



**JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER
AND FORT POLK
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
*News Release***



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**MEDDAC holds change of command ceremony:
Public Invited**

Fort Polk, La. ---The Baynes-Jones Army Community Hospital will change hands Friday, July 18, 2003 during a change of command ceremony here.

Col. (Dr.) Herman M Blanton will relinquish command to Col. (Dr.) Charles M. Caldwell during the event in the BJACH staff parking lot at 9 a.m.

Blanton is retiring from the military and will be going into private practice in College Station, TX.

The MEDDAC at Fort Polk includes Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, the Wellness and Readiness Center, the Department of Behavioral Health, and the United States Army Air Ambulance Detachment.

BJACH is one of the medical treatment facilities of Great Plains Regional Medical Command and is dedicated to providing quality, accessible, patient-oriented health care, while maintaining readiness to medically support the missions of the Army.

MEDDAC provides care to military members and their families as well as military retirees and their family members.

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Media representatives are welcomed to attend and cover the event. Please call Maj. Ron Elliott at 531-1418 or Karla Gonzalez at 531-6134 by 5 p.m. Thursday, July 17.

BIOS ATTACHED

COL Herman Mack Blanton

COL Blanton was born September 24, 1954 in Beaumont, Texas. He attended Texas A&M University, where he graduated with a B.S. degree in Zoology in 1976. He received a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Texas in 1980, and started an internal medicine residency at Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC), Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

After completing his internal medicine residency, he proceeded directly into a Pulmonary/Critical Care fellowship at BAMC. Upon completion of his fellowship, he was assigned as a staff Pulmonary/Intensivist at BAMC. His clinical academic career at BAMC was punctuated by serving as the Director of the Pulmonary/Critical Care fellowship for eight years. He also served as the Director, Continuing Medical Education at BAMC and culminated his time as the Assistant Chief, Dept. of Medicine and Associate Program Director of the Internal Medicine Residency. From June of 1998 until June of 2000, he served in the position of Deputy Commander for Clinical Services at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in the Europe Regional Medical Command. While in Europe, he served as the Commander, Task Force Medical Falcon in support of Operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo and he served as the Senior Medical Officer in Multinational Brigade - East, KFOR.

Doctor Blanton is board-certified in internal medicine, pulmonary medicine and critical care medicine. He is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and of the American College of Chest Physicians and is a member of numerous other professional associations.

He has authored several manuscripts and book chapters and has served as a Consultant to the editorial board for the peer-reviewed journal CHEST. His academic positions have included Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center and the Medical Director of the Army Medical Department's Respiratory Therapy School. He also served as a Pulmonary consultant to the Texas Department of Health's State Chest Hospital. Other positions include membership on the Board of Directors, South Texas Organ Bank, and membership on the Executive Committee of the Joint Review Committee for Respiratory Therapy Education, a national committee on accreditation.

Dr. Blanton's military education includes AMEDD Officer Basic Course, Officer Advanced Course, Command & General Staff College, and the Army War College Corresponding Studies Course Class of 2002. His military career has included service on a humanitarian mission to Kwajalein Atoll in Micronesia and as the DCCS for the 47th Field Hospital in support of Operation Bright Star '95 in Egypt. Among his military awards are the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal (2 Oak Leaf clusters), the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO medal (Kosovo), the Kosovo Campaign Medal, the Order of Military Medical Merit, and the Surgeon General's "A" Proficiency Designator.

He is married to the former Jennifer Hess. They have two sons, Chris (age 28, a 1999 graduate of Texas A&M University) and Ben (age 23, a 2002 graduate of Texas A&M University).

COL Charles M. Caldwell

COL Caldwell was born in Fort Worth, Texas in 1957. He attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science degree, with a concentration in Chemistry. Originally commissioned as an Infantry officer, he attended the University of Texas Medical Branch, graduating with an M.D. degree in 1984. After completing an Internship in Internal Medicine at William Beaumont AMC from 1984 to 1985, he went on to complete a residency in Clinical Pathology at D.D. Eisenhower AMC in 1989. He also completed a residency in Diagnostic Radiology in 1996, at Tripler AMC. He was assigned to Fort Polk, where he has served as the Chief of the Department of Radiology as well as the Deputy Commander for Clinical Services. He is currently board certified in both Clinical Pathology and Diagnostic Radiology. He has authored several journal articles in the field of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring. He also holds a Masters Degree in Philosophy and Apologetics from Trinity College and Seminary, Indiana.

Other military assignments include serving as Medical Director of Chemical Pathology at Eisenhower Army Medical Center from 1989 to 1992, Chief of Radiology at Bayne Jones Army Community Hospital, Deputy Commander for Clinical Services for the 115th Field Hospital during Operation Bright Star, 1997, and Deputy Commander for Clinical Services for the 115th Field Hospital, Task Force Med Eagle, SFOR VII, Bosnia-Herzegovina, 2000. Military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the NATO medal (Former Yugoslavia), the Parachute badge, and the Order of Military Medical Merit.

His other interests include music and philosophy. He is actively engaged in the field of bioethics and is an active member of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities.

He is married to the former Beatrice Blackwell. They have been married since 1984, and have one son, Christopher, who is 17 years old and a senior at Pickering High School.