



USAF MSC Association **NEWSLETTER**

AUGUST 2008

Officers and Key Contacts

Lt Col Arthur H. Small
Chairman
Lt Col Ralph Charlip
President
Col Jim Moreland
Vice President
Col Charles Brown III
Secretary
Col Al Obuchowski
Treasurer
Col Alan I. Baskin
Director
Col Bob Hauser
Director
Col Ray Inman
Director
Col Denise Lew
Director
Col Mac McClean
Director
Col Joe Vocks
Director
Maj Wayne G. Terry
Director &
Newsletter Editor
Col Edward S. Nugent
Chairman Emeritus
Capt Wm. M. Copeland
General Counsel

From the Chairman of the Board

Greetings from the great Northeast. I hope you are all having a wonderful, happy and healthy summer.

Thanks to the work of Kevin O'Shea things are shaping up for our 2009 reunion in Charleston, SC. Kevin is a one-man committee who has made arrangements for our hotel and some very interesting tours. Details can be found elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter. Be sure to mark your calendar for our Charleston reunion 11-14 September 2009.

Thanks to the efforts of Joe Volks and the support of Denise Lew we are making progress in our recruiting efforts. Details to follow.

Our thanks to Mickey Melton for his sustained work maintaining Project Connect.

Please remember to keep in your thoughts and prayers our men and women in our armed forces wherever they may be. God bless our troops and God bless America.

Art

Arthur Small, Chairman

“The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say can't be done.”

The President's Message

Hope you are having a good summer. In my column this month I would like to address two things – the 2009 reunion and to share with you some of the demographics of the Association and what I think it means for our future and what the Board is doing to address those implications.

First to the 2009 Reunion. While Chairman Small has already drawn your attention to the event, I want to focus on the actual agenda for our meeting. Art and I are working on that agenda and with a year to go, we have some time to get your feedback on some of the things we are planning. We're planning on speakers from MOAA, Delta Dental and the Department of Defense. I've asked MOAA to focus on legislative issues and pending changes to our benefits. I've asked Delta Dental to talk about the retired dental plan, but unlike in the past, to focus on the actual benefits, cost shares, enrollment process and costs, etc. From DOD, I have asked representatives from the TRICARE Management Agency to speak to us about TRICARE – what it is, how it works with Medicare, pharmacy benefits, etc...less of a program review and more of a health benefits update so you know what TRICARE can do for you and your family. I will also do a presentation on your VA benefits so that if you are not familiar with all the things VA can do for you and your family, you will. And of course we've asked the Corps Chief to come and speak with us about the state of the Corps. We'll have our usual dinner and memorial service as well (and some surprise events too!). So – what do you think? Does this sound like an agenda that interests you? Is there something else you would like to see? Is there something we should drop? Please let me know – you can write (1006 Rosemary St, Denver CO 80230), call 303-344-4360, or email (RX2LS@comcast.net).

Let me shift a bit and review some of the demographics of the Association with you. This information is based on the April Membership roster. Here are some constraints on the data: 1) some of the data is missing (like birthdates on about 50 people or year joined on about 15-20) and 2) we have not tracked date/year a member passes away or goes inactive except for the last couple of years, so that data is hard to interpret in a really meaningful way.

General Membership Information

- We have 710 members
- We have had 263 member deaths since 1992 (year the Association began)
- We have had 359 members go inactive since 1992

Membership Changes

- We average 26 new members a year – this excludes the first year of the Association (1992) and 2008 since 2008 is still pretty young. And this average is skewed by the 81 we recruited in 2007 during a special recruiting campaign.
- Using the inactive and death numbers from above, we have an average annual loss (both inactive and death) of 41 members (excluding 2008).
- This means we are losing 15 more people on the average than we gain a year.

Membership Ages

- 301 of our members are 70 or older with the oldest being 98
- 182 are in their 60s
- 87 are in their 50s
- 59 are in their 40s
- 28 are in their 30s

So what does this mean? First, we are, in the long run, going to find our organization with fewer and fewer members unless we change the multi-year trend. Forty-three percent of the members are 70 or older. We can reasonably expect to see these individuals passing away each year at an increasing rate for the next 4-8 years. Twenty-six percent of the Association is in their 60s and we can expect to see deaths among this group rise as well.

We have at least four generations of members. Each one has its own expectations and needs. While needs and expectations change as you age, some things are fundamental. For example, our youngest members (40 and younger) are expecting more computer based tools. These individuals are not necessarily going to be looking for large scale gatherings to socialize. They are going to look for continuous virtual relationships.

Our most senior members are generally unable to attend the reunions due to illness and lack of mobility. Eye sight is an issue for many. The newsletter is likely to be very important to them as are phone calls from their comrades.

Our most senior MSCs (our oldest member is a survivor), includes the original class of MSCs and those just after them. Their sense of pride and history is unlike those who are two (or maybe even one) generation after them. They are fewer and fewer in number each year. They treasure the reunion because of their personal contribution to the Corps.

