Seven instructors from USU teach Chadians first responder training

By MC3 Kory Kepner
Staff writer, Office of External Affairs

Faculty and staff from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) traveled to Chad in March to instruct the Chadian people in first responder training.

The instructors’ responsibilities in Chad, which is located in North-Central Africa and is about three times the size of California, were to teach first responder training to the High Commission for National De-mining (HCND) employees. The entire trip encompassed four weeks of training.

Colonel Charles Beadling, Air Force, MC, Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Medicine (CDHAM) acting director, said they taught four different courses: Medical First Responder in Austere Environments (four one-week courses, total of 118 students - 9 instructor candidates), basic computer applications (21 students - 4 instructor candidates), Information Management System for Mine Actions (IMSMA) Database (7 students - 1 instructor candidate), and Management/Administration (25 students).

Colonel Beadling added that of the nine instructors, including himself, seven were from USU. Others were: Master Chief Kevin Smith, SW/FMF, USN, brigade senior enlisted leader; HMC Jennifer Mallory, FMF, Military and Emergency Medicine (MEM); Ms. Mary Johnson, MEM; Mr. Ray Handel, MEM; Mr. Wes Summers, UIS; and Randy Spears, a Henry Jackson Foundation employee in the CDHAM. Also, Doug Weaver, coordinator, computer and information technology program administrator with Cisco Regional Networking Academy, West Virginia University at Parkersburg, W.Va.; and Mr. Thomas Gilbert, Data Base DOD, Humanitarian De-mining Training Center (HDTC), Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

Ms. Johnson and Chief Mallory taught two classes and an instructor course. The first class they taught had about 20 students.

“The Chadians are very intelligent people. They caught on very quickly,” Chief Mallory said. “The first team of instructors modified the training material to teach from ground zero. The course is a week-long training session, almost like Combat Medical Skills, except the facilitators had to think outside the box.”

“HCND initially told us the class size would max out at 24,” Mr. Handel said. “On the first day of classes there were more than 50 people so we had to divide the class in two, scrap our initial plans and develop a reasonable course with one instructor for each of the two classes of 25 each.”

Chief Mallory said the reason for the training is because it could take up to five days in Chad for an injured individual to arrive at a hospital. The facilitators from USU taught the Chadian nationals how to treat injured people. It is very interesting how anyone can survive in a system with no immediate health services.

“Here in the States, a person can be rushed to the hospital within minutes of an accident. Over there, the person injured may never see a hospital,” Chief Mallory said. “Our students talked to us about how they would treat injured people. It is very interesting how anyone can survive in a system with no immediate health services.”

“The facilitators taught them how to treat traumatic injuries, how to bandage and package a patient for transport,” Chief Mallory said. “This is the same type of training first-year medical students are taught except the mate-
May 6 - 12 is National Nurses Week

By Karen L. Elberson, Ph.D, RN
Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs
Graduate School of Nursing

The theme for the 2006 National Nurses Week is “Nurses: Strength, Commitment, Compassion.” This theme, along with research, scholarship, and leadership, fully captures the essence of nursing.

Strength: America has approximately 2.9 million registered nurses (RNs) who practice in diverse settings. Men comprise six percent of this number. From traditional settings such as inpatient, outpatient, nursing homes, extended care facilities, and office nursing, to military service, community and public health, laboratory science, technological, and educational settings, nurses make a difference in health care outcomes. Individuals or groups can expect to receive the best care that nurses have to offer, whether seeking nursing services locally, regionally, nationally or internationally.

Registered nurses serve in a variety of roles from generalist to advanced practice. Among these roles are: care provider, case manager, nurse administrator/executive, nurse informaticist, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nurse anesthetist, nurse midwife, nurse educator, and nurse scientist, to name a few.

Commitment: As advocates for quality care, registered nurses are committed to health promotion, disease prevention, restorative care, palliative care, and when all available measures fail, to helping those who are gravely ill experience death with dignity. Seeking to achieve excellence in care, nurses are not satisfied with the “status quo.”

Compassion: Synonyms for compassion include sympathy, empathy, concern, kindness, consideration, and care. Registered nurses, as one of the most trusted professional groups in the nation, have earned this public trust by demonstrating compassion and commitment 24/7 to those entrusted to their care.

