Nursing students shadow FHCC nurses

Marquette University students learn from members of Navy Nurse Corps during spring visit to Lovell FHCC

By Jayna Legg
Lovell FHCC Public Affairs

At one point during his visit to Lovell FHCC, Marquette University Nursing student Nick Filio found himself kneeling by what looked like a small kiddie pool trying with both hands and gauze to staunch simulated “bleeding” from a OD green box.

Filio and his fellow senior nursing students were practicing bleeding control techniques using the “Gunshot Wound in a Box” in the simulation center at Lovell FHCC, an integrated Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility in North Chicago, Ill.

Mark Bisbee, head of the FHCC education department and a former Navy nurse, noted that even though gun violence is frequently in the news, not all nursing schools teach bleeding control. “When bad things happen, other people don’t know how to stop the bleeding, but the military does,” he said.

The military angle, as presented by FHCC Navy nurses, was the purpose of the day-long visit by 11 students enrolled in the VA Nursing Academic Partnership (VANAP) between Marquette and the Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee.

The shadowing was especially valuable to Filio, who had already taken steps to become a Navy nurse. He was an “Officer Candidate Under Instruction, 2nd Class” at the time of the visit.

“Having the opportunity to shadow a Navy nurse made me excited to start my career out in the fleet as a Navy Nurse Corps officer,” he said at the end of the visit. “Seeing the partnership between the VA and the Department of Defense was truly a memorable experience!”

This is the second year the Marquette nursing students have visited the FHCC. After a greeting from FHCC leadership, the group split up, and each student shadowed a Navy nurse in varied areas of the FHCC, including the FHCC’s Recruit Training Command clinics where new Sailors receive medical and dental care.

Veterans Creative Arts Festival showcases FHCC patients’ talents

Expressive arts are therapeutic, help with recovery

By Jayna Legg
Lovell FHCC Public Affairs

As she waited to perform, singer Candy Wasicak, an Army veteran, sat in the auditorium and tried to remember how many times she has took the stage at the annual Lovell Federal Health Care Center Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

“I can’t even tell you how many years I’ve participated, at least five,” the Harvard resident said from her seat in the auditorium at the College of Lake County in Grayslake, Ill. “I enjoy doing this. You get to share with the veteran students here at the college, and it shows them there’s something out there to support them.

“This is an open form of therapy, if that’s something they are looking for,” Wasicak said. “This lets the veterans know there are programs available to them.”

Wasicak was one of approximately 60 veterans who entered this year.

In this Issue...

Leadership Commentary, p. 2 & 3
Nurses win Daisy Awards, p. 4
Employee news, p. 4

Page 6

Junior ROTC cadets train on simulation equipment

Page 6
Healing: Recovery in their own words

By Dr. Stephen Holt
Lovell FHCC Director

T he new secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Dr. David Shulkin, has said he wants “quantum change” in VA over the next year. At the VA Senior Leader Mid-Year meeting, he outlined his priorities with a sense of urgency, emphasizing that “nothing is off the table.” Dr. Shulkin, who formerly served as the VA under secretary for health, said the VA will give patients an opportunity to “act with their feet” and choose to go elsewhere for care if they are not satisfied.

What does that mean for Lovell FHCC? It means as we progress with the Department of Defense – specifically the Navy – along the path of integration, both Dr. Shulkin’s and Navy Surgeon General Vice Admiral C. Forrest Faison’s goals become FHCC priorities. It means our military patients and their dependents, and our veteran patients, should expect nothing but the best patient care from us – comparable to, if not exceeding, the quality of care provided in the community.

On the VA side, Dr. Shulkin’s first priority is to give veterans a choice by remaking the VA into a competitive health care system through transparency. That means providing data about patient outcomes that is easily accessible to the public.

In April, VA launched its new online Access and Quality Tool, an unprecedented step to increase transparency. As Dr. Shulkin said, “Veterans must have access to information that is clear and understandable to make informed decisions about their health care.”

No other health care system releases this type of information on appointment wait times. The website can be found at www.accesstocare.va.gov. Check it out.

Next, the VA will modernize its infrastructure to improve systems for better interoperability. In layman’s terms – antiquated systems and structures no longer will be used. This means that some VA facilities could close. Recently, Dr. Shulkin announced his plan to work with Congress to identify for closure hundreds of buildings that are vacant or underutilized.

