support the auxiliary provides to the patients and staff at BAMC.

“The poppers are there because it’s an opportunity for us to connect with our patients, all the people who come into this organization and change the morale,” he said. “It’s about making life a little bit better today in order to influence tomorrow.”

The auxiliary also presented a check for $45,000 to Inge Godfrey, BAMC Fisher House manager. The funds were raised from the annual Fisher House Charity Golf Tournament held on April 10 at the Dominion Golf Club.

“I really appreciate all your efforts in raising this money,” Godfrey said. “We are starting to renovate Fisher House One so this money will come in very handy. Thank you all for the support you give to the Fisher House.”

Liz Huang and Megan Gonzales, co-chairs of the BAMC Auxiliary golf tournament, present Inge Godfrey, BAMC Fisher House manager, a check for $45,000 during the Brooke Army Medical Center Auxiliary welfare recognition ceremony April 19 in the BAMC auditorium. (Photo by James Camillocci)

Samples of some of the materials donated by the Brooke Army Medical Center Auxiliary are displayed during the BAMC Auxiliary welfare recognition ceremony April 19 in the BAMC auditorium. (Photo by James Camillocci)
The Move It 2 Lose It Challenge recently provided the Joint Base San Antonio community a fun and exciting way to reach their health goals.

Starting in January with the New Year and ending in March with National Nutrition Month, the challenge – with the theme of “A New Year, A New You” – provided motivation and accountability to participants who competed as either teams or individuals.

The challenge streamlined and promoted health and wellness services offered across JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Lackland.

Participants earned points through utilization of health and wellness services such as:
- Nutrition Clinic Services (classes, individual appointments, weekly weigh ins, taking more than 10,000 steps in a day, food diaries, commissary tours)
- Army Wellness Center services (classes and assessments)
- Health Promotion services
- Fitness Center activities
- Worksite assessment (team category)

Winners were determined for the largest percent weight lost, the most participation points and for the team with the most points in each of these categories.

The 105 participants at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston lost a total of 292.7 pounds for an average weight loss of 7.7 pounds per participant. Participants earned 1,454 stamps, demonstrating the challenge’s impact on utilization of health promotion services throughout the area.

The challenge’s initial success has created a request for a follow on competition during the summer months of June through August with the theme of “Move It 2 Lose It: Summer Slim Down.”

Other services such as behavioral health will be added into the competition to promote a more holistic approach to health and wellness.

For more information, call 808-2419.

TRICARE Dental Program now managed by United Concordia

United Concordia Companies, Inc. started managing the TRICARE Dental Program May 1.

Beneficiaries don’t need to take any actions to continue their coverage.

The TDP is a voluntary dental benefit for eligible active duty family members, National Guard and Reserve members and their families. Several improvements to the TDP include:
- The annual maximum TDP will pay increased from $1,300 to $1,500
- The TDP considers sealants a free and preventive treatment, and no longer includes a 20 percent cost share
- The auto-enrollment age for family members has been lower from age four to one
- For most beneficiaries, the monthly premium rate will decrease

The Active Duty Dental Program and TRICARE Retiree Dental Program will not change.

The TDP will continue to provide access to a network of civilian dentists around the world. Your access to quality care will not change. However, some dentists currently in the TDP network may leave, while new ones will join. So, those currently enrolled may need to find a new dental provider.

To find participating dentists please visit: https://www.uccitdp.com/find-a-dentist/. You may nominate dentists to participate by clicking on “Nominate Your Dentist” on the page linked above and completing a simple form.

For more information regarding the TDP, please visit the TRICARE website or www.uccitdp.com.

(Source: TRICARE News Release)
Recognizing the efforts of individuals and groups who have dedicated countless hours helping members of the military community, Joint Base San Antonio held its annual Volunteer Awards Ceremony April 26 at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center.

JBSA members were honored for their voluntary work in 2016, by helping at various organizations that support and assist active-duty members, military families, retirees, government civilians and youth.

