



Association of Army Dentistry (AAD)

Winter 2021 Newsletter

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On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Association of Army Dentistry, I wish each of our members and their families a Happy Holidays and a happy and healthy New Year.

As I prepare this newsletter, the Nation has just commemorated the 90th anniversary of the attacks at Pearl Harbor, a "day that will live in infamy," and brought the United States into World War II. The greatest generation answered the call of duty to win that war and preserve the freedoms of not only the United States, but also our allies. MG (Ret) Ted Wong recently helped honor some of the last few surviving Chinese-American WWII II veterans and relays his experiences later in the newsletter. COL (Ret) George Hucal reports on his recent experiences at the Fall Dental Conference in Garmisch, Germany, with those presently serving.

Please keep our brave young men and women serving around the world protecting our freedoms in your thoughts and prayers during the holidays and throughout the year. As we close out 2021, cherish each day as it comes and be thankful for your blessings, family, and friends. The AAD provides an excellent mechanism to keep in touch with old friends, while making new ones. God Bless America!

Ron

Ronald J. Lambert, COL, USA (Ret)

President and Chair, Association of Army Dentistry

Membership

Congressional Gold Medal for Chinese-American World War II Veterans

M. Ted Wong, MG, US Army Retired

I recently had the distinct privilege to participate with other retired Chinese-American General Officers in several ceremonies in Fresno, Los Angeles and Phoenix that honored Chinese-American Veterans of World War II by awarding them a replica Congressional Gold Medal. During the past six months, other in-person Regional Congressional Gold Medal Ceremonies took place across the country to include Boston, Philadelphia, Houston, Chicago, Seattle, New York, San Francisco, and Washington DC. It was a long overdue recognition for a group of selfless, courageous, and humble American patriots who answered the Nation's call to duty. In addition to the honor of handing out the CGMs, I was personally rewarded by meeting and talking with living Chinese-American WWII Veterans and their families, listening to remarkable stories of service to the Nation both during and after the war, and observing the respect and admiration given to these Veterans who are a part of "The Greatest Generation." Many family members proudly held photographs of their father/mother or grandfather/grandmother in their military uniform.

An estimated 20,000 Chinese-Americans, men and women, (of which 40% were not US Citizens) served in all uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marines), in all theaters of operation during WWII, and in desegregated units. They served in a variety of roles to include infantry Soldier, tanker, sailor, fighter pilot, supply sergeant, military intelligence officer, artilleryman, nurse and medic, and truck driver. Their selfless acts of loyalty, courage, and patriotism occurred at a time when Chinese-Americans faced the discriminatory impacts of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 as well as wide-spread national and institutional discrimination. There is an estimated 300 surviving Chinese-American WWII Vets, though the number decreases rapidly.

Through tireless efforts by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, many retired and active duty General Officers, and members of Congress, the 115th Congress passed the Chinese-American WWII Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act, which was signed into law by then-President Trump on Dec 20, 2018. On Dec 9, 2020, Congress held a virtual National Congressional Gold Medal presentation ceremony, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iETfRFJHtm4>. Work continues on identifying and recognizing Chinese-American WWII Veterans through the Chinese-American WWII Veterans Recognition Project, www.caww2.org.





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OF THE UNITED STATES



DISTINGUISHED APPRECIATION—Christian Tom and his mom, Cathy, accept a Bronze Star and a Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of Cathy's father, George D. Soo Hoo, for 11 Chinese American Army veterans' World War II service. The presentation was made Nov. 14 at the Museum of Military History in Sino. On hand for the ceremony were, from left retired Maj. Gen. M. Ted Wong, Robert D. F. Lee and Suzanne Puente-Vero Lora. Photos by RICHARD GILLARD/Asian Newspapers



AAD Board Member Appointed as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of Defense.

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Army appointed Peter Tan as a new Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) during an investiture ceremony on Nov. 16 at the Pentagon. The Secretary of the Army, Christine Wormuth, swore in Tan as a CASA for Florida (North). Nine new CASAs, representing communities across the U.S. and its territories, were appointed during the ceremony.

“I am truly honored and humbled that Secretary Wormuth has selected me for this crucial position for the Department of the Army,” said Tan. “I look forward with exhilaration to enlighten and expound on the Army story that has blessed our family for four generations. The strength of our nation is our Army; the strength of our Army is our Soldiers; the strength of our Soldiers is our families. I am looking forward to serving our nation by providing integral support to Soldiers and families once again.”

Tan was an Army ROTC early commission field artillery officer and attended the University of Notre Dame. He retired after 36 years as the Reserve Regional Dental Commander for the Pacific and Europe, where he was a commander for the Army Reserve Medical Command and the 807th Medical Command. He was also the DIMA Dental Corps Chief, the highest-ranking Reserve Dental Corps officer at the Office of The Surgeon General and the Pentagon. He retired as an oral and maxillofacial surgeon after 30 years of private practice.

Tan now serves his community as a partner at Academic Innovation Partners; on the board of trustees for HCA Oak Hill Hospital; the board of directors for the Association of Army Dentistry; as Army Medicine Ambassador for the Army Surgeon General; vice president for the Military Officers Association-Citrus County Chapter; vice president for the Association of the United States Army-Suncoast Chapter; and as an officer for his council and assembly for the Knights of Columbus.

