



# SAPA JOURNAL



## The Society of Army Physician Assistants

P O Box 07490, Fort Myers, FL 33919 Phone & Fax (239) 482-2162

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### Physician Assistants Share Battlefield Experiences

Received by Frank Piper, PA-C



*More than 60 physician assistants were in attendance for "Healthcare in a Deployed Environment", a conference hosted at the Al Faw palace in Baghdad, Iraq April 5-7. Attendees came from all over Iraq and included military and civilian medical personnel.*

By Maj. John R. Heil, Task Force 3d MEDCOM public affairs

Camp Victory, Iraq – More than 60 physician assistants and medical personnel from all over Iraq came together at the Al Faw palace, Baghdad to share their notes on the challenges of battlefield medicine.

The MNC-I Physician Assistants conference, "Healthcare in a Deployed Environment", April 5-7 2007, welcomed not only PAs but other medical personnel to a three day think-tank and educational series designed to let them hear the most current information on a range of issues.

"Bringing us together allowed us to learn about treatment procedures, emergency medical gear and new innovations that other physician assistants have developed," said Col. William Tozier, Task Force 3rd Medical Command Senior Physician Assistant.

"The scope and severity of many of the injuries we see in theater on a daily basis are unlike those experienced at trauma centers [back in the states] – even very busy ones," said Lt. Col. William P. Magdycz, MD, Task Force 3 Surgical Consultant, and one of the discussion leaders for the conference. "Our providers have developed a very unique expertise. Sharing their experience with other providers helps to generalize that knowledge in theater. And this can only improve the timing and quality of care for our service-members."



*CPT. Paul Rogers, 425th BSTB/4/25th DD participates in a workshop on battlefield medical techniques during the physician assistants conference held at Al Faw palace in Baghdad, Iraq April 5-7.*

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**LTC Donald Black, SP, PA-C (POC for Captain Sean P. Grimes**

**Physician Assistant Educational Scholarship Award)**

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The SAPA Journal staff and SAPA Board of Directors encourages membership participation in this publication. Feel free to use this forum to present your views on any topic you desire. The publication of clinical articles on any subject is also solicited, however, to reduce our workload, we do request articles be presented typed, double-spaced format, and on CD, Microsoft Word format. The editor reserves the right of final acceptance of articles as well as the right to serialize articles which are too lengthy to be included in a single issue.

The SAPA Journal is the official publication of the Society of Army Physician Assistants. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the editors, SAPA, the SAPA Board of Directors or the Department of the Army unless explicitly expressed as such

**This is not an official Army Publication.**

Once assigned in theater, many PAs find themselves in remote areas and without consistent communication with each other or with other providers due to limited phone and network access, said Tozier.

“This meeting allowed them to talk about topics that currently impact their practice,” said Tozier. “I expect that many will change the way they practice medicine as a result of this conference. That is what is important. Not the review of old medical information, but the creation of new information and practices as a result of what they learned here.”

This is only the second resident Continuing Medical Education conference for PAs ever held in a combat zone. The first was held in Dec, 2003 in Qatar.

Magdycz said that he could tell that the attendees were eager to increase their specialized knowledge of the evaluation and management of wartime illnesses and injuries. He was impressed by the number of attendees.

“It takes both forward thinking and unusual commitment from commanders to release so many of their providers all at once for several days,” said Magdycz. “Remember that traveling in Iraq is not without risk.”



*CPT. Kimberly Lathan, C. Co. 115th BSB, and CPT. John Berg, 2-12th INF participate in a workshop on battlefield medical techniques during the physician assistants conference held at Aw Faw palace in Baghdad, Iraq April 5-7.*

Tozier added, “this is the first conference I have attended where both the speakers and audience were armed with weapons and clips of ammunition.”

Topics discussed during the conference fell into two categories: Routine medical care issues, such as hypertension and diabetes; and medical topics unique to the battlefield, like mild traumatic brain injury, extremity trauma, and rapid sequence induction.

Tozier and Magdycz are both assigned to the headquarters of Task Force 3, commanded by Maj. Gen. Ronald Silverman. Task Force 3’s mission is to provide service members the best possible medical and health care, which has resulted in a survivability rate of more than 90 percent – the highest in the history of warfare. Conferences like this one allow battlefield PAs to stay at the front of medical technology.

