

It's "Nurses Rock!" Week: Dunham Health Clinic's Deputy Commander of Nursing exercised innovation during COVID-19

By Elena Patton, Public Affairs Office 06 May 2021



Lt. Col. Marie Carmona, the director for COVID vaccines at Dunham, prepares a Moderna vaccine vial.

Any good nurse prioritizes the health and safety of her patients, and the Deputy Commander of Nursing at the Dunham Army Health Clinic excelled in the COVID environment by developing innovative ways to do just that.

Lt. Col. Marie Carmona commanded the Dunham nursing staff for the past three years, overseeing four geographically dispersed clinics consisting of 210 staff members and 11,500 beneficiaries, at Carlisle Barracks, New

Carmona, Leterkenny, and the Fort Meade Town Gap Troop Medical Center.

Both Col. James Becking, the Army War College Operations Officer and Dunham Health Clinic Commander Col. Jennifer Saenz commended Carmona on her work with COVID-19 vaccine distributions.

“Most of the folks getting vaccinated don’t know who she is, but they owe her a huge ‘Thank You,’” said Becking who worked with her.

“Lt. Col. Marie Carmona has been the true hero of the Carlisle Barracks COVID vaccination campaign,” said Becking, referring to her efforts to maximize efficient distribution of the vaccine supplies according to the DoD guidelines. She did all this while balancing her normal duty operations, noted Becking.

“As the director for COVID-19 vaccinations at Dunham, Lt. Col. Carmona has fostered an exceptional multidisciplinary team that is responsible for the distribution of vaccines across four installations,” said Saenz.

Saenz singled out two other key contributions developing pharmacy curbside operations and her work MEDDAC.

During the pandemic, she developed the curbside pharmacy operations. She led by working with the Soldiers and civilians, ensuring the health and safety of both staff and patients, noted Saenz.

Carmona was hand selected to assist in establishing a plan for inpatient critical care capabilities and manage clinical staff training for the Ft. Meade MEDDAC mission.

“Lt. Col. Carmona is a phenomenal Army Nurse, whose leadership and expertise has been critical to the success of the Dunham team,” said Saenz. “She is a role model for all, dedicated to taking care of staff and beneficiaries in the Carlisle community.”

In her previous assignment, she commanded the Forward Surgical Team,

1st Medical Battalion while assigned to Southwest Asia. Upon leaving Carlisle, she will take command of the Raymond Bliss Army Health Center at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

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