



THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

Useful Links

- ♦ [National Defense Strategy](#)
- ♦ [2022-23 Army Medicine Campaign Plan](#)

Dental Corps

- ♦ [Army Dental Corps](#)
- ♦ [Dental Directorate SharePoint](#)
- ♦ [Dental Corps History](#)

HRC/Personnel Links

- ♦ [HRC \(DC OPMD\)](#)
- ♦ [AIM 2.0](#)
- ♦ [IPPS-A](#)
- ♦ [FY22 Board Schedule](#)
- ♦ [Promotion/Selection Results](#)
- ♦ [LTHET FY21 Results](#)

Dental Education/CE

- ♦ [USU Postgraduate Dental College](#)
- ♦ [AMEDD Virtual Library—Dentistry](#)
- ♦ [Army Blackboard](#)

Patient Safety/Infection Prevention and Control

- ♦ [MHS Patient Safety Program](#)
- ♦ [Infection Control](#)
- ♦ [CDC - Dental settings](#)
- ♦ [The Joint Commission- Dental](#)

Miscellaneous

- ♦ [Broadening Opportunities program \(B.O.P\)](#)
- ♦ [Post 9/11 GI Bill Benefits/Transferability & Yellow Ribbon Program](#)

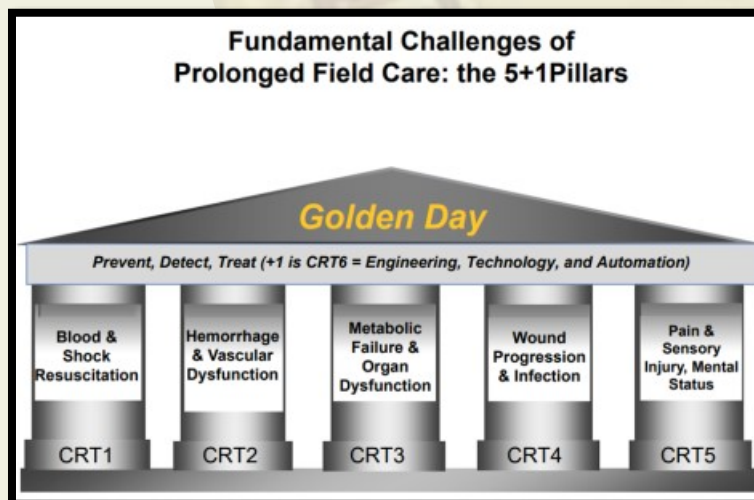


Dental Corps Officers Contribute to Combat Casualty Research

Dental Corps officers join forces with scientists, clinicians, and various research collaborators at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research (USAISR) to make meaningful contributions to the institution's research mission. Dental-specific research projects no longer exist at the USAISR; however, Dental Corps officers utilize an unconventional skillset to advance research related to battlefield-relevant injuries ranging from bleeding to infection to pain. Specific assignments depend on the skills and experience of the officer; however, the range of opportunities spans the spectrum from direct involvement in research to serving in senior leadership positions within the institute.

The USAISR, located in Joint Base San Antonio, is one of eight subordinate Commands of Medical Research and Development Command (MRDC). The MRDC research mission focuses on research and development specific to the military's unique medical readiness requirements. The research is programmatic, meaning it is driven by identified medical capability gaps vetted through a medical Capability-Based Assessment conducted and approved by senior army leaders and the Army's Combat Development and Integration Directorate (CDID). The USAISR is tasked with finding solutions through research to fill these gaps in combat casualty care.

Research at the USAISR relates to the fundamental challenges of prolonged field care and is organized around five key pillars representing the pathophysiologic challenges that accompany traumatic battlefield injuries. The five challenges are 1. Blood delivery and shock resuscitation 2. Control of hemorrhage and vascular dysfunction 3. Mitigation of metabolic failure and organ dysfunction 4. Prevention of wound progression and infection 5. Pain and sensory trauma.



