



MEDLOG MONTHLY

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U.S. ARMY MEDICAL LOGISTICS COMMAND

COMMAND
NEWS!

Army Medical Logistics takes lead for military COVID-19 vaccine orders

FORT DETRICK, Md. – Medical logistics experts at the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency have started receiving COVID-19 vaccine orders from throughout the Department of Defense, in anticipation of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's emergency use authorization of a vaccine or multiple vaccines.

USAMMA, a direct reporting unit to Army Medical Logistics Command, is the lead for all services, working in collaboration with the Defense Health Agency's Immunization Health Care Division.

The USAMMA team is collecting COVID-19 vaccine orders from all service branches and submitting them to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

USAMMA will also track vaccine shipments from the vendor to each military site. If required, the team will monitor the re-distribution of vaccines to additional sites throughout the military.

USAMMA Distribution Operations Center Deputy Director Liz Andrews said the vaccine will ship directly from the vendor to several military medical treatment facilities throughout the U.S. – where it will be used to immunize troops, as well as military beneficiaries – and bolster their immunity against the worldwide coronavirus pandemic.

There are known logistical challenges. For example, at least one of the vaccine candidates has to be kept at ultra-cold temperatures of minus-80 degrees Celsius.

Andrews said she and her team will not only track the vaccine's movements but also its temperature throughout shipment to ensure it arrives safe and ready for use.

"This is a challenging mission but also very exciting," Andrews said. "We are prepared to execute this mission and proud to be a part of Operation Warp Speed."

Operation Warp Speed, of which the Army's senior logistician Gen. Gus Perna is the chief operating officer, is a public-private partnership developed to deliver safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.

In a Defense.gov press release, he said he is committed to streamlining processes that will allow manufacturing and distribution to deliver medical countermeasures at an unprecedented rate.

The USAMMA team is uniquely equipped for the mission because of their expertise in vaccine distribution and cold chain management. USAMMA currently serves as the service lead for ordering and distribution of other military vaccines, such as anthrax and smallpox.

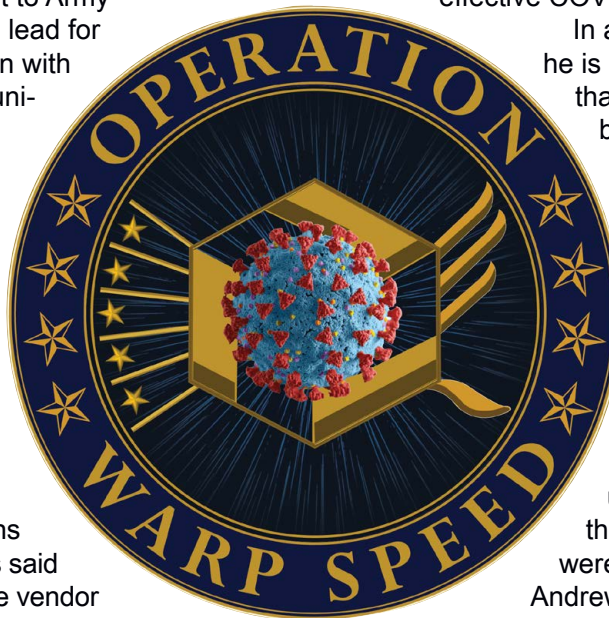
"The military hospitals are already used to working with us, so this made the process smoother for them as they were familiar to our systems and forms," Andrews said.

Andrews also said the USAMMA Distribution Operations Center web development team also played a crucial role by swiftly adapting USAMMA's existing vaccine ordering system, so it could be used for COVID-19 vaccine order processing.


"This was a total team effort," she added, "and we are just honored to be a part of this whole-of-government campaign."

AMLC, a subordinate command under U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command, is known as the Army's home for medical logistics.

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The command's mission is to deliver medical materiel readiness through integrated medical materiel distribution, forward positioned stocks, centralized medical materiel management and data management to sustain health services for the operational Army units and Joint Forces in support of large-scale combat operations. 



“We are prepared to execute this mission and proud to be a part of Operation Warp Speed.”

