



Association of Army Dentistry (AAD)

AAD 2023 Winter Newsletter

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"Someday at Christmas men won't be boys
Playing with bombs like kids play with toys
One warm December our hearts will see
A world where men are free
Someday at Christmas there'll be no wars
When we have learned what Christmas is for
When we have found what life's really worth
There'll be peace on earth
Someday all our dreams will come to be
Someday in a world where men are free
Maybe not in time for you and me
But someday at Christmastime"

The first two verses and chorus of "Someday At Christmas" by Stevie Wonder say what all military service members and their families hope for and will continue to fight for. Our freedoms, our way of life, and our future are all protected by our Nation's Sons and Daughters in uniform. These brave and selfless patriots are on duty 24/7/365, serving wherever they are asked to go and whenever the Nation needs them, to include the holidays. Throughout our history, at a time when most Americans are celebrating the holiday season with family and friends, in the safety and comfort of their homes, many of our dedicated military service members serve in distant lands and in harm's way.

This holiday season, the AAD Board of Directors wish you and yours a happy and wonderful holiday and ask that you continue to remember and pray for our military service members and their families serving around the world. Hopefully, we will see Stevie Wonder's song become a reality, sooner than later.

With warmest regards,

M. Ted Wong, MG, USA (Ret)
President and Chairman of the Board
Association of Army Dentistry

Membership

The Association of Army Dentistry is extremely grateful to all of our members, for your loyalty and ongoing support for the organization; without you, and your efforts to personally encourage others to join us on this journey, we could not succeed. 2023 has been a special and significant year for the AAD, culminating with the dedication of the Army Dentistry Monument at the Army Medical Department Museum, Ft Sam Houston, TX, in March. This nearly 5-year campaign has been closely documented, publicized, and shared with all of you, our members, along the way. Why? Because...the AAD is YOUR organization. And we are all proud to share in these successes.

You will recall that last winter the AAD returned to annual memberships that are structured on a calendar year, January through December, so...if you haven't already done so...NOW is the time to renew! Just as we thank each of you for standing with us this year (and years past), we truly know that we are better together! The Board of Directors and Officers humbly ask each of you to renew again for 2024, and please invite and encourage others to join us as well!

[AAD 2024 Membership Form](#)

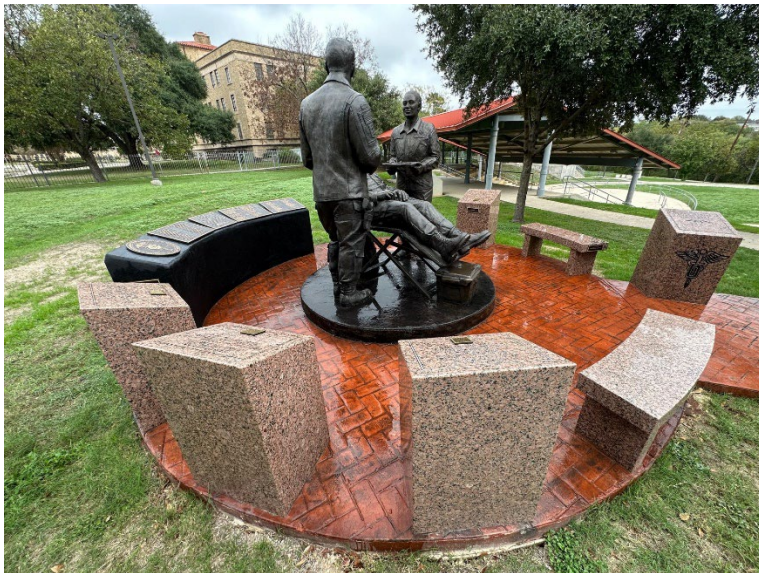
Army Dentistry Monument Update

While formal fundraising has ended, a generous donation from United Healthcare Group was received on 31 October. The AAD has reached our goal in fundraising for the monument, providing sufficient funds to provide for future maintenance of the monument. The Association of Army Dentistry is extremely thankful for all the generous donors who made the Army Dentistry Monument possible for your tribute to Army dentistry and all who have contributed and continue to contribute to its success.

On 26 October, the Senior Leaders of the Army Dental Care system monolith was delivered and installed and on 7 November the donor plaques were installed on the back wall. The only items that remain for the Monument Project are the QR Codes for the Senior Leaders monolith.

Attached photos show the placement of the bronze plaques on the back wall of the monument, the Senior Leader monolith, and a view of the entire Army Dentistry monument.





