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Inter-command transfer of the 59th Medical Wing underway

FALLS CHURCH, Virginia / Published Sept. 11, 2025

On Sept. 9, Air Force Medical Command advanced its phased inter-command transfer, or ICT, process with the transition of the 59th Medical Wing from Air Education and Training Command to its medical chain of command.

This milestone represents one of the most significant moves in the stand-up of AFMEDCOM, given the Wing's mission scope, global impact, and historical significance to the Air Force Medical Service.

Headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, the 59th MDW is the Air Force's largest medical wing. Its transfer brings more than 2,600 personnel, active duty, civilian, and contractor, under AFMEDCOM's readiness-focused structure. The ICT will continue in phases to ensure a smooth realignment while maintaining the Wing's partnerships with installation leadership and joint mission partners in San Antonio and worldwide.



59th Medical Wing Transitions to AFMEDCOM. The 59th Medical Wing transitioned from Air Education and Training Command to Air Force Medical Command on Sept. 9, 2025. The wing, headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, is the Air Force's largest medical wing and now falls under AFMEDCOM, a direct reporting unit established to centralize Air Force medicine and strengthen medical readiness.

practices through regular briefings among command surgeons, helping synchronize efforts and prepare each command for its transition.

“We are really excited about the standup of AFMEDCOM, it will get after multiple things. What requirements we will need for the future fight, making sure that we have the right resourcing to train those requirements, and ensuring that with the AFMEDCOM structure and governance process they have in place, we are able to prioritize efficiently and effectively ... what is most important is that we are training for the right things, at the right time, for the right fight,” said Col. John Davis, AETC command surgeon.

The 59th MDW ICT represents a major milestone in AFMEDCOM's journey toward full operating capability. As the process continues, lessons learned will guide future tranches, ensuring the command delivers on its mission to provide ready medical forces to Airmen, Guardians, and the Joint Force.

Lt. Gen. John J. DeGoes, Air Force and Space Force Surgeon General, and AFMEDCOM Commander, emphasized the importance of the move: “The 59th Medical Wing has long set the standard for innovation and readiness. Bringing this world-class team fully into AFMEDCOM strengthens our ability to deliver medics who are operationally ready, anytime and anywhere.”

As part of the ICT, AETC is collaborating with other major commands to align training and readiness requirements.

AFDW, the first to undergo ICT, has been sharing lessons learned and best

Educational Outreach Initiative: Inspiring Elementary Students in Infectious Disease Research and Biosafety Practices

By Ricardo Amador/ Published Aug. 11, 2025, JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas

As part of a recent educational outreach initiative, Dr. Jesus Silvas from the 59 MDW/ST Office of Research and Technology Applications (ORTA) collaborated with Dr. Israel Guerrero from the Texas Biomedical Research Institute to provide an engaging and informative experience for students in grades 2 through 5 at Mendez Elementary School. The program focused on careers in infectious disease research and biosafety practices, demonstrating how a Ph.D. in infectious disease can lead to impactful careers in both civilian and military sectors.



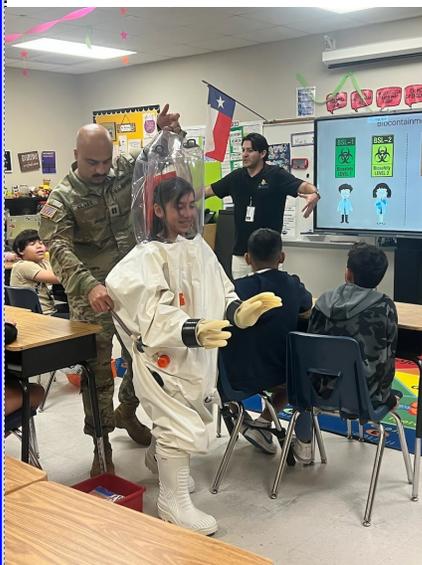
Educational Outreach Initiative: Inspiring Elementary Students in Infectious Disease Research and Biosafety Practices. Capt. Jesus Silvas, a microbiologist with the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Command assigned to the 59th Medical Wing's Office of Research and Technology Applications, and Dr. Israel Guerrero, a virologist with Texas Biomedical Research Institute, speak to students Aug. 7, 2025, at Mendez Elementary School in San Marcos, Texas. The presentation introduced second- through fifth-grade students to careers in infectious disease research and demonstrated biosafety practices used in laboratory environments. (Courtesy photo)

Dr. Guerrero-Arguero serves as a virologist at Texas Biomedical Research Institute, where high-consequence viruses such as chikungunya, Ebola, and Marburg are studied in high- and maximum-containment laboratories. As a member of the Applied Science and Innovation (ASI) team, Dr. Guerrero-Arguero contributes to contract research studies for private companies and public institutions, testing vaccines and therapeutics designed to combat deadly pathogens. This work bridges cutting-edge science and real-world solutions, supporting global efforts to develop medical countermeasures and improve pandemic preparedness.

U.S. Army Capt. Jesus Silvas, PhD, is a microbiologist at the US Army Reserve Medical Command (USARMEDCOM), 7450th MORU, with extensive expertise in biocontainment, molecular virology, immunology, and vaccine development. Currently, CPT Silvas serves as a Defense Health Agency Contractor through ASI/ABSS, assigned to the 59 MDW/ST Office of Research and Technology Applications (ORTA).

The joint presentation included a hands-on demonstration of the four levels of biocontainment, which represent essential safety protocols for working with infectious agents of varying risk levels. The event highlighted two critical pieces of biosafety equipment: the Honeywell Biosafety Level 4 (BL-4) Positive Pressure

Suit and the HALO respirator used in Biosafety Level 3 (BL-3) environments. These visual aids helped students understand the seriousness and complexity of working with infectious pathogens.



A student tries on a Biosafety Level 4 Positive Pressure Suit with assistance from Capt. Jesus Silvas, at Mendez Elementary School in San Marcos, Texas, as Dr. Israel Guerrero, a virologist with Texas Biomedical Research Institute, describes laboratory safety levels. The outreach event aimed to inspire interest in science, technology, engineering, and math careers through hands-on learning. (Courtesy photo)

To enhance student understanding, one student from each class was selected to wear the BL-4 Positive Pressure Suit and demonstrate its use. This interactive approach allowed students to experience what it feels like to be inside the fully enclosed suit typically used by scientists working in high-risk containment facilities.

The outreach session also emphasized the importance of disease prevention. Presenters discussed simple yet effective measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, emphasizing the role of hygiene, vaccination, and personal responsibility in public health.

Dr. Silvas and Dr. Guerrero made a lasting impression on young learners by connecting advanced scientific practices with real-world career paths and providing tangible, age-appropriate demonstrations. Their collaborative efforts inspired curiosity about science while reinforcing the significance of infectious disease research in protecting civilian populations and military personnel.



Capt. Jesus Silvas shows students a Biosafety Level 4 Positive Pressure Suit at Mendez Elementary School in San Marcos, Texas, as Dr. Israel Guerrero, a virologist with Texas Biomedical Research Institute, explains its use. The interactive demonstration highlighted biocontainment levels and equipment used when working with high-consequence pathogens such as Ebola and Marburg viruses. (Courtesy photo)

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This outreach program exemplifies how early engagement and exposure to public health and biosciences fields can ignite lifelong passion, potentially inspiring the next generation of scientists, clinicians, and researchers. The 59th Medical Wing (MDW) proudly champions initiatives that foster nurturing environments where young minds can discover the fascinating world of medical innovation and public service. By investing in early learning opportunities, the organization cultivates future leaders in STEM fields while instilling deep appreciation for the critical role of public health in communities and beyond. The 59th MDW is honored to contribute to shaping a brighter, healthier future by sparking vital interest in the next generation

Capt. Jesus Silvas, shows students a Biosafety Level 4 Positive Pressure Suit at Mendez Elementary School in San Marcos, Texas, as Dr. Israel Guerrero, a virologist with Texas Biomedical Research Institute, explains its use. (Courtesy photo)

Young Investigators ‘Building the Bench’ for the Future of Military Health Research

8/12/2025 - By: Ken Cornwell, MHS Communications



The future of military health research was honored through the Young Investigator competition and poster presentations awards at the 2025 Military Health System Research Symposium on Aug. 7 in Kissimmee, Florida. Residents, fellows, doctoral candidates, post-docs, and individuals received awards for their contributions to research centering around the four MHSRS focus areas: warfighter medical readiness, expeditionary medicine, warfighter performance, and return to duty.

As the 2025 [Military Health System Research Symposium Military Health System Research Symposium webpage](#) drew to a close, all eyes looked to the future of military medical research as Young Investigators received awards on Aug. 7, in Kissimmee, Florida. Researchers with poster presentations also received awards during the ceremony.

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The Young Investigators competition honored the best oral presentations from residents, fellows, doctoral candidates, post-docs, and individuals within five years of graduation from a terminal degree. All research was Department of Defense-funded with data directly relevant to one of the four MHSRS focus areas: warfighter medical readiness, expeditionary medicine, warfighter performance, and return to duty.

Speaking about the Young Investigators, retired U.S. Army Col. (Dr.) John Holcomb, professor of surgery at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the [Uniformed Services University Uniformed Services University webpage](#), said, “The Young Investigators program is building the bench.”

“The young investigators sometimes have crazy ideas ... but sometimes those crazy ideas really do work,” Holcomb continued. “It’s really critical, as we build the bench and move forward ... to let the young people take over.”

