

# Army Medicine Starts Here!

THE U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE AND ITS ORIGINS

A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE FIRST 100 YEARS

1920 *to* 2020



**ADRIANE ASKINS NEIDINGER** and

**NOLAN A. WATSON**

Edward Lindeke | Executive Director, Borden Institute

Joan Redding | Senior Production Editor, Borden Institute

Stephanie Pelczar | Technical Editor, Medical Science, Borden Institute

Christine Gamboa-Onrubia, MBA | Creative Director & Production Manager, Fineline Graphics, LLC

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# Table of Contents

Foreword .....	i
Preface .....	ii
Acknowledgements .....	iii
Carlisle Barracks: The Early Years (1920–1945) .....	2
1946 – 1949 .....	12
1950 – 1959 .....	38
1960 – 1969 .....	82
1970 – 1979 .....	112
1980 – 1989 .....	144
1990 – 1999 .....	172
2000 – 2009 .....	198
2010 – 2020 .....	232
Appendix A	
Commanders (1920–Present) .....	279
Deputy Commanders and Deputies to the Commanding General .....	284
Appendix B	
Command Sergeants Major (1967–Present) .....	285

## Foreword

“For the last 100 years,  
the MEDCoE has been  
responsible for training  
competent and ready  
medical professionals  
to support the front line  
fielded force.”



I am proud to be a part of the rich history of the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence (MEDCoE), the premier medical training institution in the Department of Defense. The MEDCoE is the driving force to improve and evolve the delivery of healthcare in every environment around the globe as depicted in the pictorial history. The Centennial version includes the most notable achievements for Army Medicine during the last decade (2010-2020).

The medical readiness of our military force is paramount. For the last 100 years, the MEDCoE has been responsible for training competent and ready medical professionals to support the front line fielded force.

As one of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command’s (TRADOC) Centers of Excellence, the MEDCoE continues the legacy to train, educate, and inspire medical personnel to fight and win in the multi-domain operational design of the future. To conserve fighting strength, we must preserve the health of maneuver forces, enable Soldier lethality in conflict, and facilitate a return to competition.

We continue to carry the torch given to us by those who came before, and train the finest medical professionals in support of the MEDCoE’s core mission: saving lives on and off the battlefield.

**Army Medicine Starts Here!**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. P. Lemaster".

**DENNIS P. LEMASTER**

Major General, U.S. Army  
Commanding General

## Preface

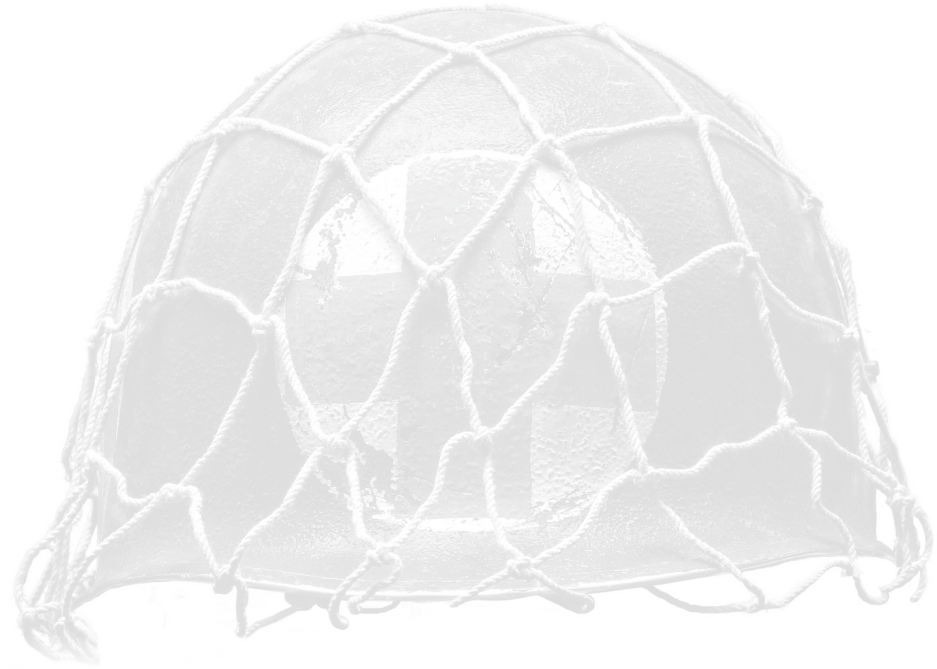
**T**his Centennial edition and update to the publication originally titled “Envision, Design, Train” continues the pictorial history of the “school” for Army Medicine. *Army Medicine Starts Here!* begins with the original book’s material to 2010, and then covers the latest decade’s numerous events (2011-2020). It concludes with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Building upon the previous foundation of material, readers can follow the changes in organizational structure and technology, with a background of ongoing conflict. Most of the material for this update is from previously published MEDCoE and Joint Base San Antonio sources. Technological advances have greatly aided the availability of imagery and information.

Why a pictorial history? Images serve to preserve the record of events, but also function as a “snapshot” in time. Decades from now, the uniforms, courses, and people that comprised the MEDCoE can be viewed how they once were. This book will also provide an initial view of the vast changes in the Army that occurred since the publication of the original edition.

Despite medical advances and changes in organization, from the very first students to the most recent graduates, the mission to excel at training for the Army’s finest medical professionals continues today.

**NOLAN A. (ANDY) WATSON**  
ACHH Supervisory Historian



## Acknowledgements

This book builds upon the foundation of *Envision, Design, Train*. As such, it is important to note the contributions of the team that captured the first 90 years of the pictorial history. Ms. Adriane Askins Neidinger, the former AMEDD Center and School historian, assembled the book with a great team.

From *Envision, Design, Train*:

Any endeavor of this magnitude could not have been accomplished without contributions, assistance, and encouragement from many people. First and foremost, I would like to acknowledge MG David A. Rubenstein, Commander, Army Medical Department Center and School [now retired] for the honor of being assigned the production of the first ever pictorial history of the AMEDDC&S. He had his choice of seasoned medical military historians in the area to choose from yet he selected me. A personal “thank you” goes directly to him for the opportunity to research this honorable organization but to also ensure that its history is documented for not only the AMEDD community, but the general public. I would like to acknowledge my fellow historians at the AMEDDC&S Leader Training Center, Dr. Wayne Austerman and Mr. Bob Glisson, for their contributions. Readers will find the indelible watermark of Dr. Austerman’s writing style on the first section dealing with the early years of the Medical Field Service School. Mr. Bob Glisson, a young officer at the Academy of Health Sciences in the 1980s, contributed most of the 1980s information. Mr. Warrington Lee Austerman receives my special thanks for volunteering to scan and annotate captions for the section his father wrote.

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A hearty thanks goes to the Directors and Staffs of both the AMEDD Museum and Fort Sam Houston Museum, who were always ready to assist and provide access to their photo and artifact collections. This includes, but is not limited to, Mr. Scott Schoner, AMEDD Museum Director; Ms. Paula Ussery, AMEDD Museum Curator; Mr. Chuck

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—Adriane Askins Neidinger

My contributions to *Army Medicine Starts Here!* are comprised of the last nine years of AMEDD Center and School (later Medical Center of Excellence) history. Although the year 2020 has had challenges, I was greatly assisted by the availability of information and images for the book. Even so, I could not have completed *Army Medicine Starts Here!* without help from a number of hard-working people.

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**NOLAN A. (ANDY) WATSON**

ACHH Supervisory Historian





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