



THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

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FIRST DoD MEDICAL PERSONNEL LICENSED TO PRACTICE IN KUWAIT INCLUDES ARMY DENSTIST

SABAH AL SALEM, Kuwait – Two U.S. Army officers were licensed and credentialed to practice medicine in Kuwait following an award ceremony held at the Kuwait Armed Forces Hospital in Sabah Al Salem on May 19, for the first time in U.S. Department of Defense history.

U.S. Army Colonel Ian Black, an anesthesiologist and command surgeon for 1st Theater Sustainment Command, and U.S. Army Captain Yusheng Chen, the command dentist for Area Support Group – Kuwait, were certified to practice medicine and dentistry respectively at Kuwait Ministry of Defense (KMOD) hospitals.

“It is an unprecedented move to have U.S. medical and dental professionals licensed to practice in Kuwait,” said the chief of medical services for KMOD, Sheik Abdullah M. Al-Sabah. “This is a major step toward interoperability.”

The ceremony highlighted a years-long medical partnership between Kuwait and the United States and took place despite novel COVID-19 challenges. Participants complied with host nation and DoD mitigation measures.

“The licensing of Colonel Ian Black and Captain Yusheng Chen is another great example of our partnership combating this virus,” said U.S. Ambassador Alina L. Romanowski in a statement. “Our partnership goes beyond the medical field, as Kuwait and the United States have been regional partners for generations.”

[FULL ARTICLE](#)



Left to Right: U.S. Army COL Ian Black, Sheik Abdullah M. Al-Sabah, U.S. Army MAJ Adrienne Kramer, U.S. Army CPT Yusheng Chen, and Dr. Raed R. Altajalli



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MESSAGE TO THE ARMY COMMUNITY ABOUT CIVIL UNREST

3 June 2020

Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Family members and Soldiers for Life:

Over the past week, the country has suffered an explosion of frustration over the racial divisions that still plague us as Americans. And because your Army is a reflection of American society, those divisions live in the Army as well. We feel the frustration and anger. We felt it this week while traveling through the nation's capital with the DC National Guard.

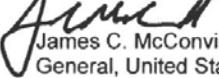
We feel it, even though we can never fully understand the frustration and life experiences of people of color, in or out of uniform. But we do understand the importance of taking care of people, and of treating every person with dignity and respect. .

Our ability to defend this country from all enemies, foreign and domestic, is founded upon a sacred trust with the American people. Racial division erodes that trust. Though we all aspire to live by the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage, the Army has sometimes fallen short. Because just as we reflect the best of America, we reflect its imperfections as well. We need to work harder to earn the trust of mothers and fathers who hesitate to hand their sons and daughters into our care. How we respond to the anger that has ignited will chart the course of that trust.

Every Soldier and Department of the Army Civilian swears an oath to support and defend the Constitution. That includes the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances. We will continue to support and defend those rights, and we will continue to protect Americans, whether from enemies of the United States overseas, from COVID-19 at home, or from violence in our communities that threatens to drown out the voices begging us to listen. To Army leaders of all ranks, listen to your people, but don't wait for them to come to you. Go to them. Ask the uncomfortable questions. Lead with compassion and humility, and create an environment in which people feel comfortable expressing grievances. Let us be the first to set the example. We are listening. And we will continue to put people first as long as we are leading the Army. Because people are our greatest strength.

God bless all of the people of our United States Army: our Soldiers, Families, Civilians, and Soldier for Life retirees and veterans. And God bless the United States of America.


Michael A. Grinston
Sergeant Major of the Army


James C. McConville
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff


Ryan D. McCarthy
Secretary of the Army

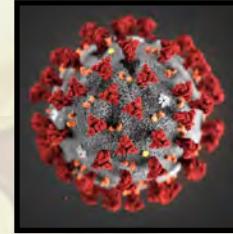


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CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

FRAGO 2 TO HQDA EXORD 210-20 CORONAVIRUS TRANSITION FRAMEWORK,

15 JUN 20 — Allows service members (SM) to travel to and from certified unrestricted areas without an exception to policy. If a SM duty station is certified unrestricted, SM is authorized to travel from, to and through locations also certified as unrestricted. Travel, including leave for Soldiers, from, to and through restricted locations requires exception to policy (ETP) by the first general officer or senior executive service in the SM's chain of command. Professional military education programs are exempt from travel restrictions and do not require an ETP to attend in either a PCS or TDY status.



DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO APPROVE TRAVEL OF ARMY PERSONNEL AND

CONDITIONS FOR RETURN TO UNRESTRICTED TRAVEL, 9 JUN 20.—This memo from the Secretary of the Army delegates waiver (previously referred to as ETP) approval authorities... to the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army for General Officer (GO) permanent change of station (PCS) travel, and the first GO or member of the Senior Executive Service in an individual's chain of command or chain of supervision for all other waivers. Approval authorities may grant waivers in writing where travel is: (1) determined to be mission essential; (2) necessary for humanitarian reasons; or (3) warranted due to extreme hardship.

