

# US Army Medical Service Corps Warrant Officer Newsletter

## Serving Active Duty and Retired MSC Warrant Officers of the US Army



# The MSC Warrant Officer



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## MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS

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[www.msccwarrants.com/](http://www.msccwarrants.com/)

[www.silvercaduceusassociation.com](http://www.silvercaduceusassociation.com)

*Time rolls on, and hopefully we gain wisdom with its passage. It is hard to believe we are well into the summer of 2008. Perhaps time is relative and unique to each of us. Recently, one of our Warrants told me that when he realized he retired from the Army 10 years ago, he felt old. Well now, if that applies across the board, many of us have been old for a very long time. Hopefully that proposition does not apply to me. Yes, I did retire from the Army almost 30 years ago and from the private sector almost 5 years ago, but I'm still enjoying each day and am anxious for tomorrow to come. So many times I have heard retired people comment that there is so much to do that they do not understand how they had time to work before retirement. I always thought that was so much "hot air". Well at least from my perspective, it is accurate. I returned from my sojourn to Tanzania more than two months ago, and I'm just now current with my household to-do's.*

*The Tanzania project was challenging, informative, and worth while. You may recall, I mentioned in the Winter 2007/2008 newsletter that I was about to depart the US to participate in a project in Tanzania titled, Consultancy Services for District Hospitals Medical/Technical Needs Assessment Study: Tanzania. The purpose of the study was to evaluate 95 district hospitals, approximately 250 beds each, to determine their needs as related to the physical plant, utilities, equipment, and personnel. After significant turmoil caused by the US contractor, their in-country partner, and the Tanzania government, we arrived in country in early March with no team leader and only two team members. My counterpart was a public health doctor. Fortunately, our in-country partner had completed detailed surveys of the hospitals so we had source data from which to work. It was the rainy season, so travel to many hospitals was not possible. Only 5 percent of the roads in Tanzania are paved, and rain makes travel treacherous. Shortly after my arrival the Tanzania Prime Minister's office asked me to assume the duties as Team Leader. I wisely declined the proposal, and we continued without benefit of a leader.*

*My first action was to visit as many hospitals and workshops as possible given time and travel constraints. I have visited hospitals in the remote areas of Vietnam, Thailand, and Burma. I considered them to be primitive and in poor condition. Tanzania refocused my reference point. I will not bore you with details, but I will say conditions in each hospital I visited were much worse than I could have imagined. It was so sad to learn that 70 percent of all hospital beds are occupied by patients who are HIV positive, whose life expectancy is such that they are not admitted to the hospital. They are given no treatment, no medication, and no food. They occupy a bed until they die, then someone else takes the bed. While this is bad, I was surprised to learn that the primary cause of death is malaria. This is especially unfortunate in that malaria is very preventable. Much (perhaps most) of the equipment does not work, has not worked for a very long time, and will never be repaired. There are only 11 people in the country classified as BMETs. The capability of these people is very much in doubt. I visited one area where there are no doctors for 5 hospitals. With the exception of a 3 day weekend to visit Zanzibar, we worked every day we were there.*

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*I developed a comprehensive maintenance and training program. Each of you would readily recognize much of what I wrote. I recalled the Army Medical Maintenance Program worked well, so I borrowed heavily from it. Of course it was necessary for me to customize it to local conditions. I did not develop a 2407, but you would certainly recognize my work order request. Computers are not readily available there, and few people are proficient in their use so the program I presented was completely manual, pen and paper.*

*My part of the study was complete in May, and I returned to the "Land of the Big PX." I am happy to be home, and even happier that I was able to participate in the project.*

*Since returning, I have declined offers to participate in similar studies in Vietnam and on a small island near Indonesia. I'll do it again, but not just now.*

**MSC 2008 REUNION**

*The MSC reunion is rapidly approaching, and I noticed few of you have submitted your registration forms. I have attached the registration package to this newsletter and hope you will seriously consider joining us. We had an excellent Warrant Officer representation in 2006 and hope that will continue and improve in 2008. We will once again be at the San Antonio Doubletree Hotel and have negotiated a very attractive room rate of \$93.00 per day. The hotel is very near the San Antonio airport, and local transportation is available. A complimentary shuttle service is provided by the Doubletree hotel from and to the airport. Free parking is available at the hotel for those who drive. As an added benefit, the hotel shuttle will take guests to restaurants, shopping, etc. (anywhere within a two mile radius of the hotel). There is a shopping center and several restaurants within walking distance. There will be no need to rent a car unless you want to go into the city to shop and sightsee. I will complete 2 years as the Association Secretary in September and have been nominated to become President for the 2008/2010 term. It would be great to have you there to share this special time with me.*

