

The Rapid Pulse

April 2004

Faces and Places

WELCOME

El Centro, CA:

Rosa Peralta
LCDR Guadalupe Langbehn

El Paso, TX:

Maria Vasquez
Paula Pederson

Florence, AZ:

LCDR David McIntyre
Barbara Dunmeyer
Kay Stone-Ebner
Kelly Klous

Los Angeles, CA:

LCDR Bonnie Saylor
Victor Hogan

Miami, FL:

LT Danisha Robbins
Norma Colon

San Pedro, CA:

CDR Daniel Reyna

Tacoma, WA:

LCDR Dawn Anderson
LT Ralph Smith

Washington, DC:

Gloria Cuizon

FAREWELL

El Paso, TX:

LCDR Robin Moyers

Los Angeles, CA:

CAPT Joann Burton

Miami, FL:

LCDR Abnah Forbes

Port Isabel, TX:

CAPT Elnora Qualls
Roel Figueroa
LT Barbara Barlow

San Pedro, CA:

Eduardo Galapon
LT Connery Lee
CAPT Val Allen
Penny Baker

The Director's Perspective

By Dr. Eugene Migliaccio

In this month's installment of *The Rapid Pulse*, I want to focus on several changes for our client, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and subsequently, DIHS.

Recently, there have been changes in the ICE leadership. We are in the process of briefing the new leaders on our Division, and the services we provide to ICE and their detained population.

In order to ensure that we are providing the highest quality of services to ICE, we will begin conducting our own program evaluations, for example, in the areas of workload reports, budgets, mental health, aviation medicine, pharmacy, etc.

Specifically, we are looking for things that are measurable (such as average daily populations at our Service Processing Centers) and there will be a huge emphasis on data.

Moreover, each Branch will be developing their own 'Talking Papers' on the work we perform.

There are also changes in the area of travel. Recently, there have been a series of emails to DIHS staff regarding

specific changes to the travel process, and you will continue to be updated as we receive additional guidance from the Headquarters level.

However, I want to reiterate that each traveler **MUST** have a travel order with them while they are in travel status. No one should be traveling without a travel order.

DIHS is continually growing as an organization, and we are committed to meeting the needs of our client, ICE.

We are likewise committed to meeting the needs and requirements of our parent Bureau and Agency. I thank everyone for their continued dedication to our organization.

You all continue to make me very proud to lead this Division.

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A Day With The Surgeon General

By LT Angel Lasanta

Being a junior officer has some unique opportunities and challenges. On February 17, the El Paso SPC had the pleasure of hosting the Surgeon General, VADM Richard Carmona. He was coming to town to speak at New Mexico State University (NMSU) the next day. To my surprise, I was chosen to be the aide de camp officer. This was a duty that I enjoyed from the first moment that I met him at the airport.

Preparation and enthusiasm started Wednesday when first we heard about it. Everyone worked to ensure the Surgeon General would feel at home. Our HSA LCDR Aker and AHSA LCDR Hierholzer made all the arrangements with airport security officials for an easy movement to our facility. The welcoming committee also included CDR Jarres and his assistant LT Brown.



On arrival to the camp the Surgeon General was welcomed by ICE officials and medical staff alike. The Surgeon General toured the medical clinic, processing center, dining hall, and one of the housing barracks.

This visit was an honor but most important an opportunity for the staff to spend some time with the Surgeon General. He informally sat down with all medical staff including PHS officers and non-federal staff for a question and answer

session. Questions ranged from the future of the Commissioned Corps to his experiences as Surgeon General. Before leaving, every staff member had the opportunity to get a picture with him as well as a group picture.

On his one hour way to Las Cruces his duties for the day were not over yet. They continued through his cellular phone by checking his voice mail and calling to his office. He would spend the rest of the evening in the company of some friends and planning for the next day.

At approximately 5:30 AM, in true PHS fashion, the Surgeon General commenced the day with a workout at the hotel gym. As planned for that day he spoke at the conference at NMSU. It was followed with a session of picture taking and meetings with community members and military officers.

On the trip back to El Paso the Surgeon General took the time to get to know me better and share some of his moments growing up in New York City. It was very interesting to know that when he was young he worked at a hotdog stand at Yankees Stadium.

Being sure that he got to plane on time was the end of this special duty, nevertheless my admiration and respect for our Surgeon General will continue. For a visit that started as an honor, it turned out to be one of the most pleasant moments in our daily lives at the El Paso SPC.



Farewell

By CAPT Carol Lindsey

I just wanted to say goodbye to my DIHS family. After 17 ½ years of working for DIHS, I have moved on to new challenges and experiences in the Division of Health Care Management in Bethesda, Maryland. I will be overseeing grants for primary health centers in Kentucky and Mississippi.

