

Lt. Col. Jennifer Saenz assumes command of Dunham Army Medical Clinic

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Army Lt. Col. Elizabeth H. Duque formally passed command of the Dunham U.S. Army Health Clinic to Lt. Col. Jennifer L. Saenz Friday, June 21 at the Wheelock Bandstand on the historic parade field here.

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Carlisle Barracks, June 21, 2019 – Army Lt. Col. Elizabeth H. Duque formally passed command of the Dunham U.S. Army Health Clinic to Lt. Col. Jennifer L. Saenz in a timeless Army change-of-command ceremony Friday, June 21 at 10 a.m. at the Wheelock Bandstand on the historic parade field here. Col. James D. Burk, commander of the U.S. Army Medical Activity (MEDDAC) at Fort George G. Meade, Md. officiated

Saenz, a Michigan native, has served as an Army Nurse since 2000. She most recently served as assistant chief nurse with the 212 Combat Support Hospital, Rhine Ordnance Barracks, Germany. Her career has included assignments of increasing responsibility at combat support hospitals and surgical combat support hospitals from Fort Sam Houston Texas to Kuwait,

Fort Carson, CO, Landstuhl Germany, Redstone AFB, and Prime Healthcare. She holds a bachelor's degree in Nursing from Marquette University in Milwaukee, and a Master's in Health Services Administration from Baylor University, Texas.

"I am both honored and humbled for the opportunity to command the Dunham Army Health Clinic," said Saenz, after assuming command. "... I look forward to being part of the MEDDAC team as we continue to work to increase readiness and promote health and resiliency for our service members and their families."

As commander, she will be responsible for healthcare activities in four central Pa. locations: Carlisle Barracks, New Cumberland Army Depot, Letterkenny Army Depot, and Fort Indiantown Gap. Dunham Army Health Clinic is a primary care medical treatment facility that provides pediatric care, optometry, physical therapy, behavioral health services and ancillary services including pharmacy, laboratory, immunizations and physical exams for all eligible beneficiaries. Eligibility extends to active duty military and family, and military retirees.

Duque will be assigned next at Fort Knox, Ky, following two years in command of a workforce of 176 civilian and 30 military personnel in health care and health care support roles. During her tenure, the clinic achieved a highly successful Joint Commission Inspection and earned the highest possible certification in employee safety: the Army Safety Health Management Star. The Dunham team improve Soldier medical readiness statistics and improved access to care. During the past two years, nine major renovations totaling more than \$5 million included the Physical Therapy Clinic, the Fillmore Army Health Clinic, the Veterinary Clinic, the Dunham Clinic Pharmacy, and more.

"Change is inevitable," Duque noted in closing. Yet, "the mission doesn't change. We get the privilege of taking care of our Soldiers, their families, and our retirees every day. We see them on some of their worst days and we get to help them through that.... We really do have a great place to work and that is because of what you do for each other and our patients on a daily basis.

"We've had an adventurous two years," said Duque, recognizing the team's commitment to patients and to each other during periods of major renovations – and every day. "The team always pulled together and ... has always been able to continue to provide safe, quality, and accessible care for our patients.

“We’ve had multiple high-level visits to look at what we do here in our health system. And because we do what we do so well, we were able to easily convey our value to our patients and our community. So, in a time [of downsizing] military medicine, we are unlikely to see much change to our locations.

“To the Soldiers of the Dunham Health System: keep learning, keep caring, and keep working to improve yourself, the organization and the Army every day. To the staff, it has truly been an honor to work for you,” she said.

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