Attending the ceremony and presenting awards were Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle, 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA commander; Rear Adm. Rebecca McCormick-Boyle, Navy Medicine Education, Training and Logistics Command commander; and Robert Naething, deputy to the commanding general, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army).

Awards were presented in six categories to JBSA members including Small Group Volunteer of the Year, Brooke Army Medical Center Fisher House volunteers.

In addition, 77 active-duty members were recognized for earning the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal and 69 individuals the President’s Volunteer Service Award.

Pringle said JBSA members put in 508,000 volunteer hours in 2016, five times more than the hours volunteered in 2015.

“This was truly a special day,” Pringle said. “It’s great to see so many individuals out here. You guys absolutely amaze me. Keep up the great work. I can’t wait to see what you do in 2017.”

In addition, the monetary value of volunteer hours put in by JBSA members totaled $11.9 million last year.

McCormick-Boyle said it is volunteers who help to build, nourish and sustain vibrant, happy and productive communities.

“In a group of selfless individuals who give up their time, their efforts and their skills to strengthen the community and to assist others,” McCormick-Boyle said.

The Volunteer of the Year Awards ceremony was held during National Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 23-29, which recognizes individuals in both the United States and Canada who give their time volunteering for several causes.

A big Thank You to all our Brooke Army Medical Center Volunteers. You are all stars and we appreciate all you do for our patients and staff.
Sexual assault survivors speak at JBSA about their ordeals

By David DeKunder
502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Command Sgt. Maj. Aaron Stone of the 187th Medical Battalion at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and Monika Korra, an author and speaker, spoke about their ordeals of being sexually assaulted, overcoming and healing before separate audiences April 18 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

The talks by both sexual assault survivors marked Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month at JBSA. Korra spoke at two sessions, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon, at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Post Theater. Stone had his talk in the afternoon at the Brooke Army Medical Center auditorium.

Recalling his time growing up in his hometown of Goldsboro, N.C., Stone said he became friends with a middle school teacher, who he met at a restaurant he was working at, when he was in high school. One day in the summer of 1992, at the age of 15, Stone went over to the man’s house. Stone said the man told him to come into his room to see some new cassettes he had bought. When Stone got into the room, the man raped him.

For 18 years, Stone said did not tell anyone about the sexual assault because he felt ashamed about it. It was not until a night in January 2010, when he was stationed at Fort Rucker, Ala., that he felt the need to open up.

“I was driving down the street,” he said. “I started to shake uncontrollably. I started to cry uncontrollably. I had to pull over because I couldn’t drive anymore. And I realized at that time the demon I had been storing inside for almost 18 years, he was ready to come out.”

The next day he enrolled in an out-patient behavioral health program and told what had happened to him for the first time to a group of strangers. Once he did that, Stone said he felt a burden had been lifted from his shoulders.

Later in 2010, Stone told his story to Goldsboro, N.C., police and prosecutors, who opened a case against the man who raped Stone. Before the case was to go to trial, the man plea bargained and served time in jail before dying a few years ago.

Stone said he speaks about his experience because he wants to bring awareness and attention to the issue of male sexual assault in the military.

“This is my therapy, speaking and telling my story helps me get through the day,” Stone said.

Korra was gang raped by three men during her freshman year at Southern Methodist University in Dallas in 2009. The incident started while she and her best friend were walking back to campus from a party when a van pulled up and she was kidnapped at gunpoint. After Korra was pulled into the van, her friend went to notify the police.

After being raped, the men pushed her out of the van. Exhausted, shocked and with duct tape still stuck in her hair, a Dallas police officer located Korra. She was then taken to a hospital for treatment.

Korra said she started her recovery by doing something she was passionate about – running. She had come to SMU from her native Norway on a track and field scholarship.

“The most important thing was for me was to take back my identity,” she said. “I constantly heard this word victim, sexual assault victim Monika Korra, and for me that’s not the person I am. I am the runner; I have always been the runner. So that was the most important thing for me was to just hold on to that and never let what happened to me change who I am.”

