



Commander, Naval Medical Logistics Command, Capt. Steve Aboona, Promoted

(Left) Lt.(Ret)., Michael Meadows, MSC, USN, a long-time personal friend and mentor who influenced Capt. Aboona throughout their 21-year friendship dating back to their time at Middle Tennessee State University. Coincidentally, Capt. Tim Richardson (right), holding the shoulder board, also knew Mr. Meadows when they were both in the United States Air Force stationed together in Arizona. Both were present during Capt. Aboona's promotion. Capt. Richardson delivered the oath and Mr. Meadows assisted with the ceremony.



August 19-26, 2019, Naval Ophthalmic Support and Training Activity (NOSTRA) Team members participated in the Wise, VA, Appalachian Care Innovative Readiness Training Health and Wellness Event. NOSTRA personnel fabricated more than 7,000 eye glasses to community members who, in some cases, have never had the ability to see clearly. The above picture shows members of the joint team. NOSTRA personnel were accompanied by Army Reservists in providing care and services.

Naval Medical Logistics Command Celebrates Diversity

During the Naval Medical Logistics Command Diversity Day Celebration, command personnel displayed traditional heritage wear. Pictured below, Gerardo Delacruz and Edgardo Cornejo wear the Barong Tagalog, an embroidered formal shirt and the national dress of the Philippines. It is lightweight and worn untucked over an undershirt. The shirts are made from a variety of indigenous fabrics such as “Piña,” a hand-loomed material from pineapple leaf fibers or “Jusi,” a woven material made from abacá or banana silk. Traditional weavers live in the country, making the delicate, expensive and highly prized cloth.



Marilisse Gonzalez, one of the organizers, shared her comments about the event.

“The command always hosts good displays and activities. I feel we actually had more displays this year than last. I like the fact that it wasn’t just about our ethnic diversity but it followed a specific theme, “What Makes us Unique,” she said.

“The committee really went all-in with the theme. There were displays of individuals’ military heritage and this year, we had a lot of Army representation. We had a table displaying the decade in which some of our co-workers were born (the 1960s). Also, Richard Taylor’s medieval armory was a hit. Plus the Filipino and Puerto Rican displays were great. Above all, the food was phenomenal and there was LOTS OF FOOD!



Naval Ophthalmic Support and Training Activity (NOSTRA) Sailors HM3 Stacy Rodriguez and HN Jose Rivera of the command’s Morale, Welfare and Recreation Committee (MWR) display the unique command coin shaped as a pair of eye glasses. The MWR provides excellent recreational programs for service members and their families. They strive to deliver high-quality customer-focused programs and services that contribute to resiliency, retention, readiness and an improved quality of life for all those who benefit from MWR programs.

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Capt. Steve Aboona

From the Commander

In this issue of *Logistically Speaking*, we take a look back in time. We feature two interesting historical articles, one written by Ms. Barbara Rosenthal, who works in our Medical Equipment and Logistics Solutions (MELS) Directorate. She introduces us to one of her relatives, Dr. John Shaw Billings, a medical pioneer from 1833 to 1913. In addition, Mr. Andre Sobocinski, the historian for the U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED), contributed a historical look back at *The Advent of the Operational Optometrist*. I am certain that you will enjoy both articles.

Speaking of optometry, I had the honor of presiding over the change of command

ceremony in which we said goodbye to Capt. Richard Zeber and welcomed Capt. Marc Herwitz to his current position. In addition to that, we also celebrated the Medical Service Corp's 72nd Birthday. Both are featured in this issue.

Rear Adm. Darin K. Via, MC, USN was the special guest speaker at our 244th Navy Birthday celebration. At this ceremony, we not only reflected on the incredible past of our Navy's history, we also recognized our best and brightest Sailors in our Area of Responsibility. I think you will enjoy the pictures that accompany the text in this photo gallery.

Another ceremony I had the honor of participating in took place during the Navy Medicine Business Operations Training Symposium. It was there that Mario Brito, a member of our MELS directorate, was recognized as the BUMED Civilian Biomedical Equipment Technician of the Year. Mario earned this tremendous award based on his support to 44 Military Treatment Facilities (MTF) and eight non-MTF biomedical engineering divisions across the entire Navy Medicine enterprise.

One of the standing features in *Logistically Speaking* is the Small Business Programs section. Small businesses have been described as the lifeblood of any organization. Knowledge of how to conduct business with the Federal Government is one of the critical resources upon which small businesses focus. This feature describes how information is a resource for small businesses.

As in business, the Government keeps a keen eye on resources. That's why this issue features *An Update on Unauthorized Commitments in FY19*. This article appears in the LogTalk print blog, a section that always contains valuable information critical in helping our reading audience remain up to date.

Of particular interest is our awards section. Each month, I acknowledge command personnel who continue to do an incredible job, but often times, the leadership team rarely receives public accolades. I am happy to report that we recognized two team members who constantly do their job without any thought of praise. To me, it's apparent when someone loves the job and the mission at hand. So in this issue, we recognize awards earned by many in our workforce and show appreciation to two outstanding leaders who are well deserving. Please gaze through *The Reason for Our Success is Our People* and if you know anyone pictured, please take a moment to send them a congratulatory email.

As always, we welcome your comments, feedback and your article suggestions. Contact our Public Affairs Officer with your suggestions. We are very interested in your thoughts and if there's information we can highlight for you, we are only an email away.

Naval Medical Logistics Command
Capt. Steve Aboona

Commander

Cmdr. Matthew P. Marcinkiewicz
Deputy Commander
HMCM(SS/SW/FMF) Patrick B. West
Command Master Chief
Dr. Darin L. 'Cal' Callahan
Chief of Operations

Lt. Cmdr. Greg F. Mendoza
Director for Administration

Mr. Richard J. Schlegel
Dir, Operational Forces Support

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From the Command Master Chief

On the most recent promotion cycle, we have seen a below average number of selections to the next paygrade.

