



# ARMY MEDICINE

Serving To Heal...Honored To Serve

## Western Regional Medical Command

*National Disability Employment Awareness Month*  
**Expect. Employ. Empower.**

Team:



October's National Disability Employment Awareness Month serves as a time to raise awareness about disability employment issues and to celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

Individuals with disabilities serve shoulder-to-shoulder with us in our Army and throughout the Western Regional Medical Command. The Department of Defense has set a goal of having seven percent of the workforce comprised of individuals with disabilities. Several initiatives exist to help make this a reality, such as Schedule A special hiring authority and Disabled Veterans hiring preferences.

The history of National Disability Employment Awareness Month traces back to 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month, and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

As a nation and as an Army, we pause to celebrate our teammates in the workplace who may have a disability; we celebrate their competence and contributions to our force. One of Western Regional Medical Command's very own, Martin R. Wagner, was recently named a 2014 Outstanding Department of Defense Employee with a Disability. Mr. Wagner provides exemplary service as the Chief of the Medical Expense Performance Reporting Systems Branch at William Beaumont Army Medical Center, Fort Bliss, Texas.

Mr. Wagner is an integral part of Team Western Region, and we are grateful for his time and talents shared at William Beaumont. He is just one example of the excellent staff members in Army Medicine. Employment of people with disabilities is about much more than hiring actions; it is about creating a culture of inclusion and finding the best candidate to care for those who serve.

One Team ... One Mission!

Thomas R. Tempel, Jr.  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Commanding

Marshall L. Huffman  
CSM, U.S. Army  
Command Sergeant Major