



THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

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Dental Officer's Call to Command

By: LTC Jim Giesen

To paraphrase one of my mentors, the privilege of being a commander is one of highest callings an Army Officer can achieve. As the Dental Corps (DC) becomes further integrated into the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) and Defense Health Agency, it is paramount that qualified and enthusiastic DC Officers answer the call to command at all levels. Specifically, DC Majors and Lieutenant Colonels should identify opportunities to command at the Dental Clinic Command (DCC) level to better prepare for positions of higher responsibility. DC Officers can now compete for branch-immaterial positions and roles across the AMEDD and the Army that did not exist five years ago. The experience of command at any level will

best prepare DC Officers for higher levels of responsibility. I was fortunate to take command of the Carlisle Barracks DCC in 2019, overseeing clinics at Carlisle Barracks, PA and Fort Detrick, MD. Through this experience I came to appreciate how the Dental Clinic is an essential partner to garrison operations.

Until I became a DCC Commander I must admit I didn't quite understand the position. Like many in the DC, I knew the roles of a clinic OIC and the DENTAC Commander, but I was uncertain of the role and responsibilities of the DCC Commander until I became one myself. Truly it is a hybrid position with some elements of each role. Chiefly, the commander is responsible to ensure the dental clinics are able to provide dental readiness to our patient populations, to direct the unit to support the garrisons in their overall missions, as well as enhance the mission readiness of the unit Soldiers themselves. While clinic OICs and NCOICs carry out daily operations, the commander works with these individuals to help overcome any roadblocks that may arise. Much of my day is spent coordinating resources for the clinics to function with minimal disruption. My day might include meeting with facilities managers to draw up plans for physical additions to improve safety or modernize clinics, working with logistics personnel to acquire equipment to improve efficiencies and better serve our patients, or coordinating personnel to meet shortages and other operational demands. I also continue to see patients as it works with the administrative





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schedule. The DCC Commander must synthesize the knowledge of managing a dental clinic, along with understanding the larger Army mission, in order to provide assistance for internal clinic operations and ensure appropriate support for partner units.

As the senior dental representative on post, I serve as the liaison to the garrison community on all dental issues and concerns. Further, being on a small installation, I am one of only several field grade commanders on the garrison, and am often included in larger discussions concerning wide-reaching topics. During the past several years, I regularly briefed the installation leaders on aspects concerning our COVID risk-mitigating strategies, as well as on improvements the clinic made to heighten the patient experience. These discussions have greatly improved my insight into planning and operations at various levels.

As commander, I am responsible for not only the continued operations of the dental clinics, but also every aspect of the personnel assigned to them. In my role, I have the ability to directly influence the training priorities of the unit, the climate and culture, and can make a tangible influence on a Soldier or civilian employee's career. Over the past several years, nearly every Soldier in our unit experienced some personal hardship. As commander, I was able to coordinate resources to best support these Soldiers through their circumstances. Conversely, I also have the means to support Soldiers for positive events, providing a path for Soldiers to attend schools, Green to Gold programs, specialty residencies, and courses like Air Assault and the Expert Field Medic Badge course. The ability to assist and train Soldiers and civilians is one of the greatest rewards of being in command.

I would recommend the experience of command to any Officer who wishes to directly influence and impact the personnel and operations of a unit. Although it has been challenging, I am grateful for the opportunity. The skills I learned as a DCC commander will no doubt serve me well as I take command of a DENTAC next year. The best ways to prepare for a DCC command position are to spend time as a clinic OIC, and to complete ILE prior to beginning command. An understanding for 'How the Army Runs' will greatly enhance the success of the unit, as will any experiences on deployments or in line units. As the operating environment of the Army Dental Corps and military medicine continues to evolve, it is essential we have a sufficient number of experienced and trained DC Officers to command our clinics and units.



