

PROTECTING AMERICA

U.S. Army's Elite Burn And Trauma Center: Pioneering A Legacy

(NAPSA)—When asked why he left his successful job as a lawyer to counsel burn survivors, retired Army Lt. Col. David Jayne's answer begins in Central America.

During a routine mapping mission in Guatemala, Jayne's helicopter began leaking fluid and exploded before crashing to the ground. Jayne survived, but he suffered severe third-degree burns over most of his body. For two weeks following the accident, local doctors tried in vain to treat his infected burns before he was transported to the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research (ISR) in San Antonio, Texas, renowned as the premier burn treatment and research center in the world.

"When I arrived in San Antonio, I was near death," said Jayne. "But I knew the ISR had the absolute best burn treatment in the world." After countless surgeries and years of rehabilitation, Jayne eventually returned to service in the Army and earned a law degree before abandoning his career to establish a foundation supporting burn survivors. "Everything I've done—100 percent of my life—has been affected by my experience at the ISR," said Jayne.

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research and its talented staff pioneered a legacy of groundbreaking medical developments in burn treatment—advances that affect both military and civilian medical operations and trauma care in hospitals.

"Dr. Burn Center"

Staff at the ISR, the first institution to unite its clinicians with laboratory researchers when



treating burn wounds and training doctors, changed the way military and civilian doctors care for burn patients. One Army doctor in particular is credited with leading the most important advancements in burn treatment: retired Col. Basil Pruitt, M.D.

Upon his promotion to director and commander of the ISR, Dr. Pruitt began improving existing treatments for burn victims and continued to do so throughout his 27-year tenure. Pruitt, dubbed "Dr. Burn Center" by colleagues and patients alike, led his team in the development of Topical Antimicrobial Therapy, a technique utilizing various skin creams to prevent infection, a common and difficult complication in burn treatment. This new discovery, along with others developed at the ISR, helped to revolutionize the efficacy of burn care—reducing the percentage of death due to infection in burn patients from 60 percent to six since the 1950s according to the American Surgical Association.

"All the innovations that have come out of this unit are a credit

to the Army—overall survival has greatly improved," says Dr. Pruitt. "The emulation of this unit at other burn centers emphasizes how important this organization has been to health care."

A Legacy Continued

The ISR's influence and success extends beyond its patients and renowned staff and continues to have widespread impact on treatments and burn facilities around the world. Presently, more than 20 alumni serve as directors of hospital burn centers across the nation, including hospitals in New York, Texas, Florida and Washington state. Additionally, the ISR holds eight patents relating to burn care treatments. Ongoing developments such as the military's only burn flight teams, which are able to reach, treat and return patients to the ISR from anywhere in the world within a critical 72-hour time frame, help to solidify the ISR's position on the forefront of burn care and make it a natural leader in developing strategies for a broader range of trauma care beyond burns.

"The ISR has a long and proud history of scientific and procedural breakthroughs to offer the best possible medical care to our soldier and civilian patients," says Col. John Holcomb, current commander and director of the ISR. "We will continue that tradition as we build upon our role in combat casualty and trauma care—to be technologically advanced, highly trained and ready to be sent anywhere in the world."

For more information about healthcare opportunities in the U.S. Army, visit <http://www.goarmy.com>.