McLaren Security Surveillance Enhanced Through Grant

There are more eyes on you today as you come and go from McLaren Regional Medical Center (MRMC). Electronic eyes. A Homeland Security Grant was awarded to MRMC to strengthen the existing surveillance system with the purchase of new equipment. Acquisition of the advanced monitoring and storage equipment is a significant security upgrade for MRMC.

The MRMC Security Department requested a grant through the Genesee County Emergency Management and Homeland Security office. Upon the grant’s approval in the fall of 2006, MRMC purchased and installed additional surveillance devices. These devices include six digital surveillance cameras with pan-tilt zoom capability, eight stationary digital cameras, and computer hardware and software enabling footage to be stored. Existing cameras at MRMC are being integrated into the new digital recording system as well.

The new cameras are located at entry and exit locations, including parking areas. These cameras have remarkable resolution, according to Patrick Robinson, Director of Security at MRMC. For example, the camera located at the Patient Discharge door can zoom in to monitor activity taking place in the parking lot of the Cancer Institute, nearly 200 yards away. The ease of storing and retrieving this footage has also improved. Converting from taped to digital footage has increased the storage capacity from one day to one month. Retrieval of digital surveillance footage has the added advantage of instant retrieval of a particular day and time, versus fast forwarding and/or rewinding through hours of tape to find a particular moment of interest.

Robinson, was integral in the process of requesting the grant and obtaining approval for the new technology to enhance the safety of MRMC employees, patients and visitors.

“The new cameras allow a wider range of viewing,” said Robinson. “The entire

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Sgt. Michael Cunningham monitors several locations from Security Dispatch using software equipped with multiple viewing modes and high resolution clarity.
Employees Create Holiday Cheer

While the holiday season is behind us, the rewards of giving to others live on among many employees of MRMC. Here is how some of the MRMC departments celebrated the season.

**Intensive Care Unit**
The nursing staff in ICU demonstrated that it was better to give than receive. An assortment of items were collected for the family of a special patient. The staff also asked that their nurse manager Hilde Farrow, RN, donate the money that she would have spent on them to a charitable organization. The staff also sent goodies to a U.S. soldier in Iraq.

**Marketing, Art and Graphics Department**
The Marketing, Art and Graphics Department “adopted” a family for Christmas, providing warm coats and gifts for a family of five. In addition, the group gathered for dinner and a White Elephant gift exchange.

**Ortho/Neuro Unit-8 Tower**
The nursing staff on 8S sponsored the YWCA Safehouse in lieu of a holiday gift exchange. They collected items such as clothing, diapers, formula and personal care items for displaced women and children in the Flint area.

**Rehabilitation**
On December 18, the MRMC Rehabilitation staff hosted their annual Christmas Party for patients. The event featured entertainment and holiday treats.

**Patient Accounts**
The Patient Accounts Department has a designated Christmas committee that holds fundraisers during the year by doing bagel sales or luncheons. To celebrate the holidays, Patient Accounts held a dinner party at the Stonegate Banquet Center on December 8. A comedian and DJ provided entertainment. The party is completely self-funded with no monies from MRMC.

Patient Accounts is proud of their charitable contributions. Through the committee’s fundraisers, employees helped brighten the lives of many needy in the area throughout the year.

- Old Newsboys of Flint received a donation of $75.00 in December 2005.
- Food Bank of Eastern Michigan received a donation of $245.00 in December 2005.
- American Cancer Society received a donation of $346.00 in October 2006.
- Food Bank of Eastern Michigan received a donation $120.50 in November 2006.
- Marine Toys for Tots Foundation received a donation of $74.00 and two board games in December 2006.

Teddy, a rehabilitated patient (center) is happily greeted by Monica Haubenstricker, recreational therapist; Stephanie Francart, occupational therapist; Kellie Stites, recreation therapist; and Margo Phillips, occupational therapist.

(Above: Left to Right) ICU nurses Tonia Cole, RN; Carla Coulkter, RN; and Julie Corrion, RN donated items for soldiers in Iraq. For Julie Corrion, the collection was extra special. The soldier in Iraq distributing the items is a relative.

(Above: Left to Right) Sherry Stewart and Barbara Worrell of Marketing, and Josh Musclow from Graphics received special recognition for their unique gifts at the annual White Elephant gift exchange.
Security Surveillance

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system enhances our investigative efforts.”

Robinson anticipates the new equipment will have the added benefit of deterring inappropriate activity from occurring in addition to the real-time monitoring and archival enhancements.

The camera located on the upper level of the Sunset Parking Ramp can monitor the ramp’s entrance and exit as well as pan across the hospital grounds and north side of the Medical Center.

Critical entry and exit points are monitored for safety. At Patient Discharge, a new digital camera overhead provides security personnel with views of immediate and distant activity at the southeast corner of the building.

