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By Gini Sinclair

More than 500 pre-medical and medical students attended the American Medical Student Association Annual Conference at the Hyatt Regency, Crystal City, Alexandria, Va., from March 31 until April 3, 2016. As part of the activities available for the students the 1st Medical Recruiting Battalion and the Medical Recruiting Brigade set up exhibits, clinics and tours.

Exhibits at the conference included a modified DRASH (Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter) complete with a medical simulation mannequin. A seven-and-a-half foot tall globe kiosk with interactive video screens provided information about a career as a healthcare provider in the U.S. Army. The video screens allowed students to choose a medical specialty and listen to testimonials from currently practicing Army healthcare providers.

The Soldiers from 1st Medical Recruiting Battalion organized two suture clinics on April 1 and 2, with approximately 30 students in each class. Clinics were conducted by two members of the 1st Medical Recruiting Battalion and two students from the U.S. Army Uniformed Services University for Health Sciences, Bethesda, Md. In addition to the suture clinics, AMSA members had an opportunity to tryout their skills in inserting an IV, intubation and tracheotomy – using mannequins.

As part of the activities the students were offered an opportunity to visit the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. Eighteen medical students toured the facilities at the hospital. The hospital opened in 2011, with more than 1.2 million square feet and 120 inpatient rooms. Along with four clinical centers, the facility has an intensive care unit, state-of-the-art operating rooms, and a full range of primary care with medical and surgical subspecialties. Visitors



spent two hours learning about the medical capabilities of the hospital. They conducted a question and answer session with an operating room nurse and a family practice physician.

Another group of 30 pre-medical students toured the Uniformed Services University Val G. Hemming Simulation Center in Silver Spring, Md. This facility included surgical, emergency room and field hospital simulations, medical gaming battlefield and, natural disaster scenarios. Students also had the opportunity to meet staff and residents of the Uniformed Services University of Health Science.

According to Dave Dormann, education services specialist, 1st Medical Recruiting Battalion, one of the popular areas of the visit was the Wide Area Virtual Environment. Visitors were immersed in a virtual setting through three-dimensional images displayed on three vertical screens. While in the WAVE students were transported to a village in Afghanistan, flew in a medical-evacuation helicopter, and saw the effects of a suicide bomber.

Students at the Uniformed Services University for Health Sciences were going through a psychiatry clerkship; the AMSA medical students were allowed to monitor. The psychiatry clerkship training consisted of actors visiting the psychiatry students talking about symptoms and the psychiatry students diagnosing the problem.

“I truly believe we made a difference at the convention,” Dormann said. “We had a clinical skills room where students did an IV clinic, an intubation clinic and tracheotomy clinic. We had the DRASH and all the clinics in one big room. The suture clinics were so popular we had 30 students in the class, then set up in a different part of the room for extra suture training. We went ahead with the class, then had some of our medics do one-on-one with the other students. This was pretty much all day long.”

“A special thanks to the 1st U.S. Army Medical Recruiting Battalion for its amazing presence and support of the 66th Annual AMSA Convention & Exposition March 31-April 2,” said Dr. Deborah Hall, AMSA president. “My colleagues who were fortunate to participate in the tours



hosted by the US Army were in awe of the state-of-the-art medical facilities. We also received valuable guidance and practiced our clinical skills training with the DRASH unit and workshops provided by the Army. The tours and clinical skills training were definitely convention highlights.”

Cut: Globe

U.S. Army photo by Kellie Tefft

Staff Sgt. Christopher Swan, health care recruiter, Washington D.C., Forward Engagement Center (FEC), Military District of Washington Medical Recruiting Company, right, shows medical students the Medical Recruiting Brigade Interactive Globe kiosk. Swan attended the American Medical Students Association Convention and Exposition from March 31 – April 2, 2016, in Crystal City, Alexandria, Va., to talk about a career as a U.S. Army healthcare provider.

Cut: Tube

U.S. Army photo by Kellie Tefft

Staff Sgt. Thomas Fortner, mobile exhibitor, Accessions Support Battalion, Fort Knox, Ky., performs an intubation on a mannequin at the American Medical Students Association



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Convention and Exposition, in Crystal City, Alexandria, Va., held from March 31 until April 2, 2016. Fortner was showing the Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter (DRASH) capabilities to medical students at the convention.