

## AT THE FOREFRONT



Providing humanitarian relief in the United States and around the world is an essential part of the mission of the U.S. Army health care team. Army Medicine is bringing advanced and innovative procedures to areas that can benefit greatly from our efforts. Physicians find that the opportunity to take part in these programs and share medical expertise in a variety of situations, with talented colleagues and individuals from vastly different backgrounds, strengthens their sense of purpose and enhances their abilities.

## HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS

Army Medicine has a broad vision and encourages team members to participate in missions around the globe that offer humanitarian assistance. Examples of humanitarian missions include the following:

- A team of Tripler Army Medical Center Ear, Nose, and Throat physicians visited the Federated States of Micronesia, where 407 outpatient visits and 234 audiologic evaluations were provided to a population in need of care that was not affordable or accessible to those living in the region. "These missions and deployment are the most satisfying parts of being in the Army for me," said Lt. Col. Philip D. Littlefield, M.D., an otolaryngologist at Tripler Army Medical Center. "I see myself doing something meaningful for the world. It certainly beats the daily grind of email and online training," said Littlefield.
- U.S. Army health care team members conducted an annual cataract medical readiness training exercise in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The mission was designed to build partner nation capacity, while providing humanitarian services and improving eyesight for hundreds of Dominican citizens. Maj. Eric Weber, a U.S. Army ophthalmologist from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, said: "I see more patients here with strabismus in a two-week mission than I would in an entire year of practice back home." Weber added that there was no other training environment like the one he experienced in Santo Domingo. Because of the training exercise, he was able to gain a great deal of experience in a short period of time while working closely with host-nation medical colleagues.

# ARMY PHYSICIANS BRING **INNOVATIVE** MEDICINE TO THE WORLD.

## OVER THE SHOULDER PROGRAM

Physicians on the U.S. Army health care team are also able to contribute to humanitarian efforts in a variety of ways. In an effort to help restore Iraq's infrastructure after the war, the Army health care team shared its expertise to train a new generation of medical professionals. Through the Over the Shoulder (OTS) program, new Iraqi physicians had the opportunity to shadow experienced U.S. physicians stationed at Ortiz Medical Clinic, which is located on Forward Operating Base Prosperity in Baghdad.

Lt. Col. Ahmad Slim, M.D., a cardiologist from Brooke Army Medical Center, created tests that assessed medical knowledge and clinical operations to enhance the OTS program. He used the results, along with feedback from program participants, to develop specialized seminars and clinical procedure training. While OTS started as an exposure and cultural exchange program, it has evolved into targeted, hands-on training based on what Iraqi physicians are lacking.

## A FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

As part of the U.S. Army health care team, you can participate in groundbreaking medical research and innovative humanitarian efforts that change perspectives for the better. In addition to adding to your medical knowledge, you can develop leadership skills, broaden the scope of your experience and give back to those in need of medical expertise. We're leading the way in health care - and looking for medical professionals who are committed to strengthening the well-being of our nation, as well as the world.

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