



News Release

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LRMC Civilian Receives Exceptional Performance Duty Award

By Taylor Massey
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LANDSTUHL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, Germany – In recognition of her key role in building a trauma program at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) to better serve the needs of Wounded Warriors, Kathleen Martin has been presented the Exceptional Performance of Duty Award. This achievement is the highest award for civilian service distributed by the Secretary of the Army.

Martin said her team “hit the ground running” when they arrived at LRMC about eight years ago, not taking a day off for over a month in order to achieve their mission to create a trauma program at LRMC, where approximately 72,000 U.S. Servicemembers, civilians and Coalition Troops have been treated for injuries and illness sustained in Afghanistan and Iraq.

For Martin, her nursing career and journey to LRMC began over 35 years ago as a young woman who found inspiration from her mother, a nurse in the U.S. Navy and a World War II veteran. After Martin received her Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing from Temple University, she had the opportunity to work in a large hospital in Philadelphia where she was able to get involved with the development of their trauma program and became a nurse in the Trauma Intensive Care Unit. She continued to expand her education in nursing and became the first graduate of the University of Pittsburgh’s Trauma Clinical Nurse Specialist Master’s Program.

This level of education, along with previous professional experience, opened up numerous doors toward job opportunities and allowed her to secure a position as the Trauma Program Manager at the University of Pennsylvania. This led to her involvement with the network of trauma centers in Pennsylvania as a consultant to assist in the setup, improvement and overall efficiency of local trauma centers.

After 5 years of working with the network in Pennsylvania, Marin realized she loved the path she had taken in her nursing career and leaped into an entrepreneurial role with the creation of her own consulting firm, Martin Trauma Associates, L.L.C. Owning her own firm allowed Marine to explore trauma centers outside of the Pennsylvania region, confirming her idea that trauma centers everywhere were in need of professional assistance to ensure their patients were receiving the highest quality of care.

Simultaneous with the active consulting she was performing with her own company, Martin was being summoned to join the LRMC team in Germany as the Trauma Program Nurse Director. Before she accepted the position, LRMC was not set up or verified as a trauma center.

With Martin's experience, along with her knowledge of trauma care, systems and registries, she and Colonel (Dr.) Warren Dorlac (previous trauma surgeon at LRMC) started the aggressive mission toward the creation of a trauma center in November 2006 and verification as a Level II trauma center with a year. LRMC was verified as Level II by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) by June 2007.

As research in the trauma center and the volume of patients increased, LRMC received a Level I verification in 2011. Because LRMC no longer treats the required number of trauma cases required for verification as a Level I Trauma Center, LRMC is now a Level III Trauma Center after its most recent ACS survey that included zero deficiencies and praise for continued exceptional patient care.

Trauma centers throughout the United States and abroad are expected to produce the most efficient and successful treatment for their patients. These centers are reviewed by the ACS and are then verified as a certain level trauma center, ranging from 1 to 5. Each level requires trauma centers to deliver the highest quality of clinical care to patients, along with continuous performance improvement, regardless of its verified number.

After eight years of selfless service in Germany and completion of the mission she came to accomplish, Martin plans to shift her career back to the U.S. where she will be work as Senior Director of Clinical Programs for an information technology firm responsible for the creation of trauma registries.

Caption:

Kathleen Martin is presented the Exceptional Performance of Duty Award on June 10, 2014, by LRMC Commander Col. Judith Lee and LRMC Command Sgt. Major Timothy Sprunger. (U.S. Army Photo/Phil A. Jones)