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Exhibitors Welcome

Nurse Corps Officer Named 2007 Medical Recruiter of the Year

By Christine A. Mahoney, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – Lt. Jill Maldarelli-Drey, Nurse Corps (NC), an officer recruiter with Navy Recruiting District (NRD) New England, was recognized by Navy Recruiting Command as the Navy's top Medical Recruiter of the Year and Officer Recruiter of the Year (runner-up) for 2007.

"I have had an outstanding career in the Navy and as a result of my experiences, I thought that I would be a terrific representative of the Navy." said Maldarelli-Drey. "Though I am still very junior in my career as a Navy Nurse, I knew that I would be able to connect with other health care professionals and gain their interest in thinking about

a career as a part of Navy medicine. My husband, who is also a Naval officer stationed at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, has been extremely supportive and for that I cannot thank him enough."

She added "Nurses are very organized, detailed-oriented, and able to prioritize and manage their time wisely. The skills that I have acquired over my last seven years as a Navy Nurse Corps officer allowed me to succeed in recruiting. I treat each of my applicants as I would treat one of my patients; with kindness, caring, and honesty. Although recruiting has been a unique challenge, it has been an experience that I would not trade for the world."

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SAO TOME - Chief Hospital Corpsman Chris Maurer demonstrates to Sao Tomain military personnel the procedure for inserting an intravenous drip into a person's vein Jan. 23. This training is part of Africa Partnership Station (APS), the Navy's new cooperative maritime strategy, a multi-national effort to bring the latest training and techniques to maritime professionals in nine West and Central African countries. *U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Eddie Harrison*

Hospital Ship to Conduct Pacific Partnership 2008

From U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR - Preparations are under way to deploy the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) on a humanitarian mission to the Western Pacific and Southeast Asia in support of Pacific Partnership 2008, the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet announced, Jan. 29, in Sydney, Australia.

"Building on a successful Mercy deployment in 2006 and [USS Peleliu (LHA 5)] Pacific Partnership last summer, Mercy will again embark international medical, dental and engineering teams this summer to provide humanitarian support in Southeast Asia," Adm. Robert F. Willard said in a speech on U.S. Maritime Strategy.

"A Cooperative Strategy for the 21st century seapower," was delivered at the Royal Australian Navy Sea Power Conference 2008. Willard said that by sending this uniquely capable ship is one way to demonstrate our commitment to the Asia-Pacific region and to work

together with our friends and partners.

The deployment is being coordinated with several nations and will be carried out in conjunction with non-governmental relief organizations. A number of military and civilian agencies are planning the myriad details that go into a months-long mission of focused medical, dental and civic-action programs to provide humanitarian assistance to nations in the Asia-Pacific region. Specific locations for the ship's relief operations will be announced at a later date.

Mercy is uniquely capable of supporting medical and humanitarian assistance needs and can rapidly respond to a range of situations on short notice. In 2006, Mercy performed a similar mission in Southeast Asia. That deployment resulted in the treatment of almost 200,000 patients in the Republic of the Philippines, Indonesia and Bangladesh.

In 2007, Peleliu, an amphibious ship, conducted a four-month humanitarian mission, visiting the

Philippines, Vietnam, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. During these humanitarian missions, Peleliu provided a variety of medical, dental, educational and preventive medicine services to more than 31,600 patients.

These humanitarian missions build international relationships and represent a core task in this "Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower." With missions such as Pacific Partnership, the Navy seeks to mitigate human suffering, both in a deliberate, proactive fashion and in response to crises.

For this deployment, Mercy is being configured with special medical equipment and a robust medical team of uniformed and civilian health care providers to provide a range of services ashore as well as on board the ship.

The San Diego-homeported ship can support various services such as casualty reception, optometry, physical therapy, burn care, and radiological, laboratory and dental services.

Iraqis Receive Medical Care Through CME

By Private First Class Jerry Murphy, Regimental Combat Team 1

ILZWA, Iraq – Lined up along the walls outside and throughout the hallways of an Iraqi school, Iraqi men, women and children waited for their turn to receive medical care from sailors, soldiers or the head surgeon of the 1st Iraqi Division.

During a Combined Medical Engagement Jan. 30, Hospital Corpsmen and doctors from 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1 teamed up with their counterparts from 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1 to provide free medical attention to the Iraqi community.