*The program will be as follows.*

**MSC 2008 REUNION PROGRAM**

**Doubletree Hotel  
37 NE Loop 410  
Intersection of McCullough and Loop 410**

**September 25 to September 27, 2008**

**Thursday, September 25, 2008**

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. | SCA Board of Directors Business Meeting - Doubletree Hotel    |
| 3:00 to 6:30 p.m. | Check-In and Registration – Lobby, Doubletree Hotel           |
| 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. | Opening Mexican Buffet Reception – Cash bar, Doubletree Hotel |

**Friday, September 26, 2008**

**Plenary Session**

**Doubletree Hotel**

8:30 – 8:45 a.m.	Welcome to the MSC 2008 Reunion and update by COL (RET) George Krueger, President, Silver Caduceus Association
8:45 – 9:30 a.m.	Intro of Chief, MSC, by Col Wendy Martinson, MSC, Commander, Ft. Sam Houston “State of the MSC and Its Future”, by C, MSC
9:30 – 10:15 a.m.	Wounded Warrior Panel: Mrs. Judy Markelz and four or five wounded soldiers, sailors, marines, or airmen
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Ladies Coffee - Doubletree Hotel (Tentative)
10:15 – 10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 – 11:15 a.m.	MG George Weightman: “Leadership Challenges in Today’s AMEDD”
11:15 to 11:45	COL (Ret.) Dick Ginn, “Launching of a new MSC History Project”
11:45 a.m.	Golfers travel to Ft Sam Houston Golf Club (on your own)
1:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Golf Tournament
5:30 p.m.	Transportation leaves Doubletree Hotel for “Mulligan’s”
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Buffet at the “Mulligan’s” - Ft Sam Golf Club House
7:30 p.m.	Transportation leaves “Mulligan’s” for Doubletree Hotel

**Saturday Morning, September 27**

8:30 to 9:00 a.m.	Memorial Service conducted by COL (Ret.) George Krueger and Chaplain Robert Bories.
9:00 to 9:45 a.m.	LTG (Ret.) Ricardo Sanchez, “The Iraq War: Lessons Learned”
9:45 to 10:30 a.m.	“Medical Support of Two Wars—Afghanistan and Iraq—Similarities and Differences”, COL Casper Jones and COL Jeff Hahn.
10:30 to 10:45 a.m.	Coffee Break
10:45 to 11:30 a.m.	“What’s Going on in the AMEDD”, Panel Discussion, COL (Ret.) Bill Thrasher, COL (Ret.) Gregg Stevens and COL Wendy Martinson.
11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.	SCA General Membership Business Meeting/Election, COL George Krueger (SCA Members Only)
12:15 p.m.	Meeting Adjourned / Free Time

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6:15 – 6:50 p.m.	Cocktail hour
6:50 – 7:00 p.m.	Call to dinner
7:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Banquet, entertainment and dancing
<b>10:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Reunion Adjourn</b>

**Web Sites**

*I want to recognize the significant and quality work Joe McClain has done in the development and recurring maintenance of two MSC related websites. Joe first developed the Warrant Officer web page and then agreed to assist in developing the Silver Caduceus Association of Officers and Warrant Officers, Inc. website. When it became apparent he was the only knowledgeable person working on the project, he assumed its leadership and has done an outstanding job. I know you will be proud of the final product.*

*Please visit....*

**[www.msccwarrants.com](http://www.msccwarrants.com)**

and

**[www.silvercaduceusassociation.com](http://www.silvercaduceusassociation.com)**

*You will find several links on each website. I'm confident you will find these beneficial. If you have problems opening the registration packet attached to this newsletter, you will find a link to it on either website as well.*

**Thank you Joe!**

*We are extremely fortunate to count you among our ranks and happy that you are doing so much to advance the common interest of the MSC community.*

*I look forward to seeing each of you in San Antonio. I will host a Warrant Officer gathering after the golf tournament. You will have time to play in the golf tournament but must decide to be with your fellow Warrants or attend the buffet at the "Mulligan's"*