



# PH Hometown News

Volume 5, Issue 3

Jul – Sep 2004

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## Ninth CFM Says Thanks to the Best!



**Bolling AFB:** As I look back on my career of 26 years, I have to honestly say that I have had the distinct privilege and honor of working with some of the best people in the world. There have been great leaders who have helped shape me as a person and to get where I am today. From my first assignment at Eglin AFB, Florida, where a SMSgt Danny Rudolph helped me channel my energy and got me involved in the many activities that a large base has to offer. He helped groom me for Senior Airman Below the Zone and pushed me to study for SSgt (which I was fortunate in making the first time at three years in service). I thank him for influencing me early in my career. I know many of you supervisors out there are doing the same for our young Public Health family members today...keep it up!

After Eglin AFB, I was extremely lucky in being offered a job at Hanscom AFB, Massachusetts, where I was the NCOIC for about six months. The challenge of transitioning the old Veterinary Services into Environmental Health happened as I arrived at Hanscom. The animal work moved to the US Army and we took on many preventive medicine programs for people, including the communicable disease control program and several occupational health programs such as respiratory protection and occupational health education. After this transition was complete, a new leader and great mentor came to Hanscom. SMSgt Cecil Moore helped shape me into a better supervisor and helped me develop a path to make it to CMSgt. He took the time to invest in

my career. Again, there are many leaders out there today who do the same. For those of you who are supervisors and do not have the time to be a good mentor...please take the time and make a difference for those younger PH family members...help bring them up right!

The transition from Veterinary Services to Environmental Health was difficult for all of us at the time. We did not get many manpower positions with this major workload...of course, the US Army did not get any manpower from us either. We were very lucky to have some great Nurses join our family of Environmental Health Officers (some are still helping us today, like Colonel Diana Barnicott at USAFSAM at Brooks City Base).

This transition was a dramatic change for our Veterinary family, not only having to give up animal work, but to take on a new mission for people...okay, they are two legged animals...but the job was very different and we had these new Nurses who did not understand animal medicine. It was a culture shock to say the least. Some people did not like the changes so they bailed out and many are doing well in retirement. Does this sound familiar to just a couple of years ago?

We are still working through the issues of another major transformation where a career field was merged into two other very different fields with very important missions. Some people decided to move on while many others have accepted the challenge and have led us to be successful. The major dif-

CMSgt Strout from page 1:

ference with this transformation was that there was a significant manpower move that came with the workload. I believe that you all have done a great job implementing this huge shift in our culture. I know there are problems and major concerns out there. We really do listen to your concerns and try to correct those problems that we can fix from this level. I think that most of the problems identified to date are not directly related with Public Health. They have more to do with the implementation of PCO and the OMG structure (working across squadron lines). Of course, there are problems with not having enough manpower to get all of our tasks done. These problems are being addressed aggressively from many angles and levels. I am confident that these problems will see some relief within the next couple of years, based on the efforts and work done by some very dynamic individuals.

Speaking of dynamic individuals, USAFSAM has many of them on staff who everyday help shape our future. They provide superb instruction and mentoring to help mold the minds of our future workers and leaders. I was fortunate to have spent almost seven years as an instructor at USAFSAM (from 1984 until 1991). I was honored to be the Career Development Course writer (the first to transition the course to a computer...the old Z-100 computer with a 10MB hard drive...we actually thought that we would never fill that space). I had to type the entire course into the computer myself...seven

volumes...no pictures...as the computer would not accept pictures yet). During those years at the school, I worked with the likes of Colonel William May (retired), CMSgt John Blackburn (retired), MSgt Paul Johnson (deceased), Colonel Thomas Stedman (then Captain, but now at HQ AETC), Colonel Diana Barnicott (then Major), Colonel Teresa Casey (then Captain, but now the MDG/CC at Langley), Colonel Thomas Cropper (retired), Colonel Harvey Crowder (retired), Captain Oleg Voronin (then TSgt, but now instructor at USAFSAM) and CMSgt Charlie Box (deceased). These people all had a tremendous impact on helping me develop as a better NCO, USAF member and Public Health professional. Thank you very much to all of you!

