

★ ★ ★ TSG SENDS: Army Medicine 180 ★ ★ ★

Army Medicine Family,

The Summer Ball on 7 July, was a great success. I had had a great time and it was great to see you all. For those of you who traveled from outside the National Capitol Region, I thank you for attending. I want to thank COL Neris Nieves and her team for their hard work to make this event a success. Photos are available at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/armymedicine/albums/72177720309730754>

I want to welcome COL James Pairmore for assuming command of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center on 11 July. The outgoing commander, COL Heidi Mon, led DDEAMC's COVID-19 response as they expanded patient capacity three separate times and received patients from across the Medical Readiness Command, East. I thank both for their dedication to our Soldiers and the Army.

Welcoming new faces to Army Medicine, the Blanchfield Army Community Hospital welcomed four ROTC Cadets for the Nursing Summer Training Program recently. The program builds readiness by introducing future Nurse Corps officers to daily operations in an MTF. The cadets will complete rotations in surgery, the intensive care unit, labor and delivery, and the emergency center.

I also want to recognize MAJ Tommy Vu, a physician assistant at the Medical Command, Oregon Army National Guard, set a new Guinness World Record for the most chest-to-ground burpees completed in one hour. His record stands at a remarkable 1,003 burpees, surpassing the previous record of 990.

We continue to mark the birthday of the Army Medical Corps on 27 July. The Army Medical Department and the Medical Corps trace their origins to 1775, when the Continental Congress established the Army hospital. I thank all of those who served in the Medical Corps with dignity and honor, helping to keep our Soldiers safe and free from illness.

Employee Spotlight

This week, we meet MAJ Trevor Wellington, MD, Director, Clinical Trials Center, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. He is an Infectious Disease Officer (61G) at the 1st Area Medical Laboratory and an Assistant Professor at the Department of Medicine, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. He joined the Medical Corps in June 2016 to be one of about 70 Infectious Disease Officers in the Army.

He picked his Area of Concentration (AOC) because becoming an infectious disease physician had been his goal since medical school. He enjoyed learning how antimicrobials attack various pathogens. "It really is warfare on the microscopic scale," he said.

MAJ Wellington graduated from Georgetown University in 2012 and attended Loyola University Chicago on a Health Professions Service Program scholarship. He received his M.D. degree in 2016.

MAJ Wellington is MTOE-assigned with the 1st Area Medical Laboratory, with duty at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR). With the 1st AML, he serves as their infectious disease officer, providing consultation on the treatment, natural history, and transmission of infectious diseases that may be used as biowarfare agents and impact disease and nonbattle injury. At WRAIR, he serves as the director of the Clinical Trials Center, performing military-

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relevant vaccine research. “The juxtaposition of my assignments at 1st AML and WRAIR affords me the unique position of seeing the infectious disease threats that face our troops, and then developing the weapons to fight back,” he said.

The recent COVID pandemic is an example of the importance of management and control of infectious diseases. The pandemic demonstrated “the relevance of the specialty to military readiness, he said. “Many things slowed down; our job sped up.”

He recently completed a three-year residency at Madigan Army Medical Center where he found that he enjoyed treating infections, “because watching a septic patient rapidly improve with antibiotic therapy was very rewarding” for him. Being an infectious disease officer also appealed to him because of the rich history of the military and infectious diseases.

MAJ Wellington had what he describes as a “unique opportunity” to complete a tropical medicine training mission to Ghana in 2018. While there, he worked with Ghanaian medical officers at the 37 Military Hospital in Accra.

When not working, he enjoys running, hiking, and skiing. In addition, being from the north suburbs of Chicago, he tries to attend at least one Chicago Cubs baseball game per year. He is married to his high school sweetheart and together they have two children.

MAJ Wellington says, “My current position affords me the opportunity to continually develop in four distinct professional fields—operational, research, clinical, and academic. In addition to my research role at WRAIR and operational role with the 1st AML, I attend as an infectious disease physician at A.T. Augusta Military Medical Center (formerly Fort Belvoir Community Hospital), as well as teach medical students as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.”

Being a Medical Corps officer holds special meaning for him because both his grandfathers served in the Army, one as a medical laboratory technician during World War II. “Being able to serve as a military physician is an honor that carries on their tradition of service within my family,” he said.

Thank you, MAJ Wellington, for your dedication to keeping our Soldiers safe from disease and harm. You help to set the high standards of the Army and the Medical Corps.

Army Medicine is Army Strong!

TSG 45

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R. SCOTT DINGLE
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
The Surgeon General and
Commanding General, USAMEDCOM

Useful links:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

www.militaryonesource.mil