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Dental Officer Leadership and Skills in the Field

By: MAJ Gamal Baker

As dental officers we have the responsibility of seeking and maintaining skills in two professions. We serve Soldiers by providing high quality dental care and we serve Soldiers as Army officers. Last month we discussed the role of the dental officer in FORSCOM/SOCOM units. In this article we will discuss the Army training that dental officers can pursue to show proficiencies in skills outside of dentistry.

Outside of Dentistry

As clinicians, we have demands and requirements to provide the best possible care to our patients, our Soldiers. Dental officers should also strive to understand the training requirements of our patients. As a FORSCOM dental officer, there are many opportunities to become familiar with combat unit requirements. Dental officers can attend schools alongside the Soldiers they are called to support. Completing these schools provides a new level of skill and knowledge for the dental officer. Earning the right to wear the badge on your uniform reflects the level of dedication and respect for the Army profession.

The United States Army has an extensive list of badges and tabs that are available for dental officers to earn. The three most common badges earned by dental officers are the Air Assault badge, Basic Parachutist (Airborne) badge, and Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB). Of these badges, it is the Expert Field Medical Badge that truly stands out. Considered the “badge of MEDCOM,” individuals that attempt to earn this badge attend two weeks of rigorous training and testing. The testing includes day and night land navigation, field medical treatment of casualties, evacuation of casualties, the management of CBRNE threats, a written test, and a 12-mile ruck march. Earning your EFMB is truly a mentally and physically demanding experience. However, the feeling of success once the badge is earned and the process of donning it for the first time is unrivaled. Everyone eligible for the badge is encouraged to attempt it. Earning it is icing on the cake.

Soldiers with Two Professions

The United States Army gives every enlisted member a military occupational specialty code, or MOS, that denotes their job description. Officers are given an





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Area of Concentration, or AOC, that serves in the same function as an MOS. The “63” AOC series belongs to dental officers of all specialties. The description included with an MOS and AOC describes only part of a Soldier’s or Officer’s responsibility; we are all required to uphold and do our best to exceed the standards placed upon us and, at a minimum, demonstrate competency in basic soldier skills. Firing and qualifying on your assigned weapon, understanding how to survive and operate in a field environment, and learning the skills of dealing with non-dental trauma are requirements for all members of the U.S. Army. These training opportunities can break up the daily



requirements of dentistry. As previously stated, balance between clinical skills and soldier skills is critically important because, while you may be a dental officer, dental assistant, or lab technician, you may be called to apply a tourniquet to a wounded Soldier in a mass casualty scenario or aid in perimeter defense on a small forward operating base. The more we can develop those non-clinical skills, the more prepared we can be for all situations we may be presented with.

The opportunities to learn and execute field dentistry, deploy, attend military schools outside of dentistry, and develop a Soldier mentality are available to dental officers. FORSCOM dentistry in all its facets is an amazing chance to be more than a clinical dentist. Practicing expeditionary dentistry demands master clinical skills while serving within the most demanding condition a medical professional can face. Dental officers have the responsibility to pursue proficiencies in both the Profession of Arms and the Profession of Dentistry.

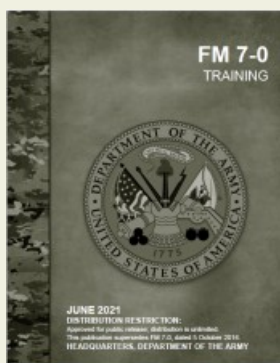


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DENTAL COMPANY (AREA SUPPORT) (DCAS) HIGHLIGHT

502nd DCAS: Back to Basics

In December 2021, the 502nd participated in a field training exercise (FTX) in conjunction with other elements of the 1st Medical Brigade. CPTs Sawyers and Shermetaro have coordinated the event with our medical colleagues. FM 7-0, Training, is the basis for executing tasks in Army training exercises. Basing training in doctrine ensures common operations and aids in calibrating all Soldiers, NCOs and Officers involved in the training planning and execution process. LTC David Dan-



tes, 502nd DCAS Commander, has set individual critical task list (ICTL) as the priority for training. The ICTLs form the base of the training pyramid, from which squad, platoon, and ultimately company tasks are trained. This approach to training ensures all members of the 502nd receive multiple repetitions and ultimately supports the Mission Essential Tasks (MET) at echelon. This FTX demonstrated the ability of dental jump-teams to load, unload, and set up dental field equipment to treat patients in a variety of remote locations. Lessons learned and gaps identified ensure that future FTXs and deployments are both smooth and optimized.