CASAs promote good relations between the Army and the public, advise the Secretary about regional issues, support the total Army workforce, and assist with recruiting and helping Soldiers as they transition out of the military. Each state, the District of Columbia, and the five U.S. territories have one or more CASAs appointed to provide a vital link between the Army and the communities they serve. Tan is one of seven CASAs representing Florida. CASAs are usually business or civic leaders who possess a keen interest in the welfare of the Army and their communities. “You are ambassadors of the Army, but, moreover, you are sensors to tell us what is resonating in your communities and what is not,” said Wormuth during the ceremony.

https://www.army.mil/article/252034/secretary_of_the_army_appoints_nine_new_civilian_aides

WHY GARMISCH?

COL (RET) GEORGE HUCAL

A trip to Garmisch, Germany, first came up when I saw that a long awaited cruise we were planning finished in Venice on October 24th. I wrote to the Commander, COL Manuel Pozo Alonzo, to secure a seat for the Symposium-event and off Gina and I went. For those who have never been to the Europe Region's Army Dental training event, it is one of magic, beauty, and embodies the six pillars of the AAD mission statement; 1) Morale, and Esprit de corps, 2) Recruitment and Retention, 3) Dental Education, 4) Coaching and Mentoring, 5) Honoring service and 6) Army Dental History. Just being in Garmisch gives one a feeling of exhilaration and elevation of one's spirit the minute one arrives. This 63rd excellence symposium took place at the MWR Edelweiss Lodge - a true luxury resort in Bavaria. Being around dental officers from our two sister services and the host country Germans, along with the Canadian, British, Belgian, and Dutch fills one with goodwill and rapport among friends; a true comradeship. The quality of the lectures and hands on training were second to none. Especially notable were hands on courses on the latest CAD CAM techniques, OMFS management of dental trauma and emergencies, Aerosol free treatment for kids, special forces, and special needs. Evidence based Minimally Invasive dentistry and a TED-talk worthy Endodontics review lecture. Our host country provided a lecture in Safety standards for deployed dental care and Covid-19. Although due to Covid pandemic precautions, all indoor strictly social events were canceled, the traditional Dental Corps Chief's hike for those junior officers who were recognized for their performance and future potential took place along with the commanders was given the honor to participate and get to know some phenomenally talented, vibrant, and upbeat junior Army dental officers. Before I knew it, the week was over, the closing ceremony where we were serenaded by the local German Bundeswehr brass band with closing remarks given by Brig Gen Robert Bogart, the current US Air Force Dental Corps chief who was in attendance. And to answer the question..."why Garmisch?" Because there is no finer place to take a break and partake in world class training and to rub elbows with old friends, make new friends, and to strengthen our strategic partnership with our sister services and our European NATO Allies.





AAD STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

Over the last year, the AAD initiated a strategic planning effort and was fortunate to enlist the assistance of two US Army-Baylor Healthcare Administration Residents, CPT David Attanasio, MS, and CPT Elizabeth Lee, MS. Through their efforts and hard work, David and Elizabeth reviewed and evaluated our current structure and operations (from organization, activities, vision and mission, marketing, goals and objectives, etc.), surveyed current members, assessed our outreach activities, and developed solutions to perceived and identified issues/challenges.

The last edition of the newsletter reported on the ongoing strategic planning work that was being done in conjunction with US Army-Baylor Healthcare Administration residents, CPT David Attanasio, MS, and CPT Elizabeth Lee, MS. As the first part of that initiative, the AAD Board of Directors developed vision and mission statements for the organization. The AAD would like to thank all members who participated in the survey sent out this summer. The Association of Army Dentistry's Vision and Mission Statements are displayed below:



The Association of Army Dentistry

VISION

"The Association of Army Dentistry honors our past, prepares for the present, and inspires the future of Army Dentistry."

MISSION

"The mission of the Association of Army Dentistry is to advance Army Dentistry by promoting morale, esprit de corps; supporting activities focused on recruitment and retention; providing dental education, and coaching/mentoring; recognizing those who serve and have served the Nation via Army Dentistry; and, fostering an appreciation of the history and accomplishments of Army Dentistry."

STRATEGIC PILLARS

1. Morale and Esprit de Corps.
2. Recruitment and Retention.
3. Dental Education.
4. Coaching and Mentoring.
5. Honoring Service.
6. Army Dentistry History.

As we implement these initiatives, please continue to provide feedback on how we can better communicate with members and better serve members of the Association of Army Dentistry and the Army Dental Corps.

Army Dentistry Monument

COL (Ret) Robert Stieneker

The AAD received long awaited approval from the Secretary of the Air Force for the Army Dentistry Monument on 21 October 2021. Subsequently, the AAD received approval for a temporary construction easement by the Joint Base San Antonio Facilities Board on 17 December 2021. This will allow our contractors to get onto post and perform monument construction work at the AMEDD Museum, starting shortly after the first of the year. The first step in the construction process will be excavating, forming, and pouring concrete for walkways, the pad for the statue, and the back walls. Thirty days after the concrete is poured, it will be cured enough for the two granite benches and nine monoliths to be installed.