## **PA Oversees Combat Support Hospitals in Iraq**

**Reprinted from the AAPA News March 30, 2007**



*COL. Bill Tozier, the highest-ranking PA in the U.S. Army, is serving in Iraq as Multinational Force Senior PA in the Third Medical Command.*

By **Doug Scott** Educator, clinician, policymaker, researcher, leader — those are some of the words used to describe the roles Col. Bill Tozier has held in the U.S. Army in the last 34 years. As the highest-ranking PA in the Army, stepped down last June from his four-year assignment as chief, Physician Assistant Section; allied health staff officer in the U.S. Army Command; and PA consultant to the surgeon general. And he promptly volunteered for active duty in Iraq. Assigned to the Third Medical Command (MEDCOM) in Baghdad, where he is overseeing combat support hospitals (CASH), area support medical companies, and special medical detachments, occupies a position normally not held by a PA. Officials from Army

Central Command told Tozier that he was brought on board because of his vast experience and training with support medical companies, which allow him to deal with important PA, health care, and policy issues that the military is facing in Iraq. The Iraq theatre is now in what we call the ‘sustainment mode’; we’re not maneuvering forward, so we are looking at apportionment of the assets,” explained Tozier of his work with Task Force Third MEDCOM. “I get involved with my planning and operations people to see where we need these area support medical companies, how many people we need at those sites, and how we can provide personnel to fill those units.” Tozier has dealt with the prevalence of mild traumatic brain injuries to soldiers injured by improvised explosive devices, known as IEDs. Tozier and Army physicians informed medical staff throughout the country of new guidelines issued by the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, and he arranged for a training video to be made. As senior PA in Iraq, Tozier also writes policy for peer review, improves quality assurance for PAs, and further redefines the use of hemostatic agents in stopping the bleeding of soldiers in the field. He works with PAs in the National Guard on the unique pay issues associated with lengthy overseas deployment. Tozier is medical coordinator of responses to any mass casualty incidents on the Camp Victory military complex on the outskirts of Baghdad. Another project that Tozier has developed in Iraq is documenting the role of PAs in combat, something that has never been done before, according to the Army Medical Specialist Corps. The filming that is being done will go to the U.S. Army Department Center and School (AMEDDC&S) multimedia department. It will be used in training “to show . . . how PAs deal with hemorrhage control or triage in the field,” Tozier said. AMEDDC will use the material for a documentary about PAs in combat. “Hopefully, we can show that to other service members, to get them excited about becoming PAs, or to civilian PAs who might want to enter the service.” Tozier acknowledged that his wife Sarah “was not very excited about my going to Iraq, but knew that I really wanted to go over there. “Walking to his home on the base, Tozier said, he has seen “some of the tracer rounds on the ground from the edge of the guard station. If an IED goes off someplace in Baghdad, you can sometimes feel the explosion and see the smoke rising from it. We did have a rocket hit about 100 meters from my office, and that pretty much shook everything off the walls.” Tozier first went into the Army “thinking that I would like to try it for a while,” he said. “I wasn’t sure that I wanted to do this for a living, but the Army gave me a lot more opportunities to do things,” such as earn a master’s degree in public health in occupational medicine and serve in clinical, military, and administrative capacities in Honduras, Germany, Korea, and now Iraq. “I am so lucky to have worked so closely with him,” said COL Bonnie J. DeMars,

Chief, Army Medical Specialist Corps and Tozier’s immediate superior as chief, Physician Assistant Section. “He is extraordinarily dedicated, and his passion for Army PAs is obvious by the many achievements realized during his tenure as chief, PA Section.” She mentioned Tozier’s spearheading “an extraordinary effort to secure a critical skills retention bonus for Army PAs that validated their exceptional contributions to the medical care of soldiers.” “Tozier’s untiring commitment to trauma training for PAs” led to the creation of a tactical combat medical care course, she added Tozier points with pride to that course, which he called “the first program in the Army for providers — PAs and physicians — on how to do point-of-care injury and triage.” The course differs from the acute trauma life support model in being “more concerned with hemorrhage control than with breathing,” he said. “We are not as worried with stabilizing the neck, as we are in the civilian sector, as with controlling bleeding and then checking for airways. The course was being taught within two years of its conception, he said.

Tozier said that one of the biggest changes he oversaw as chief, Physician Assistant Section, was the transformation of PAs from peacetime medical providers to saving lives of soldiers in war zones. In Iraq PAs are a “stable, critical medical element at the front line,” said. “The physicians are mainly specialists, but the Army depends on having the PA there as that cornerstone of operational medicine. “PAs assure that soldiers get to the CASH, where those medical miracles occur and, at the same time, PAs are training the medics, conducting sick call, and providing the emergency treatment for all U.S. or coalition forces, Iraqi security forces, and Iraqicivilians who are caught in the crossfire,” he said. When Tozier’s tour of duty in ends this summer, he will become director of the Interservice PA Program at his home in Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. “He is uniquely qualified for this position due to his vast experience as an Army PA and military leader — and he holds a doctorate in higher education,” said De Mars. Tozier said that he is not ready to retire yet. “My wife and my accountants won’t let me,” he said. “Anyway, I still have a few more good years. I’m really looking forward to going back and directing the largest PA program in the world.”

