



USAF MSC Association **NEWSLETTER**

April 2004

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Chairman's Message

Fellow Members:

I hope you survived the winter and are having a wonderful spring. We had a good turn out of fellow retirees at the annual Air Force MSC activities in Chicago during the ACHE Congress on Administration. The Air Force Dinner and Awards evening was again a premier event. I am pleased to report that your MSC Association assisted with the dinner by soliciting donations from commercial enterprises to help with expenses. It was great to play a role in this outstanding celebration.

The MSC Association successfully nominated Col Lewis Sanders for the 2003 MSC Commitment to Excellence Award (Retiree Category). Lewis was nominated for his continuing support to all MSCs. He has been an active leader of this association as a board member serving as Treasurer, President and Chairman of the Board. Lewis was actively involved in the planning of several our reunions. He and his wife, Gail, planned and organized the meeting in Charleston, SC in 1997. As CEO of PhyAmerica Government Services, Inc., Lewis initiated and sponsored two annual awards for achieving excellence in healthcare

management. They are presented at the Federal Sector Awards Program during ACHE Congress on Administration. This was well-deserved recognition of Lewis' leadership and professionalism. (Photos page 4.)

This is the second year the association has nominated a retiree to the Corps Chief for recognition with the Commitment to Excellence Award. Former Corps Chief, Col James (Polk) Polkinghorn was so honored last year. Frank Rohrbough and I and our spouses were pleased to sit with Lewis and Gail Sanders along with Brig Gen Don and Jan Wagner. Other award recipients

included: Col Eugene Raynaud (AF SGO, Bolling AFB), Commitment to Excellence Award (Active Duty); Major Scott Hilmes, (Keesler AFB), Commitment to Service Award; and 1st Lt Kerry Maccini (Sheppard AFB), Young Health Care Administrator of the Year. It was a great evening.

Col Steve Meigs retired recently. Steve served on our Board of Directors as our active duty representative during his tenure as Corps Chief. He has been a great supporter of the association encouraging more active duty involvement wherever he spoke. Steve held a senior Medical Service Corps conference during our reunion last fall so we could have some interface with today's MSC leaders. I believe this networking opportunity was very rewarding for the active duty MSCs as well as for our retiree members. I want to wish Steve and his wife, Maggie, all the best as they begin a new segment of their lives and thank him for his service to the Corps and the Association. I trust he will remain a loyal and active supporter of the AF MSC Association.

During the Air Force Day activities in Chicago on March 4th, Air Force Surgeon General, Lt Gen Peach Taylor, announced that Col Patricia Lewis would be the next Chief of the Medical Service Corps. Pat is a member of the Association and I'm sure will be an outstanding Corps Chief and supporter of our association. I congratulate her on this milestone and wish her every success as she meets the challenges currently facing the Air Force Medical Service.

I hope you all responded to the recent survey regarding the future of our reunions. Frank Rohrbough reports on the survey and the decisions made by the board regarding our reunions elsewhere in the Newsletter. My thanks go to Frank, Ken Mackie, Col Jim Meyers and Capt John Hannigan for their efforts on this survey.

I pray for our troops who are valiantly fighting to bring peace to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Best wishes,

Steve Mirick

From the President

Howdy Fellow MSCs: Spring has arrived and the Cherry Blossoms and Bradford Pear trees in Washington were spectacular. There are few places in the country where the grandeur of spring shows its colors amongst the wonderful monuments and buildings of our nations Capitol more vividly. Many of you served in the Washington area during your service careers, so your memories of spring in DC may do more justice than I can tell you.

We completed our task for surveying the membership about our biennial meetings. The survey was mailed out to every member in early April and the response was great. Just over 300 members completed the survey. What we wanted to know was:

- 1) What location did you prefer for our biennial meetings,
- 2) Durations and timing of the meetings (weekends or weekdays),
- 3) Limits on out-of-pocket expenses (daily room charge and travel),
- 4) Format of the meetings (presentations, social activities, tours, etc.), and
- 5) Likelihood members would attend future meetings.

