History of the United States Army Dental Corps
US Revolutionary War: Citizen Soldier

Policy: Dental Care is the soldier’s responsibility.

War of 1812
Western Frontier

Reality of service remote from home and family support:
- Laymen in unit
- Hospital Stewards
- Physicians untrained in dental care
Historically soldiers were required enough teeth to bite off the end of the cartridge so that the gun powder and bullet (ball) could be loaded into a muzzle loader rifle. First dental standards lasted until WWII.
Spanish-American War

Deployment to Philippines and Cuba placed American soldiers on foreign soil, completely remote from sources of dental care.

A number of hospital stewards were “specialized” into providing dental services. Many of these were trained dentists.
Congress Recognizes Requirement

- 1901 Army directed to contract 30 dentists.
- Pressure from American Dental Association.
- Dr. John Sayre Marshall - senior dentist
April 4, 1872, a hospital steward was given written orders to provide dental services as part of his regular duties.
Father of Army Dental Corps

1901

Cpt John S. Marshall
Contract Dental Surgeon 1901-10
1st Army Dental Officer 1911

1911
World War I
Mobilizing the Force

6 April 1917 - War declared on Germany

April 1917 - 86 AD Dental Officers
Nov 1918 - 4,620 AD Dental Officers
1,684 stationed in Europe
Required dental training in Langres France

Sep 1917 - 891 **Enlisted** Dentists in
Medical Enlisted RC activated as privates.
1,684 DC stationed in Europe
Required dental training in France

Army Sanitary School
Langres, France

Dental Section
Nov 1917
BG Leigh C. Fairbank
1938-1942

• First DC officer to obtain General Officer rank.
1941 U.S. enters world war with 2,905 Dental Officers (RA and RC)

15,292 DC at peak (1944)

No dental command and control

Most dental personnel assigned to tactical units (Unit Support Concept)
Dental treatment room, WWII
27 August, 1943
Ben Salomon, CPT, USA DC

- 7 July 1944, Defended the evacuation of ambulatory wounded
- Hand to hand combat plus operation of rifle and a heavy machine gun to protect remaining wounded
- Killed 98 enemy soldiers
- MEDAL OF HONOR
Korean War (1950-1953)

- Early-on concept of dental support same as WW II, Unit Support
- Later, concept of Area Dental Support evolved but not completely implemented
- Very little improvement in field equipment
Vietnam War 1962-1973
Mobile dental van Vietnam War
MG Robert B. Shira
1967-1971

- Vietnam era
- AOHMP
- Army General Dentistry Board
- Improvements in Combat Dentistry
Vietnam War 1962-1973

- Dental Combat Effectiveness Program (DCEP)
  - Predeployment Interception
  - Enhanced deployed dental capability
  - Prevention
    - “Brush-in”s
    - OHI
TRIVIAL PURSUIT

- Who were the only two Dental Corps Chiefs to be promoted from COL to MG?

Answer:
- MG Russell J. Czerw, Jul 2006
- MG Edwin (Pinkie) Smith, Dec 1971
MG Edwin H. Smith, Jr.
1971-1975

- DTA Program
- DOD directed productivity reporting method
- Community health hygienist added to TDA
MG S.N. Bhaskar
1975-1978

• Got Congress to pass legislation for Chief of Dental Corps to be MG
• All DC funding, policies and procedures would go through Chief of Corps
1973 - 1991 ADCCS autonomy

- 1978 IDSMP made Public Law
  - Chief of DC/Assist SG for Dental Services
  - Dental Activities commanded by DC officer
  - Dental Activity Commander responsible to installation commander
MG George Kuttas
1979-1982

- Emphasized productivity
- Stressed micromanagement
MG H. Thomas Chandler
1982-1986

- Lean toward more “kindler, gentler” and less productivity oriented DC.
- Pushed specialty training
- Reagan Years….lots of money, economy poor, recruiting helped
MG Bill B Lefler
1986-1990

- Inherited follow-on of Golden Years
- 100% Dental Focus, not duel hatted
- DC started to come under scrutiny…Task Force Aescapalus
Dental care in the Gulf, Persian Gulf War
MG Thomas R. Tempel
1990-1994

- Inherited OTAD care problem.
- DC providing 40% OTAD care.
- DOD cut over 100 dental slots
- 1st Chief of Corps who was Generic AMEDD, Deputy Surgeon General
MG. John J. Cuddy
1994-1998

- Inherited recruitment/retention problem
- Instituted many special pays
- HPSP
- Contracting
- Wore two hats
MG Patrick D. Sculley
1999- 2002

- Wore three hats
- Continued evolving Cuddy projects
- Fireman!!!!
- CDA, DCO,
- Big shoes to fill…..
BG Joseph G. Webb
2002- 2006

- Chief of DC
- TAMC Commander
- Deputy Commander of MEDCOM
MG Russell J. Czerw
2006-present

- AMEDD C&S Commander
- Chief, Dental Corps