Reference: U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research. *Research Directorate*. Fort Sam Houston, TX. Last accessed April 11, 2022 <https://usaISR.amedd.army.mil/index.cfm/research>



THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

Research efforts aim to disrupt the above pathophysiologic research challenges. DC officers and enlisted Soldiers are typically assigned to a research team of scientists, clinicians, technicians, and Soldiers within the Research Directorate. Five teams are aligned with the five physiologic obstacles, and a sixth team focuses on engineering processes and product development. Combat Casualty Research Teams (CRTs) at the USAISR are led by senior Scientific and Program Management co-leads. Two of the six CRTs at the USAISR are led by Army Dental Corps Officers.

The USAISR is staffed by military and civilian scientists, clinicians, and allied healthcare providers with experience in managing trauma. The USAISR has a vivarium that houses small and large animals for research. Additionally, there are opportunities to engage in research with Brooke Army Medical Center. Dental officers can gain valuable experience regarding the regulatory aspects of human and animal research (e.g. IRB and IACUC protocol submission). Additionally, officers will gain an appreciation for the competitive process of applying for research funding opportunities and even conduct hands-on research.

A true broadening assignment, Dental Corps officers wear the Army Futures Command (AFC) shoulder insignia and have the opportunity to work in multiple roles outside of clinical practice. However, DC officers at the USAISR have the opportunity to serve as mentors and maintain clinical skills at Brooke Army Medical Center and dental clinics within the JBSA footprint. Even though oral health care is not a focus of research at the USAISR, research in areas that align with the professional education and training of dentists is possible. To that point, Dental Corps officers have prominent roles in a project that aims to develop a medical device that utilizes Artificial Intelligence (AI) to automate the administration of regional nerve blocks for battlefield pain management. MAJ(P) Brian Kirkwood is the principle investigator responsible for the deliverables of this funded research effort.





THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

The following are the DC Officers assigned USAISR and their roles in Combat Casualty Care Research:

COL Thomas Stark, an orofacial pain specialist, serves as the Science Lead for the Pain and Sensory Trauma Combat Research team (CRT5). Science leads are responsible for the disposition of data and the quality of science generated within the CRT. COL Stark is accountable for the “science” related to battlefield pain research portfolio. In this role, he senior rates principal investigators, and is responsible for the disposition of scientific data and the quality of science generated within the CRT.

LTC(P) Kevin Gillespie, a periodontist, serves as the Program Manager of Engineering, Technology, and Automation research team (CRT6). His responsibilities consist of the “business” aspect of programmatic research to include management of personnel, research budgets, and business operations for engineering projects that support the research outlined by the five pillars. Current projects focus on development of devices to automate medical interventions, advanced robotics, virtual health and wearable sensors.

MAJ(P) Brian Kirkwood, longest standing member of the team and a comprehensive dentist, has served in several roles within the institution. He is currently the Deputy Program Manager for CRT6 and a principle investigator (PI) for an Army-funded research project. Additionally, he serves as the chair for the upcoming Bernier Dental Research Competition.

MAJ(P) Barrett Beardsley an oral and maxillofacial surgeon is assigned to the USAISR Business Development office where he works to establish and maintain formal research agreements between USAISR and key collaborators.

Several 68Es are assigned to USAISR. They are valuable members of the research team with opportunities to serve as research technicians within the CRTs and the NCOs serve in multiple leadership roles throughout the institute. Within the past 5 years, USAISR assigned 68Es have served as CRT NCOIC, Ops NCO, 1SG and CSM.



THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

Children's Dental Health Month 2022

By: LTC(P) Leslie Oakes

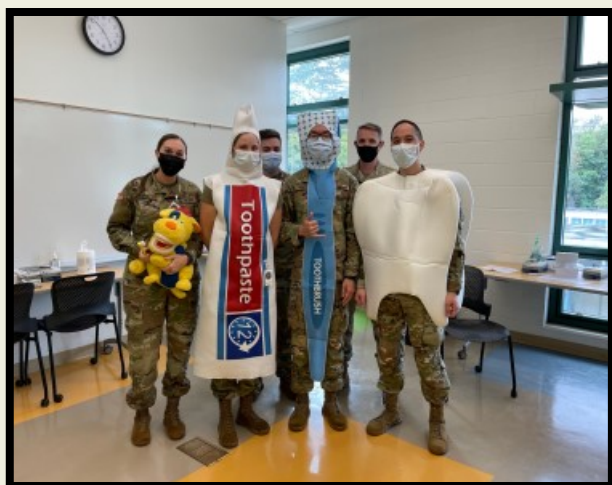
Children's Dental Health Month was threatened to be cancelled for a second year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Fortunately, a few dental teams were able to visit some elementary schools throughout our military communities to promote oral health and provide dental screenings.

