

IAPA President Elect Deployed

Board members were disheartened to hear our President-Elect, Joe Ollivier, was called up again for active guard duty in Iraq. We talked him into giving us updates along the way. Here is the first...

Military PA Overseas Update

By: Joe Ollivier, PA-C, Jerome

I have been a PA for 14 years and a Navy Reserve Officer for 13 years. I usually drill one weekend out of the month. I also perform two weeks annual training each year. The annual training for me has usually meant filling in at a clinic or emergency room when they are short staffed with providers. The hospitals and clinics are always appreciative to have a provider to help with their patient care. My last mobilization was in 2003. I was sent to Marine Corp Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina to take the place of a family practice physician who was sent to Iraq. I worked in a clinic performing physicals for marines being recalled to active duty and performing sick call on alternate days. I took call at the Navy hospital and the military prison. I have currently been ordered back to active duty to serve in overseas either in Iraq or Kuwait for 9 to 12 months. I have not been told exactly what my main responsibilities will be but my primary designation is as a medical provider. Being in the reserves means being ready to serve, so it is no surprise that I have been recalled again. I look forward to sharing my experiences on this adventure with those interested in this type of medicine.

Update 2:

Joe Ollivier, who was our IAPA president elect before being mobilized, is home on temporary duty from 6 weeks of specialized training at Fort Sill Army base in Oklahoma. Joe is a medical officer in the Naval Reserve and has been mobilized for the Global War on Terrorism. He and 29 other naval reservist underwent intensive and specialized training to assist the U.S. Army in one of their military operations in the Middle East. Joe is looking forward to his mission and expects to return by the end of the year although his orders are for two years if the needs of the Navy or Army dictate.