



THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

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Five Army Periodontists Present at 2019 Military Health System Research Symposium

Five Army Periodontists were selected to present research at the 2019 Military Health System Research Symposium (MHSRS) in Kissimmee, Florida, August 19 through 22. The MHSRS is the premier scientific meeting for the Department of Defense, providing a venue for sharing knowledge resulting from military-unique research. The symposium focuses specifically on the distinctive medical and dental needs of the Warfighter and provides a collaborative forum for officers with deployment experience, educators, clinicians, and scientists. MHSRS presentations align under the Combat Casualty Care, Military Operational Medicine, Clinical and Rehabilitative Medicine, Medical Simulation and Information Sciences, Military Infectious Diseases, and Radiation Health Effects.

This year the program included the following poster presentations:

- Methods to enhance patient comfort at epithelialized palatal graft donor sites, CPT Joshua P. Berridge, Fort Bragg
- Combination bone replacement graft with dense polytetrafluoroethylene barrier membrane for treatment of an infrabony periodontal defect, MAJ Joseph F. Capetillo, Fort Hood
- Rational prophylactic antibiotic selection for sinus elevation surgery, MAJ Joshua A. Akers, Fort Gordon.
- Tunnel access for guided bone regeneration, CPT(P) Ryan T. McGary, Fort Jackson
- Buccal bone thickness adjacent to virtual dental implants following guided bone regeneration, CPT(P) Daniel J. Phillips, Fort Benning

In addition, CPT(P) McGary was selected to provide a special oral presentation on his topic. The clinician-investigators were joined by the Executive Dean, Postgraduate Dental College, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Dr. Thomas R. Schneid and the Associate Dean for Dental Research, Postgraduate Dental College, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Dr. Rodney D. Phoenix. For more information on the [MHSRS](#)



Left to right: MAJ Joseph F. Capetillo, CPT(P) Daniel J. Phillips, MAJ Joshua A. Akers, Dr. Thomas R. Schneid, CPT Joshua P. Berridge, CPT(P) Ryan T. McGary



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IMPRESS TO IMPRESS

Dual-Arch Trays (Triple Trays) ADL Tips and Updates

Indications:

- ◆ Use with 1-2 units when there is good canine guidance and posterior teeth distal to the prepared tooth are in occlusion
- ◆ Must have posterior stops
- ◆ Must be able to achieve or be guided into MIP
- ◆ The lab can not adjust for lateral/protrusive movements when fabricating the restoration



Contraindications:

- ◆ More than 2 teeth
- ◆ When the most distal tooth in the arch is being prepared
- ◆ FDPs
- ◆ Anterior/posterior open bite
- ◆ Occlusal stops on inclined surfaces
- ◆ If tray interferes with accurate closure

Advantages:

Easy to use; less impression material used; automatic articulation

Disadvantages:

- ◆ Filament of tray may cause slight distortion of occlusal morphology of unprepared teeth
- ◆ Accuracy of bite may be difficult to confirm
- ◆ No lateral or protrusive movements made with the simple hinge articulators— This will require more adjustment at delivery
- ◆ Contralateral side not impressed; no reference teeth to match

How to Submit a Case:

- ◆ If sending casts... Pour, articulate, and trim the die
- ◆ DO NOT pour individual quadrants and send unarticulated
- ◆ Use a metal articulator for durability

Should you pour your triple tray?

- ◆ If ADL can scan triple-tray impressions of teeth and encode abutments: No pour
- ◆ Must be very clearly impressed with a definite 360° flash around margins or prep or abutment





THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

IMPRESS TO IMPRESS

Dual-Arch Trays ADL Tips and Updates Continued:

Common Problems:

- ◆ The provider should determine the occlusion with articulating paper before prepping and see where occlusal stops are located. There are the same areas that need to be in contact with the tray is in the mouth. (Lower Left)
- ◆ If you cannot see daylight in the area of the impression where teeth occlude, odds are the bite is off and your occlusion will be incorrect. (Lower Right)
- ◆ You may send an additional bite registration if you are uncertain



Distortions: Clockwise

- ◆ Two triple trays do not equal one complete tray; cotton roll residue
- ◆ Side of tray pushed out during insertion, rebound following removal
- ◆ Contact on distal aspect of tray
- ◆ Verify MIP; bite visibly open



