



# THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

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## 2020 DENTAL CORPS CHIEFS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

### BRIGADIER GENERAL SHAN K. BAGBY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS OF THE 2020 DENTAL CORPS CHIEFS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The number of submissions for the eight award categories was abundant and the nominations competitive. It was no small task to identify the best of the best candidates. The individuals selected have been identified by the board for their profound impact on the Dental Corps and the greater military health system. Their direct and distinct contributions have been invaluable to the success of our mission and are definitely deserving of special recognition. And the awardees are:

Federal Civilian Award of Excellence, Category I:

Ms. Lisa Kohler, Fort Bliss, Texas.

Federal Civilian Award of Excellence, Category II:

Dr. William Martin, Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington.

Junior Soldier Award of Excellence:

SPC Janell Cortina, Fort Bliss, Texas.

Non-Commissioned Officer Award of Excellence:

SFC Shannon Newsome, 502nd DCAS, Fort Hood, Texas.

Junior Officer Award of Excellence:

CPT Andrew Jenzer, Fort Gordon, Georgia.

Reserve Component Officer Award of Excellence:

COL Don Gundlach, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Excellence in Dental Education:

LTC Charles Lambert, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Dental Corps Chief's Award of Excellence for Exceptional Service and Leadership:

COL Christensen Hsu, Defense Health Agency, Falls Church, Virginia.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



# THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

## 2020 ASSOCIATION OF MILITARY SURGEONS OF THE UNITED STATES (AMSUS)

The Society of Federal Health Professionals honors the contributions of outstanding federal healthcare professionals each year through the Awards Program. This year, the Awards Program will be held in National Harbor, Maryland, December 6-10.



**AMSUS**  
The Society of Federal Health Professionals

The nomination process takes place electronically through [AMSUS](#). Nominations will be accepted through 17 July 2020. All nominations must be submitted in the online submission portal. You can find the award criteria [HERE](#).

Point of Contact: LTC Erik De Freitas, Deputy Director of the U.S. Army Pharmacovigilance Center,  
[erik.f.defreitas.mil@mail.mil](mailto:erik.f.defreitas.mil@mail.mil)

## 2020 JOSEPH L. BERNIER RESEARCH COMPETITION RESULTS

The 2020 Joseph L. Bernier Award Competition is sponsored by the Dental and Craniofacial Trauma Research Department (DCTR), U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research.

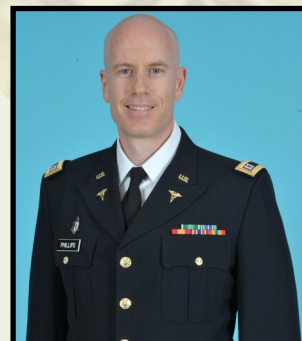
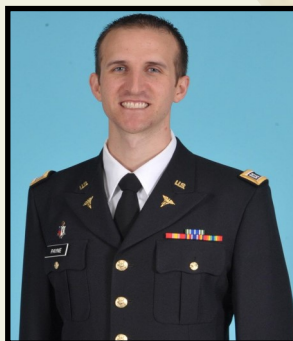
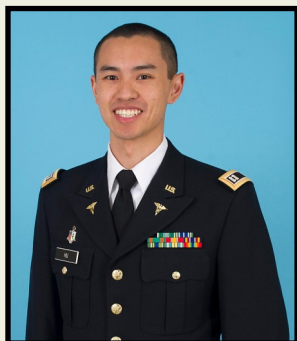
The competition is designed to recognize dental research in the U.S. Army Dental Corps and to select the best scientific research papers written by graduating or recently graduated dental residents. There is one consolidated competitive category for research performed in conjunction with a Master of Science degree program, bench top project, literature review or case study.

Brigadier General Shan K. Bagby is pleased to announce the results of the 2020 Joseph L. Bernier Award:

In first place, Captain Eric Hu (left) for “Effects of Screw Angulation of Reverse Torque Values of Dental Implant Abutment Screw”; Prosthodontics; Naval Postgraduate School; Bethesda, MD.

In second place, Captain Ryan Payne (center) for “Blast Pressure Wave Effects on Osteosarcoma MG-63 Cell Survival in Vitro”; Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; Fort Gordon, GA.

In third place, Captain Daniel Phillips (right) for “Buccal bone thickness adjacent to virtual dental implants following guided bone regeneration”; Periodontics; Fort Gordon, GA.







# THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

## NEW ORAL MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEON (OMS) CONSULTANT

Dear OMS Population:

Effective 1 May, COL Tom Goksel is the new OMS Consultant to the Surgeon General -- LTC Pat Arnold is the Deputy Consultant! I extend my heartiest congratulations!