The annual competition remained a highlight of MHSRS, said ceremony moderator U.S. Air Force Col. Scott Sonnek, deputy chief of the Airman Biosciences Division of the 711 [Human Performance Wing Human Performance Wing webpage](#) at [Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Wright-Patterson Air Force Base webpage](#), Ohio.

An impressive 374 abstracts were submitted in this category in 2025, Sonnek added, with the 15 Young Investigators representing the top 5%. The top 3 presentations received awards.

Charles Elder, from the University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, won first place for his work, “Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Mitigate Membrane Damage in Freeze-Dried Red Blood Cells.”

Dr. Julian Dilley, from Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, Indiana, was awarded second place for, “Inhibition of Ca²⁺/Calmodulin-Dependent Protein Kinase Kinase2(CAMKK2) with STO-609 Reduces Osteoarthritis in a Rabbit Anterior Cruciate Ligament Injury Model.”

Dr. Elliot Dirr, of the [Naval Medical Research Unit Naval Medical Research Unit webpage](#) in Dayton, Ohio, won third place for “Partial Pressure of Oxygen and Nitrogen Impacts the Development of Noise-Induced Hearing Loss.”

Poster Competition Winners

Sonnek noted that 1,697 posters were accepted for the 2025 MHSRS meeting. The judging began when the submitted abstracts were assessed by the topic area review committees and ended during the conference with a joint committee review of the poster judges.

Best in Show’ Poster Competition Winner

“The “Best in Show” poster winner was given to Capt. Ziv Talmi Yaakov of the Israel Defense Forces Medical Corps, Tel Hashomer, and Ramat Gan for “Exercise-Associated Hyponatremia in Military Training During a Heat Wave.”

Session One Poster Winners

First Place: Dr. Sabrina Snyder, [Naval Medical Research Unit - San Antonio Naval Medical Research Unit webpage](#), Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, for “Survival Analysis of a Dental Self-Healing Composite.”

Second Place: Dr. Kayla Septer, Navy Medical Research Command, Bethesda, Maryland, for “Antigenic Characterization of Currently Circulating Seasonal Influenza Strains Using Antigenic Cartography.”

Third Place: Dr. Diane Bolton, [Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Walter Reed Army Institute of Research webpage](#), [Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences webpage](#), Silver Spring, Maryland, for “Defining the Window of Opportunity for HIV Peri-exposure Immunoprophylaxis with Biospecific Monoclonal Antibody 10E8.4/iMAB against High-dose Intravenous SHIV Challenge in Rhesus Macaques.”

Honorable Mention: Maj. David Zeidler, German Federal Armed Forces Central Hospital, Koblenz, Germany, for “Treat as You Fight Effects of an Interdisciplinary Antibiotic Stewardship Team in a Tertiary Military Hospital.”

Honorable Mention: U.S. Army Maj. Thomas Musich, WRAIR, for “Antimicrobial Resistance in Ukraine Combat Wound Infections Originating Near Zaporizhahia.”

Session Two Poster Winners

First Place: Danielle Berninzoni, Autonomous Reanimation and Evacuation Research Institute, The Geneva Foundation, San Antonio, Texas, for “Portable Viscoelastic Coagulation Monitor for Pre-hospital and Point-of-Care Application in Combat Polytrauma managed with ECLS and Systemic Anticoagulation.”

Second Place: Kyle Meetze, Safi Biotherapeutics, Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Loughborough, United Kingdom, for “Potential Benefits of Long-Term Storage Capability of Manufactured Human Red Blood Cells on Military and Civilian Blood Supply.”

Third Place: Dr. Ava Puccio, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for “Multi-Omnics Analysis of Plasma and CSF Distinguishes TBI Across the Spectrum of Severity and Time.”

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Honorable Mention: U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Daniel Crouch, Naval Health Research Center Naval Health Research Center webpage, San Diego, California, for “Anomaly Seasonality Decomposition and Artificial Neural Network (ANN) Modeling Predict Pre- and Post-Pandemic Febrile Respiratory Illness Rates among U.S. Military Recruit Populations.”

Honorable Mention: Maj. Johan Schmitt, Toulon, France, for “Injury Survivability and Death Preventability during Recent Conflicts in French Combat Fatalities: a Retrospective Study.”

Session Three Poster Winners

First Place: Dr. William Kilgore, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, for “The Battle for the Brain: How Sleep Loss and Circadian Rhythms Shape Neurocognitive Readiness.”

Second Place: Dr. Synthia Mellon, University of California, San Francisco, California, for “Mitochondrial Protein Analysis in Neural Derived Exosomes from Veterans and Active-Duty Soldiers with and Without PTSD.”

Third Place: Dr. Victoria Coyle, Air Force Research Laboratory Air Force Research Laboratory webpage, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, for “Integrated Metalized Microneedle Patch for Continuous Cortisol Sensing in Interstitial Fluid.”

Honorable Mention: Dr. Cory Smith, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, for “Impact of Cold Air and Cold-Water Immersion on Neural Activation Over the Prefrontal Cortex During Marksmanship Assessments.”

Honorable Mention: Alexander Iwaskiw, Johns Hopkins Research Lab, Baltimore, Maryland, for “A Framework for Population-Specific Blunt Skull Injury Risk Predictions Incorporating Biological Variability.”

Awards were previously handed out to winning individuals and teams for their outstanding research dedicated to improving warfighter health.

For more about MHSRS, the research presented, and additional areas of interest, visit the MHSRS webpage [MHSRS webpage](#).

USAISR Partnering on Imaging Technology for Improving Hemorrhage Triage

05.22.2025 | Story by Paul Lagasse, Medical Research and Development Command, FORT DETRICK, MARYLAND, UNITED STATES

FORT DETRICK, Md. – Uncontrolled blood loss from traumatic injury is the leading cause of preventable death on the battlefield, which makes prompt and accurate triage essential for maximizing Warfighter survival. However, the body’s own defense mechanisms can make it difficult to identify someone at greatest risk for the early onset of shock. A new technology that builds on pioneering research conducted at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research may soon enable care givers to assess patient risk more quickly and accurately using data collected from ordinary digital cameras, thereby improving the survivability of combat casualties and increasing the combat power and effectiveness of field units.

Traditionally, medical professionals assess a patient’s status by relying on the patient’s vital signs – blood pressure, heart rate, and oxygen saturation. However, when subject to traumatic blood loss, the human body automatically engages a survival mechanism – called the compensatory reserve – that concentrates the remaining blood near the heart, brain, and other vital organs. This results in these standard vital signs to remain relatively normal for a time until the body can no longer compensate for the blood loss, triggering what doctors call a “crash” that is often fatal.

“It’s analogous to driving your car and being unsure of how much gas you had left because the gas gage doesn’t change until the very end, just as you are about to run out of gas,” explains Dr. Victor Convertino, USAISR’s senior scientist for combat casualty care and director of the Battlefield Health and Trauma Center for Human Integrative Physiology. “You may be able to drive for 300 miles, or you may only have three miles left. That’s the challenge we’re faced with.”

Convertino’s groundbreaking research into the body’s inherent physiologic compensatory mechanisms led to the development of the compensatory reserve measurement, or CRM, a machine-learning algorithm that provides a more reliable prediction of hemorrhagic shock risk than traditional vital signs.

In addition to providing medical care providers with a more accurate assessment tool for hemorrhagic shock, the CRM is the first monitoring technology that can assess the blood volume status of an individual patient regardless of the patient’s individual tolerance for blood loss, which determines how quickly they will crash from an ongoing loss of blood. This has long been a mystery for clinicians; Convertino calls it a “curveball” that can catch even the most attentive doctors and nurses off guard.

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To put this new diagnostic capability into the hands of medical professionals and Warfighters, Convertino, Dr. Jose Salinas, and Dr. Eric Snider of USAISR's Automation and Engineering Group – one of five research groups within USAISR focusing on using state-of-the-art technologies such as advanced artificial intelligence to address critical medical gaps – have teamed up with health software firm Presage Technologies to incorporate the CRM algorithm into a new software application that could transform battlefield triage of trauma-induced hemorrhage.

The software builds on work that Presage has done with several DOD clients to demonstrate that commercial grade video cameras – such as those used in drones, webcams, and smart phones – are capable of capturing microscopic movement and color changes in a person's skin caused by their pulse. The software converts those changes into a waveform that can be compared against the CRM algorithm to predict the patient's risk of slipping into shock. Presage has developed the software to the point where it is ready for submission to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration seeking its clearance to legally market the software for use in novel military and civilian medical applications.

With such a capability readily available, medics operating in a combat environment could use drones to observe injured Warfighters without risking injury to themselves, for example. Nurses responding to a mass casualty incident could use their phones to perform triage using just a few seconds of video footage for each patient. Physicians would be able to continuously monitor patients postoperatively for signs of internal bleeding, shock, and sepsis. Such cutting-edge, deployable trauma care solutions promise to materially improve Warfighter survivability and lethality.

As part of this effort, the Metis Foundation, a San Antonio-based nonprofit that supports military medical research, is providing extramural assistance for the project using funding provided by the Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium, a nonprofit international group of over 600 academic institutions, businesses, nonprofits and other organizations in the biomedical technology sector. Convertino says that the foundation's participation has been crucial for ensuring the success of the project.

Convertino hopes that the collaboration with Presage to develop diagnostic capabilities for digital cameras will be the first of many innovative applications of the CRM, which he and his colleagues have spent years researching and refining.

