

Sharing the Strength of Service

AFGHANISTAN—The DHSS team consists of men and women committed to delivering the best service possible to the Department of Defense Military Health System. Many are, or were, active duty soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. All embrace and support our nation's all-volunteer military.

One member, U.S. Air Force Reserves Lt. Col. Rhonda Hillman, has deployed for a six-month tour in Afghanistan. She is serving as Medical Facilities Program Manager for the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan Medical Training Advisory Group. This advisory group is helping the Afghanistan National Army build a health care system to support its soldiers and their families. She works with Afghanistan National Army medical personnel and their U.S. mentors to plan needed facilities and then with Army Corps of Engineers/Coalition Joint Engineers to get these projects built. *Continues on page 2*



U.S. Air Force Reserves Lt. Col. Rhonda Hillman

Bob Perry Receives First Pioneer Award



On Aug. 2, DHSS Requirements Analyst Bob Perry received the first-ever Pioneer Award from the American Hospital Association's Association for Healthcare Resource and Material Management.

Perry received the award for his work in aggressively building early international consensus on the importance of adopting global standards in the health care's supply chain while serving as AHRMM President in 2006. Perry successfully challenged AHRMM's leaders and membership to publically endorse GS1, the global supply chain standards organization, as the most likely to succeed in delivering much needed standards to drive down cost and inefficiencies in the health care supply chain. The association has followed his recommendations ever since. The award was presented to Perry at the AHRMM Annual Conference in Denver, Col., immediately following his presentation on the success of the Department of Defense and Veteran's Health Affairs to electronically link, standardize and synchronize product information between hospitals and supplier partners.

The AHRMM is the premier organization for health care supply chain and materials management professionals. The AHRMM strengthens the nation's health care supply chain by providing leadership, education, networking, and industry-specific resources to advance the field and enhance the professional development of its individual members.

The GS1 is a leading global organization dedicated to the design and implementation of global standards and solutions to improve the efficiency and visibility of supply and demand chains globally and across sectors. The GS1 system of standards is the most widely used supply chain standards system in the world.

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"This mission is pretty amazing," Hillman says. "Almost everyone serving is in some sort of mentoring or support role and there are military members from over 20 countries here."

Hillman is well suited for this deployment. At DHSS, she is the Facilities Management Functional Lead for the Defense Medical Logistics Standard Support System. DMLSS delivers automation support of reengineered medical business practices through a comprehensive range of materiel, equipment and facilities management information systems. Hillman joined DHSS in 2007 and works in the Joint Medical Logistics Functional Development Center at Fort Detrick, Md. Shortly after she arrived in Afghanistan, she e-mailed members of the DHSS team about a program in her camp called *Voluntary Community Outreach*. This program collects and distributes toys, candy, school supplies, and personal items to the Afghan people. Military members stock the program by donating all or portions of the care packages they receive from friends and family. Items are sorted according to the groups who will receive them and then missions are planned to distribute all donated items to needy families, students, widows and orphans

Once word spread throughout DHSS about Hillman and *Voluntary Community Outreach*, the team started collecting items to distribute. The DHSS team collected hundreds of pens, pencils, candy, stuffed animals, backpacks, notebooks, coloring books, and personal items to send to Hillman. On Aug. 18, she e-mailed DHSS saying, "Hi!! Wanted you to know that I just received 15 boxes that all say they are from (DHSS Program Manager) Dan Magee in TMA! THANKS!"

"Americans are so generous," she said. "In a typical week, just the seven military personnel who work in my office receive over a dozen care packages from both family members and support organizations such as 'Anysoldier.com,' 'Soldier'sAngels.org,' and 'AdoptaPlatoon.org'. It's nice to know the extra items we receive will be put to good use in the local community."

Hillman says she always wanted this type of military assignment. "I've been associated with the Air Force since age 18 when I was an ROTC cadet at the University of Tennessee," she said. "I always wanted to deploy but when I was on active duty I never had the opportunity. By the time, I became a reservist, I had small children so I wasn't actively looking to deploy.

"Now that my kids are older (age 17, 15, and 8), I felt the timing was right. I knew there was a position available for someone with medical facilities management background and I thought it was a perfect fit. Rather than volunteer for any available position, which I could have done, I wanted to help out my active duty organization (the Air Force Health Facilities Division) that has supported me as a reservist for many years.

"One of the key strengths of our country is our all-volunteer military. I wanted to do my part to serve my country and to set an example for my children on what it means to serve," she said.

To participate in Voluntary Community Outreach, please mail non-perishable items to:

VCO
CSTC-A CMD SURG
APO, AE 09356

To contribute or learn more about other organizations supporting those who serve, please click onto www.anysolider.com, www.soldier'sangles.org, or www.adoptaplatoon.org.

DHSS Products Exhibited at Military Preventive Medicine and Public Health Conference

PHOENIX, ARIZ. — Four DHSS products were featured in an exhibit at the 13th Annual Force Health Protection and Readiness Conference in Phoenix, Ariz., Aug. 10-11.