Thank you all so very much for the support and assistance that you have given me over the years - especially with many of the work groups that we have had for various initiatives. With the Defense Health Agency, a lot of our policies will be Tri-service and we work to continue to finalize a few. I have always felt the Consultant position is more of a consortium - so many from whom to draw expertise and advice - and I had a great team of subject matter experts! Thank you!

Congratulations to those who passed written qualifying exams as well as the OCE - I did not get all the names, but I know we are in weird times - CONGRATULATIONS!

We also have many OMS doing great things to represent Army Medicine during this COVID-19 pandemic. We had a couple at off site locations in support of city issues. We have many providing great training. Our residents and Program Directors/mentors participate in weekly virtual lectures with civilian programs across the country. It is rather impressive!

As professionals and Officers, I urge YOU to take the lead—read the ADA, CDC and AAOMS guidelines about what our new normal will look like with COVID-19 - it is not going away soon and WE need to be the ones to guide our practices and our staff - we have to know how to train ourselves to adapt new habits without becoming complacent and we must ensure that we properly train our staff and demand compliance - if you are working in clinics now, I hope you are following CDC ADA and AAOMS and really appreciating that we need to help all of us stay the course-- not just OMS, but all of dentistry - we cannot ignore and we must ensure we adhere to the strictest of infection control guidelines and policies - but WE have to MODEL and set the example - please be that person!

Thank you all again for what you do daily for our profession and for Army Medicine --continue to challenge each other and our staff to be the best that we can be for those who wear the cloth of our nation (to quote a former commander of mine) - our patients, our Soldiers - and all our beneficiaries!

A special shout out to the former residents I have trained - I could not have been more blessed with the group of residents I had over 7 years! And those with whom I trained (Tom :) I learned as much if not more from you than likely you did from me.

It is so awesome to see how all of our former residents take on the challenges and opportunities to continue to make our profession great and to continue to train the next generation- and to step into the leadership roles you all have assumed - THANK YOU.

Your legacy is not what you do, but what you leave behind! I wish you all the absolute best as you continue in your careers!

Godspeed!

COL Karen M. Keith

Former OMS Consultant to The Surgeon General :)

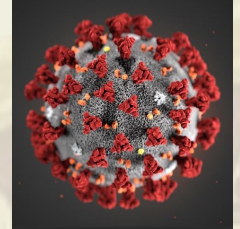


# THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

### [COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS, 5 MAY 2020,](#)

From the Army G-1 Personnel Contingency Cell: FAQs at the following link address issues such as PCS leave enroute, passports, Career Skills Program, Army Urinalysis Program, and Civilian leave.



### [FRAGO 1 TO HQDA EXORD 164-20,](#) ARMY PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST (APFT) AND ARMY COMBAT FITNESS TEST (ACFT) DURING THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK (FOUO),

Effective immediately, adjustments to the training and conduct of the APFT, ACFT, and Army Body Composition Program (ABCP) assessment screening and tape-testing are implemented to better support COVID-19 mitigation measures.

(3.B.2.) [Change to read] all current valid passing APFT scores remain valid until further notice.

(3.B.8.) [Add] all current height/weight and ABCP assessments remain valid until further notice.

### [ALARACT 040/2020,](#) PERSONNEL GUIDANCE FOR PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION (PCS) LEAVE REQUESTS OF TEN OR MORE DAYS ASSOCIATED W/ COVID-19 MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS (FOUO).

Soldiers' PCS travel under stop move policies restricts PCS leave to less than ten days. This ALARACT provides guidance to request and process exceptions for personnel requiring ten or more days of leave.

### [AMERICAN RED CROSS FREE ON-LINE COVID-19 MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE.](#)

We are close to two months into the COVID-19 pandemic, and while we cannot control much in this crisis, we can take action to help manage the challenges of day-to-day life. That's why the American Red Cross has developed a free Mental Health First Aid for COVID-19 course that can be taken online in less than one hour. The course is designed to help anyone impacted by COVID-19 to build resilience and lend support to others during and after this time.

### [SUICIDE PREVENTION COVID-19 RESPONSE FACT SHEET](#)

### [LATEST DoD POLICIES](#)

### FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING COVID-19 AND PATIENT CARE:

COL David Olson, the Army Dentistry Infection Preventionist at: [david.g.olson12.mil@mail.mil](mailto:david.g.olson12.mil@mail.mil)





# THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

## DENTAL HEALTH COMMAND– PACIFIC UPDATE

This month we are proud to highlight some of the recent missions, achievements, special events of the Dental Health Command– Pacific (DHC-P) Soldiers and civilians.

