



“WRAIR Forward”

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COMMANDER'S CORNER



The Commanding General of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC), MG Parker, is retiring in March. Among his many contributions to Army medical research and development is his approach to program management. MG Parker has emphasized the need to have research programs developed from doctrinal

discussions concerning future concepts of the warfighter. Notwithstanding, MG Parker also talks to soldiers, maintains an operational focus, and supports the deployment of medical research assets with the warfighter. For MG Parker, program management is a balance between exploring doctrinal concepts and developing research programs through direct interaction with operational units. From this leadership, USAMRU-E has a research initiative that blends the long-term programmatic needs of the Army by researching concepts such as cognitive readiness with the immediate concerns of USAREUR and ERMC through our work on critical incident debriefing. This balance between programmatic and pragmatics creates a synergism from which USAMRMC's mission of protecting, sustaining, and enhancing warfighter health and performance is met.

-MAJ James W. Ness

USAMRU-E responds to heightened threat levels

In response to the events of September 11 and their aftermath, the USAMRU-E has been asked to support various initiatives as part of the effort to maximize the military's effectiveness following the terrorist attacks. As soldiers all over USAREUR are doing, SPC Haig pulled guard duty full time for over a month prior to attending a military school. Following a request from the USAMRMC, the science team compiled two proposals for the DoD Task Force for Technology to Combat Terrorism: (1) Assessing Psychological Resilience and Unit Climate, and (2) Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Model. In addition, at the invitation of the DCSPIM, Dr. Wright and CPT Thomas serve on the USAREUR Cares Task Force, a command-wide effort to link resources in a community-based response to the heightened terrorist threat. Finally, in cooperation with the Division of Neuropsychiatry, WRAIR (LTC Castro, Dr. Durand, and CPT Burrell), Dr. Adler and Dr. Wright have consulted with 30th Medical Brigade on a project to track family responses in USAREUR to the increased threat levels.

Austrian Cooperation Study

From 21-23 October, COL Peter Wittels, M.D., Austrian Army, and Dr. Bernd Johannes, Freie Universität Berlin, met with CPT Thomas and Dr. Adler to merge data from the Austrian Cooperation Study conducted in May 2001. At the meeting, all measures taken during the 7-day study were linked together. Initial analyses revealed strong relations between physiological and psychological measures of stress. This is important because the measures consisting of sleep actigraphy, cardiovascular fitness, stress hormone levels, and voice stress were physiological, whereas the psychological measures were survey-based appraisals. Thus, convergent validity was demonstrated. The research team outlined manuscripts and discussed the possibility of collaboration.

Briefings for USAREUR

Major Ness briefed the USAREUR leadership on the unit's research activities and on key results or plans from unit projects (OPTEMPO, debriefing, and Force Health Protection). Dr. Adler and CPT Thomas provided briefing support.

- COL Schorsch, CofS, U.S. Army Southern European Task Force (November 27)
- COL Finke, Plans and Policy Division, DCSPIM, USAREUR (November 29)
- COL Fulcher, CoS, 7th Army Training Command (December 3)
- COL McCoy, Jr., CofS, and MAJ Fohrman, Division Psychiatrist, 1st Armored Division (December 13)
- BG Ursone, USAREUR Command Surgeon, & CG, European Regional Medical Command (December 20)
- COL Vangjel, CoS, 1st Infantry Division (21 December)
- LTC Wempe, Division Surgeon, 1st Infantry Division (21 December)

Force Health Protection Screening

The Force Health Protection program, directed by Dr. Wright, includes an assessment of Psychological Screening conducted with the 1st Armored Division (IAD). This quarter, the psychological screening mission for rotation 2B of the 1AD drew to a close. Coordinated by Ms. Prayner, this second of two post-deployment screening missions was completed with the deployment of 6 USAMRU-E research teams to Baumholder in November and December. The results will be merged with data from units screened at 3 months following re-deployment as part of a project to identify the optimal timing for post-deployment screening. With this final data collection, over 15,000 psychological screenings have been conducted, including pre-, re-, and post-deployment periods since the pre-deployment screening of rotation 2A in April.