What you told us was:

- Your preferred location was San Antonio, but with San Diego and Las Vegas very close second choices.
- That over 100 plus of you would attend if the meetings were held in one of those resort communities.
- That the Registration Fee of \$120 per person was about right.
- That over 70% of you preferred a meeting every other year.
- That over 60% of you preferred the present 3-day format, and
- That half of you preferred by a wide margin a meeting beginning on Friday and ending on Sunday evening

For more details, go to our Webpage at www.msassoc.org.

Your feedback was invaluable to us. The Board of Directors held a teleconference meeting on April 27th and based on your input and following good discussion adopted the collective results you provided. Accordingly, the Board decided to investigate the availability of hotels in San Antonio and San Diego in October 2005 with a fall back in late September. Based on our findings, the Board will announce the meeting location and dates in early June.

As Chairman Mirick said in his accompanying message, the Corps was well served by Colonel Steve Meigs during his tenure as our Corps Chief and he provided us valuable advice as a member of this Board. Although we will miss him, the Board selected Colonel Brian Acker, on the recommendation of Colonel Meigs, to serve out Steve's remaining term. Brian is being reassigned from the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph AFB to the Corps Chief's Office at Bolling AFB in June. We welcome Brian to the Board and look forward to his sage counsel.

Please remember to use the Association's Webpage as a source of information and for keeping up with what is happening. Again, if you have any ideas on how we can serve you better, please let us know by sending a message to me at the USAF MSC Association's e-mail address at AFMSCASSOC@aol.com. If you want to call me directly, I can be reached at my office at (800) 234-6622 ext 164.

Have a great, fun-filled and safe summer. God bless our troops and God bless America!!!!

Frank Rohrbough

Interested in being on a panel to validate a competency model for USAF resource management officers?

USAF MSC Association member Major Dave Huth, FACHE, is developing a model for his doctoral research and would like the support and involvement of a few select MSCs who are not now on active duty to participate on a panel of experts. He is requesting MSCs that (a) have been selected for an Air Force- or MAJCOM-level RMO award, or (b) have extensive experience in RMO, and (c) would enjoy the opportunity of being on a panel to determine and validate a competency model for today's RMOs

If you are interested in participating in this panel, please contact Major Huth at 703-681-7046 or by email: david.huth@pentagon.af.mil.

From the Secretary

Help Keep Your Association Records Current!

We need your help. When you move, change phone numbers or email addresses, please let us know! The Association pays return postage on newsletters and other mailings when we don't have your current information. You can send your notification to the Association (1006 Rosemary St, Denver CO 80230) or email us at AFMSCASSOC@aol.com.

Also, a reminder that dues are "due" in January each year. On this newsletter mailing label, you will see a line that says "Dues paid thru XXXX." If this says LIFE or 2004 you're fine. If it says anything else, we need you to send in your dues and update your records with address, etc.

The board of directors has voted to send a hard copy of the membership list to **ALL** members with the December issue of the newsletter. The address label will contain information regarding your dues status.

KUDOS

Recently after many years of looking for them the Chinese government finally located Col Ed Nugent and Col Paul Mullen. They were decorated with the Chinese Badge of Honor for services rendered on behalf of the defense of Taiwan when Red China threatened to invade Quimoy and Amoy during the mid 1950's. At that time then Captain Nugent commanded the medical unit supporting the Chinese 4th Medical Group and then 1stLt Mullen was the executive officer. Several high ranking Chinese dignitaries were present for the awards ceremony.

Art Small on his retirement as Chief of Staff Air Division New York Guard was promoted to Brig Gen.



Our congratulations to Lou Sanders for receiving the 2003 MSC Commitment to Excellence Award (Retiree Category). From left to right Steve Meigs, Louis Sanders, and Steve Mirick, presenting the plaque and certificate.

