

# AMSUS

*The Society of the Federal Health Agencies*

## NEWSLETTER



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Fall 2006

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### From the Executive Director

We look forward to seeing AMSUS Members and guests in early November at our 112th Annual Meeting in San Antonio. The Veterans Health Administration, now under the leadership of Dr. Mike Kussman, will host the Meeting. With regard to planning the conference, the heavy lifting has been done. A professionally stimulating program has been formulated with guidance from a superb meeting planning committee chaired by Dr. Bill Duncan.

As the countdown continues over the final few weeks before the Meeting, our attention shifts to ensuring that all the arrangements are in order, that participants are ready, and that attendees are registering for the conference. AMSUS leaders and staff have planned and prepared for the Meeting, but attracting attendees is another matter. In addition to our formal marketing activities, we certainly encourage AMSUS Members to get the word out as widely as possible in the spirit of attracting potential attendees to join us in San Antonio for a personally and professionally rewarding experience.

By the time of our Annual Meeting we will have announced the appointment of a new Editor for *Military Medicine*. The Search Committee has completed its work of selecting a final candidate from a group of well qualified professionals. It will be a pleasure to see a new Editor at work in the electronic journalism environment we are establishing. The web centric electronic peer review system is now up and running. The new Editor of *Military Medicine* will have modern information technology tools to use from day one.

As is always the case at AMSUS Meetings, there will be considerable discussion of the current events of interest in the federal health arena. There are many topics of burning interest for discussion. Prominent among these is the recent Defense Business Board recommendation to appoint a transition team and stand up a unified medical command by 1 January 2007, widely reported since its release on September 6th. Although supported in some circles, there is strong opposition to this approach among some Department of Defense organizations. According to the news reports, the Air Force has been openly negative about the concept while the Army and Navy have expressed support.

AMSUS will remain attentive to the recommendations, discussions, and actions related to the Joint Military Medical Command topic. The Defense Business Board recommendations have been presented at the Secretary of Defense level. We may have to wait and see how they impact the many military medical transformation tasks already at hand. We believe that AMSUS is now focused on supporting joint military medical activities as demonstrated by the emphasis on joint interoperability during our recent meetings. AMSUS is well postured to continue this role regardless of the specific structure that results from the actions of the Department of Defense decision makers. The AMSUS Meeting in San Antonio will offer an opportunity to exchange ideas on this topic and many others.

We are pleased to recognize Dr Mike Kussman as AMSUS President serving at this year's Annual Meeting. The departure of Dr Jon Perlin from the Veterans Health Administration and Vice Admiral Richard Carmona from the United States Public Health Service signaled major leadership changes, and we were sorry to see them leave after years of superb service to our nation. It has been a great pleasure to work with these top level federal health executives, all of whom have actively served in AMSUS leadership roles.

Best regards for an enjoyable fall season including a great time in San Antonio,

George K. Anderson, MD, MPH  
Maj Gen, USAF, MC (Ret)

## Several Key Leadership Changes Occur

In a surprise announcement in early July, VA Under Secretary for Health, Dr. Jonathan B. Perlin submitted his resignation to Secretary of Veterans Affairs, R. James Nicholson. Dr. Perlin joined the VA in 1999 as the Chief, Quality and Performance Officer, rose to Deputy Under Secretary in 2002 and for the last two years has been Under Secretary. During his tenure, the VA health system has been publicly lauded for patient satisfaction, quality care, patient safety measures, and its Electronic Health Record (EHR). Harvard University's Kennedy School and Ash Institute recently presented its "Innovations in Government Award" to VA for its leadership in combining performance measurement and the EHR to advance the care for Veterans. Dr. Perlin has joined HCA, Inc., Nashville, TN as Senior Vice President, Quality and Chief Medical Officer.

Dr. Perlin served as AMSUS President from November 2005 until his departure from the VA on 11 August. He was awarded the AMSUS Richard A. Kern Lecture Award in 2003 and the Outstanding Federal Healthcare Executive Award in 2005. Secretary Nicholson has appointed Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Michael J. Kussman, M.D. (BG, MC, USA (Ret)), as Acting Under Secretary. In this capacity, Dr. Kussman assumed the role of AMSUS president. He is an AMSUS Life Member.

VADM Richard Carmona, USPHS, Surgeon General of the United States, completed his four-year term, and we were sorry to see him leave after having served superbly. As Surgeon General, Carmona emphasized eliminating health disparities, health literacy, youth obesity, and educating the public on the importance of preparing for natural and manmade disasters.

During his tenure, VADM Carmona oversaw the deployment of USPHS Commissioned Corps officers during the responses to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. More than 2600 PHS officers assisted victims of hurricanes in 2005. Under Carmona the USPHS began a transformation to restructure the deployment process to make the Commissioned Corps more agile and efficient. He also oversaw the creation in 2002 of the Medical Reserve Corps, a national system of community-based volunteer medical and public health professionals and others. The program was established to assist and supplement local communities' existing emergency preparedness plans and public health and awareness programs.

VADM Carmona served as the president of AMSUS in 2003 and presided at the 109th Annual Meeting in San Antonio. He was awarded the Founder's Medal for his leadership and service to the association.

Lt Gen James G. Roudebush, USAF, MC was promoted to his new rank and appointed Surgeon General of the Air Force in a Pentagon ceremony held on 3 August 2006. He succeeds Lt Gen George Peach Taylor, Jr., USAF, MC who retired effective 1 October 2006 after serving four years as Surgeon General.

## DoD Key Supporter of New Health Quality Initiatives

President Bush has signed an Executive Order titled "Promoting Quality and Efficient Health Care in Federal Government Administered and Sponsored Health Care Programs," directing federal agencies that administer health care programs to take steps to promote quality care. It also states that agencies must do these three things: create incentives for beneficiaries to care about the quality and price of their health programs; address interoperability of health information technology products; and make health information more transparent to consumers.

To support this and other health initiatives in the President's Management Agenda, the Department of Defense has initiated several activities intended to realize the promise of improved and more efficient health care for all beneficiaries of the Military Health System (MHS).

In one initiative, Tricare is partnering with industry, current health managers and providers, who contract with DoD in developing measures of quality health care that can be consistently applied by the MHS as a unified effort. These ongoing "data quality summits" are developing a core set of metrics that will enable both MHS leaders and beneficiaries in making sound decisions about health choices.

In another initiative, the MHS is actively engaged in strategic partnerships with both the public and private sectors to advance health care information science and to promote and define standards for health information technology systems interoperability.

