

Occupational Therapist Section

*By LTC Karen L. Cozean
Chief, OT Section*

I hope each of you had an enjoyable summer. For many of you it was a very busy time and I will share some of the exciting things going on within Army OT.

Two OT Professional Short Courses were held since the publishing of the last Medallion and I'd like to begin by first acknowledging the project officers and their staff who provided these excellent courses. LTC Harrison-Weaver, SFC Holmes, MAJ Gerardi and the OT branch staff did an outstanding job hosting the Management of Combat Casualties Course held at Camp Bullis this past May. The guest speakers reinforced how critical this training is for our military mission. CPT Bannon and CPT Montz enriched the course with their personal involvement and perspective during 9/11 and Operation Enduring Freedom. SFC Robert Goodale also shared his experience with course members of his deployment to Bosnia. Thank you all for an outstanding course. In August, LTC Karoline Harvey and her staff hosted the Upper Extremity Evaluation and Treatment Course at Fort Bragg. Course participants continue to share with me the excellent training they received and I offer a big thank-you to LTC Harvey and her staff for an outstanding course.

Updates

The ASAM III Survey is presently underway (virtually) at Ft. Bragg and Ft. Knox. Surveyors will be on site throughout Europe during Oct and TAMC/WBAMC in Nov. Remember that I have placed information on our KE SP web site to assist you and please contact me for any questions you may have. The model that was built for staffing OT, is not only to assist you in what you do today, but also to provide you with the staff needed to support our mission in psychiatry and ergonomic injury prevention. I know many of you are not able to do this with the present staffing level; therefore you need to support and justify this staffing change as you meet with the ASAM team. They are not necessarily going to give you an increase in staff without you justifying the need for staff to do these important missions. Call me for your staff numbers to help strengthen your position when meeting with the team.

For a first time attempt to utilize VTT technology, I think our two-day conference, Sept 13-14th, on the Comprehensive Management of the UE Amputee went well. Feedback from the 12 sites that participated has been very helpful. Some of the technical difficulties we experienced were in part due to the mixing VTC signals with VTT signals. We will ensure that future broadcasts in this forum will be VTT only. So locate those classrooms that have this capability for future use. Guest speakers, Diane Atkins and Randy Alley, were excellent speakers and very knowledgeable in this topic. It was their first experience to live broadcasting as well. Participants who attended the

full two days were awarded 12 type II CEU's by the Texas Board of OT Examiners. I am meeting with the Distance Learning staff this week to plan the next step to make the tape recording of this two-day course available to those of you in time zones where it was not feasible to participate. So further information will be provided to you shortly. In order for you to receive your CEU's via tape viewing, you will need to successfully pass the test at the end of the 12 hour course to meet the criteria set by the Texas Board. I'd like to thank the OT staff at BAMC and MAJ Woods, for coordinating the logistics to make this course a success. This course will be offered at WRAMC on Nov 8th and 9th, so there is one more opportunity to catch it live. Please contact CPT Lisa Smurr at WRAMC for the details.

Congratulations to COL Mary Lopez who received this years Myra L. McDaniel's Annual Writers Award for her article titled, Ergonomic Evaluation of a Government Office Building. I thank all who submitted their articles for this prestigious award and thank you to the nominating committee: LTC Harrison-Weaver (Chair), LTC Max Ito, LTC Len Cancio, and LTC Karoline Harvey.

During our July VTC, MAJ Chuck Walters gave us an informative brief on the new Practice Guidelines for CVA patients. I asked him for some additional information to pass onto you in case you might want to pursue this further. The final draft of this guideline can be found at www.guideonline.info/cpg.htm. There are training tapes available to help evaluators learn to use the NIH stroke scale and estimate inter-rater reliability, discussed in the guideline. If you use this scale, it would be helpful for you to have a neurologist provide you some additional training of the items, as to how they are traditionally rated by a physician. These training tapes are available from the American Academy of Neurology store: www.selling.net/store.asp?storeid=11. MAJ Walters also has more information on the FIM and will assist you with any questions you may have on this assessment tool. Thanks MAJ Walters for your participation in representing OT in this important guideline.

It is never too early to plan for the opportunity to apply for LTHET. For the 04 board convening **next MAY 03**, OT's desiring a Masters degree in OT (emphasis is your choice), Public Health with USUHS/CHPPM, or MHA through Baylor University is acceptable for this year's applicant. For the PhD, we are looking for the applicant to select one of the following: a doctorate in OT, Education, Ergonomics, or Science with strong research base. Remember there is an option for degree completion as well. Call me to discuss your interests. Application deadline is 1 April 03.

Nominations for the SP Chiefs Award of Excellence are due by **30 OCT**. This award recognizes our outstanding company grade officers. Information about this award is on the SP web site. Please send your completed form to the SP Fellow: CPT Maxwell at Gail.Maxwell@us.army.mil.

To date, there are presently 59 OTR/COTA's registered on Knowledge Exchange. Keep the registrations coming. Let's all get on board by the next VTC in November!

Call MAJ Woods or CPT Maxwell for any questions you may have in how to access this system.

Deployments

MAJ Sharon Newton continues to provide CSC prevention interventions, and consultation to members of the Camps, Base and Command Staff in Cuba.

CPT Karen Luisi has been the XO and medical operations officer for the CFLCC – FWD- Surgical Office and is presently working in the protocol office. Please send positive thoughts and energy to MAJ Newton and CPT Luisi as they continue to do an outstanding job representing OT.

CPT Ted Chapman was a member of the Subject Matter Expert Exchange Team to Bogota Columbia on 28 Jul to 3 Aug. He provided a number of lectures on burn and hand rehabilitation. (To see his AAR, go to the OT Section on KE.)

LTC Cassandra Lewis and SFC Kathy Rasmussen participated in the third annual Hand Reconstructive Surgery MEDRETTE to Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Their report is in this issue of the Medallion.

Goodbye to our departing therapists:

Two fine officers are departing the Army, CPT James Staeben and CPT Michaelle Selcke will begin their terminal leave this November. We thank you both for your service and many contributions to the section. We wish you the very best as you begin new careers in the civilian sector.

There is one officer I failed to recognize last summer as I was coming on board and COL DeMars was moving onto her PERSCOM job. And this officer definitely warrants recognition. COL Ann Amoroso, who was well respected by the Section for her outstanding clinical skills and her gifted ability to teach and mentor students and staff alike. COL Amoroso began her career in 1981 at FT Benning, GA. Her tours included: WRAMC; Chief, OT Ft. Benning; Chief, OT FAMC; Chief OT BAMC, and Chief, WRAMC. She held two staff jobs as the base closure officer for FAMC and the acting SP Corps Proponency Officer in 1997 at FSH. Ann, we thank you for your dedication of 20 years of service and wish you well in your retirement. Ann and Frank are building their beautiful retirement home in Fredricksburg TX.

Thank you for the tremendous work you do, I hear compliments on your efforts daily. Your work is valued and very important to the AMEDD. Please take time to enjoy your journey. All the best to each of you!