*Liz Andrews, deputy director,
USAMMA Distribution Operations Center*

USAMMA's pharmacy consultant and Distribution Operations Center, or DOC, Director Lt. Col. Todd Reeder receives an update from DOC Deputy Director Liz Andrews on the progress of the COVID-19 ordering system on Dec. 4, as the team receives COVID-19 vaccine orders from throughout the Department of Defense. In anticipation of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's emergency use authorization of a vaccine or multiple vaccines, the USAMMA team is collecting COVID-19 vaccine orders from all service branches and submitting them to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (U.S. Army photo by Ellen Crown/Released)

ARMY STRONG

Nakdong Challenge tests current Soldiers, honors Korean War heroes

CAMP CARROLL, South Korea – In the opening days of the Korean War, 41 American prisoners of war were executed by North Korean forces on a hill along the Nakdong River above Waegwan, South Korea.

The site of the war crime on Aug. 17, 1950, known as the Hill 303 massacre, was later used for a memorial constructed by U.S. troops stationed at nearby Camp Carroll Army Base.

On Nov. 5, the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center-Korea played host to its third annual Nakdong Challenge, paying tribute to all who fought and died in the Korean War while testing current Soldiers' combat skills.

“Teams were given a small taste of what it was like to fight in the Korean War,” Sgt. 1st Class Donny Hagan said. “The outcome from the competition is for Soldiers to build confidence, competence and resiliency in an environment that could transition to hostilities at any time.”

USAMMC-K, a direct reporting unit to Army Medical Logistics Command, provides medical logistics support to U.S. Forces Korea and organizations located in the Korean theater. It has served as USFK's theater lead agent for medical materiel since 2009.



A memorial to Koreans and Americans killed during the Korean War stands at the top of Hill 303 near the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center-Korea. Soldiers trek to the site as part of the Nakdong Challenge, an event aimed at testing a Soldier's skills while honoring those who fought and died in the war. (U.S. Army photo by Hye Chin Paek/Released)

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USAMMC-K Commander Lt. Col. Marcus D. Perkins said the physically demanding challenge is an opportunity for medical materiel logisticians to hone their skills.

The 16 participants – four teams of four Soldiers in full combat gear – went head to head in eight individual challenges, testing their physical fitness, mental acuity, survival skills, marksmanship and proficiency in vehicle operation, navigation and casualty care scenarios.

“My hope as the commander here is that we’re able to harness those skills, build upon those skills, as well as build confidence and resiliency,” said Perkins, describing the battle drills as “just as they would encounter in combat.”

Just as important, Perkins said the challenge was created to commemorate the sacrifices made by U.N. forces in defense of the Pusan Perimeter, specifically during the Nakdong River Battle along the nearby waterway in the southeastern tip of South Korea.


One of the first major engagements of the war, the battle ended in a U.N. victory as joint forces from South Korea, the United States and United Kingdom held their ground against a barrage of attacks over six weeks, forcing North Korea into retreat.

The grueling day culminates with each team summiting Hill 303, where a monument stands honoring all who gave the ultimate sacrifice during the Korean War.

Taking top honors this year were “The Maintainers” from the 563rd Medical Logistics Company, consisting of Staff Sgt. Jon Nicolas, Sgt. Jihwan Kim, Pfc. Elijah Lawrence and Pfc. Camoren Collins.

Sgt. Jihwan Kim, a member of the winning team, said conquering Hill 303 was the most rewarding part of the challenge and teamwork was key to their success. “I knew I couldn’t give up because that would mean failing the mission as well as failing my team,” Kim said. “[My teammates] helped me push myself at times when I wanted to stop. We supported each other continuously and ended up getting the fastest time.”

Perkins said the challenge has special meaning to many participants, honoring their family members who served in Korea, like his grandfather, Cpl. Darrell F. Schaub.

“Being a descendent of a Korean War veteran, I feel humbled to be able to follow in the footsteps of being here at the same place in which my grandfather and those Soldiers were willing to make great sacrifices for the preservation of freedom,” he said. 



TOP: Soldiers hike to the top of Hill 303 as part of the third annual Nakdong Challenge, held Nov. 5 at the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center-Korea. The challenge tests the Soldier’s skills while honoring those who fought and died in the Korean War. BOTTOM: Soldiers participate in the physical fitness portion of the third annual Nakdong Challenge, held Nov. 5 at the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center-Korea. The challenge tests the Soldier’s skills while honoring those who fought and died in the Korean War. (U.S. Army photos by Hye Chin Paek/Released)



Onward *and* UPWARD



MAJ Zachary Patterson

The family of **Zachary Patterson** was on hand to help pin on his new shoulder boards to commemorate his promotion to Major during a ceremony at Army Medical Logistics Command headquarters on Nov. 2.

