



I begin the Winter 2006/2007 MSC Warrant Officer Newsletter with a short joke, at least I think it is a joke. It goes as follows.

There are three types of stories we tell.

The first is a fairy tale and is easy to differentiate from other stories because a fairy tale always begins with, "*Once Upon A Time*".

The second is the "Aviator Story" the aviator story is easy to identify because it always begins with, "*And There I Was*".

The last, and most important, is the War Story. The War Story is easy to spot since it always begins with, "*Now This Is No Shi!*"

While having lunch with several old friends at the 2006 MSC Reunion in San Antonio I heard a retired Warrant at the end of the table begin a yarn with, "Now this is no shit"! You can only hear this while in the company of our special Army friends. Not just friends, but Army friends. They are special friends because we chose to wear the green uniform and we chose to be associated with these people. When I took my uniform off for the last time I took a few minutes to reflect upon my Army career and those who were so special to me. I wondered if they would be as special to me with the passage of time. Now, almost 27 years later, I am happy to report they are even more special today than they were back then.

Not far from my home in Indian Wells there is a restaurant called "The Nest". The Nest is a place where the more seasoned, (as in old), citizens gather for lunch and dinner. Although I'm not quite a "*seasoned citizen*", I do go there for lunch from time to time to enjoy the food and the company of the other guests. A while back I discovered that those who are part of a large group who frequently gather off to one side of the dining room are retired NFL football players and come there to revisit memorable events from days gone by. The last time I was there I noticed these gentlemen were in their usual corner and seemed to be enjoying each other's company. I could hear their sometimes loud speech and laughter, and noticed the waiter frequently serving adult beverages to their tables. As I watched this occur my mind took me back to several similar events at our 2006 MSC Reunion.

As I think about this group I am aware of how similar we are. No, we didn't play professional football and we were never featured in the national media, and we did not live the life of a celebrity. However, we did have each other. And, we did share many common adversities and victories. We followed each other from one duty station to the next, our families grew close together, and we became true friends. Friends are few and far between. I have now been out of the Army longer than I was in, and still, my real friends are those I met while wearing the uniform of our country. Yes there are others whom I refer to as friends, but they are different. We met under very different circumstances and while they are special to me, they are not Army.

Respectfully:

Ed Hollingsworth

Where have all the BMETs Gone?

By Doug Stephens, CW4, MSC, Retired, CBET
Stephens International Recruiting, Inc.

Biomedical Instrumentation managers have been suffering a shortage of qualified Biomedical Equipment Technicians (BMETs) for the past four to five years. This makes it very difficult for these managers to keep up with all of the maintenance requirements established by accrediting and safety organizations.

In March 2006, I was asked by the Service Industry Association (SIA), a trade organization that monitors and supports service providers for both medical and information technology companies, to investigate and present information regarding the shortage of qualified BMETs. We at Stephens International Recruiting, Inc. have been feeling the effects of this shortage, in a positive nature. Our requirements to provide qualified BMET candidates started to increase significantly in 1999 when Y2K consultants started contacting us to find BMETs to perform Y2K clinical equipment testing. The pay they offered was 50 to 60 % more than most BMETs were making in a normal clinical equipment support program. So, as a result, Y2K started a trend of BMETs moving their career to the Information Technology field that continued through 2003. Exploring the overall impact of this trend, we determined the following:

- Y2K resulted in an estimated 400 to 500 BMETs changing from clinical support roles and companies to IT and Health Care consulting firms.
- Y2K impacted Trade and Associate Degree technical training programs that provided Biomedical Instrumentation Degrees and Certificates. We saw enrollments decline significantly which resulted in over 20 schools closing their programs for BMETs. Estimated loss to the BMET career field was in the hundreds during this period.

Another factor in the decline of available BMETs was a result of the military Base Realignment and Closure program that forced the closure of USAMEOS in Denver, CO. The Department of Defense had been trying to consolidate Military Biomedical Training Programs into a Tri-Service program since the early 1970's. The issue of a consolidating these training programs was forced by the 1990 decision to close Fitzsimons Army Medical Center and resulted in the services establishing the DOD Biomedical Equipment Training Program at Sheppard Air Force Base. The impact on the Biomedical Maintenance Career field was:

- 1998 -- The final student enrollment at the military training schools, USAMEOS, in Denver, CO. and Sheppard AFB. Enrollment stopped during the setup and transition to the new Tri-Services Training Program at Sheppard AFB.
- 1999 -- The final graduation of students from the old training program of the military schools.
- From May of 1999 to 2000 no students graduated from the military BMET training schools. Prior to this, the total output of military trained BMETs was between 375 to 450 annually and resulted in an additional shortage of approximately 400 BMETs annually after 2000.

Where does that put us in today's labor market? In a word – Short, very short!