Going hand-in-hand with modernization is the next priority – efficient use of resources. We will create high-performing networks, partly by focusing on technology resources. The Department of Defense and VA are again looking at the real possibility of going to the same electronic health record (EHR). The timing is right as the Navy rolls out MHS Genesis – an agile EHR that allows patients to easily access their health information, make appointments, get lab results, and securely share their health information with providers.

Additionally, the FHCC is the driving force in the VA for implementation of Defense Medical Logistics Standard System (DMLSS) – a logistics system already in use by the Department of Defense. Because of our integration, the FHCC is uniquely positioned to champion DMLSS and a shared electronic health record. Both of these initiatives fit with the Navy Surgeon General’s priority to expand Department of Defense collaboration beyond the service branches to a “robust” partnership with the VA.

As FHCC Deputy Director and Commanding Officer Capt. Bradford Smith likes to ask, “In the halls of government, guess what name comes up in the context of VA and Department of Defense working together?” Of course, the answer is Lovell – the country’s only federal health care center – where we know integration and live it daily.

All these steps to improve processes and systems should be seamless to our patients and help improve their access to care, next on Dr. Shulkin’s priority list. Improving access, and making our access numbers available to the people who can serve, already is in progress.

Finally, Dr. Shulkin’s other main priority – certainly not the least – is to end veteran suicides – period, because there is no number other than zero that is acceptable. I look forward to working with Dr. Shulkin and Vice Adm. Faison to make their priorities the hallmarks of the FHCC, for the benefit of all our patients.

Priorities of VA Secretary and Surgeon General are FHCC’s

Healing: Recovery in their own words

(Editors’ Note: “Healing is a series written in the first-person by Veterans who have experienced significant recovery in their lives.)

Name: Arthur Whitaker
Branch of Service: U.S. Army
Dates of Service: 1966-68

I joined the military because I wanted to become a man. I had no focus at that time of my life. My father was very strict and insisted I be home 15 minutes after school ended. I wanted to be independent. My mom signed the paper for me to enlist because I was under 17.

When in Vietnam, I acquired serious combat injuries to my shoulder, back and thigh from a hand grenade explosion. I was shipped to Japan for surgeries and spent several months there. I don’t really remember how long I was there because my memory was also impaired. I returned to the United States, where I stayed in medical hold detachment for another three months. The military decided I was no longer capable to perform assigned duty as a soldier and I was discharged from service.

I earned a Purple Heart and the Army Commendation Medal with “V” device for heroism in Vietnam on March 30, 1968. I am very proud of my time in the Army even though it has caused my lifelong disability.

I was struggling with depression because of the memories of being in Vietnam. It’s hard for me to describe but I knew I was not the same person as before the service. My physical and mental disabilities limited my employment choices. It is strange but I had become more comfortable when left alone. I had been unemployed since 1982.

I receive lifelong disability benefits from VA, and I was satisfied with not doing anything for many years. I began receiving a long-term treatment at (then) North Chicago VA around 1990 to 1992 for PTSD. However, it was not enough. My life changed completely after I received treatment from Dr. Vedak and Beverly Chia Maier.

Dr. Vedak and I get along very well, and I wanted to show him I could be a better man. Then, Dr. Vedak referred me to Vocational Counselor Beverly (Chia) Maier in the Evidence-Based Supported Employment Program, and my life changed overnight. I didn’t even know how to fill out a resume, but, with her guidance, I filled out the blank in my life. She helped me to get a job that I like and am good at.

Dr. Vedak and Beverly Maier are very dedicated, caring people. Now I work as a recreation aide at Naval Station Great Lakes. My manager likes me, my co-workers like me, and I get along with everybody. My mother has been very surprised and proud that I have been able return to work. That makes me very happy.

What advice do you have?

First, find the people that care for you. Then, you have to move forward. I don’t think I would be here now but for the support from Dr. Vedak and Ms. Maier. I struggled when I started my job, but I stuck with it. I have been working since August 2016. The programs at the FHCC work. You need to put forth the effort yourself. Don’t give up!
From the Desk of the Commanding Officer

FHCC delivers ‘world-class care’ while we care for each other

By Captain Bradford L Smith
Lovell FHCC Deputy Director & Commanding Officer

I f any of you who work here at the FHCC is asked the question, “What do you do at the FHCC,” what I want you to answer is this: “We deliver world-class care and we care for each other.” It is a simple yet powerful statement that represents the top two goals of the FHCC’s new strategic plan, which will be rolled out to all in the coming weeks. These two goals are my highest priority, and they are both equally important. The exact wording was agreed on by the FHCC Board of Directors earlier this year and is as follows.