. Excerpts from the USAF MSC Newsletter April 2004 Vol 04.2

A Word from the Chief, Medical Service Corps

Dear Friends,

As I think back over the last 28 plus years, I am extremely grateful for all the many opportunities and experiences the Air Force has given me. When I began this journey in Charleston, South Carolina on 17 May 1975, I could not envision all the things I would do or places I would see...and if I could have wished for the perfect career, it would not have been better than this. It has truly been a wonderful period in my life and I will always look back on my service with great fondness and pride.

Among the many treasures of my career, serving as Chief of the Medical Service Corps during the past three years has been one of my greatest joys. I remain extremely grateful to Lieutenant General P.K. Carlton, Jr. for selecting me for this position, and likewise to Lieutenant General Peach Taylor for his ongoing support in allowing me to continue to serve.

I would also like to thank my partner in leadership, Colonel Frank Nelson for his unswerving dedication as Director of the Medical Service Corps. As I have said many times, we are indeed fortunate to have a man of Frank's integrity and commitment as our Corps' Director...I could not imagine doing this job without him. Likewise, I am extremely grateful to the members of the Senior MSC Council and the Associate Corps Chiefs, past and present, for their hard work, support and dedication – these men and women have worked (and continue to work) tirelessly on behalf of the Medical Service Corps and our 4A0 enlisted professionals to ensure we are properly prepared and positioned to perform our mission as health care administrators. It is an honor to have been a part of this group.

Special thanks to the many members of the HQ USAF/SGCA staff for their hard work and support over the past three years...they have expertly and elegantly seen to thousands of tasks and details that go into the effective operation of the Corps' office, and they do us all proud as they represent the face of the MSC at the Air Staff.

Finally, I would like to congratulate my good friend Colonel Pat Lewis, as she becomes the 17th Chief of the Medical Service Corps. I have known Pat for many years...she is a great leader, mentor, and role model and she is the perfect person to take our Corps on the next leg of the journey. I wish her all the best as she assumes this important responsibility...I know she will lead with grace, dignity and integrity.

And as much as I have enjoyed the challenges of each assignment, living all over the United States and the world, and just waking up every morning and putting that uniform on, the thing I have loved most about the last 28 years are the people I have served with and the friends I have made. I will miss many things about the Air Force, but it will be the people that I miss the most. As I depart from the ranks, know that I carry with me very fond memories of you and my service as Chief of the Medical Service Corps. It has been my great honor to serve with you in this capacity and a gift I will cherish always. Maggie joins me in wishing all of you the very best for continued success in your careers and happiness in your lives.

We'll look forward to seeing you in the future.

With warmest regards,

Steve

The Air Force Symbol – Absolute in Meaning, Hallmark of Service

By Lieutenant Colonel Patrick L. Dawson
Associate Director, Medical Service Corps

The current U.S. Air Force symbol was introduced just over 4 years ago. A lot of Air Force members may not realize what the symbol stands for. It has great meaning, and focuses on service.

As discussed in the current edition of Air Force Pamphlet 36-2241, Volume 1, 1 July 2003, the Promotion Fitness Exam (30th Anniversary Edition), “the Air Force symbol honors the heritage of our past and represents the promise of our future. It retains the core elements of our Air Corps heritage—the “Arnold” wings and star with circle—and modernizes them to reflect our air and space force of today and tomorrow”.

AFP 36-2241 further states the “symbol has two main parts. In the upper half, the stylized wings represent the stripes of our strength—the enlisted men and women of our force. They are drawn with great angularity to emphasize our swiftness and power and are divided into six sections, which represent our core competencies—air and space superiority, global attack, rapid global mobility, precision engagement, information superiority, and agile combat support. In the lower half are a sphere, a star, and three diamonds. The sphere within the star represents the globe. It reminds us of our obligation to secure our nation’s freedom with global vigilance, reach, and power. The globe also reminds us of our challenge as an expeditionary force to respond rapidly to crises and to provide decisive air and space power worldwide. The area surrounding the sphere takes the shape of a star. The star has many meanings. Its five points represent the components of our one force and family—our active duty, civilians, Guard, Reserve, and retirees. The star symbolizes space as the high ground of our nation’s air and space force. The rallying symbol in all our wars, the star also represents our officer corps, central to our combat leadership. The star is framed with three diamonds that represent our core values—integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do. The elements come together to form one symbol that presents two powerful images—at once it is an eagle, the emblem of our nation, and a medal, representing valor in service to our Nation”.

