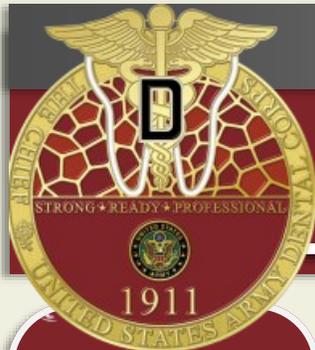


# THE DENTAL CORPS BULLETIN



## Useful Links

◆ [National Defense Strategy](#)

## Dental Corps

- ◆ [Army Dental Corps](#)
- ◆ [Dental Corps SharePoint](#)
- ◆ [Dental Corps History](#)
- ◆ [Dental Corps Bulletin Archives](#)

## HRC/Personnel Links

- ◆ [HRC \(DC OPMD\)](#)
- ◆ [IPPS-A](#)
- ◆ [AMEDD Command Management](#)
- ◆ [My Board File](#)

## Dental Education/CE

- ◆ [USU Postgraduate Dental College](#)
- ◆ [AMEDD Library](#)
- ◆ [Forensic ICT Link](#)

## Infection Prevention and Control

- ◆ [Infection Control](#)
- ◆ [CDC - Dental Settings](#)
- ◆ [The Joint Commission](#)

## Army Training Requirements and Resources System (ATRRS)

- ◆ [Brigade Health Care Team Course](#)
- ◆ [Tactical Combat Medical Course](#)
- ◆ [Combat Casualty Care Course \(C4\)](#)



## The Evolving Role of the Army Dentist: Leadership at the Intersection of Dentistry, Strategy, and Global Health

*Written by COL Shani O. Thompson Burkes, Executive Officer to the CG of MRC, P and Director of DHN-IP*

My Army journey began long before I became a Dentist. I commissioned from the United States Military Academy as a Quartermaster Officer and spent the first years of my career leading Soldiers in Korea, recruiting future West Point cadets, and serving as an Ammunition Officer and Battle Captain supporting coalition operations during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. These early operational assignments shaped my understanding of leadership, logistics, and large-scale Army operations—experiences that would later influence how I approach leadership in military medicine and dentistry today.

After receiving the Health Professions Scholarship, I transitioned into the Army Dental Corps in 2011. My clinical training included the 1-year Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency at Ft. Carson and the 2-year Comprehensive Dentistry Residency at Fort Bragg. I had the privilege of commanding for the first time at the Fort Leavenworth Dental Clinic Command. This formative experience reinforced my passion for leading teams, delivering high-quality care, and integrating dental readiness into broader mission success. I later achieved board certification in American Board of General Dentistry and earned Mastership in the Academy of General Dentistry while continuing to support readiness and operational missions, including prior service with special operations forces.

My career soon expanded beyond traditional clinical leadership into strategic and enterprise-level roles. As a Dental Corps Executive Fellow and later Assistant Executive Officer to the Deputy Surgeon General, I helped shape policy and transformation efforts across Army Medicine and the Defense Health Agency. These assignments provided a unique perspective on how dentistry contributes to force readiness, health system transformation, and joint medical policy development.

Command at Fort Gregg-Adams further broadened my leadership experience. As Commander and Director of Kenner Army Health Clinic, I led a multidisciplinary team providing care to tens of thousands of beneficiaries while managing a multimillion-dollar budget and advising installation leadership on health services. This experience reinforced the importance of integrating dental readiness into the larger medical and operational enterprise.

Today, I serve as the Executive Officer to the Commanding General of Medical Readiness Command-Pacific and Director of the Defense Health Network Indo-Pacific, helping coordinate healthcare delivery and readiness across a vast theater spanning multiple combatant commands, medical centers, clinics, and public health organizations. This assignment reflects the evolving role of Dental Corps officers as strategic leaders who contribute far beyond the clinic—supporting global health engagement, readiness, and the future of military medicine.

My leadership philosophy reflects a career spanning operational Army leadership, clinical dentistry, command, and strategic health system transformation. I look forward to expanding my knowledge at Senior Service College this summer to deepen my understanding of strategic leadership and operations, continue growing as a leader, and represent the Army Dental Corps with excellence in the years ahead.