Patterson, a native of Bremen, Georgia, was commissioned as a Medical Service Corps officer through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program in August 2010.

During his service at AMLC and its direct reporting unit, the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency, Patterson has served in a key operational role supporting the whole-of-government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Col. Ross A. Davidson, commander of the 6th Medical Logistics Management Center, presided over the ceremony and administered Patterson's oath of office to become a field-grade officer.

Patterson's wife, Christin, and their two daughters, assisted with pinning on his Major shoulder insignias.

Patterson currently serves as deputy director of USAMMA's Business Support Office, after serving as an operations officer for the AMLC's G-3/5/7 when he first arrived at Fort Detrick.

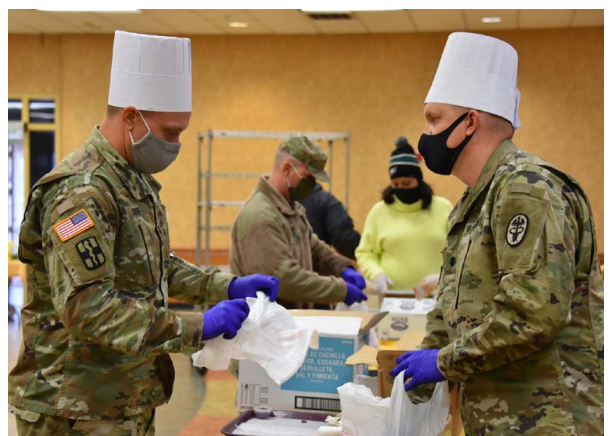
Prior to joining the team in Frederick, Md., he was selected for AMEDD Long Term Health Education and Training, where he obtained a Masters in Supply Chain Management from Virginia Commonwealth University at Richmond, Virginia.

See event photos
at [Flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/amlc/)

Congrats!

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHT

AMLC's Col. Timothy Walsh along with **USAMMA's** Sgt. Maj. Monnet Bushner and Lt. Col. Todd Reeder help package and deliver traditional Thanksgiving Holiday meals to Active Duty service members, their families and the Fort Detrick USAG community during this year's curbside pickup event at Ft. Detrick, Md., Nov. 18.



USAMMC-K increases supply, reduces order turnaround time for PPE, COVID-19 tests

CAMP CARROLL, South Korea – Persistence in the fight against COVID-19 is paying off for the medical logisticians at the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center-Korea.

The team at USAMMC-K, a direct reporting unit to Army Medical Logistics Command, is helping to protect the workforce across the Korean Peninsula by streamlining its ordering practices and making it quicker for customers to receive much-needed personal protective equipment and COVID-19 testing supplies.

USAMMC-K serves as the theater lead agent for medical materiel, providing direct support to U.S. Forces Korea, or USFK, medical forces and ensuring tactical units are integrated into the end-to-end medical supply chain. It also assists combatant commands in health logistics support planning.

According to center officials, turnaround times on PPE orders, including masks, gowns and gloves, have been reduced eight-fold since August – from an average of 24 days to just three days.



Pfc. Raul Cordova performs duties as a storage materiel handler at the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center-Korea warehouse. His duties include picking of Class VIII supplies and transferring them over to the shipping section for shipment to their customers. (U.S. Army photo by Hye Chin Paek/Released)

“Our ability to meet the PPE demand has surely increased and ... we will continue to focus on meeting the demand. All this has been possible through great leadership direction and the staff's ability to execute.”

Capt. Andres Gil, chief of materiel management, USAMMC-K

“Previously, some of their orders could take anywhere from four to 10 weeks,” said Capt. Andres Gil, chief of materiel management at USAMMC-K. “Specifically, there was a backlog on [COVID-19] test kits with some customers waiting eight weeks for that critical supply.”

With influenza activity expected to increase during the winter, it has become even more critical that PPE products and testing supplies are available to help slow the potential spread of the respiratory virus, which has similar symptoms to COVID-19.

Sufficient COVID-19 tests in support of USFK are “now on our shelves and ready to be provided as the demand increases for these winter months,” Gil said.

The improvements have enabled the center to support the needs of its military, Department of Defense Education Activity and U.S. Embassy customers on the Korean Peninsula.

Having supplies available and ready to go, he said, helps the workforce stay healthy and boosts mission readiness.

“The team achieved this through ordering all PPE supplies through the Army Strategic Management System,” said Gil, who also serves as USAMMC-K’s accountability officer. “It is based on streamlining the process of ordering through the depots where stock is available.”

