



Association of Army Dentistry (AAD)

AAD 2024 Spring Newsletter

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Volunteer: a person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service, without being forced or coerced.

In March, many of us celebrated the 113th Anniversary of the establishment of the US Army Dental Corps, during which we remembered our past, celebrated our present, and embraced the future. We can attribute the many successes achieved by the Army Dental Corps to one important factor, the Army Dental Care System's (ADCS) people—the outstanding men and women, the officers, NCOs, enlisted Soldiers, and civilians who volunteered to serve the nation. The AAD has also been blessed to be served by phenomenal volunteer men and women, of which several are leaving or changing their roles in our organization. I want to thank COL (Ret) Theresa Gonzales for her many years of dedicated service as an AAD Director and for her important contributions to our education, membership, and Army Dentistry Monument initiatives. COLs (Ret) Scott, Storz, and Stieneker will transition, or have transitioned from their positions as our Executive Director, Treasurer, and Secretary, respectively. We are grateful for their support to the AAD for over a decade. We welcome our new Directors, COLs (Ret) Jay Etzenbach and Dave Ferguson, and our new officers, COL (Ret) Nasser, Ms. Kavanaugh, and COL (Ret) Ferguson, as Executive Director, Treasurer, and Secretary, respectively. And we are fortunate that COL (Ret) Lambert remains on the team to volunteer his services as our Newsletter Editor and Media Advisor.

Suffice it to say, we could not function, let alone, achieve our strategic goals and objectives without the active and selfless support of our team of volunteers. They embrace and embody the meaning behind this quote by Aristotle, *"What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good."* Just as they had done as members of the ADCS, the AAD team continues to serve and do good. We welcome others to volunteer their talents and time in our pursuit to support, promote, and recognize the people and accomplishments of Army Dentistry. Contact us and ask what you can do in support of the ADCS and AAD.

assoc.army.dentistry@gmail.com

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

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month

Each April the world celebrates the contributions of volunteers. The Army has a long tradition of recognizing volunteers whose service supports its mission and readiness. The AAD specifically recognized Spouses and Volunteers with a dedicated monolith as part of the U.S. Army Dentistry Monument at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. From Red Cross volunteer dental assistants to spouses who volunteer in military and civilian communities, volunteers are critical members of the Army family. Their service comes without a price tag, but their contributions are priceless. Share your appreciation for our volunteers in April – and throughout the year.

Membership - The AAD is YOUR Organization!

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. The AAD is your organization. If you have not already renewed for 2024, the Board of Directors and Officers humbly ask that you please do so again this year. Please invite and encourage others to join us as well! Online membership and renewal functions will return soon when the new AAD website goes active. For now, feel free to use the following link to print and mail in your form.

[AAD 2024 Membership Form](#)

The AAD Website – Update Message to Our Members

COL (Ret) Frank Nasser, Jr., and Ms. Susan Allen

The AAD website project began in June 2023 when the Board decided that the Association needed a more robust, modern web identity to better serve its members. The initial concept was to develop a website that provided viewers with an interactive and engaging source of information encompassing a range of topics pertinent to Army Dentistry, and the mission and goals of the Association. In addition, the website had to facilitate several key functional elements, such as recruiting and retaining members and providing career guidance and mentorship.

Finding a Web Developer

The first step in the process was finding a web developer capable of taking the concept and creating a suitable design with visually appealing layout and functionality at a reasonable cost. Depending on the complexity of the design and the scope of work, building a website can become a costly and time-consuming endeavor. As more customized elements are introduced into the design, the greater the time commitment and financial cost. Fortunately, a group affiliated with the AAD offered to assist in web development on a

voluntary basis, alleviating a potentially significant financial burden for the organization.

Developing Branding and Content

Over the ensuing months a website team of volunteers spent a great deal of time developing a unique design for the website and formulating pages of content material. As the scope of work expanded, so did the time commitments of the volunteers. Initial attempts to publish material on a test website proved to be unacceptable. The first published pages lacked content correctness and were visually unsuitable. Furthermore, personal and professional matters impeded the efforts of volunteers and slowed the web development process. During delays in the programming, the volunteers expanded features and content and refined the overall appearance. Eventually a new developer came on board who had a different skill set and the ability to correctly match the custom design and content.