“The beauty of the CRM algorithm is that it was purposely built to be hardware agnostic,” says Convertino. “We can team with almost any industry partner who has a monitoring capability, integrate the algorithm into it, and then they can bring their device to the FDA as a software upgrade that doesn't require a lengthy approval process as a new medical device. That will help speed our ultimate goal, which is to get this capability into the hands of medics, whether they're military or civilian, so it can help them save lives with earlier lifesaving interventions.”

Groundbreaking Military Health Research Recognized with 2025 Military Health System Research Symposium Awards

8/6/2025 By: Ken Cornwell, MHS Communications

Pioneers in military medicine received top honors at the 2025 Military Health System Research Symposium for their commitment to improving warfighter health.

Dr. Stephen Ferrara, acting assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, presented the awards to the winning individuals and teams. Their research spanned diverse topics, including warfighter readiness, traumatic brain injury, PTSD, and mental health.

Individual Distinguished Service Award Winners: Two researchers in the military medical community were recognized for significant contributions to the success of Military Health System medical studies supporting the deployed warfighter.

In the research category, “Innovation and Current Directions in Military Suicide Prevention, Research, and Programs,” Retired U.S. Air Force Col. (Dr.) Robert Ursano, director of the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress and professor of psychiatry and neuroscience at the Uniformed Services University, was honored for advancing mental health care, resilience, and trauma research in support of the health and well-being of warfighters.

Ursano's key research included combat stress, posttraumatic stress disorder, and traumatic brain injury, with a focus in suicide prevention. The findings from his work provided essential data informing suicide prevention efforts and the understanding of risk and resilience in service members. The PTSD Brain Bank provides a lasting resource for future research aimed at developing better treatments. Through his leadership of CSTS, he oversaw the development and dissemination of training and intervention programs aimed at improving the psychological health of service members and families exposed to trauma and disaster.



Dr. Victor Convertino, second from right, works with colleagues to place monitors on a volunteer in the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research lower body negative pressure chamber to collect physiological data as part of a research protocol. Photo By Steven Galvan

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In the research category, “Optimizing the Human Weapon System: Utilizing Wearable Sensor Data to Inform Readiness,” Dr. Karl Friedl, senior research scientist of performance physiology, U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine, was recognized as a leader in service member health and performance. Friedl’s research focused on extending limits of human physiological performance, with contribu-



Military medical researchers were recognized for their achievements and research during the annual 2025 Military Health System Research Symposium awards presentation in Kissimmee, Florida, on Aug. 4. The awards honored pioneers and innovators in military medicine dedicated to warfighter health.

and behaviors. His accomplishments stem from leading successful military-academic partnerships to help warfighters return to operational readiness and build resilience skills.

Mary Jo Pugh, a retired U.S. Air Force nurse who has a doctorate in psychology, and professor, Division of Epidemiology at the University of Utah School of Medicine, was recognized for her work in the category, “Evolving Methods for the Analysis of Large Complex Data Sources to Inform Military Health Policy, Readiness, Performance and Medical Practices.” She is also an investigator at the Informatics, Decision-Enhancement and Analytic Sciences Center of Innovation and the Department of Veterans Affairs Salt Lake City.

Pugh made groundbreaking contributions to research on TBI on multiple morbidity in veterans. She pioneered the integration of Department of Defense and VA data, revolutionizing the study of military exposures and complex comorbidities. Her leadership in the LIMBIC Phenotype study, encompassing over 2.5 million post-9/11 veterans, unveiled critical insights into TBI phenotypes and their associated outcomes. Pugh’s innovative application of complexity theory and her dedication to advancing research methodologies significantly enhanced understanding of deployed warfighter and veteran health.

U.S. Army Capt. (Dr.) Maya Alexandri, J.D., U.S. Army Medical Corp, was recognized in the category, “Portable Medical & Dental Imaging in the Far Forward Environment.”

Alexandri led groundbreaking research measuring the electromagnetic signature of handheld ultrasound systems, otherwise known as EMS and HUS, as a crucial step for ensuring safe use in austere, high-risk combat environments. Her pilot study, conducted with the DOD’s Joint Electromagnetic Warfare Center, found that the EMS of HUS probes is negligible - undetectable at distances beyond 10 feet - suggesting they likely can be safely used without risking adversary detection. This first-of-its-kind research lays the foundation for U.S. Army doctrine integrating HUS into far-forward military medical care.

Warfighter Medical Research Public Communication.

Doug Jones, who has a doctorate in movement and sport sciences, research physiologist, and director for the Warfighter Performance Department’s Thermal Physiology Lab, Naval Health Research Center, and team member, Dr. Timothy Dunn, who has a doctorate in cognitive psychology, cognitive scientist, Warfighter Performance Department, were recognized for contributions to broadening the general public’s awareness of DOD-sponsored warfighter-related medical research through public communications in the category, “Polar Performance at Altitude and Arctic Activities.”

Jones and Dunn significantly advanced understanding of warfighters’ physiological and cognitive responses to operating in extreme environments. Their dedication and scientific rigor in medical research were recognized by National Public Radio’s Marketplace podcast during joint exercise Arctic Edge 2024. When NPR travelled to NHRC to record a special episode on the challenges warfighters face operating in the extreme cold, Jones and Dunn were able to relay to a general audience their scientific efforts to improve service members’ readiness, resilience, and lethality.

Team Awards in Outstanding Research Accomplishment: Three teams were awarded for their outstanding research contributions supporting the warfighter with significant accomplishment of high impact achieved since February 2024.

The Linking Investigations in Trauma and Emergency Services Network team from the University of Pittsburgh, led by Dr. Jason Sperry, section chief of trauma surgery, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Division of Surgery, was honored in the research category, “Blood and Blood Products: Novel Strategies for Treatment of Blood Failure.”

tions including endocrine regulation in semi-starvation, physiological effects of anabolic steroids, body composition methods and standards, physiological monitoring, and metrics of research.

Outstanding Research Accomplishment: Individual awards were given to three researchers for outstanding research contributions supporting the warfighter with significant accomplishments of high impact achieved since February 2024.

Justin Baker, who has a doctorate in psychology, assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral health, Ohio State University College of Medicine, was recognized for his work in the category, “Innovation and Current Directions in Military Suicide Prevention, Research, and Programs.”

Baker’s work focused on increasing the reach and accessibility of suicide prevention treatments through research that advances group therapy, telehealth, virtual learning platforms, and other innovative resources for service members struggling with suicidal thoughts

and behaviors. His accomplishments stem from leading successful military-academic partnerships to help warfighters return to operational

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The LITES Network completed two high-impact trials - CriSP-HS and CriSP-TBI - demonstrating the feasibility, efficacy, and safety of early, cold-stored platelet transfusion in patients with hemorrhagic shock and TBI. These trials provided the first high-level evidence supporting early CSP use in injured patients. LITES demonstrated CSP transfusions were safe, could be provided earlier, and may improve outcomes.

Incorporating CSPs into military transfusion protocols has the potential to augment the platelet supply, expand access to operationally complex environments, and improve outcomes in the critically injured warfighter.

The Naval Psychological Readiness and Human Performance (NPRHP) team from the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory, led by Justin Handy, who has a doctorate in cognitive psychology, research psychologist, and Dominica Hernandez, Ph.D. team co-lead, research psychologist, principal investigator, was honored in the research category, "Undersea Operational Research Panel."

The NPRHP team transitioned multiple evidence-based fleet deliverables that improved submariner and nuclear-operator screening, career prediction, and individual coaching to foster readiness, professional development, leadership, team performance, and retention. The team validated a model for predicting optimal career outcomes and targeting optimal points for career intervention. Their submarine leadership and sailor development programs transitioned to the fleet, becoming mandated for submariners assigned to operational boats. Their efforts also formed the basis for a U.S. Navy-wide leadership assessment and development program.

The interdisciplinary team comprised of Dr. Francisco Vital-Lopez, with the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine in support of the DOD Biotechnology High Performance Computing Software Applications Institute, and Jaques Reifman, who has a doctorate in nuclear engineering, director and senior research scientist of the Biotechnology High-Performance Computing Software Applications Institute, U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command, was honored in the research category, "Big Data, AI and Machine Learning in Military Research: Precision Medicine and Operational Readiness."

Reifman led the team in developing and clearing with the Food and Drug Administration the APPRAISE-Hemorrhage Risk Index application, an artificial intelligence-enabled decision-support system designed to help combat medics triage trauma casualties for hemorrhage risk near the point of injury. The FDA clearance was a major milestone allowing for wide use and dissemination of this critical capability that will improve the chances of survival of combat casualties. APPRAISE-HRI is a one-of-a-kind application and the first and only AI-enabled software as a medical device approved by the FDA from the DOD.

Team Awards in Outstanding Program Management: Three teams were honored for outstanding medical product program management. The award focused on the accomplishments of a team charged with further maturing medical research and development or a commercial effort.

The Freeze-Dried Plasma Integrated Product Team from the Warfighter Protection and Acute Care, Operational Medical Systems, and industry partner Octapharma, led by Andrew Atkinson, product manager, OPMED, WPAC, and Kendra Lawrence, Ph.D., project manager OP-MED, WPAC, was honored in the research category, "Advances in Far-Forward (Roles 1/2) Clinical Care Provision."

Using a combination of traditional and innovative product development strategies together with an unprecedented level of collaboration, the FDP Integrated Product Team and industry partner Octapharma achieved an emergency use authorization for OctaPlasLG Powder in August 2024. This delivered the first ability for conventional forces to stock and field FDA-authorized FDP and demonstrates significant achievement in product development through the team's depth of expertise, flexibility in acquisition and regulatory strategies, and unwavering commitment to find solutions to priority medical gaps.