Quality: Patients and beneficiaries will receive the highest quality, safe care at the right place and at the right time.

Staff: FHCC will be the employer of choice for those who serve (and by “serve,” we mean all of us who care for Veteran and Active Duty patients as well as military dependents here at the FHCC.)

We deliver world-class care when we, FHCC staff and volunteers, look out for each other and create a supportive environment. It is very important that each of you is an empowered, supported, and respected member of one team made up of individuals working together to provide world class health care.

To achieve the strategic vision of world class care and being the best place in the world to work, partnerships and process improvement will be instrumental.

“Patients and beneficiaries will receive the highest quality, safe care, at the right place and at the right time.”

Capt. Bradford L. Smith
Lovell FHCC Deputy Director & Commanding Officer

Partnerships: FHCC will continue to expand and strengthen partnerships to define an integrated health care center.

Process Improvement: We will develop an infrastructure that supports a culture of continuous improvement, using process improvement tools and best practices to create and sustain a high reliability organization.

We already represent the ultimate health care partnership in federal government. As an integrated federal health care center, every day throughout the organization at the FHCC we work side by side to fulfill our shared mission of Reading Warriors and Caring for Heroes.

The fourth goal reflects how we approach problems at FHCC. To best serve our patients and care for each other, we must have a robust culture of process improvement. We must constantly be evaluating how we can improve our systems and processes to be sure we are as safe and effective as possible.

A strategic plan is a road map that will guide us in everything we do in the next three years. You will be learning more about it as we roll out our communication plan, but if you remember and model the answer to the question of what you do here at the FHCC, you will already be at the top of the class.

Competition season starts for FHCC veteran wheelchair athletes

By Gary J. Kunich
National Veterans Golden Age Games Public Affairs

ike all his friends, Steve Aoyagi was ready to join the military in 1968, but his mom wanted it her way.

“The whole neighborhood enlisted,” Aoyagi said. “I wanted the Marines, and she refused to sign the paperwork. She said only the Navy or Air Force because she knew Marines were going to Vietnam.”

He joined the Air Force and became a C-130 crew chief but ended up getting stationed throughout Thailand and Vietnam from 1970 to 1974.

Aoyagi, who receives his health care at the Lovell Federal Health Care Center in North Chicago, Ill., is 100 percent disabled. In May, he competed in the National Veterans Golden Age Games and won two gold medals and one silver medal.

Aoyagi said the Golden Age Games and other events let him focus on what he enjoys and strengthens bonds with his fellow veterans.

“I started coming about five years ago, and it’s a wonderful thing they are doing,” he said. “There is just a brotherhood, and this is one of the greatest benefits offered to us. I’m a little slower than I used to be, but that doesn’t stop me.”

In the Golden Age Games, Aoyagi won gold medals in 9-ball and table tennis and a silver in shuffleboard. He also competes in the National Disabled Veterans Tee Tournament, Valor Games, Endeavor Games, and as a member of the Lovell Legends team, he’ll again compete in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

For the 11th consecutive year, the Lovell Legends team - which usually numbers between seven and nine members - will compete in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games July 17-22 in Cincinnati.

Aoyagi said his seven years of service in the Air Force was a great way to see the world. But these days he’s confined to a scooter because of the neurological disease that attacks his muscles, is on an insulin pump for severe diabetes and works through his post-traumatic stress.

His service dog, Johnny, a donation from Canine Companions, is constantly at his side to help him open and close doors and retrieve items, and also helps with anxiety and other issues caused by PTSD. Johnny is a 2-month-old labrador retriever, and anyone who gets too close might get a friendly lick. “He knows more than 45 commands, and helps me to live,” Aoyagi said.

His wife, Ann Marie, said living through PTSD can be difficult, but Johnny’s assistance and the health care he gets through Lovell FHCC have been indispensable.

“It’s like a wave, and it comes and goes in cycles,” she said. “That can be very tough because depression manifests as anger in men, but he has all the psychologists and psychiatrists and stress teams who are there, and that helps.”

And the Golden Age Games and other competitions, he said, help him forget those challenges for a time.

“When I come here, I meet old friends. I make new friends,” he said. “It’s not just relaxing; it makes you feel good about yourself. I wished we could get every veteran to these games.”

But Aoyagi also gives credit to Ann Marie, his wife of 32 years. “She’s the best. She does all the work around the house. She takes care of things. She gets my scooter in and out of the car and does all the driving. She is not just my caregiver. I couldn’t do any of this without her.”