Research/Scholarship: Nurses are committed to scientific inquiry making use of evidence-based research findings to improve health care. Based upon using current best evidence, nurses make conscientious, explicit, and judicious decisions regarding care paths for patients and clients. Further, nurse scientists not only conduct research in an effort to discover new and better ways to provide care to patients, clients, employees, and other publics, but also disseminate findings through refereed journals and professional presentations. At the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), nurses focus their research on operational readiness/force protection, clinical decision making in the federal and military sectors, and/or population health and outcomes in the federal and military sectors.

Leadership in Nursing: Celebrating nurses week provides an opportunity to highlight the many contributions that nurse leaders have made throughout the decades from the time of Florence Nightingale, pioneer of modern nursing and a noted statistician (1850s), to Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross in 1881, to current leaders in military and federal nursing such as the Federal Nursing Service Chiefs: Maj. Gen. Gale Pollock, U.S. Army; Maj. Gen. Melissa Rank, U.S. Air Force; Rear Adm. Christine Bruzek-Kohler; U.S. Navy; Rear Adm. Carol Romano, U.S. Public Health Service; Ms. Cathy Rick, Chief Nursing Officer, Veterans Health Administration; and Ms. Nancy McKelvey, Chief Nurse, American Red Cross. Other nurse leaders of note are Dr. Patricia Hinton-Walker, dean, Graduate School of Nursing (GSN), USU; Retired Rear Adm. (Dr.) Faye G. Abdellah, U.S. Public Health Service, and founding dean/dean emerita, GSN, USU; and Retired Brig. Gen. Linda Sterle, U.S. Air Force, who presently serves as the executive director of the American Nurses Association, and a member of USU’s Board of Regents.
rial was broken down more. The facilitators taught the students how to treat things such as: pneumothorax, hemorrhage, impaled objects, burns, infection control, heat stress and much, much more."

"I believe the Chadians will gain many things from this experience and hopefully our continued presence," Ms. Johnson said. "Positive interactions between cultures have immeasurable value. When we asked the students what they had gotten out of this course, many of them told us that they felt more confident in their medical skills and in themselves."

Chief Mallory said the second week of classes consisted of five students and eight instructors. What the USU facilitators are hoping for is that the Chadian students and instructors continue the classes on their own. The second week was more challenging because of the portion of training. Chadians from the first set of classes were the instructors. The students from the first week of classes returned to teach the students in the second week. The students appeared to enjoy the experience.

"We would have instructor meetings at the end of class and we would ‘divvy’ up assignments for the next day," Chief Mallory said. "We would go over any questions the instructors-in-training would have and then go over the material. They were very thankful for letting them return and teach. They appreciated us taking the time out of our lives to fly there and teach them, so now they can give something back to their own communities."

"I believe the Chadian people had a very favorable impression of the Americans that were assisting them," Master Chief Smith said. "They commented on more than one occasion that we came from very far away to help their country and were very thankful to us."

"I was impressed that the Chadian people were so appreciative of the training and how quickly they learned the fundamental concepts even though most were barely literate," Master Chief Smith said.

"I definitely agree that the Chadian students were very enthusiastic and absorbed what we were teaching quickly," Colonel Beadling said. "With the poverty and political instability in Chad I do not know how well the programs will be sustained without follow on. I think there are major problems there and we can make a positive difference, but it will take time."

The group plans on continuing their work in Chad and they also plan on stepping up the training when they return for a conference in September.

"For the next trip, (Chief Mallory) and I are working on an advanced course in which we plan to include anatomy and physiology, advanced medical skills and effective teaching methods," Ms. Johnson said. "While we will be training these students to be advanced medical providers, we will also be teaching them to be first responder instructors. We would like them to be able to train everyone in their village or community to be first responders."
MEM staff member wins Service Member of the Quarter Award

MCSA Raul Zamora
Staff writer, Office of External Affairs

An Air Force staff sergeant has been named the Service Member of the Quarter (SMOQ) for the months of January through April.

Staff Sgt. Michelle Rogers, operations training NCO, Military and Emergency Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) received the award from Capt. John R. Rumbaugh, CFAAMA, MSC, USN, USU brigade commander.

Sergeant Rogers, who has been in the Air Force four years and assigned to USU since April of 2005, received a Certificate of Appreciation, a brigade medalion, a reserved parking spot for three months and a gift certificate to the Cheesecake Factory, for earning the award.