The U.S. Army Office of Regulated Activities Medical Devices and Diagnostics branch, in partnership with military medical product developers across DOD, led by Dr. Chandar Thakur, chief of ORA, was recognized in the category, "State of the Technology: Demonstrations of Acute Diagnostic and Monitoring TBI Devices."

MDD played a crucial role in achieving five FDA approvals of military-focused medical products since February 2024. Efforts included the Automated Processing of the Physiologic Registry for Assessment of Injury Severity, Analyzer-Traumatic Brain Injury, MEQU Fluid Warmer, Infrascanner 2500, and SymVess. MDD also addressed several program-impacting issues with FDA, leading to successful milestones.

The Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Medical team, led by U.S. Army Col. Matthew Clark, joint project manager for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Medical, was recognized in the category, "Enhancing Military Medical Readiness through Global Health Engagement and Research."

The JPM CBRN Medical team is recognized for excellence in support of their efforts increasing warfighter readiness and reducing operational risk from chemical agents. They have received seven FDA-approved products; four this year alone. Much of the recent success of the JPM CBRN Medical can be attributed to the "Year of the Integrated Product Team (IPT)" initiative the team kicked off in 2023, and its strong focus on an integrated master schedule and schedule management. The Year of the IPT highlighted that quality is essential for success.

Several other awards will be presented during the week-long symposium. The Young Investigator Competition will be held during the conference to honor three top investigators. More than 1,400 scientific posters will be presented during MHSRS, and top poster presenters will be recognized by their peers.

Visit the 2025 MHSRS spotlight page on Health.mil for more news and highlights from this symposium and engage with us on social media using the #MHSRS2025.

Military Medical Research Must Evolve with the Battlefield, Says DoD Health Affairs Leader at MHSRS 2025

Dr. Stephen Ferrara Urges Agility, Innovation, and Real-World Testing to Save Lives in Future Conflicts at the 2025 Military Health System Research Symposium (MHSRS).

August 4, 2025 by Sharon Holland, USU News

The 2025 Military Health System Research Symposium (MHSRS) kicked off this week in Kissimmee, Florida, with a powerful keynote address from Dr. Stephen Ferrara, acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and a 1995 graduate of the Uniformed Services University's School of Medicine.

The symposium drew a 15% increase in abstract submissions over last year, with 3,744 abstracts submitted across 69 scientific topic areas aligned with four focus areas: warfighter medical readiness, expeditionary medicine, warfighter performance, and return to duty. After rigorous peer review, 473 oral presentations and nearly 400 posters were selected, showcasing cutting-edge research that supports the health and performance of service members worldwide.



Dr. Stephen Ferrara, acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, delivered a powerful keynote address to kick off the 2025 MHSRS. (Photo credit: Zachary Willis, USU)

Speaking to the more than 3,300 attendees at the meeting, Ferrara underscored the critical role of military medical research in both saving lives on the battlefield and shaping national and global health outcomes.

“Whether you're in a lab or you're in a field hospital, or you're leading an operational test meeting, you're part of the system that directly affects the ability to save lives on the battlefield,” Ferrara said. “Your work does more than serve the warfighter. It shapes our nation in profound and lasting ways.”

He highlighted how innovations born in military medicine—ranging from vaccine development and trauma care to prosthetics, brain injury treatment, and biosurveillance—have transformed civilian healthcare and

bolstered public health resilience.

But Ferrara warned that the next fight will look nothing like the last. “The battlefield is changing quickly,” he said. “The front lines are everywhere. And in this new environment, everything and everyone is a target.”

To address those challenges, Ferrara laid out three priorities: sustaining life-saving medical skills in degraded environments, strengthening force readiness and resilience, and delivering connected, adaptable care before, during, and after injury. He emphasized the importance of agility and innovation in research, development, and field-testing.

“We need to design, test, and field medical solutions with this emphasis on agility, adaptability, and speed,” Ferrara said. “It means building tools and systems that don't assume we'll have power, security, or time.”

He cited examples including drone-delivered blood during a military exercise, offline-compatible health records on the USNS Mercy, and advances in regenerative medicine like bioengineered skin. But he emphasized that these innovations must be tested in realistic, chaotic scenarios to ensure they will work when lives depend on them.

Ferrara also spoke to the importance of resilience—both physical and mental—for the force, and noted efforts to embed behavioral health professionals with units, use artificial intelligence for early risk detection, and elevate sleep health and mental readiness as critical components of warfighter performance.

“No medical technology, no matter how advanced, can replace the value of trust, support, and strong leadership,” he said.

Closing his remarks, Ferrara issued a challenge to attendees: “Everything we do in military medicine—every innovation, every policy, every decision—comes back to one question: Can we save a life when it matters most? We must design for the fight we're going to face, not the one we remember. Train in chaos, not in calm. Test technologies under fire, not under fluorescent lights.”

“The answer to that question must be yes.”

SAUSHEC residents, fellows celebrate their achievement at graduation ceremony

By Lori Newman/ Published June 12, 2025, SAN ANTONIO, Texas

The San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium celebrated military medical professionals during a graduation ceremony June 6 at the Scottish Rite Auditorium in downtown San Antonio.

The ceremony honored 250 residents and fellows from 58 diverse physician and allied health specialty programs. SAUSHEC is the organization responsible for military graduate medical education and graduate allied health education in San Antonio with two major training sites at Brooke Army Medical Center and the 59th Medical Wing.



Retired Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Robert Miller, the associate vice president and director of the Military Health Institute, University of Texas Health San Antonio, provides the keynote address during the San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium graduation ceremony at the Scottish Rite Auditorium, downtown San Antonio, June 6, 2025. The ceremony honored 250 residents and fellows from 58 diverse physician and allied health specialty programs. SAUSHEC is the organization responsible for military graduate medical education and graduate allied health education in San Antonio with two major training sites at Brooke Army Medical Center and the 59th Medical Wing. (DOD Photo by James Camillocci)

directly address these unique healthcare needs and give back to the community that shaped me.”

Abdul Raheem chose pediatrics because it allows her to support families at “foundational moments” and partner with them in promoting lifelong health.

“From a young age, I understood how powerful it can be when a physician earns a family’s trust — my own family, initially skeptical of healthcare, was transformed by the kindness and clarity of a pediatrician who took the time to listen and explain,” she said. “That moment stayed with me and ultimately shaped my desire to be the kind of physician who meets families where they are.”

“Military pediatrics deepens this calling,” Abdul Raheem said. “I am drawn to the opportunity to care for children navigating not only developmental milestones but also the challenges of frequent relocations, disrupted continuity, and fragmented care across states and countries. The ability to build trust, foster resilience, and extend care globally is why I chose this field and why I find it endlessly meaningful.”

“My residency at SAUSHEC has been incredibly rewarding and transformative,” she added. “I am deeply grateful for the friendships, mentorship, grit, and professional growth I’ve experienced here, and look forward to continuing my journey to improve healthcare for military families.”

The keynote speaker at the graduation was retired Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Robert Miller, the associate vice president and director of the Military Health Institute, University of Texas Health San Antonio. Miller was the Surgeon General for the Air Force and Space Force prior to retiring after serving 39 years in the military.

“It truly is my honor to be here today,” Miller said as he congratulated the graduates and welcomed their families. “Enjoy every moment and know how important you are to the Military Health System,” he said.

The former surgeon general shared three key lessons that he said were very important to him.

“Number one, enjoy every step of this amazing journey,” Miller said. “Every day is a good day, just some days are better than others. I really think that’s true.”

“It’s been a long road,” said Dr. Mark True, SAUSHEC dean. “If you count all the way back through all of the school, even back to kindergarten, your training years total up to 24 to 28 years.”

True reminded the graduates that they are ready for independent practice.

“You are now the authority for the care you provide to your patients and with this authority comes great responsibility,” True said. “We know you will rise excellently to this occasion.”

The dean also praised the instructors for their efforts. “I’d like to take a moment to acknowledge that our graduates would not be able to walk across this stage without the tireless efforts of our program directors and our faculty, and also our program coordinators.”

True told the graduates that their instructors would continue to guide and support them as they move forward in their careers.

“I want you to know that these program directors and faculty are not going away to be a remnant of your past,” True said. “They all remain committed to you as you move forward in your careers. Dial a mentor is a real thing, and I encourage you to stay connected.”

Air Force Capt. Jareatha Abdul Raheem said she chose a career in military medicine because of her family’s strong ties to the military.

“My mom, uncles and grandfather all served,” she said. “Growing up in a military family gave me deep insight into the unique challenges and needs military families face, especially military children. I felt drawn to medicine as a way to



Military medical professionals prepare to participate in the San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium graduation ceremony at the Scottish Rite Auditorium, downtown San Antonio, June 6, 2025. The ceremony honored 250 residents and fellows from 58 diverse physician and allied health specialty programs. SAUSHEC is the organization responsible for military graduate medical education and graduate allied health education in San Antonio with two major training sites at Brooke Army Medical Center and the 59th Medical Wing. (DOD Photo by James Camillocci)

Continued from page 10

Miller also encouraged the graduates to learn about their service culture and what makes the military special.

The second thing was to be a “continuous learner.”

“That’s the beauty of the Military Health System, you have options,” Miller said. “Some of you may stay clinical and we need you to do that, some of you may go leadership, some of you may want to do research and development, education and training; it doesn't matter, but you have those opportunities, and you can go back and forth. So, the bottom-line is don't close any doors, burn any bridges, keep all opportunities open.”