ADL Subject Matter Experts:

COL Jennifer Sabol, Commander

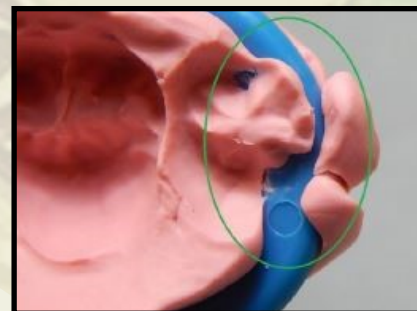
LTC Sloan McLaughlin, Deputy Commander

Dr. Dennis Kiernan, Staff Prosthodontist

ADL Phone: 706-787-5200

usarmy.gordon.medcom-eamc.list.dental-lab-digital-front-desk@mail.mil

[Un-edited PowerPoint Presentation](#)





THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

AOC Spotlight: 63K, Pediatric Dentist

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Pediatric dentistry is an age-defined specialty that provides both primary and comprehensive preventive and therapeutic oral health care for infants and children through adolescence, including those with special health care needs. Pediatric dentists provide care, conduct research, and teach in a variety of settings. They work in coordination with other health care providers and members of social disciplines for the benefit of children. Army pediatric dentists (63Ks) are force multipliers and proven Leaders at multiple levels in Army Dentistry. 63Ks serve as executive and strategic Leaders at the highest levels including HRC, AMEDD Center and School, Dental Health Commands, and the Dental Directorate. 63Ks also support the mission by treating Soldiers, serving as mentors, improving procedures and processes, performing additional duties, and stepping up to the many challenges in our complex environment.

MILITARY-CONNECTED CHILDREN

Although the United States military is an all-volunteer force, military-connected children make tremendous sacrifices in support of their parent(s) service. Military-connected children face challenges and vulnerabilities caused by the unique requirements of military life. Many may grow up without the physical presence of a parent due to frequent deployments, training, and job requirements. Frequent relocations may interfere with continuity of care and leave some medical or dental problems unresolved. Furthermore, military-connected children may have an increased risk for caries due to deficiencies in protective and biological factors. A consistent dental home with regular dental care may be lacking and fluoride exposure may be suboptimal.

RECOGNITION

Our hard-working 63Ks deserve praise for providing outstanding care for our military-connected children and serving as stewards for our profession. A special congratulations goes out to LTC James Kim on your appointment as President of the Federal Services Pediatric Dentistry Association. We would also like to acknowledge MAJ Kourtney Logan for receiving the Corps Chief Junior Officer Award of Excellence and for being selected as an "Iron Major."

Congrats on these well-deserved honors!





THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

AOC Spotlight: 63K, Pediatric Dentist Continued

HAILS AND FAREWELLS

Please join me in giving a warm welcome to the newest members of “Army Team Pedo” MAJ Loc Dang and CPT Ben Werner. They are fully prepared to pursue board certification and begin their careers as 63Ks in Korea and Germany.

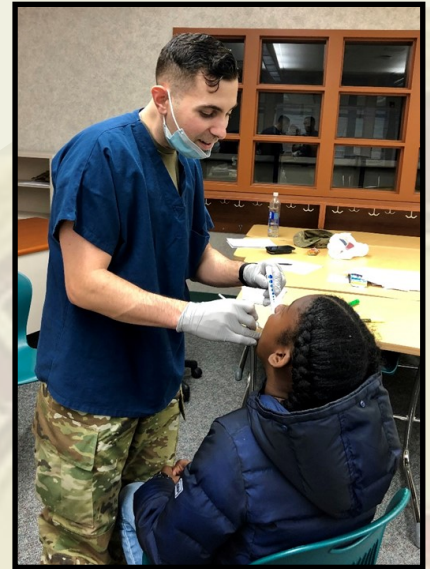
Last, with a heavy heart we bid farewell to MAJ Michael Silva (pictured to the right). He has taken great care of his patients at Fort Irwin and we wish him success as he transitions to private practice.

RESOURCES

A big thanks to MAJ Matthew Eusterman and MAJ Jillian Seglem creating outstanding patient education and dental assistant training materials!

