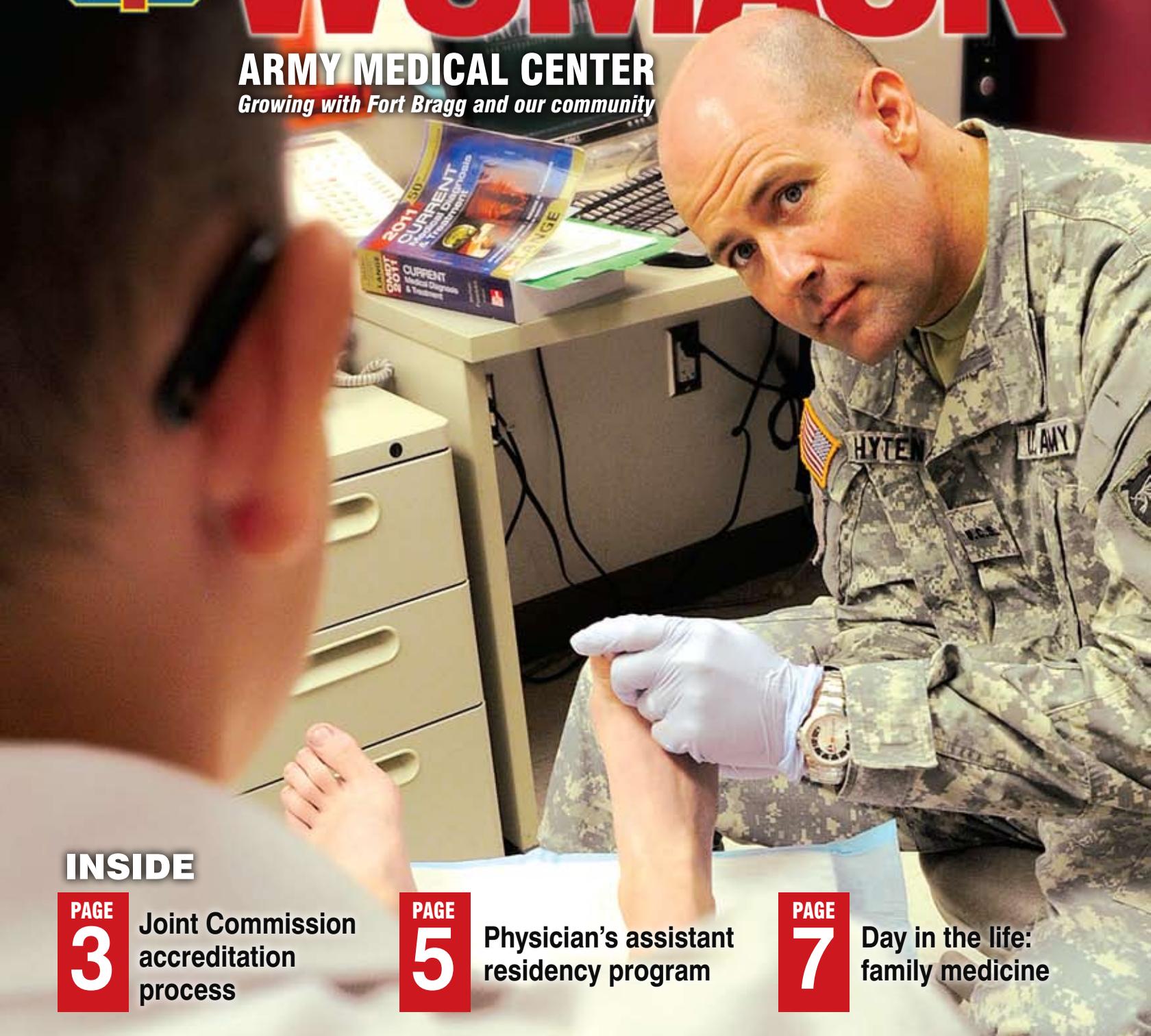




WOMACK

ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
Growing with Fort Bragg and our community



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Commander's letter



We are grateful that you continue to choose Womack Army Medical Center for your health care needs. Each and every one of your encounters with our organization is extremely important to us. One of our top priorities is to improve your access to quality health care and to exceed your expectations in compassionate and caring service. We value your input and welcome your thoughts and ideas on how we can better serve you and your family.