TRANSITION TO CONDITIONS-BASED PHASED APPROACH TO COVID-19 PERSONNEL

MOVEMENT AND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS, 22 MAY 2020.—Effective immediately, travel restriction guidance for DoD components will remain in effect until further notice. All DoD Service members will stop movement, both internationally and domestically, while this memorandum is in effect, unless the conditions listed (in this memo) are met.

FRAGO 29 TO EXORD 144-20 – PME programs are exempt from travel restrictions and do not require an exception to policy (ETP) to attend in either a PCS or TDY status. It also states that personnel exempt from travel restrictions must travel with a signed memorandum from their supervisor or servicing personnel office that states the reason for exemption.

SUICIDE PREVENTION COVID-19 RESPONSE FACT SHEET

FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING COVID-19 AND PATIENT CARE:

COL David Olson, the Army Dentistry Infection Preventionist at: david.g.olson12.mil@mail.mil



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NEW ORAL MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEON (OMS) CONSULTANT

COL TAMER (TOM) GOSKEL, DDS, MD, FACS

COL Tom Goksel is the current Commander of the Dental Health Activity Rheinland Pfalz. COL Goksel commissioned into the Army Dental Corps in 1992 after graduating from the University of Tennessee Dental School in Memphis, Tennessee. He attended the Advanced Education in General Dentistry-One Year Program at Fort Sill, Oklahoma (1992-1993), followed by completion of a dual degree Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency. He received his medical degree from the University of Texas, San Antonio in 1999, and a certificate in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery from the San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium (SAUSHEC) in 2002. Upon completion of his oral surgery residency, he completed a Cosmetic Surgery Fellowship and received his certificate in 2003. COL Goksel deployed with the 31st Combat Support Hospital to Baghdad, Iraq in 2004 as the Chief Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon.



COL Goksel spent the majority of his time in the Dental Corps mentoring Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residents. He was the Chief and Program Director at Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas (2006-2007); Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Fort Gordon, Georgia (2008-2011); the Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, Hawaii (2014-2016). From 2016-2019 he was the Commander of the Fort Campbell Dental Health Activity at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. COL Goksel is a Diplomate of both the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and the American Board of Cosmetic Surgery. He has served as the Deputy Consultant in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery to the Surgeon General since 2015. Recognized with Fellowships from the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (2004), American College of Surgeons (2005), American Academy of Cosmetic Surgeons (2008), and the International College of Dentists (2017). He received the Surgeon General's "A" designator in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (2007), and was inducted into the Order of Military Medical Merit (2010). COL Goksel serves as a board examiner and senior co-chair for Surgery Section III for the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and is a test constructor for the Dental Licensure Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE) for the American Dental Association. COL Goksel has lectured nationally and internationally, to include national meetings with the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.



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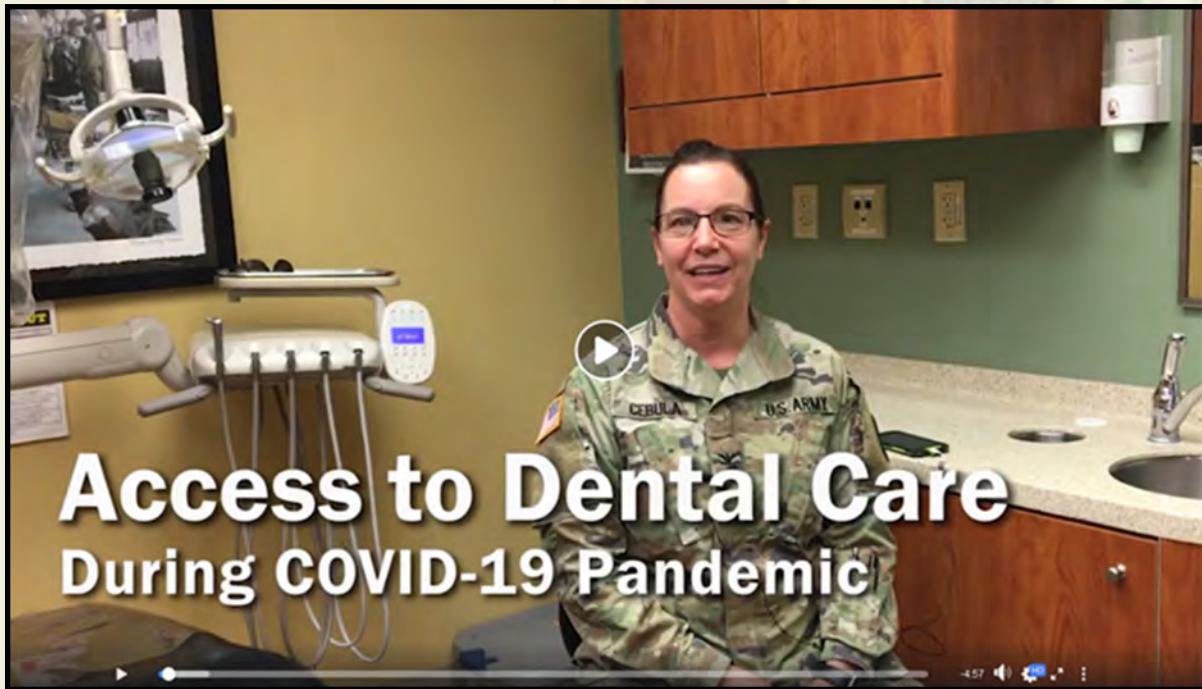
DENTAL HEALTH COMMAND– CENTRAL UPDATE