Active Component News

The 65th Dental Excellence Symposium of the U.S. Army Dental Corps – COL (Ret) George Hucal & MG (Ret) Ted Wong

The 65th Dental Excellence Symposium of the U.S. Army Dental Corps, hosted by Dental Health Command Europe, consisted of dental professionals and clinical staff from the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force as well as representatives from the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, and the Netherlands. More than 120 military dental practitioners, support staff and guest speakers from across the European theater convened in Garmisch October 29th through November 3rd to promote dental readiness, enhance the critical skills of the war-time role of dental officers, and obtain continuing dental education credits.

The Dental Health Command Europe (DHCE), commanded by COL Scott Rankin, is located at Sembach, Germany, and is a subordinate unit of the U.S. Army Medical Readiness Command Europe (RHCE). DHCE oversees command and control functions of the three Dental Health Activities (DENTACs) located throughout Europe: Bavaria, Italy, and Rheinland-Pfalz. DHCE's mission is to ensure the dental readiness of all active-duty military personnel stationed in the U.S. Army Europe and Africa (USAREURAF) area of responsibility, with a secondary mission to provide peacetime community dental care for family members on a space available basis.

The annual dental training program is open to all Department of Defense dentists, NATO partner dentists, and other affiliated dental providers. This year's program took a different flavor as COL Rankin focused activities on the medical readiness of dental officers and interoperability among the NATO partners attending the meeting. Notable presentations were given by our sister service, U.S. Air Force, and our NATO partner nations, Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom, and Canada. The dental continuing education focused on Dental Officer's Individual Critical Task List (ICTLs) for U.S. Army Dental officers, which are recognized alternate wartime tasks that have been identified as crucial for their wartime mission. Among the topics covered were NATO standards for dental care, dental treatment and dental mission, equipment and supplies, treatment of trauma and infections in an expeditionary environment, and standards of care for treatment.

The hands-on courses refreshed the principles of the latest procedures for treatment of facial trauma along with the use and the integration of computer-aided design (CAD) and computer-aided manufacturing (CAM) of dental crowns. The use of CAD/CAM in our dental clinics is gaining momentum and this event allowed the participants the ability to actually get familiar with the basics of the use of CAD/CAM. For those familiar with the technology, the ability to practice advanced modalities of CAD/CAM will benefit the readiness of the dentist to accomplish their dental mission and provide more expedient care of the patients with one appointment delivery of dental crowns and bridges.

Major Generals Russ Czerw, Ted Wong, and Rob Tempel participated in various leadership/mentoring activities, including a round table discussion with junior officers, a senior leader panel discussion with the entire group of attendees, and an informal engagement with participants on the Lake Eibsee hike. During these activities, the former Chiefs of the Army Dental Corps were able to present their career experiences, leadership philosophies and best practices, provide advice on managing a career, with personal thoughts on life in general. Several attendees asked questions that stimulated much discussion on various topics. Major Generals Czerw, Wong, and Tempel concluded their participation by attending the highlight event of the conference, Bavarian Night, which involved outstanding Bavarian entertainment, delicious food and fermented beverages, and wonderful fellowship and socializing. The benefits of participating in organized dentistry, including the Association of Army Dentistry, were highlighted.

The Garmisch Germany Armed Forces Recreation Center (AFRC) provides the space and logistics for hosting this complex event in a safe, force-protected, and beautiful environment. Part of the mission of the AFRC is the support of readiness, retention, and quality of life. The participants of the Dental Symposium will be prepared to assume contingency missions in support of mobilizations or combat operations. This event ties in prominently with the mission of the Association of Army Dentistry, which is to advance Army dentistry by promoting morale and esprit de corps; support activities focused on recruitment and retention; and provide dental education and coaching/mentoring of the Dental officers and their staff. All of these pillars were met during the Garmisch Dental Excellence Symposium.

Photo 1 – MG(R) Wong with (L to R) MAJ Autumn Becker, LTC Karen Gonzalez-Torres, LTC Dan Becker, CPT Dustin Smith, CPT Juliana Lim, and CPT Nicole Eckrich



Photo 2 – British contingent



Photo 3 – COL Rankin, MG(R) Czerw, MG(R) Tempel, MG(R) Wong, COL Tanner, BG Giraud



Photo 4- COL Tanner, current Chief, US Army Dental Corps with former Corps Chiefs and spouses.