AHLTA, DoD's electronic health record, is nearing full implementation throughout the MHS. Working with the Office of the National Coordinator, DoD is using what it is learning with AHLTA to improve health data sharing with Health and Human Services and others to leverage federal health IT investments.

In still another initiative to promote transparency of health care pricing and quality, TRICARE has posted its allowable charges on an easy-to-use Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/allowablecharges>. The cost of medical care varies widely across the country. Neither hospitals nor doctors' offices typically post their charges for various procedures, making it hard for patients to judge if they are being charged a reasonable amount for operations or examinations.

By making its charges easily available to the public, Tricare is leveling the playing field between medical service providers and users.

The new Web site shows the Tricare maximum allowable charge tables, listing the most frequently used procedures - more than 300 of them - and the amount Tricare is legally allowed to pay for them. These charges are tied to Medicare allowable charges, effectively making them a federal standard for health care costs.

Reference,

DoD News Release, "DoD Key Supporter of New Health Quality Initiatives," 22 August 2006

## **VA Receives 2006 Innovations in Government Award**

The Innovations in Government Award is sponsored by Harvard University's Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the Kennedy School of Government and administered in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government. The Department of Veterans Affairs system of electronic health records, VistA, won the 2006 award.

The VA continues to cut costs and improve safety and efficiency while healthcare costs continue to soar and the number of veterans being served increased 100 percent over the last 10 years. System efficiencies have resulted in a low maintenance cost of only \$80 per patient per year.

In addition to saving money, VistA saves lives and ensures continuity of care even in extreme circumstances. Hurricane Katrina drove many out of the Gulfport area, often without valuable medical records. Even though the VA Medical Center in the area was evacuated and closed, VA medical record information was available for VA clinicians across the country immediately. This record accessibility ensured continued access to treatment plans, prescription refill information and necessary care information.

VA outperforms all other sectors of American health care across 294 measures of quality in disease prevention and treatment, according to a recent RAND study. And for six straight years, VA has led private-sector healthcare in the independent American Customer Satisfaction Index.

VistA is one of seven government initiatives chosen from 1,000 applications to receive this year's Innovations awards. The grant specifically supports sharing of program information with other organizations. VA plans to disseminate information and provide demonstrations of VistA at its medical centers across the country.

Reference:

VA Media Relations, "VA Receives "Innovations" Award", 10 July 2006

## **DoD Establishes Mental Health Task Force**

In June, DoD announced the formation of a congressionally directed task force to examine matters related to mental health and the Armed Forces.

The Mental Health Task Force, comprised of seven DoD members and seven non-DoD members, will submit a report to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld in May 2007. It will include assessments and recommendations for improving the efficacy of mental health services provided to service members by DoD.

Congress directed the establishment of the task force as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006. Army Surgeon General and AMSUS member Army LTG Kevin C. Kiley, and a non-DoD representative, to be elected by the task force membership, will co-chair the task force.

The AFEB is an ongoing independent scientific advisory committee to the secretary of defense through the assis-

tant secretary for health affairs and the military surgeons general for matters concerning operational programs, policy development, and research needs for the prevention of disease and promotion of health.

More information regarding the DoD Mental Health Task Force can be found at <http://www.ha.osd.mil/afeb/mhtf/members.cfm>

Reference:

DoD News Release, "DoD Establishes Mental Health Task Force", 21 June 2006

## **Balad Air Base Theatre Hospital Increases Surgeries Treating Iraqis**

Records indicate that while the US casualty rate has been dropping at Balad, the number of combat wounded Iraqis is increasing. This, surprisingly, leads to more work for the Air Force medical team on staff at the hospital.

For US casualties, patients must be treated for immediate injuries and stabilized for trips to the next higher level of care. This may take more than one surgery over the course of sometimes only hours. However, since Iraqi patients often don't have a higher level of care available, they may remain at the Air Force Theatre Hospital through stabilization and follow-up care to prepare them for release.

According to AMSUS member Col George P. Costanzo, USAF, MC, "Today, the ratio of trauma patients is about 40 percent U.S. and 60 percent Iraqi. Eight months ago, the ratio was about 57 percent U.S., 45 percent from Iraq and about 8 percent from other countries." These numbers directly influence the number of surgical procedures performed at the hospital.

"When you add up combat-wounded and the routine patients we get with minor illness or sprained ankles, we see an average of about 700 sick and injured patients a month. Of that, about 500 are U.S. troops; about 170 are Iraqi soldiers, police and civilians. About 30 are other nationalities including insurgents, unknowns and contractor employees from other countries," Costanzo said.

Ahmed, an Iraqi patient who asked that his full name not be used, said in a recent interview that he is receiving excellent care in his recovery from a sniper shot in the Ar Ramadi province.

According to Costanzo, "We like to say that political and religious differences stop outside the door. We prioritize patients based on the severity of their injuries so that everyone gets the same quality of treatment no matter who they are."

Reference:

Thompson, Col Bob, "AF theater hospital at Balad doubles surgeries treating Iraqis," Air Force Surgeon General Newswire, August 2006 edition.

## The Navy and Veterans Affairs Help Injured Service Members Transition Care

The Seamless Transition Program, a joint effort by the VA and the Navy, assists in the transition process for service members injured in Iraq or Afghanistan. Currently, 11 Veterans Affairs liaisons work with a team of social workers, case workers and discharge planners for service members hurt in action who will need follow up care through the VA. This system provides one point of contact for injured soldiers and their concerned family members, ensuring that complete care is provided.

The program works with wounded veterans, making sure they receive all necessary treatment from acute care at the military treatment facilities to rehab care at VA hospitals and back again if necessary. Service members on convalescent leave also now have the option of receiving program care if they elect to obtain follow-up treatment at local veterans care facilities.

Military Service Coordinators work with Veterans Affairs liaisons to make sure health care administration and benefits entitlements are met as soon as possible for wounded soldiers. The Coordinators serve two purposes. One is providing benefit information at the hospital and the other is coordinating the Benefits Delivery of Discharge Program. The BDDP is a program available to service members choosing to transition out of the military.

Ensuring that the package is complete and timely is important, because some service members may return to active duty while others may get discharged. And the information provided to them includes details on all available programs and may be referenced at a later date, irregardless of their duty status.

Through this program's complete, timely information, the VA is making efforts in reducing the communication gap that has historically existed between injured servicemembers and the VA.

Reference:

Guerry, AnTuan, "NNMC, Veterans Affairs helps injured service members Transition Care." The Waterline, 7 September 2006.