We are once again proud to highlight some of the most recent activities and achievements of the Dental Health Command-Central (DHC-C). This month we chose to highlight the amazing innovation, commitment, and professionalism of our team to sustain operations during the continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Enjoy!

COVID-19 RESPONSE: DELIVERING CLEAR COMMUNICATION

During a crisis, clear, timely communication is a key for success. Leadership within the Fort Riley DENTAC worked with an audio-visual team from Irwin Army Community Hospital (IACH) to create an informational commercial that ensured the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley community were updated on the dental services and processes put in place to keep the Soldiers and staff safe. Targeted messaging posted on a forum frequented by a large number of members of the community should be regarded a best practice, especially during a crisis. The commercial is posted on the Fort Riley and [IACH FACEBOOK](#) pages.

We encourage you to view the video and consider creating similar messaging for the communities your support.



COL Susan Cebula (Commander, Fort Riley DENTAC) and MAJ Aaron Amano (OIC, Whitside Dental Clinic) communicate the status of dental support for the Fort Riley community.



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DENTAL HEALTH COMMAND– CENTRAL UPDATE CONTINUED

COVID-19 RESPONSE: LEADING INNOVATION

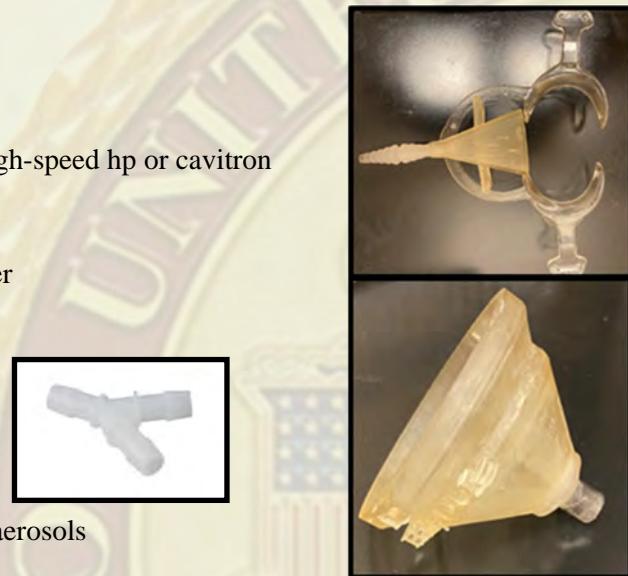
Members of the Fort Polk DENTAC team took the initiative to determine the dispersion of aerosols high-speed handpieces (hp), cavitrons, and air/water syringes when used in concert with high volume evacuation (HVE) suction tips. For this experiment, HVEs were milled using 3-D printers.

Results:

- ♦ “No splatter/aerosol outside of 10” from patients mouth w/ high-speed hp or cavitron
- ♦ All HVE devices seemed to function equally
- ♦ Use of air/water spray contributed to the most aerosols/splatter

Recommendations:

- ♦ Consider two HVE for aerosol generating procedures
- ♦ Consider face shield for the patient for air/water rinsing
- ♦ HVE for ALL procedures—not just those known to produce aerosols



Pictured Immediate Left
(Left to Right)
Ms. Dawn Dunbar,

CPT Stephen Thomas,
CPT Alex Hradek,
CPT Issa Hamade, and
CPT Stephanie Thomas.



