



SCA eNews



To Promote the history and traditions of the Medical Service Corps, to enhance the continuing education, support social and recreational activities and reinforce camaraderie among its members

A Message From our President, David Rubenstein

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Howdy, all. I trust you're well as the many holidays of the season pull us this way and that.

I've had the privilege the past few months of visiting with Medical Service Corps Soldiers around the States and in Japan. In doing so I've learned two things. One, they wonder what the future holds given the current and future changes in Army Medicine and the military health system. Two, they are magnificently resilient and eager to make the future, however it's planned and executed, a success.

There are two major moving tectonic plates of change in military medicine. The first plate of change is the transfer of all brick and mortar health care from the Army, Navy, and Air Force to the Defense Health Agency. The DHA, currently directed by Army Lieutenant General Ron Place, is standing up its directorates and policies. As you can imagine, it's a huge undertaking. The second plate of change is the Army's focus away from providing health care while focusing on readiness to solely focusing on readiness. Specifically, the Army mantra is "a medically ready force and a ready medical force." It falls to the DHA to provide the health system to ensure medical readiness.

The effect of both these tectonic plates of change is uncertainty and confusion in the career plans of many, if not most, Medical Service Corps Soldiers. Will their specialty exist after the changes occur? Will the assignments they expected be available? Will the Army have new demands on them?

I encourage our members, those in uniform and those no longer in uniform, to do two things related to changes in Army Medicine. First, be aware of what's happening. Read what you can and talk with those informed with the issues. Our senior members in uniform should provide information to those more junior. Our former Soldiers should seek updates from those in uniform, and those in uniform should offer those updates. Second, those of us who have gone through change in years past should make themselves available to offer perspective and context. We who have lived through change have much to offer to those in the throes of it. Offer yourselves for mentoring sessions and leader development programs. And those in uniform, reach out to the Soldiers for Life and invite them in to share their experiences.

Thank you to MG Dennis LeMaster, our 19th Corps Chief for providing some comments to our newsletter as he leads the Medical Service Corps through these changing times.

In this newsletter you'll also find the dates for our biennial reunion, to be held in Northern Virginia. Our advance appreciation goes to Beverly Beavers for leading a committee of volunteers in planning our event.

On 10 January 2020, Major General Patrick Sargent, 18th Corps Chief will retire. We thank him for his support to the Silver Caduceus Association and wish him and his wife Sherry all the very best in their next set of adventures.

Best wishes and a good winter....David Rubenstein

Your Officers

President, David Rubenstein
Vice President: Ed Hollingsworth
President Elect: Kyle D. Campbell
Secretary: Lisa Weatherington
Treasurer: Tom Baker
Editor: Ed Hollingsworth
Serving the Army community of present and former US Army MSC officers

Address:

SCA PO Box 39514
San Antonio, TX 78218
www.silvercaduceusassociation.org/

The Focus Is You

Fellow Medical Service Corps Officers -

Our Army is reforming to align with Senior Army Leader priorities which is to prepare for large scale combat in a multi-domain operational environment. The Army's top priorities are readiness, modernization, and reform. As a result, Army Medicine is reorganizing to remain nested with Army priorities in support of our warfighters. This change will be complex and take time.

I understand this may create uncertainty about the future of Army Medicine and inadvertently creates anxiety about your future as a Medical Service Corps Officer. In response, I want you to know we are actively working on a strategic plan that will be inclusive of the Assistant Corps Chiefs, Consultants, and you. The strategic plan is a process to align our efforts. Inclusive of the strategic plan are goals and objectives aimed at achieving our mission and vision. Central to our efforts is you — ensuring you are taken care of is imperative to our success. We will communicate more effectively with you to provide as much predictability about the future to the greatest extent possible.

The future structure of MEDCOM is undergoing further analysis, and there is likely going to be an enduring mission. Also, we are still assessing the support requirements for the Defense Health Agency and operational medicine. This reorganization will create opportunities at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels for our Officers in the future. As for the proposed reductions of MSC Officers, HQDA asked Army Medicine to reassess the operational risk of losing positions. We are conducting further analysis of our ability to develop MSC professionals. I will keep the field informed of any changes.

I ask you to remain flexible and recognize that we have an enduring mission to provide combat health support and force health protection services. The current changes to our operational environment afford us an excellent opportunity to highlight the relevance of the Medical Service Corps. Our Corps must remain focused on providing operational medical support to large-scale, multi-domain operations to enable Soldier lethality and survivability.

Please help me to promulgate this message, "Navigating through uncertainty is hard, but remain steadfast, the future for all our Officers is bright." Thank you for your agility and contributions to the Corps. I look forward to serving with you as we lead the Medical Service Corps into the future.

One Team...One Purpose! Conserving the Fighting Strength Since 1775!

Major General Dennis P. LeMaster
19th Chief, Medical Service Corps

New Army commercial released on Veterans Day 2019. This commercial has received repeated play on television recently. I think you will enjoy this. Ed

<https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2019/11/12/army-drops-new-recruiting-ad-over-veterans-day-weekend/>

National Veterans Memorial and Museum, Columbus, Ohio

Visit <https://nationalvmm.org/>

Please click on this link to view an interview with Jim Van Straten at the John Brown University in Arkansas. The subject is Jim's book "A Different Face of War".

[The Army Medical Service Corps in Vietnam: James Van Straten](#)

2020 Silver Caduceus Association Reunion

The Silver Caduceus Association (SCA) is hosting the biennial reunion Wednesday, September 30 to Saturday, October 3 2020. Our tentative location is Arlington (Crystal City), VA in the National Capital Area. Additional details about hotel reservations are forthcoming upon completion of hotel negotiations. Crystal City, Virginia is an urban community in Northern Virginia that is located along the Potomac River with dramatic views of Washington, D.C. The downtown area is located within walking distance of a Metro station and has many hotels, retail stores, restaurants, and a unique network of underground shops and walkways. With its close proximity to Ronald Reagan National Airport, this area is a popular place for visitors to stay with convenient access to the nation's capital. Beverly Beavers and the SCA Reunion Committee are busy putting the plans together for this event. The program agenda consists of topics related to healthcare and most likely on the subject of the "Future of Department of Defense Health Care". There will be a tour of the new Military Museum at Fort Belvoir, a golf tournament, spouse activities, free time to enjoy the DC area and much more. We hope you can join us for our reunion and save these dates on your calendar. If you have any questions, please call Beverly Beavers at 571-286-1190 or Lisa Weatherington, committee member at 571-231-5443.