Fortunately, the Navy will permanently adopt the Active Duty Enlisted Advancement-to-Position (A2P) program for Recruiters and Recruit Division Commanders.

This is designed to fill priority E-6 billets with an advancement incentive. The Sailors selected for A2P billets will be advanced from E-5 to E-6 and receive the pay of that paygrade upon reporting to their ultimate duty station after successful completion of any required training. Selected Sailors will receive permanent change of station orders to report to an A2P billet in line with normal detailing rules.

Applicants will only be considered for the specific A2P billets to which they have applied and must be on active duty. All applicants must: 1) Be E-5s who are in their detailing win-

dow for rotation and have taken the most recent E-6 Navy-wide advancement examination (NWAEE).

2) Be qualified to fill the specific billets to which they apply. Sailors should contact their detailer if they have any questions regarding their ability to be detailed to an A2P billet.

3) Sailors on shore duty who are due to rotate to sea duty will not be considered for shore duty A2P billets.

Candidates will be selected on a competitive basis using a combination of the most recent Final Multiple Score from the NWAEE cycle and the gaining command's comments.

For the Hospital Corps rating or ratings that most recently had poor advancement quotas – this is another avenue to advance deserving Sailors desiring to take an arduous assignment. If you have any questions, please read NAVADMIN 230/19 or contact your CCC for more information.



HMCN(SS/SW/FMF) Patrick West
NMLC Command Master Chief

Naval Medical Logistics Command stands uniform inspection during the change from Summer Whites to Dress Blues. During Capt. Aboona's review of the troops, he gave comments to LS2(SW) James White, the inspection recorder. Command Master Chief Patrick West also participated in the command inspection.



Mario Brito of NMLC Nets the Civilian Biomedical Equipment Technician of the Year



By Julius L. Evans, Naval Medical Logistics Command Public Affairs

For years, Naval Medical Logistics Command (NMLC), Fort Detrick, MD, has been recognized by the U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) for its outstanding support to the Navy Medicine Enterprise. Last year was no exception. Leading the way in that support was a member of the NMLC team who was selected as the Civilian Biomedical Equipment Technician of the Year.

Mario Brito from NMLC's Medical Equipment and Logistics Solutions directorate was presented with this prestigious award at the 2019 Navy Medicine Business Operations Training Symposium (NMBOTS) earlier this year.

The annual NMBOTS hosts Navy Medicine's logistics and comptroller experts from around the world to share real-world lessons-learned that help improve the overall patient experience at Military Treatment Facilities (MTF)

both afloat and ashore, that provide world-class medical care.

Brito's expertise was singled out as Navy Medicine's top performer directly based on his contributions highlighted in the award citation.

"Mr. Brito provided Medical Equipment Maintenance Program (MEMP) guidance and support to 44 MTFs and eight non-MTF Biomedical Engineering (BIO-MED) divisions across the entire Navy Medicine enterprise," the citation stated.

Further, the citation stated that Brito served as a professional and technical consultant and advisor for all BIO-MED matters to clinical engineers, equipment managers, facilities managers, material managers and risk managers across Navy Medicine. He was directly responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring the comprehensive maintenance program as outlined in the BUMED Equipment Management Manual.

It goes on to state that he provided expert services to organizations including the Defense Logistics Agency, Defense Health Agency (DHA), other services and operational forces worldwide.

A native of Arizona, Brito graduated from Andress High School, El Paso, TX, and in 1985, he entered the Navy as a Hospital Corpsman. In 2006, he became a Government employee and worked at National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) Bethesda as the supervisor of the BIO-MED division.

Brito worked at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center prior to reporting for duty at NMLC in February 2016 as the team leader of BIO-MED division.

When describing his past military assignments, Brito fondly recalled several of his past duty stations and some of the challenging tasks he faced



At the 2019 Navy Medicine Business Operations Training Symposium (NMBOTS), pictured from left to right are Mr. David Oliveria, Deputy Chief, Business Operations, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; Capt. Steve Aboona, Commander, Naval Medical Logistics Command (NMLC); Mario Brito, Civilian Biomedical Equipment Technician of the Year and NMLC Command Master Chief Hospital Corpsman Patrick B. West.

at the location where he had the honor of serving.

“Thus far, I have served a total of 34 years; 20 as an enlisted Sailor and 14 as a Government employee,” he said.

“I served during the Persian Gulf War, where I was the senior Hospital Corpsman, commonly referred to by the troops as ‘Doc’ for Charlie Company, 1st Battalion 7th Marine Division and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) as the Leading Petty Officer of Biomedical Repair on the USNS Comfort (TAH-20),” he said.

“While deployed to both of these operations, resupply was a concern. However, my ability to provide the necessary treatment to the Marines or to ensure the ship’s medical equipment was fully operational to limit downtime of broken equipment was a tremendous task. I was responsible for ensuring it was successful. I ensured my Biomedical Equipment

Technicians (BMET) were trained on the critical medical equipment and maintained a robust training plan for the BMETs each year.”

The attention to detail described above was part of the reason Brito was nominated and ultimately selected from amongst his peers throughout Navy Medicine for this impressive award.

The instruction outlining the particulars of the award program noted Naval Medical Logisticians are doing a tremendous job planning, obtaining and maintaining the required equipment, consumables and services necessary for the effective and efficient delivery of healthcare support throughout the Navy and Marine Corps.

By recognizing and encouraging notable contributions, the BUMED Awards Program seeks to honor and distinguish the officer, enlisted and civilian members within the commu-

nity for their outstanding contributions.

His leadership echoed those sentiments in the justification section of the award package.

“Mr. Brito is a skilled team leader who provides leadership and mentorship to three Biomedical Equipment Technicians (BMET) as well as two BIO-MED operations contract analysts assigned to NMLC. He executes NMLC’s mission and adeptly sets the tone for day to day operations keeping Navy Medicine strategic objectives in the forefront.”

