



Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs *Good News*



Volume 1 Issue 7

Welcome to Good News. This Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) newsletter highlights the accomplishments and sharing activities at both the local and national levels.

DoD/VA Sessions Planned for TRICARE Communications & Customer Service Conference

Several DoD/VA related sessions will be held at this year's TRICARE Communications & Customer Service (C&CS) Conference in Las Vegas, NV. This year's theme is *One Team, Many Challenges, All Committed*. The conference objectives are to explore solutions and create unified and effective communications and to strengthen our commitment to beneficiaries and to partnering across the Military Health System. This conference runs for three full days - from Tuesday, July 29 at 7:30 am until Thursday, July 31 at 4:00 pm. If you have questions, please contact the 2008 C&CS Conference team by phone at (703) 681-1770, or by email at ccsconference@tma.osd.mil. You can also find the C&CS Conference website with the registration details at <http://tricare.mil/conferences/ccs2008/index.cfm>.

Tripler Army Medical Center Awarded American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics & Pedorthics, Inc. Accreditation

The American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics & Pedorthics (ABC) has approved a three-year Orthotics, Prosthetics and Mastectomy accreditation for Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC). The ABC is the national certifying and accrediting body for the orthotic and prosthetic professions. Completing the voluntary certification process indicates that TAMC is dedicated to high standards in patient care. One key element in the success of the TAMC program is the VA/DoD Joint Incentive Fund project, the computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM) system for orthotics and prosthetics. Installed in the Orthopedic Brace Clinic at TAMC in October 2006, the CAD/CAM technology system fabricates custom orthotics and prosthetics through an automated program, laser scanner, and mill, while electronically maintaining an electronic record of the patient's scan. This new system eliminates the need for a plaster mold to be developed and stored. This technology also reduces laborious manual processes and the amount of time needed to get the devices back to the patients. Because of the time savings, more beneficiaries can now be provided support for this specialty. The staff of the Orthopedic Brace Clinic is very happy with their ability to provide

state of the art care to all the soldiers, their family members, and veterans and to know that the ABC oversight and support will ensure their standards are second to none. For more details regarding the CAD/CAM, please see the DVPCO website at http://www.tricare.mil/DVPCO/features_01.cfm.

Groundbreaking and Ribbon Cutting held at James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center

On July 14, 2008, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for a new parking structure and a ground breaking ceremony was held for a new ambulatory care center, celebrating another milestone in the partnership between the North Chicago VA Medical Center (VAMC) and the Naval Health Clinic Great Lakes. Completion of the ambulatory care center is scheduled for 2010, with full integration of services between the Naval Health Clinic and the North Chicago VAMC.

A retreat was also held July 14-16, 2008 to outline the plans for complete integration in 2010 and to identify challenges and barriers that might hinder the project as well as identify action plans and mitigation strategies. The retreat was well attended, and leadership at both the local and national levels will use the results of the retreat to take action where necessary.

Lessons Learned from NDAA Demonstration Projects Posted

The Fiscal Year 2003 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) mandated that the DoD and VA conduct combined demonstration projects to evaluate shared programs designed to test methodologies to improve the sharing and coordination of health care and health care resources in the category areas of: 1) Budget and Financial Management; 2) Coordinated Staffing and Assignment; and 3) Medical Information and Information Technology. A total of seven site locations (and eight projects) were chosen to participate in these demonstration project categories. The NDAA Demonstration Projects produced a number of key lessons learned for DoD/VA collaboration, covering both corporate and local level issues for consideration and implementation. These key lessons are posted on the DVPCO website at <http://www.tricare.mil/DVPCO/joint-init.cfm>

For questions please contact the appropriate point of contact below.

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If you have any good news stories and or accomplishments from your local teams, please send them to Ms. Maura Brady at maura.brady.ctr@tma.osd.mil and your stories may be included in a future issue of the newsletter.

To be added to the distribution list, please email dvpc@tma.osd.mil.