## Dental Corps Aims to Stem Shortage

The Air Force, while struggling to retain its dentists, remains dedicated to providing expert care to Airmen worldwide, said AMSUS member Col Grant Hartup, USAF, DC the director of the Air Force Dental Corps. "I think Airmen need to know that we are committed to providing them the dental services they need, no matter what," said Hartup, who's also Chief of the Air Force Medical Service Force Sustainment Division out of Bolling Air Force Base. "It's an important benefit."

Air Force Recruiting Service has struggled in recent years to recruit dental officers, a trend for nearly a decade. While the goal is to recruit about 150 new dental officers a year, only about 120 come in. Retention has also been difficult, with just 35 percent of dentists remaining in the military after their initial service commitment.

These statistics aren't very surprising to Hartup, who said

the corps is using every incentive and scholarship resource they've got to appeal to dentists in a competitive market. "We're part of a society that's very bottom-line oriented," he said. "It's easy to look at the civilian side of dentistry and see it as being very lucrative. But there are a lot of hidden benefits to being a dentist in the Air Force, and our goal is to try and flush those out to make the option more appealing."

In an effort to both recruit and retain dentists in the service, the Corps is looking to expand programs already offered, such as special pays and bonuses as well as scholarship incentives.

The Health Professions Scholarship Program is one example of a scholarship that can go to anyone, including enlisted Airmen, who have a bachelor's degree and are selected for dental school. It is good for a three- or four-year period and covers tuition and required fees needed for study to become a dentist.

"We are always excited when an enlisted Airman, particularly from the dental field, decides to become a dentist," Hartup said. "They know the Air Force, they know the culture, and they understand it."

He said knowing about the Air Force culture, and the Dental Corps' role in it, is important. "A lot of people don't realize that Air Force dentists deploy," he said. "So much of what we see in deployed locations is things like disease and non-battle injuries. These include the typical dental issues, like root canals or cavities. Dentists are truly some of the busiest people while deployed, and they also play other important roles in expeditionary medical support."

Reference:

Weckerlein, SSgt Julie, "Dental Corps Aims to Stem Shortage," Air Force News Service, 14 September 2006

## MEDFLAG '06 Battles Animal Illness in Western Africa

Medical Task Force Benin(MEDFLAG '06), is a group of 50 Army doctors, nurses and medics deployed from the US and European active and reserve forces who deployed to west African nations. The group, supported by medical, dental and veterinary specialists, not only provides much needed healthcare, MEDFLAG also taught and trained locals in Benin, Nigeria, Ghana and Senegal.

Typically, Beninese Army veterinary technicians remain on post, treating small animals brought to them. MEDFLAG '06 provided them the rare opportunity to work with large animals and learn new methods for caring for them. Treatment techniques and livestock medications brought in by MEDFLAG '06 help the west African nations raise stronger, healthier animals without financial hardship.

But it's not just the African people who benefited from the training. Their US counterparts also gained from the experience, according to Army Spc Christopher Devriendt, "Humanitarian efforts are the only time we get to treat 'food animals'. It is very rare that we get to undertake such actions in our job. It is a refreshing change of pace."

Even with this change in their typical work, the team still treated small animals and practiced its normal duties. Trading tips and techniques with their Beninese counterparts

gave the MEDFLAG team new insights, "They have shown us some (animal medicine procedures) that we did not know about," said Devriendt. "If we ever find ourselves in a situation without standard gear, we now have something to fall back on. This has been a real cultural exchange."

Reference:

### **Military Coalition Presents Top Awards to Hill Advocates**

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of 36 military and veterans groups including AMSUS, presented its highest awards on Sept. 14 to four legislators and two congressional staff members who have championed the causes of health care and survivor benefits for military families. The awards ceremony was held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Building on Capitol Hill.

Senators Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Mike DeWine (R-OH) and Representatives Chet Edwards (D-TX) and Walter Jones (R-NC) received TMC's 2006 Award of Merit. Nelson and DeWine were recognized especially for their leadership in promoting legislation to improve benefits for military survivors. Edwards and Jones were honored for sponsoring bipartisan legislation to protect military beneficiaries against large, unwarranted fee increases for military health coverage.

Colonel Steve Strobbridge, USAF (Ret), Co-Chairman of The Military Coalition, lauded Nelson's and DeWine's efforts to protect survivors and disabled members.

"Senator Nelson has championed the fight to stop disproportional SBP premium penalties imposed on 'Greatest Generation' retirees and end the unfair deduction of VA survivor benefits from military SBP annuities when the member's death was caused by military service," he said. "Senator DeWine was instrumental in winning improvements in lump sum benefits for survivors of members killed since 9/11, and he also pushed through much-needed insurance coverage for severely disabled service members. The Coalition is extremely grateful for their strong leadership on these important issues."

Joe Barnes, also a TMC Co-Chairman, praised Edwards

Melancon, Dave, "Medical Task Force Benin Battles Animal Maladies in Western Africa," Defense Press Service, 15 September 2006.

and Jones for their role in convincing Congress to find other ways to reduce Defense health costs other than dramatic increases in beneficiary fees.

"They've set a great example in working closely together to highlight this as a bipartisan issue that's important for the country," said Barnes. "With recruiting, retention and readiness already at risk in this time of war, their efforts have helped Congress maintain perspective on the reality that military families already pay large, up-front premiums in service and sacrifice for their health coverage - premiums far larger than any civilian will ever pay. Congress is now rightly examining options to contain military health costs without shifting so much of them to beneficiaries."

TMC also presented its annual Freedom Award to Ms. Stacie Oliver, Senator DeWine's legislative assistant, and Mr. John Conger, Representative Edwards' legislative director, for their work in promoting support for military benefits issues behind the scenes.

"The legislators are the champions," said Mike Cline, TMC President, "but their staffs expend huge amounts of effort in crafting the legislation, working with the military associations to fill in the details, and coordinating our mutual efforts to get other legislators and the public on board. Stacie Oliver and John Conger have been great supporters - not just on this issue, but many others affecting the military community as well.

TMC represents the interests of more than six million members around the world, including active duty, National Guard, Reserve, and retired members and veterans of the seven uniformed services, plus their families and survivors. AMSUS is a charter member of TMC.

### **New Senior Enlisted Advisor to Assist TRICARE**

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr. announced the selection of Chief Master Sergeant Manuel Sarmina, USAF, as senior enlisted advisor for Health Affairs. In this position, Sarmina will provide the Health Affairs (HA) and TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) leadership with valuable insights on the day-to-day operations of TRICARE.

"Chief Sarmina is a stellar leader with an impressive array of military medicine, readiness and Joint Service experience," said Dr. Winkenwerder. "His 27 years in the military health system and vast TRICARE knowledge makes him an invaluable addition during this critical time for TRICARE."