With accolades like these from his leadership, it’s clear to see why Mario Brito was selected as the Navy Medicine Civilian Biomedical Equipment Technician of the Year. **LS**

The Advent of the Operational Optometrist

By André B. Sobocinski, Historian, U.S. Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED)



“USS Rescue (AH-18), 1945. By 1945, mobile optical units were deployed across the South and Southwest Pacific including aboard the Navy’s entire fleet of hospital ships like USS Rescue.”

Prior to 1941, optometry had no official status in the Navy.

There were no uniformed optometrists, no optical technicians nor were there provisions for the procurement of eyewear. If a Sailor or Marine needed spectacles, they were typically handed a prescription and held responsible for purchasing eyewear at their own expense.

The expansion of U.S. Armed Forces at the start of World War II and the lowering of vision standards spawned a need for military optometrists stateside and eventually overseas. To address this critical need, the Navy initially entered into contractual agreements with civilian optometrists for prescription eyewear. When civilian laboratories were unable to meet the demand, a military ophthalmic program was established by the Naval Appropriations Act of 1942 which

authorized the issuance of prescription eyewear for Navy and Marine Corps personnel.

The first Navy optometrists were recruited into service in April 1941 as health-volunteer specialists (H-V(S)); but due to limited billets, some optometrists wanting to be part of the war effort enlisted as Hospital Corpsmen. By the end of World War II, there were 90 degree holding optometrists serving in the Navy. The need for their services stateside, but especially overseas, was palpable.

For those on deployment aboard ship and serving with the Marines or Seabees in the Pacific, the danger of losing and breaking eyewear was a serious concern. In a letter dated July 3, 1943, to the Secretary of the Navy, Vice Adm. Ross McIntire, the Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) wrote: “Many men

lose their glasses or break lenses in combat areas and in action ... prescriptions are mailed to either foreign countries or to the United States, but due to uncertainty of mail and the long period of time required, men are unfitted for full duty because they are without glasses for periods varying from one to three months ... it is considered essential that arrangement be made immediately to provide mobile optical units, for use at designated bases, to provide glasses, make optical repairs, etc., at no expense to the individual...”

To address this problem, BUMED inaugurated the Base and Mobile Optical Unit program in July 1942. The mission of these mobile units was two-fold: “to provide emergency spectacle replacement and repair services without charge to naval personnel in combat areas or other places not ac-



cessible to civilian facilities,” and “to supply urgently needed corrective spectacles to naval personnel under like circumstances.” Each unit was comprised of an optometrist and optical technician(s) who received special training at the Naval Supply Depot on Brooklyn, N.Y., (the present day Naval Medical Logistics Command), prior to their deployments.

In August 1943—the first of these units—Mobile Optical Unit One consisting of optometrist Ens. H.W. Henckler, H-V(S), USNR, and optical technician PhM3c E.N. Catterlin, USNR, deployed to New Zealand, then a key base in the Solomon Island campaign. By the end of 1943, a total of four optical base units and eight

optical mobile units were deployed overseas. And by war’s end, 43 special mobile optical repair units were assembled for deployment—15 of them aboard active Navy hospital ships.

A unit’s work could vary. Some units serviced exclusively ship’s crews while others primarily serviced shore-based forces like Marines and Seabees. Enlisted Sailors and Marines accounted for 86 percent of the services.

With the propensity of spectacles to get destroyed or lost on the frontlines it is little surprise that manufacturing spectacles (both frames and lenses) was the primary output for units. Between August 1943 and Feb-

ruary 1944 alone, manufacturing spectacles comprised 85 percent of the collective mobile unit output.

Although these wartime units were ultimately disestablished at the end of World War II, their indispensable roles cannot be under emphasized. Serving mainly in isolated locales and under oppressive conditions throughout the Pacific theater of operations, mobile units played vital roles in returning service personnel to the fight and also boosting morale.

Perhaps Rear Adm. Kent Melhorn put it best when he stated that on many of the islands these units were deployed to, “even in peacetime there was no more a chance of obtaining



optical service than getting a manicure or seeing a movie.” **LS**



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Naval Ophthalmic Support and Training Activity Changes Command

By Julius L. Evans, Naval Medical Logistics Command Public Affairs



Pictured on the cake are Capt. Richard Zeber and Capt. Marc Herwitz the outgoing and the incoming commanding officers of Naval Ophthalmic Support and Training Activity.

Before family, friends, former staff members and a packed-house of the NOSTRA workforce, Capt. Richard Zeber turned over the reins of leadership to the incoming commanding officer, Capt. Marc Herwitz, during the change of command ceremony held on the picturesque United States Coast Guard Training Center, Yorktown, Va., on Aug. 16.

The capacity crowd, which filled the auditorium, came from near and far to share in a ceremony that highlighted the incredibly important role that NOSTRA plays in providing eyewear; not just to warfighters around the world, but in some cases to various indigenous populations. They do this through Innovative Readiness Training Health and Wellness missions. More surprisingly, they also provide eyewear to some high school students from around the United States as they prepare to enter the boot camps of the U.S. Armed Services.

Master of Ceremonies Cmdr. Brian Engesser, Medical Service Corps

(MSC), and a United States Naval Academy graduate, became a surface warfare officer during the first part of his career. In 2008, he became an MSC officer after attending the Illinois College of Optometry and graduated with a Doctorate in Optometry. After successfully completing several ashore and at sea leadership assignments, he reported to NOSTRA as the executive officer in July 2018.

Engesser described for the audience NOSTRA's dynamic and diverse workforce comprised of Army and Navy active duty members, Department of Defense Civilians and contractor person-

nel. "Many of our staff are hearing impaired and communicate using sign language," he said. "Mr. Darin Gillis, a member of our staff, will now perform 'America the Beautiful,' in American Sign Language."

Captivated by the grace and the majestic display of sign language being demonstrated to music, the audience was visibly in awe. The thunderous applause at its conclusion placed a stamp of approval on the performance.

Providing continuity during the ceremony, Capt. Zeber headed to the podium to introduce NOSTRA's Immediate Superior in Command, Commander, Naval Medical Logistics Command, Capt.(sel) Steve Aboona.