We have seen some hospitals and Independent Service Organizations hiring basic electronics technicians and performing on-the-job training to repair clinical equipment. These organizations soon realized that most of these basic electronic technicians could not replace the services of the professionally trained BMET because they lacked the qualifications to repair clinical equipment. Additionally, most of these electronic technicians did not have the understanding or knowledge of the health care structure and the impact on patient care.

As a result of the shortage of professionally trained BMETs, our client base has grown tremendously, with many organizations using our temporary services to supplement their staff in an effort to “catch-up” on required services and to meet JCAHO and other regulatory requirements.

There is a positive note to this situation, however. Westat, an independent auditing agency used to evaluate healthcare salaries, has reported that in 2005, biomedical equipment technicians have seen an average increase in starting and annual pay of 3.2%, with certified BMETs receiving 5.7% increases. Training of BMETs has stabilized with many technical schools and clinical equipment training programs returning to pre-Y2K enrollments. The trend today is increased enrollments.

A word of warning though! Although there is an increase in professional BMET training programs at colleges and technical schools, be prepared for another shortage of BMETs resulting from a new round of military base closures. In 2008, Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, TX will start down-sizing and the Tri-Service Biomedical Equipment Maintenance course will be moving to Fort Sam Houston, TX. How long the change of location will take will

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ultimately dictate how many BMETs our career field will be short. Start planning now for this shortage.

The following is a letter COL George Krueger, President of the Silver Caduceus Association, (formerly the MSC Network, Inc.), wrote to the Officers and BOD's last month. I share it with you as a means of keeping you informed. Many of you are not currently members of the Association and I encourage each of you to seriously consider joining this select group of men and women. The organization needs you and I promise you will find something of genuine interest and the opportunity to renew old friendships at the upcoming 2008 reunion in San Antonio. If you do not have a membership application contact me at ed2rie@cox.net and I will get one to you. eth

Letter from COL George R. Krueger, MSC, Retired, President Silver Caduceus Assoc. of MSC Officers & Warrant Officers, Inc.

The following is a letter from the President of the Silver Caduceus Association of MSC Officers and Warrant Officers, formerly, The MSC Network, Inc. I share this with you knowing many are not members and would have missed the letter. I urge you to join us in this organization.

TO: Members of the Board of Directors, Officers, and members of the Silver Caduceus Association of MSC Officers and Warrant Officers, Inc.

SUBJECT: Letter from the President

It's been some time since I last communicated with you and much has happened since. The Secretary of the State of Texas has approved a name change and several minor changes to the Articles of Incorporation. Our official name is: SILVER CADUCEUS ASSOCIATION OF MSC OFFICERS AND WARRANT OFFICERS, INC. We envision this new name will include our active duty members as well as retired. Preparations are being made for a gala celebration of the 90th birthday of the corps in June of this year. I will keep you informed as I receive information about this event.

Our new officers and members of the Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Pres: George Krueger
VP: Earl McSwain
Sylvester
Sec: Ed Hollingsworth
Treas: Jim Vinci

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

George Adams Carroll Ockert
Melinda Deffer Ernie
George Hammond George Waters
Wendy Martinson

There are some changes that have taken place in the committee chairs of the association. The main change is that Col. (Ret) Mike Case accepted the chair of the Membership Committee. Mike has had some difficulty in programming and with his computer in getting started in membership notification of annual dues and I'm sure that as he overcomes these problems, you will be hearing from Mike. Many of you have expired memberships as of the end of 2006 so check your membership card. As previous, we encourage you to renew your membership for 2 years (\$30.00). By doing so it helps to reduce paper work. If you have any questions, contact Mike at: mjcase1@earthlink.net.

The association has a new address. This is to be used for paying dues and all correspondence to the association: Silver Caduceus Assoc. of MSC Officers & Warrant Officers, Inc., P. O. Box 3660, Harker Heights, Texas 76548.

Chairman of the Reunion Committee 2006, Mike McGinley and his capable staff, organized and provided the membership the opportunity to attend a reunion providing first class educational programs (speakers), good food, excellent golf program, camaraderie, i.e., to renew old friendships, and swoop tales of the past. All of this was accompanied by excellent motel accommodations and entertainment.

The next reunion will be held in San Antonio, September 2008 at the same location, The DoubleTree Motel. Mark your calendars and plan on attending this reunion. We are very fortunate in that Mike McGinley has accepted Chairmanship of the 2008 MSC Reunion. Mike has mentioned that he would like to see break-out sessions included in the reunion with topics that will educate and entertain all participants.

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I am pleased to tell you that Col. Gil East has made his second \$1000.00 donation to the Scholarship Fund. You might recall that it was Gil who made the first contribution to this program. At the 2006 reunion, five one thousand dollar scholarships were awarded to worthy applicants who were related to members of the association. I encourage you to continue supporting this program by making your contributions (federally tax deductible) payable to the Scholarship Fund.