## LOST MEMBERS

Every year we elect individuals to attend the House of Delegates Session at the annual AAPA conference. These delegates represent the views and concerns of the SAPA constituency. The number of delegates authorized is determined by the number of Fellow members in the chapter. If you know of prior members who have let their membership lapse; encourage them to renew SAPA and AAPA membership and declare SAPA as their constituent chapter! **cb**

## SAPA SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS 2007

The SAPA Board of Directors proudly announces that there will be three (3) \$1,000.00 grants available to be awarded to five lucky scholars for this year. Scholarships are available to SAPA members, their spouse, and children of SAPA members who are fully dependent on the sponsor and are under the age of 24. The person must be enrolled or accepted to be enrolled in a college, university, or a school of equal educational standing which awards a degree or certificate qualifying for a profession. Children in elementary, middle and high school are not eligible.

The application packet should include (but is not limited to) the following:

A personal letter telling something about yourself, your educational goals, career aspirations, why you need the scholarship, and anything else that might be of interest to the scholarship committee. Included in the letter should be how the applicant qualifies to apply for the scholarship including who is their sponsor if a dependent.

A listing of awards, decorations, commendations, honors, hobbies, activities, volunteer activities and anything else that may be of interest to the scholarship committee.

Two letters of recommendation; one from an educator, one from outside the educational field. Family members are not eligible to write letters of recommendation.

Proof of registration to a school or a letter of acceptance.

Recent transcripts of grades or placement test scores if recent high school graduate.

Recent photo, passport style.

Anything else that may be of interest to the scholarship committee.

All completed packets will be forwarded to:  
SAPA Scholarship Committee  
PO Box 07490  
Fort Myers, FL 33919

All packets will be reproduced and forwarded to each member of the scholarship committee. All packets become the property of SAPA. The decision of the committee is final and once the decisions are made the awardees will be notified immediately and the check will follow shortly. Those who do not win will also be notified. The decision process is quite exacting and time consuming so patience from the applicants is expected.

It is hoped that the scholarships will be available to be awarded by 1 September so all application packets must be received by 15 August 2006.

Get to work on your packet and good luck to all.

**JUNE 2007**

## 8th Annual Federal Services Congress

### Dining-Out Ceremony

**Tuesday Evening, May 29, 2007**

**At the historic home of the**

**College of Physicians of Philadelphia**

**Meet & greet at 1800 hours and move into the Mess at 1900 hours. The uniform is Dress Mess or Dinner Dress. For civilians, Black Tie for men and Gowns for ladies.**

**Cost is \$85 and includes cocktail, dinner, wine, and DJ.**

**Tickets should be purchased in advance by contacting CAPT Richard Vause (retired) at 239-591-4528 Ext 18 or evenings at 239-561-8617.**

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## LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD



Edward Williams, above, received a Life Time Service Award for over 30 years of contributions and service to the Physician Assistants profession. He was given this award by the District of Columbia Academy of Physician Assistants at the George Washington University on March 11, 2007. Ed has been a long time member and supporter of SAPA. We all congratulate you Ed, for your long service and dedication. Well done!

## BOD Meets to Make SAPA 28th Annual Refresher Course Another Success



*R-L: President Frank Piper, Past President Steve Ward, Secretary Casey Bond, Treasurer Jim Miller, Conference Co-coordinators Dave Paulson and Pat Malone, President Elect Paul Lowe, National Guard, Michael LaBelle, Sean Grimes Committee Chair Don Black*

### Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Monday, 23 April 2007

Meeting was called to order at 1:17 p.m.

#### **DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

President: Frank Piper  
President Elect: Paul Lowe  
Immediate Past President: Steve Ward  
Secretary: Casey Bond  
Treasurer: Jim Miller  
Director of National Guard: Michael La Belle  
Director of Membership: Paul W. Lowe

#### **DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

Executive Director: Hal Slusher (Excused)  
Director of Active Duty: Sherry Womack  
Director of Reserves: Richard Tea

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

Conference Registrar: Bob Potter  
Conference Committee: Pat Malone and Dave Paulson  
Sean Grimes Scholarship Committee: Donald Black

#### **VISITOR:**

Pauline Gross

#### **REPORTS:**

1. **Past President:** Steve had no official report at this time.