"Our goal today is to provide medical care to the Iraqis that otherwise is not available," said Navy Cmdr Lee A. Pietrangelo, Battalion Surgeon for 2nd Bn, 24th Marines. "We want to bring to the Iraqi people the same thing we would want brought to our families, which is adequate healthcare."

In addition to providing medical support, Col. Ibrahim K, Ilkhillidy, 1st Iraqi Division Surgeon, said he wants to show his fellow countrymen who they can trust and rely on for security.

"One way for us to do that is to help them, treat them and show our faces so that they know who are

the good guys and who the bad guys are," said Ilkhillidy, who graduated from Basra Medical School in 1990. "From 2005 to now, there have been much bigger turnouts because the people trust the security and feel it is safer to come to these free clinics."

Security for the medical engagement was provided by Marines of 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines and members of the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police.

"We're here so that the Iraqis don't have to worry about hostile activity and to de-escalate any situation, if necessary," said Cpl. Robert J. Lewis, a squad leader with fourth platoon, Company F. "Right now they don't have the resources to provide all aspects of security, so we are here to provide as much help as possible."

Taking into consideration the very sensitive Iraqi culture, the sailors and soldiers separated the Iraqi males and females to be treated by medics of the same gender.

Female Corpsmen and soldiers were tasked with treating the females and children and said the women felt comfortable opening up to them.

"It helps a lot to have us (females) here . . . they feel that they can open up to us about personal issues," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Jennifer L. Knuth, an Independent Duty Corpsman with Marine Wing Support Squad-

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SAN DIEGO - Adm. Timothy Keating, commanding officer of U.S. Pacific Command, gives a command coin to Lance Cpl. Robert McCardell in the Comprehensive Combat and Complex Casualty Care facility at Medical Center San Diego Feb. 5. *U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Greg Mitchell*

Medical Recruiter continued...

(Continued from page 1)

Before reporting for duty, Maldarelli-Drey attended recruiting training in Pensacola. "All new recruiters attend a three-week recruiting course at the Naval Recruiting Orientation Unit. During this time, you receive extensive training in sales skills, though the majority of your learning you get on the job," she said.

Her primary officer recruiting focus-group is geared toward health care students and personnel; this is not the only field Maldarelli-Drey recruits for. "Very often in Navy recruiting, you need to promote and able to talk about the Navy. That is a given. You are also often tasked to recruit from outside your own career specialty," she said. "Not only do I recruit for the Nurse Corps, Dental Corps, Medical Corps, and Medical Service Corps, but I also recruit for the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps and the Navy Reserve. This make the first year of recruiting a huge learning curve!"

Patriotism and a desire to live an adventure are two possible motivators for people to join the Navy. According to Maldarelli-Drey, another incentive to become a Navy medical officer is the potential to earn a scholarship.

"There are scholarships available and they depend upon the specialty. For the Nurse Corps, we offer the Nurse Candidate Program (NCP). This is a program that pays nursing students a one-thousand dollar a month during their junior and senior year in college," she said. "They get a 10-thousand dollar sign-on bonus upon accepting the scholarship paid in two installments to use for whatever they want, to pay off students' loans, so forth. This requires that they serve as a Nurse Corps officer when they graduate."

Maldarelli-Drey continued "The other scholarships that we really promote, especially in the Boston area, are the scholarships for medical school, for dental school, optometry school and physician assistant school. So we are really reaching the medical corps, the dental corps and the medical service corps with these scholarships. It is called the Health Professions Scholarships Program (HPSP). This is an all inclusive scholarship program that will allow a student to graduate with zero debt from any school of their choice. Also, students are paid a monthly stipend; the current rate is 1605-dollars a month. However it increases every year and this will be increasing to 1907-dollars a month as of July 2008. They also get a 20-thousand dollar sign-on bonus when they accept the scholarship. This will allow them to graduate debt-free because the Navy also pays their tuition, their books, and their equipment fees. Just about the only thing the Navy does not pay for is for the purchase of a laptop, which most people have anyway. This really is an outstanding way to finance your education just by giving three to four years of service upon graduation."

According to Maldarelli-Drey, one goal for recruiters is to achieve an established number goal. However, this is not the main goal or focus of a medical officer recruiter.

"Recruiting, just by the nature of it, is very numbers driven. A lot of emphasis at the command level is placed upon your goal. However, the best advice I received from someone is not too focus on numbers or on your specific goal, but to recruit quality people who are interested in what you have to say and are interested and driven to serve as medical officers in the Navy,"

she said.