I also think this means:

- We will be seeing an increasing number of deaths of members in the next five years. With the normal attrition of about 20 members who drop their membership each year, the losses could exceed the number of new members.
- The active duty pool of potential Association members is going to decrease over time as the Air Force gets smaller.
- Younger people join groups like ours for reasons that are different from why our founders came together in 1992 and why many of us joined the organization. We are going to need to understand this better so that we can offer things that attract new members in the next 5-10 years.
- The Guard and Reserve are a large untapped pool of potential members. Each has its own MSC group. The Guard and Reserve MSC groups have a very different focus from our Association - they have a major focus on ensuring their members get the technical (Air Force health care administration) and professional leadership training required to do their jobs. As

Guardsman and Reservists retire, they generally leave their respective organizations and have limited ways to continue their affiliation with fellow MSCs. At our June meeting, the Board decided to work with both components and see if we can attract members into the Association.

- We are looking for creative ways to attract new members into the Association. Several years ago, we began a survivor assistance program for members. This service, while limited in scope, is one of the benefits of membership – we are looking for others. One idea that we have begun to discuss (and that’s all we have done so far), is to formalize a program to help members find jobs. This might include asking those of you who are in positions where you hire people, to come to the Association first and see who might be interested in your position. We’re exploring this idea, so if you have thoughts about it, please share them with me. If you have other ideas for how we can encourage MSCs to be part of our special Association, please let me know.

That’s it from here for this issue. As August is quickly going and the Fall is right around the corner, Cyndi and I wish you and your family a great autumn! And don’t forget, Sept 18, the Air Force turns 61. Keep all our troops in your thoughts and prayers.

Ralph Charlip, Association President

2009 MSC REUNION/BIENNIAL MEETING

Mark your calendars for 11 – 14 September 2009 and join us at our 2009 MSC reunion/biennial meeting at the historic [Francis Marion Hotel](#) in Charleston, South Carolina!

Located in the heart of the historic district of Charleston, the Francis Marion was the largest and most elegant of hotels in the Carolinas when it opened in 1924. Re-opened in 1996 after a \$12 million renovation, the Francis Marion offers one of the most elegant hotel experiences in Charleston and easy access to its many sites and fine dining experiences.



Listed as one of the historic hotels of America by the national trust for historic preservation, the Francis Marion is truly a grand hotel.

A block of rooms have been reserved at the special daily rate of \$139 for association members and reservations can be made now by calling (877) 756-2121 or (843) 722-0600. Be sure to mention that you’re booking under the “USAF MSC Association biennial meeting” to receive this rate.

We are planning evening activities and would like to get some initial feedback on tour options that might interest attendees. A brief summary of the tours being considered follows and we ask you to send us an e-mail with the potential tours that most interest you. Please send your preferences to MSC2009@SC.RR.COM. The tours being considered include:

Evening Dinner Cruise

Enjoy a delightful evening cruise through Charleston harbor aboard the vessel, “The Spirit of Carolina.” This leisurely twilight cruise will offer you a wonderful chance to see the lights of Charleston and her beautiful skyline from the water. Cocktails will be offered upon arrival and dinner will be served in the reserved mezzanine area of the second deck of the boat. A jazz band will entertain throughout the evening. For further information, go to: www.spiritlinecruises.com/dinner_overview.asp.

\$43.95 per person plus 21% gratuity and 8.5% tax.

Historic Charleston Carriage Tour

Horse-drawn carriages will pick you up at the hotel and take you on a tour through the streets of historic Charleston. This is the most popular way to see the magnificent mansions along the battery overlooking Charleston Harbor, Rainbow Row and the cobblestone street of Charleston. The carriages will drop you off at the Nathaniel Russell house. This superior example of Adam style architecture was built shortly before 1809. The astonishing flying staircase spirals unsupported from floor to floor and the tier of beautiful south rooms have elliptical plans, complemented by gleaming old silver, fine china, flowers, and some of the finest examples of furniture of the period. Private guides will meet the group at the Nathaniel Russell House and offer a delightful private introduction to Charleston with a walking tour of the historic district led by registered guides. The city’s rich history, beautiful gardens and striking architecture will be seen and discussed. The tour will end in the market area, where there are many shops, restaurants and a large open air market. \$50.00 per person.

Fort Sumter



This national monument, administered by the national park service, is located on a small man-made island at the entrance to Charleston Harbor. It is accessible only by boat and once on the island you can visit an excellent museum containing priceless exhibits. Union soldiers occupied strategic Fort Sumter which the south demanded be vacated. The north refused and on April 12th, 1861, from nearby Fort Johnson, South Carolina troops of the Confederacy fired on the fort. This started the two day bombardment that resulted in the

surrender of Fort Sumter by Union soldiers. After an introduction by a park ranger, you will be free to wander throughout the fort. For more information, please go to

www.spiritlinecruises.com/sumter_overview.asp.

\$35.00 per person.