The AAD is currently evaluating Bid for Proposals from two well established bronze foundries for the statue depicting a dental officer, dental specialist, and soldier patient, which will be the centerpiece of the monument. (Please see below).

Thanks to Mr. Nolan A. (Andy Watson), AMEDD Center of History and Heritage, the AAD now has a landing platform at the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence. <https://medcoe.army.mil/amedd-army-dental-corps> Ms. Paulina Shrader at U.S. Army Medical Department Video (MEDVID) is working with Mr. Watson to create the audiovisuals (AVs) for each of the nine monoliths. These nine videos will be accessible by visitors to the monument through QR codes. Once the QR codes of the videos are completed, they will then be turned into bronze plaques for embedment in the monoliths.

The AAD has received many generous donations from members and we are well on the way to funding the project. For those members who wish to assist in funding the project, please consider providing a tax-free year-end donation to the AAD's Army Dentistry Monument Fund. All donations are greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged with a letter for tax purposes.

Contribution levels that will be recognized on bronze plaques on the monument are as follows:

Marshall Society - \$10,000 and above
President's Circle - \$5,000 to \$9,999
Founders Circle - \$2,500 to \$4,999
Friends of Army Dentistry - \$1,000 to \$2,499
In Remembrance - \$1,000

Donations should be mailed to the following address:

Association of Army Dentistry
914 P Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001



VOLUNTEERS

The AAD is actively looking for volunteers for Social Director(s) to help plan and execute events as well as someone with expertise in information technology to assist with our IT requirements. With elections coming up after the first of the year for the 2022 AAD Board of Directors, we are also looking at members who may have an interest in serving on our board. If you are interested, please contact the AAD at assoc.army.dentistry@gmail.com

Active Component News

Army Dental Corps Bulletin

The Army Dental Corps Bulletin has been revised and the November and December editions are now available to the public. The link to the Bulletins on the AAD's website is below:

<https://www.associationofarmydentistry.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Army%20Dentistry%20Bulletin%20Vol.%205%20No.11.pdf>

Reserve Components News

COL Lichelle Aldana

Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo J. Olegario is a dental officer with the 455th Dental Company Area Support (DCAS) at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. He joined the U.S. Army Reserves in 2001 and his service includes deployments to Iraq in 2003 and Kosovo in 2010. Additionally, LTC Olegario is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Comprehensive Care, Division of Operative Dentistry since 1999 at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine (TUSDM). He graduated with a B.A. in Biology at Rutgers University and received his D.M.D. at TUSDM in 1995. He has a private practice in Dartmouth, Massachusetts.

LTC Olegario's dedication to Army values and continued enthusiasm to teach aspiring dentists make him a natural fit to be the Tufts faculty advisor to the U.S. Armed Forces Health Professional Scholarship Program (HPSP). The Army HPSP provides excellent benefits and scholarships to those who are planning a career in health care or are currently in a health care graduate program. All HPSP students enter the program as a second lieutenant in the Army Reserve. After graduation Medical, Dental and Veterinary students will be commissioned, enter active duty, and be promoted to captain.

As the HPSP faculty advisor, LTC Olegario provides mentorship and organizes activities that highlight Army life and experience to about 20 Tufts HPSP dental students currently in the program. Recent activities focused on fitness to introduce some events from the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT). The group also participated at the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) 5K held in Boston in November 2021.



LTC Olegario (left) tests his fitness endurance with TUSDM HPSP dental students.



LTC Olegario (right) and TUSDM HPSP students participate in the DAV 5K Boston.

Social Media

Please visit the AAD's Facebook page to receive the latest news from throughout the Army Dental Care System and Army Medicine. Please check it out now!

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

In Memoriam

- Thomas Joseph Jost, COL, USA (Ret) 12/1/1932 – 1/1/2021

The AAD received word this fall of the passing of COL Thomas Jost in Vail, Colorado. After graduation from the University of Iowa, College of Dentistry,

in 1958, he joined the Army as a 1LT in the Army Internship Program at Fort Lewis, WA. After completing his Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery residency at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, COL Jost was stationed at the 24th Evacuation Hospital in Long Bin, Vietnam, where he was awarded the Bronze Star with Four Oak Leaf Clusters for valor. To read more about his distinguished military service and his retirement in Vail, Colorado, please follow the link below.

- <https://www.associationofarmydentistry.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Jost%2C%20COL%20%28Ret%29%20Thomass%20Joseph%2012-1-1932%20--%201-09-2021.pdf>

We post the obituaries that are brought to our attention; if there are others that you wish to share on our website, 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/>

Conclusion:

If any of our members have input for the Board of Directors of the AAD or wish to share an article for the newsletter, please forward your recommendations or articles to the email address below.

The AAD would like to thank each of you for your continued membership and support of our charitable mission. If any of our members 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

Please keep our men and women in uniform in your thoughts and prayers as they continue their missions around the world - God Bless America!

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