Just to reminisce a little, I started at the Krome SPC on June 12, 1986, just one month before CDR Jacinto Garrido began. It was a great 15 years at Krome working with CDR Garrido, Dr. Rivera, Eileen Givens, Lizy Junco and many more wonderful people. I started out as the Charge Nurse of the 17 bed infirmary and then became the Chief Nurse Officer. I ended up going back to school part-time to get a Masters in Nursing and become a Nurse Practitioner (NP).

I worked as an NP for a few years and then became the first Consultant Services Coordinator. Collateral duties included Infection Control, Health Education, medical escorts and being a member of the Emergency Medical Response Team (EMRT). As an EMRT member, Immigration trained us to rappel off of buildings, wear tear gas masks and ready ourselves for frequent demonstrations against ICE outside the chain link fence surrounding Krome SPC, which sometimes was pushed down.

Exciting memories include driving down to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Stations in the Florida Keys and picking up Cuban rafters from the USCG ships. We'd place them in our van, insert IVs and shuttle them back to our infirmary at Krome. I also remember boarding a shrimp trawler in Ft. Lauderdale, full of smuggled Chinese migrants, to assess their health conditions. I also worked in

Guam for a few weeks caring for individuals being housed at a contract jail. I loved Guam and tried to convince ICE to station me there but they wouldn't concede.

I participated in the Tinian, Commonwealth of the North Mariana Islands operation in the South Pacific, caring for Chinese detainees. We set up a tent city with a tent clinic (like on the TV series MASH) on an old airplane runway used by the Enola Gay to load atomic bombs – the ones used on Nagasaki and Hiroshima. We saw the bomb pits and active mine fields that still exist on the island from WWII. What an adventure Tinian was! The Pacific Ocean was an incredible sapphire blue.

I was fortunate to go to Guatemala also, to care for Chinese nationals caught being smuggled in international waters. The Guatemalan government asked for ICE's assistance in caring for them. We set up camps on Guatemalan Naval and Army bases. It was exciting and sometimes a delicate situation working with the Guatemalan soldiers who guarded the detainees. They tended to use physical force easily.

Researching availability of care, going on exciting medical escorts, serving as the first flight nurse for La Migra Airlines (now JPATS), overseeing infection control and health education, working with a multicultural population, POCR cases, and opening Columbia Care Center were all wonderful opportunities. The people I met along the way were wonderful and I will never forget them. I appreciate the support and dedication you have all given me throughout the years.

Thank you all and enjoy the adventures and opportunities DIHS has to offer. It's a great Division!

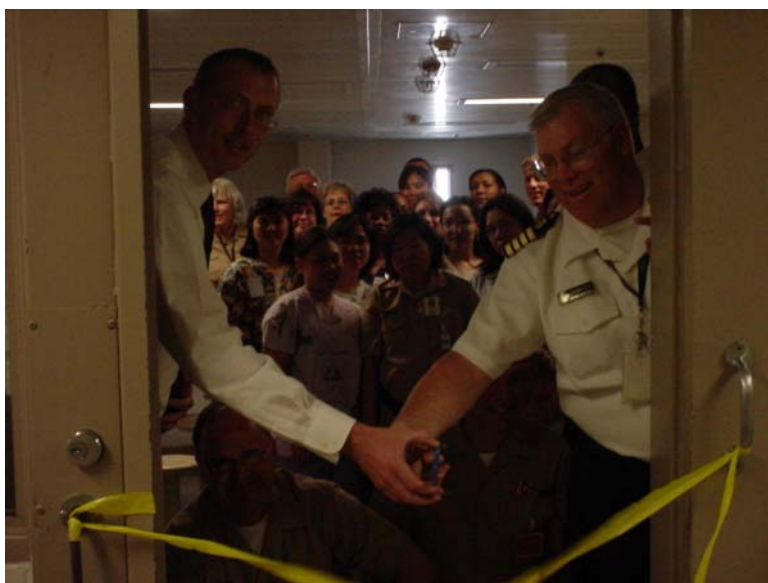


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DIHS In Pictures

The San Diego Medical Referral Center officially opened its new Mental Health Unit on March 29, 2004.

The 16 bed unit will provide focused psychiatric and psychological care for the special needs psychiatric patients.



Shown are: Dr. Cadavid, Mental Health Consultant, Krome Facility; Dr. Golden, Psychologist, Port Isabel Facility; CAPT Brinkley, HSA at San Diego, and the San Diego staff during the “Ribbon-Cutting” ceremony.

Did You Know?

It's all in the numbers! Here are some interesting statistics on DIHS for FY03.

Number of outpatient referrals: **2,656**

Number of inpatient referrals: **445**

Number of claims: **41,531**

Amount of claims paid: **\$18,981,751.61**

Pharmacy expenses: **\$1,217,000.00**