

History
of the United States Army
Dental Corps

US Revolutionary War: Citizen Soldier



Policy: Dental Care is the soldier's responsibility.

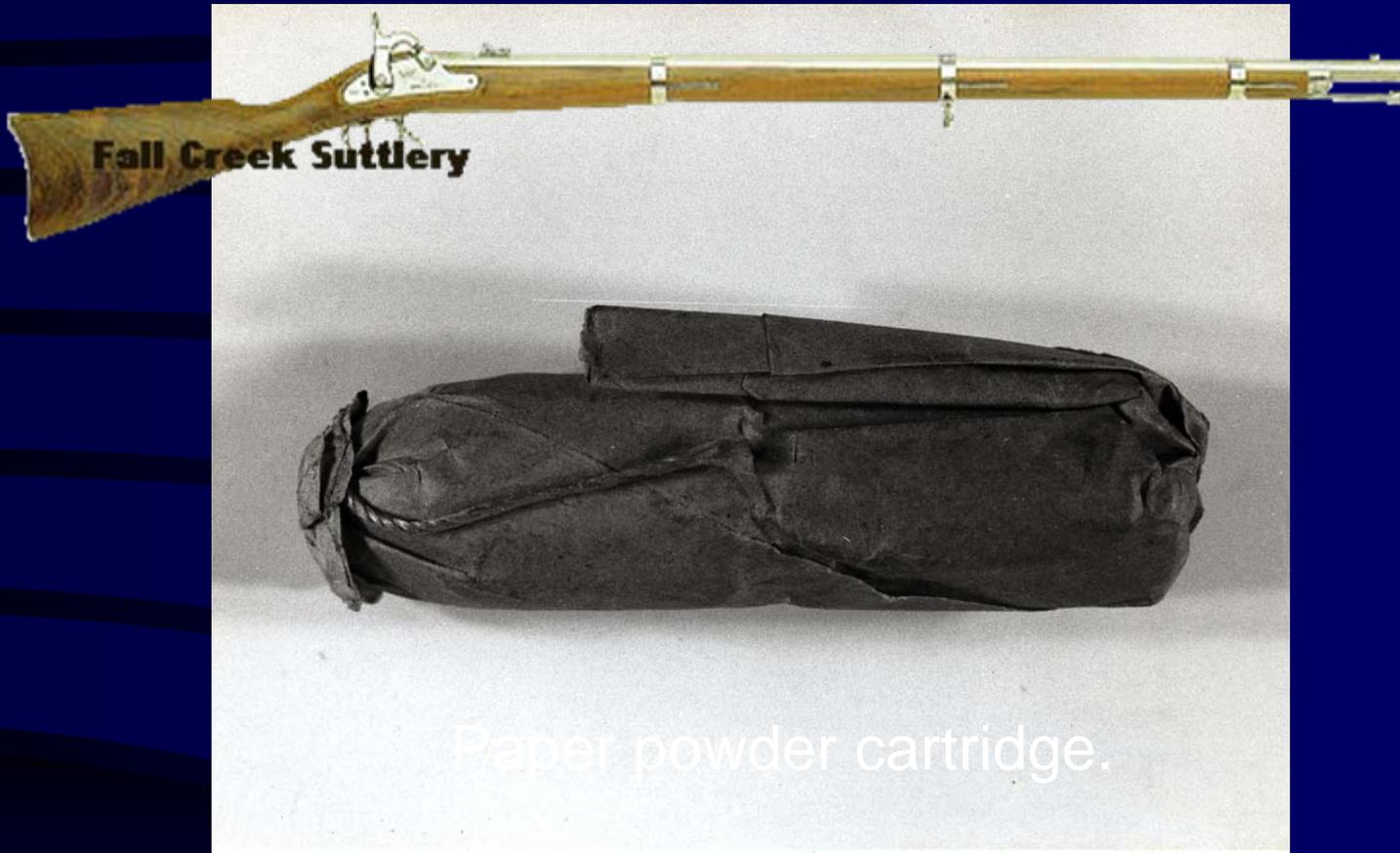
War of 1812
Western Frontier

Reality of service remote from home and family support:

- Laymen in unit
- Hospital Stewards
- Physicians untrained in dental care



Enlistment Dental Standards



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.

