

# PM&R Assistive Technology

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 3

SPRING 2020

## AT Response During COVID-19

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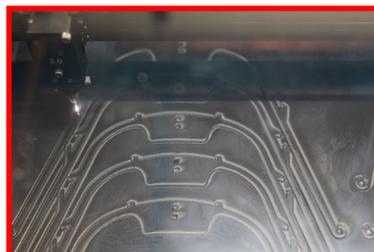
Creative Corner 4

In early March 2020 the Central Virginia VA Health Care System Assistive Technology Program, located at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia, was contacted by an Emergency Department (ED) Physician who had been experimenting with 3D printing a face shield at home.

“He asked our AT Design Team if they could design something better and faster for the hospital” according to Melissa Oliver, Program Coordinator for Assistive Technology. “From that point the Assistive Technology team worked with Incident Command including Infection Disease physicians, Safety Manager and leadership on approving the production of the face shields.”

The Assistive Technology (AT) design team then developed 3 prototypes and received feedback from the ED physicians and Incident Command. After some modifications, the laser cut version was selected by leadership for the AT Team to produce and assembly.

To meet clinical and safety standards the AT Team performed hazard tests of the face shield as required by VA and the National Institutes of Health. After successful completion and review of these tests the Central Virginia VA Health Care System Face Shield received confirmation these locally produced shields meet FDA standards under existing regulations or guidance for clinical use.



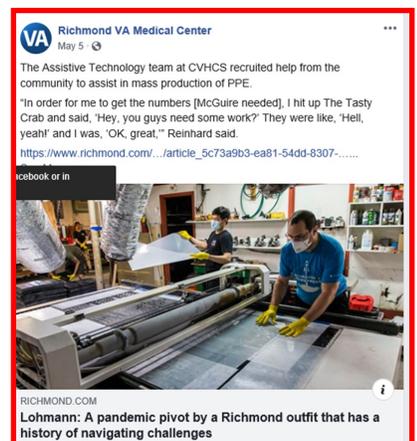
In early April 2020 the AT Team along with volunteers from Richmond Polytrauma/TBI teams have produced and packaged over 1,000 face shields for Central Virginia VA Health Care System,



500 for Hampton VAMC and they now are charged with producing and packaging 5,000 for VA Supply Distribution Center. By early June, the AT team and volunteers packaged over 11,000 face shields for VA-CO.



### The AT Program partnered with a local Richmond business to speed up the laser cutting process



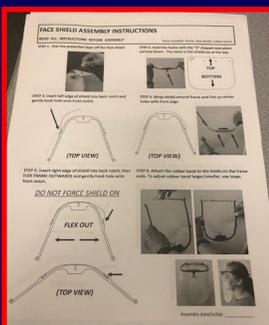
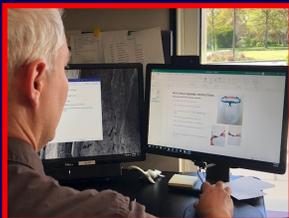
# Face Shields...it took a village



PETG DELIVERY



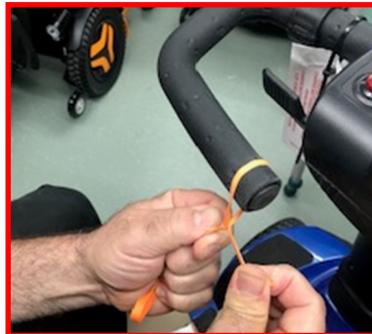
Scrapping & Sanding Frames



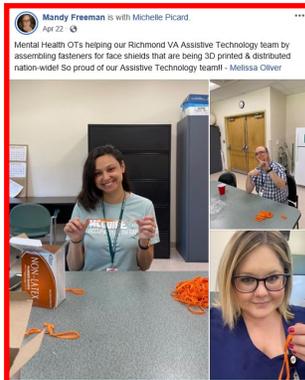
Writing the Instructions



Tying Rubber bands

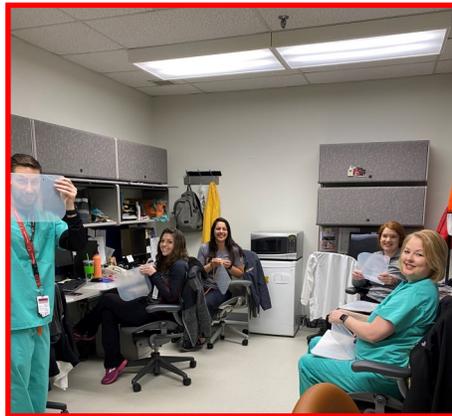


Snapping on the Nose Pieces





Peeling the corner back on the PETG



Disinfecting the Face Shields



Assembling the face shield packets & ready for shipment



**FACE SHIELD PROJECT IS COMPLETED!!!**



**THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR HARD WORK!**

## Assistive Technology Program Mission

- To enhance the ability of Veterans and Active Duty members with disabilities to fulfill life goals through the coordination and provision of appropriate interdisciplinary assistive technology services.
- To serve as an expert resource to support the application of assistive technology within the VA health care system.



Assistive Technology Center of Excellence

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## Creativity Corner ...where we highlight original & interesting innovations

### ADDITIONAL AREAS AT IS RESPONDING TO COVID-19

The AT Rehab Engineering Team worked with ED and Anesthesiology teams to create an intubation box.



**BEFORE**

In addition, the Rehabilitation Engineers are working on developing a clear face mask for Veteran and staff use to assist with the need to see facial expressions, read lips and movement of the facial muscles. They are currently working with



a focus group of VA employees across the country to come up with the best design and solution.



**AFTER**