## The Comprehensive Dentist: A Cornerstone of Army Dental Leadership and Versatility

*Written by: LTC Nick Wilson, Comprehensive Dentistry Deputy Consultant to TSG*

Army Comprehensive Dentistry represents the pinnacle of advanced general dentistry training, producing clinicians who are not only masters of their craft, but also versatile leaders prepared for a dynamic range of missions across the world. The journey of a Comprehensive Dentist extends far beyond the clinic. While they deliver multi-disciplinary care, their true value lies in their adaptability. They frequently serve in leadership roles as OICs and Commanders, guiding teams to achieve peak performance. Their expertise is also sought in the operational domain, with demanding assignments supporting elite Special Forces units where dental readiness is mission critical. Additionally, many 63Bs serve as dedicated educators, leading the next generation of Army dentists in advanced residency programs.

With over 250 Comprehensive Dentists serving worldwide, their collective impact is immense. The following individuals represent a snapshot of the excellence, leadership, and unique achievements within the 63B community over the past year:

### **AGD 10 under 10**

The Army Dental Corps was represented extremely well in the AGD 10 Under 10 Awards, with three officers being recognized. This award recognizes ten of the brightest new dentists who demonstrate excellence and inspire others. MAJ Jae Lim and MAJ Austin Stubbs, from the 63B community, were recognized on the national stage for their positive impact on shaping the future of our profession.



MAJ Jae Lim (pictured in the middle alongside his practice manager and NCOIC), OIC of Epes Dental Clinic and the CDO of Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center at Fort Meade, MD. MAJ Lim's current position allows him to work closely with hospital leadership to provide a broader perspective on military dentistry's role, creating opportunities to advocate for dental services and increase collaboration with other medical departments.

MAJ Austin Stubbs, Army Dental Corps Executive Fellow. Serving as the Executive Fellow, MAJ Stubbs has the unique opportunity to work closely with senior Dental Corps and AMEDD leaders. In this role, he takes great pride in showcasing the accomplishments and professionalism of Dental Corps officers to a broader audience.

### **Order of Saint Maurice and Saint Michael**

A group of distinguished 63Bs and fellow Army Dental Officers have been honored with induction into two of the U.S. Army's most respected military orders: the Order of Saint Maurice and the Order of Saint Michael. The awards were led by LTC Jeffrey Marrs, an Army Orthodontist and former Infantry Officer, recognized these individuals for their significant contributions to the Infantry and Airborne communities.

The following officers were inducted into the Order of Saint Maurice for exceptional service to the Infantry: COL Erik Reifentahl, COL Michael Hoffman, and LTC McConnell. For their outstanding contributions to the Airborne Community, the following individuals were inducted into the Order of Saint Michael (pictured): MG (Ret.) Thomas Tempel, Jr, COL Jake Kitson, COL Michael Hoffman, LTC Mendoza, LTC Gamal Baker, and MAJ Jedidiah Allen.





**OIC as a New Graduate:** CPT Linzi Ralph, OIC of Harmony Church Dental Clinic at Fort Benning. CPT Ralph extends her sincere appreciation to her clinic team for their exceptional hard work in the FTDR clinic. Their dedication has resulted in an outstanding 99.9% readiness for their recent graduating class.



**Educator:** LTC Rohtaz Sandhu, Assistant Program Director, JBLM AEGD 1-Year. Fueled by personal connections, LTC Sandhu finds educating residents immensely rewarding. She tailors her teaching to their unique needs, witnessing their transformation into confident and capable clinicians.

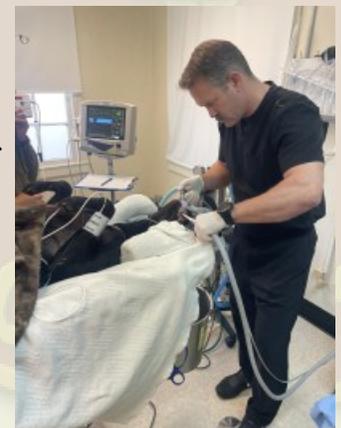


**Deputy Commander for Dental Services:** MAJ Jessica Bondy-Carey, Deputy Commander for Dental Services (DCDS) for Army Health Clinic-Vicenza (AHC-V). The DCDS leadership role requires close collaboration between deputy commanders and the commander to seamlessly integrate dental operations into medical readiness. MAJ Bondy-Carey finds this role rewarding because it allows her to apply clinical expertise in a broader, strategic military context and to learn how to lead a medical facility comprehensively.