Though NRD New England is located in Boston, Maldarelli-Drey operates mostly out of a mobile office.

"My office is located in Boston; however, the territory that our district covers spreads from the border of New York City and southern Connecticut out through Albany, NY, all the way through the border of Canada in Maine. We cover an extensive amount of territory," she said. "I spend lot of my time traveling in the car to visit educational institutions and meeting with applicants. Especially as a new recruiter, when you are trying to establish yourself as the point of contact and advertise the Navy programs out to the students all over New England, you need to get out there. Probably 75-percent of my first year of recruiting was spent in a vehicle traveling back and forth. This face-to-face time is extremely important to establish relationships with the schools, professors and with their students. That was a challenge but at the very least I can say that I have toured all of New England!"

Her next duty station will not require as much travel, but may prove to be just as challenging. Maldarelli-Drey said she was selected for duty-under-instruction and is due to depart NRC New England and relocate to Jacksonville, Fla., this summer. She will be studying for a Master's Degree in nursing specializing in maternal child health at the University of Northern Florida

Maldarelli-Drey received her commission on Oct. 2000. Previous duty stations include National Naval Medical Center Bethesda and Naval Hospital Keflavik (NHK), Iceland. She was offered the three-year officer recruiting tour of duty while stationed at NHK in 2005.

Dental Technicians: The People Behind the Masks

By Cpl. Mikaela M. Bravo-Cullen,
2nd Marine Logistics Group

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Imagine yourself being reclined almost upside down in a dentist's chair, your heart racing as your stomach falls into your throat. You soon see a person come into view wearing a paper mask that hides their identity and blocks the light as they begin the arduous quest of cleaning your mouth. Who is that person behind the mask you wonder?

The people of 2nd Dental Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, are unique individuals from all parts of the world. Veiled by the mask of dentistry, they've walked down different roads, all leading to the second floor of building 15 here. Together they work hard to give the best dental care possible to the Marines and Sailors of Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Lejeune.

The small town girl with big dreams

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Heather J. Pylican is a dental assistant with 2nd Dental Battalion. Pylican joined the Navy right after high school. She chose the dental field as her primary field to learn an interesting skill and to expand her horizons about something other than ships and sailing.

"I was a patient when I was a kid and always wondered what that sucky thing they put in your mouth was," Pylican recalled. "Now that I'm in this field, I've learned all the terms for everything."

Pylican currently works as the liaison between dentists and patients, ensuring that all appointments are organized and progress

as smoothly as possible. Prior to this assignment, Pylican worked as a dental assistant in the pediatric unit at Naval Station Rota, Spain.

"It was a lot of fun," Pylican explained. "I've put braces on children and worked in the operating room. It's been amazing the things I've learned."

Pylican's numerous experiences and world travels changed her life forever. One of the most profound changes she noticed was the change in herself.

"I've learned and experienced things you can adapt into your life and see the way it changes you and the way you can help others." Pylican said. "I think the best experience is learning that people in general are amazing. You learn about what people think, what they feel and why. I think it's the most important thing for any job."

The man with a mission

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Eric Meza is a surgical technician with 2nd Dental Battalion. Meza grew up in Los Angeles (L.A.) in the rough part of the city. He knew nothing about other cities outside of L.A., but was determined to leave his environment and become a doctor. Meza saw the Navy as a way to make his dreams come true. So when the opportunity arose, he raised his right hand to support and defend the U.S. and became a Sailor.

"I've been in the Navy for seven years," Meza said. "It's been a great experience and I've always worked with great providers, great surgeons and great people around me."

Meza adds that working with

great surgeons during procedures allows him to learn more about his job and his abilities. He now assists with surgeries and procedures that the average Sailor would never dream of performing.

"We take care of anything pertaining to oral surgery, implants and any type of biopsy," Meza explained. "When we go to the naval hospital, we do surgeries that consist of reconstruction of the jaw and anything else that needs a larger facility and more equipment."

Finding someone in the military who is truly passionate about their work is not hard to find. Like his fellow military members, Meza's extreme passion for the tedious surgical procedures he helps to perform is necessary and genuine.

"It always came from the heart," Meza continued. "I've always had a passion for the medical field and helping others and I think that's what led me here."