From the schoolhouse I traveled to Guam and again worked with some top notch people including Lt Col Wayne Korn (then Captain, but now at McGuire), SMSgt (S) Mark Mellinger (then SSgt, now at Bolling), MSgt Milt Schmidt (then SSgt, now at Robins), MSgt Tim O'Donohue (then SSgt, now at Wright-Patterson), TSgt Karen Horvath (then SrA, now at Vance), TSgt Gill Patterson (retired) and TSgt Leonard Williams (then SrA, now at Buckley). There were many challenges on Guam ranging from the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines where over 22,000 people were evacuated through Guam with their pets (1,326 pets). Military Public Health (as we were called back then) was in charge of quar-

CMSgt Strout continues on page 6

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## Colonel Rex Brennan Retires



Colonel Rex Brennan retired on July 8, 2004 as the Command Public Health Officer and Health Promotion Director, Office of the Command Surgeon, Air Mobility Command.

Colonel Brennan is a native of Dayton, Ohio. He was raised on a small horse ranch in Southern California.

His military career began in 1968, when he enlisted in the US Army. During his enlisted three years of active duty, he advanced to E-5. His assignments as an Army, Veterinary Corps, Food Inspection Specialist were to Presidio of San Francisco, California and at Fort MacArthur, California. After leaving active duty he traveled to Kansas where he attended Kansas State University for eight years. During his undergraduate years he was a member of Phi Eta Sigma, Gamma Sigma Delta, and Phi Kappa Phi honorary societies and he was selected to receive a Health Professions Scholarship to attend the College of Veterinary Medicine.

As a Veterinary School student he was elected class President and he served as an Army, Medical Services Corps, Second Lieutenant with active duty summer assignments at Fort Riley,

Kansas; Fort Huachuca, Arizona; and Fort Benning, Georgia. Upon graduation from the College of Veterinary Medicine, he received a direct commission as a First Lieutenant and later Captain in the Army, Veterinary Corps.



*PRIVATE REX BRENNAN, BASIC TRAINING, FORT ORD, CALIFORNIA, 1968*

As a Captain in the Army, Veterinary Corps he had assignments as Chief, Veterinary Services, Logistical Support Unit, Multinational Force and Observers, Sinai, Egypt; Chief, Combat Service Support Branch and Assistant Chief, Food Technology, Veterinary Sciences Division, Academy of Health Sciences, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; and Officer-In-Charge, Team F, 106th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Service), Osan AB, Korea.

In September 1986, he transferred to the Air Force as an Environmental Health Officer/Public Health Officer. His assignments as an Air Force Officer include: Chief, Environmental Health Services, 2d Strategic Hospital (SAC), Barksdale AFB, Louisiana; Director, Food Technology and Safety Branch, School of Aerospace Medicine; Brooks AFB, Texas; Chief, Military Public Health, 24 Medical Operations Squadron, 24 Medical Group, Howard AFB, Republic of Panama; Commander, Aerospace Medicine Flight, 24 Medical Operations Squadron, 24 Medical Group, Howard AFB, Republic of Panama; Chief, Health and Environment, Headquarters United States Air Forces in Europe, Office of the Command Surgeon, Ramstein AB, Germany; Command Public Health Officer and Chief, Health Promotion, Headquarters United States Air Forces in Europe, Office of the Command Surgeon, Ramstein AB, Germany;



*CAPTAIN REX BRENNAN, MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS, SINAI, EGYPT, 1983*

and Commander, 82d Aerospace Medicine

Squadron, 82d Medical Group, Sheppard AFB, Texas. He assumed his present position as Command Public Health Officer and Health Promotion Director at HQ AMC in July 2000. His professional military education includes Squadron Officer's School, Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College.



During his career he has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with seven oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters.