To recognize the achievement, leaders acknowledged members of the distribution center for their hard work as part of the center’s Employee of the Month program for October.

Gil said the effort reflects the USAMMC-K team’s tenacity and attention to detail to ensure its customers are well taken care of during the COVID-19 response.

USAMMC-K Commander Lt. Col. Marcus D. Perkins has led the way on the initiative, providing the vision and direction to make sure the team is “ready for any new waves of COVID” on the Korean Peninsula, Gil said.

“Our ability to meet the PPE demand has surely increased and ... we will continue to focus on meeting the demand,” Gil said. “All this has been possible through great leadership direction and the staff’s ability to execute.”



PROCTOR RECEIVES AWARD

USAMMC-K's 563rd Medical Logistics Company Commander **Capt. Kirk Proctor** (left) receives a certificate of achievement from Lt. Gen. Bill Bureson, Eighth Army commanding general, during a ceremony held at Eighth Army headquarters on Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Nov. 23.

Proctor was selected as one of the Eighth Army nominees for the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award.
(U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Ko, Bae-Yung/Released)



[Click here for the full story!](#)



SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHT

USAMMA's Commander Col. Ryan Bailey along with Wayne Collins, Jack Rosarius and Lt. Col. Daniel O'Neill visit Tobyhanna Army Depot on Nov. 18 for a tour of their facilities.



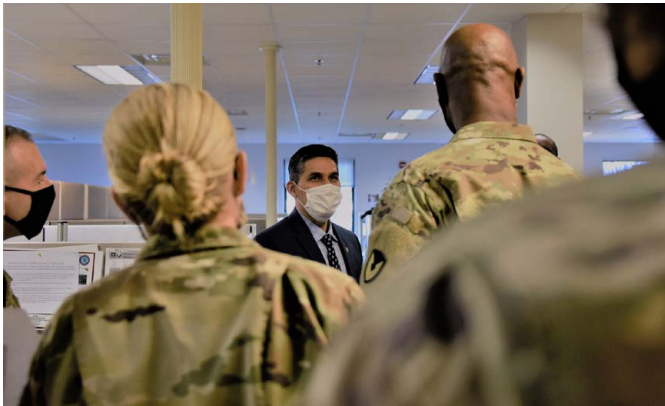
SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHT

Congratulations to those who were recognized during the Nov. 17 update to the workforce held at **AMLC's** headquarters in Fort Detrick, Md.

See all award recipients at [Flickr.com](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHT

AMLC and **USAMMA** leadership and workforce welcome **CECOM** Maj. Gen. Mitch Kilgo and Command Sgt. Maj. Kristie Brady during a visit to headquarters at Fort Detrick, Md., Nov. 20.



Onward and
UPWARD



Master Sgt. Stacey Varga

Leaders at Army Medical Logistics Command and the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency on Nov. 6 celebrated the career of **Master Sgt. Stacey Varga**.

Congrats!

Varga, a native of Two Rivers, Wisconsin, retired after 22 years of service. She most recently served as interim Sergeant Major for USAMMA during the formation of its higher command, AMLC.

Col. Timothy Walsh, deputy commander to AMLC, presided over the ceremony held at Fort Detrick's auditorium. Walsh served as commander of USAMMA during Varga's tenure as the organization's Sergeant Major before transitioning to his new role in AMLC.

Enlisting in 1998, Varga's career included assignments around the globe in support of the Army medical enterprise, including deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (2005-06).

She's also served as a senior intelligence analyst for the National Center for Medical Intelligence, a clinical non-commissioned officer at West Point and senior division medical operations non-commissioned officer at the 82nd Airborne Division headquarters.

See event photos on **Facebook!**

USAMMC-K finds success in personalized SHARP campaign

CAMP CARROLL, South Korea – Walking around the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center-Korea, staff members and visitors alike see some familiar faces.

Those faces, like USAMMC-K Commander Lt. Col. Marcus D. Perkins and Sgt. Maj. Blair Richards, can be found on posters promoting the Army's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program, known as SHARP.

"The SHARP theme of 'This is My Barracks' has been strongly promoted here in Korea," said Sgt. 1st Class Jason Nichols, USAMMC-K's sexual assault response coordinator. "We took that theme, personalized it a bit and expanded it to not only capture our barracks, but our entire footprint as 'Not on Our Turf.'"

