



# **Association of Army Dentistry (AAD)**

## **Spring 2020 Newsletter**

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As I write this newsletter, the nation is under an unprecedented pandemic, COVID-19, caused by the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) Coronavirus-2. Many of us reside in areas of the country where stay at home or quarantine orders have been ordered by State Governors. During this crisis, please stay safe and pray for a speedy return to a more normal life with a minimum loss of lives. Times like this provide us an opportunity to exhibit our best and take care of those in need.

The Association of Army Dentistry (AAD) Board of Directors began 2020 by reappointing all current board members, with the exception of COL (Ret) Michael J. McQuade, LTC (Ret) Frank M. Doyle, V. Sterlene Hapner, US Army (Ret) Civilian, and Jon Brandt, Edge Advisors, who relinquished their board positions. I would like to thank them for their service and many contributions to the AAD.

The following officers were reelected to their positions: COL (Ret) Ron Lambert, President and Chair of the Board; COL (Ret) Art Scott, Executive Officer; COL (Ret) John Storz, Treasurer; and COL (Ret) Robert Stieneker, Secretary. A complete list of board members is included on this page. If you would like to contribute to the AAD as a board member or in some other capacity, please contact me.

The board also approved providing financial support for 109<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Dental Corps Birthday celebrations and recognition of the annual Corps Chief's awards, which recognizes individuals in eight categories. Additionally, the board approved a donation of \$2,000 to the AMEDD Museum Foundation in honor of MG Bill Lefler. All of these events fall within our mission of supporting morale, recruitment and retention, providing education, fostering an appreciation of Army dentistry, and providing a means of recognition of those who serve and have served our nation via Army dentistry. I wish to thank all of our members for continuing their memberships and supporting our mission. Please reach out to colleagues who are not members and urge them to support the AAD by joining our membership. Stay safe!

Ron  
Ronald J. Lambert, COL, USA (Ret)  
President and Chairman, Board of Directors

# Army Dental Corps Monument Update

On 30 January 2020, the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army accepted the Association of Army Dentistry's offer to place a sculpture and plaque at the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Museum at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. The monument will commemorate more than 100 years of contributions of the United States Army Dental Corps.

In our 2019 Fall Newsletter we discussed the ongoing work of the AAD Dental Corps Sculpture Committee. At that time the committee was in the concept and design phase of a project that will be installed at the AMEDD Museum at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, to honor and commemorate the contributions of the U.S. Army Dental Corps in providing support to our Soldiers during past, present, and future campaigns.

Phase 1 preliminary artist sketches have been prepared and final mock ups of the primary sculpture as well as phase two design will be forthcoming.

## Preliminary Artist's Sketch



To recognize the three individuals who are represented in the sculpture, a sample survey was taken to obtain possible candidates who have contributed in the support of our Soldiers, past, present and future. Over a dozen names were offered as potential sculpture characters for the dentist, enlisted dental

specialist, and patient. After voting by the sculpture committee and the AAD Board, three individuals were recently selected. They represent the early days of the Dental Corps to those on active duty today. Permission and photos are currently being obtained from the selectees. Once that is completed, the names of those individuals will be announced and we will then submit the final mock up to three foundries that have been contacted requesting bids.

The Phase 2 portion of the monument will include smaller installations, which will be etched granite monoliths that can be inserted into the base to illustrate the history of the Dental Corps. Additionally, the monoliths will recognize those whose continued support and contributions to the Army Dental Care System (ADCS) enable the success of our oral health care mission – Active and Reserve Component Officers, NCOs, and Soldiers; Civilians; Dental Laboratories; Training; and Dental Research.