Making Progress

To date, a sizable portion of the website is nearing completion. Several key functional elements are still undergoing setup and testing. Many of these features require special 'coding' and the use of various 'plug-ins' to ensure they work properly and are secure. Experienced web developers routinely perform these programming activities, but they do take time. Overall, the effort is continuing with volunteers working on additional content materials and the volunteer developers working their magic on the programming aspects. The plan is to have select pages published on the AAD website, with the bulk of the new website completed as soon as possible. In the meantime, if there are any questions, such as how to renew membership or obtain a copy of the latest newsletter, please forward them to assoc.army.dentistry@gmail.com. Every effort will be made to respond expeditiously.

Thanks to all our members for your patience and support during this lengthy and labor-intensive process.

United States Masters Swimming Association



COL Hammond (black shirt) pictured with Wooster College teammate Dale Osterman.

Ted Hammond, COL, USA, (Ret), competed, and won multiple events at the United States Masters Swimmers zone meet at Auburn University on February 24, 2024. The southeast zone encompasses N.C., S.C., Fla., Ga., Tenn., Ala., and Miss., among others. Ted won every event in which he entered in the 70-74 age-group competition: the 50 freestyle, 100 freestyle, 50 fly, and 50 breast. By doing so, he posted national-level qualifying times in the 50/100 freestyle for the upcoming National-level competition in Indianapolis this summer. After that, it is off to the Olympic trials. The 50 and 100 freestyle times set new all-time records for Georgia. Ted also holds the 50/100 freestyle records in GA for the 65-69 age-group. His 100 freestyle time currently ranks as #1 in the Nation. Please see the chart below.

Ted served as Captain of the swim team at Wooster College. After college he took 20 years off from swimming before hitting the pool again and competing in the USMS.

COL Hammond retired as the Commander of the Fort Gordon Area Dental Laboratory. He and his wife, Serene, live in Greensboro, Ga.

USMS Times Reported for Men SCY 100 Free Ages 70-74 2024 Season (2023-06-01 through 2024-05-31)

#	Name	Age	Time	Club	Meet
1	Hammond, Ted W	70	57.75	GAJA	Southeast Zone SCY Championship
2	Olson, Chuck A	73	59.62	MICH	Mason Masters Meet
3	Gruber, Glenn A	74	59.75	ROSE	OC Riptide Aquatics Masters New Year's Resolution SCY Meet
4	Waterbury, Stuart S	70	59.83	CMS	44th Annual Polansky Sweetheart Meet
5	Baughman, Richard	70	1:00.09	NEM	14th Annual UVAC Leaf Peepers Masters Meet
6	Krauser, Larry B	70	1:00.91	SCM	Moses Lake Masters Invite
7	Richey, Keith	71	1:01.21	MOVY	13th Annual Gladstone Masters Meet
8	Borsuk, Edward J	70	1:01.69	O*H*	OHIO Masters 2023 Pentathlon (SCY) Swim Meet
9	Goodman, James B	70	1:02.04	MESC	National Senior Games
10	McMillen, Scott P	70	1:02.16		

Active Component News



Army Dental Corps Chief

3 March 2024

Happy 113th Birthday U.S. Army Dental Corps!

Please see the link below to the Chief, U.S. Army Dental Corps, message. You will need to log in to your Facebook account to view the message.

[#ARMYDENTAL](#) | [Army Medicine](#) | [#MEDCoE](#) | [#MilitaryDentistry](#)

[Army Dental Corps Chief's Dental Corps Birthday Message](#)

6 March 2024

Congratulations to the following Army Dental Corps leaders on their selection as the 2024 Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Junior Leaders! These 9 Dental Corps Officers were selected to attend this highly competitive, annual Army Medical Junior Leader Course.

MAJ Garrett A. Balkcom
MAJ Frederick M. Dawson
CPT David A. Hornak
CPT Chang W. Jung
CPT Andrew S. Ryser
MAJ Lowell D. Stanford
CPT Austin J. Stubbs
MAJ Barbara J. Wegiel
MAJ Connor W. Witty

The purpose of the Army Medical Junior Leader Course is to identify outstanding Army Medicine junior leaders who consistently model the core Army Values and Warrior Ethos in the execution of their duties, and who demonstrate the skills, attributes and potential required to become AMEDD future leaders. These leaders were nominated by their supervisors and/or consultants, endorsed by their commander, and selected by a senior board from their respective Corps. These outstanding officers and leaders will gain valuable insights into the exciting changes taking place within the Army and Army Medicine through their interaction with Army senior leaders.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Combat Ready Care . . . This We'll Defend!

