

Colonel Paul M. Colthirst

30TH Chief, U.S. Army Dental Corps

COL Colthirst is the 30th Chief of the U.S. Army Dental Corps and serves as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Dental Integration at Medical Readiness Command, Pacific. He received his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Meharry Medical College in 2002, completed a Dental Public Health residency, and earned a Master of Science in Dental Public Health from the University of Iowa. He is board-certified in the specialty and holds a Master of Strategic Studies from the Army War College. From 2021 to 2026, he served as the Consultant to the Army Surgeon General for Dental Public Health.

COL Colthirst's command assignments include Commander, Dental Health Command-Pacific; Commander, Fort Cavazos DENTAC; and Commander, Fort Polk Dental Health Activity. Key prior assignments include: Brigade Dental Surgeon, 172nd STRYKER Brigade Combat Team, Fort Wainwright; Public Health Staff Officer, DENCOM HQ; Chief of Oral Epidemiology, Dental and Trauma Research Detachment (DTRD); Deputy Director, Tri-Service Center for Oral Health Studies; Dental Staff Officer, Office of The Surgeon General (OTSG); and Small Group Leader for the AMEDD Advanced Officer Course.

He has authored numerous peer-reviewed research papers and military technical reports on Disease Non-Battle Injuries and military dentistry and co-authored a chapter in *Military Medicine*. He has lectured on Operational Dentistry at national and international forums. His military education includes the Intermediate Level Education Course, Army Medical Department Executive Skills Course, Defense Strategy Course, Interagency Institute for Healthcare Executives, Global Health Strategies and Security course, and the Medical Strategic Leadership Program.

COL Colthirst holds the Surgeon General's "A" proficiency designator and is a member of the Order of Military Medical Merit (O2M3). He is an Army RAND Arroyo Research Fellow and a Fellow of the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies. He has earned the Army Staff Badge and the Advanced Indo-Pacific Experience Personnel Skill Identifier (P2E).