Welcome to McLaren

Brent Wheeler has recently joined the administrative leadership team at McLaren as Director of Oncology, GLCI-McLaren. Wheeler is responsible for the oncology service’s operation, maintaining and monitoring quality and patient satisfaction, and business planning. Facilitating physician integration, operational efficiencies, and coordinating interaction with other clinical service areas are also initiatives Wheeler will pursue.

He has 15 years experience in healthcare administration, including 13 years with Lapeer Regional Medical Center serving as Associate Administrator. Prior to working at Lapeer Regional, Brent spent 12 years with General Electric Corporation. He received a Bachelor of Science from Ferris State University and a Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University.
MRMC Administration and Nutritional Services serve up the 2006 Holiday Feast

Employees were treated to prime rib, shrimp scampi and honey baked ham along with an assortment of side dishes and mouth watering desserts during the annual Holiday Feast at MRMC. Both Ballenger Auditorium and Sunset Café were transformed into festive dining rooms to accommodate the more than 900 patrons served.

(Above) Even during the busiest time of the year, the mood in the kitchen is festive. (Left to right) Shelaine Young, Linda Bradley, Sonja Sharp, Sandra Wilson and Stephanie strike a pose in their holiday colors.

(Below) Julio Badin, M.D., pathologist

(Below) Lori Walters, Director of Therapy, and Don Koo, President/CEO MRMC

(Far Bottom) Auxiliaries Wilma Anderson and Helen Bruce
PAT Plays Santa to Seven Children

Through their compassion and generosity, members of MRMC’s Preadmission Testing department treated a special family to an unforgettable holiday.

Two years ago Ruby Gill, a nurse assistant at MRMC, was called upon to help members of her extended family after a series of misfortunes had left them homeless. Seven children, ranging in age from 5 to 17, were living in Chicago with their grandmother until a fire destroyed the apartment they shared. The grandmother called her aunt, Ruby Gill, for help. Ruby and her husband opened their home to the family of eight and did what they could to get them on their feet again.

Ruby had retired from MRMC in 1999 yet decided to stay and work at the Medical Center on a casual basis. She mainly works in the Endo/GI unit now escorting patients. Occasionally, Ruby works in the PAT department assisting with filing. It was here two years ago that she had mentioned her extended family’s situation to coworkers.

Since that time Ruby and her husband were able to move the family into a small home of their own nearby. However, the family continues to struggle to make ends meet. Ruby’s niece has been ill, with frequent trips to the hospital. Ruby’s husband spends his spare time fixing up the children’s home.

When the time came for PAT to plan gift exchanges and holiday parties, they chose to forgo their annual holiday gift exchange to brighten the Christmas holiday for the children. New clothing, toys, and personal items were purchased and wrapped. Ruby was touched by the group’s generosity and brought the four youngest children in to receive their gifts from the employees. A small party, complete with games and snacks, was thrown in honor of the children’s visit. The party was highlighted when Karen, the oldest of the four children, sang a special hymn she had recently performed at her church.

“It was the best Christmas these children have ever had,” said Ruby. “They were so proud to wear their new clothes to church on Sunday. My niece also mentioned how quiet it was when they returned home because the children were all in their rooms playing with their new toys.”

“It really touched my heart to know that people care so much,” said Ruby. “I struggled to find a way to thank them for what they have done. I thought sharing their story with everyone at McLaren would be nice.”

Welcome to the Medical Staff

Ronald Martin, D.P.M.

Ronald Martin, D.P.M., a board certified podiatrist, has joined the MRMC medical staff and the practice of podiatrists Scott Byron and Donald Lutz located at G-3302 Beecher Rd., Flint. Dr. Martin completed his residency at Southeast Michigan Surgical Hospital in Warren. He received his medical degree from Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine in Chicago, Illinois.

Sabry Mansour, M.D.

Sabry Mansour, M.D., a board certified urologist, has joined the medical staff at McLaren Regional Medical Center. He is seeing patients at the McLaren Community Medical Center in Lapeer. Dr. Mansour completed his residency at the University of New Mexico Medical Science Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He received his medical degree from Wayne State University in Detroit.
Staff Supplies
Shoes to School Students

Right now an elementary school student in Flint may be walking a little taller in their new shoes, thanks to you. Employees from McLaren Regional Medical Center, McLaren Health Care Corporate offices, Visiting Nurse Services of Michigan and McLaren Health Plan donated 305 pairs of shoes and boots to Shoes that Fit. This December marked the seventh year of McLaren’s participation in the program. Flint Youth Projects coordinates the Shoes That Fit initiative, which identifies needy children within the Flint Community Schools to receive a new pair of shoes, socks, gloves and a hat. In addition to the donation of shoes, MRMC donated $2,000 for the purchase of socks.

Thank You Shoppers!