Please use as you see fit in your communities:

[pediatric education](#) / [nitrous oxide sedation](#)



American Dental Association and World Dental Federation Meetings Convene

Over 30,000 oral health professionals, including nearly 11,000 dentists, participated in the American Dental Association (ADA) Annual Session/World Dental Federation (FDI) World Dental Congress, held September 4-9 at multiple locations in San Francisco, California and marking the first joint meeting of the ADA and FDI in over 20 years.

Dr. Chad Gehani, an endodontist from Queens, New York, took over the reins of ADA president from Dr. Jeff Cole on September 9th during the House of Delegates. Dr. Gehani, the 156th president of the association, pledged to make the ADA “relevant” to all members. While in San Francisco I participated in multiple meetings, and Dr. Gehani seemed to appear at every one of them. During the Federal Dental Services (FDS) session on September 4th, Dr. Gehani thanked all of the FDS members present for their service to the country and said that he looked forward to collaborating with the FDS. We look forward to continued collaborations with the ADA and congratulate Dr. Gehani on his election as ADA president.



Left to right: Dr. George Shepley, ADA 4th District Trustee; BG Shan Bagby, Army Chief Dental Officer; BG Sharon Bannister, Air Force Chief Dental Officer; Dr. Chad Gehani, ADA President; RADM Tim Ricks, Dental Public Health; RADM Gayle Shaffer, Navy Chief Dental Officer; and Dr. Patricia Arola, Director of the VA Dental Program



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Dental Health Command - Central Update

We are proud to highlight some of the most recent activities and achievements of the DHC-Central. Foremost, we would like to recognize the amazing Soldiers, NCOs, Officers, civilians, and families who share the credit for the great accomplishments of this organization. As Army Medicine transitions, our mission and purpose remains constant and focused. Leaders at every level, DHC-C, Dental Health Activities, and Dental Clinics, understand that we are serving in one of the most dynamic times of our Army history and our Region is fully committed to building cohesive teams that are highly trained, disciplined, and expeditionary. We will continue to support our forces as one team with one purpose, conserving the fighting strength.

This summer we welcomed a few new key leaders to our team: COL Susan Cebula and 1SG Diana Kinzey, Command Team Fort Riley DHA; COL Stefan Olpinski, Commander, Fort Hood DHA; MAJ Robert Masterson, Commander, Fort Leavenworth DCC; LTC Jeffery Hambrice and MSG Joseph Hay, Command Team, JBSA Fort Sam Houston DHA; COL Robert Sellers, Commander, Fort Carson DHA; LTC Melissa Tucker and SFC Doralee Cardalda, Command Team Fort Polk DHA; 1SG Jay Dy, Fort Bliss DHA; LTC Jeffrey Shaw, DHC-C XO; and LTC Peter Drouillard, Director of Clinical Operations.

Ready Dental Force

DHC-C Soldiers demonstrate that they are ready to fight tonight!

(Right) CPTs Kaisha Thomas, Kevin Pulsipher, and Natasha Gandarilla from the Fort Hood and Bliss DENTACs demonstrate that Army dentistry is more than drilling and filling teeth.



(Right middle) From 11-21 AUG 19, the Fort Sill DENTAC conducted integration activities with the 912th DCAS Reserve unit from Twinsburg, Ohio to assist with their annual training while also demonstrating proficiency in several ICTL tasks.

(Bottom left) PFC Nicholas Bethards and CPT Cam-ha Nguyen from the Fort Leavenworth DCC stand ready to confront any dental trauma during Operation Hockey Medic.



(Bottom right) On 02 May 2019, Soldiers from the Fort Riley Dental Health Activity participated in the Norwegian Foot March challenge. The Norwegian Road March badge (*Marsjmerket*) is a Norwegian Armed Forces skill badge originally created in 1915 for the purpose of exposing new soldiers to the conditions one might expect as a soldier in the field. The rules for obtaining the badge makes this clear. A soldier in full uniform, boots and a 25-pound pack, which would include the rifle, would move a distance of 30 km (about 18.6 miles) within a certain time: 4 hours and 30 minutes. A few extra minutes would be allowed for older participants. The rules also stated that the soldier should be able to fully participate in regular duties the following days.





THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

Dental Health Command - Central Update Continued

Taking Care of Ourselves, our Soldiers for Life, DA Civilians, and Families:

(Right) As part of the 1st Armored Division and installation Partners in Education (PIE) initiative, Fort Bliss DENTAC is partnered with the Silva Magnet High School and has had over 60 high school students rotate through Chambers Dental Clinic to participate in an educational seminar/game session with our Soldiers. They have had the opportunity to learn how to take radiographs, set up trays, chart and do all applying an aseptic technique. Additionally, the Fort Bliss DENTAC took Dental Jeopardy to them at their school. Future Army dental leaders in training!



(Bottom Left) Fort Carson Enlisted personnel conduct esprit de corps/team-building exercises by hiking at Garden of the Gods.

(Bottom right) Soldiers at the Fort Polk DENTAC prepare for the new Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) with some sprint-drag-carry fun.



(Right) The Fort Hood DENTAC personnel enjoy fun and activities during Organization Day 2019.





THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

Dental Health Command - Central Update Continued

Modernizing our Facilities

On Monday, July 29th Runion Dental Clinic at Fort Huachuca reopened following an extensive renewal project with an emphasis on improving workflows and patient experience. The clinic decreased the number of dental chairs from 28 to 21 which allowed for improvements in space management and sterilization workflow.

Fort Leonard Wood's DENTAC recently began operations at Roll Dental Clinic, a 35-chair facility, outfitted with over \$1M worth of new state of the art equipment including CBCT, 3D Printer and a new, and full-service dental lab allowing providers to maximize the practice of digital dentistry.



Recognizing Excellence

(Right) Ms. Dawn Dunbar, the Safety and Occupational Health Officer at Fort Polk, receives the non-Safety Professional Award from BG George Appenzeller, Commander, RHC-Central, for excellence in safety.

(Bottom left) In the Spring of 2019, SFC Brandon Jemison was selected by BG Shan Bagby as the recipient of the Dental Corps Chief's Non-Commissioned Officer Award of Excellence for his significant contributions to the Dental Corps. Also pictured is MAJ Shani Thompson receiving an MSM for 3 years of selfless service as the Fort Leavenworth DCC Commander.

(Bottom right) COL Ronnie Anderson, Commander of 1st Armored Division Sustainment Brigade recognizes Soldiers from Chambers Dental Clinic at Fort Bliss for helping to raise unit dental readiness by 5% during Iron Focus 2019.





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618th Dental Company (AS)/DENTAC-K Support Summer Medical and Dental Experience Program for Camp Humphreys High School Students

This summer, Camp Humphrey's SGT Kim Dental Clinic, supported a summer Medical and Dental Experience Program. This program was developed to inspire local high school students to pursue a career in medicine and dentistry.

For three weeks ten high school students witnessed firsthand the dental profession by shadowing dentists during patient care. Each student had the opportunity to observe various dental specialties; hygiene, restorative, endodontics, and oral surgery. Students also gained a greater insight into dental specialties through lunch and learn lecture series hosted by various military dental specialty providers. [FULL ARTICLE](#)



Top, Left to right: Joseph Hobbs, Jacqueline Chun, Toni Riley, Megan Yi, Timmy Kilburn, Jennifer Duran, CPT Joseph Chin, Tori Cochran, Samantha Soriano, John Ku, and Michelle Craig (not pictured: Darcy Harris).

Bottom left: CPT Kevin Menzie discusses a career in Orthodontics

Bottom right: Samantha Soriano and Michelle Craig observing PFC Conner Scott and CPT Han Kim during a restorative procedure.



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9/11 Remembered at Fort Polk Freedom Oak Dedication Ceremony

CPL Bianca Ortiz, 68E, was recently selected as the Fort Polk Installation BOSS President. On 11 September 2019, the JRTC and Fort Polk BOSS Program held a Freedom Oak Dedication Ceremony at FT Polk Headquarters. The Freedom Oak Tree is a living memorial to the service members who have lost their lives or were seriously injured during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The young, fresh and unmarred oak tree represents strength, life and determination. As the oak tree grows it will face storms, provide protection, shade, and life to other living things. The oak tree is a representation of the younger generation of soldiers, who were just children when the attack on the World Trade Center happened, young but determined, inexperienced but growing, strong and ready to fight against anything that comes their way.