Rise Above!

1st Medical Brigade: School of Strong Knights

Every training event requires a knowledgeable leader who is synchronized with the higher command's priorities. The 1st Medical Brigade hold an Officer and NCO version of its School of Strong Knights with an objective to train all NCOs and Officers. In December 2021, CPT Sawyers, Forward Platoon Leader, attended the first rendition of the "Officer School of Strong Knights" course. The purpose of this nine day course is to bridge identified critical knowledge



SGT Carrera, SGT Cuevas, PFC Nunez, and PFC Valle set up for tailgate dentistry. Equipment is unload to set up a field clinic under a camo net supported by poles and trees.



Team practicing load plan. A load plan is important to ensure that all equipment can fit and that it is secure.



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DENTAL COMPANY (AREA SUPPORT) HIGHLIGHT

502nd DCA S: Back to Basics

gaps for pre-command and newly in command officers to facilitate effective, doctrinally-sound leadership.

CPT Sawyers studied alongside 7 fellow Captains within the Brigade, delving into topics such as: Unit Training Management; the Command Supply, Maintenance, and Deployment Discipline Programs; how to plan and conduct an ACFT; UCMJ actions; positive

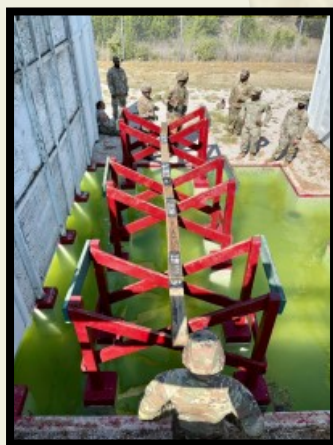
personnel actions; Commander and 1SG relationships; the Army Health System; and many more. The culminating event of the course was a field training exercise on December 15 and 16. The exercise incorporated situational field problems for the students to solve, based on blocks of instruction delivered earlier in the course. Upon graduation, CPT Sawyers and his counterparts were ready and well-resourced to support the complex mission requirements of the 1st Med Brigade.



The School of Strong Knights course prepares for convoy operations.



Soldiers practiced writing positive and negative event-oriented counseling statements during a tactical pause.



502nd DCAS soldiers stay rugged while planning a wet-gap crossing.



CPT Sawyers (middle) receives his Officer School of Strong Knights Certificate of Graduation from 1st Med BDE Commander, COL Giraud (left) and 1st Med BDE CSM Moran (right).



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DENTAL COMPANY (AREA SUPPORT) HIGHLIGHT

618th DCAS / Dental Health Activity—Korea

The 618th Dental Company (Area Support) is a unique unit. The Command structure supports both the 618th DCAS and the Dental Health Activity – Korea. The unit is the only dual-mission dental unit in the US Army. The 618th DCAS has the mission to be ready to transition to hostilities and support the 8th Army mission on the Korean peninsula. DHA-Korea has the armistice dental care mission. This mission includes the operation of multiple dental clinics providing dental care to all eligible beneficiaries across the peninsula. The challenge is to find the balance between these two critical missions.

We have dental clinics at across the Korean peninsula. Our largest clinic, the 79 chair Carius Dental Clinic supports Periodontics, Endodontics, Prosthodontics, Orthodontics, Pediatric Dentistry, Comprehensive and General Dentistry. Our remaining clinics support Comprehensive and General Dentistry. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery support comes from the surgeon assigned to the 121 Field Hospital.