“I was very surprised and thankful to have been recognized as the SMOQ,” Sergeant Rogers said. “I have to say it isn’t an easy award to get. You need to prepare for the board and, of course, work very hard to even get to that point. I have only received certificates and letters of appreciation, but never an actual award!”

The nominees for the first quarter SMOQ were HM2 Careese Charles, Sgt. Dina Lyon, Spc. Kevin Love and Sergeant Rogers.

Part of the process to be named SMOQ is to go before a board of senior enlisted leaders who ask the nominees a series of questions ranging from general military knowledge to current events.

During the ceremony other awards and decorations were given out to members of the brigade. They include the USU Color Guard Member of the Quarter, which was presented to RP2 Cedric McGregory. A few medals and Certificates of Appreciation were also awarded to other brigade members for their contributions to the university.

Charles L. Rice, M.D., USU president, congratulated all the members on their leadership and professionalism, “I enjoy the opportunity to recognize our service members... they are the backbone of this institution. The awards are only a small token and only a symbol of the hard work a service member has done.”

President Rice visits Travis AFB, speaks to USU alums

MCSA Raul Zamora
Staff writer, Office of External Affairs

The President of the Uniformed Services University of the Health and Sciences (USU), was invited to be the guest speaker at the biannual Dining-Out held at David Grant Air Force Medical Center (DGMC), Travis Air Force Base, Calif., April 28.

During his Dining-Out speech, Charles L. Rice, M.D., USU president, discussed the importance of the Air Force’s expeditionary medical system and USU’s role in that system.

He also met with alumni, faculty and prospective students during his visit to the base. He addressed the university’s role in the integration of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the National Naval Medical Center.

Dr. Rice was accompanied by Maj. Chetan Kharod class of 1996, assistant professor, Military and Emergency Medicine (MEM), and Ms. Sharon Willis, director of Alumni Affairs.

The USU team also met with prospective students to answer questions and provide information on admission requirements to the School of Medicine (SOM), the Graduate School of Nursing (GSN), and graduate programs. They were assisted in their efforts by several alumni including; SOM graduate Maj. Karen Ayotte, class of 1999, GSN graduates Maj. Brian Koonce, class of 1999, and Capt. Joanna Bourne, class of 2006, as well as former SOM commandant Col. Linda Lawrence and former MEM faculty member Lt. Col. Diane Reese, who are all assigned to DGMC.

Alumni, faculty and prospective students also joined Dr. Rice for an after hours reception during his visit.

DGMC is located in Fairfield, Calif., near Sacramento and is commanded by USU class of 1987 alumnus Col. Byron Hepburn.
First-year students learn from the past

By MC3 Kory Kepner
Staff writer, Office of External Affairs

Students from the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences participated in the annual Antietam Road March at the Antietam Battlefield in Sharpsburg, Md. April 27.

Every year, approximately 165 first-year medical students take part in the six-mile hike at the battlefield. The Battle of Antietam, which claimed more than 23,000 men killed or wounded in a single day on Sept. 17, 1862, is the single bloodiest day in American history.

Along the hike re-enactors from the local area entertained and taught the students valuable lessons from a war fought a century and a half ago.

“They (the re-enactors) were awesome. They gave you the flavor of the battle. They are dedicated and passionate about what they do... everyone was enthralled,” said Army Col. Constance J. Moore, MSN, RN, BC, commandant, Graduate School of Nursing.

“It’s really exciting to learn about the history of military medicine and to see where the battle actually took place,” said 2nd Lt. Gary Legault.

The students were not only given a history lesson but they learned something just as valuable.

“It’s neat to be able to walk on the battlefield and think about what it was like then and what soldiers were thinking,” said 2nd Lt. Todd Balog. “The medical piece has evolved so much from what it was then to how it is now.”

“The more we understand the past, the better we can understand and encapsulate the present,” said Re-enactor David Jahnke. “One casualty in war is one too many.”

“Esprit de corps was built...it was really great to see the students work together and get the job done,” Colonel Moore said.

This operation reinforces the universality of war, Colonel Moore said. It shows that we dare to care. The re-enactors show these students that we are vulnerable, but strong. They get to see there has always been, and always will be, someone trying to help the young people who are fighting for this country.

Look Who’s Talking...What would you like as a graduation gift?

“New microphones and pointers to give to the lecturers in Lecture Room E. I think every one knows why!”