We estimate the total cost of the memorial will be approximately \$200,000. The Association's formal fund raising campaign to support the Dental Corps project will be delayed until after the acute phase of the pandemic caused by the coronavirus has abated. Informal fund raising efforts have already raised nearly \$30,000. Members who wish may donate at any time to the Sculpture Fund, with the donations being tax-deductible. Pledges of \$2500 or more will earn the donor a "Founder's Circle" designation. Pledges of \$5,000 or more will convey to the donor a "President's Circle" designation. Those who donate will be recognized appropriately. Additional details and levels of support will be released when the formal fund raising campaign kicks off. However, by donating at an early stage of the project, you can assure that progress to memorialize the Army Dental Corps at the AMEDD museum will continue unabated. The Association will establish a separate donation tab on our website in the near future. To ensure your donation for the project is maximized, the Sculpture committee encourages donations by mail rather than through the AAD website to avoid incurring the processing fee charged by Pay Pal for web-based transactions. The AAD membership form, which is available on our website, includes a section for those wishing to donate by mail.

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## **Membership**

Last year, the Association of Army Dentistry changed its renewal process to allow for on-line membership renewals. The change also involved moving to a yearly membership based on when you renew. As we move into the second year of this change, it has not been without glitches. The AAD greatly appreciates your tolerance with this process as it has not been seamless – thank you! Presently, automatic reminders are being generated when

members are 45 days, 30 days, and 1 day from membership expiration. Please renew as you receive these notifications, but let the AAD know if the reminders are inaccurate. Your membership period will be extended for one year from your current expiration date when you renew.

Go to the website at

<https://www.associationofarmydentistry.org/memberships/> to renew on the website or download the membership form if you wish to renew by mail at the address above.

## **Active Component News**

The AAD's primary conduit to the active component is through COL Dave Ferguson, the Corps Specific Branch Proponent at the Corps Chief Office, US Army Dental Corps, Joint Base San Antonio, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. MAJ Alyson Lasater, the Executive Fellow, functions as the primary liaison with the Association of Army Dentistry. The January, February, and March 2020 editions of *The Dental Corps Bulletin*, have been added to our website since the last edition of the newsletter. Each of the Bulletins is placed on our website when received from the Corps Chiefs office and can be found at the following link or under the *News* header on the AAD website.

<https://www.associationofarmydentistry.org/news/>

COL Peter H. Guevara, currently the Dean of the Army Postgraduate School and Chief of Graduate Dental Education, has been selected as the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine's Distinguished Alumnus. He'll be honored at the Dean's Scholarship Ball, tentatively scheduled for May 2, 2020 in Pittsburgh.

## **U.S. Army Dental Corps 109<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The U.S. Army Dental Corps celebrated its 109<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 3 March 2020. Prior to legislation authorizing the Dental Corps, dentists served as contract dentists. Dr. John Sayre Marshall, affectionately known as the father of the Army Dental Corps, was appointed on 11 February 1901 to be the first contract dentist, senior supervising contract dental surgeon, and president of the first Army Board of Dental Examiners. Appointed at age 55, his career had already included private practice from 1876-1901, book publications, specializing and lecturing in oral surgery at several universities and establishing the Dental Department at Northwestern University in 1886. For ten years following his appointment, he provided masterful leadership toward establishing a commissioned Dental Corps.

The Dental Corps of commissioned officers was established with the passing of H.R. 31237, Amendment 49, with President Taft signing it into Public Law No. 453, 36 Stat.1054 on 3 March 1911. The law provided that dental officers could be of no higher rank than 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. The first commissioned Dental Corps officers were John S. Marshall, with a Date of Rank (DOR) of 13 April 1911 and Robert T. Oliver, with a DOR of 14 April 1911. Both had a contract date of original service of 11 February 1901. Dr. Marshall was retired at age 65 on 17 June 1911 as Captain, U.S. Army Dental Corps.

### **Dental Corps Birthday Celebrations**

This year the newsletter will feature the USA DENTAC-Hawaii Dental Corps Birthday Celebration, which the AAD helped sponsor. On 6 March 2020 the USA DENTAC-Hawaii held their Birthday Ball celebration at the Sheraton-Waikiki. Command Team members throughout the Pacific Region were in attendance for the celebration and the Army Regional Dental Command-Pacific Best Warrior and NCO Competitions.



