



# 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

## In This Issue

- ◆ Presidents Message
- ◆ Chief's Message
- ◆ TSG Message
- ◆ Army Announcement
- ◆ Secretary of The Army Message
- ◆ 2021 SCA Reunion
- ◆ 2021 Reunion Flyer
- ◆ Scholarships
- ◆ TRICARE Enrollment Fees

### Your Officers

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Serving the Army community of present and former US Army MSC officers

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## President's Message . . . August 2020

**MG (Ret) David Rubenstein, FACHE**

Howdy, all. I trust you and yours are well.

As the summer grinds on, so does our inability to get together with each other: family, friends, neighbors, workmates. To those of you who have lost loved ones and friends to this disease and to all other causes, please accept my most heartfelt condolences. Let's honor each of them by doing our part to limit transmission.

Your Board of Directors recently met virtually to discuss current and future issues and projects. Among that list are the following.

Planning for our Silver Caduceus Association Reunion continues despite the delay from this fall to next. Please see the article and flyer latter in this newsletter for an update. Please forward this newsletter to your MSC friends to spread the word of our reunion.

We're working with our webmaster to improve our webpage to make it timelier and more newsworthy. Won't you take a look and share your thoughts as to improvements. ([www.silvercaduceusassociation.org](http://www.silvercaduceusassociation.org)) Our email is [silvercaduceusassociation@gmail.com](mailto:silvercaduceusassociation@gmail.com).

Our scholarship program continues in solid shape under the watchful eye of COL (Ret) Roger Williams. Our 2020 application window closed with members nominating several worthy candidates. The program, however, is only as strong as the donations that keep it funded. Please see Roger's article, which follows, and consider being a donor.

Despite postponing our reunion, we will proceed with our Board of Directors election. President Elect COL (Ret) Kyle D Campbell has compiled a slate of outstanding members who have agreed to serve for a period of one year: October 2020 to October 2021. We will then return to a two-year Board with an election at our 2021 reunion.

For the 2020 election, however, we'll proceed electronically. On 14 or 15 September every member will receive an email with a link to our on-line ballot. Participate – your vote is important.

Thank you all, for your continued support to the association. Let's make it better by recruiting members to join our ranks.

# Chief's Message

## MG Dennis LeMaster

Fellow Medical Service Corps Officers,

Thank you for your diligence and mission focus on serving others while we navigate these unusual times resulting from the Novel Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. Protecting our People, Providing Support, and Preserving Readiness are the stated priorities of the Department of Defense (DOD). The Army and Army Medicine continues an aggressive response posture that advances these DOD priorities. Many Active, Reserve, National Guard, and Retired Recall Medical Service Corps (MSC) officers are directly contributing to this effort. While all of us share a critical responsibility in our daily actions to reduce the spread of infection and flatten the curve, the Army's Response to COVID-19 (protect), accessing our future talent (preserve readiness), and direct support of the Military Health System's healthcare delivery mission (support) will likely continue as the Army's top priorities and the MSC in the months ahead.

MSC officers are engaged in the direct fight against COVID-19. The Army mobilized assets to serve our nation in several locations including hard hit communities in New York, California, and Texas. MSC officers are executing missions across the whole-of-government response. Today, nearly 600 medical personnel are supporting 133 requests for forces and mission assignments to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Army Medicine is providing embedded support across 35 civilian hospitals and nine alternate care facilities throughout CONUS. Three Hospital Center/Field Hospitals and 23 Urban Augmentee Medical Task Force (UAMTF) units stood up and are either currently deployed or on prepare to deploy orders.

MSC officers are serving in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) COVID-19 Task Force while several are assigned to key roles in support of Operation Warp Speed (OWS). The OWS mission is to deliver a safe and effective vaccine and therapeutics by January 2021. These critical mission requirements tasked to the Army demonstrates the value, immense talents, agility, readiness, and selfless service that are hallmarks of Army Medicine and the MSC. Moreover, the Army recalled over 169 retired volunteers (59 MSC officers) to provide support at the installation level. These selfless servants are supporting COVID-19 response efforts across the globe. As a result, the Army expanded capabilities in healthcare delivery, laboratory support, and contact tracing in CONUS and abroad. This included the CENTCOM AOR, Europe, and U.S. Forces Korea.

