



# ‘WRAIR Forward’

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## COMMANDER'S CORNER

In Marshal Maurice de Saxe's *My Reveries Upon the Art of War*, Chevalier Follard comments, "War is...a science for the expert."

At the USAMRU-E, we use the scientific method to address medical research issues directly relevant to the health and readiness of the forward-deployed soldier and the family.



The USAMRU-E in Heidelberg

This does not mean that we have the answers to all the questions of importance. But this should not prevent us from reporting what is known.

It is our mission as military scientists to provide the leadership with the information we do know as quickly and succinctly as possible. To support this goal, the USAMRU-E publishes brief, one-page research reports. The latest report describes our research findings on the effects of operational tempo (OPTEMPO) on soldiers and families. It's our hope that leaders can use this information to maintain and enhance soldier and unit combat readiness.

-MAJ Carl A. Castro

### New Research Report on "OPTEMPO"

Adler, A. B., & Golembe, E. H. (1998, March 12). **The impact of OPTEMPO on soldiers and families.** Research Report #25. U.S. Army Medical Research Unit-Europe.\*

\*This report is also available in German and French.

## Psychological Screening Program

### New developments bring new challenges

The USAMRU-E continues to assist the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) surgeon in managing the psychological component of the medical redeployment screening program in Bosnia. All soldiers down range complete a one-page survey of key psychological symptoms, and receive follow-up interviews to determine referral need. The USAMRU-E's involvement includes

updating the psychological battery database, structuring the database for data analysis, generating an initial report on the data, and computerizing the secondary screen interview schedule. Thus far over 50,000 surveys have been processed, and another 25,000 surveys are anticipated in this fiscal year.

New developments include the U.S. Army Medical Command (USAMEDCOM) funding to support the force surveillance program down range, as well as funding from the European Regional Medical Command (ERMC) to conduct a parallel Medical Surveillance Garrison Study. This new study will establish a data set from which to compare and interpret the psychological and physical data from the Bosnia redeployment screening program. The first data collection will begin in April with units from the 1st Personnel Command, followed by the 21<sup>st</sup> TAACOM, 1AD, and 1ID later in the spring and summer.

Castro, C. A. (1997, December 11). **Joint medical surveillance in Bosnia: Psychological screening. Report I.** Prepared for BG Kevin C. Kiley, Command Surgeon, USAREUR. (USAMRU-E Scientific and Technical Staff: CPT Bienvenu, Dr. Adler, SGT Schlafer, and Ms. Spohn.)

Castro, C. A. (1998, January 9). **Medical Surveillance Army Garrison Study. Prepared for COL Smith, Chief of Staff, 1 ID.** (USAMRU-E Scientific and Technical Staff: CPT Bienvenu, Dr. Adler, SGT Schlafer, and Ms. Spohn.)

## Operation Joint Endeavor/Operation Joint Guard (OJE/OJG) Reports

In collaboration with the Division of Neuropsychiatry, WRAIR, the USAMRU-E has prepared 8 reports describing the research findings of the OJE/OJG studies for the USAREUR senior leadership. LTC Degenhardt, USAREUR ODCSPER, coordinated and supported this effort. The final report in this series summarizes the data in a single report that can be used by commanders that are deploying units to the Bosnia area of operations.

Castro, C. A., & Degenhardt, E. (1998). **Operation Joint Endeavor (OJE): Lessons learned for improving psychological readiness.** U.S. Army Medical Research Unit-Europe, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command.

## Community Outreach Study

The unit has obtained funding to support the production and analysis of a new study designed by USAMRU-E staff called the 7ATC & 100<sup>th</sup> ASG Community Outreach Study. The surveys will be distributed with the help of 100<sup>th</sup> ASG personnel. About 4,000 surveys are anticipated for data analysis. (MAJ Castro & Dr. Adler).

## NATO Contact in the Netherlands

Dr. Adler delivered the keynote address at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and symposium of the Military Psychology and Sociology Service (MPSD), Royal Netherlands Army, held at the Royal Military Academy, Breda, The Netherlands. Dr. Adler spoke on the role of military psychology from different cultures.

Adler, A. B. (1998, March 31-April 1). **Results from an international study of military psychologists and identifying issues relevant across cultures.** Presented at the symposium of the MPSD, Royal Military Academy, Breda, The Netherlands.

## USAREUR PAO Coordination in Support of OJE Research Projects

USAREUR PAO coordination included the development of an information paper relating to OJE research, and an interview for a potential article for the *New York Times*.

Castro, C. A. (1997, December 18). **Information Paper: Medical Research in Bosnia Conducted by the U.S. Army Medical Research Unit-Europe (USAMRU-E).** Requested by: USAREUR PAO, Mr. James Boyle.

**New York Times Interview on Mental Health (Psychological Battery).** (1997, December 20). Conducted by USAREUR PAO (COL Sullivan & Ms. Millie Waters) & MAJ Castro & Ms. Evelyn Golembe.

## Coordination for Family Violence Documents

The final products relating to Dr. Margaret Moore’s “family violence research,” as well as a briefing document based on the technical report developed by Dr. Adler, were delivered to Ms. Jan Witte, Chief, Family Services, ODCSPER, USAREUR, on 27 January 1998 (MAJ Castro & Dr. Adler).

## New Research Staff at the USAMRU-E

The USAMRU-E has negotiated four nonpersonal service contracts. These new staff include Mr. Chris Reinish, who assists with data automation, and Ms. Ann Huffman, who

helps manage the Psychological Battery Data Base. Other new personnel include Dr. Erin Chung who is developing the unit’s frequency codebooks. Ms. Helene Millescamp, now working as a volunteer, will be brought on board in April to provide French language support.

A new IPA (Intergovernmental Personnel Act Assignment Agreement) on behalf of Dr. Adler, Health Services Research Psychologist, was coordinated with the University of Maryland following approval by the WRAIR and USAMRMC. The IPA began in November, 1997.

## “Hail & Farewell”

SGT David E. Schlafer, accompanied by his wife Sherry and daughter Heather Anne, departed from Heidelberg on 28 January 1998. SGT Schlafer’s new assignment is at Fort Carson, Co.

SGT Dwhyte W. Lawrence, 91X, newly arrived on 21 January 1998, serves as the USAMRU-E’s NCOIC, effective 20 March 1998. SGT Lawrence was formerly assigned to Division Mental Health Services, 702D Main Support Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, Korea. SGT Lawrence is accompanied by his son Delano, age 8.

## Promotion for CPL Millie E. Calhoun

Newly arrived in the unit on 19 January 1998, CPL Millie E. Calhoun, 91X, was advanced to Specialist and promoted to her current rank on 24 March 1998 (photo). CPL Calhoun serves as USAMRU-E’s NCOIC for research operations. CPL Calhoun’s last duty station was at the U.S. Army MEDDAC, Ft. Belvoir, Va. CPL Calhoun has two daughters, Kiera, age 5, and Tiera, age 3.



MAJ Castro & CPL Calhoun

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