Patriots Point

The Patriots Point Maritime Museum is home to the aircraft carrier, Yorktown (CV-10), the tenth carrier to serve in the United States Navy. She served in the Vietnam War and recovered the Apollo 8 astronauts. In addition, Patriots Point is home to the diesel



powered submarine, Clamagore, the destroyer, Laffey, the Coast Guard cutter, Ingham, and the Medal of Honor Society national headquarters and exhibit. Vintage military aircraft and weapons are also on display. Additional information can be found at www.patriotspoint.org.
\$35.00 per person.

Middleton Place

One of several historic plantations along the Ashley River, Middleton Place is a national historic landmark and was home to Henry Middleton, a president of the first Continental Congress. Its 60-



acre gardens are America's oldest formal landscaped gardens and are based on the principles of André le Nôtre, who designed the gardens at the Palace of Versailles. Until 1865, the garden was nurtured and embellished by Henry's son, Arthur, a signer of the Declaration of Independence; his son, Governor Henry Middleton, U.S. Minister to Russia; and his son William, who signed the South Carolina Ordinance of Secession. The stable yards at Middleton Place, complete with a blacksmith, potter, carpenter, and weaver, demonstrate the tasks necessary to sustain an 18th century plantation.

Agricultural displays, together with horses and mules, hogs and milking cows, sheep, goats and guinea hens, bring to life the rice era.

The house museum will also be open for touring. Built in 1755 as a gentlemen's wing, the house became the family residence after the plantation was burned during the civil war. Guided tours interpret the Middleton's' vital role in American history. Collections include portraits by Benjamin West and Thomas Sully, Charleston rice beds, fine silver and rare first editions by Catesby and Audubon. The gift shop at Middleton Place offers an array of items including crafts made on the plantation as well as estate jewelry. More information can be found at www.middletonplace.org.

\$59.00 per person.

City Tours

Bus tour option –

A mini-coach will pick you up at the hotel and offer a private introduction to the city's rich history, beautiful gardens and striking architecture will be seen and discussed. The bus must remain on the perimeter route of the historic district and cannot wander down any of the smaller streets but the coaches are air-conditioned and offer a comfortable over-view of the city. The bus tour is a two-hour tour and the coach will return you to your hotel after the tour.

\$29.00 per person.

Again, we want your feedback on the tour options that appeal to you. Please send your preferences to msc2009@sc.rr.com.

You can e-mail us at that same address with any other questions on hotel accommodations or the city of Charleston. Additional information on Charleston is available at www.charlestoncvb.com.

Carriage tour option –

Horse-drawn carriages pick you up at the hotel and take you on one-hour tour through the streets of historic Charleston. This is the most popular way to see the magnificent mansions along the Battery overlooking Charleston Harbor, Rainbow Row and the cobblestone streets of Charleston. The carriages are easy to board and are covered to offer shade and cover in case of rain.
\$24.00 per person.

Walking tour option –

A private tour guide will meet the group at the hotel and will offer a private introduction to the historic district of Charleston where the city’s rich history, beautiful gardens and striking architecture will be seen and discussed. Comfortable walking shoes are a must for this two-hour walking tour. The tour is at a leisurely pace and you get to wander down the side streets and alleyways of the holy city.
\$20.00 per person.

Kevin O’Shea
Reunion Coordinator

OUR STORIES NEED TO BE TOLD – CONTINUED

As most members know, Jimmy Sanders completed Phase I of the Air Force MSC Association’s History Project back in 2005 entitled “Excellence from Birth: The Professional Evolution of the USAF Medical Service Corps, The Anthology.” Almost immediately, the Association tasked Jimmy to prepare Phase II of the Association’s History Project – the collection of MSC Stories to be collected and contributed by the membership itself (retired, active duty, guard and reserve forces). It was hoped that this project would capture what is in the hearts and minds of our MSC membership by encouraging all officers to contribute to the project. It was planned for this project to be completed and ready for the Association’s 2007 Biennial Reunion in San Antonio. Sadly, this did not come to pass.

Back in December 2006 there were only 24 stories contributed to the History Project. By April 2007, Jimmy had 60 stories contributed – Jimmy’s objective was 500 stories. At this very moment, with considerable cajoling, we now have 82 stories. Thus, my need to create a guilt trip to those of you who have not yet made the grand gesture. We need you to share your experiences while you are still with us. I have been your Newsletter Editor for a little less than three years. In that time, 100 of our members have passed on and we have lost for all eternity the knowledge and experience that these members may have shared with us. Our heritage is too rich to continue losing this knowledge base.

Hopefully, the foregoing has stimulated you to submit appropriate and relevant experiences for publication in the upcoming Phase II MSC Anthology entitled “Our Stories Need to be Told.” If so, don’t hesitate any longer. Put pen to paper and either mail or email to Jimmy Sanders. Details follow below re Guidelines for Prospective Storytellers.