2. **President:** Frank reported on the status of the Combined Service Conference Planning Committee of the Federal Services Congress of the AAPA. He met with sister service representatives involved in this planning at the VAPA conference in San Antonio. The intent is to offer a conference in November in San Antonio which would be co-sponsored by each of the represented combined services' constituent chapters. Each service would assist in advertising through their chapters. There is money that has been donated by a pharmaceutical company. Each service would keep all of their respective registration fees for those who designated them as their constituent chapter. Any excess monies generated by the conference from sales or promotions would be used for future years seed money thus negating the need for future service chapter donations. Bob Potter and Pauline Gross have agreed to assist in the planning of this event. It has been requested that each service donate \$1,000 to the Federal Services dining out at this year's AAPA conference. An accounting of how this money would be spent is provided at (Enclosure 1). This accounting indicates that even with the services donations, there would still be approximately \$7,000 in additional funding required. Steve moved that SAPA donate \$1,000 to the Federal Services dining out at this year's AAPA conference. Jim seconded the motion and the motion carried.

3. **President-Elect:** Paul had no official report at this time.

4. **Secretary:** Casey requested that the BOD review the minutes of the 25 April 2005 BOD meeting. Paul moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Steve seconded the motion and the motion carried. Casey reviewed all electronic SAPA business that was conducted over the course of the last year and stated that all copies of those emails would be attached to last year's BOD minutes.

5. **Treasurer:** Jim stated that the report did not reflect any of the credit card sales at this year's conference. Casey requested electronic versions of the reports be forwarded to him for inclusion in the minutes as enclosures. Jim stated that if he were asked three months ago how we stood financially, he would have been concerned but recent check receipts improved our status. Compared to last year at this time, total deposits are down approximately \$8,000. See Treasurer's Report at (Enclosure 2). Casey moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved. Steve seconded the motion and the motion carried.

6. **Executive Director:** Hal was absent. On his behalf, Frank brought up for discussion, the topic of a \$1,000

donation to the Veteran's Caucus' Scholarship fund. Discussion ensued which was very much in favor of SAPA donating again this year. Casey moved that SAPA donate \$1,000 to the Veterans Caucus Scholarship fund to be administered by the Veterans Caucus in the name of SAPA. Steve seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**7. Conference Committee:** Pat thanked the BOD, and especially Bob and Dave for their hard work over the past year in preparation for the conference. Pat stated that although he received some requests last year for extended hours of coffee in the break area, he was not going to do this due to the exorbitant cost of \$2,000 per day. Pat stated that there were not many spouses signed up for the "Spouse Day to the Beach" and he would be seeking reimbursement for the cost of the bus from a pharmaceutical representative. Pat stated this would be his last year as Conference Coordinator after serving in that capacity for 15 years. He stated he would like to continue to assist with site coordination as long as the conference continues to be held in Fayetteville. Pat recommended that Bob Potter be considered to replace him as conference coordinator. Frank moved that Bob take over as Conference Coordinator. Paul seconded the motion and the motion carried. Pat and Dave would continue to serve as site co-coordinators.

**8. Director of Active Duty:** Sherry was absent. Polly mentioned the approval of the CSRB for active duty PAs and that efforts were ongoing to approve special pay for PAs. Frank asked if special pay would also be authorized for deployed NG and Reserve PAs. Polly thought that it would but said she would check and provide update to the BOD.

**9. Director of Reserves:** Richard was absent.

**10. Director of National Guard:** Michael stated that there are 852 NG PA authorizations and that currently only 661 of those are filled. He stated that one of the challenges facing the NG continues to be information dissemination. He mentioned that LT Nolan of the NG would like to establish a link to the SAPA website. Bob stated this would be no problem. Michael stated the NG was still working the issue of how long NG PA deployments would be and he would provide us with updates as they become available.

**11. Membership Director:** Paul reported a total of 819 members, of which 137 are Fellow members; being also AAPA members (Enclosure 3). Paul stated that currently the AAPA has a record of 607 SAPA members who declare SAPA as their constituent organization. Paul moved that as the outgoing president, Steve be granted lifetime membership. Jim seconded the motion and the motion carried. Paul stated that he would find someone to take the Membership Director responsibilities for the next year during his term as president.