## DENTAL HEALTH ACTIVITY—HAWAII

The Dental Health Activity-Hawaii team led the way in standing up COVID-19(+) Dental Emergency Response Teams and a treatment platform for the Military Health System on Oahu. In addition to ensuring the availability of a negative pressure room to the teams, they also facilitated training and credentialing for Army, Navy, and Air Force personnel.

This collaborative effort maximized shared understanding and interoperability among the three services making certain Oahu's military dentists are prepared to safely manage dental emergencies in a COVID-19(+) patient. Pictured below are MAJ(P) Michael Hoffman and CPT(P) Martin Smallidge conducting Joint training for Army, Navy, and Air Force providers. DENTAC-Hawaii would like to send out a special "Thank you!" to Ms. Nancy Blakeney at JBSA for ensuring over 40 Navy and Air Force Providers received credentials to treat patients at Bhaskar Dental Clinic, FT Shafter, HI.



In order to minimize the spread of COVID-19 while maintaining access to care, Dental Health Activity-Hawaii instituted a dental emergency hotline to triage patients over the phone. The hotline enabled preservation of critical personal protective equipment and reduced the exposure risk of patients and clinic staff. DENTAC personnel developed protocols to mitigate any risks for patients and staff when emergency treatment is required. SPC (P) Zuoxing Wang (right) mans the hotline as MAJ Clint Conner (far right) returns a patient's phone call to determine the appropriate treatment.





# THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

## DENTAL HEALTH COMMAND– PACIFIC UPDATE CONTINUED

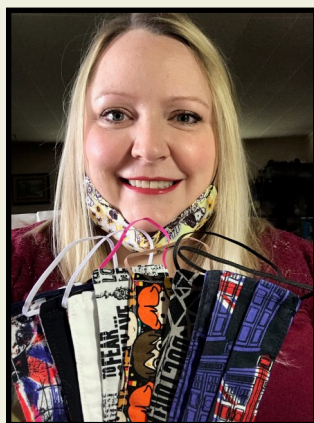
### JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD

In support of COVID-19 treatment protocols, Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) has continued to work closely with the I Corps Surgeons Office to meet the intent and guidance of the I Corps Commanding General. JBLM DENTAC's initial response was to treat sick call/Dental Readiness Class (DRC) 3 and DRC 4. All 7 clinics were operational. On 4 April, HQDA EXORD 144-20 FRAGO 18 provided new guidance, care was consolidated to a single clinic and care was further reduced to emergency treatment. Dental care for flyers, separation actions, retirements, and deployments has continued on an "as needed" basis.

The 673rd Dental Company Area Support (DCAS) and the JBLM Dental Health Activity hosted a Joint Dining in in order to build cohesion and comradery between the two units. The 62nd Medical Brigade Clinic OPS SGM provided words of wisdom to the Officers and Enlisted Soldiers as the guest speaker. The night was filled with plenty of laughter, trips to the grog, and socializing between both of the units.



JBLM DENTAC staff members from Okubo Dental clinic, have continued to use their time away from the clinic to serve their community.. Ms. Kristina Richards, Ms. Lauren Hanson and Ms. Kimberly Reopelle, have been spending their time making masks not only for themselves but for their neighbors, friends, co-workers, local hospitals and clinics. Additionally, they are now working dutifully to modify their mask design to incorporate ear cushion material in order to reduce discomfort that some providers experience after wearing masks for long hours.



Left: Ms. Lauren Hanson displays some of her handiwork

Right: Ms Reopelle models a mask with incorporated ear padding for added comfort.





# THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

## DENTAL HEALTH COMMAND– PACIFIC (DHC-P) UPDATE

### DENTAL HEALTH ACTIVITY—JAPAN

#### OFFICER HIGHLIGHT: CPT BRETT COX

For CPT Brett Cox, dentistry is a family business. He is one of many dental professionals in his family with a legacy spanning over four generations that includes an oral surgeon, an endodontist, and multiple general dentists. Part of that legacy includes military service. His grandfather was a pilot for the U.S. Navy during WWII before becoming a dentist and his father is a retired Colonel in the U.S. Airforce after serving as an oral surgeon. This legacy has instilled within him a deep feeling of patriotism and gratitude for those who sacrificed for the freedoms currently enjoyed today.

His path to dentistry began with athletics after he was offered a basketball scholarship to Weber State University where he ultimately became team captain and played point guard and shooting guard. He was part of the only Weber State men's basketball team to finish undefeated in conference play, a feat that led to a conference championship and a birth in the NCAA tournament. He was also named to the District 8 and ESPN the Magazine academic all-conference team in 2005 and was an NCAA academic All-American nominee. He finished his career at Weber State as male scholar athlete of the year in 2006.