[The storyboard](#) and CPL Ortiz's [full remarks](#).



Fort Polk Installation BOSS representatives, to include FT Polk DENTAC.



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Meeting of the Section of Defense Forces Dental Services (SDFDS)

This year the annual meeting of the Section of Defense Forces Dental Services (SDFDS), a section of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale (FDI), took place from 01 to 04 September in San Francisco. Well prepared from the chair board of the SDFDS under its chairman, Captain (N) Dr. Helfried Bieber, together with our American colleagues, three extraordinarily informative days waited for the more than 80 participants from 24 nations.

The already traditional get-together on Sunday evening offered the opportunity to refresh old friendships and make new ones. In addition to initial discussions about dental care for soldiers, especially in action, our hosts were of course intensively questioned about the sights of San Francisco.

In 30 lectures almost all facets of dental care in armed forces were examined intensively from the point of view of the various nations. In addition, lectures of high scientific quality on the subject of sleep medicine, endodontics, transplantation medicine and the dental contribution to the identification of victims showed the high standard of dental care in the armed forces all over the world.

After handing over the flag of the SDFDS to the next year host country China, an exceptionally successful meeting ended with a reception by the US Dental Service, in which all US Chief Dental Officers participated.

The full article, written by Dr. Wolfgang Barth, Rear Admiral ret., can be viewed [HERE](#).



USA Delegation to the SDFDS. Left to right: COL Brett Henson, COL Steve Tanner, COL Craig Patterson, CPT Caroline Mikaloff, LTC Heather Olmo, MAJ Stephanie Helmus and CPT Kyle Leach. (LTC Phillip Neal not pictured).



THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

USPHS Dental Category receives ADA presidential citation

Dr. Jeff Cole, ADA President (Immediate Past President), surprised the PHS delegation on September 8th during the 4th District Caucus by presenting an ADA Presidential Citation to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the USPHS Dental Category. In his role as ADA president, Dr. Cole has been an ardent supporter of the USPHS and has helped promote PHS inclusion in ADA councils such as the Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention, Council on Government Affairs, and Council on Scientific Affairs.

Joining RADM Tim Ricks in accepting the presidential citation from then-ADA president Dr. Jeff Cole were the delegates and alternate delegates to the convention. For more information, click here for the [CDO Weekly Update](#).



Left to right: CAPT Michael Johnson, alternate delegate, Acting Chief Dental Officer, Federal Bureau of Prisons; CAPT Renée Joskow, delegate, Chief Dental Officer, Health Resources and Services Administration; Dr. Jeff Cole, ADA President; RADM Tim Ricks (delegate); and CAPT Stephanie Burrell, alternate delegate, Chief Dental Officer, U.S. Coast Guard.

AMEDD Center and School Re-Branding

Effective Sunday, September 15, 2019, MEDCoE replaced the longer designation of U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, Health Readiness Center of Excellence, or AMEDDC&S HRCoE, which has been in effect since 2015. The command has called Fort Sam Houston home since 1946.

The new designation recognizes the divestment of the former AMEDDC&S HRCoE from the U.S. Army Medical Command and further solidifies the center's alignment to the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, or TRADOC. The CoE's transition to TRADOC began on October 19, 2018, and will be complete as of October 2, 2019.

Maj. Gen. Patrick D. Sargent, Commander, of the forthcoming U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence said, "This has been a long time coming. This name change allows a unity of message with an unambiguous line drawn directly to Army medicine, with whom we are inextricably linked while helping us continue to streamline our organization with TRADOC's other centers of excellence."

With the addition of the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, TRADOC oversees 32 Army schools organized under 10 centers of excellence that provide specialized training to over 500,000 soldiers and service members annually. Other specialized centers of excellence within TRADOC include Aviation, Intelligence, Cyber, Maneuver, and Fires.





THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

Army Issues Vaping Health Alert After Multiple Lung Illness Reports

The Army Public Health Center issued a Public Health Alert Sept. 10 warning Soldiers and family members who do not currently use tobacco products to avoid all e-cigarette and vaping products, particularly those sold off the street or modified to add any substances not intended by the manufacturer. The warning follows reports of more than 450 possible cases of severe lung illness associated with e-cigarette products sold in multiple states where Army installations are located. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have confirmed at least six deaths associated with e-cigs or vaping.

Many patients have reported using e-cigarettes containing cannabinoid products such as tetrahydrocannabinol or cannabidiol, THC or CBD respectively, said Dr. Amy Millikan Bell, APHC medical advisor. Symptoms appear over the course of a few days to several weeks and include cough, shortness of breath or chest pain; in addition to, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea; and fatigue, fever or weight loss.

Although using e-cigarettes or vaping devices has been thought of as safer than smoking, Dr. Marc A. Williams, a toxicologist and an e-cigarette and vaping expert in APHC's Toxicology Directorate, cautions there is considerable uncertainty due to the complex mixture of chemicals in vaping aerosols. Many of these ingredients are not intended to be inhaled into the lungs, where adverse health effects are likely to start.

"There is a lack of quality control standards in the safe manufacture of these devices and products, which should make us all deeply skeptical or at least questioning the general safety of these devices," Williams said.

Both the CDC warning and Army Public Health alert also caution against using e-cigarettes or vaping in ways that are not intended by the makers, like dripping or dabbing. Dripping is when users drop e-cigarette solvents onto the hot coils of the e-cigarette, resulting in more concentrated compounds, said Corey Fitzgerald, an APHC public health social worker. Dabbing is when substances containing high levels of THC or CBD are superheated in the device. Adult smokers who are attempting to quit by using e-cigarettes should consult their healthcare provider for consideration of evidence-based alternative methods.

"It should be considered a myth that vaping is less harmful than conventional cigarette smoking," he further stated. "Army researchers have discovered that vaping might be associated with anxiety, increased blood pressure and seizures. In efforts to protect the force and strengthen Army readiness and resilience, vaping or e-cigarettes should be highly discouraged at this time."

For [more information about vaping risks](#)



MEDCOM priority for ICTL completion is MTOE assigned personnel

FRAGO-1 TO MEDCOM OPORD 19-41 READY MEDICAL FORCE (RMF) INDIVIDUAL CRITICAL TASK LIST (ICTL) (READINESS). On 18 SEP 19 MEDCOM G3 initiated staffing of FRAGO 1 which will direct implementation of training utilizing the published ICTLs. The ICTLs for all deployable medical AOCs/MOSs were published 19 JUL 19 and are hosted on TRADOC's Central Army Registry (CAR). The MEDCOM priority for ICTL completion is MTOE assigned personnel. Additionally, the FRAGO contains: 1) An assessment of capability to complete and resource ICTLs, 2) DTMS processes for training management, and reporting and links to access ICTLs. Staffing was completed 8 OCT 19 and was forwarded for final staffing and publication on 9 OCT 19.



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Army Dentists Hone Readiness Skills in the Field

Dental Health Command Europe (DHC-E) partnered with the 16th Sustainment Brigade to conduct their inaugural field training exercise Sept. 4-5 at the Baumholder Local Training Area in Germany.

During the two-day field exercise, a team of more than 40 Army dental officers consisting of endodontists, orthodontists, oral maxillofacial surgeons and general dentists, along with more than 60 enlisted dental technicians from eight dentals clinics across the Dental Health Activity Rhineland Pfalz footprint, conducted dental exams, cleanings, and restorative work for approximately 50 Soldiers from the 16th Sustainment Brigade in a tactical setting.

"The purpose of this exercise was to enhance readiness," said COL Manuel Pozo-Alonso, DHC-E commander. "We have a lot of new Soldiers who come to Germany and have never experienced a field environment. This is a great opportunity for them to train, and to understand how to use our equipment in that setting. In addition, a lot of our doctors have never had the opportunity to be in the field, so it creates a great opportunity for them to actually put their hands on the equipment that they would be using.

"This was our first time running this exercise," said CPT Edward Evans, the officer-in-charge of the field training exercise and a general dentist at the Baumholder Dental Clinic. "I think it's gone fairly smoothly. With anything like this you will have hiccups and problems, but I think we handled the course corrections pretty well.