Aboona deliberately described, at great length, Capt. Zeber's accomplishments during his tenure at NOSTRA. He touted his successes and his many accolades. But what made Aboona's speech stand out, and what made his words so memorable, were the two stories he shared which clearly captured the attention of every single person in the audience.





While he was the officer in charge of a Humanitarian Aid Mission in Zamboanga, Philippines, his detach-

ment was charged with setting up a medical and dental clinic, for which, they secured a small school. To get to

the school, his detachment had to travel through a region that was a hot bed of terrorism perpetuated by the group Abu Sayyaf. Abu Sayyaf had been responsible for countless horrible acts against its own countrymen.

"We brought an optometrist, one hospital corpsman and a selection of prefabricated lenses and frames from NOSTRA," Aboona said. "I could not imagine the positive impact this trip would have on me personally or psychologically."

In some parts of the world, many people spend their lives with some type of optical impairment. In this instance, people traveled for days; through jungles, some with nothing covering their bare feet, and with little to no food or water, to visit the American military who communicated via a translator.

"When we brought our patients to optometry and fitted them with frames, they started crying and so did their parents," Aboona explained. "You see, they never had the gift of sight. They were never able to see their parents in 20/20 or near 20/20 vision. When we fitted their parents, they too saw their children clearly for the first time."

Experiences like that change your perception of the world and its small miracles like these that NOSTRA executes routinely on a global scale.

Rounding out the narrative, Aboona drove home the importance





Capt. Marc Herwitz, NOSTRA commanding officer, says farewell to Capt. Richard Zeber in his remarks and expresses his gratitude as he takes command of NOSTRA.

of NOSTRA's mission through a comparison of third world nation ophthalmic needs and the needs of some here in the United States.

"I had the honor of visiting the United States Recruit Training Command in North Chicago, Ill. I learned how incoming Sailors were recruited, trained and eventually take their place in the fleet," Aboona said. "As you can imagine, one of the first stops for the recruits was optometry. There were young men and women,

from all over the country, from cities small and large, from all walks of life and believe it or not, not all of them have had the optical support they needed prior to joining the Navy."

NOSTRA supported recruits in that basic but fundamental and critical aspect. They make the lenses and supplies the frames that allowed these young Sailors to have the gift of near perfect vision for the first time in their lives. Without this support, the United States Navy would

have fewer Sailors and would lose the talent needed to sustain the nation's defense.

After that resoundingly poignant recount of his personal experience seeing the direct impact NOSTRA had on future warfighters, Aboona turned his attention to welcoming the new commanding officer.

"NOSTRA will be gaining a truly phenomenal leader in Capt. Marc Herwitz. Having previously served as the executive officer at NOSTRA and having just completed a rigorous staff tour at the United States Bureau of Navy Medicine and Surgery headquarters, he is the perfect leader to take the reins of command at NOSTRA," Aboona said.

After he returned to his seat, Engesser, the Master of Ceremonies, invited Zeber to the podium to offer his departing comments to his workforce.

Like a rock star in front of an adoring crowd, Zeber did not hesitate to shower his 'fans' with glowing praise that made even the most modest NOSTRA member blush with pride.

"It is hard to believe that our time together has come to an end," he started. "NOSTRA has been the leader in optical fabrication and has taken on many initiatives, leading by our own sense of urgency. Through that urgency, we have experienced a great many successes."

He described a list of accomplishments that filled two-single spaced pages and he readily acknowledged that he had spoken over the allotted amount of time that was agreed upon during the day's prior rehearsals. But he stressed the importance of family to the audience. The workforce family and personal family relationships.

"If you are upset with a loved one, make up with them. Do not linger in anguish in your personal relationships," he said, before turning his focus back to the work NOSTRA does. "We manufactured and delivered more than 3 million optical devices, 1.6 million eyewear were produced in FY-18 alone, with NOSTRA Detachment making more than 600,000!"

The praise continued which carried him into his introduction of the person to whom he was turning over the reins of leadership.

"Capt Herwitz is the exact right



Capt. Zeber and Capt. Herwitz congratulate one another after leadership of the command formally changed from one officer to the next. Cmdr. Aboona applauded them both.



Capt. Zeber received the Legion of Merit, “for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service,” the certificate reads.

person for the next two years. He has an impressive resume of expertise, leadership and strategic thinking. He will sustain all relationships we have and build new ones. He will lead the command and the optical fabrication enterprise to deliver high quality relevant and compatible products for military readiness in a timely manner, with a reasonable cost to our Service members worldwide,” Zeber said. “He will ensure our training activity graduates Army and Navy leaders who will be motivated to stay in the military and grow into the leaders running the Navy and the Army for the next 20 years.”

At the conclusion of his comments and in accordance with Navy customs and traditions, both officers read their orders. Then, after inviting Herwitz to the podium to make his introductions in a short speech, the traditional change of command ceremony took place where both the outgoing and incoming officers saluted their senior and uttered the phrase, Sir, I have been properly relieved. Sir, I have assumed command. With that declaration and after the applause marking the official hands of leadership had changed, Mrs. Herwitz was invited to the stage to affix the pin of command onto Capt. Herwitz’s uniform.

Then, the official party was given a chance to depart the stage to the ceremonial whistle of the Bos’n pipe and the bells of the bell chimer.

“Dating back to the age of sails are the traditions of striking the ship’s bell and posting side boys to honor the high ranking officers present,” Engesser said.

As they departed the stage, the auditorium was filled with the chime of bells that signified the conclusion of the pomp and circumstance which indicated that NOSTRA had a new leader who was welcomed aboard through the piped-in Navy tune Anchors Aweigh and the Marine Corps hymn. **LS**



Naval Medical Logistics Command Celebrates Medical Service Corps' 72nd Birthday

By Julius L. Evans, NMLC Public Affairs

Naval Medical Logistics Command (NMLC), Fort Detrick, Md., celebrated the United States Navy Medical Service Corps' 72nd Birthday at a ceremony held on its quarterdeck, Aug. 1. Headed by Capt. Steve Aboona, NMLC delivers patient-centered logistics solutions to military medicine around the globe.