Womack Army Medical Center recently underwent The Joint Commission Accreditation process. The Joint Commission has accredited hospitals for more than 60 years, and today it accredits approximately 4,168

general, children's, long-term acute, psychiatric, rehabilitation and specialty hospitals and 378 critical access hospitals through a separate accreditation program. Approximately 82 percent of the nation's hospitals are currently accredited by The Joint Commission. Most military treatment facilities use it as their accrediting organization. We are proud of our staff for this accomplishment! Please see the related article on page three in this issue.

Blood donation continues to be one of our core missions at Womack Army Medical Center and overseas. If you or your loved ones can donate, please call the Fort Bragg Blood Donor Center at (910) 396-9925 or log on to www.militaryblood.dod.mil.

Summer is always a busy transition time for us. This is typically when most of our military staff makes permanent change of station (PCS) and moves to other military treatment facilities. Let us help orient you to your Womack Army Medical Center health care

facilities here on Fort Bragg and in the Fayetteville community. If you are new to the area, we recently opened two of our new community-based medical homes in Fayetteville and Hope Mills. We have been approved for a third clinic that will open sometime next year. The Fayetteville Medical Home is located at the Woodland Complex at 2350 Bentrledge Lane in Fayetteville. The Hope Mills Medical Home is located at the Millstone Town Center at 3351 South Peak Drive in Hope Mills. Our Family Members are excited to see these clinics in the community where they live. For more information, please call (910) 907-6000.

We look forward to continue serving you and your family. Please visit our website at www.wamc.amedd.army.mil or visit us on facebook at www.facebook.com. Have a happy, healthy summer!

Brian Canfield
COL, MS
Commander

ON THE COVER

OCS Candidate Matthew Hyten takes care of patient Devin Rodriguez.

(Photo by Cindy Burnham)



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This quarterly publication is a product of the Public Affairs Office at Womack Army Medical Center. For more information on Womack Army Medical Center, please call 910-907-7247 or e-mail us at pao.wamc@amedd.army.mil. Our staff is Darlene Fair, JoAnn Hooker and Shannon Lynch.

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Womack undergoes joint accreditation

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Womack Army Medical Center has been accredited for more than 15 years.

"The accreditation process validates what we already know, and that is that we provide our patients with the highest quality and the safest care possible," said Michelle Rose, Chief of Quality Services Division at Womack Army Medical Center. "Six surveyors over a period of five full days looked in every nook and cranny to replicate care provided from the patient's view."

Every staff member from housekeeping to the commander is subject to be interviewed and their credentials reviewed by the surveyor.

"The survey is unannounced, there is no way to study for the test and the only way to pass the test is to provide quality, safe care on a daily basis," Rose said. "By earning full accreditation last week, we are confident that all of our patient care delivery systems exceed all criteria."

"Every staff member directly contributed to the success of the survey," said COL Brian T. Canfield, Commander, Womack Army Medical Center.



PHOTO BY CINDY BURNHAM
The Quality Service Division includes (standing) Jean Brown and Brenda Hallet and (sitting) Patricia Roman-Guardiola and Linda Hayes.

The Deputy Commanding General of XVIII Airborne Corps, MG Rodney Anderson, welcomed the surveyors with an overview of Fort Bragg's mission and gave them an introduction to the diverse patient population that Womack Army Medical Center serves.

"The surveyors had an opportunity to visit the Hope Mills Medical Home and were very impressed with the community-focused care provided," Canfield said.

Patients in the community are now able to receive care in the community where they live and where their children go to school, thus making access to care convenient and flexible. The Joint Commission surveyors were able to see just how ready Womack is to adjust to the impact of natural disasters, because the survey began on Monday after Fayetteville

was ravaged by several devastating tornadoes.

"We are very proud of our military, civilian, contract and Red Cross staff members who continue to provide our community with high quality health care in a competent and compassionate manner," Canfield said.

The Joint Commission surveys processes in these patient care areas:

- Environment of care
- Emergency management
- Human resources
- Infection prevention and control
- Information management
- Leadership
- Life safety
- Medication management
- Medical staff
- National patient safety goals
- Nursing
- Performance improvement
- Provision of care, treatment and services
- Record of care, treatment and services
- Rights and responsibilities of the individual
- Transplant safety
- Point of care testing

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Womack has elite residency program

Womack Army Medical Center has recently become one of the Army's six Clinical and Operational Psychology Residency (COPR) post-graduate training programs for officers holding doctorate degrees in psychology (PhD or PsyD).

The newest program joins other Army affiliated COPR programs at Tripler Army Medical Center, Madigan Army Medical Center, Brooke Army Medical Center, Walter Reed Army Medical Center and D. D. Eisenhower Medical Center.