Last but not least, reminders:

1. Pay your 2007 and 2008 dues
2. The OFN operated by Art Irish, is a separate entity and not to be confused with this association.
3. Recruit.
4. Send worthy news items to Dick Ginn at: dickginn@aol.com.

Obit notices

Just as we were going to press, Jim Van Straten called with the sad news that COL Brian Allgood, MC, son of COL and Mrs. Gerald Allgood was killed in Iraq. None of the details of his death are available at this time. Jerry Allgood called Jim Van Straten at about 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 21 and told him the sad news and asked that he disseminate it to the MSC family as quickly as possible.

Jim reports that Brian was a fine young man and a superb officer. After graduating from the United States Military Academy, he went to medical school under Army sponsorship and he completed an Army residency in orthopedics. He had a series of successful commands of medical units around the world during his career. His spouse served as a Medical Service Corps Officer, but Jim believes she is now retired. Jane and their son are currently living in Heidelberg, Germany.

Additionally, Becky Johnson, wife of Col. (R) Johnny Johnson, a charter member of our Board of Directors, entered into eternal life this past November, at their residence in San Antonio.

As your President, on behalf of the association, I extend our sincere sympathy to the Allgood and Johnson families.

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May the New Year be good to you and permit you to enjoy the many blessings of the One who has made it all possible.

Best Regards,

George R. Krueger, Col. MSC, Retired, President
Silver Caduceus Assoc. of MSC Officers & Warrant Officers, Inc.

2006 MSC Reunion, San Antonio, Texas

As promoted, the **2006 MSC Reunion** was excellent. Warrant Officer participation increased significantly from the 2004 reunion and hopefully it will do so again in 2008. The reunion will once again be in San Antonio. I will supply additional information as that date approaches.

Take a look at the pictures below. The first is a picture of the Warrants who were present for a social gathering during the 2006 MSC Reunion in San Antonio. After that is pictures are Warrants who were there but unable to participate in the social gathering and a few snap shots of those in attendance.

Do you recognize anyone from your past?



Standing (left to right)

Joe McClain, Darryl Hornsby, Rod Leas, Ken Sutton, Don Knippa, Harold Howe, Ed Hollingsworth, Tom Bennett, John Morcom II

Seated (left to right)

Dudley Brown, Dominick Scarpati, Bill Robertson, Doug Stephens

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Mike Staley



Dan Nuzum



Ed Shockley



Lois and Dudley Brown



Karen and Tom Bennett



Ed Hollingsworth and Lois Brown



Dudley Brown, Tom Bennett, & Garrett Baron



John Morcom II and Joe McClain

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Dan and Dorothy Nuzum



Dudley Brown and Tom Bennett

MSC Warrant Officer Web Page

I urge you to take time to visit the MSC Warrant Officer Web Page at <http://www.mscwarrants.com/>

This is the work of our esteemed colleague Dr. Joseph McClain, CW3, MSC, Retired. Thank you Joe for all the work you put into developing this page. I am sure our fellow Warrants will enjoy and appreciate it. This is an example of the fine work we have come to expect from Joe.

Solicitation For Input

As we move forward I am thinking about the Summer 2007 MSC Warrant Officer Newsletter and what to I write about in it. I would like to ask for your input. If you have anything to offer please send it to me by e-mail. There is an excellent probability that if you find something interesting your peers will as well. If you are still working you may want to offer interview suggestions or input on how to build a resume. You may be familiar with benefits or programs available to retirees. If so, you may want to describe them in our newsletter. As an example, did you know our military bases have excellent workout gyms and that as a retiree you have full access to them. I live near Camp Pendleton and use one of their 11 gyms three times each week. The only cost is for me to get myself there, show my retired military ID card, then sweat. They even have a resident instructor who will teach you how to use the machines and develop a workout program for you.

Post Card

I continue my effort to refine our Retired MSC Warrant Officer Roster with the goal of improving contact and communication. Many of us are interested in renewing old acquaintances and friendships. The next step toward this is to send the following post card to each member who does not have an e-mail address but does have a mailing address. This post card will be in the mail before February 1, 2007. To this end, I urge you to do what you can to refine the roster. Take a few minutes to look for your friends. If they are not listed send their contact information to me and if they are there but their contact information is not accurate send that to me. It seems that many of us continue to move frequently. It was a necessity while we were on active duty and some of us remain mobile. My recent address change is evidence of this.