Korra wrote what she experienced in a diary and was able to identify her attackers. She testified against her attackers in three separate trials, with two of the men sentenced to prison for life and one for 25 years after he plead guilty.

Once her attackers were put into prison, Korra said she began to feel she could move on and live her life. Through a victim remediation program, Korra was able to meet and talk to one of her attackers – the one who had been sentenced 25 years – in prison.

When Korra met her attacker, the man burst into tears and apologized. She told him she would forgive him if he promised to work hard every day to become a better person and when he got out, not to harm anyone else again. Korra then gave him a contract of terms he had to meet to earn her forgiveness, which the man signed.

“I was able to walk out of that room that day with my head held high, knowing that all of this belongs to my past,” Korra said. “For me it was time to move ahead into my future.”
Days of Remembrance ceremony honors lives lost, Holocaust survivors

By Robert Shields
BAMC Public Affairs

Brooke Army Medical Center staff, family members and guests gathered in the fourth floor auditorium for the Days of Remembrance Observance April 25.

“Throughout the course of the year, we attend many events to celebrate and remember,” said Brooke Army Medical Center’s Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson. “But today, our reason for being here is simpler. We are here to ensure that our nation, our people and the world never forget. Today we pause in honor and remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust.”

The BAMC commander also said we must always remember the lives lost and pledge to stand in eternal vigil against tyranny and hatred.

“We reflect with somber introspection at the scale of man’s inhumanity toward man,” Johnson said. “But find comfort in the stories of survivors and heroes who show the courage and humanity of which mankind is capable.”

One of these survivor stories was told by the event’s guest speaker Varda Ratner. Ratner told the story of how her parents, Nathan and Ilona Haendel, avoided capture during the war.

“My father was able to escape Poland before the Nazi takeover.” Ratner said. “He later joined the French Resistance and was wounded fighting the Nazis. He managed to finally settle in British Palestine.”

However, Ratner’s mother, who was from Budapest, was briefly captured.

“My mother told the story of her, my grandmother and a cousin being marched to a factory where they were expected to do slave labor,” recalls Ratner.

The three escaped during the night. “My mother had this human spirit of survival,” Ratner said.

Ratner’s mother also escaped to British Palestine. Her parents met and were married shortly after.

The Haendel’s later relocated to Brazil where Nathan accepted an assignment as a Nazi hunter, but after his cover was blown the family moved to the United States.

“Denying anyone’s humanity betrays our own and an attack on any faith is an attack on all of our faiths,” said BAMC Command Sgt. Maj. Diamond Hough. “As members of the military, we come from diverse backgrounds, many ethnicities and varied beliefs, but we stand united as one to protect and defend our country and stand up to injustice around the globe.”

Days of Remembrance was established by the U.S. Congress to memorialize the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust as well as the millions of non-Jewish victims of Nazi persecution.

Varda Ratner speaks during the Brooke Army Medical Center Days of Remembrance Observance April 25 about her parents, Nathan and Ilona Haendel, who survived the Holocaust. (Photo by Robert Shields)

Ministry and Pastoral Care Volunteers Honored

The Annual Brooke Army Medical Center Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care Volunteer Luncheon was held April 13 at the Fort Sam Houston Community Center. Over 48 volunteers working in the areas of Ward Visitation, Post Anesthesia Care Unit, Eucharistic Ministry, Clinic Visitation, Clerical, Ward Social and Pastoral Visitation were honored for the support they provide to our warriors, their families, staff and members of the local community. Three awards were presented during the ceremony. Marguerite Blankenship received the BAMC Volunteer of the Year Award. Mr. and Mrs. George Fasching received the BAMC Family Volunteer of Year the Award and the Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care Post Anesthesia Care Volunteers were recognized for their extraordinary contributions. This past year the BAMC ministry volunteers contributed over 5,679 hours representing $133,797 in savings to the Department of Defense. (Courtesy photo)
2017 SAUSHEC Research Day – Winners