Colonel Brennan is married to Rak (MiSuk) and they have two children, Olivia, 16 years old and David, 14 years old. In addition, his mother, Shirley, and his mother-in-law, Ya, make up the Brennan family. Thank you Colonel Brennan for your significant contributions to our mission and for being a great friend to us all! We will miss you!

## Skunkworks:

**Laughlin AFB, Texas:** SSgt Irene Schwaninger graduated from the Community College of the Air Force

(CCAF) with her Associates in Science in Public Health Technology and her Associates in Science in Social Psychology from Park University. The Laughlin Public Health Office had to bid a sad adieu to Capt Yufang Zhang, their Flight Commander for the last two years, who is now separated from the Air Force.



They also bid a sad farewell to SrA Erik Bell who has PCS'd to Moody AFB, Georgia. (Pictured here with his wife Latoya—love those smiles!).



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here with his wife Latoya—love those smiles!).



After saying good bye to friends and family, there was a bit of good news as well, SrA Aspen Heine pinned on SSgt on 1 July 04 (pictured here with Col. Torres-Reyes [on the left] and TSgt David Adkins, NCOIC of PH).

TSgt Adkins was selected as the NCO of the Quarter and was recently notified of selection to MSgt! Way to go Team Laughlin!



## CMSgt William Hollowood takes over as 4E0X1 Career Field Manager on 1 Oct

CMSgt Bill Hollowood is the current Superintendent of the 59th Aeromedical-Dental Group at Lackland AFB, Texas. His previous assignments include: Lackland AFB Texas from Nov 2001 to present; Kadena AB Japan from Oct 1998 to Nov 2001; Hickam AFB Hawaii from Jan 1996 to Oct 1998; Davis-Monthan AFB Arizona from Nov 1989 to Jan 1996; Kadena AB Japan from Sep 1986 to Nov 1989; Langley AFB Virginia from Jun 1982 to Sep 1986; Brooks AFB Texas (& Ft Sam Houston TX) from Mar 1982 to Jun 1982 (Veterinary Public Health Apprentice Course)

Chief Hollowood is married to Tammie from

Uncasville, Connecticut. They have two sons Christopher (18--who is a freshman at the University of Alabama) and Jonathon (11--in the sixth grade) and a daughter, Taylor (8--who is in the third grade). They also have a dog (Oki-mix); two cats and one rabbit.

Chief Hollowood enjoys reading books (primarily history) and spending time and life with his family and friends. His favorite saying or quote he would like to share with us is "Be positive, both on and off duty. A positive attitude is infectious..."

The message he has for the rest of us is, "Thank you for your service to our Air Force and our nation."

Congratulations on your selection as CFM...I know you will do a great job and have fun in this job...I did!

Chief Strout

# Skunkworks



**Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio:** Captain Kelly Gambino-Shirley was selected for Conditional Reserve Status (CRS).

**Hurlburt AFB, Florida:** Captain Derec S. Hudson was selected for Conditional Reserve Status (CRS).

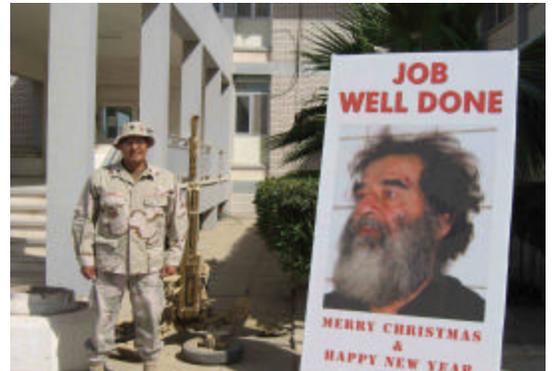
**Camp Arifjan, Kuwait:** Pictured below are members from the 2nd Preventive Medicine Team Air Force (2 PMTAF). The Public Health Members assigned include: SrA Shannon Emerson (McCord), Lt Col Carol Fisher (Travis), MSgt Jayne Cooper (Andrews), SrA Celina Johnson (McCord), SSgt Chris Shetterly (McCord), TSgt Mona Robinson (McConnell), SSgt Michylle Littrell (Andrews), SrA Kim Mercer (McConnell) and missing from the photo is Lt Col Stephen Niehoff (USAFA).