Miller said the third lesson was the most important of all – “family comes first.”

“I believe that with all my heart, because we ask a lot of each of you to live by the core values, and that's 24-7, and it's not just when you're at work, and it's not just when you're in uniform,” he said. “Behind all of that is family. That is the family that you work with, but even more importantly, it's the family at home.”

“Know that I'm very proud of each of you,” Miller concluded. “I wish you all the very best, and once again, I cannot stress enough how important you are to our country, the future of the DOD, the future of the Military Health System. What you do matters.”

Along with the graduation certificates, several awards were presented during the ceremony.

Commanders Research Awards:

Allied Health Research: Army Maj. Alexander W. Kenney, Surgery and Critical Care physician assistant, “Determining Transfusion Threshold for Mortality Benefit in Patients Receiving Whole Blood after Trauma”

Resident Animal Basic Science Research: Army Maj. Franklin A. Valdera, General Surgery, “Wound Healing and Antimicrobial Properties of Synthetic Platelets with Gentamicin in Porcine Burns”

Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (QIPS) Research:

1st Place: Air Force Maj. Amanda V. Radtke, Sleep Medicine, “Enhancing Identification and Diagnosis of Nightmare Disorder in Active-Duty Patients at a Sleep Disorders Center”

2nd Place: Air Force Maj. James R. Kang, Sleep Medicine, “Enhancing Primary Care Detection and Referral of Nightmare Disorder: A Quality Improvement Initiative”

3rd Place: Air Force Maj. Aaron P. Burch, Sleep Medicine, “Improving Detection of Bedtime Procrastination in the Military Population: A Quality Improvement Project”

Resident Medical Research:

1st Place: Air Force Capt. Elena M. Crouch, Internal Medicine, “Impact of SARS-CoV-2 Infection on Physical Fitness in Air Force Basic Trainees”

2nd Place: Army Capt. Madison T. Crum, Obstetrics/Gynecology, “Advanced Cervical Neoplasia Rates in Young Service Members; Implications of Primary HPV Screening for Military Readiness”

Resident Surgical Research:

1st Place: Air Force Maj. Elizabeth L. Barbera, General Surgery, “Randomized Placebo-Controlled Phase 2B Trial of the TLPO versus TLPLDC Vaccines to Prevent Recurrence of Resected Stage III/IV Melanoma: A 36-Month Analysis”

2nd Place: Army Maj. Christina S. Lee, General Surgery, “Vascular Reconstruction and Limb Loss in Military Tibial Artery Injuries”

3rd Place: Air Force Capt. Mikalyn T. DeFoor, Orthopedic Surgery, “Novel 3D MRI-Based Volumetric Assessment of Rotator Cuff Musculature Demonstrates Stronger Correlation with Preoperative Functional Status When Compared to the Goutallier Grading Scheme”

Fellow Clinical Research:

1st Place: Army Maj. William J. Moore III, Pulmonary/Critical Care, “Bronchoalveolar Lavage Fluid Cytology of Deployed Military Personnel with Chronic Respiratory Symptoms”

2nd Place: Air Force Maj. Matthew A. Tunzi, Cardiology, “Catheter Ablation for Typical Atrial Flutter in Tactical Athletes”

3rd Place: Air Force Capt. Emma N. Prichard, Neonatology, “A Qualitative Study on How Neonatologists Discuss Resuscitation Decisions with Parents”

The HouseStaff Hall of Fame Award began in 2015 to recognize the outstanding fellow and resident who have exceeded their peers in the area of scholarly activity, particularly publication of manuscripts and presentation of research at scientific meetings throughout their training.

Quality Improvement Patient Safety: Army Capt. Caitlin C. Bettger, Infectious Disease

Resident: Air Force Capt. Mikalyn T. DeFoor, Orthopaedic Surgery

Fellow: Army Maj. William J. Moore III, Pulmonary Critical Care

Outstanding Merit Awards: Maj. Gillespie Award: Presented to the SAUSHEC intern who best exemplifies excellence in medical knowledge, clinical judgement and professionalism.

Air Force Capt. Eleanor P. Iodice, Transitional Year

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Maj. David Berry Award: This award is presented to the graduating SAUSHEC resident who best exemplifies the spirit and character of Maj Dave Berry, which include superb professional competence; outstanding collegial relations as a teacher, mentor and consultant and an exemplary ability to balance personal and professional life.

Air Force Capt. Mikalyn T. DeFoor, Orthopaedic Surgery

Col. Donald Null Award: This award is presented to a graduating SAUSHEC fellow. Null is a retired Air Force Neonatologist, whose team at Wilford Hall in the 1980s and 90s developed many of the therapies which are routinely used to care for critically ill newborns today.

Air Force Maj. Vishaka R. Hatcher, Allergy/Immunology

Col. Woodson Scott Jones Award: The Outstanding Junior Graduate Allied Health Trainee.

Army Lt. Lindsay E. Jensen, Surgery & Critical Care Physician Assistant Residency

Col. John L. Chitwood Award: The Outstanding Senior Graduate Allied Health Trainee Award.

Air Force Maj. Caley M. Kropp, Military Readiness Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship

Ylda Benavides Award: Outstanding Program Coordinator Award. Sharrian M. Riley-Agostino, Transitional Year Program Coordinator

Col. Gail M. Deyle Award: Graduate Allied Health Education program director of the year.

Army Maj. Natalia H. Cardona, Army Clinical Psychology Residency

Col. John D. Roscelli Award: This award recognizes the outstanding SAUSHEC program director.

Air Force Col. Brian Neubauer, Internal Medicine



Air Force Brig. Gen. Gwendolyn Foster, 59th Medical Wing commander, presents Air Force Capt. Mikalyn DeFoor, Orthopaedic Surgery resident, the Maj. David Berry Award during the San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium graduation ceremony at the Scottish Rite Auditorium, downtown San Antonio, June 6, 2025. This award is presented to the graduating SAUSHEC resident who best exemplifies the spirit and character of Maj. Dave Berry, which include superb professional competence; outstanding collegial relations as a teacher, mentor and consultant and an exemplary ability to balance personal and professional life. (DOD Photo by James Camillocci)

NAMRU SA research immunologist presents research at scientific seminar

By Burrell Parmer / Published May 14, 2025, JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas,

Research scientists and staff personnel assigned to Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio and the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research attended a scientific seminar held at the Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute.

Dr. Dao Ho, a research immunologist assigned to NAMRU San Antonio's Cellular and Immune Based Adjuncts Department presented research titled, "Evaluation of Blood Products and Therapeutics using In Vitro Models of Endotheliopathy."

CIBACC, a subordinate department under the Combat Casualty Care and Operational Medicine directorate, conducts research on stem cell and immune based therapeutics intended to improve war fighter outcomes and survival.

NAMRU San Antonio's participation in the scientific seminar allows research scientists the opportunity to connect with fellow researchers, healthcare professionals, and partners for knowledge sharing.

As a leader in military medical research, NAMRU San Antonio routinely showcases its capabilities via presentations at various meetings and conferences. These opportunities open the doors for future growth of collaborations for research in the development of solutions to advancing warfighter readiness and lethality.

NAMRU San Antonio, part of Navy Medicine Research & Development, conducts gap-driven combat casualty care, craniofacial, and directed energy research in support of Navy, Marine Corps and joint U.S. warfighter health readiness and lethality while engaged in routine and expeditionary operations.



NAMRU San Antonio researchers continue studies on portable ozone sterilizer

By Burrell Parmer / Published June 10, 2025, JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas

Research scientists assigned to Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio are conducting ongoing research on a portable device with the capability of sterilizing medical instruments on the battlefield or in austere environments which will help in the treatment and recovery of wounded warfighters.



JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON – (May 22, 2025) – SteriO3 CEO Dr. Steve Hughes (center) delivered the third generation of the Rugged Ozone Sterilization System Model M1 (ROSS M1) to Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU) San Antonio principal investigator Andres Martinez Murillo and research scientist Tarea Burton at the Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute. NAMRU San Antonio researcher will test the flexibility, portability, and efficiency of the ROSS M1 against multiple species of harmful microorganisms helps to promote and maintain medical and military readiness, especially in austere environments. Navy Medicine Research & Development (NMR&D) employs highly qualified medical researchers and works alongside a wide range of research and development partners to keep abreast of best practices and advances in medical knowledge on behalf of Navy Medicine to increase warfighter lethality. NAMRU San Antonio, part of NMR&D, conducts gap-driven combat casualty care, craniofacial, and directed energy research in support of Navy, Marine Corps and joint U.S. warfighter health readiness and lethality while engaged in routine and expeditionary operations. (U.S. Navy Photo by Burrell Parmer, NAMRU San Antonio Public Affairs/Released)

injured and help improve the survival rate by reducing the likelihood of infection with proper sterilization,” Murillo said. “Additionally, it is important to test the sterilization of 3D print materials and other heat sensitive materials as it would allow for these items to be generated on-demand in forward and austere settings, where it may not be viable to receive tools through normal logistics.”

According to Murillo, a graduate of Rice and John Hopkins Universities, there are many different types of sterilizers currently being used: steam, chemical (chlorine dioxide, peracetic acid, or glutaraldehyde), gas (ethylene oxide).

“Most of these units, such as the Big Bertha Steam Sterilizer, require multiple personnel to mobilize while the ROSS M1 can be carried by one person,” Murillo said.

NAMRU San Antonio has been collaborating with SteriO3 since 2021 with the third generation of the ROSS M1 being delivered by SteriO3 representatives on May 22, 2025.

