

# AMEDD announces promotion changes for graduating Army Physician Assistants

**CAPT. JAMES J. JONES**

*U.S. Army Recruiting Command*

FORT KNOX, Ky. – Willie French held a reception for all of the physician assistants at the Ireland Army Community Hospital to honor PA Week and explain recent changes to the Active Duty Army PA training program.

French explained that on Sept. 15, the first class of Army Soldiers were officially promoted to first lieutenant after they earned their Master's Degree in Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Nebraska.

"This is a major step in recognizing the world-class education that Army trained PAs receive. Physician Assistants are important members of the AMEDD health care team and provide a broad range of medical services traditionally performed by physicians. They are the primary medical provider to Soldiers in battalion and division level units and also provide garrison health care to Soldiers, family members, and other eligible beneficiaries. The Army PA has served the nation in all conflicts and peacekeeping mis-

sions since the Vietnam War," he said.

He explained the training program offers well qualified officers, warrant officers and enlisted Soldiers an incredible educational opportunity to become a Physician Assistant through the Interservice Physician Assistant Program located at the AMEDD Center and School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The Army trains approximately 95 Soldiers a year alongside candidates from the Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, Army Reserve, National Guard, and U.S. Public Health Service. Students are required to complete a year of intense didactic at Fort Sam Houston and then they complete a year of clinic rotations at Army hospitals throughout the U.S.

Graduates earn a master's degree from the University of Nebraska and now receive a commission in the Army Medical Specialist Corps as a first lieutenant. Officer students receive constructive credit for their commissioned service.

Applicants must be enlisted, commissioned or warrant officers with a recommendation from an Army PA. Other eligibility criteria include, but



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**Willie French, Phase II clinic coordinator, briefs students and fellow PA-C on changes in the promotion policy at Ireland Army Community Hospital, Fort Knox, Ky.**

are not limited to: a GT score of 110 or greater, 60 semester hours of post secondary school education of which 30 hours must include six hours of English, six hours of Humanities, six hours of General Chemistry, three hours of Human Anatomy, three hours of Human Physiology, three hours of College Algebra or higher math, and three hours of Psychology.

Applications are mailed to the IPAP Program Manager no later than March 1, 2007. A selection board will con-

vene in June 2007 and the results will be released in July 2007. All official transcripts and SAT scores must arrive by June 1, 2007. All applicants are required to have an SAT within 5 years of their application. The minimum score is 450 in each section of the exam and a composite score of at least 1500 on the newer 3-part version and a minimum composite score of 1000 on the previous 2-part version. Complete application procedures are found in Army Regulation 601-20, the Interservice Physician Assistant Training Program, and in the fiscal year message located at [www.usarec.army.mil/armypa](http://www.usarec.army.mil/armypa).

The AMEDD Center and School has developed the Requirements Completion Course designed to help Soldiers complete the program's prerequisite courses. For more information visit [www.usarec.army.mil/armypa](http://www.usarec.army.mil/armypa), email [ipap@usarec.army.mil](mailto:ipap@usarec.army.mil) or call Capt. James J. Jones at DSN 536-0386, 1-502-626-0386 or at 1-800-223-3735, ext 60386.

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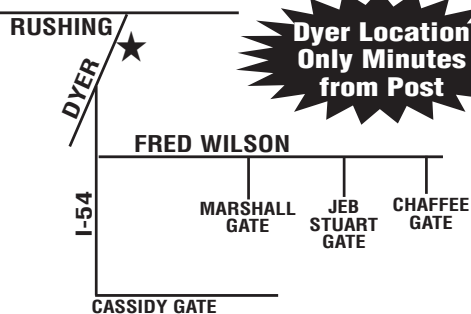
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