GUIDELINES FOR PROSPECTIVE STORYTELLERS INCLUDE

- Tell a short story about anything you think would be of interest to other MSCs – past or present, i.e., a noteworthy event, a memorable person, how you felt about a particular job and assignment. If you were a “first” at anything. We need your story.
 - There are no limitations on the subjects you can write about.
 - Try to limit your story to a single-spaced one pager. Microsoft Word preferred.
 - Email your story to Jimmy Sanders @ paradox@zebra.net soonest. Jimmy has sample copies to share.
 - You may also contact Jimmy at 334/613-6851, his email address above or at 10850 U.S. Highway 331, Montgomery, Alabama 36105.
-

MSCs SHOOT TOO!

I am an active duty Air Force MSC currently serving in Afghanistan. My current position at Camp Eggers, Afghanistan, encompasses managing financial operations for the command surgeon's office. I have also spent time in Kuwait, Iraq, and Haiti when assigned to the 43rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (AES) at Pope AFB. I love the versatility of being an MSC, absolutely loved tactical aeromedical evacuation at the 43rd AES. I could be wrong, but I'm pretty sure I was the first Air Force MSC to fire a shot in Iraq when the marine convoy we were in got caught in an ambush. On this convoy, I was under the leadership of another Air Force MSC, Lt Col Jim Sterling. He was riding two vehicles behind mine. The 19 Air Force members in our group were awarded Air Force Commendation Medals with Valor for our time in Iraq.

Once, I deployed to Haiti with a “no warning” seven-hour notice phone call at 0130 on a Sunday. I reported in uniform with bags by 0800, not knowing where I was being sent at first. I was only told to wear “greens” instead of desert camouflage. We were on a bird for Haiti by 1030. We arrived in Haiti around 1700 and we were moving our first patient, an American reporter with a gunshot wound to the neck, within an hour of boots-on-ground.

I have worked with coalition forces from many different countries on each of my deployments. I have experienced some of the worst dust storms in recent recorded history in Iraq; terrible wind storms in Kuwait; 28 days of not being able to take a shower in Iraq; no “facilities” to speak of for a few weeks (use your imagination on the “facilities” reference) – fun times! I about had a heart attack when we had to ration our food and water for a short period. During one 2-3week convoy I lived 24/7 in a Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) 2 (this means over garments and over boots worn with gloves and mask readily accessible) to include battle rattle & weapon. I convoyed into Iraq with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) in '03 just 12 hours behind the initial ground assault; our Air Evacuation teams were the first in history to go that far forward in a combat environment. The 1st MEF received their unit's 9th Presidential Unit Citation for this part of the invasion, and it was also noted that this was the deepest penetrating ground operation in Marine Corps history.

The training & experience I have received through the years has helped me tremendously in both enlisted and officer roles, however I would put more emphasis on the experience I gained at the 43rd AES than at any other unit I've ever been assigned to. I encourage all MSCs to consider serving at

least one aeromedical evacuation tour. Aeromedical evacuation offers opportunities and challenges that you just will not find at a medical treatment facility. No matter how much you train though, I have seen that “EXPERIENCE” is still the best teacher. No amount of on-line training, or classroom didactics, or field exercises can fully prepare you for the real deal. One “key” to successful deployments is flexibility. If given the opportunity to spend some more time in AE during my career, I wouldn’t hesitate to accept the challenge.

William L. “GB” Hinson Jr., Capt. USAF, MSC
Office of the Command Surgeon, Camp Eggers, Afghanistan
27 September 2007

WEB MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Web Management Committee met recently to discuss options for updating the Association's web site. Committee members include Chairman Jim Moreland, Gavin Mason, Kevin Pinette, and Bob Geltz. Initial impressions were that while our web site has a great deal of useful information, some things are difficult to find. The current site was developed some time in the past using software that is no longer being supported, so we discussed alternatives. We decided that we would start by using free authoring tools available from most Internet Service Providers (ISP). It may also be possible to reduce our total costs by changing ISPs, so we will be comparing packages and prices. Regardless of decisions reached, the site URL (web address) will remain the same. Changing ISPs might result in a short period of time (days) that the site would be unavailable. We also discussed a request to allow members in good standing to post notices about their businesses and/or services that might be of interest to our membership. The Board agreed to allow this free posting. As such, we are now accepting requests from members in good standing. The Board also agreed to post job opportunities for our membership. The Committee also welcomes input from Association members about what they would like to see on our web site. Please address ideas and requests for posts to morelandj@saic.com.

James P. Moreland, CMRP, FACHE
Web Management Committee Chairman

2009 COLA MAY BE BIGGEST IN 26 YEARS

The Consumer Price Index for the month of June leapt 1.1 percentage points over May’s value. Through June, cumulative inflation stood at 5.7 percent – with three months to go in the fiscal year. So far this year, inflation is running nearly three percentage points ahead of last year’s pace. The largest COLA since 1990 was 4.1 percent in 2005. We’re already well ahead of that figure. As such, it appears reasonable to expect a 2009 COLA somewhere around 6+ percent.

Source: MOAA Legislative Update | 18 July 2008.

OSWEGO

In a recent cartoon by Bob Thaves, Frank and Ernest were discussing songs about cities. Frank said to Ernest, "...There are lots of great songs about cities. San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Oswego..." Ernest said "Oswego?" Frank replied, "...Sure, 'Oswego into the wild blue yonder...'"