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DENTAL HEALTH COMMAND– CENTRAL UPDATE CONTINUED

COVID-19 RESPONSE: FACILITY MODIFICATION TO BETTER SEGREGATE PATIENTS RECEIVING AEROSOL GENERATING PROCEDURES

The Fort Leavenworth Dental Clinic Command team partnered with Munson Army Health Center – Public Health Department (Industrial Hygiene) to develop solutions to minimize aerosol spread throughout their dental treatment facilities. Initial HVAC surveys at Smith Dental Clinic determined that the number of air changes / hour (ACH) were not sufficient to meet CDC guidelines for aerosol generating procedures in the COVID-19 environment. Curtains were installed to segregate dental treatment rooms (DTRs). Zipper doors and walls were installed to allow access, filtration was augmented through an open plenum ceiling, and an air scrubber was added the DTR. Following the physical modifications, an HVAC survey determined the two modified DTRs had $ACH > 12.75$, supplying enough volumetric air flow to meet the CDC recommendations of 6-12 ACH with a wide safety margin. In the absence of a true airborne infection isolation room (AIIR), the modified the DTRs were designated to provide emergency dental services for suspected or positive COVID-19 patients when all other contingencies had been exhausted.



Facility modification plans are also being piloted at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. Results and plans will be shared with the field as best practices as they become available.



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DENTAL HEALTH COMMAND– CENTRAL UPDATE CONTINUED

COVID-19 RESPONSE: PARTNERING WITH THE MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITIES

On the Front Line:

Since the beginning of COVID-19 monitoring, Fort Leonard Wood Dental Health Activity personnel have been working hand-in-hand with the General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital (GLWACH), and the Harper In-Processing Screening Clinic. They have been on the front line, providing COVID-19 screenings for all military and civilian personnel reporting to post from outside the area. Since April 4, the drive-through screening and testing unit has been available. Dental staff, along with medical staff, have been helping protect the Fort Leonard Wood “Bubble” for patients and staff members alike.

The Fort Leonard Wood Dental Health Activity has had over 40 Civilian and Military personnel not only supporting the screening mission, but also providing security and screening at the GLWACH doors. Dental personnel have provided monitoring, care, and support, over the phone, for over 4,000 IET, AIT, BOLC, permanent party Soldiers, GS employees, and family members that have been quarantined over the past three months .



CPL Anastasia Medvedeva (Dental Specialist) provides screening to all patients and staff that enter GLWACH.



Left to Right: Ms. Ruby Hurd (Dental Assistant), CPT Austin Johnson (General Dentist), and MAJ Albert Cheng (Chief of Periodontics).



Ms. Magdalena Gordon (Dental Assistant) doing a drive-through screening at Harper In-Processing Screening Clinic.



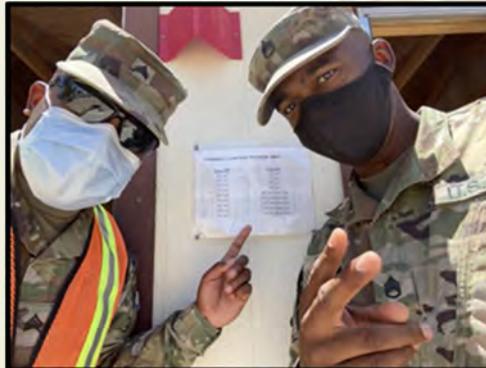
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DENTAL HEALTH COMMAND– CENTRAL UPDATE CONTINUED

COVID-19 RESPONSE: AUGMENTING THE DELIVERY OF CRITICAL SERVICES

Fort Huachuca Dental Clinic Command (DCC)

Fort Huachuca DCC NCOs (SSG Lamarcus Bonier, SSG Guadalupe Vivar-Reyes, SGT(P) Jamie Boyd, and SGT(P) Marcus Harbin) significantly supported the Raymond W. Bliss Health Center's curb-side pharmacy response due to COVID-19. Thus far, they have provided over 400 hours of support towards greater than 2,000 prescriptions delivered to beneficiaries. Their efforts continue for the month of June or until the service is pulled back by the MTF CDR



Fort Bliss DENTAC:

MAJ Nathan Kosiba (below, far left) and MAJ Steven Handel (below, mid left), Fort Bliss DENTAC, worked with Army Public Health Nursing (APHN) and were trained to test for the coronavirus. As we transition to our new normal, MAJ Kosiba and MAJ Handel remain essential to the smooth operation of APHN and will remain tasked to them part time as they are actively testing mobilizing and deploying Soldiers to ensure the health of the force. They have taught OMS and DC#1 personnel how to test patients pre-surgically or prior to AGPs, and continue to provide education and reinforcement of best practices for dentistry.





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DENTAL HEALTH COMMAND– CENTRAL UPDATE CONTINUED

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY:

Ms. Lisa Wright, Fort Hood DENTAC DA Civilian, was recognized by the Copperas Cove Leader Press for orchestrating the 2020 Prom Parade for high school juniors and seniors living in her subdivision.

Approximately, 30 students celebrated their prom amidst the COVID-19 pandemic that resulted in their traditional prom being cancelled.

The parade was joined by residents of the neighborhood and the Boozefighters Motorcycle Club who led the parade in decorated vehicles. The parade had a couple stops along which allowed the students to dance along with music being played. Ticket Raffles were also placed at each stop, which was possible by contributions from the surrounding community.