For coverage of the Legends at the national games, visit the FHCC’s Facebook page: www.facebook.com/lovellfhcc.
Hep C screenings offered at FHCC June 15 event

Free screenings for Hepatitis C will be scheduled for veterans, active duty military and their family members at the Lovell FHCC Resource Fair June 15.

The fair will be from 2 to 4 p.m., in Bldg. 133EF. Patients immediately will be sent to the laboratory for the screening blood test.

About 4 million people in the United States have Hepatitis C, a serious liver disease, but an estimated three out of four don’t know they have it. Baby boomers - those born between 1945 and 1965 - are five times more likely than other age groups to have Hepatitis C. Veterans are more likely than peers in the general population to have the disease. Hepatitis C can now be cured in over 95 percent of patients. Screening is done through a simple blood test, which also may be scheduled with providers.

The FHCC Resource Fair will be followed by a Community Meeting from 4-5 p.m., in Bldg. 134, Room C108.

Osmond named Junior Optometrist of Year

Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Osmond has been named Navy Junior Optometrist of the Year 2016. His nominator, Cdr. Peter Gunther, said Osmond “has done an exemplary job here and is certainly deserving of consideration for this award.”

Osmond spearheaded the realignment of Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense optometry services at Lovell FHCC, “creating the future model for interagency cooperation and delivery of federal healthcare.

“He has been very collaborative in his approach and quickly gained the confidence of the chief medical executive and medical staff.”

Nurses receive Daisy Awards for excellence

RN Lisy John, received the Daisy Award for January, 2017. RN John’s nominator said she was “amazing’ and “definitely deserved” the award. “She was very well-educated and knew how to talk to me,” wrote her nominator, a young patient who was away from home for the first time and received care in the Lovell FHCC ICU. “I had other amazing nurses and doctors, but she stood out.” The patient thanked RN John for being “almost a mother in the occasion that mine could not be around.”

Five other FHCC nurses were also recognized for their nominations: Allan Pitchan, Debra Richards, Chris Barussi-Jackson, David Corey and Doug Leverett.

The March Daisy award went to RN Mayumi Hammer. Hammer, who works in Nursing Service, was nominated by a co-worker for going above and beyond to ensure a homeless veteran patient in need received the best treatment possible.

Hep C screenings offered at FHCC June 15 event

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Nurses recognized at annual awards ceremony

urses are celebrated in the month of May. FHCC held its annual Nursing Excellence Awards ceremony, and the following nurses were recognized for the year:

Joel Buxtermueller and Emilma Peneva were recognized as RN Transitions to Practice Nurse Graduates. In the category of Nurse Preceptor, Carol Kang, Primary Care, was the winner. Pam Napierkowski, also Primary Care, was named LPN Nursing Preceptor of the year.

Osmund, a Navy optometrist for eight years, said he is humbled to be selected. “I have seen the names of great leaders in the optometry community as they received the same award,” he said. “I wondered, ‘what are they doing? I’d like to do things for the community to help improve it, make it enjoyable and help the patients’... so I feel honored that I’m seen as contributing in that way.”

Carrie Ann Jimenez, Primary Care, was named in the category of Licensed Practical Nurse. In the Staff Nurse category, the winner was GEC nurse Laila Navarro. Cynthia Standish, Nursing Practice - Education, won for best Nurse in an Expanded Role. Lt. Nathan Aranas, ED, won in the category of best Navy Nurse.

Congratulations!

- Janice Gilden, Chief of Endocrinology, was selected to be on a national committee, Protocols for Inpatient Management of Diabetes Consortium, which will develop a national consensus statement for Insulin Pump Therapy use in hospitals.
- FHCC Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services received a certificate of recognition from Illinois State Rep. Nick Sauer for care provided to a recovering stroke patient.
- Lt. Colleen Cordrick, Laboratory, Blood Donor Division, was named Junior Officer of the Quarter, fourth quarter.
- Organizational Performance Improvement Chief Paula Pintar’s abstract was accepted for an oral presentation at the Wis. state Association for Professionals in Infection Control conference.
- HMC Okoroafor Aghai was selected for the Medical Service Corps Enlisted to Officer Commissioning Program.
- HM1 Rebecca Dieterich was named Senior Sailor of the Quarter, second quarter.
- HM2 Josue Sanchez Duran was named Sailor of the Quarter, second quarter.
- HM3 Brandon Martin was named Junior Sailor of the Quarter, fourth quarter.
- RN Tarrick Wagner was named Blue Jacket of the Quarter, second quarter.
- HM1 Margaret Adams was named Senior Sailor of the Quarter, first quarter.
- HM2 Charley Hubbard was named Sailor of the Quarter, first quarter.
- HM3 Zachary Erdmann was named Junior Sailor of the Quarter, first quarter.
- RN Matthew Sosongo was named Blue Jacket of the Quarter, first quarter.
- Lovell FHCC has received the Navy Surgeon General’s Blue H Health Promotion and Wellness Award, Bronze Anchor level, which recognizes commands for health promotion policies, activities and outcomes. Kudos to David Reid, FHCC Health Promotion Coordinator m