Additionally, our MSC officers worked with TRADOC to develop COVID-19 standard operating procedures and mitigation measures that protect our trainee populations. These Soldiers are at higher risk for disease relative to the Army as a whole. Because of the contributions of Army Medicine, the Army remains postured in protecting the force. This enables the Army to continue achieving success in recruiting and training Soldiers during these challenging times

Finally, I am very excited about our future. Currently, the Army is undergoing a virtual branching process for Army ROTC and U.S. Military Academy Cadets. As the Medical Center of Excellence Commanding General, I am actively engaged in this process. We put together a diverse and experienced team of MSC officers to select the future leaders of our MSC. The MSC is the second highest branch requested by over 4,500 ROTC Cadets. The Army provided us with 719 ROTC Cadets who listed MSC as their top choice. We in turn conducted a deliberate, data driven, analytic screening process based on key leader attributes and identified 479 cadets that we will target to fill our 160 requirements. For USMA, 26 cadets listed MSC as their top choice and we will select from that group five 67J MEDEVAC Pilots and five 70B Medical Platoon Leaders. Any organization would be thrilled to have this level of talent and competition that form the building blocks of our future MSC. Moving forward, I ask that each of you assist our efforts in recruiting and mentoring our future Army leaders. Your experience and influence is key to our continued success and health of our MSC.

I will close with the words of our Army Senior Leaders. The Army Chief of Staff, "Respect this virus!" Protect yourselves, your family and the force. The Army Surgeon General encourages everyone to practice the disciplines of handwashing, social and physical distancing. I expect Medical Service Corps leaders to set the example. This includes the use of our face coverings even if some local jurisdictions have eased their requirement to wear them. We are still in this together — even while most of us remain apart.

Stay Steady in the Saddle!

**★ ★ ★ TSG SENDS: COVID-19 and Army Medicine 31 ★ ★ ★**

Army Medicine Family,

I am happy to congratulate one of Army Medicine's own. The Army War College awarded COL Robert Carter III their Foundation Award for Outstanding Strategy Research Paper for his paper titled "Artificial Intelligence Applications for Soldiers in Multi-Domain Operations". COL Carter is the Consultant to The Surgeon General for Physiology and Biochemistry. Thank you, Robert, for sharing the knowledge and insights that only Army Medicine can deliver.

On Wednesday, I participated in the AUSA Noon Report webcast hosted by GEN (R) Carter Ham, President and CEO of AUSA. It was exciting to address questions about the Army COVID-19 response and prevention measures, military medical reform, virtual health, Coronavirus vaccine efforts, and racial equality efforts in the Army. Opportunities like this allow me to tell the Army Medicine story and share all the great things that you all do every day to keep our Army ready.

Below is a link to the Army News Service article and the video of the webcast.

Knowledge, balancing resources vital to Army's COVID-19 efforts (July 30)

<https://www.army.mil/article/237695/>

Video of the complete interview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWx0j8Yqx78>

The 245th Chaplain Corps Anniversary was this week on July 29th. Army Chaplains have provided spiritual support for our Family since the Army's inception. We couldn't be more grateful for their service. I sincerely appreciate our Chaplain team's efforts to support the spiritual needs of the Army Medicine Family during this most challenging time.

In response to racial tensions and civil unrest in our nation, our Army Senior Leaders have directed all Army principals to immediately initiate and participate in discussions with our Soldiers and Civilians on race, diversity, and equitable inclusion in the Army. Army Medicine is addressing this with our initiative, Project Inclusion: We Will Do Better. We will share more information in our upcoming Town Hall on Thursday, August 6th. CSM Hough and I look forward to responding to your concerns.

As you know, the responsibilities of Army Medicine never stop as we respond personally and professionally to the pandemic affecting the entire globe. We will do what is necessary to maintain the health of the force. As case counts rise around the world, people continue to be our focus. We continue to implement measures that help ensure the safety of our Soldiers and Families and we continue to support the whole-of-government response as "force multipliers." USNORTHCOM currently has 664 medical personnel deployed in communities across the nation, with most of them embedded in hospitals.

While we train to go into harm's way every day, surely few of us thought we'd be going into harm's way on the home front and fighting an invisible enemy. Every day I have the opportunity to talk to many of you who have chosen this fight. "Thank you" just doesn't seem to convey how deeply appreciative that I, all of Army Medicine, and our entire Nation are for what you do. My sincerest thank you for what you do every day across the globe.

Continue to stay safe and practice the disciplines of social and physical distancing. Protect yourself and your family. Protect the force. Protect our Nation. We're in this together!

Army Medicine is Army Strong!