Three officers are currently participating in the residency program, and Womack's program is planning to expand to four next year. The post-doctoral residents are selected competitively from interested applicants graduating from one of the United States Army's five American Psychology Association accredited clinical psychology internship programs. These individuals are active duty uniformed officers, who are assigned to the residency program on official military orders.

The residents train in clinical and operational psychology. They spend six months at Womack Army Medical Center's Department of Behavioral Health and then rotate across the installation, spending a majority of the remaining six months at the United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC).

While at USASOC, the residents' training is focused on learning skills related to operational psychology, i.e., Special Forces Assessment and Selection, SERE



CPT (Dr.) Matthew Brooks asks CPT (Dr.) Barbara Merchant about a project as CPT (Dr.) Christian Merchant takes notes.

PHOTO BY CINDY BURNHAM

(Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape) psychology and performance enhancement.

The 12-month, full-time residency focuses primarily on adult mental health services, operational and occupational consultation and assessment services. The residents receive a wealth of knowledge to prepare them to function completely and independently in a variety of clinical, occupational and consultative settings in and outside the Army setting.

"Womack has the only American Psychological Association Accredited Program in both Clinical and Operational Psychology," said CDR (Dr.) Victoria Ingram, U.S. Public Health Service, Deputy Chief of Behavioral Health at Womack Army Medical Center, the COPR Program Director.

"Our accreditation is for seven years. The variety of units,



organizational capabilities, differing cultures and a variety of duties offer the psychologists countless opportunities to advance their skills," Ingram said. "Fort Bragg has 10 percent of the Army with a mixed population of Soldiers."

"When the residents complete the program, they are eminently prepared to take the most demanding clinical and operational

assignments at any military installation," said COL (Dr.) Frank Christopher, Deputy Commander for Clinical Services at Womack Army Medical Center.

Womack Army Medical Center is proud to offer this advanced level of psychological education in support of our Soldiers and supporting organizations across Fort Bragg.

Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP)

The Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP) includes students from the Army, Air Force, Navy and the Coast Guard. The IPAP curriculum consists of two phases. Phase 1 is the didactic phase at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. Phase 2 is in a clinical setting in one of the military medical centers across the country, which includes Womack Army Medical Center at Fort Bragg. In Phase 2 the students put into practice what they learned in the classroom during Phase 1 while they rotate through different specialty and subspecialty clinics. They are precepted and mentored by physicians and physician assistants who are subject matter experts in their field.



PHOTO BY CINDY BURNHAM

Dr. Asim Raja, right, views x-rays with CWO William Kilgore, a resident in the Interservice Physician Program.

The students are a combination of officers, warrant officers and officer candidates (non-commissioned officers.) They rotate through the following clinics: general surgery, orthopedics, podiatry, occupational therapy, physical therapy, behavioral health, ENT (ear, nose and throat), allergy, dermatology, ophthalmology, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics, family medicine, radiology and emergency medicine. The Internal Medicine and Long Term Care rotations are done through the Veterans Administration (VA) hospital in Fayetteville.

The students have two additional elective rotations, of which cardiology and operational medicine (working with a practicing physician assistant on Fort Bragg) are the most popular. The Phase 2 students are required to perform at least 160 additional emergency medicine hours outside of their specific emergency medicine rotation, perform at least 120 procedures and complete at least 1,200 patient encounters.

Additionally, the students have a four-component directed study course. The first component is a master's level paper presentation where they discuss their thesis that they completed during Phase 1. The second is a professional topic of benefit for the physician assistant profession. The third is a medical topic of personal interest to the student. The fourth component is a culmination of their professional attributes based on their performance throughout Phase 2. Upon successful completion of Phase 2, they all receive a Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC).

Additionally, the officer candidates and warrant officers are commissioned as first lieutenants. Once UNMC and the IPAP confirm their completion, they are able to take the PANCE (Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam), a computer-based, multiple-choice test administered by the NCCPA (National Commission on Certification of

Physician Assistants). They must pass this difficult exam in order to practice as a certified physician assistant not only in the military but in a civilian setting as well.

There are currently 19 students in the Phase 2 program at Womack Army Medical Center. Fourteen are currently rotating through various clinics; five recently graduated and the newly commissioned officers are awaiting their attendance to the Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Sam Houston prior to going to their first duty stations as PAs.