**379th EMDG:** Pictured here in the big easy chair at a deployed site are TSgt Carlos Huete, 1Lt Shannon Lee, SrA Aric Sonnenschein.



Lt Col David Duque on a successful deployment earlier this year.



## SSgt Selects Celebrate

**Recent SSgt promotion selects for PH:**

MOORE DEENA R  
 GARCIA NICOLE  
 MARTINEZ PRICILA  
 SINCLAIRWEST RAYMOND  
 KIDWELL LAURIE A  
 DEVINE DANIEL E  
 KARY JONATHAN M  
 BLODGET MARGARET Y  
 TAYLOR QANNA L  
 BEST DEMETRIUS L  
 THOMPSON CLAY E  
 MITCHELL VERONICA  
 TUCKER LAKISHA D  
 ONESKO HILARY N  
 WRIGHT BRANDON L

CATLIN ANGELA L  
 HAMILTON CASANDRA  
 KERCHER SARAH E  
 LUCIO SARAH C  
 SMITH JANEL N  
 DUNBAR SHEKELIA S  
 WALKER ALBERTINA L  
 MCCAIN BRANDY FAITH  
 JAMES MICHELLE A  
 POWELL JOANNA L  
 PAULSON KATHERINE

MCKEE TIFFANY T  
 SCHNEIDER ERIC O  
 CONNERS TIA GRACE  
 PERRYMAN BRANDI L  
 PATTON DONALD JR  
 BROWNLEE BROOKE A  
 PETERSON ANABELLE  
 DUFRESNE ANDREA L  
 KINCAID TERRY M  
 BROWNING PATRICK J  
 CUTRIGHT GINELLE S

HAAS MONIQUE  
 AUDREY  
 RITTER BETH L  
 WALL NANCY E  
 RICHARDSON ERIC M

Congratulations to one and all! You deserve the celebration for a job well done!



MSgt Angela Pierce and Maj Randall Langsten of the Public Health office at RAF Lakenheath deployed to South Africa 1-20 Jul 04 as part of Med Flag. They provided HIV education to hundreds of locals from 6 area villages. They also provided sanitation consultation for a local dairy as well as other related PH duties. Pictured are MSgt Pierce (front row, right) and other deployed USAF members and South African forces.

From Chief Strout page 2:

antining them while on Guam (which was rabies free) during OPERATION FIERY VIGIL. I want to thank those who served on that small island with me. You are a great group of people!

From Guam, I was stationed at Goodfellow AFB where again, I had the pleasure of working with fantastic people such as Captain Scott Brooks (separated and working for Gallo Wines as a Food Safety Officer), Major Alice Chapman (now in an AFIT program), TSgt Mary Robison (retired), TSgt McNeil Baptiste (now at McChord), SSgt Phil Harrison (now at Spangdahlem), and SSgt Valerie Ramirez.

I transitioned to Keesler AFB, Mississippi in 1995 and worked with another great group of Public Health family members such as Colonel Diana Barnicott, Major Tim Bennett (now at Kirtland on the IG Team), MSgt Kevin Davis (retired), SMSgt Mitch Potter (retired), MSgt Susana Middleton (now at Brooks City Base), SSgts Matthew Crum (now at Beale) and his wife Michelle, TSgt Kendall McClendon (back at Keelser), SSgt Ryan Devine (now at Offutt), TSgt Anthony Taylor (now at Luke) and SSgt Jeff Rigdon (deceased). After serving as both the squadron First Sergeant and the Chief of Public Health at Keesler, I achieved the rank of CMSgt and was then reassigned to HQ AMC/SGPM at Scott AFB, Illinois in 1998. While stationed at HQ AMC, I had the distinct honor of serving with Colonel Deneice Van Hook (now at DoD Health Affairs), Captain Jan Seladis (now in the AF Reserves), and Captain Dawn Childs (now at Scott MDG).