Photo 5 COL Rankin, COL Tanner, MG(R) Czerw, MG(R) Wong, MG(R) Tempel, COL(R) Hucal, SGM Orsini



Photo 6, Garmisch 2023 Attendees



Spouses' Corner

Presented by The Spouses and Surviving Spouses Committee

Thinking about the Unthinkable

By Susan (Sue) Allen

Several decades ago, I received a letter from my dad with his iconic greeting "Dear Patricia, Susan and Cindy." He was notorious for using one letter to all three of his daughters when he thought the topic warranted our undivided attention. At the time, my parents were in their 60s and the three of us were all in our 40s. We certainly weren't ready to contemplate or prepare for the death of either of our parents. And yet, here was a letter detailing everything my dad thought we needed to know and do in case he and/or my mom died.

Although I chided him for his premature efforts to prepare us for an event we hoped would not occur for many years, I filed the letter in a folder labeled "In Case of Death." My dad went on to live until the age of 90 and my mom lived four years beyond his death. Their wills designated me their executrix. Looking back at those days following each of their deaths, I was pleased that I had decided to keep my dad's letter. It was the perfect guide, making it easier for me to help my mom after her husband of 60+ years died and easier to finalize their estate after she died.

Paying it forward

I learned a lot from my dad over the years, but this letter probably had the most lasting impact. I now understand that he just wanted us to be prepared when mourning makes clear thinking difficult. Today, my husband, Gary, and I each have our own versions of his letter – documents that express our wishes and list pertinent information that will be necessary in case of our deaths.

Our documents include:

- The names, addresses and phone numbers of individuals and organizations to notify
- Contact information for legal, tax and government entities to notify (lawyers for our family trust, accountants, DFAS, Social Security, Medicare, retirement organizations, etc.)
- Insurance information (names, addresses, account numbers)
- Banking and investment information (names, account numbers)
- Mortgage and utility information for our homes (accounts that may need to be closed or have contact information changed)
- Location of important documents
- Information for our obituaries and where we'd like them to appear

Where to turn for help

Family and friends are the first – and most obvious – support system when anyone faces the loss of his or her spouse. Military spouses, however, are fortunate to have additional resources available to them regardless of where they live. Those who live near a military installation may have even more resources.

Military Connect (<https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil>): Run by the Department of Defense and the Defense Manpower Data Center, this is a general clearing house of information and may be a good first step if you aren't certain where to turn.

DFAS (1-888-332-7411 or (<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/retiree-death>): It is important to notify DFAS, especially if the service member elected the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) option. Retired pay stops the day the service member dies. The SBP annuity begins the next day. The process may take a while, but once DFAS knows of the service member's death, the rest should be automatic. The DFAS website contains a lot of valuable information for surviving spouses.

Army Retirement Services Office (<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/rso>): Support services for survivors of deceased service members are available through Army Retirement Services.

DMDC/DEERS Support Office (1-800-538-9552): Contacting DEERS is the first step in obtaining a new ID card and maintaining your healthcare benefits.

Veteran's Affairs (www.benefits.va.gov): Notifying the VA is important if the deceased service member was receiving VA benefits. The VA may help cover funeral and burial costs. Veterans also may be entitled to funeral honors.

AAFMAA (1-888-707-1850): If the deceased service member had insurance through AAFMAA, one of their advisors can assist you in many aspects of the notification and claims process.

It took a little effort to put together our "In Case of ..." documents, but our goal was simple – make it a little easier for our daughters when the time comes. Just like my dad did so many years ago.

AAD Vision and Strategic Pillars

Honoring the Past is an essential element of the AAD's Vision Statement and aligns with the Strategic Pillar of Army Dentistry History. COL (Ret) Frank Nasser highlights this pillar in his article *Combat Choppers – Army Dentistry in the Korean War*.

A second strategic pillar is Honoring Service, with COL Lichelle Aldana highlighting this pillar. Additionally, this article serves as the Reserve Components News for this edition of the newsletter.

Honoring the Past/Army Dentistry History

"Combat Choppers" – Army Dentistry in the Korean War

By COL (Ret) Francis E. Nasser, Jr.

On June 25, 1950, forces from North Korea attacked democratic South Korea, sparking the first crisis for the newly formed United Nations. Two days later, the United States urged the U.N. to intervene, and those nations in attendance agreed. Before reinforcements could arrive, on June 28, the South Korean capital of Seoul had fallen into the hands of the rapidly advancing Communist forces from the north. (1)

American troops quickly scrambled into action. On June 30, thousands of them assembled at Itazuke Air Base in Japan. With that, the troops shuffled into Air Force C-54 Skymasters, which ferried them to Korea. Those who pressed on toward Daejeon became known as "Task Force Smith." (2)

Task Force Smith made it to Daejeon and ran into a hornet's nest. On the morning of July 20, North Korean troops attacked the city, fighting their way through the city's narrow lanes. It was mayhem. Task Force Smith and those supporting them were forced back toward Pusan in disarray. The North Koreans were too well organized and overwhelmed the ill-equipped Americans. (2)

