



PH Hometown News

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May 2003

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 Lt Col Bill Courtney 1268
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- **AFMC**
 Col Judith Holl 787-6728
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 Col Tom Stedman 487-6536
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Colonel Deneice Van Hook Awarded First Ever PH Coin of Excellence

In April 2003, Colonel Deneice Van Hook was awarded the PH Coin of Excellence. It was awarded for her far-reaching vision, distinct leadership, and her multitude of accomplishments that positioned the USAF Public Health career field to meet the future missions ahead of us.



Col Van Hook has been the leader (BSC Associate Corp Chief for Public Health) for the past few years and has orchestrated several dramatic changes and improvements to our mission and organization. Under her leadership, we have seen the role and missions of Population Health Epidemiology and Deploy-



ment Health Surveillance grow and mature. We have seen the new missions within Force Health Management (including PIMR

management, profile management and medical standards review) come to fruition. She was a key leader who ensured we properly welcomed over 350 former 4FOX1 personnel into our PH family. These are but a few of the significant items she has completed while in her present job. The coin was awarded to her before she moves to a new job higher in the organization (summer 2003) to give her time to award these coins to other deserving PH personnel. Thanks for your great leadership and dedication to our family. We really appreciate it!

Do you have a nominee for the PH Coin of Excellence

Anyone who would like to nominate someone for the PH Coin of Excellence can do so by submitting a narrative letter describing how the nominee went above and beyond in furthering the USAF PH mission and had a tremendous impact on the local unit, Wing, MAJCOM, USAF and DoD. This is not an award that is in addition to other established USAF

awards (Annual PH awards, USAF Twelve Outstanding members, etc). This award focuses on the nominees accomplishments towards the USAF PH Mission (broad impact to higher levels than current duty assignment or long term achievements) and not any off-duty involvement or activities. Recipients will be listed on a web site and the accomplishments will be historically documented. These coins are only awarded by either the CFM or the BSC Associate Corp Chief for PH. They cannot be purchased!

PH Airman of the Year: (from AFMC) SrA Catherine Dienst



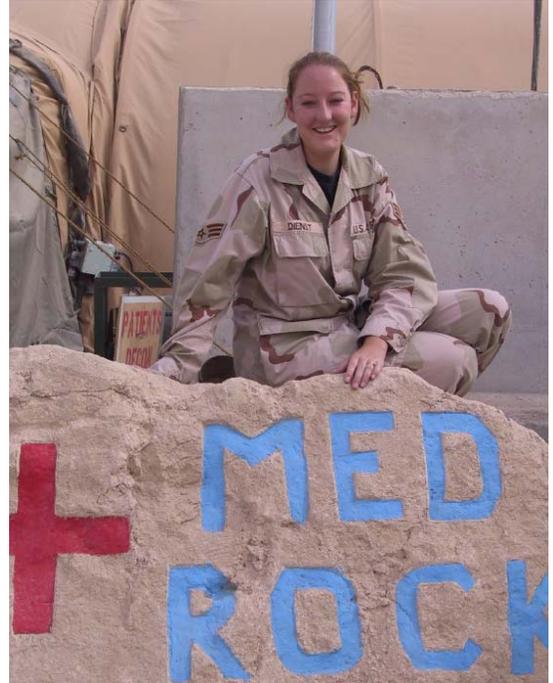
Meet Catherine Jean-Marie Dienst, a SrA from Eglin AFB, Florida. She is a Public Health Journeyman who was recently deployed. She arrived at her first duty station (Eglin) in Jan 2000.

She is married to William R Dienst, also a SrA, assigned to the 823 Red Horse Squadron at Hurlburt AFB, Florida. They also enjoy the company of their two dogs: Snickers and Champ. She enjoys school, playing with dogs and spending time with husband (when they are actually in the same country at the same time!!!)

The quote she wants to share with us is "All things are possible with God behind us" and "I think the one thing I believe in more than anything is that if you work really hard you will get ahead

and you will be successful."

The messages she would like to share with our PH family... "I would like to thank my husband for always being so supportive when it comes to school and participating in activities after work. Also I need to thank SMSgt Annette Semasko and MSgt David Sherry for pushing me so hard and expecting so much out of me."



Colonel Parker Award Winner: (from AFSOC) SSgt Stephen Garrett



Meet Stephen G Garrett, a SSgt and the NCOIC of the Operational Public Health Element at the 353d Special Operations Group at Kadena AB, Okinawa. His assignment history includes McGuire Air Force Base, NJ from 1992-1997; Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea from 1998-1999; Travis AFB, CA from 1999-2001; and Kadena AB, Okinawa from 2001 to present.

He has a wonderful, supportive wife, Debbie and a bright, happy 7 y/o daughter named Kelsey. Debbie is pregnant with their second child (a boy who is to be named Bailey), and Kelsey is wrapping up the first grade.

Most time off is spent with his family, and they often find themselves wandering aimlessly around Okinawa (TRANSLATION: they often find themselves lost). He is also a very busy student – he is enrolled in four classes this term, and will be only three classes away from his Bachelors in Science degree at the end of this semester. When he manages to get a free hour to himself, he enjoys conquering planets on his X Box (he adds that it is a great stress relief) and watching South Park

and Trading Spaces with Debbie.

His favorite quote: "If you never crash, you aren't riding hard enough." -- Jason Allwine

"Winning this award is an honor of the highest order, and it has provided me with an overwhelming sense of accomplishment. When I was a young troop, I was in a LOT of trouble, a LOT of the time. It would be inaccurate to say that my future in the AF wasn't looking bright; at the time, it looked as though I had no future at all! I've accomplished a great deal since then, and I would encourage young troops who are having a hard time or are considering leaving the Air Force behind them to really think hard about whether they've given the service all that they have to give; it's only when we give our all that we can truly reap the rewards. I love my life as an airman in this great Air Force, and I look forward to spending as many years as possible serving our nation."