1 March 2024

Dental Health Command Europe (DHCE) hosted their 2024 Senior Leaders Forum from 28 February - 01 March at the Tower View, Tower Barracks, Grafenwoehr, Germany. Participants included Command Teams from DHCE, DENTAC-Bavaria, DENTAC-Rheinland-Pfalz, DENTAC-Italy, as well as OIC and NCOIC representation from 12 DHCE clinics! This successful training served to educate, inspire, and connect leaders through engaging leadership sessions/discussions with the intent to strengthen DHCE's ability to support the priorities of the Medical Readiness Command, Europe Commanding General; DHN, EUR Director; MEDCOM CG, Defense Health Agency Director; and USAREUR-AF CG. Keep up the great work DHCE!



2024 Iron Majors Week

The 2024 Iron Majors Week was held at Fort Belvoir from 18-22 March. The five Iron Majors selected from our Corps represented the Dental Corps with professionalism and enthusiasm! The week started with briefings from strategic leaders throughout the Army Medical Department and DHA. The Iron Majors had the opportunity to engage with the Corps Chiefs during a panel and at social events. The Dental Corps team toured the American Dental Association House in Washington D.C., where they met with Texas Representative Brian Babin. The week-long course proceeded with a collaborative Capstone project, Staff Ride to the National Museum of the United States Army, and a visit from the TSG, LTG Izaguirre, highlighting her strategic priorities and the future of Army Medicine. Once again, please join me in congratulating our 2024 Dental Corps Iron Majors:

MAJ David Chen
MAJ Eric Hu
MAJ Andrew Jenzer
MAJ Shauna Jones
MAJ Joshua Schaepe



Spouses' Corner

Presented by The Spouses and Surviving Spouses Committee

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like PCS Time

By Susan (Sue) Allen

The anticipation surrounding a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) is a shared experience for military families – as true today as it was in the past. Times have certainly changed, though, from when I was a new and very pregnant Army wife facing our first assignment in Augsburg, Germany, more than 50 years ago. With the advent of technology, remote work opportunities and legislation that supports military spouse employment, many Army spouses are now able to move their careers with them or more easily transition into new jobs. How did we survive without computers, the Internet, email, or cell phones?

First Person Personal

The memories of our first PCS in the fall of 1973 are still vivid. I call them “snapshot memories” because they come with very distinct mental images.

Gary left for basic training in San Antonio shortly after graduating from the University of Oregon Dental School. At the same time, I quit my job and went to stay with my parents in California. The Army warned us that I would not be allowed to travel with him to Augsburg because I was almost eight months pregnant.

And then, unexpectedly, I received orders to meet him in San Antonio and travel with him to Charleston, S.C., for our trip to Germany. My nervousness about flying so late in my pregnancy was relieved when our seatmate on the military flight turned out to be a physician.

Upon arrival in Frankfurt, Gary had me wait outside while he went to exchange money and purchase train tickets to Augsburg. By this time, I had reached the end of my stamina and sense of adventure.

Unbeknownst to me, a kind warrant officer noticed me, found Gary, and asked him, "Are you the husband of the very pregnant woman waiting outside? Would you like a ride to Augsburg?" That was our introduction to what it meant to be part of the Army Family and to the kindnesses we would experience during all our future PCSs.

Resources for Spouses

The Army provides resources to help spouses and families wherever their assignments may take them.

[Military OneSource](#) offers information about Army installations, childcare, spouse employment and education, healthcare, and much more.

[Army Community Service](#) and the [U.S. Army website](#) are two other websites with valuable information for spouses and families.

Note: You may need to turn off your VPN to access the above websites.



The author on the street in front of their apartment shortly after arriving in Germany.

Welcome to Augsburg

As we drove onto Flak Kaserne, I noticed the large MASH tents set up in front of the hospital surrounded by barbed wire. I immediately had second thoughts about coming to Germany and delivering our first baby in a tent. But our good luck continued. The delivery rooms and maternity ward in the hospital were not part of the construction (the reason for the MASH tents). To make matters even better, the housing officer felt sorry for us and assigned us a much larger apartment than brand new captains typically got.

That first PCS was the absolute best introduction to the Army. The experiences Gary had professionally, I had as a new Army wife, and we had as part of a close-knit AMEDD community filled our hearts. One month to the day after arriving in Augsburg, our first daughter was born. Six months before we were

due to return to the States, our second daughter was born. Two wonderful souvenirs of our first tour.