**Announcement of the Army Regional Dental Command-Pacific Best Warrior and NCO Competitions**





Pictured Left to Right:

COL Ryan Wong DENTAC-Japan Commander

COL Christensen Hsu, DHA

COL Kelley Tomsett, DENTAC Hawaii Commander

COL Paul Guevara, USAR, Endodontist

LTC Jasmine de Guzman, Endodontist

COL (Ret) Todd Kimura, Orthodontist



Pictured Left to Right: In the Spirit of the Ball's Theme, "Masquerade," – sporting their masks!

COL Christensen Hsu  
COL Paul Guevara  
LTC Jasmine de Guzman  
COL (R) Todd Kimura



# Reserve Components News



*Army Dentistry*

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## THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

### DENTAL CORPS DRILLING INDIVIDUAL MOBILIZATION AUGMENTEE (DIMA)

#### ANNUAL DIMA CONFERENCE, SAN ANTONIO, TX

DIMA Dental Corps authorizations mirror the Active Duty Dental Corps offering clear lines of organization and management by region. The DIMA program has a Dental Director, Deputy Director, Consultant and 4 Regional Directors. The DIMA Dental Corps assigns additional duties to officers such as: APFT, Recruiting, and PHA monitoring.

Esprit-de-corps is the corner stone of success among this group. Monthly leadership tele-conferences ensure all members are in synch and up to date with knowledge and information. Additionally, an annual training event takes place in San Antonio. During this voluntary training, face-to-face training such as SHARP and EO is conducted, along with prearranged continuing education opportunities; an OER working session; opportunity to take an APFT; guest speakers in the past include the Chief of the Dental Corps, Career Manager from HRC, the AMEDD IMA coordinator, the Director of the Dental Directorate, patient safety updates, award presentations, opportunity to complete mandatory training (HIPPA, IA), a Director's Dinner, and time to socialize.

Historically, most of these Army Reserve dentists and dental assistants perform AT with the First Term Dental Readiness (FTDR) mission if the need did not arise at their assigned UIC. This mission proves to be a win-win for the Active Army and the Army Reserve. There are seven FTDR site locations; each location determines the number and dates of rotations each year.

The DIMA Dental Corps program originally had a fulltime coordinator (AGR) authorization. This position was the continuity between the Active Army and the Army Reserve and was instrumental in planning the FTDR mission, the annual DIMA Dental training session, completing the annual realignment, requesting annual training orders, ensuring Soldiers receive service awards, providing administrative assistance such as requests for MRD extensions and AOC changes.

DIMA dentists have a high propensity to complete advanced military education and have been successful being promoted. This is partly due to having strong, well-written and timely OER's, current DA photos, and higher levels of military education. Leadership and positive motivation encourage DIMA dentists to excel in their endeavors. DIMA dentists take their obligation to the military seriously and serve with pride.

Check them out on [Facebook!](#)



Bulletin POC: [usarmy.jbsa.medcom-ameddcs.mbx.dental-corps@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.jbsa.medcom-ameddcs.mbx.dental-corps@mail.mil)



# Healthcare Corner

For the latest information on COVID-19 and dental care, go to the American Dental Association's website:

[https://success.ada.org/en/practice-management/patients/infectious-diseases-2019-novel-coronavirus?utm\\_source=adaorg&utm\\_medium=covid-resources-lp&utm\\_content=virus-updates&utm\\_campaign=covid-19&ga=2.17447097.1293985743.1585452204-1741430929.1585452204](https://success.ada.org/en/practice-management/patients/infectious-diseases-2019-novel-coronavirus?utm_source=adaorg&utm_medium=covid-resources-lp&utm_content=virus-updates&utm_campaign=covid-19&ga=2.17447097.1293985743.1585452204-1741430929.1585452204)

Coordinating the Trump Administration's efforts against the coronavirus is Dr. Deborah Brix. A global health expert on immunology and vaccine research, Dr. Brix has spent decades combating the spread of HIV/AIDS. Since 2004, she has served as ambassador-at-large in the State Department as the U.S. global AIDS coordinator, managing an effort across multiple government departments. Dr. Brix served 20 years in the U.S. Army, attaining the rank of Colonel while working on immunology and vaccine research at the Pentagon and the National Institutes of Health. She led the military's HIV research program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center before retiring in 2005 to join the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## **Medical, dental elective procedures will be postponed 60 days due to COVID-19    [tricare.mil](https://www.tricare.mil)**

**3/25/2020**

As of March 31, all military treatment facilities and dental treatment facilities will postpone elective surgeries and procedures for 60 days, the Department of Defense (DOD) announced today.