TSG 45

VR

R. SCOTT DINGLE

Lieutenant General, U.S. Army

The Surgeon General and

Commanding General, USAMEDCOM

## **Army Announcement**

Official photos and data identifying a soldier's race, ethnicity and gender will no longer be part of promotion boards beginning Aug. 1, the Army has announced. The changes are outlined in a June 26 memo signed by Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy and Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville, just one day after senior leaders announced the Army was removing photos from officer promotion boards.

The June 26 memo expands the decision to include warrant officer and enlisted selection boards and calls for identifying race, ethnicity, and gender data to be redacted from the Officer Record Brief and the Enlisted Record Brief.

Diversity is critical to every aspect of talent management in our Army, but it is especially important in the selection board process," the memo states. "Our soldiers must be confident that equal opportunity exists at every stage of their career."

The changes are part of Project Inclusion, a new initiative aimed at improving diversity, equality and inclusion across the force [see attached memo].

We as a leadership team recognize we need to take a harder look at ourselves and make sure that we're doing all that we can to have a holistic effort to listen to our soldiers, our civilians and our families in enacting initiatives that promote diversity, equity and inclusion," McCarthy said during a press briefing June 25 announcing Project Inclusion.

Army leaders have put together about 20 initiatives to drive diversity and build unit cohesion, McConville added.

"Leaders understand that organizational success depends on the ability of people of different backgrounds to work together, while bringing the value of their diverse experiences to the mission," the memo states.



Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Family Members and Soldiers for Life:

On July 26, we celebrate the 72nd anniversary of the official end to racial segregation in the U.S. Armed Forces. However, just as neither the thirteenth amendment nor the Civil Rights Act eliminated racism from American society, the integration of our military did not eliminate racism from our ranks. The past few months have reminded us that we still have a long way to go on our never-ending journey to be a more perfect organization.

The U.S. Army did the right thing 72 years ago, but admittedly, some leaders in the Army were reluctant. A common phrase both then and now is that the Army is not a social experiment, and that is true. But the Army does not need to experiment to know that our strength lies in the diversity of our people and, more importantly, inclusion. Defending the Constitution and protecting the American people requires great leadership, and the best leaders are those capable of understanding multiple perspectives and empathizing with those whom they lead. Our best leaders are those who know how to inspire others and make each person feel like a valued member of a team, whether that person is a Soldier, an Army Civilian, a Family Member, or a Retiree/Veteran Soldier for Life. That is how you recruit and retain America's best and brightest. That is how you defend a Nation from all enemies, foreign and domestic.

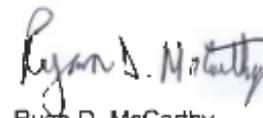
Our Army's philosophy is People First, and our attitude is Winning Matters. That means treating each other with dignity and respect. It means putting the right people in the right place at the right time. It means building cohesive teams that are highly-trained, disciplined, and fit. "Project Inclusion" is a new holistic effort to eliminate both overt prejudice and unconscious bias. The elimination of DA photos from promotion boards is just the first step. "This Is My Squad" is the foundational element to inculcate an Army culture of taking care of each other. Your "squad" includes your leadership, your battle buddies, your subordinates, and your family, whether you are a private, a civilian, or a general. And when a member of your squad is in trouble – from harassment, assault, mental health concerns, or prejudice – you take action because you care.

We are proud to serve with the greatest Soldiers in the world and be a part of the greatest fighting force. Today, let us celebrate how far we've come as we work to continue moving forward together.

People First – Winning Matters – Army Strong!

  
Michael A. Grinston  
Sergeant Major of the Army

  
James C. McConville  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

  
Ryan D. McCarthy  
Secretary of the Army

## 2021 Silver Caduceus Association Reunion

Due to health and travel restrictions associated with COVID-19, the Fall 2020 SCA Reunion is rescheduled to the Fall 2021.

Our reunion will be held in Arlington, Virginia from Wednesday, 29 September through Saturday, 2 October at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, 1700 Richmond Highway. 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. The program agenda will consist of topics related to military healthcare and broader issues.

Among other topics, we have invited speakers to update us on the Medical Service Corps (Corps Chief MG Dennis LeMaster), Army Medicine (Surgeon General LTG R. Scott Dingle), and Defense Health Agency (Director LTG Ron Place). Other activities include a tour of the National Museum of the United States Army, AOC-specific dinners or socials, an attendee reception, and free time to enjoy the area and each other.

The hotel provides free shuttle service from Reagan National Airport and has lobby access to the Crystal City Metro subway station. The station is two stops to the Pentagon, three to Arlington National Cemetery, and four to the National Mall.