"It represents a commitment to stomping out sexual harassment and assault on our 'turf,' rather than just the barracks," he said.

The SHARP team at USAMMC-K, a direct reporting unit to Army Medical Logistics Command, have developed different posters and other handouts, such as a wallet-sized pamphlet, that reflect that personalized message, and Nichols said it has garnered positive feedback from Soldiers and staff members alike.

"I think they have been effective and serve to show members of our community that we are genuinely committed to not just the SHARP program, but to each other," Nichols said.

To help connect Soldiers and stakeholders to resources, some USAMMC-K posters feature a QR code that allows someone to use their cellphone to scan it and instantly get connected to professional assistance through the Department of Defense's Safe Help Line, www.safehelpline.org.

Nichols said the personalized campaign has made Soldiers more inclined to actively participate "since they know the people captured within its pages." The priority has always been to eliminate barriers between Soldiers and their SHARP and command teams, he added, crediting former commander, Lt. Col. Marc R. Welde, for getting the initiative rolling.

Last year, USAMMC-K also added a quarterly SHARP Advisory Council meeting that allowed Soldiers to speak candidly with members of the SHARP team about issues they were facing or ideas to improve the program.

"The council has also spawned an initiative to improve the locations of street lighting on Camp Carroll to increase Soldiers safety while traveling during night-time hours," Nichols said. "The council meetings have recently been moved to monthly rather than quarterly, based on Soldier feedback."

Following the theme of eliminating barriers, USAMMC-K's SHARP team also has developed and deployed anonymous drop boxes around the center's footprint to provide another avenue to report incidents and provide information without fear of incriminating themselves or others.



Lt. Col. Marcus D. Perkins, left, commander of the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center-Korea, and Sgt. Maj. Blair Richards are pictured on one of the organization's SHARP posters, which are displayed around the center to promote the Army's SHARP program. (U.S. Army graphic/Released)

Nichols said the Army's program remains important "because everyone deserves to work and live in an environment free of sexual assault and harassment.

Lt. Col. Marcus D. Perkins, commander of USAMMC-K, joined Nichols in emphasizing that every member of the "Never Settle" team deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

"We are a family and we won't settle until everyone is treated with dignity and respect," Perkins said. "We are empowering each member of the family with tools and information to protect them and eliminate those suffering in silence."

Nichols pointed to a comment made by one of his victim advocates, Staff Sgt. Anthony Peterson, to summarize the reason behind the USAMMC-K SHARP team's extra effort to promote the program.

"If our Soldiers see that we are invested in our program, hopefully it reflects that we do this for them and that we care," he said, quoting Peterson. "I don't think I could put it much better myself."

AMLC's Project Inclusion Wants To Hear Your

VOICE



VALUES - We foster an environment where members uphold shared values, equal treatment and the desire to secure a high-performing workforce.



OPPORTUNITY - We ensure that advancement opportunities are shared; making certain that awards/rewards are fairly distributed and that glass ceilings do not exist.



INCLUSIVE - We encourage collaboration, flexibility and fairness, while identifying and eliminating barriers to inclusion in the workforce.



CULTURE - We promote a culture of creative thinking through the sharing of ideas and perspectives while providing helpful and actionable feedback.



EQUITY - We create an equitable environment where members contribute to their full potential, thus enabling further retention of a unified workforce.

WHAT IS PROJECT INCLUSION?

Project Inclusion is the Army's holistic effort to enact initiatives that promote diversity, equity and inclusion, which begins by listening to Army Soldiers, civilians and families. It gives "VOICE" to our teammates as the Army undertakes a comprehensive effort to identify any bias and mitigate it.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT TO THE ARMY?

The strength of the Army comes from its diversity. Developing and maintaining a qualified force and demographically diverse leadership is critical for mission effectiveness and is essential to national security. The Army must foster a culture of trust and accept the experiences, culture, characteristics, and background each Soldier and Civilian brings to the institution. In addition, it must foster an equitable and inclusive environment that facilitates building diverse, adaptive, and cohesive teams that enable the Army to build and sustain readiness.

HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Join AMLC's Strength and Diversity Working Group by contacting AMLC's SGM Danyell Walters at danyell.e.walters@mail.mil TODAY!



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How the CFC Works



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2. Select your payment method

- Payroll deduction
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- Check/echeck



3. Donate to charities supporting your favorite causes



4. Charities receive and use funds throughout the year



5. Help is given to those in need



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