The policy applies to all beneficiaries: active-duty service members and their families, retirees, and Reserve and National Guard service members on active duty or a delayed effective date active-duty order.

The policy is designed to meet three main objectives during the COVID-19 pandemic. First, to enhance the safety of military medical staff; second, to prolong supplies of personal protective equipment and ensure its availability for emergency use; and finally, to ensure military medical staff is available to provide care related to the pandemic.

Exceptions to the policy will be made for procedures a service member needs in order to be ready to deploy, as well as procedures a provider has determined cannot be delayed without causing harm. For these cases, the hospital or dental

facility commander will determine if there is adequate capacity to safely authorize the procedure.

The DOD announcement follows presidential direction on the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic: apply critical medical resources, such as staff and equipment, where they are most needed; and reduce the risk of exposure to the virus to DOD medical staff and beneficiaries.

## **Military History**

### **World War I**

When the U.S. entered WWI, the Army Dental Corps (DC) had 86 Regular officers. By November 1918, the number of dental officers peaked at 4,620, with 1,864 stationed in Europe. The mission of the Corps was to expand with qualified members and to examine the millions of Soldiers entering military service.

From July 1917 to May 1919, dental officers provided 1,505,424 restorations, 384,427 extractions, 60,386 crowns, and 13,140 dentures. Additionally, dental maxillofacial surgery teams provided much needed reconstructive surgery for the wounded. Seven dental officers and seven enlisted dental assistants were killed in action. Eight dental officers died of disease; thirty-six dental officers and enlisted dental assistants were wounded in combat.

WWI dentist, 1LT Robert O. Smith was attached to the 356<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 89<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He earned the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action near the Meuse River, France, from November 6 – 11 1918. His citation read "After all the medical officers of the battalion had been wounded, Lieutenant Smith for six days efficiently performed their duties, repeatedly moving his first aid station forward and administering to the wounded under perilous shell fire. After caring for the wounded, he personally searched the field of action for further casualties."

A link to AMEDD Posters: WWI Centennial Commemoration Posters – U.S. Army Dental Corps, which provided the above information, is provided below.

<https://ameddregiment.amedd.army.mil/posters/WWI3.jpg>

### **World War II**

#### **CPT Alexander "Pete" Suer**

The link below continues the story of CPT Suer, detailed in the Summer 2019 edition of the AAD Newsletter by John King, COL, USA, Ret. CPT Suer earned two Silver Stars in World War II for his heroic and selfless service in the European theater. This article first appeared in *The AMEDD Historian*, Number

13, Spring 2016, on pages 6, 7, and was written by Robert L. Ampula, Administrative Officer, U.S. Army Medical Department Regiment. This edition also features an article entitled "The Caduceus as an Army Insignia," on pages 1 – 5, with the Dental Corps insignias appearing on page 4.

<https://history.amedd.army.mil/newsletters/HistoryNewsletterNo13.pdf>

## Website Administrator

The Association of Army Dentistry is in need of a volunteer with computer skills and website familiarity to administer our website. The work would involve posting newsletters, obituaries, The Dental Corps Bulletin, and other items to our website. Additionally, we would like to modernize our website and focus on making it more user friendly. Please contact the AAD at [assoc.army.dentistry@gmail.com](mailto:assoc.army.dentistry@gmail.com) or call COL (Ret) Ron Lambert at the number provided at the end of the newsletter if you are interested in helping us out.