I chose this topic for my portion of our newsletter this time because I believe that all of us need to understand what and whom we represent. We need to know and understand the team we belong to, and honor those who have served our country leading the way before us. All of us make history every day. We all are a part of the Air Force symbol.

Maintaining a Rigid Line of Flexibility Lessons from an MSC Deployment Lt Col Gino Auteri

Once upon a time (1991) in a far away land (Kunsan AB, ROK) a very wise man (the unit 1st Sergeant) gave me a most useful piece of advice. It happened on one of those frustrating days where nothing seemed to be going as planned and a sense of despair was beginning to take over. The Shirt said, “Lieutenant, the key to success is to *always maintain a rigid line of flexibility.*”

At first this bit of wisdom appeared counterintuitive. After all, how can one be both rigid and flexible? Aren’t the two characteristics mutually exclusive? The more I thought about it though, the more I began to see the genius in his advice. With each of our decisions, we set and execute a rigid course of action. However, we have to remain willing (flexible) to adjust our rigid course of action in the event relevant circumstances change during execution—and they will!

In case some of you are still struggling with this concept, let me give you a few illustrative examples of this theory in practice. The examples stem from my recent deployment as Deputy

Commander/Administrator, 447 Expeditionary Medical Squadron, Baghdad International Airport, Baghdad, Iraq.

The first sign I needed to remember the “rigid-flexibility” rule surfaced when my Unit Deployment Manager (UDM) at Scott AFB informed me I was being tasked against a 50-bed Aeromedical Staging Facility (CASF) at Baghdad International Airport, Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. Now, other than working at HQ AMC/SG, I had no specific aeromedical (AE) background. No problem, plenty of folks around I could talk to in order to get smart before I left. But then I asked what specific position I would be going in against, to which our UDM replied, “Well, the task order specifically says no substitution on the O-5 rank, so we think you are going as the Commander.” (Gulp!) Okay regroup; I’m currently a sitting squadron commander managing several areas I have no particular expertise in. I can do this.

Upon arrival, I quickly learned just how flexible I was going to need to be. My first day, the day Lt Gen Taylor, USAF/SG, chose to drop in for a site visit, I learned the CASF +50 didn’t actually exist, we would be operating as a 30-bed Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facility (MASF) until I could get the CASF built, and oh by the way, another individual had been tagged as the CASF Commander. It gets better. Besides me and another active duty individual, the 59-person CASF manpower package was being filled by Reservists coming from 11 different units and would be blended with a 30-person EMEDS Basic to form an Expeditionary Medical Squadron (EMDS). As I stared vacantly across the immense span of barren land the CASF would eventually occupy, Lt Col Andy Wolkstein, the outgoing MASF Commander, gently reminded me the key to success was to always remember the “F” word – “FLEXIBILITY”.

After a quick meeting with the incoming CASF and EMDS commanders it was decided I would serve as the squadron administrator (eventually becoming the deputy squadron commander) with primary responsibility for all administrative functions, Medical Control Center (MCC), IM/IT, logistics and CASF building. Fortunately, the outgoing EMEDS-Basic administrator, Maj(s) Doug Gimlich, left me with a very comprehensive continuity binder and I was able to hit the ground running.