Meza says he feels very fortunate to work in such a diverse environment and that he would not have it any other way.

"People here are from all different kinds of places," Meza said. "It brings diversity into your everyday life and I think it brings a good bit of morale to the battalion."

The lady with a love for life

Yvonne M. Amarth, a dental assistant with 2nd Dental Battalion, has worked with Marines and Sailors aboard MCB Camp Lejeune for almost four years. Her duties as a dental assistant varies from scheduling oral surgeries for patients to actually assisting with tooth extrac-

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Iraqis continued...

(Continued from page 2)

ron 272. "It helps to show the Iraqis that we care enough about them and their culture to properly take care of them."

After treating their patients, Knuth and the other medics passed out supplies and toys to the women and children. For Knuth, seeing

their reactions was an inspiring event.

"The way the kids reacted to the medical supplies, candy and toys brought a smile to my face," Knuth said. "The women seemed very happy and our (interpreters) said the women loved that we cared enough about them to bring hygiene gear, toys and gifts to them

and their families."

As the children ran out of the schoolyard with their families and friends and the medics packed their supplies, an elderly Iraqi man looked over his shoulder and, with just his eyes, seemed to thank the sailors, soldiers and Marines for helping him and his family.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Remembered and Reinforced at NHB

By Douglas H. Stutz, Naval Hospital Bremerton Public Affairs Office

BREMERTON, Wash. - Naval Hospital Bremerton (NHB) recognized Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) with a spiritual and soulful celebration on Jan. 31. The event was highlighted with performances by the NHB Unity Singers choir, with readings, words and speeches from various members of the NHB MLK organizing committee.

"Yeoman (YN) 2nd Class Sandra Navarrete did a fantastic job to organize and bring this celebration together," said Lt Cmdr Ed Vonberg, NHB MLK Organizing Committee member. "The choir gave us some very inspirational songs and all of our speakers helped to share the message of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

One of the featured performances was delivered by Culinary Specialist (CS) 2nd Class Steven Stanton, who gave a remarkable impersonation of the final years of the late Baptist minister and leader of the civil-rights movement in the U.S. until his untimely death by assassination in 1968. The opening narration was by YN 2nd Class Navarrete. Hospital Corpsman (HM) 2nd Class Felix Poteate read one of Dr. King's sermons and Master at Arms 1st Class Sherman Copeland shared selected quotes from the early life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Before the closing prayer by NHB Pastoral Care Chaplain Michael Greenwalt, the choir gave a rousing rendition of "We shall overcome."

"That song says it all for many of us about what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood for," commented Vonberg. The NHB MLK Organizing Committee was comprised of Lt. Cmdr Vonberg, Senior Chief HM Paul McFadden, HM1 Gilroy, MA1 Copeland, HM2 Laura Blanco, HM2 Monique Burks, YN2 Navarrete, HM2 Poteate, CS2 Stanton, and



BREMERTON, Wash. - Naval Hospital Bremerton Unity Singers Choir, comprised of (left to right) Michelle Abad, Sally Klein, Linda Humphrey, James Sherrill, HM 2nd Class Monique Burks, HM1 Sherman Copeland, and HM2 Terrell Stephens, delivers a soulful rendition of the gospel spiritual "Wade in the Water," as part of the hospital's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. U.S. Navy photo by Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW) Julie Jorgensen

HM2 Terrell Stephens

One of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. writings states, "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity." With help from Naval Hospital Bremerton's MLK Organizing Committee, that sentiment was remembered and reinforced for all present.

Dental Tech continued...

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tions and fluid draining during procedures.

Originally from Ghana, Africa,



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Amarh came to the United States in 2001 to start a career in journalism. Instead, she went back to school to study dental surgery.

"I love my job and I won't ever work in anything else," Amarh said. "I love that you can make someone a whole new person through surgery and that I can really help people."

Amarh also says dental surgery is a very interesting field to work in but it's the people you work with that makes you fall in love with your job.

"To have a good working atmosphere, it all depends on the type of people you work with," Amarh ex-

plained. "We have a great team here and I love the people that I work with. If you're falling short, somebody will always help you out."

Amarh, Meza and Pylican are just three of the many different people who make up the 2nd Dental Battalion. With a mission, big dreams and a love for life, they contribute to the task of getting the job done and supporting the Marines and Sailors of MCB Camp Lejeune.