According to Army Directive 2019-07 (Army Dental Readiness and Deployability), oral health disease is one of the most common causes of non-battle injury disease, and Soldiers with uncorrected, severe dental deficiencies have a 75 percent chance of experiencing a dental emergency within one year.

[Full article](#) by Mr. Kirk Frady, Regional Health Command Europe (RHC-E)

Right: MAJ Nisha Patel, a prosthodontist assigned to the Pulaski Dental Clinic in Kaiserslautern, Germany performs a dental exam on a soldier during the field training exercise.

Photo Credit: Mr. Kirk Frady (RHC-E)



FILING PROCESS SIMPLIFIED FOR SPOUSE RELICENSING/ CERTIFICATION FEES REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

From Army G-1 Compensation and Entitlements: Effective immediately, unit commanders can approve the payment voucher request and their respective unit S-1/personnel designated official will validate marital status and certify the voucher. This program will be part of the in/out processing finance briefing. Attached at the following link is a Q&A sheet. Contact your S-1 for questions. An updated ALARACT is forthcoming which will reflect the changes.



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Military Dentists Thrive In Appalachian Care 2019's Joint-Service Training Environment

Appalachian Care is a unique U.S. military training mission sponsored by the Innovative Readiness Training program, which falls under the Department of Defense's Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Reserve Integration. Started in 1994, the IRT unites service members from multiple service branches to test deployment readiness in a hands-on setting with the serendipitous byproduct of no-cost health care for U.S. publics in need. From Aug. 18-26, approximately 130 medical specialists with Appalachian Care are operating at the fairgrounds of Wise County, Virginia, providing dental, optometry, veterinary and general medical care for anyone.

The dentists and technicians working here represent the U.S. Air National Guard, Air Force, Navy Reserve, and Army Reserve. As reservists, many of the providers also bring professional experience from their civilian practices.

"I've done IRT missions before, and it's pretty typical to throw everybody together like this," said Air National Guard Lt. Col. Adam Kuipers, dentist, 110th Medical Group, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, Michigan. "Some of us have a lot of experience and some don't, but that's what we're here for: to give our people exposure in areas they don't normally get to work in and to reinforce our readiness training."

"Obviously, there are challenges when we're operating in a location other than our clinic back home, but it's great to get together with five or six dentists I've never met before and just chat about how we do our extractions and fillings," said U.S. Navy Reserve Lt. Cdr. Derrick Call, dentist, Operational Health Support Unit San Diego, California. "There's an oral surgeon here who just yesterday gave us a tip saying, 'if you don't have electrical power to use your drill, there's another way you can sometimes do what you need to do with a set of forceps.' I tried it on a patient yesterday and it was fantastic; it just makes you a better clinician having these additional pieces of knowledge, things you can do to be successful."

For all of the challenges that come with a mission like Appalachian Care, connecting with patients in this type of environment can provide career-defining moments of fulfillment.



As a dental technician with the 88th Medical Group, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Stephen Clark says Appalachian Care has given him a greater appreciation for conserving and making the most of available resources, even in an area where he felt his skills were already very strong. Responsible for the cleaning and processing of all dental instruments for the mission, upon arrival in Wise, Clark assessed that a sufficient facility was not available to sterilize dental instruments up to standard.

Other participants say Appalachian Care's distinctly joint flavor of operations has sparked a greater sense of interoperability with colleagues from other branches of the Armed Forces.

"Working in the joint environment is awesome," said U.S. Army Reserve SPC Brandi Schafer, dental technician, 301st Field Hospital, St. Petersburg, Florida. "It's really interesting to see how different the branches are, yet at the same time, we're still all medical and we have that in common. It's really interesting finding out the differences between each one, becoming more diverse in our thinking and more open-minded to other ways of doing things."

For the [full article](#) written by 1LT Andrew Layton, 110th Wing

Above: U.S. Navy Reserve Lt. Cdr. Nathan Ocasio, dentist, Expeditionary Medical Facility Dallas One, Ft. Worth, Texas, and U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Stephen Clark, dental technician, 88th Medical Group, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, provide dental care during Innovative Readiness Training Appalachian Care 2019. Photo Credit: 1LT Andrew Layton