**ANNUAL USAF MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS ASSOCIATION'S COMMITMENT TO
EXCELLENCE AWARD NOMINATIONS
FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2009**

It is that time of the year where we seek membership input for the annual USAF Medical Service Corps Association's Commitment to Excellence/Service Award Nominations for Calendar Year 2009. This is your opportunity to recognize one of our colleagues who has made significant contributions to the advancement of the Association, the Air Force Medical Service Corps and/or the Air Force Medical Service since retiring from the Air Force. Further details outlining the criteria of the award are shown on the attached Nomination Form (shown below at pages 11-12).

As stated, the enclosed document prescribes the format to be used. Fill in the enclosed Nomination Form soonest. Nominations are due to the Association's Secretary by 1 December 2008. Mail nominations to:

USAF MSC Association, Inc.
860 Oak Hills Drive
Monument, Colorado 80132-8829

For members who prefer to download the Nomination Form from the Association's web site, they may go to www.mscassociation.org, click on the table of contents, and then click on the Commitment to Excellence tool bar which brings you to the Awards Page. Download and use. For those without internet access, you may obtain additional hard copies of the Nomination Form by contacting Charley Brown, the Association's Secretary, at his toll free number (1-866-818-2110), or writing him at the above address. Or, if you wish, you may detach the award nomination form below.

Remember, the nomination deadline is 1 December 2008.

Wayne Terry
Newsletter Editor

**USAF MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS ASSOCIATION'S COMMITMENT
TO EXCELLENCE/SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION FOR CALENDAR
YEAR 2008**

(See page 12 of Newsletter for award description)

Use continuation sheets as necessary (put the nominee's rank and name at the top center of each continuation page and number them).

Use only one nomination for each person. Letters of support from other Association members should be included in lieu of duplicate nominations. If letters of support are used, the individual nominating the candidate should compile the entire package and submit it at one time.

Please note: The period for this award is for service AFTER the person's retirement from active duty/Guard or Reserve, so please focus your narrative accordingly.

Name of Person Submitting Nomination: _____

Phone number (include area code): _____

Date joined the MSC Association: _____

Nominee Information

Grade: _____ Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI _____

Date joined MSC Association: _____ (if you don't have this information, it will be entered by the Association Secretary)

Describe the nominee's contributions after he/she retired from the Air Force, including Guard/Reserve in one or more of the following areas:

MSC Association (offices held, committee membership, etc – be specific):

USAF Medical Service Corps:

USAF Medical Service:

Military Service Members or Veterans:

Describe how the nominee is a consummate team player, and role model for others in the Association and Medical Service Corps:

Describe the individual's community and public service following retirement:

AWARD DESCRIPTION

Description. The purpose of the Commitment to Excellence Award is to recognize outstanding service by a retired Medical Service Corps officer who has contributed to the advancement of the Association, the Air Force Medical Service Corps and/or to the Air Force Medical Service. The period of consideration for this award is the member's service following retirement from active duty.

Qualifying for Award. Candidates for the Commitment to Excellence Award must:

- Be a member in good standing in the Association,
- Be nominated by an active member of the Association,
- Be a recognized leader among Association members,
- Have made significant contribution to the advancement of the Association, the Air Force Medical Service Corps and/or the Air Force Medical Service after retiring from the Air Force.
- Be a consummate team player, and role model for others in the Association and Medical Service Corps, and

Recognizing the Award Winner. Upon approval by the Chief of the Medical Service Corps, the award winner will be notified directly by the Chief of the Medical Service Corps. The award winner will be recognized at the Annual MSC Awards Dinner to be conducted in Chicago in 2009 in conjunction with the American College of Healthcare Executive's Congress on Administration. The Chief of the Medical Service Corps will determine the appropriate type of recognition that is to be given to the award recipient.

"MSC JOBS" DATABASE MEMBERS:

Editor's Note: The following is a letter from Col Mickey J. Melton, USAF, MSC (Retired) to the Association membership. Further to the foregoing, the following email was broadcast to all members of Colonel (Retired) Mickey Melton's MSC JOBS database on 1 May 2008. For the MSC JOBS database members, stay tuned and check the web site (www.mscassociation.org) for more information on this service.

From Colonel Melton:

Col Jim Moreland, USAF, MSC (retired) is spearheading a project with (and on behalf of) the MSC Association to develop a process for notifying all MSC's in our database when employment opportunities become known. The plan is to automatically send out MSC employment opportunities to all MSC email addresses in the "jobs" database, as a default action...unless you notify the system that you don't want to receive employment opportunity announcements. Then your address will be removed from the database. This service will replace what I've been personally doing for the past six years or so. The database will be more accurately maintained & current. Also, it will become better "institutionalized" as a valuable service feature for all MSC's on behalf of your MSC Association web site.

