

# WEEKLY DENTAL UPDATE



## SPECIAL EDITION

17 August 2018

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE: Navy Dental Corps Celebrates 106 Years

#### 1. MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF, NAVY DENTAL CORPS

Officers of the Navy Dental Corps,

On August 22nd, the Navy Dental Corps will celebrate one hundred six years of proud history. I thank each of you for your dedicated service to our nation and for shaping our proud heritage as we reminisce on our decorated past, celebrate our present, and look to our promising future.

The Navy Dental Corps has stood at the tip of the spear since its inception in 1912, developing officers who not only ensure the dental readiness of our fighting force, but who lead from the front, assuming roles as commanding officers, deploying with carrier strike groups, and integrating with Marine Expeditionary Units. As we look back at our history, there are examples of bravery, innovation, and perseverance by dental officers under very challenging conditions in peace and conflict, ashore and afloat.

On December 7<sup>th</sup> 1941 during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, LCDR Hugh Alexander, senior dental officer aboard the USS *Oklahoma* (BB-37), assisted numerous crew members trapped in a compartment as a result of damage by the enemy. LCDR Alexander selected sailors who were small enough to make their escape through a narrow porthole, not more than 14 inches in diameter, and continued giving assistance until the end, sacrificing his life as the ship sank. Seventy-seven years later, the story of his courage and gallantry humbles and inspires all who hear it. Earlier this year, the Secretary of the Navy posthumously awarded LCDR Alexander with the Silver Star Medal for his valor, making him the seventeenth Navy Dental Corps officer to receive the Silver Star Medal over our one hundred six year history.

As we celebrate our Corps' birthday, I ask you to remember our colleagues who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We must never forget their heroism and what an honor and privilege it is to serve in this capacity.

I thank each of you for your selfless service and proudly salute you on a job extremely well done! Your ongoing commitment to serve is the key to ensuring our future success. Happy 106th Birthday United States Navy Dental Corps!

RDML G. D. Shaffer



Dental Corps  
Birthday Letter

## 2. 106<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY MESSAGES FROM THE SG, MC, NC, MSC, HC & CC

The following messages were sent to Chief, Navy Dental Corps from the Surgeon General; Chief, Medical Corps; Director, Nurse Corps; Director, Medical Service Corps; the Force Master Chief; and Director, Civilian Corps.



SG's B-DAY Message



MC B-DAY Message



NC B-DAY Message



MSC B-DAY Message



HC B-DAY Message



CC B-DAY Message