Soon after graduating from Weber State University with a degree in English, CPT Cox began a career in television news as an anchor and reporter for KNAZ Channel 2 News, the NBC affiliate station based in Flagstaff, AZ. This quickly led to other opportunities in public speaking and corporate training. These experiences eventually brought him back to the family business of dentistry and he chose to follow his father's footsteps as a military provider. He was awarded the HPSP scholarship and attended the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health. As a dental student and a newly commissioned officer in the United States Army, CPT Cox developed a passion for orthodontics and excelled in school, graduating top of his class. He was accepted into the Tri-Service Orthodontic Residency Program where he earned his orthodontic certificate and a master's degree in oral biology. Upon completion of residency, CPT Cox was assigned to be the Chief of Orthodontics at Camp Zama, Japan where he is currently stationed.



# THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

## DENTAL HEALTH COMMAND– PACIFIC (DHC-P) UPDATE

### 618TH DENTAL COMPANY AREA SUPPORT (DCAS)—KOREA

In late February, the United States Forces Korea and the Korean Centers for Disease Control (KCDC) became aware of the COVID-19 threat. They began putting together Force Protective Measures to ensure Soldiers maintained their Ready to Fight Tonight posture. Installation commands set up a robust screening program at all installation access points, where they monitored for COVID-19 symptoms and recent travel histories off the peninsula. The 65th Medical Brigade established quarantine and isolation centers. The KCDC COVID-19 testing center was able to support the US Military populations until the 65th Medical Brigade's testing operations were fully operational.

The 618th Dental Company (Area Support) was tasked to support many of the 65th MED BDE COVID-19 operational cells. 618th DCAS Soldiers field calls on the emergency hotline and assist at the hospital tertiary screening tents. For those with positive results, 618th DCAS Soldiers are part of the contact tracing teams to ensure those with potential exposure are contacted and put into quarantine until they produce negative test results.

DENTAC-Korea is fully operational providing dental service support to ensure those Soldiers that support the USFK Mission maintain their readiness. The Camp Humphreys Pediatric Dental Team has extended their services to families on other installations to prevent them from having to seek care for their children in local Korean establishments. Every day, one of three on-call COVID-19 Emergency Dental Teams, stands ready to treat dental emergencies within the confines of the Brian D. Allgood Community Hospital negative pressure isolation facilities. Additionally, COVID-19 Clean Teams were trained by the 5th Preventive Medicine Detachment on the proper techniques to sterilize dental clinics following possible exposure to a COVID-19 positive patient. The 65th MED BDE Public Affairs Office is also supported by a member of our team who work diligently answering COVID-19 related questions on FACEBOOK Live and keeping the community abreast on associated issues.

All the while, the 618th DCAS continues readiness training by conducting inventories, qualification ranges, command maintenance, functional fitness training, and Expeditionary Dental Service Support Missions.



65th MED BDE and 618th DC(AS) Command Teams Recognize Soldiers for LNO Support to 8th Army and 2ID





# THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

## DENTAL HEALTH COMMAND– PACIFIC UPDATE CONTINUED

### DENTAL HEALTH ACTIVITY — ALASKA

DENTAC-Alaska Soldiers, SGT Adrian Michel, SPC Calin Allen, PFC Jasmin Estrada, PFC Savahana Fine, PFC Tiffany Martinez, PFC Steven Tate, and PV2 Christian Tamayo, supported Bassett Army Community Hospital (BACH) by staffing screening stations located at the emergency room entrance, the main hospital entrance, and the loading dock entrance.



Additionally, DENTAC-Alaska supported the Public Health call center by answering COVID-19 related questions. SPC Dennis Jordan assisted with screening personnel entering the building, while LTC David Nelson, MAJ Joshua Hyatt, CPT Richard Hill, and CPT Kellie O'Keefe fielded calls.

## ADVANCED EDUCATION GENERAL DENTISTRY (AEGD)

### ONE-YEAR VIRTUAL TABLE CLINICS

Beginning in April, the Army one-year program residents at Fort Benning, Fort Carson and Joint Base Lewis-McChord presented topics during a series of virtual continuing education events. The Table Clinic virtual CE events were conducted on 17 Apr, 1 May, and 7 May. All 24 residents presented virtually with over 35 additional personnel in attendance at multiple locations.