The Medical Service Corps (MSC) was created by Congress in 1947 out of the post-war need for the skills and expertise of administrators, logisticians, clinicians and scientists. Four sections make up the MSC which are administration and supply, optometry, pharmacy and medical allied services. Their end-strength has grown throughout the years and today, the MSC stands at about 2,700 personnel.

Lt. j.g. T.J. Kucera served as the NMLC Master of Ceremonies for this event and was also the youngest Medical Service Corps officer present. He and Cmdr. Aboona cut the ceremonial cake representing the most senior and the most junior active duty MSC officers in the command.

The MSC officers of NMLC are a highly dedicated cadre of professionals who support each aspect of the medical duties earmarked by their specialty. They have and will continue to play integral roles across the Navy Medicine enterprise in support of worldwide missions.



Cmdr. Steve Aboona, who was promoted shortly after this ceremony, and Lt.j.g. T.J. Kucera, HM1 Franklin Ihama, Dr. Darin Callahan and Lt. Jennifer Nestor all participated in the Medical Service Corps' 72nd Birthday Celebration. Each participant read letters from MSC leadership and then invited the command personnel, who were audience members, to enjoy the cake provided to commemorate the celebration.



Dr. Darin Callahan, NMLC's Chief of Operations, engages command personnel while reading one of the leadership letters in recognition of the MSC 72nd Birthday.



Cmdr. Steve Aboona, Commander, NMLC, as the senior MSC member and Lt.j.g. T.J. Kucera, as the most junior MSC member, join together to cut the commemorative cake in celebration of the MSC 72nd Birthday.



Hospital Corpsman Petty Officer 1st Class Franklin Ihama reads a letter from Navy Medicine leadership to command personnel during the 72nd MSC Birthday ceremony.

SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS



WELCOME TO BIZ BUZZ !

Biz Buzz is where you will find what's happening with NMLC's Small Business Program Office, as well as general small business information and news you can use.

What's the BUZZ?

Resources – How we help small business firms who contact us and want to know how they can do business with the Navy.

With the growing number of small business firms out there looking to get their foot in the door of federal government contracting, it's no surprise that we are experiencing an increase in contact by small businesses. Inquiries from small businesses range from firms that are just starting out and want to know how to market themselves, to seasoned firms, that have

been doing business as government contractors for many years. The type of information and advice provided to these small business firms depends largely at which stage they are in their "business life cycle." This article will provide an overview of how small business professionals (SBPs) serve as gatekeepers to valuable resources and information to guide small businesses toward success.

The usual, initial contact is an email or a phone call. In an effort to maximize their chances to enter the federal marketplace, inquisitive small business firms will "shotgun" numerous emails or phone calls. Sometimes, contracting officers at the same government office receive the same call or email. Businesses try this approach, hoping that a broad blast results in some response. If the business is hunting for any agency phone number or email address, the resultant contact may go unanswered or is misrouted.

This leads to frustration for the firms, mainly because the individual taking the call is not familiar with the federal



procurement process and didn't know to whom the call should go.

Acquisition offices are typically able to provide some general information in response to businesses' inquiries, but the best resource to assist the small businesses is the SBP, which are specifically trained to help small businesses navigate the acquisition process. The SBPs obtain information from the businesses and determine how best to advise the firms. It is not uncommon for a government office to receive a call from a small business that does not procure the goods or services of that small business.

After the SBP determines the firm's core competencies or capabilities, he/she may need to refer



LOGISTICALLY *speaking*

the firm to another government SBP at a different agency or department,

are staffed with professionals who have considerable experience in business development and serve as an excellent resource. Many PTAC counselors have backgrounds in govern-

sition personnel. There are outreach events specific to a market segment or to a specific socio-economic category (e.g., a woman owned small business or a 8(a) small business outreach events). The focus of a particular outreach event varies, but primarily its purpose is to better educate industry about the types of products and services the government buys, which agencies buy which commodities, and to provide insight with acquisition forecasts. While some events cater specifically to small business audiences, events that attract all business sizes are still beneficial to small business firms. These events present opportunities for large and small businesses to network and partner, through subcontracting or mentor-protégé relationships.

Regardless of the interaction between small business firms, government acquisition offices and small business professionals, it comes down to understanding where to find pertinent information, being able to



whose requirements better align to the firms' products or services. To this end, it is important for SBPs to keep current on agencies' missions and the structure of those agencies' small business offices. This way, the SBPs will know how to best steer the inquiry – matching the small business firm to the appropriate government acquisition office, that buys what the firm sells.

After a small business stands up, they are often eager to enter the world of federal government contracting because they see it as a lucrative endeavor. However, for a new business, venturing into federal government contracting may seem overwhelming. There are many questions at the onset and these businesses need some initial direction. Fortunately, there are resources and options just for this purpose. One such option is the Procurement Technical Assistance Centers or PTAC. The PTAC offices are part of the larger Procurement Technical Assistance Program or PTAP, which was authorized by Congress in 1985, in an effort to “expand the number of businesses capable of participating in the government marketplace.” Administered by the Department of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), the program provides matching funds through cooperative agreements with state and local governments and non-profit organizations for the establishment of PTACs to provide procurement assistance. Some major U.S. cities will have more than one PTAC office and these offices provide no-cost, one-on-one counseling tailored to small business firms. The PTACs also offer various workshops, match-making events and procurement conferences at a nominal charge. They

are staffed with professionals who have considerable experience in business development and serve as an excellent resource. Many PTAC counselors have backgrounds in government acquisitions and virtually all receive ongoing training to keep pace with continually evolving acquisitions procedures and policies. The Association of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers or APTACs provides a network that allows any PTAC counselor almost instant access to the expertise and experience of more than 500 colleagues, as well as real-time information from government agencies regarding new requirements and initiatives. There are approximately 90 PTAC offices with another estimated 300 local offices. The PTAC has a wealth of infor-



mation and can be a significant resource for both newly started firms, as well as those firms that are more experienced. They can be invaluable in steering them toward success in the federal government marketplace.