Sarmina will serve as one of Dr. Winkenwerder's principal advisors and as an advocate for the active duty, National Guard and Reserve enlisted community in matters affecting health care policy and operations. As such, he will represent the concerns of more than 9.2 million ben-

eficiaries to Defense Department leadership regarding health care delivery to service members and their families.

Chief Sarmina was previously assigned as Chief, Medical Enlisted Operations, Air Force Medical Operations Agency, Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C. In addition to working customer service issues, he will serve as liaison to his counterparts at the surgeons general and TRICARE regional offices; plan, and facilitate the senior enlisted panel at the annual Military Health System Conference; partner with beneficiary organizations; communicate efforts under way at TRICARE to beneficiary and professional groups; and provide advice to leadership on enlisted and beneficiary issues.

Reference,

TRICARE Management Activity News Release, "New Senior Enlisted Advisor to Assist TRICARE With Beneficiary Issues," September 20, 2006

**AMSUS DELEGATE'S REPORT - AMA HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
2006 INTERIM MEETING  
EMMANUEL G. CASSIMATIS, M.D., COL, MC, USA (RET)**

The 2006 Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association House of Delegates was held from Saturday, June 10 through Wednesday, June 14, at the Chicago Hilton, Chicago, Illinois. Your delegate also attended the meeting of the Council on Medical Education and portions of the Specialty and Service Society meeting.

**Issues of Interest to Federal and Military Medicine**

**Of special interest to federal and military delegates** was CEJA Report 10 which addressed the issue of physician participation in interrogations. In addition to federal and military delegates, several other senior federal and military officers attended the meeting and testified in connection with this report at reference committee hearings. The final recommendations adopted by the House allow physicians to assist detainees to determine the need for medical care, if any, and to provide such care if/as needed. Physicians may participate in the development of interrogation strategies for general training purposes, but CEJA recommendations emphasize that these strategies must not be coercive; and must be humane and respect the rights of individuals. On the other hand, physicians are admonished to neither conduct nor directly participate in an interrogation, to include monitoring interrogations with the intention of intervening. A resolution that was not adopted but was referred for further discussion would provide that physicians may conscientiously object to the treatment of patients only in non emergent situations; and would require - when such objections are raised - that the physician provide alternatives that include prompt and appropriate referral.

**House of Delegates**

The House voted to support efforts to educate the profession and the public about healthcare costs; and to support the development and adoption of a consistent format for estimating and publicly reporting healthcare administrative costs, in order to facilitate unbiased comparisons across insurers. It also voted to support a requirement that individuals and families earning greater than 500% of the federal poverty level obtain, at a minimum, coverage for catastrophic healthcare and evidence based preventive healthcare using the tax structure to achieve compliance. This requirement would apply to such individuals and families (earning less than 500% of the federal poverty level), upon implementations of a system of refundable tax credits or other subsidies to obtain healthcare coverage. The AMA also voted to oppose demonstration audits mandated by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization act of 2003, and will work to overturn recovery audit contractor pilot projects in Florida, New York and California. It also resolved to ask the Federal Government to pay the healthcare expenses incurred by illegal immigrants in the custody of US Immigration officials.

In the area of medical education, the house adopted policy to work with the Association of American Medical Colleges and other interested groups to prevent reductions in Medicare graduate medical education payments by disallowing reimbursement for the time residents spend in didactic learning. The House voted to commend the Institute of Medicine on its report "In the Nations Compelling Interest: Ensuring Diversity in the Healthcare Workforce," agreeing that a racially and ethnically diverse educational experience results in better educational outcomes. Concerning criminal background checks for applicants accepted to medical school and enrolled medical students, the House adopted policy to collaborate - through relevant councils and sections - with other organizations working on such policies and procedures for such background checks.

In the area of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, the House adopted policy to support the ten recommendations developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for improving preconception care and the education of physicians and the public about the importance of preconception care as a vital component of a woman's reproductive health. These recommendations include individual responsibility, consumer awareness, preventive visits, interventions for identified risks, interconception care, pre-pregnancy checkups, health insurance coverage for women with low incomes, public health programs and strategies, and research and monitoring improvements. The House also voted to strongly urge existing school health education programs to emphasize the high prevalence of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) in both males and females, and to discuss the importance of routine PAP smears in the early detection of cervical cancer. The AMA will urge that students and parents be educated about HPV and the availability of the HPV vaccine. The House further adopted policy on several aspects of immunization and agreed that all vaccines should be administered by a licensed physician or by a qualified healthcare provider under a physician's supervision. Various recommendations on influenza vaccine distribution were all approved, to include a resolution to work with the CDC and appropriate medical specialty societies and influence immunization partners to ensure adequate vaccine distribution to high priority populations.

Finally, in other areas, the House adopted policy establishing a mechanism for additional delegate representation of residents and fellows in the House of Delegates by awarding the Resident and Fellow Section (RFS) one resident delegate and corresponding alternate delegate for every 2,000 members. It also resolved that comprehensive health system reform, which achieves access to quality healthcare for all Americans while improving the physician practice environment is of the highest priority for our

AMA. Such comprehensive reform includes medical liability, Medicare and Medicaid, insurance coverage, healthcare disparities, prevention, quality and safety and other issues. Additional information on these and other topics and policies debated and adopted by the House can be found on the AMA's website at [www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org).

### **Other Meeting Highlights**

On Monday, June 12, Donald M. Burwick, President and CEO of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), provided the House with a sneak preview of the results of IHI's 100K Lives Campaign which tried to implement proven interventions in the hospital setting in order to improve patient safety. According to Dr. Burwick, with active involvement of physicians, more than 3000 hospitals participated in the campaign, far surpassing the original goal of 2000 and representing 80% of hospital beds in the United States. Dr. Burwick acknowledged the AMA's enthusiastic leadership in supporting IHI's 100K Lives Campaign and getting physicians involved, and thanked the House for the considerable time and energy many AMA members contributed to this effort. According to Dr. Burwick, participating hospitals made strong headway in creating rapid response teams, delivering reliable care for acute myocardial infarctions, and preventing adverse drug events as well as surgical site and central line infections.

Also on Monday, at the educational program "Breaking Patient Safety Sound Barriers: Learning Together," a panel of experts, many of whom were both physicians and pilots, shared lessons in error prevention from the aviation community. The panel was moderated by astronaut James Vagian, MD, and included a discussion of the voluntary, confidential error reporting system in the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act which was strongly supported by the AMA when passed into law by Congress last year.