Colonel Van Hook was selected as the Associate BSC Corp Chief and Consultant to the USAF Surgeon General for Public Health and after Chief Dan Montgomery (the eighth CFM) retired, selected me as his replacement. I worked as both the CFM and MAJCOM functional manager from Oct 2000 until Sep 2001 at Scott AFB. My next assignment was Andrews AFB, Maryland. I was privileged to work with a great team of people at Andrews. I am sorry that I could not spend more time with them each day as my duties during the merger (4N, 4F, and 4E) took up most of my time. I also traveled extensively during my 18 months stationed there so the great folks in this office did not see me much. The few people that I did work with occasionally were Major Janette Goodman (now at Hickam), Captain Sherrie Seagram (now at Moody), MSgt Denise Rious, MSgt Jayne Cooper, and TSgt Gordon Green.

There were, and still are, many fine, hard working public health professionals who I have worked with at many bases throughout the world that I did not mention in this article. I apologize if I missed mentioning someone, it was not intentional to leave you off the list.

One group that I have to mention was the merger working group. We slaved for over a year to build the guidance and test the processes that were implemented with the merger in 2002. This group did remarkable work in a very short period of time. I appreciate their efforts on the merger project. They helped make the transition smoother. This superb group consisted of Major Solomon Zewdu (Flight Surgeon now at Hickam-IHS), MSgt Paul Williams (Altus), MSgt Jeff Maberry (Aviano), MSgt Phillip Jelks-Browning (now at Kirtland), TSgt Gordon Green, Mr. Dan Adkins (Civilian representative at Robins), TSgt Barry Fraser (Hurlburt), MSgt Matt Bertrand (now at DoDMERB at the USAFA), MSgt Chris Foster (4N representative from Andrews), TSgt Doug Lacey (Holloman), CMSgt Jim Cahill (retired, previous 4F CFM) and CMSgt Ellen Harms (4N CFM).

My last assignment was at Bolling AFB (from May 2003 until my retirement on 1 Feb 2005), serving as both the CFM for Public Health and as the Superintendent of Aerospace Operations and Policy for the USAF Assistant Surgeon General for Healthcare Operations (Major General Joseph Kelley). While at Bolling, I worked with a tremendous team that performed amazingly. The handpicked people I worked closely with included, Lt Col George Prascsak (deceased), Major Lisa Pegues (now at Travis), Major Linda Bonnel, Lt Col Dennis Fay, Lt Col David Duque, Captain Jim Coker (now at USUHS as Commander of medical students), Colonel William Courtney, Colonel Deneice Van Hook, SMSgt Mark Mellinger, SMSgt Ken Beaulieu, MSgt Keith Morgan, Major Jim Poel, Mr. Don Dutra, Ms. Stacy Boulware, Ms. Sawan Young, Colonel Larry Barrett (USAF Reserves-IMA), Colonel Kelley Woodward (now a CC at Nellis) and Lt Col Mylene Huynh (now at Hickam—HIS). NOTE: These preventive medicine physicians are honorary Public Health family members.

I would like to personally thank the members of the PH Corporate Board for their dedicated work of making PH a better career field. These astute leaders have helped me become a more effective SNCO and Career Field Manager. These members include (and I hope I did not miss anyone...if I did...I apologize up front): Col William Courtney, Col Diana Barnicott, Col Tom Stedman, Col Ken Hall, Col Rex Brennan (recently retired), Col Mike Bunning, Col Don Coates (recently retired), Col Judy Holl, Col (retired) Mark Stokes, Lt Col Fred Kelsey, Lt Col Cindy Cogburn, Lt Col Paul Rehme, Lt Col Tim Woodruff, CMSgt Bill Hollowood, CMSgt Theron Reed, CMSgt Bill Babb, CMSgt Tom Huberty, CMSgt Peggy Kerns and CMSgt Jim Cahill (retired).

