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NEWS RELEASE

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Lovell FHCC Nurse wins American Nurses Association Immunity Award

NORTH CHICAGO, Ill. – U.S. Navy Veteran Stephen Dolak, Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center Immunization Nurse Specialist, was recently awarded the American Nurses Association (ANA) Immunity Award for June 2011, a monthly national immunity award, which is part of the ANA's Bringing Immunity to Every Community project.

"This award is much more a reflection of my immunization team," said Dolak. "It's about this motivated team providing the best care for our patients."

A Kenosha, Wisc., resident, Dolak considerably streamlined the immunization program at the Lovell FHCC's Fisher Branch Health Clinic by redesigning the immunizations program to facilitate a larger volume of patients. This change increased the compliance rate for tuberculosis skin test interpretive readings from 60- to 95-percent.

"[Dolak] has demonstrated clear leadership in promoting comprehensive immunization programs that stay in step with the ever-changing vaccination guidelines and schedules," said Dolak's Supervisor Dr. Gregory Kaftan.

The retired Naval officer with 22 years of service also improved the vaccine program to protect against yellow fever, endemic to some tropical regions, while also devising a plan to reduce waste of multi-dose vials of the vaccine.

"I'm truly honored to receive this award and be part of such a talented group of professionals," said Dolak.

About the Lovell FHCC: The Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center is the nation's first fully integrated medical facility between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense. Established on Oct. 1, 2010, the facility integrates all medical care into a federal health care center with a single combined VA and Navy mission, serving military members, Veterans, military family members and retirees.

SUGGESTED PHOTO AND CUTLINE: *(High-resolution version available upon request)*



U.S. Navy Veteran Stephen Dolak, Lovell FHCC Immunization Nurse Specialist, was awarded the American Nurses Association Immunity Award for June 2011. (Photo by U.S. Navy Lt. Vanessa Dehner)

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