"Our students are highly qualified to treat our patients because of their well-rounded education and experience," said MAJ (Dr.) Amelia Duran-Stanton, the IPAP clinical coordinator at WAMC. "We hope to incorporate everything they learn into delivering the best patient care. They are also required to maintain a higher standard of conduct and professionalism during their program because not only are they students, they are also in the military during their matriculation."

The IPAP is currently ranked 13th nationally according to the 2011 U.S. News and World Report. Womack Army Medical Center, along with Phase 1 and other Phase 2 sites, have a goal to become ranked on the top five in the near future by developing students to become future leaders and confident physician assistants.

"We train them to represent the professions of arms, medicine and teaching, and to provide the highest quality of health care while in a quality learning and teaching environment," said COL (Dr.) Frank Christopher, Deputy Commander for Clinical Services, Womack Army Medical Center.

The Womack Army Medical Center IPAP Phase 2 website can be accessed through www.wamc.amedd.army.mil/dme/GME/IPAP. For more information on becoming an Army PA, this link has up-to-date information on how to reach this goal: www.usarec.army.mil/armypa/.

Womack trains future Army optometrists

Womack Army Medical Center (WAMC) has the Army's newest Optometry Residency Program. The Army's other one-year programs are located at Brooke Army Medical Center and at West Point. Optometry school is four years (following undergraduate preparation), and leads to the Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree, and the residency is a one year program. Currently, completion of a residency program is optional; optometrists who graduate from an accredited school of optometry and pass national and state licensing boards are fully capable of independent practice.

This is the inaugural year for the Womack Army Medical Center Residency in Primary Eye Care. The program recently hosted a team from the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education, who accredited the program for a seven-year term. Currently, Womack has one resident in the program, CPT (Dr.) Bret Lehman.

"The current resident is the first optometry resident to participate in the program," said LTC (Dr.) Adrienne Ari, Chief of the Optometry Clinic and the Director of the Optometry Residency Program. "It is similar to medicine fellowships."

The resident spends most days at Womack seeing patients. However, one of the more exciting opportunities for the resident is his weekly clinical day at the University of North Carolina, working in the ophthalmology clinic. At UNC, the resident trains in advanced medical contact lens fittings, participates in grand rounds, and has an opportunity to work with ophthalmology subspecialists and residents.

Additional rotations at WAMC include the emergency



CPT (Dr.) Bret Lehman checks a patient's vision.

PHOTO BY PAMELA HYMER

department, traumatic brain injury (TBI) clinic, pathology clinic, dermatology clinic and refractive eye surgery clinic. Other opportunities include military medical training, including the Combat Casualty Care Course, and participation in humanitarian missions. This year Lehman spent two weeks in the Dominican Republic with a medical team, providing eye care to hundreds of patients who otherwise would not get care.

Interested Army optometrists can apply for residency programs through the Medical Service Corps' Long Term Health Education Training Board. Application materials are due in February for a July start the following year. The board results are published in June, one year prior to the start date to allow time for reassignment. The results for the current board should be released shortly with the name of the 2012 resident.



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A day in the life of a Family Medicine Resident

Womack Army Medical Center is home to the largest Army Family Medicine Residency Program. Yearly, eight to 11 residents graduate from the three-year Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education certified program. Medical residents may work up to 80 hours per week providing care to our beneficiary population.

The Army hosts Family Medicine residencies at Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Belvoir, Carl R. Darnell Army Medical Center, Fort Benning, Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Madigan Army Medical Center and at Tripler Army Medical Center.

Applicants are selected for participation in the residency through a national “match” program that attempts to take the needs of new medical school graduates and matches those to the needs of the Army.

Students may utilize the Department of Defense’s scholarship program, the Health Profession Scholarship Program, to attend civilian medical school or they may attend the Uniformed Services University of Health Services at Bethesda, Md.

If they attend the Uniformed Services University of Health Services, which is the only federal medical school, the tuition is completely paid for by the

government. Students are on active duty and receive the pay and allowances of a second lieutenant (or ensign) while in medical school. The education is valued at approximately \$200,000 for the four years, and results in a post-residency service obligation of five years.

If a student participates in the Health Professions Scholarship Program, the student may go to any accredited university that awards the Medical Doctor (MD) degree, and their commitment to the Army (following specialty training) is for four years. The Army will pay 100 percent of their tuition for a graduate level education plus a generous monthly stipend of \$2,000.

Upon acceptance of the scholarship in either program, prospective physicians become commissioned officers with the rank of second lieutenant (or ensign) and begin their military service. They are promoted to the rank of captain (or lieutenant) when they receive their Doctor of Medicine degree.