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DENTAL COMPANY (AREA SUPPORT) HIGHLIGHT

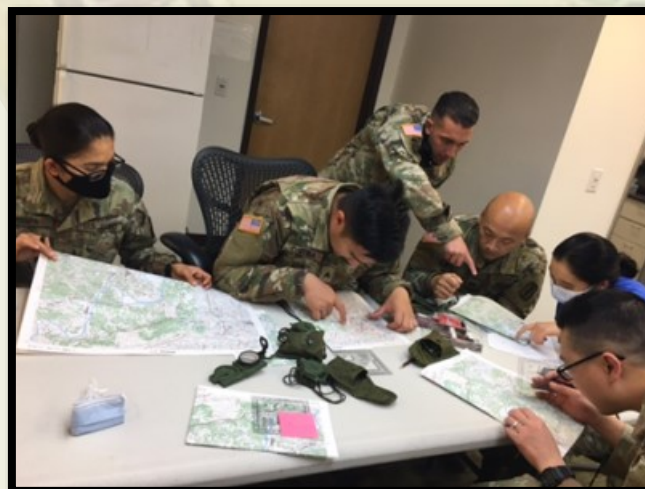
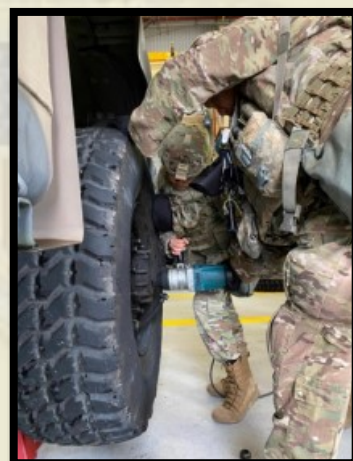
618th DCAS / Dental Health Activity—Korea

There are many professional opportunities for our providers here in Korea. The 38th Parallel Healthcare Training Symposium provides quality continuing education credit. In 2021, twenty seven (27) hours of CE were offered at this symposium. We also provide in-house CE opportunities. We also have officers attending Captains Career Course and officers selected for residency training. In the past two Long-Term Health Education and Training (LTHET) cycles we had officers selected for Comprehensive Dentistry, Orthodontics, Oral Surgery, Periodontics and Prosthodontics.

The Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB) is offered on the peninsula. There is no better place to train and prepare for this tough event. We have been successful in our training for Individual Critical Tasks (ICTL) as well as Army Warrior Training (AWT) tasks. To ensure their readiness, our Soldiers train on their assigned weapons in various environments. There is no shortage of training opportunities in Korea.

A tour in Korea is busy. It provides experience and professional training both as a Soldier and a Clinician. Our Service Members leave here with an increased knowledge and experience base and a sense of pride in a job well done.

Strike First! Always Ready!





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DENTAL COMPANY (AREA SUPPORT) HIGHLIGHT

257th Medical Company—(Dental Area Support) Deployment Experience

The 257th MC(DAS) Forward Treatment Platoon arrived in theater for a deployment in the Middle East. During their term abroad, the dental team provides operational dental services, including sick calls, dental examinations, dental evaluations, prophylaxis, oral surgery and restorative dentistry, in support of units in the area. Several teams could be forward deployed to support the Army's missions. The teams can be comprised of any combination of general dentists, dental specialists, OICs and NCOICs. A forward support team were sent to a Joint Training Center (JTC) to support the medical command missions. Another team was sent forward to treat immigrants and refugees from neighboring countries. A forward support team went to an austere location that was exposed to enemy attack. As a result, the Soldiers involved were awarded an Army Achievement Medal with "C" device.



During and in between forward missions, the 257th MC(DAS) provides dental support to United States and its allies in support of various operations abroad. Fulfilling another dental mission, the preventative dental specialists teamed up with the a veterinary support detachment to provide dental care to military working dogs (MWDs) in theater.

Deployment was not all about high tempo missions. Monthly morale days were held for rest and relaxation for the troops and to celebrate the promotion of our Soldiers. A number of Soldiers completed the ruck march in time to be awarded the Norwegian Foot March Badge, which was authorized to wear on the Army ASU.