POC: Christopher G Bowen, DMD, MS, ABGD, FAGD LTC, DC  
Program Director, AEGD-1 Year Smith Dental Clinic  
[Christopher.g.bowen.mil@mail.mil](mailto:Christopher.g.bowen.mil@mail.mil)



[STORYBOARD](#)



# THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

## AOC SPOTLIGHT: 63E, ENDODONTICS

The Army Endodontics continues to build on a rich tradition of excellence and dedication during this unique moment in American history. The Army Association of Endodontists leadership team and Army endodontic research teams were busy preparing for events at the American Association of Endodontists (AAE) Annual Session in Nashville before it was cancelled due to COVID-19. I am certain all of the endodontic research projects are well polished. They plan to present their research on a local level before graduation and are encouraged to present their research on the National level at the AAE Annual Session in Atlanta in 2021.



The Fort Gordon Endodontic Residency has adopted social distancing in many of their educational sessions.

On May the Fourth, they got creative and spiced up the educational moment!

Clockwise:

LTC Joseph Dutner, CPT(P) Khine Htet, MAJ In Kwon, CPT(P) Jose Burgos and CPT(P) Kristel Burgos, CPT David Sabovich, CPT Jason Umbach, CPT Dante Amelotti, LTC Matthew Phillips

## EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

The following residents dedicated many hours to the following Master's Degree research projects:

MAJ Kony Park - Evaluation of the retreatability of 3 Endodontic Sealers: EndoSequence BC Sealer, HiFlow EndoSequence BC Sealer, and AH Plus

MAJ(P) Alexandra Rihani - A survey of current surgical trends among military endodontists

CPT(P) Jose R. Burgos - Root canal treatment versus vital pulp therapy after carious exposure: an analysis of the cost- effectiveness in the United States

CPT(P) Kristel Burgos - Assessment of patient's perception of CBCT and endodontic treatment

CPT(P) Khine C. Htet - Regaining patency with bioceramics during retreatments based on method of sealer placement

CPT Matthew Massey - A survey of decision making analysis when MB2 cannot be located in maxillary first molars

CPT Jason M. Umbach - Surface integrity of orthograde MTA obturation following targeted endodontic microsurgery





# THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

## AOC SPOTLIGHT: 63E, Endodontics Continued

### HONORING A LEGENDARY ARMY ENDODONTIST — 36 YEAR OF ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE

COL Michael J. Apicella is retiring from Active Duty in August 2020 after serving in the Army Dental Corps over 36 years, culminating as the Deputy Commander of the Fort Jackson Dental Health Activity. COL Apicella's primary focus in the Dental Corps has been as an educator in Endodontics and Orofacial Pain. He has been a mentor in the Advanced Education Programs at Ft. Jackson and Ft. Bragg; and served as Assistant Director and Director of the Endodontic Program, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. COL Apicella is a Diplomate in both the American Board of Endodontics and American Board of Orofacial Pain. He served as Consultant in Orofacial Pain from 2012 through 2017. Recognized with Fellowship in both the American Academy of Orofacial Pain and the American College of Dentists. He earned the status of Professor in Endodontics with the Uniformed Services University. Has been recognized with the Surgeon General's "A" designator in Endodontics and was inducted into the prestigious Order of Military Medical Merit. COL Apicella has been published in the International Journal of Endodontics and published a chapter in the textbook "Diagnosing Dental and Orofacial Pain." In addition, COL Apicella, was a co-author on six scientific articles in the Journal of Endodontics. COL Apicella has served as a reviewer for the Journal of Endodontics in which he has reviewed over 100 scientific articles for the journal. COL Apicella has served as an invited lecturer to the Army, Air Force, Navy, University of Maryland, University of North Carolina, August University, and the University of Michigan Endodontic Programs; and has lectured at national meetings with the American Association of Endodontists. In 2011, COL Apicella Deployed with the 257th Medical Detachment to Iraq as the only Endodontist in theater. COL Apicella plans to settle down in Wilmington, North Carolina and enjoy retirement life at the beach.



## DEDICATION TO REACH A PROFESSIONAL PINNACLE

The following Army Endodontists recently received Board Certification from the American Board of Endodontics. This accomplishment requires countless hours of dedication and effort. Congratulations to the new Diplomates of the American Board of Endodontics!