Another way that small business firms can learn more about the federal contracting program is by attending government-sponsored events. Outreach events can also be especially informative, providing a means to help small business firms learn about potential business and networking opportunities with government acqui-

network, and remain engaged and current. Knowing how to leverage resources can be the difference between marginal success and tremendous success for a small business firm.

For any questions on this article or if you have any suggestions for future articles, please contact Ms. McReal at Marianna.mcreal.civ@mail.mil or via phone at (301) 619-3097. **LS**

An Update on Unauthorized Commitments in FY19

By Sharon Leathery, Contracting Officer for Unauthorized Commitments, Contract Support Division, Naval Medical Logistics Command

Unauthorized commitments (UACs) are primarily created by individuals who do not possess purchasing authority for ordering supplies and services without obtaining proper approval. When the required purchasing protocols are not followed and a UAC is created, submission of a ratification request and documentation by the activity is the only way to reimburse vendors for outstanding obligations. In FY19, we had a total of 21 UACs submitted for ratification.

The most common type of UAC that occurred in FY19 was related to Military Treatment Facility (MTF) accreditations, medical certifications and other required training. Medical program accreditation and residency training are always priorities for ratification since MTFs cannot perform their required patient care and staff education functions without them. It's easy to lose track of required initiation dates for annual accreditations and certifications, so program coordinators, contracting officer's representatives, and others tasked with initiating renewals are encouraged to establish a calendar or tickler system so these deadlines are not overlooked. The coverage periods for accreditations are often irregular and may not run in accordance with the calendar or fiscal year. Annual renewal orders should be executed in advance of the effective date since the period of performance cannot be retroactive, and contracts with options should be utilized whenever possible for ease of annual renewal.

The most common general causes of UACs are listed below in order of frequency of occurrence:

1. **Policy Adherence** – placing orders prior to approval of a purchase order or executing orders without an SF 1402 Certificate of Appointment for purchasing warrant. Example: A supply technician begins placing Electronic Catalogue or Prime Vendor orders before completing training and receiving their warrant in accordance with BUMED Letter 4200 Ser. M42/15UM40180 "Ordering Officer Requirements Guide for Defense Logistics Agency E-commerce Contracts."
2. **Assumption** – assuming that a purchase request has been processed and approved or that an order is covered under an existing contract without verifying. Example: An employee submits a requisition form but fails to follow up on its approval by the purchasing office prior to ordering and accepting supplies or services.
3. **Emergency Situation** – urgent or after hours requirements are obtained without purchase authorization or verbal approval. Example: A patient seen in the Emergency Room outside normal business hours requires a medication not stocked by the hospital or local contracted vendors, resulting in an unauthorized purchase.
4. **Transition** – new personnel tasked with ordering or Contracting Officer's Representative responsibilities are not provided with necessary guidance. Example: A new staff member is not provided with purchasing SOPs or contract tracking spreadsheets, resulting in orders being placed that exceed the established contract ceiling for total items, hours or funding.

Current guidance on the ratification process for UACs can be found in FAR 1.602-3, NAVSUP Contracts Handbook, 1.602-3, and NMCARS 5201.602-3. In addition, BUMED Policy Letter 4200 Ser. M46/17UM40116 (10 Aug 17): "Logistics and Financial Guidance on Unauthorized Commitments and Constructive Changes Resulting in Claims" provides updated information on determining whether issues may be processed as UACs or claims. Outstanding obligations arising from contract overages or orders placed just outside the scope of an expired contract are generally treated as claims under the new guidance. However, activities are still required to submit complete UAC documentation through their Regional Logistician so that NMLC can make the determination regarding how the outstanding obligation will be processed. Additional information on the requirements for UAC ratification, templates, and samples can be found in the NMLC Ratification of Unauthorized Commitments Guidebook, and activities are encouraged to contact NMLC for assistance in determining whether a specific issue constitutes a UAC.

NMLC Presents a Day of Mentorship

By Mimi McReal, NMLC Small Business Advisor

As part of an ongoing initiative to support mentorship for Naval Medical Logistics Command (NMLC) staff members, NMLC invited a guest speaker to discuss the relationship of mentoring and higher education.

On August 27, 2019, Ms. Andreana “Andi” Overton, Director of the Partnership Office with Mount St. Mary’s University – Frederick Campus, spoke to a rapt audience.

Overton opened her presentation with the message that “mentorship helps to get rid of the boulders,” and referenced the extensive work by John Maxwell on the merits of mentorship.

Overton has had several years of experience in the higher education arena and its connection to mentorship. It was from that experience on which she based her perspective.

She explained how the focus of mentorship changes depending upon whether the “mentee” is a traditional

college student or a non-traditional student (e.g., adult learner).

Both types of students have their own form of “boulders” as it relates to higher education and being mentored.

The younger, traditional students’ “boulders” are adjustment to their new found freedoms and new relationships, and the loss of what they knew while living at home. Traditional college students are also focused on academics, as well as developing a new support system and social life outside of academics.

This contrasts with the “boulders” for the non-traditional students or adult learners, who are focused on a work/life balance.

Their “boulders” are time, cost, and family relationships and the impact these have on adult learners’ furthering their education. It is important for mentors to recognize the hurdles for each of these groups and customize an approach to assist in breaking down their boulders.

Overton also stressed to learners that “when help was offered, take it.” She said it’s important to recognize the mentors in your life and seek those who can help to break the barriers and make the path clear.

It’s not always the most senior or oldest person in the room that can serve as a mentor. Sometimes it’s the one who has a certain level of expertise in an area that becomes the mentor, although that person may be younger.

When asked if Overton had a memorable mentor, she said yes, a previous boss. Overton described this mentor as someone who was energetic and passionate and spoke “real,” and there was an “immense richness” in their relationship.