Other sessions included an educational program on "Efficiency Measures: Necessary, Necessary Evil or just Evil?" which explored a range of topics, including ethics considerations and barriers to measuring performance; a session on "A Year in the Life of the Influenza Vaccine," which described the timelines and the myriad challenges of producing annual influenza vaccine, including the inherent difficulty of matching influenza vaccine supply and demand;

and another educational session on "A Surgical Approach to Disaster Preparedness," with presentations by David Shatz, MD, Medical Director of the Trauma Resuscitation Unit at the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine and Jeffrey Hammond, MD, Chair of the Disaster Subcommittee of the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma.

### **Election Results**

On Sunday, June 11, the House elected Ronald Davis, MD, a preventive medicine physician from East Lansing, Michigan, President-Elect of the AMA by acclamation. The House also reelected Nancy H. Nielsen, MD, Ph.D., an internist from Buffalo, NY, to a fourth term as speaker; and Jeremy Lazarus, MD, a psychiatrist from Denver, CO, to a fourth term as Vice-Speaker. It also reelected attorney Robert McMillan of Long Island, NY, as the public member of the AMA Board of Trustees. On Tuesday, June 13, the House elected to the AMA Board of Trustees Joseph P. Anis, MD, an anesthesiologist from Austin, Texas; and reelected Peter W. Carmel, a neurosurgeon from Newark, New Jersey; Joseph M. Hammond, MD, a gynecologist from Amesbury, Massachusetts; and Cecil B. Wilson, an internist from Winter Park, Florida. Stephen J. Stack, MD, an emergency physician from Memphis, Tennessee, was elected to the Young Physician seat on the Board of Trustees. Chris DeRienzo, a medical student from Duke University began his term as Student Trustee after the conclusion of the annual meeting. In council elections, Blanton Bessinger, MD, K. Barton Farris, MD, and Charles J. Hickey, MD, along with family medicine resident Jason W. Sharp, MD, were elected to the Council on Constitution and Bylaws. David E. Sweet, MD, was elected to the Council on Medical Education. Donna Sweet, MD, Georgia Tuttle, MD, and Charles F. Wilson, MD, were elected to the Council on Medical Service. Finally Ilsa R. Levin, DO, a resident in Internal Medicine at Bay State Medical Center/Tufts University, was elected to the resident/fellow position on the Council on Science and Public Health.

Individuals who would like to contact the AMSUS delegate, Dr. Cassimatis, may reach him at (301) 295-1917 or at [ecassimatis@usuhs.mil](mailto:ecassimatis@usuhs.mil).

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### **AMSUS Welcomes New Staff Member**

Kristin Harwood has joined the AMSUS team as our Administrative Assistant. Kristin will manager the front office and assist in administrative and membership departments. Kristin brings with her lots of experience as she is a former Office Manager for the American College of Medical Genetics. We are happy to have Kristin here.

### **Member Get-A-Member Campaign Continues**

As introduced in a previous edition of the Newsletter, a membership campaign encouraging every member to get a member was rolled out on January 1<sup>st</sup>. AMSUS leadership believes that we need the help of current members to get the word out about the many benefits of an AMSUS

membership. AMSUS is the only professional organization representing Federal Healthcare and all medical disciplines. For every new AMSUS member you sponsor, we will give you an AMSUS Challenge Coin. We'll also recognize these recruiters in future issues of the AMSUS Newsletter. There is no better way to introduce new members to AMSUS than for people they already know to talk about the many benefits, as well as inter-service networking opportunities that come with AMSUS membership. To receive credit for your new member, simply have them indicate your name on the "This application is sponsored by" line on their application. Once the application has been processed, your coin will be sent to you immediately. Supplies of the new coin are limited, so be sure to act now!!

**Fall '06 AMSUS Member-Get-A-Member  
Recruiters:**

- COL John Allarding, MC, USAR
- Lt Col Ralph Charlip, USAF, MSC (Ret)
- CAPT Bruce A. Dye, USPHS
- Linda Watson, VA
- Dr. John C. Townsend, VA
- LCDR James Rungee, MC, USA
- Lt Col Derek Wright, RAAMC
- CDR Alfred Sides, MSC, USN (Ret)
- RADM Richard Barror, USPHS
- LCDR Edward D Simmer, MC, USNR

**2006 Major General Jerry Sanders Scholarship Winner**

2006 General Jerry Sanders Scholarship Award Winner  
Michael B. Fisher

AMSUS is proud to announce Michael B. Fisher as the third Major General Jerry Sanders Scholarship Award winner. Michael is the son of AMSUS life member CAPT Ollie C. Fisher, DC, USNR. Michael will attend Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA in fall 2006, majoring in medicine. Michael's goal is to specialize in preventive medicine, "My goal is to decrease medical cost by educating people on health lifestyle alternatives."

During Michael's high school career, he was heavily involved in community service programs ranging from the American Cancer Society to the Assault on Illiteracy program. Michael also adopted a needy family to share Christmas with as well as promoted cultural diversity awareness through the FIL International Tea. According to Michael, "Giving back to my community has been easy for me because I feel whatever I give to my community will be given

back to me in return."

In addition to community service, Michael was also very involved in high school sports activities from track and field to football and tennis. As a stellar academic performer, Michael was a member of the Future Business Leaders Society, the National Honor Society, Minority Scholars Organization, Future Iota Leaders and Youth on the Move and Top Teens of America.

Michael summed up his background best, "What separates me from other applicants is a combination of leadership, scholarship, and service. Many applicants have some of these qualities. But to find them all in one person is extremely rare. I believe this scholarship will provide opportunities for my continued growth, and in return, I will represent the AMSUS Scholarship Program in a positive manner."

## News of Members

**LTC Cheryl L. Becker, MS, USAR**, was elected to serve as National Dental Surgeon for the Reserve Officers Association (ROA), Washington DC. As Dental Surgeon on ROA's governing board, she will focus on issues and policies dealing with dental health readiness affecting Reserve Component members of the armed forces. She is a former dental hygienist and the first female and first non-dentist ever elected to that position. She serves as a medical service officer serving with the U.S. Army Physical Disability Agency in Washington. She is a Life Member of AMSUS.

**CAPT William H. J. Haffner, USPHS (Ret)**, was honored by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Committee on American Indian Affairs with the establishment of the William H. J. Haffner American Indian/Alaska Native Women's Health Award. This award recognizes an individual who has made a major contribution to raising the level of health and/or improving American Indian/Alaska native women's health. CAPT Haffner has a long career within the Indian Health Service. He currently serves on the faculty of the Uniformed Services University and was recently named Interim Associate Dean for Faculty Development. He is a member of the Editorial Board of Military Medicine.