Ms. Alina Nikolaeva (below, right), Ms. Alexis Dill, and Ms. Stephanie Jung (below, left) recently graduated the Red Cross Training Program at Fort Hood, TX. They were instrumental to mission success at the Fort Hood Dental Health Activity while completing their 400 clinical hours providing dental care. Congratulations!





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DENTAL HEALTH COMMAND– CENTRAL UPDATE CONTINUED

CONTINUING TO CELEBRATE PROMOTION AND RECOGNIZE SERVICE:

Trying times and the stress associated with managing the response to a pandemic have not stopped members of the Fort Sill DENTAC from celebrating career milestones for several members of their team.



Clockwise: PFC Kaylee Clark is promoted to Specialist.

SFC Sharonda Livingston receives her retirement award on Old Post Quadrangle, Fort Sill, Oklahoma after 20 years of military service and a final assignment as the Senior Dental NCO at the Fort Sill Dental Health Activity.

PFC Rebecka Phelps is promoted to Specialist.

CELEBRATING THE ARMY: HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ARMY!

The Fort Bliss DENTAC Team sings the Army Song to commemorate the 245th Army birthday. [FACEBOOK](#)





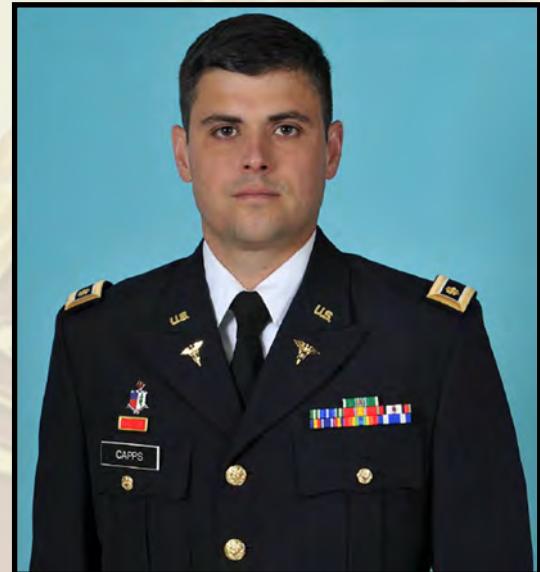
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DENTAL HEALTH COMMAND– CENTRAL UPDATE CONTINUED

OFFICER HIGHLIGHT: MAJ BYRON CAPPS (63N)

MAJ Byron Capps completed undergraduate and dental education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After his graduation from dental school in 2010, MAJ Capps joined the Army through a direct commission and entered a 12-month AEGD program at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), WA. After completing the AEGD as the honor graduate, he was assigned as the Brigade Dental Surgeon for the 4-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team, JBLM, WA. During his time as the Brigade Dentist, MAJ Capps completed the Army Advanced Clinical Provider program and served a tour in Afghanistan with his Unit.

After returning from Afghanistan, MAJ Capps entered an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Program at Madigan Army Medical Center, WA.



Following completion of the Oral Surgery Program in 2017, MAJ Capps was stationed at Fort Riley, KS and served as an oral surgeon in a hospital based department. In 2019, he became the Officer-in-Charge of the Hospital Dental Clinic at Fort Riley, KS and he was assigned as an MTOE Assigned Personnel (MAP) to the 175th Medical Detachment/531st Field Hospital/44th Medical Brigade. MAJ Capps completed an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise with the 531st in October 2019, during which he received the Army Surgeon General's Challenge Coin for his contributions. In March 2020, MAJ Capps skills were put to the test in response to a real-world emergency. He deployed to the Javit Center in New York City to serve at the largest convention center in New York City, in the Army's medical support to

relieve the burden on city hospitals. MAJ Capps worked the floor and treated non-COVID+ cases initially, however, the mission quickly changed to treating only COVID-19+ cases. Undeterred, MAJ Capps remained on the floor treating the COVID-19+ cases. He saw a constant stream of new COVID-19+ admissions, working 12 hour shifts, 4 days in a row with the 5th day off. During his time at the Javit Center in NYC, 1,095 COVID+ patients received care, and MAJ Capps was personally involved in the care of over 350 COVID+ patients. Through his actions, MAJ Capps modeled the selfless service and dedication to duty that all members of the Army Dental Corps strive to attain.



In his free time, MAJ Capps enjoys sailing and spending time with his family and he misses the mountains of Washington State.



THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

AOC SPOTLIGHT: 63F, PROSTHODONTICS

We should all be proud of being part of Army Dentistry! I am amazed with the entire Army Dentistry Team's efficient response to the many challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has presented. How promptly we have established new practices to support the mission while maintaining the safety of our workforce and patients is highly impressive and something to be proud of. Hooah!