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DENTAL COMPANY (AREA SUPPORT) HIGHLIGHT

673rd DCAS Update

Assisting with Dental Equipment Modernization

On May 17-20, 2021, the 673rd DCAS traveled to Fort Hood to support the testing of the Portable Dental Operating System for potential application in the field environment during future operations.



Change of Responsibility

At the end of July, 673rd DC(AS) held the Change of Responsibility ceremony bidding farewell to 1SG Graham and welcomed SFC Sierra as the acting 1SG. Prior to the ceremony, LTC Worrell awarded 1SG Graham the Meritorious Service Medal. 673rd DCAS cannot express enough gratitude to 1SG Graham for his hard work and dedication. Finishing strong on Week 43, 673rd DCAS successfully conducted the conducted small arms training and qualification on various weapon systems.





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DENTAL COMPANY (AREA SUPPORT) HIGHLIGHT

673rd DCAS Update

From September 27 through October 01, 2021, 673rd DCAS conducted the Company Field Training Exercise (FTX). The team demonstrated proficiency at their Warriors Tasks and Drills. Soldiers' dental readiness mission was accomplished by conducting quality patient care at the simulated field environment.



LTG Brunson greeted the 673rd DCAS Soldiers during his visit at the FTX.



CPT Truong and SPC Bravo-Sosa collaborated on patient care at the FTX.



Platoon Leaders briefed the Team on the layout of the FTX.



Morning formation during the Company FTX.



Forward Dental Team

CPT Pink (right) and CPL Bennett (left) volunteered to be the Forward Detachment Team to Task Force Medical 16 in support of the operations in the Middle East. The team had the great privilege to provide care to many service members at the US Embassy.



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DENTAL HEALTH COMMAND – EUROPE UPDATE

Romania Dental Mission with 167th Medical Augmentation Detachment

In July 2021, MAJ Chen, Comprehensive Dentist and PFC Nicholas, Dental Specialist from 512th Field Hospital and SPC Simpson from the 557th Medical Company Area Support provided dental services in Romania. These Dental Corps Soldiers completed dental readiness examinations and DRC 3 treatments referred through International SOS-Tricare. The mission supports dental readiness for Soldiers lacking dental support in U.S. Army Europe-Africa area of operations.



SPC Simpson, MAJ Chen and PFC Nicolas providing dental care.

DENTAC Bavaria supports Retiree Appreciation Day

DENTAC Bavaria personnel provided dental services during the Retiree Appreciation Day serving over 234 retirees, spouses and surviving family members within the area of responsibility.





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DENTAL HEALTH COMMAND – EUROPE UPDATE

Vogelweh Elementary School Dental Health Screenings

Volunteers from the Landstuhl Specialty Dental Clinic teamed up with representatives from the optometry and audiology clinics to provide preventative health screenings for all students at Vogelweh Elementary School. Each child received a dental screening exam, oral hygiene instruction, and a goodie bag with floss and toothbrush to encourage excellent oral hygiene practices at home. Those who had visible oral health problems were sent home with notification to the parents indicating the need to schedule follow up care.



Mrs. Jackson and PFC Oh provided goodie bags!



LTC Jeong and MAJ Snow conduct the dental screenings, aided by SGT Kibbet and Mrs. Jackson.



LTC Cabanada-Logan providing exams.

Volunteering in Italy

Soldiers from DENTAC-Italy volunteered recently to support an annual pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Saint Mary of Mount Berico in Vicenza, Italy. The Soldier volunteers handed out bottled water to participants, ensured social distancing was maintained and assisted in managing the entry and exit points to ensure proper access requirements and overall safety of the crowd.





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DENTAL HEALTH COMMAND – EUROPE UPDATE



Soldiers from DENTAC Bavaria served as the color guard for the Garmisch Dental Excellence Symposium and were recognized for their outstanding performance.



Congratulations to SPC Wirth and SPC Stout on graduating BLC. SPC Wirth achieved Honor Graduate!



Congratulations to SGT Bautista and CPL Wu promoted to SSG and SGT.



Congratulations to SPC Lama promoting to CPL.