COL Nam Kim

LTC Aileen Cabanada-Logan

MAJ Steve Delgado

MAJ Steven Todd

Dr. Garth Hatch

Dr. Jacob Weigle



# THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

## Virtual Short Course

Class code ofchcc4

Select theme  
Upload photo

### REFOCUSING EDUCATION AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT IN A TIME OF SOCIAL DISTANCING

ARTICLE BY MAJOR MICHAEL KROLL, DMD MS ABGD FAGD

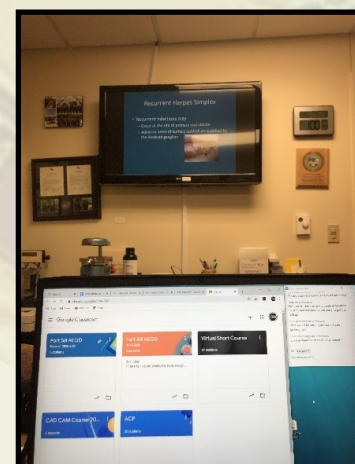
**“Mater artium necessitas.”**

The military is no stranger to the dreaded correspondence course... As a military dentist I am used to spending time away from my peers in remote locations while trying to advance or maintain my clinical education. Deployments, permanent changes in station, and budgets have always forced military dentists to become resourceful in difficult times. COVID-19 has tested the Army's digital education platforms and made all of us educators realize that we need to be prepared for the reality of a changing force, a changing operational tempo, and global engagements which will change continuing education as we know it.



In 2015 when I graduated the Fort Hood Comprehensive Dental Residency and jumped at the opportunity to teach at the Fort Sill AEGD, I was excited about the prospects of continuing to build the clinical capabilities of one of the top AEGD programs in the country. Shortly after my arrival, I noticed some of the difficulty my residents had in trying to access AEGD content from home. LTC Melissa Tucker and I did not expect our residents to live at Cowan dental clinic to access their classroom content; we were not those kinds of mentors. Yes, there would be

long hours, but we knew that there had to be a better way to deliver our courses and allow our adult learners to access their content through more convenient methods. We began to reach out to other programs and directors and found other like-minded individuals to start developing content for our residency programs in a flipped classroom environment that was feasible, acceptable, and suitable. We started to develop our “Google Classroom.”







# THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

## REFOCUSING EDUCATION AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT IN A TIME OF SOCIAL DISTANCING CONTINUED

Google Classroom is a free learning management system (LMS) that we use to share lectures, literature, and classroom quizzes. It allows the student to access lecture slides, collaborate in a blog, and give real time feedback to the mentors through quizzes and evaluations. Through the years of slowly rolling out a digital LMS, residents who were much more tech savvy than LTC Tucker or myself contributed to our collective classroom and improved on its efficiency and relevance. We started to experiment with residents recording lectures and placing them on the classroom so they could use them as they went on to their next duty stations and eventually tested it as a CE delivery method with the help of CPT Matthew Kinstler last year.

COVID has put a halt to many forms of education we have become accustomed to in the military and has put a strain on the local CE officer to get creative to provide avenues to keep their providers on top of current evidence-based best practices. As in any operational environment, our best laid plans never survive first contact with the enemy and the “fog and friction” of the environment only reveal uncertainty. So how can we continue to grow professionally during COVID?

One solution that the residents of Fort Sill helped create was the Fort Sill AEGD Virtual Short Course through Google Classroom. Along with the tireless effort of Ms. Edith Fields from Graduate Dental Education, the residents researched relevant evidence-based topics with a comprehensive approach, recorded their efforts, and published them for ADA CERP lecture credit. We were able to make this available to the field to help guide us through the “friction” of this current operational environment where many of you do not have access to a CAC enabled computer.

**So how can you access this free CE?**



1. Take a picture of this QR code with your smart phone

**OR**

- 1a. Using Google Chrome search “Google Classroom.”
2. You will then go to the screen that says, “Join Class.”
3. From there you will enter the code o6chcc4
4. Then you will follow the directions for the individual lectures or “assignments,” take the quiz, provide feedback, and you will receive your CE certificate (with 48 to 72 hours).

In the military we must live by proverb *Mater artium necessitas* or “necessity is the mother of invention.” Understanding that we can utilize our constructs of military theory and navigate these trying times much like Carl von Clausewitz describes the “fog, friction, and uncertainty” that surround the battlefield to develop solutions that will prepare us for global engagements and disasters while staying ready and prepared as a professional dental force!



# THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

## MEDDAC BAVARIA

In response to the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and an increasing number of cases wherein patients require emergency intubation to facilitate life support, MAJ Mirela Memic led and instructed over 100 key individuals in MEDDAC Bavaria (BMEDDAC) in Emergency Airway and Life Support techniques.