U.S. Army Hospital, Augsburg. Barbed wire encloses the MASH tents, which are not visible.

Paying it Forward

A PCS can be a trying time for military families. While military members move directly into new jobs, spouses are often left wrangling movers, housing, schools and childcare, healthcare resources and employment challenges. The good news is that there are many more resources today to help families prepare and adjust to a new community.

Helping families find critical resources is one way all of us – whether active duty or retired – can pay it forward.

The Association of Army Dentistry website is currently undergoing a total reconstruction. Once the new site launches, it will include a Spouses & Surviving Spouses section that will be a repository for resources for those who are facing a PCS or need other information about life as an Army spouse. For the time being, check out the information in the Resources box that accompanies this article and share it widely.

AAD Vision and Strategic Pillars

Honoring Service is the Strategic Pillar which honors service, either in or out of uniform. Oregon Health and Sciences University recently recognized Gary W. Allen, DMD, COL (Ret), as the inaugural recipient of its Agent of Change Award. That article is featured below.

Oregon Health & Science University Recognizes Gary W. Allen, DMD, COL (Ret)



Gary W. Allen, DMD, COL(Ret) is the inaugural recipient of the Agent of Change Award, presented by the Oregon Health & Science University Alumni Association. He is being recognized as a champion of innovative changes in the dental-care delivery system that will have long-term benefits for the dental profession and for Oregonians.

A graduate from the University of Oregon Dental School (now OHSU School of Dentistry) in 1973, Allen later received a master's degree in oral biology from George Washington University. He holds board certification in Oral Pathology and Oral Medicine, is a Fellow of the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists, and an Emeritus Diplomate of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology.

Allen began his military career as a Dental Corps officer in Augsburg, West Germany. He completed his Oral Pathology specialty training at U.S. Army Institute of Dental Research (USAIDR) and following training remained on staff at USAIDR as chief of Pathology Service and chief of the Division of Professional Development. Allen attended both Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces of the National Defense University. Assignments of note include chief of Graduate Dental Education at the Office of the Surgeon General (OTSG), chief of Dental Corps Branch and chief of Health Services Division at PERSCOM, commander of the 257th Dental Detachment, and DENTAC commander and Dental Surgeon to the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg (now Camp Liberty). He retired in 1999 as the Commander of the North Atlantic Regional Dental Command (NARDC) at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Upon his retirement from the military, Allen returned to his home state of Oregon and initially worked for Willamette Dental. In 2011 he moved to Advantage Dental where his career has been marked by his invaluable contributions to expanding access to care in rural and frontier areas through the utilization of Expanded Practice Dental Hygienists. Advantage Dental played

a pioneering role in the use of silver diamide fluoride (SDF), and Allen trained and mentored providers in Oregon in the scientific and practical aspects of SDF implementation. In 2015, Oregon's Governor appointed him to a six-year term as a commissioner on the Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC), and he also served as the Dental Services Subcommittee member of the Health Services Commission. Allen currently serves on HERC's Oral Health Advisory Panel and on several regional boards. Over the years, Allen, who is now Vice President for Clinical Services for Advantage Dental, a subsidiary of DentaQuest (Sunlife), and President of Advantage Dental Group PC, has been highly effective in securing state legislative funding for dental pilot projects and expanded service training, which have established models for change in the delivery of dental services, particularly in under-served areas.

In her nomination, Sharity Ludwig, EPDH, MS, said, "Dr. Allen's commitment to excellence has been an inspiration for many, and his dedication to oral healthcare has positively impacted the lives of countless individuals."

In Memoriam

Sierra, Pablo (Big Papi), 1SG, USA

02-29-1988 – 03-08-2024

The Army Dental Care System lost one of its own too soon. 1SG Pablo (Big Pappy) Reyna Sierra, III, passed away on March 8, 2024. Sierra was born in San Antonio, Texas, on February 29, 1988. He entered the Army in May 2007 as a 68E Dental Specialist. Sierra rose rapidly through the ranks, assuming positions of greater responsibility. His most recent assignment was as the Company First Sergeant, 673rd Dental Company Area Support, at Joint Base Lewis McCord, WA. A memorial service for 1SG Sierra will be held on Wednesday, March 27, beginning at 9:30 AM at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

A Go Fund Me Page has been organized by Shay Sierra at [Fundraiser by Shay Sierra : 1SG Pablo \(Big Papi\) Sierra \(gofundme.com\)](#)

[1SG Sierra Obituary](#)

Ichikawa, Takeshi Gary, COL, USA (Ret)

01-25-1953 – 12-21-2023

COL Gary Ichikawa began his military career by enlisting in the U.S. Army and completing basic training at Fort Ord, Calif. After his initial three-year enlistment, he entered dental school and graduated from the University of Pacific Dental School in 1982. It was there that he met his future wife, Karen Coslett. Gary served for more than 30 years in the U.S. Army Reserve, with multiple tours on active duty, including deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the Global War on Terrorism.