Live demonstrations were presented of the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics, Defense Occupational and Environmental Health Readiness System - Industrial Hygiene, DOEHRS – Hearing Conservation, and Patient Safety Reporting.

The MHS uses ESSENCE to automatically screen and report rapid or unusual increases in the occurrence of infectious diseases and biological outbreaks. When fully deployed in 2010, PSR will deliver standardized, electronic reporting of patient safety events and help reduce the frequency and severity of those events.

The exhibit also showcased the capabilities of DOEHRS-Industrial Hygiene and DOEHRS-Environmental Hygiene. DOEHRS-IH captures and maintains comprehensive, exposure-based surveillance data to enhance personnel readiness and guarantee compliance with federal occupational health and safety laws and directives. Data collected in DOEHRS-EH is used to determine risks associated with environmental hygiene exposures, investigate adverse health outcomes and develop preventive medicine recommendations for deployments.



PSR Project Controller, Shane Sanders (right), demonstrates PSR to a conference attendee.

Theater Enterprise-Wide Logistics System Transfer of Accountability Ceremony



Marking the official transfer are (from left) Maj. Gen. Gilman, USAMRMC Principal Assistant for Acquisition Kenneth Bertram, M.D., Milestone Decision Authority, and Robert Bolluyt, Deputy Director of MHS Acquisition Management and Support.

FREDERICK, MD. — The United States Army Medical Research and Materiel Command hosted a Transfer of Accountability Ceremony on Aug. 13 to celebrate successful transfer of the Theater Enterprise-Wide Logistics System from the USAMRMC to the DHSS Medical Logistics Division. The ceremony at the Defense Medical Logistics Center at Fort Detrick recognized the many people within the U.S. Army and the MHS who helped facilitate the successful transition.

Featured speakers included U.S. Army Maj. Gen. James K. Gilman, M.D., USAMRMC Commander, Robert Bolluyt, Deputy Director of MHS Acquisition Management and Support and U.S. Army Col. Christopher Harrington, DHSS Deputy Program Manager for Medical Logistics. The TEWLS application is a successful example of distributed development between the MHS and the Services. In July 2008, the MHS and the Defense Logistics Agency adopted a joint vision statement committing to transformation of the medical supply chain for seamless, responsive and interoperable support to military health care.

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eXpresso

Web address changes for ESSENCE and MCFAS

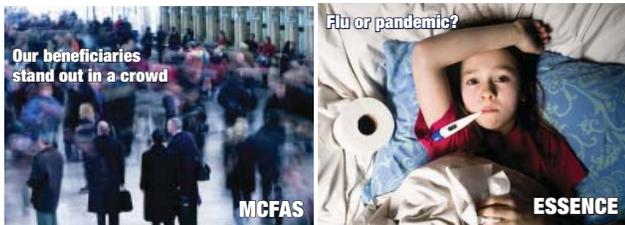
New Web addresses for ESSENCE and the Managed Care Forecasting and Analysis Tool will be launched by DHSS this month.

The new URL for ESSENCE will be <https://essence.csd.disa.mil>.

The new URL for the MCFAS beneficiary population forecasting model will be <https://mcfas.csd.disa.mil/bpfm>. The new URL for the enrollment forecasting model will be <https://mcfas.csd.disa.mil>.

Until the Web address changes become permanent on Sept. 30, users will see a notification screen when they log onto ESSENCE or MCFAS.

For additional information or support, please call the MHS Help Desk at 1-800-600-9332 or e-mail mhs_remedy@timpo.osd.mil.



TEWLS Transfer of Accountability Ceremony Continued from page 3

The capabilities provided by TEWLS support Defense Logistics Agency processes and deliver a collaborative framework for supporting clinical needs, end-to-end supply chain integration, and best business practices. These attributes are consistent with emerging future DoD initiatives, such as the Joint Supply Integrating Concept where fully networked supply operations will provide unprecedented visibility and control.

Editor

Jo Carol Torrez

Designer

Hazel Cajusay-Scherch

Contributors

Syreeta Collier, Sarah Marcinko, Sam Sarker and Ginge Sivigny

Program Manager

Dr. Dan Magee

Principal Deputy Program Manager

Mike Veasey

Deputy Program Managers

Clinical Support: Jenna Noble

Medical Logistics: COL Chris Harrington

Resources: Mike Smith

eXpresso is a publication of the Defense Health Services Systems Office, Office of the Chief Information Officer, supporting the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs/TRICARE Management Activity.

eXpresso is distributed electronically, and recipients are encouraged to share it with others. To subscribe, submit a story idea or correct an e-mail address, please contact Jo Carol Torrez, at 703-575-7461 or jocarol.torrez.ctr@tma.osd.mil.

DHSS Program Office

Sky 2, Suite 1500

5203 Leesburg Pike

Falls Church, VA 22041