

Army Team Medicine,

LTG Dingle and I are pleased to announce the 1st Quarter FY 2021 Army Medicine Wolf Pack Award winner is Medical Research and Development Command Additive Manufacturing Working Group (AMWG) Team.

The AMWG Team is a multi-disciplinary team of 18 Army Active Duty military and Department of the Army Civilians who worked tirelessly to address critical supply shortages in the Department of Defense (DoD) during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency. This multi-disciplinary team fielded hundreds of inquiries from the Services, Service Organic Industrial Base partners and Defense Logistics Agency acquisition organizations. The AMWG Team served as a force multiplier by providing programmatic, regulatory, agreements, clinical, legal, and intellectual property expertise. The Team streamlined processes and testing capabilities to expedite the delivery of medical products such as 3D printed swabs, viral transport media, face masks, face shields, and N95 respirators.

The AMWG Team leveraged existing internal Army and government laboratory capabilities enabling the manufacturing, qualification, and distribution of medical products produced by the DoD. For example, the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (CCDC) Soldier Center conducted mechanical testing of 3D printed swabs and the Battelle Memorial Institute (through a Joint Program Executive Office - Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defense (JPEO-CBRND) contract tested swab compatibility with Emergency Use Authorized Diagnostic Assays. These efforts led to a first of its kind FDA Enforcement Discretion for 3D printed swabs for use in Military Medical Treatment Facilities. In addition to the 3D swabs, the CCDC-Chemical Biological Center (CBC) conducted developmental testing for prototype N95 respirators. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health will perform confirmatory testing for the prototype N95 respirators. The AMWG Team's success in gaining FDA Enforcement Discretion for the use of two (2) alternative sample collections kits, and one alternative Viral Transport Media enabled accession training to resume for new Soldiers at U.S. Army TRADOC locations directly impacting the U.S. Forces Korea and 8th Army operational readiness. Additionally the Team directly enabled a \$40M cost avoidance to the Army by bringing critical personal protective equipment in compliance with regulatory standards.

The pandemic has highlighted the vulnerability of the Army's operational readiness due to globalization of the medical supply chain. Future conflicts with near peer adversaries will present even greater challenges to maintaining continuity of global supply chains. The lessons learned, processes established, and the relationships fortified, will translate to the future environment of how the Army plans to counter and defeat a near-peer adversary as part of the Joint Force. The team is commended for their ability to provide their expertise across the DoD, the Army, Army Medicine, industry, and academia to rapidly deliver safe and effective medical products amid nationwide shortages, when the Warfighter needs them most.

Please join us in congratulating the Team for their exceptional teamwork and noteworthy outcomes. These efforts and achievements illustrate selfless service and dedication reflecting great credit on each team member and epitomizing the highest standards of the Army and Army Medicine.

Congratulations Team!

v/r,

Rich

Richard R. Beauchemin

Chief, AMEDD Civilian Corps