As a new resident, they serve their first year as an intern, then two years as resident physicians. They spend this time doing intense clinical training in family medicine, emergency medicine, obstetrics and gynecology,



PHOTO BY CINDY BURNHAM

CPT (Dr.) Michael Arnold takes care of patients Donald and Beatrice Blair.

internal medicine, surgery and surgery subspecialties, in both the outpatient and inpatient arenas. “We train the residents to give our patients the most up-to-date and advanced medical care available,” said MAJ (Dr.) Angelita Callahan, residency director for the program.

After the three years of residency, they graduate and are eligible to take the national board certification exam for family medicine. If they pass the two-day intensive testing, then they become board certified family physicians. At that time, they will be assigned to units and clinics throughout the Army, and most of them will deploy within the first year after graduation.

“Most will be sent to Iraq and Afghanistan serving as unit physicians working side-by-side with combat medics saving lives,” said Callahan.

Each year Womack has a total of

27 to 30 residents going through the program. Each resident maintains an enrolled patient panel during their residency and delivers to their patient panel comprehensive patient-centered care.

We have 11 faculty members that are trained in family medicine. All of the faculty members have years of experience and are chosen to be part of the faculty.

“The members are hand chosen for this program based on their knowledge and their clinical skills. They supervise inpatient wards, they are responsible for the residents during their clinical rotation, and they teach procedures in family medicine to include: minor skin surgery, gynecological procedures, vasectomies, circumcisions and cardiac stress testing,” added Callahan.



OBGYN residency coming soon

Womack Army Medical Center has been approved as a new site for an obstetrics and gynecology residency. This will be a four-year program that will train physicians in all aspects of routine and complicated obstetric and gynecologic health issues. Additionally, they will receive training in the subspecialties of maternal fetal medicine, reproductive endocrinology and infertility, gynecologic oncology and urogynecology.

With the exception of maternal fetal medicine, Fort Bragg will be the only facility in the region for such specialized care for women. Womack's inaugural residency class will start with three residents at the first year level and two at the second year level.

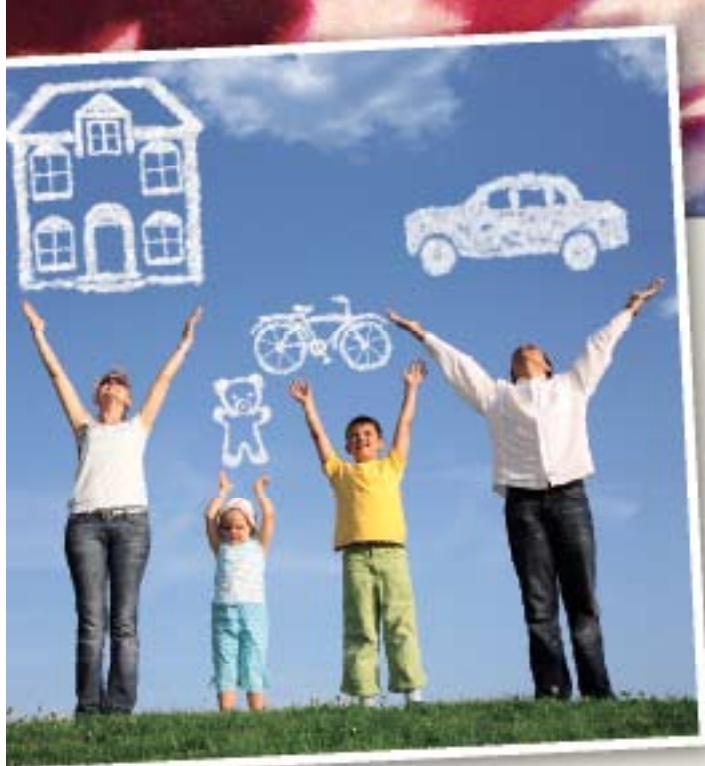
Three resident physicians per year will be authorized at Womack. This program received its approval from the Accreditation

Council for Graduate Medical Education, the organization that provides accreditation for medical residency programs in the United States. This initiative will provide our patients with state-of-the-art care and allow the training for U.S. Army physicians in this specialty at the Army's busiest obstetrics and gynecology program.

Maternity Fair

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NCUA Membership is open to all active duty/retired military and their dependents, anyone who regularly works on Fort Bragg, members of the AUSA-Sixteen Bragg Chapter and immediate family members and those residents of the Cumberland County community. Please call to verify your eligibility.