**12. Sales Booth Committee:** Steve reported that purchases to restock the sales booth this year were \$6,161. Steve reported the purchase of conference registrar embroidery shirts for \$875. Steve stated that Rita had been instrumental in selecting new colors for some sales booth items which should result in increased sales. A new item added to the inventory this year is a hooded, zippered sweatshirt. Steve said the he SAPA coin was recast to delete the "apostrophe s" after Physician on subsequent coin purchases. The new coins are available this year, and the numbering sequence stays the same.

**13. Technology:** Steve reported that he was going to purchase the old secretary computer for \$1.00 and utilize it for the sales booth. He stated he has found a multi-licensing venue for SAPA software. He has already registered on the site and he and Jim will compete the registry for the society. This will allow all SAPA computers to get Microsoft Professional Site 2003 open license for less than \$50 which means that every board member and committee chair will be able to put this software on their laptops and their home computers with no violation of any licensing law. Adobe and Norton's antivirus are also available. This vendor is a national clearing house for nonprofit organizations.

**14. Conference Registration Coordinator:** Bob stated the conference dates next year would be 21-25 April, 2008. Conference Registration staff salaries were tabled until the Friday BOD meeting. Bob stated that Mike Roberts who was a member of SAPA, owned Data West, and was granting SAPA free access on the web for our website however this webmaster company was sold to Front FR II and while they were honoring the free access agreement, they are now charging \$24/month as a fee for web space so he switched to another server that charges \$136 for 2 years. After considerable discussion about conference registration rates, Paul made a motion that we raise the rate by \$10 for students and each category of member, and raise by \$20 for nonmembers, and raise the rate for guests to \$50.

**15. Sean Grimes Scholarship Committee:** The chairman of the Sean Grimes Scholarship Committee, Don Black informed the BOD that he and committee members Polly and Sherry Morrey had received only two applications for this year's scholarship. He stated that the winner was Kathy Jenkins who was a former Major who is in the USAR now and currently in a PA program. Don stated that the Grimes family had two requests of SAPA. One was to raise the amount of the scholarship to \$6,000 and the other was to give a plaque to Mrs. Grimes' golf club who are the largest donors to the fund. Much discussion followed. Steve made a motion to increase the scholarship fund to \$6,000. Casey seconded the motion and the motion carried. Paul made a

# **SOCIETY OF ARMY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**

**P.O. BOX 07490**

**Fort Myers, FL 33919**

**First Class**

## **ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED**

motion that SAPA purchase two plaques; one for the recipient and one to be presented to Mrs. Grimes' golf club in appreciation for their generous donation to the fund, for no more than \$250. Jim seconded the motion and the motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Bob stated that after further investigation, the cheapest trailer he could find cost \$4,200 and he determined that it would not be cost effective for SAPA to purchase a trailer for the registrar's use.

2. Bob noted that there were no poster entrants this year.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. On behalf of the IPAP, Polly requested that SAPA fund LT Byrne, an Army student, to attend the student challenge bowl at the AAPA conference in Philadelphia this year. Steve made a motion that SAPA provide the IPAP \$1,500 for the purpose of funding an Army student, to attend the student challenge bowl at the AAPA conference in Philadelphia this year. Jim seconded the motion and the motion carried.

2. Polly self declared for the office of Director of Active Army. Frank appointed her to the office of Academy Liaison.

3. Frank asked the BOD to consider purchasing a plaque to express appreciation for Pat Malone's dedicated service to the SAPA conference for the last 15 years. Paul made a motion that Don Black be authorized to purchase,

cost not to exceed \$100, to be presented to Pat at the banquet. Jim seconded the motion and the motion carried.

4. Steve self declared for the office of President Elect.

5. Bob asked about the feasibility of him establishing a SAPA checking account due to the temporary loss of mailings of checks from Bob to Jim. Discussion followed and it was decided that he would FED-EX any such important packages.

Hearing no further business, Frank entertained a motion to recess the meeting until 0800 Friday morning, 27 April, 2007 when we will reconvene in the hotel restaurant. Steve so moved, Casey seconded the motion and the motion carried.

## **Scholarship for Army Veterans, Retirees, National Guard, Reserves and Active Duty**

### **Received by Donald A. Black, PA-C**

As most of you know, the PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT family lost their first PA EVER to be killed in combat. Captain Sean P. Grimes, PA-C lost his life while serving in Iraq on 4 March 2005. Since that day SAPA with the generosity of the Grimes family has established the CAPTAIN SEAN P. GRIMES EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD. If you need, or someone you know needs educational financial assistance please visit the SAPA website for details. ([www.sapa.org](http://www.sapa.org))

If you have additional questions please contact:

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Ret LTC, SP

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