**Brig Gen (sel) Bryon C. Hepburn, USAF, MC**, has been re-assigned as Command Surgeon, Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, IL. He previously served as Commander, 60th Medical Group, Travis, AFB, CA.

**BG Gerald D. Griffin, MC, USAR (Ret)**, was elected to serve as National Surgeon for the Reserve Officers Association (ROA), Washington DC. As National Surgeon on ROA's governing body, he will focus on issues and policies dealing with health readiness affection Reserve Component members of the armed forces. He is a Life Member of AMSUS.

**Maj Gen Thomas J. Loftus, USAF, MC**, Assistant Surgeon General for Health Care Operations, Office of the Air Force Surgeon General, pinned on his second star August 11, 2006 in a ceremony at Bolling AFB, DC.

**RADM/Assistant Surgeon General Boris D. Lushniak, USPHS**, was promoted to his new rank in April 2006. He is currently serving as Assistant Commissioner at the Food and Drug Administration.

**Col Joseph F. Molinari, USAFR, BSC** retired after 33 years of service in a ceremony at Tyndall Air Force Base, FL. He was awarded the Legion of Merit for his long time dedicated service. In 2003 he received the AMSUS Optometry Outstanding Service and Recognition Award. He is currently Director, Vision Care Services, VA Outpatient Clinic, Tallahassee, Florida. He serves on the Editorial Board of Military Medicine and is a Life Member of AMSUS.

**BG David A. Rubenstein, MS, USA** assumed command of the Europe Regional Medical Command and became Command Surgeon, U. S. Army Europe in a ceremony on 23 August 2006 in Heidelberg, Germany. He was previously assigned as Assistant Surgeon General, Army Medical Command, Fort Sam Houston, TX.

## New Members

2LT Robert Allbritton VA  
CDR Robert Alonso MC, USN  
COL David Angelette MC, ARNG  
CAPT Lorraine Assumma USAFR, NC  
Matthew Baker USPHS  
CDR Evelyn Baleria NC, USNR  
2LT Michael Barno MS, USAR  
CAPT Ruth Bellefeuille USAFR, NC  
LT Julie Boese USPHS  
COL Harriet Bricker USAF, NC  
MAJ David Bristow USAFR, NC  
CDR Brenda Burges USPHS  
LTC Susan Busch RAAMC  
RADM Thomas Carrato USPHS  
LT Alnissa Carter USPHS  
LCDR Cynthia Carter USPHS  
BG Wayne Charters MC, USA  
CAPT Richard Christiansen MSC, USN  
Lt Col Karen Church USAF, NC  
CAPT Randolph Coffey USPHS  
CAPT Jeremy Conklin USAF, MC  
CAPT Philip Conmy USAFR, NC

LTC Irma Cooper AN, USAR  
CPT John Csokmay MC, USA  
COL Jane Curtis MC, ARNG  
CPT Christopher Curtis MC, USA  
CDR James Daily USPHS  
LT Lora Deckard NC, USNR  
COL Dominic DeFrancis USAF, MC  
LCDR Patrick Denis USPHS  
LT Marwan Dib USPHS  
CAPT Suzie Dietz USAF, NC  
LCDR Debra Dominguez NC, USNR  
Andrew Dunn VA  
SGT John Ennis USA  
LTC Leon Ensalada MC, ARNG  
John Finney VA  
LT John Fraser MSC, USN  
LT William Futch USPHS  
LCDR David Gahn USPHS  
2d Lt Lawrence Gibbs USAFR, MSC  
LT Angela Girgenti USPHS  
1st Lt Patricia Goaley USAF  
Dennis Grant VA

Paul Greenberg VA  
LCDR Huijeong Hahm USPHS  
LCDR Patricia Hasen NC, USN  
CAPT Jennifer Hatzfeld USAF, NC  
LT Oliver Hawksley RAMC  
LTJG Eugene Hayes USPHS  
LT Leah Hill USPHS  
MAJ Nobutaka Hirooka  
LT Jason Humbert USPHS  
COL Jose Ibanez USAF, DC  
LCDR Rhonda Jablonski MSC, USNR  
LT Tracey Jackson-Weaver USPHS  
COL Wanda Jenkins AN, USA  
COL Timothy Jex USAF, MC  
CAPT Bennett Johnson MC, USN  
MAJ Michelle Kastler USAF, BSC  
LT Kenneth Katz USPHS  
LT Carmen Kelly USPHS  
Raya Kheirbek VA  
MAJ Cheryl Knight USAFR, NC  
MAJ David Koles USAF, BSC  
CPT Ricky Kue MC, USAR

ENS Karl Kuersteiner MC, USNR  
CAPT Fracois Lalonde USPHS  
LT Kara Lampasone USPHS  
MAJ Keith Lemmon MC, USA  
LT Ruby Lerner USPHS  
LCDR Brian Lewis USPHS  
CPT Sabrenda Littles AN, USAR  
Lt Col Harold Lowder ANG, MC  
CDR Jeffrey Lowell USPHS  
CPT Christopher Maani MC, USA  
CAPT Christopher Manjarres USAFR, NC  
LCDR Tobey Manns USPHS  
LT Ian Marks USPHS  
CAPT Marissa Marquez USAFR, NC  
CAPT Douglas Martin USPHS  
CDR Maureen McArthur USPHS  
LTC Joseph McClain MC, USA  
ENS Andrew McDermott MC, USNR  
LT Jonathan McDivitt MC, USN  
Shirley Meehan VA  
CAPT Antonio Meriano Canadian Forces  
SGT Roberto Mollinedo USA  
LCDR Maria Moreno-Chow NC, USNR  
CDR Brent Morse USPHS  
CDR Michael Mossman USPHS  
CAPT Brad Newberry USAFR, DC

LT Matthew Newland USPHS  
LCDR Beatrice Pacheco USPHS  
LT Brian Park MC, USN  
COL Sandra Pattea USPHS  
Lt Col J. Paul USAF, DC  
COL James Pearce USAF, MSC  
CDR Nora Perez MC, USN  
ENS Jamal Phillips MC, USNR  
MAJ Anthony Posteraro MC, USAR  
Lt Col Michael Poth USAF, DC  
CDR Mae Pouget MC, USN  
Virginia Price VA  
CAPT Donna Radcliff USAF, NC  
LTC Purnell Reninger MS, USA  
LT Hyejeong Root USPHS  
LT Lorey Saligan USPHS  
MAJ Leslie Schellbach CHC, ARNG  
LT Michael Schmoyer USPHS  
LCDR Jeffrey Schulden USPHS  
CMSgt La Shawn Scott USAF  
SFC Jerry Shaw, MS, PA USA (RET)  
COL James Sheehan MC, USA  
CAPT Bruno Sicard FUHS  
William Slagle VA  
SMSgt Michael Smith USAF