CIVIL WAR



Congress Recognizes Requirement

- 1901 Army directed to contract 30 dentists.
- Pressure from American Dental Association.
- Dr. John Sayre Marshall -senior dentist

First recognized Army program for Dental Care

William Saunders



April 4, 1872 , a hospital steward was given written orders to provide dental services as part of his regular duties.



West Point, US Military Academy

Father of Army Dental Corps



1901



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.

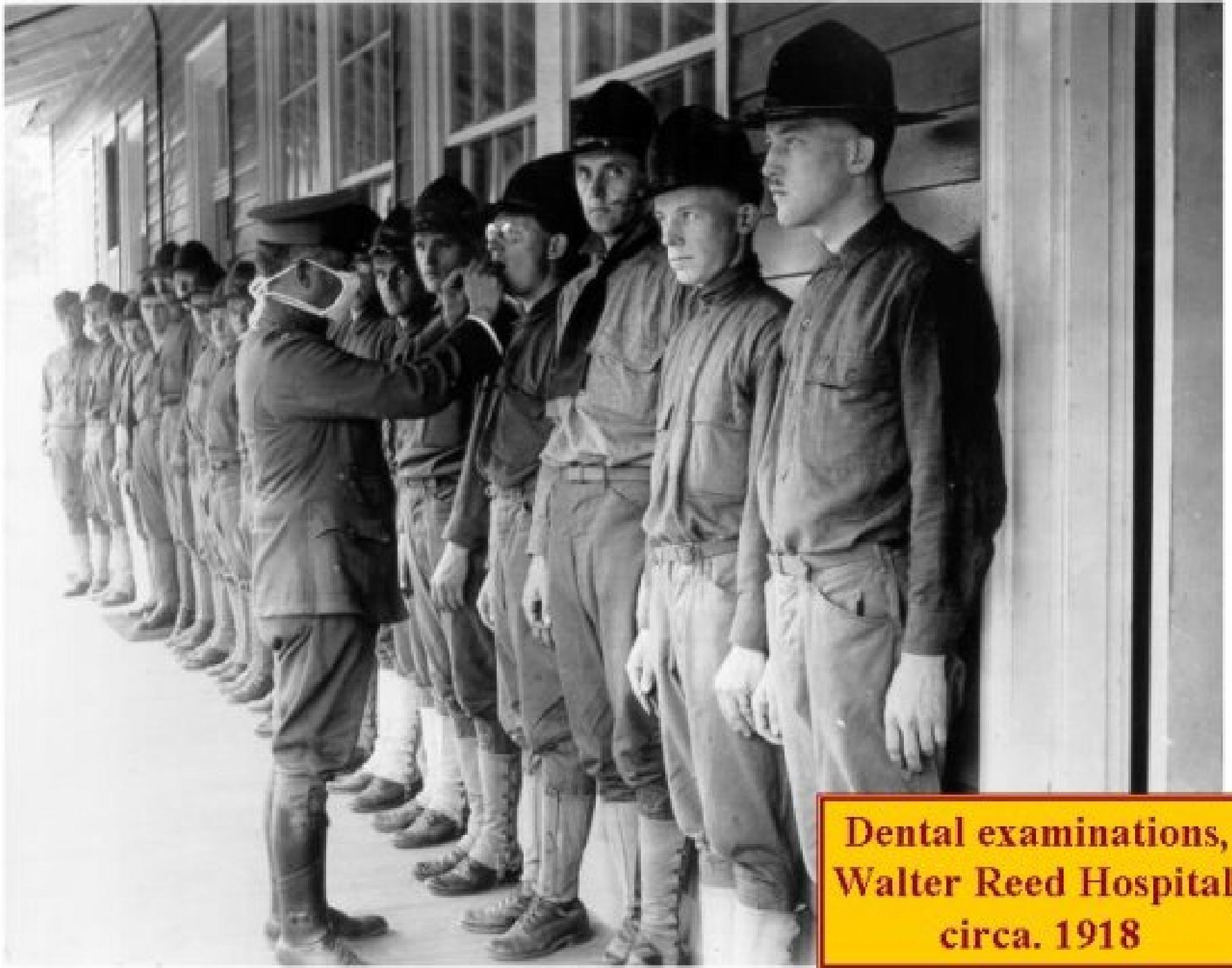
World War I

1,684 DC stationed in Europe
Required dental training in France

Army Sanitary School
Langres, France



Dental Section
Nov 1917

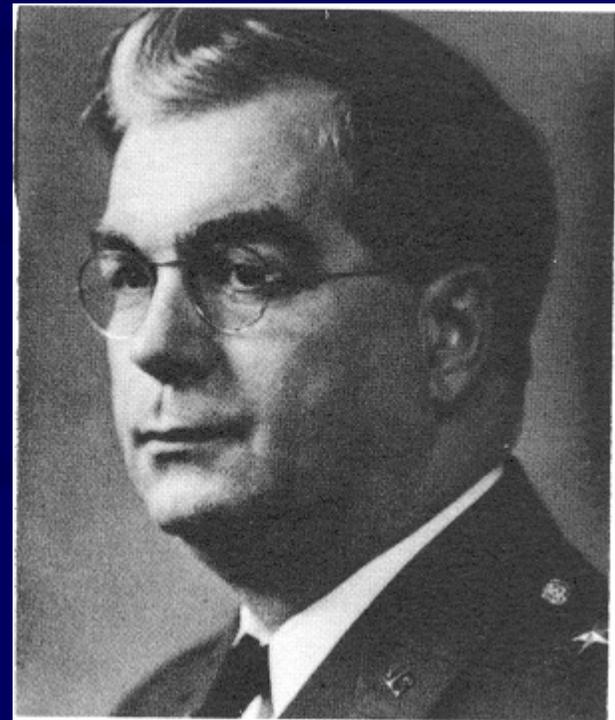


**Dental examinations,
Walter Reed Hospital,
circa. 1918**

BG Leigh C. Fairbank

1938-1942

- First DC officer to obtain General Officer rank.