Overton opened the floor to ques-



Andreana “Andi” Overton, Director of the Partnership Office with Mount St. Mary’s University – Frederick Campus, was the special guest speaker.

tions and comments from the audience. An audience member asked how to motivate someone to be receptive to mentorship? Overton replied that a mentor can have a discussion about what reasons were there initially to get the person interested [in personal or professional growth] and bring those reasons to the forefront of the discussion.

However, Overton cautioned that the mentor must be careful not to impose their perceptions onto the person they are helping.

One audience member stated that “trust is key and to trust the advice,” when referring to the success of mentorship.

As a mentor, she said, “you can grow the flame, but you cannot create the spark,” that must come from within. The audience thanked Overton for taking the time to speak and for her very enthusiastic and engaging presentation.

Overton closed with her offer to be a resource for anyone interested in pursuing additional educational opportunities or who would like to further discuss the relationship between mentorship and higher education. **LS**



Mimi McReal served as an observer and took notes during the mentorship discussion.

An NMLC Family Connection

John Shaw Billings - Medical Pioneer - 1833-1913

By Barbra Rosenthal,
Influenza Program Manager,
Naval Medical Logistics Command

An ancestor of mine, John Shaw Billings, was born in Indiana on April 12, 1838, to James Billings, of English descent, and Abby Shaw Billings, a descendant of a Mayflower Pilgrim. John read voraciously and learned Latin mostly on his own.

At fourteen he entered Miami University at Oxford, Ohio. He received his B.A. with honors. He received his M.D. in 1860 from the Medical College of Ohio and was named demonstrator of anatomy there.

In 1862, he entered the Army, passing the medical board at the top of the list. Upon being commissioned, John took charge of a hospital. He became executive officer of a Philadelphia hospital with thousands of sick and wounded, and served as a field hospital surgeon at Gettysburg.

In 1864, he was assigned to duty with the medical director of the Army of the Potomac. During the Wilderness Campaign, he was a medical inspector for the Army of the Potomac. He was invalided back to Washington and transferred to the surgeon general's office, where he served until retiring 30 years later.

As a student searching libraries for material for his thesis, he found that there were more than 100,000 volumes to search, that no library had the majority of them, that it was an immense task to collect needed information, and that many of the volumes were poorly indexed if at all.

This problem led him to try and establish a medical library for American physicians and a comprehensive catalog and index. Billings was put in charge of the Surgeon General's Library and oversaw its growth from 600 entries in 1865 to more than

50,000 in 1873. The Surgeon General's Library came to be unrivaled, with nearly a million books and pamphlets, and the most extensive collection of medical periodicals in the world.

After John Shaw Billings' time, the Surgeon General's Library became the Army Medical Library, the Armed Forces Medical Library, and finally, in 1956, the National Library of Medicine, a civilian agency within the Public Health Service.

During its progression, the library was located in downtown Washington, in Ford's Theatre, on the Mall and, finally, in 1962, moved into its current location on the campus of the National Institutes of Health, the world's premier medical institution, in Bethesda,

Maryland. In 1876, Billings printed a Specimen Fasciculus of a Catalogue, which was well received by the medical profession. Four years later, Congress provided for printing his monumental Index Catalogue. One volume, about a thousand pages appeared each year until 1895 when all 16 had been printed.

In 1879, the Index Medicus, planned by Billings and his assistant, Dr. Robert Fletcher, began to appear as a monthly guide to current medical literature. This continued without a break until Billings' retirement.

By these two great works, physicians around the world were afforded a guide to medical literature far superior to the guides of any other profession — the renowned Drs. Welch and



Osler considered them to be the most significant contribution yet made to American medicine, and to guarantee Billings a place in history.

In 1873 Johns Hopkins of Baltimore died, leaving a generous endowment for a great hospital. Billings was one of five experts asked to submit plans for the proposed institution. His plans were accepted, and Billings, with the consent of the Surgeon General, was appointed medical adviser to the trustees.

He gave a series of reports on hospital construction and organization, and the relation of hospitals to the training of nurses and doctors, which became classics. The hospital was to be an integral part of the Medical School, which Hopkins also endowed. Both were aimed at raising the level of medical training in the United States.

Billings was a pioneer in a shift in emphasis from curative to preventive medicine, and from caring for the individual to caring for community health. He was one of the original members of the American Public Health Association.

In 1879 the comprehensive alarm over the ravages of yellow fever resulted in the creation of a National Board of Public Health, to aid localities menaced or decimated by yellow fever. Billings was made its vice-chairman and proved most efficient in confining the disease to Memphis and crushing it there. That was the primary cause of his election the following year to the presidency of the American Public Health Association.

Vital statistics are indispensable to preventive medicine. Billings supervised the 1880 and 1890 U.S. Censuses and worked with the compilation of statistics. He played an important role as he introduced the punch-card system of calculating vital statistics with mechanical methods, which was then implemented into the 1890 census and have since spread throughout the world.

Five years before leaving active duty, Billings, again with the permission of the Surgeon General, was appointed director and professor of hygiene at the University of Pennsylvania's University Hospital.

A year later he took a post in which he spent his last 17 years consolidating New York City's numerous libraries into one central system, including designing and building a significant new library facility, and developing of a classification and cataloging system. He is considered the creator of today's New York Public Library, with more than 3 million volumes. He obtained extensive funding from numerous foundations, including \$5 million from Carnegie.

In his last 11 years, Billings was active in the organization and guidance of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, designed to encourage research in science. He was chairman of the board of trustees and a member of the executive committee.

At the seventh meeting of the International Medical Congress in London, he was invited to give one of the four general addresses; the others were given by selected representatives of France, Germany and England. This meeting was the first time American medicine had been so recognized, and his address was his best public effort,

received with great enthusiasm in the professional community.

Billings married on September 3, 1862, at Georgetown, D.C. to Katharine Mary Stevens, daughter of a former Michigan congressman. From that marriage, he had six children, of whom a son and four daughters survived. John Shaw Billings died on March 11, 1913.