LTC George Snyder VA  
Christina Sole-Plasa VA  
COL John Stoebner MC, USA (RET)  
COL Laura Strange AN, ARNG  
LCDR Matthew Sullivan USPHS  
MSgt Deanna Swick USAFR  
LCDR Kathleen Terra USPHS  
LCDR Dana Thomas USCG  
CMSgt Donna Totten USAF  
2LT Ramona Toussaint SP, USA  
CAPT Mary Turner USAF, NC  
LCDR Victoria Vachon USPHS  
CAPT Andrew Vaclavik USAFR, MC  
COL Paul Warden DC, USA  
2d Lt Bryant Webber USAF, MSC  
CAPT Catherine Weckwerth USAF, NC  
MAJ Melinda Weis USAF, MSC  
CAPT Barton Welbourn DC, USN  
TSgt Beth Westerwelle USAF  
COL Hugh Williamson  
LT Suzanne Wolcuff USPHS  
CAPT Frank Wolf USAF, NC  
Lt Col Linda Wright USAF, BSC  
Lt Col Derek Wright RAAMC  
MAJ Misty Zelk ANG, MC

### Deceased Members

LTC Jon E. Baldwin, MC, USA, Life member, May 2003

Mrs. J.R.Grant, SP, USA, May 2006  
LCDR John W. Woody, MC, USN (Ret), Life member

RADM Russell Marlor, MC, USN (Ret), Life member

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Society for the History of Navy Medicine:** The newly formed Society announces its First Annual Meeting and Papers Session, to be held during the 3-6 May 2007 American Association for the History of Medicine meeting in Montreal, Quebec. The society invites submission of papers on any aspect of the history of medicine in the maritime environment (including above and below the surface of the water). Works-in-progress and graduate student projects are particularly invited. While electronic submissions are encouraged, mailed or faxed items will also be welcome. Send to CAPT Thomas L Snyder, MC, USN (Ret) at [thomaslsnyder@gmail.com](mailto:thomaslsnyder@gmail.com) or 131 el Camino Real, Vallejo, CA 94590-3464 or fax to (707)557-5117. Inquiries concerning membership in the Society are also invited. The only requirement for membership is an interest in any aspect of the history of the navy/maritime medicine. Send inquiries to Captain Snyder.

**The Asia Pacific Military Medical Conference (APMMC):** Conducted by the US Army Pacific (USARPAC) in support

of the Commander Pacific Theater Security Cooperation Program (TSCP). USARPAC's APMMC provides a forum for U.S. military health-care providers to discuss with allied and friendly countries in the Asia-Pacific region topics, issues, and concerns of military medical significance. The conference provides an opportunity to discuss urgent medical topics such as avian flu, surveillance for pandemic flu, HIV, SARS, preventive medicine, infectious diseases, deployment health, military medical aid to civil agencies, combat medicine, triage and casualty evacuation, medical readiness, and medical interoperability. The conference also shares the latest information on medical technological advancements. The next APMMC will be held on 4-9 March 2007 in Manila, Philippines. The theme is "Bridging Borders through Military Medicine." All military-affiliated medical professionals are invited to register and submit an abstract. Registration is planned to be open by 30 September 2006. Registration for the conference, the method of submission of abstracts and other administrative information will be posted on the APMMC website: [www.apmmc.org](http://www.apmmc.org).

**The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, American Registry of Pathology and Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner: BASIC FORENSIC PATHOLOGY**, 30 October-3 November, Doubletree Hotel, Rockville, Maryland, Information: AFIP Education Department, 14th and Alaska Aves, NW, Washington, DC, 20306-6000, 202-782-2637, [Sutton@afip.osd.mil](mailto:Sutton@afip.osd.mil), <http://www.afip.org>.

**The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology and American Registry of Pathology: 22nd ANNUAL WASHINGTON**

**NEURORADIOLOGY COURSE**, 17-18 February 2007, Hyatt Regency Bethesda Hotel, Bethesda, MD. Information: AFIP Education Department, 14th and Alaska Aves, NW, Washington, DC, 20306-6000, 202-782-2637, [Sutton@afip.osd.mil](mailto:Sutton@afip.osd.mil), <http://www.afip.org>

**The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology and American Registry of Pathology: 45th ANNUAL KENNETH M. EARLE MEMORIAL NEUROPATHOLGY REVIEW COURSE**, 19-23 February 2007, Hyatt Regency Bethesda Hotel, Bethesda, MD. Information: AFIP Education Department, 14th and Alaska Aves, NW, Washington, DC, 20306-6000, 202-782-2637, [Sutton@afip.osd.mil](mailto:Sutton@afip.osd.mil), <http://www.afip.org>

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN, AMSUS CHAPTERS SECTION

We look forward to seeing all of you at our Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX from 5-10 November. The program this year is very exciting. Much work has been done on it to bring to you a truly worthwhile professional and academic experience.

News from the James Weaver Society Chapter includes their annual reception on Sunday, 5 November, from 5:30-7:30 pm in room 006B at the Convention Center. The guest speaker is Former Air Force Surgeon General, Lt Gen P.K. Carlton. He will be speaking about Homeland Security. This is open to all AMSUS members who wish to attend. As usual, they have done an outstanding job in setting up a very interesting program.

In July, 2006, I attended the annual CIOR/CIOMR meeting in Viterbo, Italy. Many of our AMSUS members from the United States and our International Delegates were in attendance. The international atmosphere provided an excellent venue in which there was much exchange of thoughts and ideas. This knowledge sharing is critical to having successful multi-national involvements and interactions. Our congratulations go to MG Donna Barbisch and the U.S. delegation for a job well done.

Please complete the annual chapter report forms being sent to each chapter. We utilize the data and information on them. It is very important that we have a current listing of all chapter officers for our records.

For those of you that are looking for information on the various chapters, a list of the chapter coordinators follows this article. If you have difficulty in contacting them, or would rather contact us, our membership coordinator

Heather McKenzie will gladly assist you.

To reiterate the importance of chapters, we feel that participation at the chapter level helps to maintain and build the support for AMSUS at the national level. Additionally, the potential for regional educational programs, seminars, and networking opportunities are excellent. To this end, as always, AMSUS stands ready to assist chapters in whatever areas the chapters may require. A number of chapters have already benefited for AMSUS' aid. Be it mailing labels, mailings, guest speakers, ideas, or other types of support, AMSUS is ready to help you.