MAJ Memic, BDENTAC's Oral Maxillofacial Surgeon, alongside CPT James Schofield of BMEDDAC and under the direction of COL Susan Arguetta and LTC Benjamin Ingram of BMEDDAC, crafted a hands-on course and powerpoint lecture presentations to prepare the various medics, PAs, Nurses and Physicians of Vilseck, Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Stuttgart in emergency intubation techniques in response to the current crisis. One week prior to the course, all participants had to complete an intensive online course to prepare them for the challenges and methodologies. A 30-minute lecture designed by MAJ Memic was then introduced at the onset of the hands-on section. This was followed by small 2-3 man groups for personal instruction in 40-minute rounds on advanced mannequins designed to challenge the participants' newly acquired skills with the most current intubation instruments and ventilators. The equipment was specifically chosen to represent what each team member would expect to encounter when treating COVID+ patients in these emergent situations. The training was held daily from 0800 to 1700 at Vilseck's training facility. Over 100 personnel were trained by MAJ Memic and all agreed that the course was a complete success. Bravo once again to MAJ Memic's selfless service and dedication to the mission at hand.



Clockwise: CPT James Schofield and MAJ Mirela Memic, CPT James Schofield leads a team through emergency evaluation, MAJ Mirela Memic demonstrates effective techniques of emergency airway management.





# THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

## ON THE FRONTLINES AGAINST COVID-19: DENTAL PERSONNEL IN THE 44TH MEDICAL BRIGADE

By LTC Michael Browning, 257th Medical Company (Dental Area Support)

The spring of 2020 will forever be remembered by Army personnel who were called to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Army Dentistry is no exception to this, as Dental personnel in the 44th Medical Brigade experienced it first-hand. The 44th Medical Brigade, based out of Fort Bragg, received the mission to rapidly deploy to locations throughout the Atlantic region, with the purpose of assisting local hospitals during the outbreak.

On Monday, 23 March 2020, CPT(P) Kyle Reed received an unexpected phone call. His Company First Sergeant was on the other line with startling news. In three days, CPT Reed would deploy to New York City, to support the response to the COVID-19 outbreak. CPT Reed, a 63B Comprehensive Dentist, normally works at the Adkins Dental Clinic at Fort Campbell. However, he is a MTOE Assigned Personnel (MAP) Officer to Fort Campbell's 531st Hospital Center, a unit in the 44th Medical Brigade.

CPT Reed departed Fort Campbell's airfield on the morning of 26 March, less than 36 hours after receiving the phone call. "It was so surreal," CPT Reed said, referring to how quickly everything changed after receiving that phone call. "After I flew into Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey," he said, "I slept in the barracks overnight, and then I rode a bus to the Javits Center in New York City the next morning."

The Javits Center is one of New York City's largest convention centers, and it would serve as the Army's temporary medical station to relieve the burden on city hospitals. That was where the 44th Medical Brigade and the 531st Hospital Center established their headquarters and treated patients. As CPT Reed's unit arrived, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were in the process of constructing the hospital layout within the large complex.

(Continued)

Right: In-progress construction of the temporary medical station at the Javits Convention Center in downtown New York City. (Official DoD PAO photograph).



MAP Byron Capps (left), a 63N Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon from Fort Riley, and CPT(P) Kyle Reed (right), 63B Comprehensive Dentist from Fort Campbell, stand in a hallway in the Javits Center before starting work. Both Officers are providers in the 531st Hospital Center, 44th Medical Brigade.







# THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

## ON THE FRONTLINES AGAINST COVID-19 (CONTINUED)

In Kansas, MAJ Byron Capps received the same phone call, but his timeline was even more urgent than CPT Reed's. MAJ Capps, an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon who is also a MAP Officer to the 531st, had to travel from Kansas to Kentucky before flying out of Fort Campbell on the 26th of March. Speaking about his first experience with a rapid deployment, MAJ Capps said "The Army deserves a pat on the back for how quickly they were able to mobilize for this mission."

He describes how the Army, in a matter of days, was able to transport personnel from all over the country to one, central location in New York City. "Not only are there people here from Fort Campbell, Fort Riley, and Fort Bragg," he said, "there are also people here from Seattle, Arizona, Texas, and other locations throughout the country."



Left: Busses transport military healthcare providers to the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in downtown New York City, to help treat COVID-19 patients (Official DoD PAO photograph).



Right: Service members and civilians transport the one thousandth treated patient to a medical room at the Javits New York Medical Station (Official DoD PAO photograph).

MAJ Capps and CPT Reed also had several 68E Dental Specialists joining them on this mission, including SGT Ricky Snipes, SPC Leah Hylton, SPC Candace Walker, and SPC Madalynn Barnes. Another 44th Medical Brigade Dental Officer, MAJ Ryan Malan, deployed to Boston with the 501st Medical Company (Area Support).