Air Force 2nd Lt. Dallas Hansen
SOM student

“A Navy sword. That’s one thing I want after I graduate from the nurse anesthesia program. It’s always been a dream of mine. I never thought I deserved one until I accomplished something.

Navy Lt. Jerrol Wallace
GSN student

“A diploma!”

Navy Ensign James Bailey
SOM student
Building renovations underway at USU

As the administration at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) continue to make improvements to the university’s infrastructure, make repairs and eventually break ground for Building E, members of USU will notice noise, equipment, area restriction barriers, danger signs, etc...

“With construction, you get nuisance noise, heavy equipment and other inconveniences that go along with laying foundations, building construction and necessary demolition to exact repairs to the existing buildings or create new ones,” said Mr. John Pomerville, asst. vice president for Environmental Health and Safety, director, Environmental Health and Occupational Safety.

Currently there is a major exterior brick replacement project in process in Building A. This project will eventually reach all buildings of the university as the workers move their scaffolding from one area of the university to the other. The project is essential infrastructure repair to repair the bricks that were cracking and separating from the buildings.

The funds for this repair work were requested from TMA specifically for these repairs and would not have been available for any other purpose.

“Most people at USU are not used to prolonged construction and it is new to most of us,” Mr. Pomerville said.

This is the university’s first major repair project of the buildings’ exteriors. Everyone needs to exercise increased caution and employ common sense when it comes to ongoing construction and carrying on normal business or as normal as it can be in such circumstances. It is important to respect all construction barriers and warning signs during this process.

They are there for everyone’s protection. Building occupants will notice noise and pneumatic hammering from the brick demolition as they prepare the surfaces to be repaired. Environmental Health and Occupational Safety (EHS) has surveyed the noise levels so far as the work progresses in Building A. The noise levels, in general areas, surveyed when the pneumatic hammering was going on were 70-78 weighted decibels (dBA). The highest level measured was 103 dBA directly adjacent to an affected window where the jack hammering was being conducted directly outside. To put it in perspective, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) set standards for noise exposure levels. The OSHA standards for noise are that a person can work in an area of 90 dBA for a period of 8 hours without hearing protection. At the 103 dBA level, one would be able - according to OSHA - to work in that environment for 1 - 1.5 hours, not that you would want to. DOD Instruction 6055.12 additionally lowers the 90 dBA 8 hour limit to 85 decibels (dBA). This should put the noise level in perspective somewhat, but, that doesn’t mean that the noise itself isn’t very bothersome and distracting.

The construction crews begin work at about 4 a.m. to lessen the disturbances in the late afternoon. Ear plugs are available in Room G040 to help reduce the noise, Mr. Pomerville said.

EHS will continue to monitor noise levels as the work progresses. The facilities department is changing air intake filters on a regular basis to keep up with the increased dust outside. EHS, facilities, Naval Facilities and the contractor site supervisors meet on a weekly basis or as needed to discuss the ongoing work and safety considerations. The consideration and cooperation of everyone at USU is greatly appreciated during these renovations.
News

Imaging database ranked number two

By MC3 Kory Kepner
Staff writer, Office of External Affairs

A Medical Imaging Database developed by a professor at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), has been ranked the number two imaging database in a paper presented at the Association of University Radiologists annual meeting, held in April.

James G. Smirniotopoulos, M.D., professor of Radiology, Neurology and Biomedical Informatics and chair, Radiology and Radiological Sciences, developed MedPix™ in 1999 with Navy Lt. Cmdr. Henry Irvine, M.D., currently a flight surgeon for VP-45, Jacksonville, Fla. It is a free online Medical Imaging Database, provided by the Departments of Radiology and Biomedical Informatics at USU.

"I actually started a radiology database – without pictures – on my Commodore 64 computer in 1984," Dr. Smirniotopoulos said. "In 1995 when I came to USU, I created a new database program running on a desktop PC. That early version of the software helped develop the structural database that we now use in MedPix™."

Dr. Smirniotopoulos said that they began to build the database because nothing else was available at the time.

“We needed a cross-platform internet based system to allow all of the DOD programs to share a common teaching file,” Dr. Smirniotopoulos said. “This became imperative when the Walter Reed Army Medical Center Radiology Residency merged with the National Naval Medical Center program.”

“We also wanted to move our USU Medical Student Teaching File into the digital age,” he said. “All students who take the radiology fourth-year medical student elective contribute cases to these teaching files, and it has been completely digital for the past four years.”

