

## **For Immediate Release**

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### **KENT R. HELWIG, FACHE, ELECTED TO AMERICAN COLLEGE OF HEALTHCARE EXECUTIVES BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**CHICAGO, March 25, 2006**—Kent R. Helwig, FACHE, Colonel, U.S. Air Force, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, has been elected to serve on the Board of Governors of the American College of Healthcare Executives, an international professional society of 30,000 healthcare executives.

Helwig took office today at the Council of Regents Meeting during ACHE's 49th Congress on Healthcare Leadership at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. He will serve a three-year term representing ACHE affiliates on ACHE's Board of Governors, the authority that oversees ACHE operations and member services.

Helwig was appointed Deputy Command Surgeon for Pacific Air Forces at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, in February 2006. He is responsible for nine medical treatment facilities; 3,400 personnel; and a budget of \$890 million in supplies, equipment and facilities for military members serving principally in Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, Japan and South Korea. Helwig interfaces with other services and medical representatives of foreign governments. He also serves as the chief of the Expeditionary Medical Operations Division with duties directly supporting contingencies worldwide through deployment of Expeditionary Medical Support elements and expansion of in-place medical assets.

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Prior to this appointment, Helwig commanded the 96th Medical Support Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base, Fort Walton Beach, Fla., in 2003. He also served as administrator, 3rd Medical Group and commander, 3rd Medical Support Squadron, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Anchorage, Alaska, from 2000 to 2003. His other assignments include chief of Operations, 374th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Yokota Air Base, Japan; chief of Resource Management Operations, Financial Management Division, Air Force Surgeon General's Office, Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C.; program director and instructor, the Air Force's Health Services Administration course, Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, Texas; director of Medical Resource Management and director of Patient Administration, 51st Medical Group, Osan Air Base, Korea; and director of Medical Readiness and director of Medical Resources Management, 475th Medical Group, Yokota Air Base. He began his healthcare career in 1987 as director of Patient Administration, 831st Medical Group, George Air Force Base, Victorville, Calif.

Prior to being elected an ACHE Governor, Helwig was the ACHE Regent for the Air Force–Western Region from 2003 to 2006. He has received numerous awards and decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, and Humanitarian Service Medal. In addition, Helwig has been recognized for many other achievements, such as the Pacific Air Forces Commitment to Service Award in 2000; Company Grade Officer of the Year for both the 384th Training Squadron, Sheppard Air Force Base, in 1994 and the 51st Medical Group, Osan Air Base, in 1992; and Pacific Air Forces Medical Readiness Officer of the Year in 1989.

Board certified in healthcare management and an ACHE Fellow, Helwig received his master's degree in public health from the University of North Carolina and his bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Illinois.

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### **American College of Healthcare Executives**

The American College of Healthcare Executives is an international professional society of 30,000 healthcare executives who lead hospitals, healthcare systems and other healthcare organizations. ACHE is known for its prestigious credentialing and educational programs and its annual Congress on Healthcare Leadership, which draws more than 4,000 participants each year. ACHE is also known for its journals, the *Journal of Healthcare Management* and *Frontiers of Health Services Management* and its magazine, *Healthcare Executive*, as well as ground-breaking research and career development and public policy programs. ACHE's publishing division, Health Administration Press, is one of the largest publishers of books and journals on all aspects of health services management in addition to textbooks for use in college and university courses. Through such efforts, ACHE works toward its goal of being the premier professional society for healthcare leaders by providing exceptional value to its members.

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