In his 75 years, John Shaw Billings proved himself to be a prodigy, a battlefield surgeon, a planner of John's Hopkins Hospital, the father of the National Library of Medicine, and the creator of the New York Public Library System. His was a life, and a career genuinely worthy of note. **LS.**

Civil War epic film “*Glory*” celebrates its 30-year Anniversary

By Barbra Rosenthal,
Influenza Program Manager,
Naval Medical Logistics Command

The Civil War epic film “*Glory*,” returned to theaters July 2019, 30 years after it was first released. The movie, starring Morgan Freeman, Denzel Washington and Matthew Broderick as Col. Robert Gould Shaw, tells the inspiring, emotional and heroic story of the first black fighting unit of the American Civil War and of one of my ancestors, Col. Shaw, who volunteered as the regiment's commander.

The movie details the tribulations the Soldiers endured and overcame, like unequal pay and discrimination. Col. Shaw encouraged the men to refuse their pay until it was equal to the white troops' wages.

Also, Shaw encountered difficulties training and providing for his Soldiers. He knew he would face broad opposition, but felt strongly that the success of his regiment would elevate how the Soldiers were viewed throughout the world for many years to come.

The unit engaged courageously in several battles in South Carolina, including the Second Battle of Fort Wagner, a July 1863 Union assault at Morris Island, SC, on one of the Southern Confederacy's prominent strongholds.

The formation of the 54th Regiment came in the months immediate following President Abraham Lincoln's Jan. 1, 1863, Emancipation Proclamation, which authorized black men to serve officially in the U.S. Army and Navy.

The photo (on the back cover) is the sculpture of Col. Robert Gould Shaw and his Massachusetts 54th Regiment. The sculpture is regarded as quite striking and one of the greatest ever by Augustus Saint-Gaudens. It was relocated in 1997 to its current place in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. A large area in one whole wing of the gallery was cleared to accommodate it.

The movie “*Glory*” remains one of the most original and gripping movies ever made about the American Civil War, and is a testament to enormous courage and bravery. **LS**

Distinguished Visitors

**U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command and Fort Detrick
Commander, Brig. Gen. Michael J. Talley**



**Sandra D. Jumper, Senior Executive Service,
Naval Supply Systems Command, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania**



Rear Adm. Darin K. Via, Deputy Chief, Medical Operations (M3) Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Falls Church, Virginia



Happy 244th Birthday U.S. Navy and Congratulations to the NMLC AOR Senior Sailor of the Year

Naval Medical Logistics Command celebrated the U.S. Navy's 244th Birthday and selected the Area of Responsibility (AOR) Senior Sailor of the Year nominee. Rear Adm. Darin K. Via, MC, USN, was the special guest speaker and participated in



both events. Rear Adm. Via gave a very well received speech in commemorating the Navy Birthday. Then, he announced the selectee who would continue in



the next phase of competition from the AOR Senior Sailor of the Year nominees. Petty Officer 1st Class Shantell P. Allen represented Navy Expeditionary Medical Support Command, Williamsburg, VA. Petty Officer 1st Class Kristina M. Bennett represented Naval Ophthalmic

Support and Training Activity, Yorktown, VA. Petty Officer 1st Class Keith A. Fox represented Naval Medical Logistics Command, Frederick, MD. Congratulations to Petty Officer 1st Class Kristina M. Bennett for being selected as the AOR Senior Sailor of the Year. Petty Officer Bennett will move on to compete in the Navy Medicine Education, Training and Logistics Command Senior Sailor of the Year competition in San Antonio, TX. Congratulations to all nominees and Happy Birthday U.S. Navy.



Rear Adm. Darin K. Via, Deputy Chief, Medical Operations (M3) Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Capt. Steve Aboona, Commander, Naval Medical Logistics Command, **Petty Officer 1st Class Kristina M. Bennett** and Naval Medical Logistics Command Master Chief Hospital Corpsman Patrick B. West.



Our Greatest Strength

Capt. Steve Aboona, Commander, Naval Medical Logistics Command (NMLC) and Ms. Sandra D. Jumper, SES, Counsel, Naval Supply Systems Command, congratulate Ms. Julia Hatch, NMLC Counsel, and Richard Schlegel, NMLC's Director, Operational Forces Support Directorate. Both were presented the Meritorious Civilian Service award. Below, Capt. Aboona gave opening remarks. Ms. Jumper, in blue, presented Ms. Hatch, in the black sweater, with her plaque, certificate and medal. On the next page, Ms. Jumper presents Mr. Schlegel with his plaque, certificate and medal.



is our People!

Mr. Richard Schlegel, Director, Operational Forces Support Directorate, receives the Meritorious Civilian Service award from Ms. Sandra D. Jumper, SES, Counsel, Naval Supply Systems Command. Congratulations Julia Hatch and Richard Schlegel on this significant accomplishment.



Our Greatest Strength is our People!



Roderick Bryan
Letter of Appreciation



HM1 Keith Fox
Senior Sailor of the Quarter



Lt. Cmdr. Jenny Frasco
Letter of Appreciation



Anthony Angelo
Commander's Coin



Anthony Metzger
Senior Civilian of the Quarter



Dr. Darin Callahan
Chief of Operations, Letter of Appreciation



Welcome Aboard Lt. Cmdr. Greg Mendoza
NMLC Director for Administration



Heather Skimson
Letter of Appreciation



Teresa Lamb
Letter of Appreciation



Noel Bondoc
Letter of Appreciation



HM2 Joseph McLaughlin
Junior Sailor of the Quarter



HM2 Jason Berube
Letter of Appreciation



Congratulations to the newest members of the NMLC Chief's Mess, from left to right HMC(FMF) Derek Brenstuhl, HMC(SW/AW) Jose Jimenez and HMC(FMF) Evan Zilliox.



Jacqueline Mendoza
Letter of Appreciation



Sarah Ream
Letter of Appreciation



Jennifer McMurry
Letter of Appreciation



From the sidebar on Page 21

This photo is the sculpture of Col. Robert Gould Shaw and his Massachusetts 54th Regiment.

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