Using the skill sets derived over a 14-year MSC career, I quickly set about the tasks at hand. Since this was the first time the two UTCs have been blended together, the first task was to establish an efficient organizational structure by consolidating medical logistics, equipment repair, administrative and IM/IT resources from the various UTCs (remember flexibility – UTC CONOPS are only a guide!). Next, meet with the outgoing and incoming base support squadrons (Comm, CE, SVS, and SFS) to energize the building project. No small challenge since the outgoing personnel really didn’t want to start something new (after all they were leaving) and the incoming personnel didn’t want to commit because they hadn’t had time to orient and determine their priorities. No problem, we’re flexible. I just stood on each of their desks and refuse to leave until I got a commitment to act.

So, how did all of this turn out? After what seemed like a very slow start we managed to get the CASF built and operational a full week ahead of schedule enabling the movement of nearly 2,000 wounded warriors on over 90 missions. Our consolidated supply operation managed to not only stand up the Patient Movement Item (PMI) program and MOMEDLOG, they got creative with the re-supply distribution channels and cut replenishment time from 4-6 weeks down to 6-10 days. The biomedical maintenance guys inventoried and calibrated all the equipment and permanently fixed the oxygen generation system. IM/IT developed and implemented long-term solutions for the portable X-ray system, TRAC2ES connectivity, and resolved GEMS reliability issues. At the same time, they acquired secure communications capabilities for the Medical Control Center. Admin Services established a full spectrum orderly room function handling everything from Commander’s Calls, letters of evaluation, decorations, and the monthly recognition program to disciplinary actions and all UDM responsibilities for over 100+ assigned personnel. As the MCC, we led the medical response for numerous attacks and emergencies resulting in lifesaving care for more than 34 combat casualties. All of these things were accomplished in a far-forward combat environment, with nearly daily rocket, mortar and, to a lesser degree, small arms attacks. During this time, we also had three

of our aircraft seriously damaged by enemy rockets. This included a commercial DHL plane; which was our primary re-supply aircraft.

As the end of the deployment drew within site, a new wrinkle emerged. Seems we didn't want to give the locals the impression we were an occupying force so everything needed to be relocated to a base 40 miles to the north. Well, not exactly everything. The EMEDS-Basic would eventually draw down in place, only the CASF had to move. But we needed to keep a CASF function in Baghdad until the AEF 7/8 rotation so what we had to do was split the CASF +50 and establish smaller CASFs at both locations. With three weeks left on our deployment we got to build another CASF!

I hope the preceding examples help to clarify the concept of "rigid-flexibility". The next time you find yourself becoming frustrated with a project that keeps varying from the plan remember to "*always maintain a rigid line of flexibility!*"

TAPS

Colonel Charles (Chuck/Bill) Martino Sunday (March 7th).in Clayton, GA.
Chuck is survived by his wife Sahara and son, Chuck Jr.

Jeanne Lubrant

Colonel Phil Rutledge, MSC Retired, died Jan 26th in Pensacola Florida. Phil is survived by his wife Lorie.

LtCol Dewey E Allen

LtCol Charles L Hite 22 December 2003.

Major Leo J. Tisa, Sr.of Niceville, FL. Maj Tisa died on December 29, at age 86. He is survived by 5 sons, a daughter and numerous grandchildren.

Colonel Norbert Gonzales passed away on 30 March 2004

LtCol Stanley Walters

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USAF MSC ASSOCIATION, INC.
1006 Rosemary Street
Denver, Colorado 80230-7089

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL FORM

Date: _____ Phone Number _____

Name: _____ Rank: _____

Address: _____

Spouse's Name: _____ Applicant's
DOB _____

Email address: _____

Date of Retirement (if retired), or date of retirement eligibility: _____

Is this a **NEW** application or a **RENEWAL** (circle one)

Current status: Active Duty USAFR/ANG Retired

Dues Payment Plan: Annual - **\$20.00** Life - **See schedule below**

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 of Applicant) _____ (Date) _____

LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES SCHEDULE

(Payable in Four Quarterly Installments)

<u>Age in Years</u>	<u>Amount</u>
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

Send completed application **with dues payment** to;

Lt Colonel Ralph Charlip Association Secretary, address at top of page. (Make check payable to: USAF MSC Association)