World War II



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



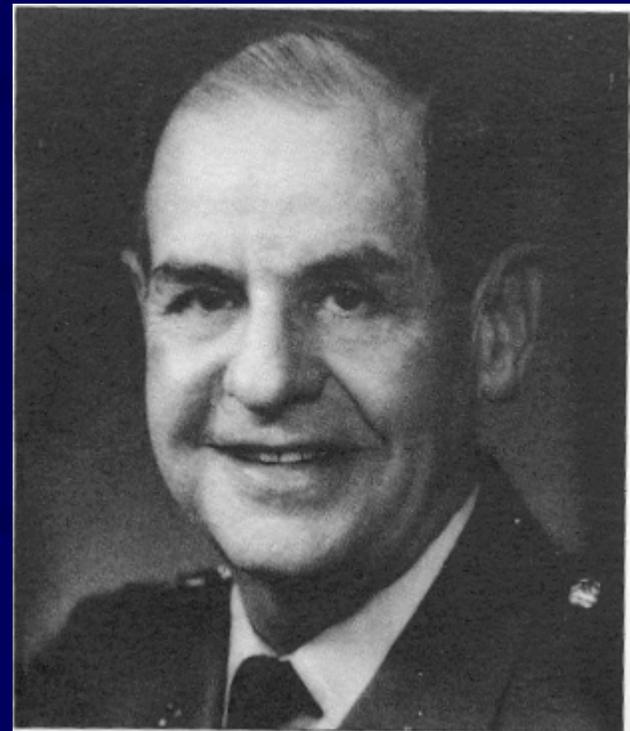
**Mobile dental van
Vietnam War**



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

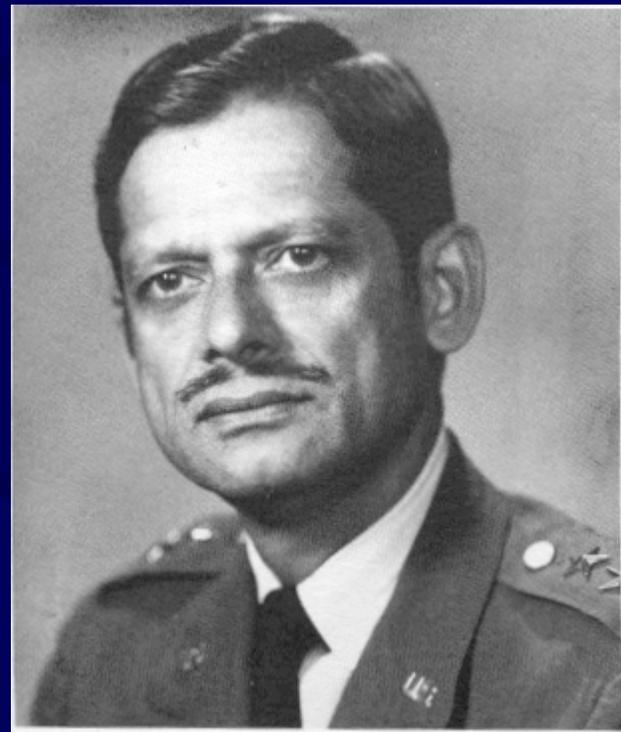
- DTA Program
- DOD directed productivity reporting method