Or Visit Our Website
@ lovell.fhcc.va.gov

Find More Online
facebook.com/LovellFHCC

Volunteers greet veteran patients with flowers

- FHCC Monthly Employee Awards
- Rear Admiral Swap, NME, visits
- State Rep. Sauer, patient, honor staff
- and many more stories and photos!
FHCC patients share their talents at annual Creative Arts Festival (cont.)

Veterans entered in numerous visual art, creative writing and performance categories, to vie for the chance to go to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. The national festival will be held in Buffalo, New York, in October.

Veterans enrolled for health care at the FHCC were eligible to enter. The contest was judged by professional local artists, musicians and writers, and was co-sponsored by the CLC Student Veterans Club. “Many veterans tell us how they use their mediums of art, music, dance, drama and creative writing to help them heal from trauma, process their emotions, stay relaxed and focused, relieve stress and to have fun,” said Elizabeth La Combe, FHCC recreation therapist and one of two event coordinators.

“This is a wonderful event for us,” said then CLC President Dr. Jerry Weber, during his welcoming remarks at the festival. “We are really always trying to find more ways to connect with veterans.” Members of the CLC Student Veterans Club helped the event run smoothly, helping to escort veterans and assist backstage. A 24-year-old member of the club was the youngest veteran who entered this year, and the oldest was a 93-year-old former Army nurse whose age and status as a WWII veteran drew attention. A small crowd gathered when Antioch resident Dorothy Volkert did a reading of one of her creative writing entries, “The Author.”

“I just heard about this festival a couple of weeks ago at the (FHCC) Women’s Clinic,” said Volkert, who enlisted after Pearl Harbor. She was a junior in college studying science. “I was at a movie with my boyfriend when Pearl Harbor happened, and we heard it on the radio he had made in his car,” she remembers. “We were astounded … we talked and asked each other, ‘What are we going to do?’”

Volkert was in the Army two years and served on the U.S. Army Hospital Ship Charles A. Stafford in the south Pacific and the Atlantic Ocean. She went on after her service to become a Lake County, Ill. administrator and raise a family. She won firsts in the Creative Arts Festival for a poem, “Why do you hate me,” and “Coming Home,” an essay.

“This year, we have veterans who are trying their art for the first time, and some who have never performed in front of an audience before today, as well as seasoned performers,” La Combe said.

Wasicak has been singing since she was a toddler, when her biological father – who played by ear – taught her to sing and play piano. She entered two photographs and performed two pieces – one from the hit musical “Hamilton.”

Wasicak served in the Army 1999-2000, until she fractured her pelvis on an obstacle course. Her mother, a Navy veteran, knew to enroll her daughter at the VA right away after Wasicak’s discharge.

Many veterans know about their educational benefits, Wasicak said. But health care, and services like recreational therapy, aren’t as widely known. “It’s kind of lonesome sometimes being a veteran,” Wasicak said. “You don’t know what you need, or even where to look for it.”

Continued from page 1

Marquette University nursing students practice bleeding control using a simulator known as the “Gunshot Wound in a Box” in the FHCC Simulation Center. Pictured left to right is Nick Filo, Matt Vatanatanyatham and Brigid Jensen. (Photo by Jayna Legg)

FHCC Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Lt. Cmdr. John Sinclair shows Marquette nursing student Chelsea Beaty a crash cart in the Emergency Department. (Photo by Jayna Legg)

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Continued from page 1

Sinclair noted the military and civilian nurses in the ED have a wealth of experience to share.

“Our nurses on staff, a lot of them have ten to 15 years of experience,” said Sinclair, whose own career spans nearly two decades. “They are an untapped resource.”

Marquette nursing student Brigid Jensen visited the ER. “I love this,” said Jensen, who also is an Air Force ROTC cadet at Marquette.

