



Corps Chief's Message

By COL Rebecca S. Hooper
Chief, SP Corps

Making a Difference

A belated Happy New Year to everyone. As we head into 2003, I'm sure all of you have the same questions about the future that I do. We are in a time of turmoil and change, especially in the world situation. Everyday I hear about SPs who are either deployed or preparing for deployment. All of us in the SP are praying for the safety of all of those we know and love who may end up in harms way.

Last week I was reminded of the story of the man on the beach at low tide. Another man came upon him as he tossed beached starfish after beached starfish back into the sea. The second man asked the first what he was doing. He replied, "putting the starfish back in the ocean so they won't die". The second man said, "there must be thousands of starfish on this beach alone. How can you possibly make a difference?" The first man picked up the nearest starfish and tossed it far into the water. He turned to the man who doubted his efforts and said, "it made a difference for that one" and walked on.

As your Corps Chief, I must tell you how much I appreciate all that you do for our soldiers, their families, and ultimately for our country whether you are deployed in a far away land or working diligently at your home station. Sometimes we may not feel that what we do makes a difference, but I assure you it does. As health care providers in one of the most complex systems in the world, you truly make a difference... one patient at a time.

Thank you.

