

## Second Week in Cameroon 🇨🇲

When I am on the ship, I never see any of the patients. It is because engineers are not known to keep a sterile environment, the privacy of the patients and the fact that the patients are embarrassed about their condition. You have to remind yourself when you work on the ship that you are support for those who help the world's poor and forgotten. You don't get the reminder of that by daily seeing the patients.

I see the hospital nurses, doctors and technicians all the time in the mess hall as they are in scrubs. The mess hall is open seating. There is only one mess hall on the AFM and everyone eats the same food. Generally I eat with the those from the engine or deck departments. Occasionally a doctor will sit with some of us in the mess hall. This week a doctor from Boston ate with us who is a general surgeon. He is here for a 2 week period. I can't ask him what goes on in the operating rooms and I wouldn't understand it anyway. He was very curious about what goes on in the engine-rooms. He wanted to know if he could go for a tour sometime. I let him know I could give him the tour when he was ready. We will see what comes of it.

I stood some midnight to 0800 watches this week and then had the weekend off. I start day work on Monday and will be on day work until I leave. We had a lot of trouble with the high sea water temperature while on watch. Both the air conditioner units were giving alarms and the plate coolers for the diesel generators were having trouble keeping the water cool. When the AFM is in service in Africa they put screens on the hull over the sea suction's and hold them in place with magnets. Divers usually go down once a week to clean the screens. In Doula the Wouri river, where we are docked, is so dirty and full of junk that they have to go down twice a week to clean them. BTW the visibility is "0" feet when they dive. When they first got to Doula river it was rainy season and the Wouri had a lot of fresh water. The last month, the salt water came back as well as the barnacles. When we clean the strainers for the plate coolers we get a lot of barnacle shells and other small creatures. We have to clean the strainers several times a day. We are now starting the little rainy season here so hopefully the fresh water will help out the condition of the river.

The little rainy season brings mosquitos. The day before I left for Cameroon, I got an email telling to make sure I bring malaria prophylaxis pills. Not helpful when I get it on Sunday leaving on Monday. It requires a prescription. I went to dinner on Friday to the Foyer du Marin ( seaman's club ) with a bunch from the ship. When I mentioned I don't have any pills for it the gave me some bug spray and told me I can buy some on the ship. One of the crew was diagnosed with malaria last week. The pills won't guarantee you won't get it, but lessens the effect when you do. I guess I am going to the crew clinic on Monday.

Well it's Sunday. I will go to the church service tonight at 1900 and head to bed to start a new week.

I am including a few slides that give an overview of what has gone on in January.



## the month that was

In January, you have been part of

- **54** X-Rays Completed for Surgical Candidates
- **37** Patients Received CT Scans
- **2608** Lab Tests Completed
- **37** Units of Blood Transfused

- **833** Unique Dental Patients
- **5000th** Unique Dental Patient Treated this Field Service



*"Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy." – Thomas Merton*

## THE MONTH THAT WAS...

In January you have been part of:

**230** Medical Capacity Building Course participants equaling **214** Hours of MCB training in the following courses :

- SAFE Pediatric Anesthesia Course
- Neonatal Resuscitation Course
- Biomedical Training
- Nutritional Agriculture Training
- WHO Checklist Training
- Essential Surgical Skills



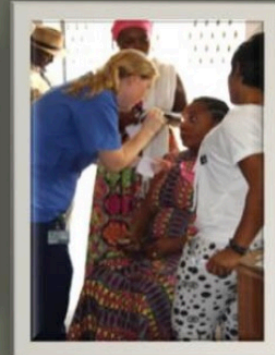
*"Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success." ~ Henry Ford*

## the month that was

In January, you have been part of

- 4682 Eye Patient Encounters for Assessment and Treatment

*"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"*  
-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



- 226 Unique Eye Surgeries Performed
- 1921 Patient Encounters at Laquintinie Eye Clinic

## the month that was

In January, you have been part of

- 13 Hours of Palliative Care Patient Visits
- 287 OR Visits
- 139 Surgeon screenings for **Plastics, General, MaxFax**

*"Sometimes the smallest step in the right direction, ends up being the biggest step of your life."*  
- Naqem Callaway



- 150 Inpatient Treatments done by Rehab
- 450 Outpatient Treatments done by Rehab
- 151 Hospital Chaplaincy Counseling Sessions



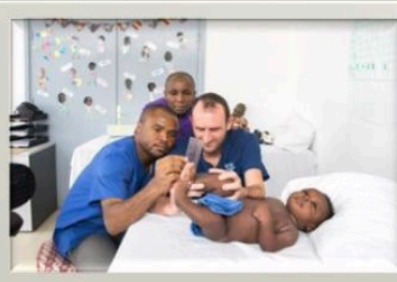
# THE MONTH THAT WAS...

In January you have been part of:

25 Mentoring participants equaling

611 Mentoring hours in the following programs :

- Surgeon Mentoring
- Anesthesia Mentoring
- Nurse Mentoring
- Ponseti Mentoring



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