The primary target audience includes residents and practicing physicians, medical students, nurses and graduate nursing students, and other post-graduate trainees. The MedPix™ material is arranged by disease category, location, captions, and patient profiles, providing a user-friendly training resource. Today MedPix™ offers more than 27,601 images from more than 7,324 peer-reviewed cases.

The Web-based teaching file was developed to be a centralized focal point of peer reviewed radiographs, where radiologists anywhere can contribute and view cases. In addition to radiology images, MedPix™ also stores pathology, ophthalmology, dermatology, and endoscopy photographs.

MedPix™ provides a quick summary of medical information with images; it is not intended to be encyclopedic. MedPix™ is not intended to be a substitute for medical advice, and the reader is responsible for confirming the accuracy of this information before beginning or changing any therapy or treatment. Not only has the imaging database been granted a patent from the U.S. government, but it’s also been licensed by the American College of Radiology (ACR).

The ACR is pleased to offer the MedPix™ database to their members as another Web-based learning tool, according to ACR officials.

Their mission is to provide state-of-the art educational opportunities for radiologists anytime throughout their careers. Their Web-based audience will benefit from the variety of challenging cases provided by MedPix™.

For more information about MedPix™ visit http://rad.usuhs.mil/MedPixTM/MedPixTM.html?mode=news

News Briefs

Protocol Procedures

John Frankenburg has assumed the duties of Protocol and Events Officer formally held by Karen Dern. Please contact his office at 295-3665 or jfrankenburg@usuhs.mil when your department has a distinguished visitor or flag officer visiting. His office has relocated to Room B1009.

For official brigade functions when a flag officer is visiting please notify HM1 Muhammad Hassan, USN, BDE adjutant at 295-3423 or mhas-san@usuhs.mil. This will ensure the proper military courtesies are provided by the brigade for your guests. HM1 Hassan’s office is in Military Personnel.

Our offices look forward to providing your departments with assistance in hosting visitors to the university.

Research Week

The annual USU Research Week is May 16-18. The theme for this year’s event is “Global Public Health: The Changing Role of Military Medicine.” All USU faculty, staff and students are invited to register and submit abstracts on the Research Day website: http://www.usuresearchday.hjf.org/.

Dr. Alan Leshner, chief executive officer for the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be the Plenary Speaker, May 18 at 3:30 p.m. in Lecture Room E. His talk will be “Evolving Context for Science and Society.”

The Henry C. Wu Symposium will be given by Dr. Teresa Dunn, Ph.D., Department of Biochemistry May 17 at 9 a.m. in Lecture Room E. Her talk will be “Structural Organization of Serine Palmitoyltransferase and Its Role in Human Disease.”

The James J. Leonard Symposium will be given by Dr. Carol Fullerton, Department of Psychiatry May 18 at 9 a.m. in Lecture Room E. Her talk will be “Posttraumatic Stress Responses: First Responders in a Changing Nation.”

The Graduate Student Colloquium Bullard Lecture will be given by Dr. Solomon Snyder, distinguished professor of Neuroscience, Pharmacology & Psychiatry, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. His lecture will be at 3 p.m. in Lecture Room E, titled “Neural Messengers of Life and Death.”
### May

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<td>LRC Training &quot;PubMed Basics&quot;</td>
<td>Noon-1 p.m. LRC Computer Rm</td>
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<td>LRC Training &quot;EndNote Basics&quot;</td>
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<td>Armed Forces District American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Dedication of the Archives Bldg. C, Lec. Rm E</td>
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<td>Dept. of Pediatrics Grand Rounds</td>
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<td>Class of 2006 Graduation Awards Ceremony Sanford Auditorium 1 p.m.</td>
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<td>Mother's Day</td>
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<td>2006 USU Research Week begins</td>
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<td>Graduate School of Nursing Awards Ceremony Sanford Auditorium 4 p.m.</td>
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<td>USU Toastmasters Meeting Rm A2052</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Research Day Theme</td>
<td>&quot;Global Public Health: The Changing Role of Military Medicine&quot;</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Board of Regents Meeting Rm D3001</td>
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<td>2006 COMMENCEMENT</td>
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<td>Asian Pacific Islander Celebration Cafeteria 9 -10 a.m.</td>
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<td>Dept. of Pediatrics Research Conf.</td>
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