Originally, the intent of the mission was for the military to only treat non-COVID-19 cases. That allowed both MAJ Capps and CPT Reed to work the floor and treat patients. However, that quickly changed, in a matter of days, when the focus of the mission switched to treating only COVID-19 positive cases. Following that decision, the Hospital placed CPT Reed in the Tactical Operations Center (TOC) where he served as the Hospital Outreach Coordinator. In this role, he communicated with the city hospital liaisons as they identified patients needing transfers to the Javits Center. Once patients were identified, he coordinated their transportation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), tracked them, and solved any issues to ensure they were properly in-processed and under the care of a provider. (Continued)





# THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

## ON THE FRONTLINEs AGAINST COVID-19 (Continued)

MAJ Capps remained on the floor treating the COVID-19 positive cases. “In the beginning, it quickly ramped up to a COVID-positive mission as there was a constant stream of new admissions,” he said, “we started with 12 hour shifts, then as more providers arrived to assist, we switched to 8 hour shifts, working 4 days, 5th day off, and then 4 days on.” While speaking of the discipline and teamwork on the floor, MAJ Capps said “The Javits Center is a giant convention center. Between the Corps of Engineers, the contractors, and military personnel, they have put together a very safe environment for providers to deliver the best care to these patients, who really need our help.”

Meanwhile, at Fort Bragg, LTC(P) Azure Utley and 1SG Deval Butler received other news. Their unit, the 257th Medical Company (Dental Area Support) would participate in the COVID-19 drive-thru screening and testing site at the Fort Bragg Fairgrounds. The 44th Medical Brigade developed this site as a precaution to prepare for possible overcrowding of the Womack Army Medical Center Emergency Department.



Left: During a rehearsal, PFC Colton Oliver (right) asks questions to SPC Tyler Bonner (left), as part of the screening process to determine if testing is needed. Both PFC Oliver and SPC Bonner are Soldiers in the 257th MC(DAS) (Official DoD PAO photograph).



SPC Chyla Lindsey (center), demonstrates the proper donning and doffing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to personnel in the 257th MC(DAS) at the Fort Bragg COVID-19 Drive-Thru Screening Site.

The leaders emphasized how well their Soldiers in the 257th have adapted to this new, unexpected mission. “Several of our Soldiers recently returned from a nine-month deployment to the Middle East, and many others were ready to deploy on our mission to Europe,” said LTC(P) Utley, referring to DEFENDER-Europe 2020 mission, which was suddenly cancelled due to the outbreak. “Despite these changes,” she said, “the Soldiers have adjusted well and taken their new roles seriously and professionally, just as we would want them to.”





# THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

## DENTAL CLINICAL COMMUNITY (DCC)

### MAY NEWSLETTER



## DENTAL CLINICAL COMMUNITY (DCC)



**Purpose: To define, prioritize, and implement initiatives to enable readiness, improve outcomes, and positively impact dental health in the MHS.**

### Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, dental emergencies will arise and may require treatment by Dental Health Care Professionals. Dental settings have unique characteristics that warrant additional infection control considerations. During the pandemic, all elective procedures, surgeries, and non-urgent dental visits are to be postponed. All staff should be trained in the appropriate steps to take if a patient with COVID-19 symptoms enters your facility.

Please refer to the [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Dental Settings during the COVID-19 Response](#) for dental-specific guidance from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention.

Information may also be accessed on the [Dental COVID-19 SharePoint](#) website.

Please refer to the [DoD COVID-19 Practice Management Guide](#) for the most recent clinical updates. *Please continue to check back for updates to this document as information develops.*

Health Protection Condition (HPCON) Guidance in a COVID-19 Environment is also available in the [Joint Access and CC Policy Memo and Guidance Package](#).

### DCC Policy Update

The DCC is currently collaborating on several dental-related policies, including:

- 1) Dental Universal Protocol DHA-Procedural Instruction (PI)
  - Final draft has been completed; policy has entered formal coordination
- 2) Dental Sedation Medical Management DHA-PI
  - Draft DHA-PI has been distributed to Services for informal review
- 3) Dental Cone Beam Tomography (CBCT)
  - Incorporating feedback and edits on DHA-PI. Draft will be circulated for review
- 4) Pain Management DHA-PI 6025.04, Change 1
  - Executive summary to be signed by Deputy Assistant Director for Medical Affairs to provide interim guidance for dental providers

We welcome new ideas and discussion from dental providers across the MHS — please feel free to contact [dha.ncr.i-3.mbx.dcc@mail.mil](mailto:dha.ncr.i-3.mbx.dcc@mail.mil) if you have an idea or a concern that we should address as a community!

### Join us!

Want to learn more about the DCC? Join us for the DCC Community Forum.

**05 MAY 20; 1000-1030 EST**  
**Dial In: 866-650-3525**  
**Code: 21536006#**

### DCS Link:

<https://conference.apps.mil/webconf/DCCInfoMtg>



### DCC Leadership:

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