- Community health hygienist added to TDA



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



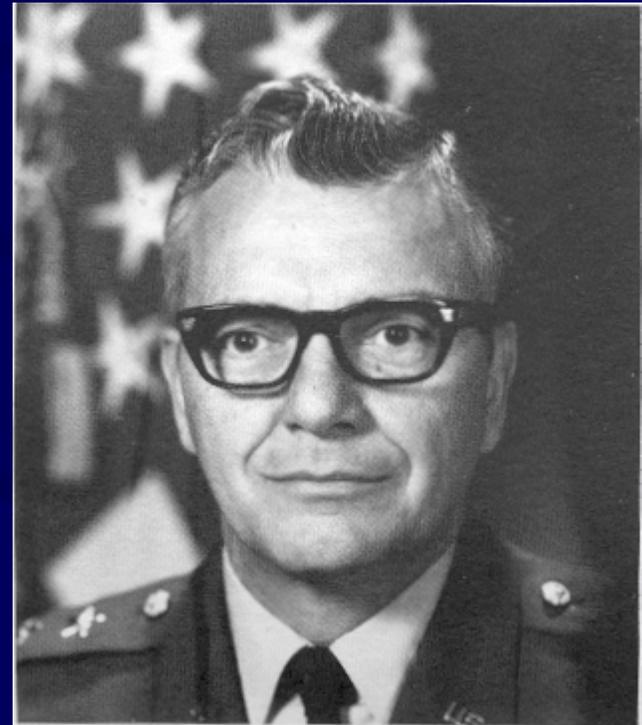
1973 - 1991 ADCS autonomy

- 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

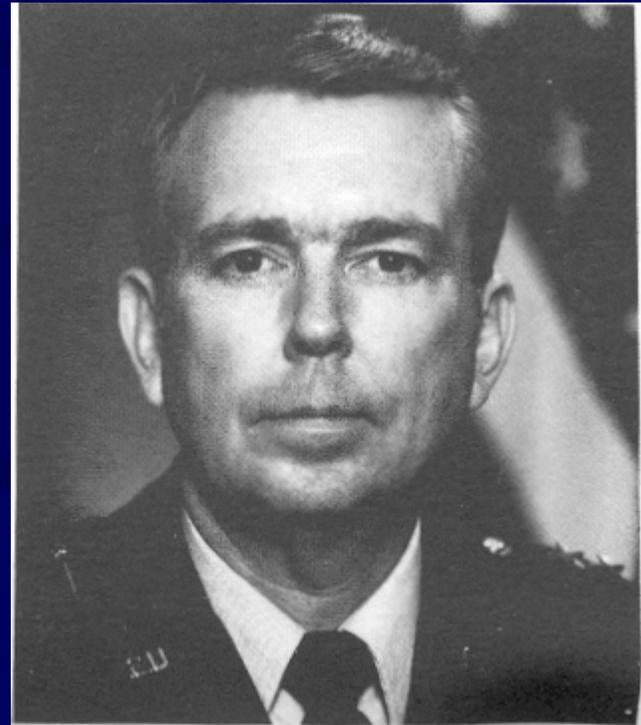
- Emphasized productivity
- Stressed micromanagement