This time of adversity has been particularly challenging for our postgraduate dental education programs. However, with unsurpassed flexibility, commitment and tireless efforts, the Postgraduate Prosthodontic Residency Program at Ft Gordon managed to maintain its academic curriculum allowing the senior residents to complete all graduation requirements. Various VTC platforms and the Uniformed Services University SAKAI website were used to conduct classes, literature reviews, webinar and treatment planning discussions, quizzes and mock board examinations. Impressively, all these new education platforms were introduced and perfected within days.

Congratulations to our 2020 prosthodontic residency graduates, [MAJ Ryan Coello](#), [MAJ Jenny Oh](#), [MAJ Joshua Sparks](#), and [MAJ Joshua Waldron](#). Over the past three years, they had to make tremendous sacrifice and are deserving of high recognition. To learn more about each graduating resident and look at some of their clinical work, click on their respective name.



Fort Gordon Postgraduate Prosthodontic Residency Program 2020 graduates from left to right, CPT(P) Jenny Oh, MAJ Joshua Sparks, CPT(P) Ryan Coello, and MAJ Joshua Waldron.



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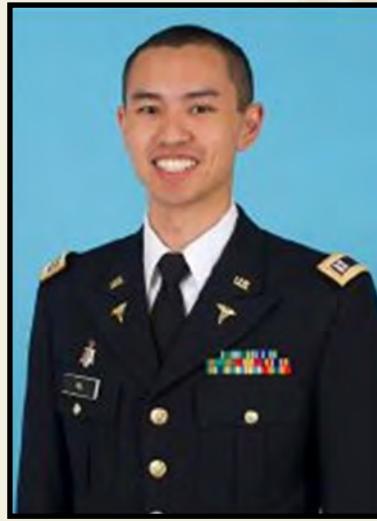
AOC SPOTLIGHT: 63F, PROSTHODONTICS CONTINUED

IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT WORK!



Top Left: Endo-Perio-Pros challenged the Escape Rooms

Top Right: FT Gordon Marine Mud Challenge, from left to right, MAJ Thomas Millstead, MAJ Joshua Waldron, COL Cynthia Aita-Homes, CPT Patricia Walworth, MAJ Jordan Bell



Far Left:

Congratulations to MAJ Julie Xue for her second place finish in the 2019 John J. Sharry Research Competition. The title of her research was "Effect of Manufacturer and Laboratory Processing Variability on Pre-shaded Ceramic Color".

Immediate Left:

Congratulation to CPT Eric Hu for his first place in the 2020 Joseph L. Bernier Awards competition. The title of his research was "Effects of Screw Angulation of Reverse Torque Values of Dental Implant Abutment Screw".

As we continue to face today's trying times, I would like to leave you with a quote from Bob Riley,

"Hard times don't create heroes. It is during the hard times when the 'hero' within us is revealed".

POC for this article is COL Cynthia Aita-Holmes – Prosthodontic Consultant to TSG – cynthia.m.aitaholmes.mil@mail.mil



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FY21 LONG TERM HEALTH EDUCATION MEMORANDUM OF INSTRUCTION

Interested in Long Term Health Education with the Army? Check out the Memorandum of Instruction for the FY 2021 Dental Corps Long Term Health Education and Training (LTHET) Selection Panel [HERE](#).

Application Deadline	August 7th, 2020
Telephonic Interviews	September 7-11th 2020
Panel Convenes	October 5th, 2020

POC: COL Pete Guevara, peter.h.guevara.mil@mail.mil

ARMY DENTAL COPRS MEDALLION POLICY UPDATE

SUMMARY: Recognition is for 30 years of service. Requests for an ETP may be submitted for those who have served 25 years. Requests must be submitted 60 days prior to presentation date in order to ensure time for processing and mailing. The DENTAC Commander is the approval authority and must sign the request. Items required with every submission: request in memorandum format, justification narrative, retirement orders, ORB/ERB/SRB with updated photo or Civilian personnel data sheet.. View guidelines and instructions for submissions [HERE](#)

ACFT 2.0

ARMY DIRECTIVE 2020-06 ARMY COMBAT FITNESS TEST

As of 01 October 2020, the Army Combat Fitness Test 2.0 will replace the Army Physical Fitness Test as our test of record. Just like our Army, the way we assess physical fitness continues to evolve. We're moving forward so we can become stronger and healthier for our Nation.

FY20 MAJOR MEDICAL CORPS AND DENTAL CORPS SELECTION RESULTS

28 MAY 20

Congratulations to all those selected by the board for future promotion to the rank of Major. This is an achievement for which you can be justifiably proud!