## Social Media

Mike Hoffman, MAJ, DC, USA, continues posting articles of interest to both active and retired service members on the Association of Army Dentistry's Facebook Page. Please check the webpage out, and "Like" the AAD Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/AssociationofArmyDentistry>

## In Memoriam

The AAD is saddened to announce the passing of Stanley Vermilyea, COL, Ret, USA. Stan's career spanned 21 years in the U.S. Army Dental Corps and 20 years on the faculty of The Ohio State University. To read more about his distinguished career, please follow the link below.

- Stanley Vermilyea, COL, USA, Ret 1/29/1946 – 12/16/2019

<https://www.associationofarmydentistry.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/191216%20Vermilyea.pdf>

We post the obituaries that are brought to our attention; if there are others that you wish to share with our membership, please forward them to the AAD. The link to all of the obituaries on our website is at the following web address:

<https://www.associationofarmydentistry.org/about/in-memoriam/?loggedout=true>



## **Conclusion Comments:**

I would like to extend my best wishes to all of our members during the challenging times ahead and pray for your continued health. Hopefully, by our next edition, life will have changed to a more normal pattern. Difficult times have always brought the best of present and past members of the military. I know we will meet the challenges ahead and emerge the better for it.

The AAD would like to thank each of you for your continued membership and support of our charitable mission. If anyone has an interest in serving on our board of directors or assisting in another capacity, please contact the AAD at [assoc.army.dentistry@gmail.com](mailto:assoc.army.dentistry@gmail.com)

The generous support of our membership allows the AAD to accomplish its 501(c)(3) charitable mission. Below are listed members who made additional contributions in 2019 to the AAD's General Fund. Also listed are early donors to the Dental Corps Sculpture Fund. Thank you for your generous support.

Keep the healthcare workers on the front line against the global pandemic and those providing essential services, first responders, and the active and reserve component Soldiers activated to meet the challenges ahead in your thoughts and prayers during the next few months. May God Bless America.

Ron

# **Donors to the AAD General Fund**

## **Gold (\$500 - \$999)**

COL (Ret) Julian Dismukes

## **Silver (\$300 - \$499)**

COL (Ret) Charles Bole II

## **Bronze (\$100 - \$299)**

COL (Ret) John Agar

COL (Ret) Gary Allen

COL (Ret) Sam Angulo

BG (Ret) Bob Brady

COL (Ret) Joe Britton

COL (Ret) Derrick Carter

MG (Ret) Jim Cuddy

COL (Ret) Priscilla Hamilton

COL (Ret) Henry S. Hammer

COL (Ret) Larry Hanson

COL (Ret) Jordan Harris

COL (Ret) Don Hobaugh

COL (Ret) Dean Hudson

COL (Ret) William Krantz

COL (Ret) Bob Leeds

COL (Ret) Mary Licking

COL (Ret) Bob Manga

COL (Ret) Nasrin Mazuji

COL (Ret) Mike McQuade

COL (Ret) Robert Miller

COL (Ret) Leonard Mueninghoff

COL (Ret) Donald F. Nelson

Mrs. Susan "Linda" Nelson

COL (Ret) Jim Nemec

COL (Ret) Art Scott

MG (Ret) Patrick Sculley

COL (Ret) Bob Stieneker

COL (Ret) Mark Vail

MG (Ret) Joe Webb and COL (Ret) Ann Compton

COL (Ret) Joe Wineman

COL (Ret) Gene West

MG (Ret) Ted Wong

## **Early Donors to the AAD Sculpture Fund**

### **President's Circle (\$5,000)**

Dr. Patricia Blanton

COL (Ret) Pete Tan

COL (Ret) Ron Lambert

### **Founder's Circle (\$2,500)**

COL (Ret) Mike and Gilia Rethman

COL (Ret) Robert Stieneker

COL (Ret) Theresa Gonzales

COL (Ret) Nasrin Mazuji

### **Individual Donors (up to \$1,000)**

COL (Ret) Donald F. Nelson

COL (Ret) Mike McQuade

COL (Ret) Mary Licking

COL (Ret) Jordan Harris

COL (Ret) Tim King

COL (Ret) Jon Rampton



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