If you we like us to help with the advertising of any of your chapter events, or have any questions about the Mentoring or the Chapters Program, contact us at AMSUS Headquarters by phone (301.897.8800 or 800.761.9320) or e-mail (our addresses are: BG(ret) John Digilio - [JohnTD@aol.com](mailto:JohnTD@aol.com), Heather McKenzie - [heather.mckenzie@amsus.org](mailto:heather.mckenzie@amsus.org), or Col(ret) Steve Mirick - [steve.mirick@amsus.org](mailto:steve.mirick@amsus.org)).

As always, we want to thank all who serve as mentors. The HPSP students appreciate your efforts and we applaud you for volunteering your free time. For those who would like to serve as mentors, please sign up by contacting us at AMSUS. The HPSP students are the future of military/federal health care. If you are seeking students to mentor, lists of the HPSP students by service are available through AMSUS headquarters.

John T. Digilio, Jr.  
BG, NYRSL  
Chairman,  
Chapters Section

## Chapter News

The National Capital Region (NCR) Chapter of AMSUS met on 26 September 2006 at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD and heard a most informative presentation from CAPT Paul A. Tibbits, MC, USN (Ret), Deputy Director, Military Health System (MHS) Office of Transformation, Department of Defense, on Military Health System Transformation. His presentation discussed the initiatives from the medical portion of the Quadrennial Defense Review that address shaping the future military medical force, business processes of the MHS, in-

frastructure and effective patient partnerships using evidence based medicine. He presented the implementation process including offices of primary responsibility, governance process, and a milestone framework to monitor progress and manage risk. The MHS Office of Transformation is charged by the Deputy Secretary of Defense with the responsibility to oversee the initiatives, report progress, and identify opportunities to accelerate and enhance the quality of transformation.

## AMSUS CHAPTER INFORMATION

AMSUS members are privileged to have opportunities for professional education and exchange of information with their medical counterparts - military and federal. These personal contacts are enhanced by Chapter membership. The Chapters bring a better regional understanding of mutual federal and military resources for war or peace. AMSUS is proud of their Chapters and the expanded opportunities of education-fellowship with their counterparts from other federal/military agencies. Join a local chapter, or help us to establish a new chapter.

If you are interested in starting a new chapter, write to AMSUS Chapters, 9320 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814 or FAX (301) 530-5446, E-mail: [membership@amsus.org](mailto:membership@amsus.org), POC: BG John T. DiGilio, Jr., NYSRL.

### **Alamo Chapter**

COL Rajnikant C. Patel, MC, USAR  
746 Treaty Oak  
San Antonio TX 78258-3189  
Email: [rajni.patel@us.army.mil](mailto:rajni.patel@us.army.mil)

### **Baltimore-Washington Student Chapter**

TBD

### **James D. Weaver Society of AMSUS**

LTC John Kirk, ANG, MSC  
3160 Piper Rd  
Alpena, Mi, 49707-4729  
(517)354-6305

### **Mid-America Chapter**

LTC Jeff Weaver, MS, USAR  
3662 Boston's Farm Drive  
Bridgeton, MO 63044  
E-mail: [jlweaver@aoa.org](mailto:jlweaver@aoa.org)

### **National Capital Region Chapter**

LTC Beverly E. Vandenberg, AN, ARNG  
4521 Llewellyn Ave  
Fort George G Meade, MD 20755-2107  
E-mail: [beverly.vandenberg@ngb.army.mil](mailto:beverly.vandenberg@ngb.army.mil)

### **New York Chapter**

COL John J. Hassett, MS, USAR  
105 Franklin Avenue  
Malverne, NY 11565-1926  
E-mail: [AMSUSNY@aol.com](mailto:AMSUSNY@aol.com)

### **Northern Lights Chapter**

LT Ted L. Hall, Pharm.D., R.Ph.  
U.S. Public Health Service/Indian Health Service  
Ho-Chunk Nation House of Wellness Pharmacy,  
S2845 White Eagle Rd.

Baraboo, WI 53913  
608-355-1251 x5521  
Email: [TedHall@ho-chunk.com](mailto:TedHall@ho-chunk.com)

### **Southeast Tornado (SET) Chapter**

Serving: AL, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN  
COL Candace M. Burns, AN, USAR  
7920 North Branch Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33604  
E-mail: [cburns@hsc.usf.edu](mailto:cburns@hsc.usf.edu)

### **Southwestern Florida Chapter**

CAPT Eugene Peiser, USPHSR  
1880 Mary's Meadows Lane  
Palm Harbor, FL 34683  
E-mail: [epeiser@aol.com](mailto:epeiser@aol.com)

### **Texas Medical Center Area Student Chapter**

ENS Karl Kuersteiner, MC, USNR  
Student Affairs  
6431 Fannin-Room G400  
Houston, TX 77030  
[TMCAreaAMSUS@gmail.com](mailto:TMCAreaAMSUS@gmail.com)

### **Tidewater Chapter**

CAPT Sandy Pollard, NC, USNR  
P.O. Box 1551  
Chesapeake, VA 23327

### **Western and Pacific (WE-PAC) Chapter**

Serving: AK, AZ, CA, HI, NV, OR, WA  
LTC Beverley Houghton, AN, USAR  
11307 Martha Ann Drive  
Los Alamitos, CA 90720-3805  
E-mail: [camelady2@mminternet.com](mailto:camelady2@mminternet.com)

## NEWS OF SUSTAINING MEMBERS

The AMSUS-SM section met on 6 September 2006 in Washington, DC. Attendees heard presentations from Louis Cobuzzi, RPh. and Joe Canzolino, RPh. of the Pharmacy Benefits Management Group, Strategic Health Group, Department of Veterans Affairs, on the "New VA National Formulary"; LTC Wayne E. Hachey, MC, USA, Director, Deployment Medicine and Surveillance, Force Health Protection & Readiness on "Avian/Pandemic Influenza - DoD Initiatives"; and Lt Gen George Peach Taylor, Jr. Air Force Surgeon General Retired on "Observations and Lessons Learned as Air Force Surgeon General."

The SM section welcomed the following new member companies. They are: ARINC Incorporated; Business Computer Applications, Inc.; Metro Medical Equipment & Supply, Inc and TRUE Research Foundation.

The next meeting of the AMSUS-SM section will be held on Tuesday, 7 November 2006 in San Antonio, TX. Elections for new officers will be held at this meeting. The first meeting in 2007 will be held at The Crystal City Marriott on Tuesday, 13 February 2007.