Colonel Parker SNCO Award Winner: (from USAFE) MSgt Jeffery Maberry



Meet MSgt Jeffery D. Maberry, the NCOIC of Public Health at Aviano AB, Italy. His previous assignments include Holloman AFB NM from 1998 to 2001 as Asst NCOIC for Public Health and Aviano AB, Italy

2001-Present. Prior to 1998 he was a Structural Technician at Davis Monthan AFB, Airzona; Castle AFB, CA; Upper Heyford AB, United Kingdom; and Sembach AB, Germany.

He has been married to his wonderful wife Angela for the past 12 years. They have a 5 year old son David and a 7 month old boy Luca. He enjoys reading and outdoor sports. He has two famous quotes he would like to share with us: "What's the

key to airpower...flexibility." "There are only two kinds of people in the world... Texans and those who want to be Texans."

He would also like to share a special thanks to the Aviano PH

flight for all their hard work and "can-do attitude". He would also like to personally thank the awesome PH family who have taken the time to mentor and teach him.

"Thanks, I truly appreciate it."



Staff PH NCO of the Year Award Winner: (from USAFSAM) TSgt Annette Reid



Meet TSgt Annette Reid from USAFSAM. She is the NCOIC, Communicable Disease and Epidemiology section and is responsible for the curriculum for our PH courses. Her assignment history includes: 1) January 1992-January 1993, Military Public Health Technician, 51st Medical Group, Osan AB, Korea. 2) January 1993-May 1994, Military Public Health Technician, 60th Medical Group at Travis AFB, CA; May 1994-May 1995, protocol representative, 60th Air Mobility Wing, Travis AFB, CA; May 1995-September 1996, Generals Enlisted Aide, 15th Air Force, Travis AFB, CA; September 1996-July 1999, NCOIC, Occupational Health Element, 60th MDG Travis AFB, CA; July 1999-October 1999, Deployed to Haiti, Uphold Democracy; October 1999-January 2001, NCOIC, Occupational Health Element, 60th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, Travis AFB, CA. 3)

January 2001-present, NCOIC, Communicable Disease/Epidemiology, USAFSAM, Brooks City-Base, TX. She is married to Carlton Reid and they have one six-year-old son, Patrick. Her off duty interests (hobbies) include: homework, homework, homework (college) and spending time with my family.

Her favorite or famous quotes: "Human beings, by changing the inner attitudes of their minds, can change the outer aspects of their lives" – William James.



PH Officer of the Year Award Winner: (from ACC) Capt James Coker



Meet Captain James R. Coker the Public Health Flight Commander at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ. His previous assignments include: as a 4FOX (Enlisted): Bitburg AB, Germany 90-92; Seymour Johnson AFB, NC 92-94. As a 43H3 (PH Officer): Chief, Pubic Health Flight,

Yokota AB, Japan from Aug 96-Jan 99; SOS In-Residence at Maxwell AFB, AL from Jan-Feb 99; Public Health Flight Commander at MacDill AFB, FL from Feb 99-Dec 00; MDG Executive Officer at MacDill AFB, FL from Dec 00-Aug 01; Public Health Flight Commander at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ from Aug 01- May 03. He has had several deployments as well: Saudi (Operation Desert Shield) May-Oct 93; Haiti (Operation Provide Comfort) Jun-Sep 99; and then Oman and Kyrgyzstan (Operation Enduring Freedom) Oct 02 – Mar 03.

Capt Coker is single and does not have any children. He does however, have 5 Sisters and 2 Brothers; 2-Very

busy parents in more ways than one. I asked him what he liked to do when he gets time off...his response: We get time off?????? He enjoys international and local travel; Detroit Red Wings Hockey; volleyball; tennis; bowling; University of Michigan Sports (Go Blue!) and hiking...when he gets time off. His favorite sayings or quote to share with us is from John F. Kennedy: "Conformity is the enemy of thought and the jailer of freedom." "Know when to follow and when to set your own path.." A message he would like to share with us: "This has been a great year and I have been fortunate to work with some outstanding public health personnel both deployed and state side. Unfortunately, the AF does not offer the PH team award, because the staff at DM is incredible. I have been blessed with great colleagues, superiors and a stellar PH flight. They are the true reason I stay motivated and a proud member of the AF PH team." Thanks for sharing a part of your life with us Capt Coker!



Lt Col George Prascsak Award Winner (PH Staff Officer of the Year): Capt Juan Ubiera (USAFSAM)



Meet Major Juan Ubiera a recent instructor from Brooks City-Base, Texas. His previous assignments include USAFSAM Instructor Brooks City-Base from Sept 2000 to June 2003. Prior to USAFSAM he was stationed at Holloman AFB, New Mexico

from March 1998 to Sept 2000. Prior to this assignment he was stationed at Shaw AFB, South Carolina from January 1996 to March 1998.

He is married to Ellie and they have three wonderful children, John (14) Samantha (13) and Vincent (9).

During his off time Capt Ubiera enjoys one of the

latest crazes spreading across the country...he enjoys repair projects...you know...taking things apart (like his home or car) and putting them back together again.

His favorite quote he would like to share with the rest of us: "Seek

always to do some good, somewhere. Every man has to seek in his own way to realize his true worth. You must give some time to your fellow man. For remember, you don't live in a world all your own. Your brothers are here too."

Albert Schweitzer