“The third iteration prototype provided to us generates ozone and nebulizes hydrogen peroxide into a vapor in the chamber,” Murillo said. “The thing that makes it better than the previous version is that it has updated hardware and pipe system, so it no longer runs on Arduino code. Because of this, the system is lighter and able to be updated through Wi-Fi, allowing for the cycles to be more modular and allow us to test for the optimal settings for sterilization.”

Partnering with SteriO3, the Rugged Ozone Sterilization System Model M1 (ROSS M1) will enable combat medics, corpsmen, dentists and surgical personnel to sterilize instruments needed for dentistry and surgery, utilizing a process that would sanitize the medical instruments within an hour.

To maintain medical and military readiness, the ROSS M1, was tested on its capability to effectively eliminate a broad spectrum of pathogens, including bacteria and fungi.

Additionally, 3D printed instruments are being tested, allowing for seamless integration and sterilization of custom-designed tools and components, enhancing its utility and adaptability for specialized needs.

“The ROSS M1 generates ozone and vaporized hydrogen peroxide that allows the sterilization of medical and dental instruments in the field,” said Andres Martinez Murillo, principal investigator for the portable ozone project. “The sterilizer is light enough to be carried by medical personnel, has enough space for a dental cassette (a storage box for holding dental materials to allow for sterilization access), and utilizes a small amount of hydrogen peroxide to sterilize instruments.”

Testing the flexibility, portability, and efficiency against multiple species of harmful microorganisms helps to promote and maintain medical and military readiness, especially in austere environments.

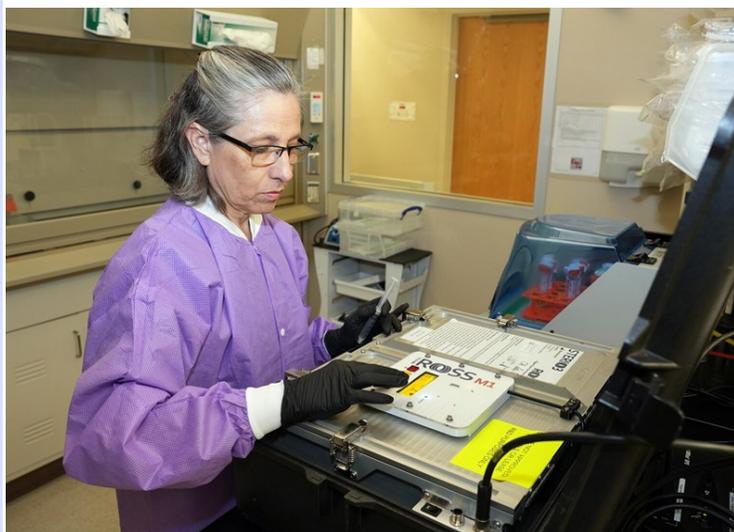
“The ability to sterilize on demand will allow treatment of the critically



JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON – (May 22, 2025) – Josh Johnston, SteriO3 project manager, joined by SteriO3 CEO Dr. Steve Hughes, provides instructions on updating the software on the Rugged Ozone Sterilization System Model M1 (ROSS M1) to Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU) San Antonio principal investigator Andres Martinez Murillo (left) and research scientist Tarea Burton at the Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute. Navy Medicine Research & Development (NMR&D) employs highly qualified medical researchers and works alongside a wide range of research and development partners to keep abreast of best practices and advances in medical knowledge on behalf of Navy Medicine to increase warfighter lethality. NAMRU San Antonio has been collaborating with SteriO3 since 2021. NAMRU San Antonio, part of NMR&D, conducts gap-driven combat casualty care, craniofacial, and directed energy research in support of Navy, Marine Corps and joint U.S. warfighter health readiness and lethality while engaged in routine and expeditionary operations. (U.S. Navy Photo by Burrell Parmer, NAMRU San Antonio Public Affairs/Released)

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“Additionally, the system now has an ozone sensor, humidity, and temperature sensor that lets us know how much ozone was generated per run, and the data can be archived,” Murillo added. “Lastly, the nebulizer system was modified to output the vaporized hydrogen peroxide through three nozzles rather than just one for a potentially more even spray throughout the system.”



JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON – (June 5, 2025) – Tarea Burton, of Lexington, Ky., a research scientist assigned to Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU) San Antonio’s Combat Casualty Care and Operational Medicine directorate, utilizes the third generation of the Rugged Ozone Sterilization System Model M1 (ROSS M1) to sterilize medical instruments at the Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute. The ROSS M1 is a portable unit that generates ozone and vaporized hydrogen peroxide for the on-demand sterilization of a variety of medical instruments. Partnering with SteriO3 since 2021, the ROSS M1 will enable combat medics, corpsmen, dentists and surgical personnel to sterilize instruments needed for dentistry and surgery, utilizing a process that would sanitize the medical instruments within an hour. Burton, who earned her Master of Science in Biology from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in 2019, has been supporting NAMRU San Antonio for 11 years. Navy Medicine Research & Development (NMR&D) employs highly qualified medical researchers and works alongside a wide range of research and development partners to keep abreast of best practices and advances in medical knowledge on behalf of Navy Medicine to increase warfighter lethality. NAMRU San Antonio, part of NMR&D, conducts gap-driven combat casualty care, craniofacial, and directed energy research in support of Navy, Marine Corps and joint U.S. warfighter health readiness and lethality while engaged in routine and expeditionary operations. (U.S. Navy Photo by Burrell Parmer, NAMRU San Antonio Public Affairs/Released)



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The next primary steps for the study will be to challenge the ROSS M1 against fungal and other bacterial strains, test mechanical properties of the 3D printed instruments after exposure to sterilization gas in addition to complex dental and surgical instruments (such as items with hinges), evaluate the life of the battery, and conduct multiple back-to-back runs and environmental testing.

Navy Medicine Research & Development (NMR&D) employs highly qualified medical researchers and works alongside a wide range of research and development partners to keep abreast of best practices and advances in medical knowledge on behalf of Navy Medicine to increase warfighter lethality.

NAMRU San Antonio, part of NMR&D, conducts gap-driven combat casualty care, craniofacial, and directed energy research in support of Navy, Marine Corps and joint U.S. warfighter health readiness and lethality while engaged in routine and expeditionary operations.

For USAISR Burn Flight Team, training and education are part of the mission

By Paul Lagasse / Published July 30, 2025, FORT DETRICK, Maryland

Since its founding in 1951, the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Flight Team has conducted aeromedical evacuations for thousands of burn patients around the world.

Renowned for its ability to deploy a fully equipped team of critical care specialists with just a few hours’ notice, the BFT relies on a rigorous training and education regimen to maintain its proficiency and readiness.

No less important to that objective is the BFT’s commitment to provide training to other military medical forces to ensure they are ready and able to sustain the health, survivability, and lethality of the force in any scenario.

To accomplish that, the BFT participates in annual training exercises with active duty and National Guard units to deliver accurate, high-quality training in subjects such as stabilizing casualties at the point of injury, performing triage in mass casualty scenarios, executing patient evacuation in austere conditions, and managing surge operations in the emergency department. Such training provides valuable experience in medical interoperability that will materially increase the chances of survival for injured Warfighters and civil-

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“If the U.S. finds itself in a large-scale combat operation, we want to ensure the military medical community has the knowledge and resources to care for the critically ill burned patient,” said Maj. Stacey Johnson, the BFT’s clinical nurse officer-in-charge. “We support training exercises to train our partner forces and to inform them of the resources the Burn Flight Team and the USAISR Burn Center provide for the joint force.”



Members of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Flight Team work with a U.S. Air Force Critical Care Air Transport team provide care to a simulated patient during a joint training exercise aboard a cargo aircraft.

Recently, BFT members joined Air Force Critical Care Air Transport teams from the 59th Medical Wing, National Guard units from five states, and multiple civilian agencies including NASA to participate in the National Guard’s annual Air X training exercise – one of the largest civil-military aviation search and rescue training exercises in the nation.

Working alongside the CCAT teams, the BFT flew six simulated critically ill patients from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland to Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base in Houston. They then transported the patients to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital in Houston by civilian medical transport helicopters, a military MEDEVAC unit, and ground ambulances.

Last month, another group of BFT members participated in the week-long Joint Emergency Medical Exercise 2025, the Army’s largest medical training exercise, which took place at Fort Hood, Texas.

One of the key objectives of JEMX is to train military medical personnel in providing prolonged care close to the point of injury in LSCO scenarios where rapid evacuation may not be possible. During JEMX, the BFT provided training in the management of burn casualties to more than 150 medics, corpsmen, and medical officers from the Royal Netherlands Army, the UAE Armed Forces, and the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.



A member of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Flight Team joins other trainees in an altitude chamber as part of the Initial Critical Care Air Transport Course. All BFT members complete the rigorous CCAT training course as part of their qualifications to serve on the team.

“Some units are not aware that the DOD has a Burn Flight Team, so our presence at those trainings gives them a good idea of why we exist and what we do,” said Sgt. Knight Licos, a respiratory therapist who participated in his first Air X this year. “It’s also good experience for me. I recently graduated respiratory school and hadn’t been exposed to Role 1 and Role 2 care in a theater environment. Air X gave me an opportunity to better understand the types of care we normally don’t encounter in a Role 4 facility like the USAISR Burn Center.”



Members of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Flight Team pose for a group photo with members of the U.S. Air Force’s 59th Medical Wing during a training exercise.

