

Meeting Brave Medical Warriors

By Joe Renta, AaSP supporter and Ambassador

On Sunday, September 21, and Wednesday September 24, 2008, Joe R. and Kevin A. of the Unilever Foodsolutions' Military sales team met with CDR Molly J. and MAJs Dennis and Judy L. of Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) on behalf of Adopt-a-Soldier Platoon. The Logans have been adoptees of AaSP both in Germany and Iraq.

LRMC is a major surgical center located close to Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany, the stopover point for wounded warriors returning to the states. Their mission is "To provide world class comprehensive and compassionate care to our Nation's Warriors, their families, retirees and all other directed beneficiaries, while maintaining unit and personal readiness to meet the demands of our Nation."

Landstuhl's vision is to "Maintain a trained and ready healthcare force that seeks, thrives on, and embraces change while accomplishing the health care mission, utilizing outcomes to drive medical decisions. We will excel at providing the best medical care anywhere to the best our Nation has to offer; her Warriors and families."

Surgery at LRMC supplements the initial treatment in the Area of Responsibility (AOR). Warriors normally arrive in large numbers, receive care and are then transferred to U.S.-based hospitals within hours if at all possible. As we enjoyed the company of these brave medical warriors, it was a challenge to keep a dry eye as they broadly described the wounds they routinely see and the care they provide. It was noted that these soldiers arrive at LRMC only hours removed from the AOR. The way in which they described how they lovingly attended to details far in excess of normal surgical issues made this a memorable time.

Our adoptees mentioned that all in the operating room wanted these warriors looking their best when seen by spouses and family as they arrived stateside. The warriors receive very special attention and on many occasions personal care products from AaSP were used (such as Vaseline lip balm and Dove products) -- all tangible evidence of the depth of care routinely and quietly dispensed by those at LRMC.

Items delivered this trip on behalf of AaSP benefactors were warmly received. CDs provided will be used to load iPods so warriors can listen to music on the 10+ hour plane ride home on stretchers. Xbox games (courtesy of AaSP's Operation X-Box) were a true source of joy as they will be used by patients who are at LRMC for an extended period of time. Pictures drawn by local school children will brighten the hallway of the surgery center.

We wrapped up our time at LRMC by touching on the past projects of AaSP. Several times conversation was stopped as an eye was wiped or a deep breath taken. That is the level of significance those who treat the wounded in Germany and Iraq hold AaSP and the projects so selflessly implemented. You will never know how the support of AaSP has deeply touched the lives of so many.