The MSC email database was an idea that started back in 2001 as a result of retired MSC's working in civilian healthcare leadership positions that were looking for other retired MSC's to fill key healthcare management positions within their organizations. A true story, as an example...I was contracted by Col Boyd Kleefisch, USAF, MSC (retired) to resolve some serious healthcare management issues at a hospital in Hawaii. The contract was for me to resolve the problems and then find a permanent Hospital Administrator for the facility. After 6 months on site resolving the healthcare issues, I then proceeded to seek out an acceptable Administrator/CEO to permanently carry on. For almost 2 months I advertised, worked my network, contacted, used healthcare placement agencies and interviewed well over a hundred civilian Administrator candidates. I was impressed with NONE of the candidates for many & varied reasons...from lying on their resumes to inappropriate behavior/activities involving theft to inappropriate behavior on the job. I desperately wished I could find a civilian of the caliber of my fellow AF MSC's that I had worked with during my AF career. It was then that I realized how fortunate we all were, as AF MSC's, to have worked with the very best...MSC's gleaned from the civilian sector to become the best of the best active duty AF MSC's. I found myself phoning active duty MSC's, that I knew who were considering retirement, asking if they would be interested in moving to Maui, HI, getting paid upwards of \$10K/mo with house & car provided (remember this was in 2001). As I was dealing with all this, I received a phone call from Lt Col Larry Thornhill, USAF, MSC (retired) and CEO of a large healthcare system in Ohio asking if I knew of a good healthcare administrator type for a position he was seeking to fill within his organization. It became apparent we needed a mechanism for retired MSC healthcare executives/leaders, seeking to fill good positions within their organizations (or other known job opportunities within other organizations) with dedicated, good, honest, integrity, qualified healthcare candidates...AND there was only ONE consistently reliable source for these candidates. That was OUR Medical Service Corps cadre. That was the beginning of the "MSC JOBS database." It has been responsible, over the years, in leading many retired/retiring or separating MSC's to great employment/jobs being offered/sought out by earlier retired MSCs.

Please note the value of maintaining your membership in your MSC Association. For many of us it remains our only source of connection with those MSC's we served with and/or have known over

our entire military/AF careers. If you know of any MSC (retired or active duty) that is not an MSC Association member, please encourage them to go on the web site (www.mscassociation.org) and join. Please send any job information you have to Jim Moreland at his temporary Email address for this project which is WEBMASTER@gsahmmm.org.

Col Mickey J. Melton, USAF, MSC (Retired)
Mme1340@aol.com

April 7, 2008
Release No. 034

AIR FORCE HAS NEW WEB SITE FOR RETIREES

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFRNS) – the Air Force has a new Web site just for its retiree community that is full of news and information, plus it is easy to access and navigate. The Air Force Retiree Services site is located at www.retirees.af.mil.

This public Web site offers the retiree family in-depth information on the Survivor Benefit Plan, plus a list of Air Force Retiree Activities Offices worldwide and various other resources. There are also sections dedicated to the *Afterburner* and Air Force Retiree News Service.

Visitors can access the sections by using the top navigation bar on the home page. The home page also features the latest Air Force headline news and video clips. There is even a special icon for quick access to the Combat-Related Special Compensation information page.

Subscribing to the electronic version of the *Afterburner* and AFRNS is now much easier: just click on the word “Subscribe” found on the top navigation bar: find “Afterburner/AFRNS” near the top of the second column and click in the circle to subscribe; enter the required e-mail address; and then click on the submit button.

FREE 411 CALLS

Cell phone companies are charging \$1.00 to \$1.75 or more for 411 Information calls. Since no one carries a phone directory in their vehicle, they get away with it.

When you need to use the 411 Information option, simply dial 1(800) FREE 411, or 1(800)373-3411; you will incur no charge. This works on your home phone as well.

If you enter this number into your cell phone you will always have a way now to get a phone number if you need one.

This is the kind of information people don't mind receiving, so pass it on to your family and friends.

<http://www.snopes.com/inboxer/nothing/free411.asp>><http://www.snopes.com/inboxer/nothing/free411.asp>

Contributed by Ed Nugent

SAN ANTONIO AREA AIR FORCE, ARMY MEDICAL CENTERS TO MERGE

**By Staff Sgt. Matthew Bates
Air Force Print News**

5/23/2008 - SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) -- Medical care for military families in the San Antonio area is changing. Not in what it offers, but where, officials said.

Wilford Hall and Brooke Army Medical Centers are set to merge by 2011 as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations. Combined, the two medical centers will become the San Antonio Military Medical Center, or SAMMC. Under this merger, all in-patient care at Wilford Hall will move to BAMC and some of BAMC's clinical services, such as dermatology, will move to WHMC.

The goal of this move is two-fold: It will save money and enable the medical centers to provide the best care possible to their patients.

"Basically, this move is making things more efficient," said Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Thomas W. Travis, 59th Medical Wing Commander.

In total, more than 200 clinics and support functions will move during the transition to SAMMC. Once the consolidation is complete, WHMC will become SAMMC-South and BAMC will become SAMMC-North.

"The names might be changing, but the quality care our patients are used to will not," General Travis said.