You will note my address on the post card has changed from Indian Wells, California to Oceanside, California. My new mailing address is 1010 Straightaway Lane, Oceanside, CA, 92210-1942, Telephone 760 231 1986 and e-mail ed2rie@cox.net



MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS
United States Army





Ed Hollingsworth
1010 Straightaway Lane
Oceanside, CA 92057-1942

When was the last time you saw a copy of our Retired MSC Warrant Officer roster?
Have you seen a copy of our newsletter, The MSC Warrant Officer?
Were you informed about the 2006 MSC reunion?
Do you know we have a MSC reunion every 2 years?
Have you heard about the MSC Network, Inc.?
Are you a member of the MSC Network Inc.?
Have you received a copy of the MSC Survivor Checklist?
Have you visited <http://www.mscwarrants.com/>?
Would you like to renew a friendship with a retired Warrant Officer?

If you are not familiar with any of this or need additional info, please send your e-mail address to Ed Hollingsworth at ed.hollingsworth@us.army.mil.

I am anxious to make corrections to our roster and need your help. It would be great to count you among our Network members. We had a great Warrant Officer turnout at the 2006 reunion, and I am honored to have been elected Secretary Of the Network.

Contact me by e-mail for additional information.

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MSC Warrant Officer \$1,000 Scholarship

While at the MSC Reunion last September I was standing in the banquet room talking to a fellow MSC Officer when Tom Bennett and Dudley Brown came up to me. Dudley handed me two \$100 bills and informed me that they were the first \$200 for a \$1,000 scholarship that will be awarded to a deserving young student in the name of the MSC Warrant Officers. What could I do, I took the money and added \$100 myself. That left the fund \$700 short. Of course, Tom and Dudley left me standing there with the money and the monkey. The project had been skillfully delegated to me. I walked over to Joe McClain, told him about the scholarship and he immediately agreed to add \$100 to the pot. My task was getting easier so I proceeded to approach other Warrants present, Ed Shockley, Ken Sutton, Rodney Leas, and John Morcom. By then the evening was coming to an end and the all Warrants had departed. So, \$200 shy of my goal, I called two people who I knew I could count on Doug Stephens and Dea Froggatt. Doug had attended the reunion and Dea had not. As predicted, each immediately agreed and gave me a check for \$100. Now that I had the full \$1,000 for the scholarship I sent it to the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee and asked that the scholarship be presented in the name of the MSC Warrant Officers.

I would like to offer a special thank you to the officers who generously contributed to the scholarship. Once again, this is an example of special people. If anyone would like to contribute to the scholarship fund and want it donated in the name of MSC Warrant Officers, send your check to me and I will take care of the rest. It would be great to present a second \$1,000 check to the committee.

Survivor Checklist

I presented the MSC Survivor Checklist to those in attendance at the reunion. The genesis of this checklist goes back to a project I participated in with the Palm Springs Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, (MOAA) two years ago. Each person in attendance received a copy of the checklist on a CD. After the presentation several Officers approached me to express their appreciation for the checklist. I know it will be beneficial and will assist survivors settle the estate of their loved ones. I will attach a copy of the checklist to the e-mail I use to transmit this newsletter.

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MSC Warrant Officer Newsletter Input Solicitation

Take a few minutes to consider the things you would like included in this newsletter. I would appreciate any input you care to offer. I am looking for ideas and finished articles. You will note Doug Stephens provided a fine article titled, "Where have all the BMET's Gone?" in this newsletter. Dea Froggatt has agreed to write an article for the Summer edition and an old friend, Bill Bryan, COL, INF, Retired, will provide an article on financial planning beginning with the Summer 2007 issue. Each of us has something to offer and many of you are splendid writers. This is an excellent forum to showcase your work. Share your knowledge, guidance, and wit with your fellow MSC Warrant Officers. Please send your input to Ed Hollingsworth at ed2rie@cox.net

Feel free to share this with any of your military friends. Each of us communicates with friends who are not on our roster. These friends may enjoy reading the newsletter. eth

Sad News

I am unable to provide specifics, but I have recently discovered that one of our old friends, SGM Fred Chipman, has passed away. Many of us knew and admired Fred; he was a friend and mentor to many of us. We send our condolences to his family.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Leo Gehring, CW3, MSC, (Ret), Vice chancellor at University of Arkansas Medical Science Center for his selection to the post of President of The American Society of Healthcare Engineers (ASHE). Leo will serve for one year (2007). He has already implemented several initiatives to bring the Biomedical/Clinical Engineering community back to the forefront at ASHE. Our best wishes go out to Leo for the 2007 year.

Congratulations to CW5 Curtis Randolph on his recent promotion. Curtis was promoted 2 February, 2007 at Fort Sam Houston, TX and is currently serving as the Medical Command Consultant in Biomedical Instrumentation. Curtis is an outstanding officer whose performance is appreciated by all active and retired MSC Warrant Officers.

GOD BLESS AMERICA