I would be remiss if I did not mention the one group of public health professionals that I worked very closely

with over the last four years...the Public Health Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Council. This group helped work many various issues from personnel, training and manpower to policy and merger related concerns. Many of these professionals work as MAJCOM functionals while others are at base level providing a working perspective helping keep our leadership in touch with the everyday execution issues that our great people face! The MAJCOM functionals include: CMSgt Theron Reed (ACC Langley), CMSgt Peggy Kerns (AMC-Scott), CMSgt Bill Babb (AFSPC-Peterson), CMSgt Tom Huberty (AFSOC-Hurlburt), CMSgt Bill Hollowood (WHMC and previous AETC functional), SMSgt Dan Huber (AFMC-Wright Patterson), SMSgt Diana Lacy (AETC-Randolph), MSgt Therese Huss (retired), SMSgt Brent Fenton (USAFE-Ramstein), SMSgt Patricia Tooley (USAF Reserves-Robins), SMSgt George Silvas (ANG-Andrews), SMSgt Eric Harmon (USAFSAM-Brooks City Base), and SMSgt John Decker (PACAF-Kadena). Other members include: SMSgt Mary Gill (Hickam), SMSgt Jeff Hurst (Offutt), SMSgt Scott James (Keesler), SMSgt Sherrie Olson (Peterson), SMSgt Joseph Mulhern (WHMC), SMSgt Lori Pullen (Keesler), SMSgt Phillip Jelks-Browning (Kirtland), SMSgt Karen Ruliva (Travis), SMSgt Tom Weyer (DoDMERB-USAFA), SMSgt Scott Altman (Dover), SMSgt Tim Davis (Brooks City Base), SMSgt Mike Faulkingham (Langley), SMSgt Robin Williams (HQ AAFES), SMSgt Basil Franz (Lakenheath), SMSgt Frank Benkoski (MacDill soon Elmendorf), MSgt Phil Davis (USAFA), MSgt Cornell Johnson (USAFSAM), MSgt Susana Middleton (Brooks City Base), TSgt Timothy Kays (USUHS—representing Allied PH members...special duty jobs for PH technicians), and Mr. Jack Moye (retired CMSgt representing



This great group of hard working people have been helping me carry my vision of building the pathways for our enlisted personnel. My idea of these pathways is to establish career paths for our PH family members to work towards either a Federal level certification or to transition to becoming an officer in the USAF (either as a Public Health Officer or a Medical Entomologist). The goal is to develop a pathway for each major area of work we accomplish. For instance, one of our most important jobs while deployed is food safety and food security. We (USAF PH) joined the Federal Food Safety Coalition sponsored by the FDA and USDA. This group is creating a certification for retail food safety entitled “National Standardization” whereby the USAF will strive to obtain this certification for a specified number of personnel (initially positions like HQ AAFES USAFSAM, and Air Force Institute of Operational Health at Brooks City Base). The pathway will list exactly what must be accomplished to obtain this certification and what jobs would be best suited for a person with those credentials.

My vision is to establish similar coalitions for other areas where we have important missions like: occupational health, preventive medicine, medical intelligence, medical entomology, and medical standards. Two pathways will lead to becoming an officer: medical entomology and a pathway for becoming a Public Health Officer. My hope is that these initiatives will continue to be created and formalized for all within our PH family. The goal is to have formal listings of who is in each pathway so the SNCO Council can ensure the proper mentoring and preparation of each member in these pathways. We want to set our people up for success. My hope is that these newsletters will continue (in the new style of my replacement, CMSgt Bill Hollowood). It is important to share communication and information from HQ USAF, PH Corporate Board, PH SNCO Council, and from the various bases around the world.

The Public Health family has really made a difference in my life. I truly appreciate the hard work, dedication and friendship you all have blessed me with during my career. I have dedicated the past 26 years to making a difference where I can (within my sphere of influence). I only hope that through my actions and leadership, I have made a difference in your daily lives. It is like a relay race where each person gets an opportunity to carry the baton (the mission) to the next person so they can carry it further. The race will never end and we have very special people running the race...in my opinion...the best racers in the world. From the bottom of my heart...thank you for being the best!

I salute you.

Chief Strout