The reunion activities at a glance are:

Wednesday: AOC-specific dinners or socials

Thursday: Army Museum tour, evening reception

Friday: General sessions on various topics

Saturday: Memorial service, general sessions, dinner-dance

As plans progress, additional information will be provided. Please continue to monitor the SCA website or our LinkedIn page for updated information. We look forward to you joining us as generations of MSC friends gather for a wonderful weekend.

Additional information is available from our reunion co-chairs, Beverly Beavers, at [bev110768@gmail.com](mailto:bev110768@gmail.com) or Lisa Weatherington at [wxington1@msn.com](mailto:wxington1@msn.com).

Help us get the word out by please sharing this newsletter (including the flyer on the next page) with your MSC circle: by email, by mouth, by social media sites.

## **2021 Silver Caduceus Association Reunion**

### **Wednesday, 29 September thru Saturday, 2 October 2021**

Our reunion will be held in Arlington, Virginia from Wednesday, 29 September through Saturday, 2 October at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, 1700 Richmond Highway.

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Additional details and information, including an itinerary and registration, will be sent by email to all members and posted to a variety of social media sites, to include our own website:

<https://www.silvercaduceusassociation.org>.

It's important that as many people as possible stay at our reunion hotel so we meet our contractual minimum and avoid a financial penalty. We will keep you updated once hotel reservations are accepted again. Hotel information is at <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wasgw-crystal-gateway-marriott>.

We look forward to you joining us as generations of MSC friends gather for a wonderful weekend.

Additional information is available from our reunion co-chairs, Beverly Beavers, at [bev110768@gmail.com](mailto:bev110768@gmail.com) or Lisa Weatherington at [wxington1@msn.com](mailto:wxington1@msn.com).

Help us get the word out by please sharing this flyer with your MSC circle: by email, by mouth, by social media sites.

## **SCA Scholarship Committee Chairman Roger Williams**

As you all know, due to the current coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 SCA Reunion has been re-scheduled to the fall of 2021. What you may not know is that a common practice that takes place during our reunions is for SCA members and guests to seek out the Scholarship Committee Chairman and hand over cash or a check as a personal donation for the SCA Scholarship program. For example, during the 2018 reunion 12 individuals contributed a total of \$2,700 to our scholarship fund.

Since SCA Scholarships are awarded every year and we will not be having the reunion this year, I would like to reach out to all members and encourage you to take a moment in the next few weeks or so to consider sending in a scholarship donation this year. To donate, simply write out a check payable to the SCA and note on the "For" line that it is for the SCA Scholarship Program. Then mail your check to SCA, Inc., P.O. Box 39514, San Antonio, TX 78218.

The SCA is an IRS approved 501c (19) tax exempt organization and as such your donations are tax deductible. If you would like to receive a confirmation letter acknowledging your donation, please let me know and I will be happy to provide one.

Finally, as a reminder, our scholarship program is funded entirely by donations and it has been successful over the years due to the generous contributions of our SCA membership and other individuals who support the SCA goal of enhancing continued education. Thank you in advance for your continued support of the SCA Scholarship Program.

### **TRICARE enrollment fees expand to retirees using TRICARE Select**

The days of being covered for healthcare by the TRICARE program from the day you retired without the military members paying any fees for coverage are coming to an end. For the first time starting 1 January 2021, military retirees will be required to pay monthly enrollment fees in order to have TRICARE (Select) as their healthcare coverage. TRICARE Select (previous called TRICARE Standard) provides healthcare coverage for those retirees/family members who are not enrolled into the TRICARE Prime program. Retirees who opt not to enroll and pay the fees, will not be covered for healthcare services in the civilian sector: they will be able to use MTFs only if space is available.

Simply put, pretty much all military retirees will now pay fees (either for Select or Prime) in order to have healthcare coverage for any services/tests/care in the civilian sector.

Retirees 65 and over who have Medicare Part A & B are covered under the TRICARE for Life program which has no enrollment fees, as of this year.

See the below link for more details on this major change to the healthcare plan for military retirees

[https://tricare.mil/CoveredServices/BenefitUpdates/Archives/06\\_22\\_2020\\_Changes\\_Coming\\_Some\\_TRICARE\\_Select\\_Retired\\_Beneficiaries](https://tricare.mil/CoveredServices/BenefitUpdates/Archives/06_22_2020_Changes_Coming_Some_TRICARE_Select_Retired_Beneficiaries)