For the list, click [HERE](#)



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ADL UPDATES

For those entering the Army and for those who have not sent anything to the ADL in the past year or so, the ADL is using a prescription writing program called "Labtrac Connect." In order to begin submitting prescriptions, you will need to create an account. There are three training videos you will need to watch. The videos can be found on the CDS homepage on the right side under HELPFUL LINKS. They are titled "Labtrac Training." Please watch them as they have the information you need to register and how to submit lab prescriptions.

Some helpful hints include:

1. Do NOT create your own password
2. Change to Universal for numbering (NOT FDI)
3. You will NOT receive an email saying you are registered.
When you complete registration, exit out of the program and go back in and you should have access
4. Providers need to e-mail the ADL at the digital front desk e-mail (usarmy.gordon.medcom-eamc.list.dental-lab-digital front-desk@mail.mil) to be put into the ADL system. Email the ADL and let us know your:
 - 1) military e-mail
 - 2) duty station
 - 3) specific clinic assigned

If the ADL does not have the provider in the system then the account that they register for will not sync. Therefore, a provider may have access to Labtrac, but they will not be able to submit a case until they are in the ADL system.

POC: COL Jennifer Sabol, jennifer.v.sabol.mil@mail.mil

The screenshot shows the CDS homepage with various links and sections. The 'Helpful Links' section on the right is circled in red, highlighting the 'Labtrac Training' link under the 'Information' heading. Other links in the 'Information' section include 'oneSOURCE (FU & SWS)', 'TriService Treatment Needs Army Guidelines', 'CDS Newsletters', 'EBSCO-Search Site', 'EBSCO Connect-Training', 'Bar Code Scanner PDF', 'Patient Safety Reporting', 'DoD 2019 CDT Codes', 'DoD 2018 CDT Codes', 'Dental Lab Proc CLVs Code Book', and 'Patient Satisfaction Survey'.

MILPER 20-159 ANNOUNCES FY20 AMEDD SENIOR SERVICE COLLEGE (SSC)

SUMMARY: The FY20 Active Component (AC) Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Senior Service College (SSC) Selection Board Zone Message selects eligible AMEDD officers to attend Academic Year (AY) 2021-2022 resident SSC, United States Army War College (USAWC) Fellowships for SSC credit, and AY 2021-2023 Army War College Distance Education Program (AWCDEP). The FY20 Active Component (AC) Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Senior Service College (SSC) selection board convenes on 25 August 2020. Officers incur a two year active duty service obligation (ADSO) upon completion or termination of SSC. This includes the AWCDEP. [LINK](#)



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A DENTIST'S MOBILIZATION FOR THE COVID RESPONSE MISSION

By MAJ Sara Mandell, 151st Medical Detachment / 11th Field Hospital

Last Spring, I received PCS orders to the 151st Medical Detachment after graduation from my Comprehensive Dentistry Residency at Fort Bragg. This was the first time in my 7-year Army career that I was not assigned to a Dental Health Activity and my first experience as a MTOE Assigned Personnel (MAP). The 151st Medical Detachment falls under the 11th Field Hospital (FH) and 9th Hospital Center (HC). I had no idea what to expect. Fast forward to March 2020, a few range qualifications and a validation exercise later, my unit was placed on Prepare to Deploy Orders after COVID-19 began spreading across the United States.



Within one week of being put on orders, the 9th HC was on a plane to New York City (NYC). We were part of a Multi-National Joint Task Force Civil Support Response to help flatten the COVID-19 curve and decompress New York City hospitals. Nearly 1,000 personnel from the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, U.S. Public Health Service, National Disaster Medical System, Health and Human Services, Federal Emergency Management Association, state governments and civilian volunteers were working together. We set up operations in the Javits Convention Center on the west side of Manhattan alongside the Hudson River. This convention center would become the largest inpatient hospital in the entire Department of Defense.

(Continued)



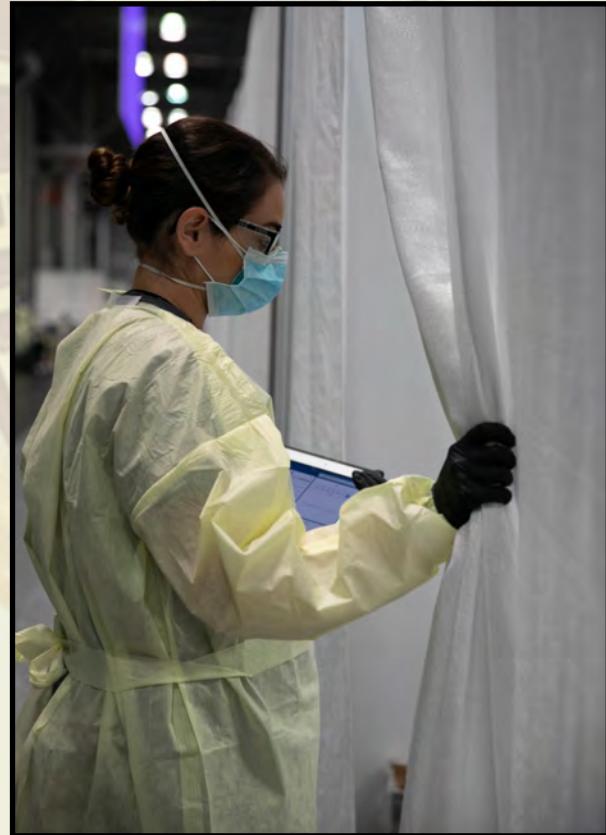
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A DENTIST'S MOBILIZATION FOR THE COVID RESPONSE MISSION CONTINUED