To prepare for the new missions each medical center will be undertaking, BAMC is undergoing a \$750 million renovation and WHMC is receiving \$100 million in improvements.

"Our biggest challenge is keeping both facilities running while these renovations are happening," the general said. "But we're committed to providing the best care possible to our patients. I'm confident we will." Staff members at each hospital are also confident, they said.

"This move will help us tremendously," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) William Clouse, chief of vascular/endovascular surgery at WHMC. "We'll be receiving new facilities and capabilities. It's really an exciting time for medical professionals here." Plus, the Colonel added, the move allows Air Force and Army medical personnel to work together, something that's already happening in deployed environments.

"From a total-force perspective, this move is great. In Iraq and Afghanistan Air Force and Army work side-by-side in field hospitals," Colonel Clouse said. "Now we'll be doing that here in San Antonio and that will help those people who deploy. They'll already be used to working with other services on a regular basis."

Still, the changes have brought up questions, many of those by military retirees.

"A lot of us are concerned about this move because it means having to drive further," said retired Col. Harold Ponder, a resident at the Air Force Village retirement community. "Many of us live near WHMC to be close to where we receive our medical care."

General Travis recognizes this concern, but is confident it will not pose a long-term problem. "I understand where they are coming from," he said. "But this move really won't impact their lives all that much." For one, the only services moving are in-patient care and the emergency room. WHMC's clinical services will remain at the same location.

"This is actually good for the retiree community, because 90 percent of their care is clinical, not surgical," General Travis said. "Some of their clinics will be closer once the move is complete."

Many concerns have come from misinformation, such as rumors that WHMC is closing. To combat this problem, the General says communication is the answer. Colonel Ponder agrees, he said.

"For many of us, it's just the not knowing that makes us worry," the Colonel said. "It's hard to accept change."

This is one change that is good, General Travis said. "SAMMC is a great thing for patients and military medical professionals in the San Antonio area," he said. The General went on to say "SAMMC is a great thing for patients and military medical professionals in the San Antonio area."

SOUNDING TAPS

Lt Col Robert A. Carr	12 Mar 2008
Major Ray E. Cox	11 May 2008
Col John T. Doyle	Unknown
Lt Col Ernest R. Dunbar	10 Mar 2008
Lt Col George L. Fiocca	Unknown
*Col Ralph H. Galati	20 Jun 2008
Major Stacy Jones	8 Feb 2008
Lt Col Robert G. Kelley	1 Feb 2008
*Major Waverly LeBard	29 May 2008
Lt Col Frank May Jr.	15 Feb 2008
*Col Ray McCann	12 May 2008
Lt Col Gary J. Pomeroy	28 Mar 2008
Major James M. Share	11 Feb 2008
CWO4 Dennis P. Shelton	15 May 2006
*Lt Col Jake G. Tamse	20 Jun 2008
Capt Carl L. Taylor	3 May 2008
Col Linney R. White	13 Mar 2008

*Denotes Life Member Status

IN MEMORIAM

We just learned of the passing of General Gerald (Jerry) W. Parker on 15 July 2008. General Parker's last assignment was in the Air Force Surgeon General's Office in the 1979-1980 time period. He was held in high esteem by the MSC staff at SGO. He always displayed a keen sense of humor and added a certain degree of "lightness" to serious issues. As one MSC Association member stated, "...If there was ever a physician that should have been an MSC it was Parker." Another stated "...As a physician, he was the MSC's MSC."

Major John Dexter (Ret) wrote to advise the passing of his wife Frances on 4 January 2008. She had been battling cancer for more than four years

Received a notice from Tom Mayhugh that Joyce Dorothy Korn, wife of Colonel Bernard Korn (Ret), passed away on 13 May 2008.

WHAT IS A FRIEND?

Your Heart is your Love,
Your love is your Family,
Your family is your Future,
Your future is your Destiny,
Your destiny is your Ambition,
Your ambition is your Aspiration,
Your aspiration is your Motivation,
Your motivation is your Belief,
Your belief is your Peace,
Your peace is your Target,
Your target is Heaven,

Contributed by Billy Simmons

Success is not the key to happiness.
Happiness is the key to success.
If you love what you are doing,
You will be successful.

Albert Schweitzer

SPECIAL 2008 NEW MEMBER APPLICATION FORM

If you are renewing your membership, use our RENEWAL form and PLEASE BE SURE TO READ PAGE 2 BEFORE YOU SEND IN YOUR APPLICATION. Send completed application to the address below with dues payment if appropriate (see page 19 below) and make check payable to USAF MSC Association.

