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Dana Elise Smith/Camp Shelby Public Affairs

PARHAM FRAMED... Col. Steve Parham was honored with a framed copy of page 48 of November 2010's issue of "Signature" magazine on Jan. 20 in his office at CSJFTC headquarters building 1001. The page was a "Q&A" section highlighting Parham's job as CSJFTC Commander, his interests and family life. It was presented to him by Dr. William Tolbert, Parham's dentist, as a token of their friendship and respect.

Paulk is new executive officer for Joint Medical Task Force

By **DANA ELISE SMITH**
Camp Shelby Public Affairs

Lt. Col Jimmy Alfred Paulk, a native of Creola, Ala., is currently the commander of 7242nd Installation Medical Support Unit headquartered in Gulfport and the new executive officer of Joint Medical Task Force Shelby.

As a result of the Army Reserve Medical Department's large reorganization in 2008, the 7242nd IMSU was created for the purpose of commanding the Soldier readiness process mission which is to ensure that Soldiers are mission ready and capable to go overseas. The unit also acts as a resource for the medical task force.

"The 7242nd IMSU is serving as a prototype; it is the first Army Reserve unit to be mobilized to aid in CSJFTC's Joint Medical Task Force Shelby operations. The unit was planned and created from First Army all the way down. This mission was on all the major planning boards," said Paulk.

As the commander of the 7242nd IMSU, Paulk holds all Uniform Code of Military Justice and legal authority over the Soldiers within the unit. Paulk's role as the executive officer of the medical task force means he is second in command of Joint Medical Task Force Shelby.

Most of all, his position is valuable because it keeps a strong and more standardized relationship between the 7242nd IMSU and Joint Medical Task Force Shelby.

Taking on the massive dual role comes from many years of military service. Paulk has over 24 years of service in the Army and Army Reserves.

Throughout his career he has held a variety of positions including battalion executive officer, chief nurse and battalion S3. He holds two military occupational specialties; psychiatric nurse and intensive care nurse.

Paulk earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in 1986 from the University of South Alabama located in Mobile. He went on to earn a master's degree in administration in 1993 from Central Michigan University's Augusta, Ga. campus located at Fort Gordon.

While on active duty from 1987 to 1993, he served as a staff nurse at Eisenhower Army Medical Center. It was there that he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for excellence while serving in the intensive care unit and psychiatric unit.

"It was probably the highest award that I will ever get in my army career," he said.

Paulk deployed during Operation Desert Storm to Saudi Arabia in 1991 as a member of the Professional Readiness Officer Filler System.



Lt. Col. Jimmy Alfred Paulk

PERSONNEL PROFILE OFFICER

"There were planes crashing all around me- sometimes a dozen at a time, most crushed to rubble. Not military planes, just paper planes that I made for the Nomad children who had never seen a paper airplane before. They were so amazed by them that they threw them until they were totally unrecognizable. Those are the type of moments you remember from deployments- the good ones!" he said.

When his active duty came to a close in 1993, Paulk decided to join the Army Reserves to continue his military career. He was a member of the 3343rd United States Army Hospital headquartered in Mobile, Ala. and the 946 Forward Surgical Team before joining the 75th Combat Support Hospital unit, which is now the 7242nd IMSU.

Paulk also completed Command and General Staff College at Camp Shelby in 2000 which allowed him to rise to the rank of Lt. Col.

In 2009, he deployed once more to Uganda, Africa on a humanitarian medical mission to provide free medical care and support to the civilian population.

Outside of his military career, Paulk is a registered nurse for the state of Alabama and for 15 years he worked for an Alabama state-owned and operated psychiatric facility, Searcy State Hospital.

He also uses his talents to volunteer once a month to teach CPR and management of violent aggressive behavior to community group homes in Mobile, Ala.

In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, concerts, watching movies and playing with his dog, a Schnauzer named Buddy. He is married to his wife, Telecia and has two grown children; Lindsay, 18 and Aubrey, 23.



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