“Nursing student Allie Comes agreed that VANAP and particularly the visit to Lovell FHCC, provide excellent opportunities for students to interact with veterans. “Hearing stories from the Navy nurses solidified my passion for working with Veterans, and I am so grateful for this experience,” Comes said.

Comes practiced applying a combat action tourniquet on FHCC ER Division Officer Lt. Leonard Aranas with the help of civilian RN Esthelyn Bergonio. Comes’ career goals are to start a medical-surgical unit and then be a nurse in a critical-care setting. In addition to the ER, the student nurses went to Primary Care, the Critical Care Unit, and the Community Living Center as well as the recruit clinics. They ended the day in the FHCC Simulation Center, where they learned and practiced bleeding control techniques. Lunch included a panel discussion with FHCC Navy nurses.

VANAP faculty member Tabitha Eden, a Navy nurse herself, said, “I am so thankful to have the unique opportunity to see two career paths (Navy nursing and nursing education) come together in such an incredible experience.

“The students were in awe of the Navy nurses and what inspirational leaders they are,” Eden said. “I hope that the Navy nurses felt energized by seeing the passion these students have for starting their own nursing journey, many of which will focus on caring for Veterans as well as fellow service members.”

FCC patients share their talents at annual Creative Arts Festival (cont.)
FHCC simulation specialists train high school students

Rickover Naval Academy Junior ROTC cadets train, learn about medical careers during visit to FHCC

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jacob Waldrop
Lovell FHCC Public Affairs

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Cadets from Rickover Naval Academy in Chicago recently visited the Lovell FHCC for a tour and some hands-on training on the facility’s high-tech simulators.

The day-long visit to Lovell FHCC introduced the cadets to many different career opportunities in the medical field, both in the military and civilian sectors.

“Many Chicago high school programs are labeled as ‘college prep,’ but they are rarely able to provide students hands-on exposure to give them an idea of what these professions are like,” said William Tooker, the JROTC commander.

Tooker praised the experience and pledged to bring more JROTC cadets to Lovell FHCC in the future.

“During the visit, students asked their career questions during a panel discussion with FHCC professionals, and they learned new skills, as well, using the simulators. They divided into small groups and practiced Basic Life Support (BLS), IV catheter insertion and intramuscular medication administration using interactive training manikins.

“Just seeing and asking questions was education for them,” said Mark Bisbee, FHCC assistant department head for education and training, took the lead to organize challenging simulations for the students. “I wanted something to interest them, but also something that would be safe and fairly easy to practice,” he said.

“The day-to-day activities that make up normal workdays,” Tooker said. “That made it a really powerful experience for students.”

Bisbee echoed Tooker’s remarks and said the FHCC would be happy to host more cadets.

“I hope FHCC and the Junior ROTC cadets can build on this experience next year by continuing this relationship. I saw nothing but a positive exchange of learning by staff and students.”

Mark Bisbee, Assistant Department Head, FHCC Education and Training

Lovell FHCC participates in Navy Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield exercise

The scenario unfolded quickly - a lone gunman began firing on the second floor of the U.S. Military Entrance Processing Command (MEPCOM) in North Chicago, Ill.

Immediately there were casualties, young recruits who had to be evacuated safely to nearby Lovell Federal Health Care Center for emergency treatment.

The active shooter drill in February was part of Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield, an annual Navy-wide force protection exercise.

MEPCOM, Lovell FHCC, Naval Station Great Lakes, Recruit Training Command, local law enforcement and base tenant commands coordinated their participation to simulate their response in the event of an actual active shooter incident.

FHCC participants included Training Specialist Leticia Knight, who moulaged role-players’ simulated injuries to add to the realism of the exercise. Additionally, other Simulation Center, Emergency Department, Police and Master-at-Arms staff members responded in their respective roles.

“Immediately there were casualties,” said Velma Johnson, FHCC ambulatory care and processing department head, who triages “casualties.”

“This is the first time in 10 years that I’ve actually had an opportunity to bring students into a professional setting to not only interact with the professionals, but try some of the day-to-day activities that make up normal workdays,” Tooker said.

“I saw nothing but a positive experience of learning by FHCC staff and students.”

You’re invited:
Resource Fair & Community Meeting

June 15
Resource Fair 2-4 p.m.
Meeting 4 p.m.

At resource fair:
• Learn about services
• Enroll with your discharge paperwork (Form DD214)
• Get a Hepatitis C Screening

At Meeting:
• Ask questions
• Meet FHCC leadership

FHCC main/valet parking entrance
3001 Green Bay Road
North Chicago, Il 60034

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