**Fellow Podium Presentations**
3rd Place: Army Maj. Julie A. Rizzo, Surgical Critical Care - “The Use of Silverlon® During Transport of Combat Burn Casualties”

**Resident Podium Presentations**
1st Place: Air Force Maj. Andrew Sheean, Orthopaedic Surgery - “Assessment of Disability Related to Femoroacetabular Impingement Syndrome Using the Patient Reported Outcome Measure Information System (PROMIS) and Objective Measures of Physical Performance”
2nd Place: Air Force Capt. Patrick C. Ng, Emergency Medicine - “Intravenous Hydroxocobalamin Versus Intramuscular Cobinamide Compared to Intravenous Saline (Control) in the Treatment of Acute, Survivable, Hydrogen Sulfide Toxicity in Swine (Sus Scrofa)”
3rd Place: Army Capt. Samuel Tahk, General Surgery - “A Novel Bioreosorbable/Biointegratable/Biocompatible Dressing for Negative Pressure Wound Therapy”

**Resident Research Posters**
1st Place: Army Capt. Christopher J. Corkins, General Surgery - “Impact of a Dermal Matrix Thickness on Skin Graft Survival in a Single Stage Procedure”
3rd Place: Air Force Capt. William T. Davis, Emergency Medicine - “Soft Tissue Oxygen Saturation to Predict Admission from the Emergency Department”

**Clinical Vignette Posters**
2nd Place: Air Force Capt. Matthew Rendo, Internal Medicine - “Upper Airway Wheezing: Inducible Laryngeal Obstruction (ILO) vs. Excessive Dynamic Airway Collapse (EDAC)”
3rd Place: Air Force Capt. Rebecca Parrish, Pediatrics - “Pseudotumor Cerebri Resulting in Empty Sella Syndrome and Multiple Pituitary Hormone Deficiencies”
Other Happenings ...

at Brooke Army Medical Center

Visitor from Norway

Rear Adm. Jan Sommerfelt-Pettersen, Surgeon-General, Norwegian Armed Forces, speaks with Brooke Army Medical Center Commander Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson April 20 on the rooftop helipad during a tour of the facility. Sommerfelt-Pettersen also visited the Burn Center, Center for the Intrepid, Cath Lab and Simulation Center. (Photo by Robert Shields)

Arbor Day Celebration

Brooke Army Medical Center Deputy Commander for Inpatient Services Col. Gloria Bonds and Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care Chaplain Assistant Spc. Ashely Abney help celebrate Arbor Day April 28 by helping to plant a Red Oak tree in front of the Garden entrance to the hospital. The first official Arbor Day was held April 10, 1872 in Nebraska. It was estimated that more than one million trees were planted on that date. (Photo by Robert Shields)

Recognizing Safe Care

Brooke Army Medical Center’s 7T care team, (from left) Regina Lorensy, Pfc. Kaohohi Young and 1st Lt. Andrew Pritchett were recognized April 25 by Robin Francis, patient safety manager, for proficiently recognizing and responding to potential life threatening cardiac complications. Their swift action and escalation of the emergency response system expedited the cardiology consultation team for expert assessment and evaluation. (Photo by Robert Shields)
Asthma Day

Senior Airman Dana Parks, Brooke Army Medical Center Respiratory Care Department technician, tests BAMC Retired Activities Group volunteer, Michaela Hardin, using a small straw test during the World Asthma Day event May 2 in the Medical Mall. May is National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month. The small straw breath test simulates bronchial constriction in the airways. (Photo by Robert Shields)

Pushupathon

Brooke Army Medical Center’s 959th Clinical Support Squadron clinical lab flight commander Lt. Col. Angela Hudson, grinds out a pushup on her way to winning first place in her category during the Top 3 inaugural Pushup-a-thon Challenge May 1. (Photo by Robert Shields)
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Schertz Medical Home
Horizon Center
6051 FM 3009, Suite 210
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Taylor Burk Clinic
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SAN ANTONIO AREA MAP