USAREUR Suicide Prevention

In FY 01, General Meigs, Commanding General, USAREUR/7th Army, commissioned a Suicide Prevention Task Force. At the request of BG Ursone, Command Surgeon, USAREUR, the USAMRU-E was invited to be a member of this Task Force responsible for analyzing the data on suicide completions and attempts in USAREUR. In this quarter, the USAMRU-E continued to support the Suicide Prevention Task Force with a compilation of prospective data and an analysis of two years of retrospective data. The data sets involve both completed suicides and attempted suicides. The prospective study, which began in June 2001, is based on data from forms completed by USAREUR clinic staff and sent to USAMRU-E for processing. Results from this information is summarized and reported at the monthly Task Force meetings. Dr. Wright and CPT Thomas are preparing a technical report for briefing in early 2002.

Cooperation with USMA

LTC Paul Bartone, Research Psychologist at the United States Military Academy (USMA) and former Commander of USAMRU-E (1993-1997), visited the unit 11-14 December. LTC Bartone presented some of his work examining the relationship between stress, hardiness, and leadership in USMA cadets. LTC Bartone and CPT Thomas discussed a proposed collaboration between USMA and USAMRU-E linking the West Point Cadet BOLDS database and the ROTC Cadet database. Such a collaboration would result in a validity study of U.S. Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) institutions on key health, leadership, and retention outcomes over time that could be critical in terms of modeling a wide variety of health and performance variables in USAMRMC research.

National Guard Study

Dr. Susan Proctor, Boston University, provided training for USAMRU-E personnel on the Automated Neurological Assessment Metric (ANAM) and NES3 software from 14-20 December. This training is in preparation for a January 2002 data collection mission with the Massachusetts National Guard unit deployed to Bosnia.

Publications

Adler, A.B., Dolan, C.A., & Castro, C.A. (2001). U.S. soldier peacekeeping experiences and wellbeing after returning from deployment to Kosovo. Proceedings of the 36th International Applied Military psychology Symposium [pp. 30-34]. Split, Croatia: Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Croatia.

Castro, C.A., Adler, A.B., & Huffman, A.H. (2001). Senior leaders in the U.S. Army, Europe. In P. Essens, A. Vogelaar, E. Tanercan, & D. Winslow (Eds.), *The human in command: Peace support operations* (pp. 264-275). Amsterdam: Mets & Schilt.

Weerts, J., White, W., Adler, A., Castro, C., Algra, G., Bramsen, I., Dirkzwager, A., van der Ploeg, H., de Vries, M., & Zijlmans, A. (2002). Studies on military peacekeepers. In Y. Danieli (Ed.), *Sharing the front line and the back hills* (pp. 31-48). Amityville, NY: Baywood Publishing Company, Inc.

Family OPTEMPO Project

Interviews and survey data collection for the first year of the Family OPTEMPO Study are now complete.

- The second year of the study will repeat the interview and survey research design. Surveys will be mailed to spouses in 9 of the 10 companies that participated in the original *OPTEMPO Study*; interviews will be conducted with spouses in April.
- Interviews for the *Senior Spouse Study* will be conducted with spouses of senior-ranking officers and senior noncommissioned officers in January.
- The Family OPTEMPO Study is under the direction of LTC Castro, Dr. Durand and CPT Burrell, Division of Neuropsychiatry, WRAIR, and Ms. Frey, Coordinator, USAMRU-E.

USAMRMC Assistance Visit

LTC Karl Friedl (20-27 October) and CPT Darren Ritzer (24-27 October), Military Operational Medicine, USAMRMC, conducted a Review and Analysis of the unit's research projects and activities in Heidelberg.

Military Training

- SGT Marta Mitchell, NCOIC, USAMRU-E, graduated on 23 October from the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course (BNCO), Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX.
- SPC Kaisha Haig graduated on 14 December on the commandant's list from the Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC), Hohenfels, Germany.

New Contractual Agreement

Anteon, Inc., formerly Sherikon, Inc., and its subcontractor Federal Contracts Consultants (FCC), were awarded a contract to provide



research assistant and principal investigator services for the unit, effective 1 December 2001. Ms.

Kara Godineaux serves as FCC's task manager. Front row: MAJ Ness, Angela Salvi, Rachel Prayner, SPC Haig, SGT Mitchell, Evelyn Golembe, and Kara Godineaux; Back row: Dr. Adler, Tommy Jackson, Erica Schroeder, Coleen Crouch, Valerie Frey, Dr. Wright, and CPT Thomas. Not in photo: Alexandra Hanson and Sandra Kelley.

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