Later in July, more American and U.N. troops arrived on the Korean Peninsula. By July 31st, the U.N. mobilization was in full force. American troops continued to land at Pusan. Establishing an initial foothold was a long and bloody process, but eventually a perimeter was established around the southern port of Pusan. By the end of August, reinforcements arrived, and General Douglas MacArthur took command of the force. Through the fall, MacArthur orchestrated an amphibious assault on Inchon, a port located behind North Korean lines, to break Communist positions with an unexpected attack and outflank the North Koreans. (1)

During the ensuing three years of fighting and periods of peace negotiations, half a million American soldiers served in Korea, including medical evacuees, those rotated to the United States, units moved out of Korea to Japan and other areas, and individuals discharged from the Army. This resulted in a turnover of strength in the Eighth U.S. Army of almost three times the average monthly strength of approximately 208,000 men for the 37-month period – July 1950 - July 1953. (3) The impact of the high turnover rate on dental readiness was recognized in medical reports as far back as 1952. "When the command is again surveyed in six (6) months many of those who have received the benefit of dental treatment have rotated and the replacement personnel who are now picked up in the survey are, percentagewise, in the same poor dental health

their predecessors were. The ... picture will improve only when the replacement ... arrives in a class II condition, at the minimum." (4)

Peak strength of the Dental Corps during this conflict was 2,641 officers, with 370 serving in Korea. (5) One of the Army dentists serving in theater was Major Marvin Wilbur Carius of Morton, Illinois.



MAJ Carius was a dentist with the Medical Company, 21st Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. (Unit level dental support was doctrine at the beginning of the Korean War, but the transition to area dental support would be introduced during this conflict. This would evolve into the KJ Detachment of the Vietnam War era.) (5) Major Carius was well known among GI's for turning out **"combat choppers"** under fire. He and two Enlisted Soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division converted a truck into a dental laboratory called "Halitosis" and followed Soldiers right up to the front lines. Their slogan was "Never Miss a Bite," and they made hundreds of dentures for the men right on the firing lines. MAJ Carius was killed in action, one of three known Dental Officers to die in the Korean War. (5) He was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal. (6)

The heroic actions of Major Marvin Carius did not go unrecognized. In 1959, the new dental clinic at Yongsan, Seoul, Korea, location of Eighth Army Headquarters, was named after MAJ Carius. In 2017, the new Carius Dental Clinic opened at U.S. Army Garrison-Humphreys, Korea, in a ceremony sponsored by the 65th Medical Brigade and attended by leadership of the Eighth Army and MG Thomas "Rob" Tempel Jr., Chief of the Army Dental Corps. According to Colonel Jae I. Hwang, 618th Dental Company Commander, "Carius Dental Clinic is a testament of Army dentistry's commitment on the Korean Peninsula that began over 67 years ago [with the] ultimate sacrifice of Maj. Marvin Carius." (7) MG Tempel went on to add, "...we honor our proud heritage and start a new chapter in the legacy of the Carius Clinic. We are going to be providing state-of-the-art care with the same dedication and the same passion embodied by his legacy." (7)

Honoring the Past, Supporting the Present, Inspiring the Future.

References:

- (1) <https://www.navymemorial.org/tales-from-the-navy-log/2020/7/27/remembling-the-not-so-forgotten-war-korean-war-stories-of-service-in-the-navy-log>
- (2) <https://koreanwarlegacy.org/chapters/north-koreans-stream-toward-pusan/>
- (3) <https://achh.army.mil/history/book-korea-reister-ch1>
- (4) <https://achh.army.mil/history/book-korea-kwuunithistories-7thinfantry-7thidsurg1952>

- (5) <https://medcoeckapwstorprd01.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/achh/DCHighlights2012.pdf>
- (6) <https://uiaa.org/veterans/marvin-wilbur-carius>
- (7) https://www.army.mil/article/189044/eighth_army_celebrates_dental_clinic_pening

Honoring Service and Reserve Components News

By COL Anna Lichelle Aldana

U.S. Army Reserve Dentist Volunteers Services to Children in Mbita, Kenya

For most, the holiday season is a time for parties, gift-giving, and decorations. For Captain Veerjinder Singh, it is an opportunity to give and make a difference to the lives of others. Every Thanksgiving, since 2016, CPT Singh has provided dental services to the community of Mbita, located on the banks of Lake Victoria in western Kenya.