New York City was a true ghost town upon arrival. There were very few cars on the roads and almost no people were walking on the streets. It was an unsettling sight at first for the city that never sleeps. In contrast to Texas, everyone in NYC was wearing masks or face coverings and staying inside. No stores were open and the restaurants that were open were doing takeout and delivery only. The influx of personnel at Javits kept a few local restaurants in business with all of our takeout orders. The people of New York City were extremely supportive of all military personnel while we were there, as with all of the healthcare workers – with nightly 7pm cheers from their windows.

Our initial mission was to care for non-COVID patients, in hopes of decompressing the New York City hospital system so that they could take in more COVID patients. Due to low patient census in the first few days after opening its doors, the mission at Javits Medical Station shifted to caring for COVID patients. We felt there was more we could do to help New York. By the end of our 4-week mission, we treated 1,095 patients. While that does not seem like a lot of patients, the feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive and the NYC hospitals said they felt the relief in their emergency rooms and inpatient wards.

With two Hospital Centers, the 9th HC and the 531st HC out of Fort Campbell, we had two Comprehensive Dentists and two oral surgeons on our dental team. The comprehensive dentists were MAJ Kyle Reed and myself. The oral surgeons included LTC Zachary Highberger and MAJ Byron Capps. My dental techs included SPC Jessica Allen from the 502nd Dental Company and SGT Jules Mitrovich from the 151st Medical Detachment. Since dental treatment in the COVID-19 era has shifted to emergencies only, we did not treat any patients for dental issues at Javits. So as dentists, what did we do? The oral surgeons provided direct patient care to COVID-19 patients on the ward and ICU. As for MAJ Reed and myself, we triaged and referred dental sick call of our Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen to our colleagues at the West Point DENTAC and found administrative jobs to help the hospital run efficiently. MAJ Reed helped coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to transport patients from the NYC hospitals to Javits. My job was to help set up and integrate an electronic medical record (EMR). (Continued)





THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

A DENTIST'S MOBILIZATION FOR THE COVID RESPONSE MISSION CONTINUED

The medical software company EPIC partnered with the New York Health and Hospital system and donated a free version of Epic Cantu for use at Javits. The city of New York procured 300 iPads overnight to deploy the EMR. It was my job, alongside my colleague MAJ Tara Ortiz, a urologist at Fort Hood, to make the software usable in a field hospital environment. In addition to making the software functional, we trained over 500 personnel in a 4 day period. We worked 12-14 hours a day working to get the job done. We completed a successful beta test of the product but due to account creation limitations, we were unable to push our product to the floor. On the positive side, the New York Department of Health was impressed with our ability to implement the software into a field hospital. They presented our work the New York Health Commissioner and proposed implementation of EPIC into non-hospital settings, such as the public school system and outlying clinics.

After completion of the EPIC Beta testing, I was on the hunt for another job. As the patient census dropped toward the end of our mission, I volunteered to assist with a research study that evaluated the efficacy of our personal protective equipment (PPE) protocols for clinical personnel caring for COVID-19 patients at Javits. LTC Travis Clifton and LTC Brad Bandera designed a research study looking at antibodies to COVID-19 in Soldiers who came to NYC from areas with low prevalence of COVID-19. Javits had a very labor and personnel intensive donning and doffing procedure. It required Soldiers providing direct guidance on proper technique and assisting with application of decontamination spray. Soldiers from the 9th Hospital Center from Fort Hood and the 531st HC from Fort Campbell were selected as the research cohort. We administered a 10-minute qualitative antibody point of care test, blood draw for quantitative antibody testing, as well as a nasal swab. By the end of this mission, I had personally received 4 nasal swabs. Not the most exciting thing to receive but worth it in the name of science!

While I was not practicing dentistry on my mobilization to NYC, I was supporting an important and historical mission. Prior to this mission as a MAP dentist, I spent the majority of my time working within the Dental Health Activity. I did not know many people within my unit or within the field hospital. Now I have befriended another group of like-minded individuals. Additionally, I have a better understanding of what our medical colleagues do and how we can all work together to support the same mission.

Written By MAJ Sara Mandell, 151st Medical Detachment / 11th Field Hospital, sara.e.mandell.mil@mail.mil