MG H. Thomas Chandler

1982-1986

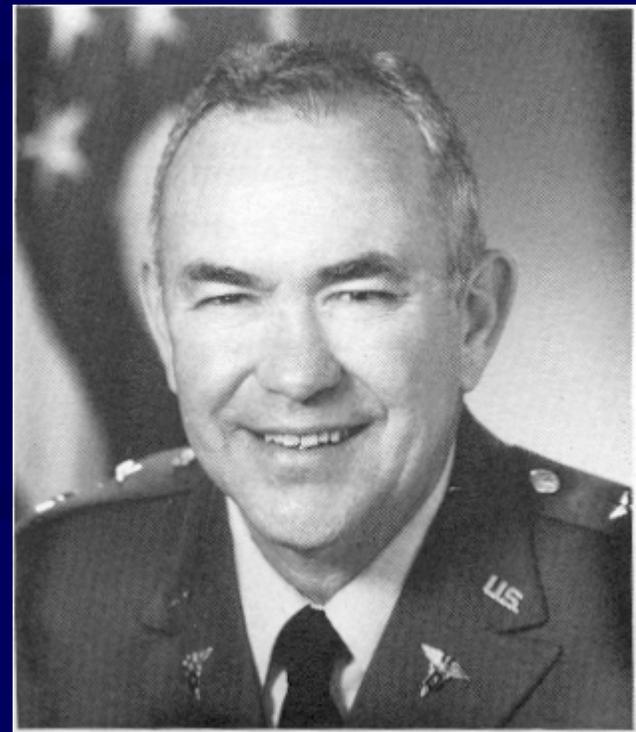
- Lean toward more “kindler, gentler” and less productivity oriented DC.
- Pushed specialty training
- Reagan Years....lots of money, economy poor, recruiting helped



MG Bill B Lefler

1986-1990

- Inherited follow-on of Golden Years
- 100% Dental Focus, not dual 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

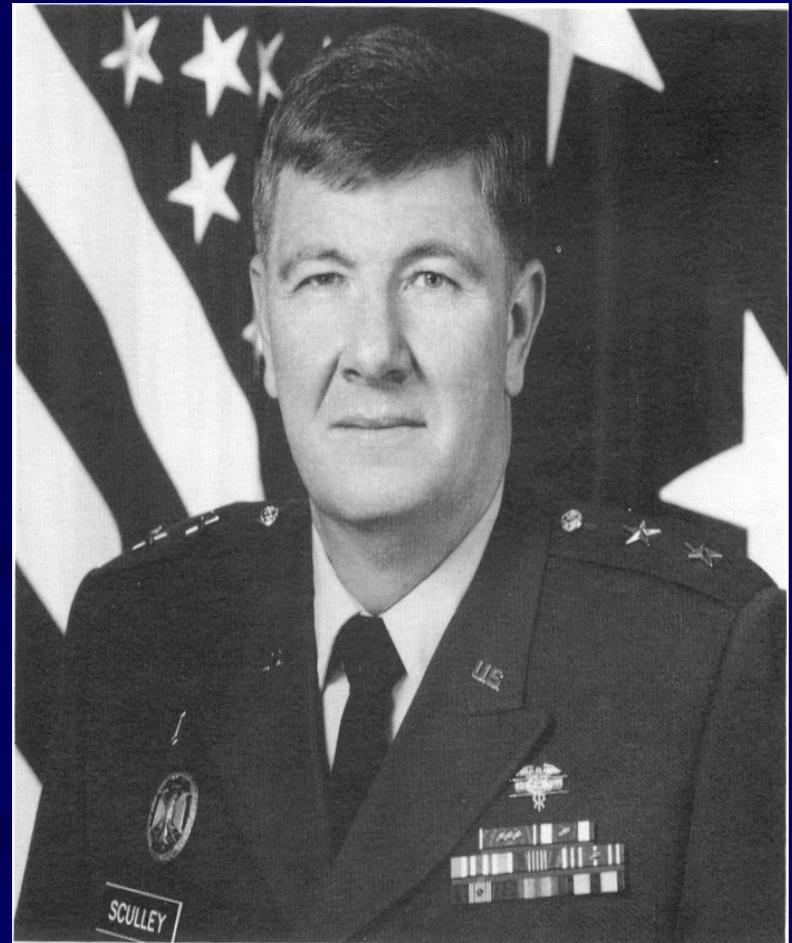
- Inherited recruitment/retention problem
- Instituted many special pays
- HPSP
- Contracting
- Wore two hats



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