**USAF MSC Association, Inc.
860 Oak Hills Drive
Monument, CO 80132-8829
(Email: afmscassociation@comcast.net)**

Name: _____

Current Rank: (if active, Reserve, ANG, or ret): _____ **Spouse's Name:** _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

If you are using an APO or FPO, please indicate: _____

What city is this for: _____ **What country:** _____

Phone: (____) _____ Applicant's DOB: _____

Email address: _____

Retirement date (if retired): _____

Eligibility Status (check all that apply): Is/was Active Duty is/was USAFR/ANG

Retired Former AF MSC (*i.e., not an MSC on AD, AFR/ANG, or Ret*)

Membership Category (see page 2): Life Annual

Dues Category (see page 19 below)

HSA Graduate within 90 days of graduation

Class Number: ____ Graduation Date: _____ (day/month/year)

Active Duty and Drilling Guardsmen/Reservist grades 01-04

Retired within the last 90 days

Gift Memberships: How Many__ Who For:

Current member converting to Life Membership

None of the Above

IF A CURRENT MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION ENCOURAGED YOU TO JOIN, PLEASE TELL US WHO: _____

Membership Directory (check this ONLY if you do NOT want to be listed in the Association's directory)

Do NOT include me in the Association's membership directory.

DUES INFORMATION

Membership Categories:

There are two categories of dues – Life Membership or Annual. Annual dues are \$20 and payable in January of each year. The Life Membership schedule is based on age and is shown below.

(Payable in Four Quarterly Installments
These amounts do not reflect any discount)

Age	Amount (\$)
Over 85	Waived
81-85	60
76-80	80
71-75	200
66-70	250
61-65	295
56-60	335
51-55	360
50 & under	395

Dues Category:

The Association offers the following discount:

- **Graduates of the Health Services Administration Course:** Graduates are provided a one year free membership. An application is required and you must submit the application within 90 days of graduating.
 - **Active Duty, Drilling Guardsmen and Reservists in the Grades of 01-04:** Annual dues for these individuals are \$15 year if you elect the annual dues payment. There is no discount on Life Dues.
 - **Newly Retired MSCs:** Newly retired officers are afforded a free one year membership. An application is required and you must submit the application within 90 days of retirement. There is also a \$20 discount off of Life Membership.
 - **Gift Memberships:** If you purchase two or more memberships for another person, each of the membership is \$15 for the first year only.
 - **ANYONE** currently an active member of the Association may convert from Annual to Life Membership with a \$20 discount.
-

**2008 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM
USE THIS FORM ONLY FOR RENEWALS**

Send completed application with dues payment of \$20 to (make check payable to: USAF MSC Association):

**USAF MSC Association, Inc.
860 Oak Hills Dr.
Monument, Co 80132-8829
(Phone: 1-866-818-2110 Email: afmscassociation@comcast.net)**

Name: _____

Current Rank: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

City State Zip: _____

If you are using an APO or FPO, please indicate:

What city is this for: _____ what country: _____

Phone: () _____

Email address: _____

Declaration: I (agree) (do not agree) to my name, address, phone number, spouse's name and email address being released to other members of the USAF MSC Association.

Signature _____ Date _____

DoD TO USE LAST FOUR ON IDs

Week of May 26, 2008

The Department of Defense (DoD) will begin abbreviating Social Security numbers on military identification cards in December 2008. Only the last four digits of the number will appear on the card. Military agencies are also moving toward using the shortened versions when sharing records. The plan is part of a bigger federal fight against large-scale cyber crime rings. The Social Security number is often the key to hacking into someone's financial, medical and other personal records. Also, the number and the name attached to it are often all that is needed to fraudulently open a line of credit or buy property.

THE NEW AIR FORCE MSC ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE COIN NOW AVAILABLE



The new Air Force MSC Association Challenge Coin was introduced at the October 2007 MSC Reunion in San Antonio. They were exceptionally well received by Association members and sold like hot cakes. They are now available to the general membership. The cost is \$10 for one coin and \$17 for two. A color photo of the coin front and back is available on our web page and is also shown here in black

& white for illustration purposes. They will make excellent gifts and will be considered treasured possessions in the future. Order yours now before supplies are exhausted. An application form is provided below for your ordering convenience.

COPIES OF THE MSC HISTORY ARE STILL AVAILABLE

The Association still has copies of the first volume of the MSC History book. Cost is \$12 for Association members and \$20 for others. All funds go to the Association. The publication was created by Lt Col Jimmy Sanders, one of our members, and provides a wonderful insight into the history of the Corps. It makes a great birthday or holiday gift for your favorite MSC! An order form is included and is shown below on page 22.

**“Persistence is what makes the impossible possible,
the possible likely, and the likely definite.”**

Robert Hall, Personnel Executive

MSC ASSOCIATION SALE ITEM ORDER FORM
Send completed form and a check to:

USAF MSC Association, Inc.
1006 Rosemary Street
Denver, CO 80230-7089

(Phone: 303-344-4360 Email: RX2LS@comcast.net)

HISTORY BOOK (Association members - \$12, Non-members - \$20)
Number of books you wish to order: _____

COINS (One coin - \$10, Two coins - \$17)
Number of coins you wish to order: _____

MOUSE PADS (\$6 each)
Number of mouse pads you wish to order: _____

Name:

Shipping Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone: (____) _____ (if we have a problem and you don't have email, we will call you)

Email address: _____ (we will let you know when your book is shipped)

THERE YOU HAVE IT FOLKS!!