Maj. Christopher Corkins, one of the BFT’s burn surgeons, agrees, noting that training exercises provide an invaluable opportunity to develop connections with military medical experts in other specialties as well as one’s own. Those connections benefit patients, too.

“Military medicine is a small world,” Corkins said. “I’ve met many people at Fort Sam Houston who I would see later on deployments. That plus the repetitive nature of the training and communication between the teams makes it easier for us to conduct handoffs and continue caring for the patient seamlessly.”

Training exercises also provide opportunities for the BFT to test their ability to anticipate and plan for the unexpected. For example, during this year’s Air X, the team flew the simulated patients to Ellington Field aboard an Air Force C-17 Globemaster III cargo plane that had an aeromedical evacuation crew to help them install their medical equipment and a built-in oxygen system that they could plug it into.

The return flight, however, took place on a smaller C-130 Hercules, which did not have an AE crew or a built-in oxygen system in the cargo area. Thanks to prior planning, they were well-practiced in installing and activating their own equipment on the plane, and they brought along sufficient portable oxygen to last the patients for the duration of the flight. That kind of preparation is crucial for successful urgent burn care missions in the real world – whether caring for the victim of an accident, a natural disaster, or combat.

“Every mission and every training exercise is different,” Johnson said. “You’re going to a different location; you’re communicating with different people. Knowing that in advance enables you to be ready to figure things out as you go, mission by mission, and then pass that knowledge down to your counterparts on the team so that everybody learns something. Because it’s guaranteed that you will learn something every time.”

Altus AFB KC-46 delivers airpower in Vapor Trails exercise

08.25.2025 | Story by Airman 1st Class Lauren Torres, 97th Air Mobility Wing, San Antonio, TX

The 56th Air Refueling Squadron took off from Altus Air Force Base in support of the joint medical exercise “Vapor Trails” at Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas, Aug. 21, 2025.



Photo By Airman 1st Class Lauren Torres | Airmen gather around medical simulation mannequins on a KC-46 Pegasus aircraft during “Vapor Trails” at Kelly Airfield, San Antonio, Texas, Aug. 21, 2025. The aircraft’s reconfigurable design allowed aeromedical evacuation and critical care air transport teams to practice loading patients, operating medical equipment, and coordinating care in-flight. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Torres)

Vapor Trails is a joint mass-casualty and medical readiness exercise designed to enhance aeromedical evacuation and critical care air transport capabilities. The event brings together medical teams, flight crews and support personnel from across the Air Force.

The 56th ARS worked alongside aeromedical evacuation specialists from the 137th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base, and critical care air transport teams, also known as CCATT, from the 59th Medical Wing at Joint Base San Antonio. The air crew conducted rapid takeoffs and flight operations to provide CCATT members with in-flight experiences they often would not receive until faced with a real-world mission.

“Training on the KC-46, as opposed to the C-130 or C-17, presented unique challenges for the teams and gave them a chance to broaden their aircraft knowledge,” said Lt. Col. Jeff Carlson, 137th AES senior flight nurse examiner. “Building those muscle memories with each platform helps the teams become more proficient and deliver a higher level of patient care.”

During the exercise, the KC-46 Pegasus demonstrated its flexibility as an air mobility platform. The aircraft was reconfigured by adding flat pallets and removing cargo tracks to create a safe, open area for medical teams to move around. This allowed it to support aeromedical evacuation and critical care missions, showcasing how quickly it can transition from fuel operations to patient transport.

“Flying the KC-46 in this role is unique,” said Staff Sgt. Danika Vance, 56th ARS instructor boom operator. “There’s an added layer of responsibility knowing the lives of critically injured or ill patients depend on a stable, smooth flight environment. Every maneuver, altitude change or turbulence encounter directly affects the medical team’s ability to provide care.”

Exercises like Vapor Trails replicate the stress of real-world missions, forcing crews and medical teams to adapt and problem-solve together. Training side by side strengthens joint partnerships and ensures Airmen are prepared to deliver safe, effective patient care in any environment.

METC, partners get realistic dementia experience

By Lisa Braun / Published Aug. 5, 2025, JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas

Thirty volunteers assigned to the Medical Education and Training Campus, Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute, Navy Medicine Training Support Command, 32d Medical Brigade, and the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence recently had the opportunity to personally experience the daily challenges that cognitively impaired people face by participating in an innovative, immersive dementia simulation presented by a team from the Veterans Health Administration.

Presented in partnership with the VHA SimLEARN Simulation Center, the Dementia Experience provides firsthand insight into the day-to-day sensory and cognitive challenges faced by individuals living with dementia and physical impairments through a carefully controlled environment.

The experience supports staff in enhancing clinical care and improving outcomes by deepening their understanding of the physical and cognitive changes associated with the condition. Participants take part in a perception-altering simulation that mirrors the experience of someone with dementia.

“By simulating impairments such as confusion, difficulty walking, and altered sensory perception, participants gain a deeper understanding of how dementia impacts daily life and behaviors,” explained Traci Ashworth, MSN, RN, CHSE, Simulation Program Manager with the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System who was with the team that hosted the Dementia Experience at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas, on July 23.

“Ultimately, the Dementia Experience fosters a shift from task-focused care to person-centered care, transforming how caregivers and providers engage with those living with dementia,” added Ashworth.

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Air Force Col. Andria Sharp, METC's Associate Dean for Academic Support, who coordinated the Dementia Experience event with the VA team, described how volunteers were equipped with devices that impaired balance, dexterity, hearing, and vision, and caused overall sensory degradation. Volunteers were then given three detailed, verbal tasks to complete. "The experience reminded us that patients with dementia have difficulty remembering multi-step instructions," she edified. "They may also experience visual and auditory hallucinations and require additional assistance with tasks and instructions."



Maj. Carolina Wentworth (right), METC Army Dental Specialist Course Director, attempts to perform an individual task under impaired conditions while participating in the Dementia Experience. The Dementia Experience is an innovative, immersive dementia simulation that allows participants to personally experience the daily challenges that cognitively impaired people face.

tion to 46 other allied health career fields.

According to Keith Hall, METC's Chief of Strategic Planning and Partnerships, METC is partnering to support the ICT Program and its leaders with knowledge sharing and potentially more. Such a partnership will offer several benefits, including a better understanding among the



A group of Medical Education Training Campus and service partner volunteers receive individual instructions for tasks to perform as they participate in the Dementia Experience, an innovative, immersive dementia simulation that allows participants to personally experience the daily challenges that cognitively impaired people face.

Army Maj. Carolina Wentworth, METC Army Dental Specialist Course Director, shared that it was eye opening to see the difficulty that dementia patients could have completing everyday tasks, even more so on a personal level.

"It opened my eyes to how isolating this disease can be and how difficult it is for them to communicate or express certain emotions when there is a constant sensory overload," said Wentworth. "It taught me to be more patient and analyze the way we communicate with my family member that is affected by this disease."

"The Dementia Experience leaves a lasting impression, fostering empathy and a profound awareness of the daily realities faced by patients with dementia," Ashworth said. "This perspective will shape how participants continue to provide or adapt their approach to compassionate, patient-centered care."

METC's participation in the Dementia Experience was part of a larger effort towards partnering with the Veterans Affairs National Intermediate Care Technician Program. An Intermediate Care Technician, or ICT, is a military-trained medic or corpsman who receives additional VA-specific training and then delivers healthcare services to veterans within the VA health care system. The ICT Program is a free training, upskilling, and hiring initiative for former active duty, and former and current National Guard and reserve component military medics.

As the Department of Defense's premiere schoolhouse for enlisted medical training, METC trains Army combat medics, Navy hospital corpsmen, and Air Force medical technicians in addition



Army Staff Sgt. Brandi Seif, METC operations staff, attempts to perform an individual task under impaired conditions while participating in the Dementia Experience. The Dementia Experience is an innovative, immersive dementia simulation that allows participants to personally experience the daily challenges that cognitively impaired people face.

VA ICT leadership of how METC trains

its military medics; and through the Dementia Experience, enabling military medics to better care for aging veterans. Military medics who become ICTs will participate in the Dementia Experience as part of their training with the VA.

"Not only does this partnership enable broader marketing and awareness of the VA ICT Program, but more National Guard and reserve component medics, who make up about one-third of METC graduates, will be able to secure relevant employment as VA ICTs with great benefits following graduation from a METC medic courses or after transitioning from military service," Hall stated. "A larger percentage of National Guard and reserve component medics will have a higher level of medical proficiency when called upon."

As part of the ICT Program, the Dementia Experience helps METC faculty, staff, and other military partners better understand the patient populations ICTs may encounter. This insight strengthens the collaboration and supports the partnership effort.

Navy Tactical Combat Casualty Care program director recognized with civilian awards

By Malcolm McClendon / Published Aug. 4, 2025, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas,

Cmdr. Thomas Sather, director for the Naval Medical Forces Development Command's Tactical Combat Casualty Care program, has been recognized with two prestigious awards for his pivotal role in revolutionizing life support and medical training for both military and civilian personnel.

Sather recently received the American Red Cross Chairpersons' Award for his significant contributions to the Red Cross Scientific Advisory Council. He was also honored by the Aerospace Medical Association with the Aerospace Physiology Society's Fred A. Hitchcock Award for his outstanding performance as a senior aerospace physiologist.