[COL Ichikawa Obituary](#)

O'Connell, Wallace, COL, USA (Ret)

01-24-1936 – 10-26-2023

COL Wallace O'Connell earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree in 1960 from Marquette University of Dentistry. After graduation, he joined the U.S. Army Dental

Corps and served for 30 years on active duty. He possessed a passion for the great outdoors and found peace in nature.

COL O'Connell Obituary

Plegge, John, COL, USA (Ret)

1935 – 04-19-2023

COL John Plegge began his military career when he was drafted by the U.S. Army in 1948, completing his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Ky. After two years in the Army, he returned to Ohio, completing dental school at Ohio State University in 1957. Plegge served in multiple stateside and overseas duty assignments, including Korea and Thailand. Upon retirement, he returned to Radcliffe, Ky.

COL Plegge Obituary

Laudon, Scott L., CPT, USA

02-13-1962 – 02-07-2020

CPT Scott Laudon earned his Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from Oregon Health Sciences University in 1988. Upon graduation, Scott joined the Army, serving as a Captain in the Frankfurt, Germany, DENTAC. He deployed in support of Desert Storm/Desert Shield with the 122nd Medical Detachment (Dental Service). After completing his tour in Germany, Laudon was honorably discharged in 1992. An avid outdoorsman and adventurer, he moved to Alaska and began his civilian practice of dentistry. Interment with military honors was held at Angelus Memorial Park in Anchorage.

CPT Laudon Obituary

Robinson, Phillip, LTC, USA (Ret)

09-26-1936 – 12-09-2011

After his graduation from the University of Louisville College of Dentistry, LTC Phillip Robinson practiced dentistry in Berea, Ky., before joining the U.S. Army Dental Corps. Robinson served for 23 years, with overseas assignments in Vietnam and Germany, and multiple stateside assignments.

LTC Robinson Obituary

Lawson, Ralph Taylor, LTC, USA (Ret)

01-19-1932 – 01-19-2010

LTC Ralph Lawson was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1954. After completing basic training and field radio repair at Camp Gordon, Ga., he was off to his first adventure in Stuttgart, Germany. Ralph graduated from the University of Tennessee at Memphis with his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree in 1961. Lawson was commissioned in the Dental Corps in 1964, serving in Vietnam and Germany along with many stateside assignments. He particularly like volksmarching with his two boys all over Europe. Lawson retired in 1982 after 21 years of service.

LTC Lawson Obituary

Coats, William, COL, USA (Ret)

Dates not available– - 12-27-2007

After his graduation from Creighton University School of Dentistry in 1956, COL William Coats entered the U.S. Army Dental Corps. His initial assignment was with the 82nd Airborne Cops at Fort Bragg, NC. Subsequent assignments were in a variety

of clinical, staff, and leadership assignments around the globe. Coats retired in 1980 after 27 years of service.

COL Coats Obituary

Obituaries that are brought to our attention are published in the newsletter. This month we had several obituaries from prior years that their contributors submitted to honor the memory of their colleagues – thank you. If there are others that you wish to share, please forward that information to the AAD so we can share it with our members. Once the website is functional, the “In Memoriam” database will be updated.

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. We also now have an AAD Instagram. Follow the AAD on both social media accounts.

AAD Facebook Page

AAD Instagram Page

Conclusion:

If any of our members would like to share articles and/or 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 year.

A special thank you to Mrs. Susan Allen for her assistance in editing and finalizing the newsletter.

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

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AAD Officers

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Karen Keith, COL, USA (Ret) – Vice President

Francis E. Nasser, Jr., COL, USA (RET) – Executive Director

David Ferguson, COL, USA, (RET) – Secretary

Ms. Wanda Kavanaugh, U.S. Army Civilian, (RET) – Treasurer

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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

"The Association of Army Dentistry honors our past, supports 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.