CPT Singh teamed up with SHARE in 2017, an African-based nonprofit organization, to provide dental care to the orphans, many of whom were born to parents who have since died from AIDS. The children live in poverty and are isolated with no access to basic health and dental care in a remote area. CPT Singh's acts of service have encouraged other dentists to join in this mission and are now part of the dental team that performs preventive and restorative treatment to more than 250 children. Additionally, they also provide educational programs to improve the children's dental and hygiene care.

"The experience is overwhelming," CPT Singh says. "You can't help but be touched by the humility and simplicity with which those children live. It's inspiring to return each year and do what we can to help them."

CPT Singh is a dental officer with the 455th Dental Company Area Support in Devens, Massachusetts. He is a graduate of Manipal University, India, and New York University College of Dentistry. He practices and owns several dental offices in the New England area.



CPT Singh, third from the right, spends time with the children of Mbita, Kenya.



CPT Singh, left, performs dental treatment on a child in Mbita, Kenya.

Active Component News

Army Dental Corps Bulletins

Recent editions of the *Dental Corps Bulletins* will be forwarded to members of the AAD through Constant Contact in the coming days. When reconstruction of the AAD's website is completed, they will also be posted there. Active Component News and the bulletins are provided courtesy of COL Tom Goksel, Dental Corps Specific Branch Component Officer, Office of the Chief, U.S. Army Dental Corps, MAJ Ino M. Ruiz, Executive Officer, Office of the Chief, U.S. Army Dental Corps, and CPT Lisa Hart, the Executive Fellow.

In Memoriam

Hobaugh, Don Carson, COL, USA (Ret) 8-20-1937 – 9-25-2023

COL Hobaugh graduated from the University of Pittsburgh College of Dentistry in 1962 and joined the U.S. Army Dental Corps as a 1st Lieutenant. What started out as a 2-year commitment became a 30-year career. As a Captain, Don served in Vietnam from 1969-1970. During his 30-year career, he was stationed at Forts Sam Houston, Ord, Leavenworth, Carlisle Barracks, and Gelnhausen and Heidelberg, Germany. In 1984 he returned to the AMEDD Center and School and served as Chief of the Dental Science Division before becoming the Dean. COL Hobaugh was especially noted for his "posturing speeches" at various Dental Corps events. A memorial service was held at 9:00 AM on October 24 at the Windcrest United Methodist Church, followed by interment with full military honors at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery at 11:00 AM.

[COL Hobaugh Obituary](#)

Gillon, David Gerard, COL, USA (Ret) 3-30-1951 – 10-2-2023

COL Gillon earned his D.M.D. in 1979 from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. After graduation, he joined the U.S. Army Dental Corps and served at assignments throughout the United States and Germany. During the first Gulf War, Dave served with the 523rd Medical Company (Dental Service) in Saudi Arabia. He served as Director of the Advanced Education in General Dentistry at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, prior to retiring in 2002. His greatest joy in his years of service was mentoring young dental residents. A funeral mass was held on October 10, 2023, at the Chapel of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, with burial with full military honors at the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West in Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

[COL Gillon Obituary](#)

Paquette, Omar, COL, USA (Ret)

7-16-1929 – 12-29-2023

COL Paquette began his military career when he was drafted for the Korean War and served as a laboratory technician stationed in Japan. After his service there, he went to dental school on the GI Bill and then rejoined the Army. He served in Vietnam and subsequently became a Board-Certified General Dentist. COL Paquette was assigned to dental research at Walter Reed, where he invented several medical items for the Army, including the "Paquette Blade Handle." A funeral mass was held for COL Paquette on December 14, 2023, at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Fayetteville, N.C.

COL Paquette Obituary

Obituaries that are brought to our attention are published in the newsletter; if there are others that you wish to share, please forward that information to the AAD so we can share it with our members.

Social Media

LTC Mike Hoffman, the AAD's Facebook page administrator, keeps the Army dental community informed with current news throughout the Army Dental Care System. Visit the AAD's Facebook page for the latest information.

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

Conclusion:

The AAD's website is currently under construction, with the site not being fully functional. We anticipate access to the new site shortly after the first of the year. Thank you for your patience as we improve the site.

If any of our members would like to share articles, vignettes about their life of service, either before or after retirement, please forward them to the email address below. If anyone is interested in assisting with the AAD's media content and/or serving as an editor of the newsletter, please contact the AAD at the email address below.

Please keep our young men and women serving around the world in your thoughts and prayers throughout the coming year.

Editor, AAD Newsletter, Ron Lambert, COL, USA (Ret)

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The AAD is your organization!

The Association of Army Dentistry is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. We are a philanthropic organization dedicated to honoring the past, supporting the present, and inspiring the future of Army Dentistry.



The Association of Army Dentistry

VISION

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"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.