COL Thomas Stark and LTC Kourtney Logan of Brooke Army Medical Center partnered with pediatric dentists and residents at the US Air Force Two-Year Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) program at Wilford Hall and performed 60 dental screenings on military connected children in the community.

MAJ Sung Kim and SPC Joseph Morris of the Ft. Irwin Dental Clinic Command provided dental education to approximately 210 Pre-K to 5th grade students at two elementary schools that are attended by children in the Ft. Irwin and Marine Corps Logistics Base communities.

MAJ Loc Dang at Tripler Army Medical Center led a team of dental technicians and Two-Year AEGD residents in performing dental screenings and providing a dental health presentation to over 600 Pre-K to 5th grade students at Daniel K Elementary.

The Pediatric Dental Community enjoys every opportunity to meet with the children in our local communities and looks forward to bringing back the robust Children's Dental Health Month activities that was once observed prior to COVID-19!





THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

Are You ‘Nested’?

By: MAJ Martin Smallidge

Since taking on my current assignment, I consistently hear the word “nested”. For example, “is dentistry ‘nested’ within MEDCOM?” or “does this effort ‘nest’ within the Army Medicine Campaign Plan?” A quick search provides a definition: nest - “arranged in a hierarchical structure.” The definition helps but it leaves me wondering, how do I know if what I am doing day to day is ‘nested’ with the Army?

Strong organizations have a vision to provide shared understanding and common objectives amongst the moving parts. At times, it feels like there are a thousand moving parts. A famous example in history was President John F. Kennedy’s vision to put a man on the moon. Try to wrap your head around how many thousands of people, processes, material development, and innovative ideas needed to happen. Yet, each one was guided by one vision.

Historically, Army Dentistry prided itself on the care provided to Service Members. As we continue to move on the current transformational path towards an Army Dental Care System supported by the Defense Health Agency, we must understand the vision of our senior leaders. We do this through reading the various nested layers of documents as they progress down to our level. The Army has released a [vision and strategy](#). The Surgeon General and MEDCOM Commander has nested under the Army with the Army Medicine Campaign Plan. The Defense Health Agency (DHA) has also published future planning documents, which help guide leaders who have responsibilities to the agency. These document together provide a vision for the future, but the nesting only starts here.

You may have heard your Commander or OIC tell you to have your position description and annual objectives reflect theirs. This is why supervisors provide their evaluations to their subordinates. This process ensures each individual is meeting the vision that supervisors have for the organizations they lead. The rating process is the lowest and most direct way to ensure individuals are providing the services that the Army needs to meet the mission.

So I challenge you to take some time to read these documents and take a look at your evaluation (OER, NCOER, or performance review). Reflect on the vision set forth by your senior leaders and ask yourself, are you ‘nested’?

[Army Medicine Strategic Vision](#)



[DHA FY22-26 Campaign Plan](#)





THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

DENTAL HEALTH COMMAND– EUROPE UPDATE

2022 Best Leader Competition

From March 21-25, Soldiers from Army dental clinics across Europe competed in the Dental Health Command Europe's 2022 Best Leader Competition. The competition consisted of day and night land navigation, combat water survival tasks, Army Combat Fitness Test, M4 and M17 weapons stress qualification, 12-mile road march, obstacle course, prolonged casualty care task, MOS/AOC proficiency lane, a written examination and oral board. The winners of the 2022 DHCE Best Warrior Competition were:

- Junior Officer Category - CPT Bradley Truong, DENTAC Rhineland-Pfalz
- NCO Category – CPL Sebastian Palomeque, DENTAC Rhineland-Pfalz
- Soldier of the Year Category – SPC Brooklyn Mason, DENTAC Bavaria.





THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

DENTAL HEALTH COMMAND– EUROPE UPDATE

Dental NCO Wins USAG Bavaria Powerlifting Competition

First Sergeant Tracey Amadi from DENTAC Bavaria participated in the USAG Bavaria Powerlifting Competition. She placed first in her weight class, overall female category, and Vilseck team.

Squat: 325.5lbs
Bench Press: 176.4lbs
Dead Lift: 407.9lbs
Total: 909.8lbs



Soldier Complete Training

On March 29, six Soldiers from the Dental Health Command Europe graduated the Preventive Dentistry Specialist Course (68EX2) at the Medical Center of Excellence, JBSA, TX.





THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

DENTAL HEALTH COMMAND– EUROPE UPDATE

Order of Military Medical Merit (O2M3) Induction

On March 18, SFC Robert C. Turner was awarded membership to the Order of Military Merit (O2M3). Throughout his 19-year career with the AMEDD, SFC Turner has consistently improved organizations and implemented numerous management enhancements to gain efficiencies at the clinical and organizational level. SFC Turner has served with utmost distinction as the Brigade Operations NCO for the Dental Health Command Europe, comprised of 14 dental clinics, 250 active duty members, and 148 civilian personnel. He also serves as the Dental Health Command Europe Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, responsible for the sexual assault prevention training, execution, and management of the DHCE SHARP program. As a Platoon Sergeant and Operations NCO of 618th Dental Company Area Support and Dental Activity, Korea,

from September 2014 to August 2016, he displayed exceptional performance as a Senior Dental NCO forward positioned in Korea. In addition, he has served as First Sergeant of the Fort Lewis Dental Health Activity.



DHC-Europe Executive Officer Moderates Forum

On March 9, MAJ Lazzari moderated a leadership conversation with Simon Sinek for an Air Force Senior Leader Forum on Ramstein, Germany for about 55 individuals present.





THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

DENTAL HEALTH COMMAND– EUROPE UPDATE

Dental Command Collaborates with Installation

DENTAC Italy Leadership teamed up with American Forces Network (AFN) to create a short, pre-recorded video to raise awareness about the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program on the installation. COL Parker, CPT White, and Ms. Hampton were interviewed by AFN to discuss why the SHARP program is important to them and discuss the steps they're taking to raise awareness. COL Parker and Ms. Hampton have participated in the USAG Vicenza "Agents of Change" program. "Agents of Change" is a grassroots course designed to educate leaders and increase awareness about sexual harassment/assault. The course provides opportunities for attendees to discuss difficult topics in a small group format.



Non-Commissioned Officer Induction Ceremony

Dental Health Command Europe inducted 27 Soldiers into the non-commissioned officer ranks during an NCO induction ceremony on December 9 at Sembach, Germany. The NCO induction ceremony is a time honored celebration that commemorates the ranks of the professional NCO Corps and builds on the pride and camaraderie members share. The guest speaker for the induction ceremony was CSM Kyle Brunell, command sergeant major for Regional Health Command Europe.





THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

DENTAL HEALTH COMMAND– EUROPE UPDATE

Virtual Leadership Seminar

From March 16-18, Dental Health Command Europe, conducted a Virtual Leadership Seminar for Leaders from all across the European region to come together and hone their skills. The seminar covered a wide range of leadership and management topics.



Naturalization Ceremony

Congratulations to SPC Koudougou on becoming a U.S citizen. SPC Koudougou had his naturalization ceremony on March 30 with the DENTAC Italy team, family, and friends. He currently serves as a dental specialist in the oral surgery department. He is taking college classes towards his associate's degree. Upon completing his program, he plans to apply for the Green to Gold Program.



Officer Promotion

On March 14, COL Hwahoon Jeong from DENTAC Rheinland-Pfalz, Landstuhl Specialty Dental Clinic celebrated his promotion to Colonel. He reaffirmed the oath upon his promotion with COL Tamer Goksel. Congratulations!





THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

DENTAC Italy Assumption of Responsibility Ceremony

On April 7, DENTAC-Italy conducted an Assumption of Responsibility Ceremony, welcoming its new Senior Enlisted Advisor, SFC Aleksandria Pavlenko.





THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

AOC SPOTLIGHT - 63E ENDODONTICS

As we emerge from a global pandemic, endodontics within Army Dentistry is certainly in high demand. For many of our patients, routine dental care was a bit more elusive during the past two years and across the enterprise we are experiencing a robust need for endodontic therapy. Army endodontists continued to their incredibly important service of providing emergency dental care to Soldiers with class 3 dental needs. Kudos to all the endodontic providers in their battles against apical periodontitis!

Army endodontics continues to be one of the more sought after specialties with consistent high quality candidates applying for training throughout the past decade. We encourage everyone interested in applying to work with the endodontist at their location to strengthen their letter of recommendation. HRC has recognized the talented pool of individuals as well; approximately 10% of endodontists are serving as Commanders.

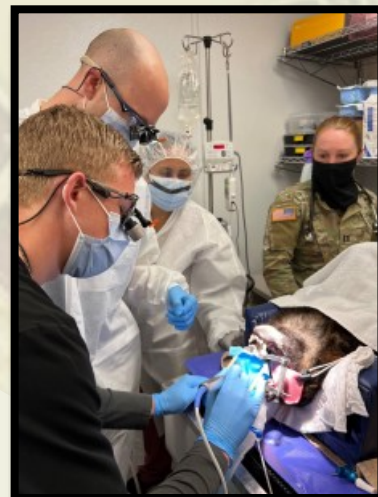
This April the American Association of Endodontists (AAE) Annual Session is scheduled to be hosted in Phoenix, AZ. During the AAE Annual Session we plan to hold the Army Association of Endodontists Annual Business Meeting and social event. These events are the only time in the year in which all Army Endodontists are able to meet each other in person and discuss relevant issues. Additionally, during the Annual Session, the Army endodontic research teams plan to present their research. The dedicated efforts of the residents were clearly evident in the submission of their high quality research projects.

Excellence in Research at Fort Bragg

- MAJ Amanda Zelnick "A Survey of Military Patients' Perceptions of Quality and Quantity of Sleep Before and After Endodontic Procedures and the Impact of Sleep upon Perceived Pain Associated with Endodontic Treatment"
- CPT Cooper Pasque "Evaluating *In Vitro* Performance of D-Limonene as a Solvent for Facilitating Patency in Simulated Root Canals Obturated with a Bioceramic Sealer"
- MAJ Matthew Ticich "Extractions and Alveolar Ridge Preservations: So Easy an Endodontist Can Do It"

Multidisciplinary Care

Not all military endo patients walk on two feet. CPT Jonathan Dismuke and MAJ Josh Willens provide endodontic care to a military working dog that fractured a canine tooth (pun intended).





THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

AOC SPOTLIGHT - 63E ENDODONTICS

Dedication to Reach a Professional Pinnacle

The American Board of Endodontic certification process became a bit more elusive during the pandemic due to travel and social distancing restrictions. However, there were a select few who were able to achieve the monumental accomplishment. 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 Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics!

COL Chad Bangerter

LTC Alexandra Rihani

MAJ Joseph Ferguson

Warrior Training at Fort Gordon

Endodontics residents keep their military readiness sharp while donning MOPP gear during readiness training.



Excellence in Research at Fort Gordon

LTC Ryan Swiss "Trends in Endodontic Obturation: A Web-Based Survey of AAE and ADA Members"

MAJ Joshua Jones "Perceived Endodontic Competence among General Dentists in the US Army Dental Corps"

MAJ Joshua Willens "A Survey of Cone-Beam Computed Tomography Use for Endodontic Treatment among General Dentists in the United States."



THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN

AOC SPOTLIGHT - 63E ENDODONTICS



Senior residents, US Army Advanced Education Program in Endodontics.



Fort Gordon Endodontics prepares for Organization Day. LTC Joe Dutner and LTC Matt Phillips hold the certificate designating the Endodontic Department "Best of the Best" after winning "O" Day competitions.



MAJ Amanda Zelnick presents a Certificate of Appreciation to her dental assistant, Mrs. Haywood-McPhatter



Showing off the –stache after Movember.