Cmdr. Thomas Sather, director of the Naval Medical Forces Development Command's Tactical Combat Casualty Care program, displays his recent civilian awards at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Aug. 1, 2025. Sather was presented the American Red Cross Chairpersons' Award for his significant contributions to the Red Cross Scientific Advisory Council, and recognized the Aerospace Medical Association with the Aerospace Physiology Society's Fred A. Hitchcock Award for his outstanding performance as a senior aerospace physiologist. (U.S. Navy photo by Malcolm McClendon)

"I'm very honored to have received these awards," Sather said. "And I feel incredibly blessed to be at NMFDC, working with exceptional people and mentors who empower me to pursue my passion."

A key initiative Sather is spearheading at NMFDC is the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery's TCCC program and ensuring it is incorporated at all levels of learning within the Navy Medicine Enterprise. A task he says synergizes well with his work with the American Red Cross.

"The American Red Cross has supported the military, veterans, and their families since 1896 going back to the Spanish-American War. My current role as Chairperson of the American Red Cross Scientific Advisory Council's education sub-council allows me to integrate lessons learned from civilian emergency medicine, first responders, disaster preparedness and even everyday situations like lifeguarding and babysitting, to create a comprehensive and adaptable training framework for military-specific needs."

This collaboration also allows Sather to contribute to another NMFDC initiative - the shift towards an integrated learning environment or blended learning approach for medical training within the NME. This

method combines online cognitive learning with hands-on skills training facilitated by advanced technology.

"The medical community is able to use what's known as the 'integrated learning environment' or the blended learning approach where you learn all the cognitive or didactic materials first using online curricula," he explained. "After that, you would come in and do face-to-face skills training with an instructor/mentor and then you would test out for certification."

By incorporating such innovative approaches, Sather and the team aim to enhance the development and delivery of training for naval medical professionals, NMFDC's commander said.

"These will save significant time and money, and crucially, increase the availability of Navy doctors, nurses, physicians' assistants and corpsmen by reducing their time confined to traditional classrooms," Rear Adm. Walter Brafford, said. "The team is also testing and researching augmented and virtual reality platforms to provide our medical professionals with close-to-real-life scenarios give us a cutting edge in how we develop, train, educate and prepare them for the fleet, keeping our warfighters safe and prepared for any operational environment." Sather winning these two prestigious awards speaks to the caliber of professionals here at NMFDC that ensure we stay on mission, Brafford added.

For Sather, his work extends far beyond accolades. "If I don't do my job right at NMFDC and with TCCC, the people in the future battle space may lack the knowledge, skill or application to save someone's life, and I do not want that on my conscience," he concluded.

"Our team constantly strives to stay on the leading edge, working smarter, and delivering high-quality products in optimal time to support the Surgeon General, Combatant Commands, the Chief of Naval Operations and basically everybody who puts on a uniform and goes forward."

NAMRU San Antonio leadership, research scientists participate in annual AIM Health R&D Summit

By Burrell Parmer / Published June 17, 2025, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Leadership and research scientists assigned to Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio, joined by the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, and U.S. Air Force 59th Medical Wing, participated in the annual AIM Health R&D Summit held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center.

Designed to promote cross-sector collaboration in the development of life-saving battlefield technologies, the one-day summit brought together top innovators from academia, industry, and the military to accelerate the research, development, and commercialization of transformative medical technologies.



SAN ANTONIO – (June 16, 2025) – Juan Curbelo, a research associate assigned to NAMRU San Antonio's Cellular and Immune Based Adjuncts (CIBACC) Department, presented research titled, "In Vitro Vascular Endothelial Response to Novel Whole Blood Analogue for Resuscitation" at the annual AIM Health R&D Summit held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. CIBACC, a subordinate department under the Combat Casualty Care and Operational Medicine directorate, conducts research on stem cell and immune based therapeutics intended to improve war fighter outcomes and survival. Collaborating and working alongside a wide range of research and development partners keeps Navy Medicine Research & Development (NMR&D) abreast of best practices and advances in medical knowledge. (U.S. Navy photo by Burrell Parmer, NAMRU San Antonio Public Affairs/Released)



SAN ANTONIO – (June 16, 2025) – Phylisia Dimas, a research associate assigned to Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU) San Antonio's Combat Casualty Care and Operational Medicine directorate, presented research on the "Protection of the Injured Endothelium by FDA-Approved and Experimental Drugs in In Vitro Models" at the San Antonio Military Health and Universities Research Forum Podium Session on Trauma – Preclinical Studies during the annual AIM Health R&D Summit held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. (U.S. Navy photo by Burrell Parmer, NAMRU San Antonio Public Affairs/Released)

Opening ceremonies began with the presentation of the colors by the University of Texas at San Antonio Reserve Officers Training Corps Honor Guard followed by opening remarks from Rene Dominguez, president and CEO of VelocityTX.

Remarks were received by the Honorable Ron Nirenberg, mayor of San Antonio, followed by the keynote address delivered by former Surgeon General of the Air Force and Space Force, retired Lt. Gen. Robert Miller, associate vice president and director of the Military Health Institute at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio.

"We have one of the largest health systems in the world, if not the largest, which has the responsibility to deliver quality medical care and to deliver that healthcare benefit back to active duty, dependents and retirees," Miller said to the attendees. "There is also that readiness mission, that go to war mission, and the Military Health System is the only one that has that two-fold role."

According to Miller, the experience he gained throughout his career and as the Air Force surgeon general provided an understanding of the importance of the San Antonio medical community.

More than nine topics, including Navigating Fiscal Year 2026 for Department of Defense Medical Research, Dual-Use Medical Technology for DoD Operational Medicine and Disaster/Combat Casualty Care, and Future Biodefense, were featured at the summit.

Chief Science Director Dr. Darrin Frye of NAMRU San Antonio, joined by fellow chief scientists from USAISR, 59th MDW, and Research South Texas Veterans Health Care System, participated in an Introduction to Working with San Antonio Federal Medical Research Organizations.

"AIM 2025 gave NAMRU San Antonio a platform to showcase its unique Navy Medicine mission, contrasting and complementing Army and Air Force partner efforts, while fostering new collaborations with academic and industry partners," Frye said. "By providing a command overview, we aimed to foster critical connections with academic and industry subject matter experts and highlight the core and unique capabilities of NAMRU San Antonio, helping to open pathways for collaboration and innovation to advance Navy and joint medical solutions."

Additionally, NAMRU San Antonio researchers participated in a San Antonio Military Health and Universities Research Forum Podium Session and Innovation Meets Connection Session where researchers participated in science poster presentations.

Collaborating and working alongside a wide range of research and development partners keeps Navy Medicine Research & Development abreast of best practices and advances in medical knowledge.

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NAMRU San Antonio, part of NMR&D conducts gap-driven combat casualty care, craniofacial, and directed energy research in support of Navy, Marine Corps and joint U.S. warfighter health readiness and lethality while engaged in routine and expeditionary operations.



SAN ANTONIO – (June 16, 2025) – Andres Martinez-Murillo, a principal investigator assigned to Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU) San Antonio’s Combat Casualty Care and Operational Medicine directorate, served as a San Antonio Military Health and Universities Research Forum Podium Session co-chair for Trauma – Preclinical Studies during the annual AIM Health R&D Summit held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. (U.S. Navy photo by Burrell Parmer, NAMRU San Antonio Public Affairs/Released)



SAN ANTONIO – (June 16, 2025) – Student interns at Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU) San Antonio, enrolled in the Office of Naval Research’s Naval Research Enterprise Internship Program (NREIP) and Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), attended the annual AIM Health R&D Summit held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. NREIP gives academically talented college students, graduating seniors, and graduate students pursuing STEM careers the opportunity to learn about Naval research and technology while receiving first-class mentoring by top scientists and engineers. ORISE is a U.S. Department of Energy asset that is dedicated to enabling critical scientific, research, and health initiatives of the department and its laboratory system by providing world class expertise in STEM workforce development, scientific and technical reviews, and the evaluation of radiation exposure and environmental contamination. (U.S. Navy photo by Burrell Parmer, NAMRU San Antonio Public Affairs/Released)



SAN ANTONIO – (June 16, 2025) – Dr. Darrin Frye, chief science director, Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU) San Antonio, participated in an Introduction to Working with San Antonio Federal Medical Research Organizations during the annual AIM Health R&D Summit held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. U.S. Navy photo by Burrell Parmer, NAMRU San Antonio Public Affairs/Released)



SAN ANTONIO – (June 16, 2025) – Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Robert Miller, associate vice president and director of the Military Health Institute at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio was the keynote speaker at the annual AIM Health R&D Summit held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. (U.S. Navy photo by Burrell Parmer, NAMRU San Antonio Public Affairs/Released)



SAN ANTONIO – (June 16, 2025) – The Honorable Ron Nirenberg, mayor of San Antonio delivered welcoming remarks at the start of the annual AIM Health R&D Summit held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. (U.S. Navy photo by Burrell Parmer, NAMRU San Antonio Public Affairs/Released)

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SAN ANTONIO – (June 16, 2025) – Rene Dominguez, president and CEO of VelocityTX welcomes military, academic, and industry partners and guest to the annual AIM Health R&D Summit held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. (U.S. Navy photo by Burrell Parmer, NAMRU San Antonio Public Affairs/Released)



SAN ANTONIO – (June 16, 2025) – From left to right: Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU) San Antonio's Commanding Officer Captain Michael Tiller, Medical Corps, Executive Officer Cmdr. Nicholas Hamlin, Dental Corps, and Chief Science Director Dr. Darrin Frye attending the annual AIM Health R&D Summit held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. (U.S. Navy photo by Burrell Parmer, NAMRU San Antonio Public Affairs/Released)

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