**DENTAC CDR:** LTC/P Kwame Kwateng, Fort Sill DENTAC Commander/Deputy Commander for Dental Services (DCDS). Through biweekly leadership rounds of the Medical and Dental Treatment Facilities, LTC/P Kwateng gains invaluable firsthand knowledge of The Joint Commission's rigorous inspection standards and the complex operational requirements of a hospital. LTC/P Kwateng is very thankful and humbled to lead the excellent Soldiers and civilian staff of the Fort Sill DENTAC with the support of his Executive Officer - Ms. Debra Langford, SEL - SFC Jennifer Treat, Executive Assistant -Ms. Shelly Nickell, and all of their OICs, Practice managers, and NCOICs.

**Special Forces Group Dentist:** What MAJ Clay Hastings values most about serving as the 7<sup>th</sup> SFG(A) Dentist is the opportunity to care for an exceptional patient population. MAJ Hastings appreciates the clinical autonomy the role provides, allowing him to practice a full scope of comprehensive dentistry while adapting to the unique demands of supporting Special Operations Forces (SOF). The diversity of opportunities and experiences makes the position uniquely fulfilling; from working with and training 18D's, treating the MPC's and MWD's, to deploying within the AOR for medical and dental humanitarian missions.





## **PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION**

Discuss these opportunities with your Command and Professional Development Officer. For convenience, all websites are hyperlinked to the section title.

### **Issues accessing the hyperlinks through Adobe Acrobat?**

Troubleshooting steps:

1. Click to enable all features in Adobe
2. Right click the hyperlink
3. Select “copy link location”
4. Open preferred web browser
5. Paste the copied link in the web address bar

### **Captain Career Course (CCC)**

Phase 1 is no longer required. Submit signed DA3838 to HRC, DC PDO: COL Eric Setter, [eric.j.setter.mil@army.mil](mailto:eric.j.setter.mil@army.mil)

### **MedXellence Course**

USU’s MedXellence Course provides current and aspiring Military Health System (MHS) leaders 40 hours of continuing education credits and an unparalleled opportunity to expand their leadership and management skill sets, through its robust curriculum consisting of both lecture and hands-on small group exercises that are based on real-world MHS scenarios

Click for the dates, POCs and registration links.

### **Intermediate Level Education (ILE)**

The primary method of completion is distance learning.

Submit signed DA3838 to COL Eric Setter, [eric.j.setter.mil@army.mil](mailto:eric.j.setter.mil@army.mil).

### **Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB)**

Testing is conducted annually at multiple sites across the Army.

### **Joint Medical Executive Skills Program**

Click for information on the following courses: Healthcare Management Course, JMESI Intermediate Executive Skills, Capstone Course for Military Health System Leaders.

### **Join the new Army Dental Corps Chief Facebook Group!**

### **Defense Strategy Course**

### **Army Ignited**

### **Army Credentialing Assistance**



Scan for the Army Dental Corps Chief Facebook Group



## **Check out the New and Improved Dental Corps SharePoint**

New additions include LPD recordings and resources, Dental Corps MILPER updates, Dental Bulletins, operational dentistry training resources, and Policy updates. The SharePoint is continuously being updated with new content to make it a valuable resource that meets your needs.

All health.mil users must join Army 365 DoD Guests to access the Dental Corps SharePoint. Joining can be completed by following this [link](#)

## **Upcoming Continuing Education Conferences:**

- 04-06MAR2026: Senior Leader Strategic Summit
- 16-19MAR2026: Endo-Perio-Prosth Short Course
- 31MAR-3APR: Restorative Short Course
- 8-10APR2026: Operational Dentistry Symposium
- 18-21MAY2026: Oral Surgery Short Course



Scan to RSVP to Operational Dentistry Symposium

## **Upcoming Leader Professional Development:**

- 23APR2026: “From Dental Chair to Strategic Leader” with Col Schwamburger
- 28MAY2026: Long Term Health Education & Training (LTHET) Discussion with COL Stark

## **Dental Corps in the News:**

LTC Yu-Sheng Chen provides a perspective on [operational sterilization challenges and readiness implications](#)  
Fort Polk stresses the importance of [Dental Readiness starts at home](#)

## **Connect with a GDE Ambassador to learn more about a dental specialty (63B-P):**

Contact MAJ Eric Hu ([eric.c.hu.mil@health.mil](mailto:eric.c.hu.mil@health.mil)) of the GDE Ambassadors Program

## **General Questions to the Army Dental Corps:**

[usarmy.jbsa.medical-coe.mbx.dental-corps@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.jbsa.medical-coe.mbx.dental-corps@army.mil)