

**★ ★ ★ TSG SENDS: COVID-19 and Army Medicine 146 ★ ★ ★**

Army Medicine Family,

Last week, we announced our Army Medicine/Army NCO of the Year. This week we are celebrating Reynold Army Health Clinic's SPC Paulo DaSilva, who won the 2022 Best Squad (formerly Best Warrior) Competition's Best Sharpshooter award. Please join me in congratulating SPC DaSilva for his outstanding performance.

If you have done so already, please read this article where our NCO of the Year, SGT Garret Paulson, a combat medic, discusses his challenges and triumphs with his mental health: <https://taskandpurpose.com/news/army-nco-of-the-year-garret-paulson-mental-health/>

Both DaSilva and our NCO of the Year have demonstrated that medical Soldiers are not just medically proficient, but are also ahead of their peers in terms of proficiency in their Warrior tasks. Great job, gentlemen!

We also recently announced our MEDCOM Employees of the Year. Please join me in congratulating these outstanding individuals for their exemplary contributions to the organization in 2021:

Category I: Mr. Keith L. Harris, Supply Technician, Moncrief Army Health Center, Fort Jackson, SC

Category II: Ms. Ruth M. Barrow, Program Analyst (Human Capital), Fort Belvoir, VA

Category III: Mr. Oscar E. Bocanegra, Supervisor, Human Resources Specialist, HQ MEDCOM, Civilian Human Resources Directorate, Joint Base San Antonio, Fort Sam Houston, TX

Thank you to all winners for everything you do for our Army every day.

This week, Regional Health Command, Pacific was re-designated as Medical Readiness Command, Pacific. This final re-designation symbolically represents the completion of our pivot to readiness. However, as you all well know, the work continues as we lean in on our laser focus on building our ready medical forces, delivering medically ready forces and providing world-class excellence in combat casualty care.

Visit our Army Medicine Facebook page for pictures from the re-designation ceremony in Hawaii.

We wrapped up Hispanic Heritage month last week. Check out this website, which shows how Hispanics are contributing to the bright future of our nation:

<https://www.army.mil/hispanics/>.

### **Employee Highlights**

Mrs. Valencia Vail serves as an Administrative Officer with the Headquarters U.S. Army Medical Command Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff and Comptroller/G8. She said she handles all of the administrative functions for the directorate, including tasks, personnel actions, and the like.

Valencia came to Army Medicine in 2014, but she's no stranger to federal service. She is an Army retiree with 20 years of civil service as well. She retired from the Army as an E-7 Sergeant First Class. Her military occupational specialty was 75H/Personnel Administration. She was a Senior Personnel Sergeant. Valencia, who hails from Landover, Maryland, joined the Army in 1980.

"We were hoodlums back then," she said. "We didn't have any direction."

She said that, because she was a basketball player in high school, she did aspire to go to college, but it didn't work out.

"I figured I'd join the Army and start a career young, so that I could retire young," she said.

Right after Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Valencia explained that she was at Ft. Stewart, Georgia, assigned to the 724<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Support Battalion. She said that assignment was probably both her most challenging and rewarding.

"Soldiers were very high strung, and emotions were high," she said. "We had to keep the standards of the 18<sup>th</sup> Airborne Corps, and we did multiple deployments. We also provided support to Hurricane Andrew in Florida. It was a really tough three and a half years. I was a female Soldier with a family and trying to keep up," she said.

According to Valencia, in her current role, she's been able to use the skills she learned as a Soldier when she was a personnel sergeant.

"I enjoy what I do. I enjoy taking care of Soldiers, family members, and contractors," she said.

Valencia has been married for 30 years and has five children, two of whom have joined the Army and are both non-commissioned officers. She also has 10 grandchildren.

When she's not working, she enjoys shopping. She also said she may start making wreaths.

“I tried my hand at gardening, but that didn’t work out,” she said.

She and her husband also love RVing on the weekends and holidays.

Valencia, thank you so much for your decades of service to our nation. We appreciate the sacrifice both you and your family have made.

Thank you so much, Rose, for all you do for Army Medicine!

Army Medicine is Army Strong!

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