Brenda Truett, Housekeeping

Jeni Dixon, Radiology

Quentin McLean, Housekeeping

Andrea Bosma, Speech Language Pathology
Asfandiar Shukri, M.D., medical director of McLaren Occupational and Convenient Care Program, was recently called to testify in the internationally publicized proceedings that found Saddam Hussein responsible for the systemic killing of thousands of Kurdish, men, women and children in an organized ethnic-cleansing campaign.

On November 29, 2006, Dr. Shukri testified regarding the health of Kurdish refugees fleeing the Anfal Campaign in 1988. His testimony aided the Iraqi court in determining the role Saddam Hussein and six other defendants had in attacks against Kurds in Iraq.

Human Rights Watch’s comprehensive report, “Genocide in Iraq - The Anfal Campaign Against the Kurds,” originally published in July 1993, details the systematic and deliberate murder of at least 50,000 and possibly as many as 100,000 Kurds. The killings occurred between February and September of 1988.

“Genocide in Iraq” shows that the Kurdish victims were targeted on the basis of their ethnicity. According to Dr. Shukri, the Iraqi Army executed approximately 180,000 Kurdish civilians and forced more than one million Kurds to flee their homes between 1986 and 1989.

Dr. Shukri’s testimony substantiated that Mustard and Sarin (nerve) Gas was used on a wide basis. The Mustard Gas scars found on the Kurdish victims followed the same geographic pattern similar to what was used by the Germans in the First World War.

“I never felt so happy in my life as when I stood up in front of Saddam Hussein and testified.” stated Dr. Shukri. “I spoke in English, despite his protests. He remembered me and said I could speak Arabic just fine. I felt that I had spoken for all of the Kurds that fought against him and no longer had a voice.”

Dr. Shukri was born and raised in Kurdistan, Iraq. After completing Mosul Medical College 1965, he went to become Chief Resident at the University of Baghdad Emergency Hospital. As a chief resident, Dr. Shukri had several encounters with Saddam Hussein between 1968 and 1972.

“It was hard to even breathe when he would visit,” Dr. Shukri recalled. “It was so nerve-wracking. Anyone who put their hands in their pockets in his presence would be shot immediately. He was very paranoid of assassination attempts.”

After completing his residency in 1972 and receiving his diploma in General Surgery and Orthopedics, Dr. Shukri returned to his place of birth, the city of Sulaymani in Kurdistan. He became the Chief of General Surgery at the Sulaymani University Hospital.

Dr. Shukri joined the Kurdish uprising against Saddam Hussein in 1974. With the help of the International Red Cross, Dr. Shukri

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Asfandiar Shukri, M.D. (right front) interviews Kurdish refugees in a Turkish camp six weeks after the end of the Anfal campaign.
opened a battlefield hospital in a cave of a Kurdish mountain to treat the injured Kurdish victims of air raids and artillery attacks. Many of these victims were civilians, children, and Kurdish peshmarga (soldiers). The casualties were severe.

“From 1974 to early 1975 in that hospital, I conducted 700 major surgeries and amputated 382 limbs,” said Shukri.

In 1975, a political agreement between the Shah of Iran and Saddam Hussein had deep effects on the Kurdish population. Dr. Shukri and his wife became displaced people in Iran, and were approached by Iranian Red Lion and Sun (Red Cross). Dr. Shukri opened a trauma center in Urmea, located in northwest Iran.

While in Kurdistan, Dr. Shukri treated an American journalist, who worked for the Washington Post. He was severely wounded with trauma to his abdomen and vital organs, however, Dr. Shukri was able to save his life.

After a few days of post-operative care, Dr. Shukri accompanied the journalist to the U.S. Councilette at the border of Iraq/Iran. At that time he became a friend of the Councilette.

From March 1975 to August 1975, Dr. Shukri kept in contact with the U.S. Councilette, which helped him attain an Entry Visa into the United States. In late 1975, he and his wife arrived at JFK airport in New York. Dr. Shukri settled in Detroit, opening a chain of medical clinics in the 1980s. He continued to keep in contact with his comrades in Kurdistan, also financing passage for many of them to come to the United States.

In October 1988, on a mission with Physicians for Human Rights, Dr. Shukri traveled with a group of physicians to the Kurdish Refugee camps in Turkey to survey the casualties. They conducted physical examinations on the victims of chemical gas attacks, took photographs, questioned eyewitnesses with in-depth interviews and conducted in depth epidemiological surveys following protocols developed by the Harvard School of Public and Environmental Health. The data was brought back and analyzed by more than a dozen specialists in the United States. They concluded that Mustard and Sarin (nerve) Gas were widely used against Kurdish population. The findings were published in JAMA, Aug 4, 1989, and the Physicians for Human Rights booklet, Winds of Death.

“I believe the trial of Saddam Hussein was conducted in a fair and just manner,” said Shukri. “The importance of this tribunal is that it is the first of its kind in the Middle East and will act as an eye opener to all ruthless regimes in the region to be more humane with their people.”

Dr. Shukri has kept journals about the historical events he has experienced in his lifetime, and is considering writing a book about them one day.