

APPENDIX:

ARMY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT DISTINCTIONS

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Disclaimer: The distinctions listed here are based on access to available references, resources, and databases. It is not our intention to exclude anyone from the lists. Army physician assistant (PA) leadership should be notified for changes in future editions of this handbook.

In 2015, the Army Medical Specialist Corps divided the duties of the Area of Concentration (AOC) Branch Chief and Consultants, making these positions separate duties. Lieutenant Colonel Oliver and Lieutenant Colonel Detro were the first two PAs to serve in these new roles. In 2017, the PA Consultant was approved for two Deputy PA Consultants, one designated for Current Operations (CUOPS) and the other for Future Operations (FUOPS). Also in 2017, the AOC Chief was eliminated, and in 2018 the Consultants were formally authorized one Deputy PA Consultant to The Army Surgeon General.

Chief of the Army Medical Specialist Corps

2017–2021: COL John E. Balsler

Deputy Chief of the Army Medical Specialist Corps

2018–2020: COL Jeffrey E. Oliver

**Chief of the Physician Assistant Section, Assistant
Chief of the Army Medical Specialist Corps**

1992–1994: MAJ Jimmie E. Keller
1994–1998: LTC Patrick D. Feely
1998–2002: LTC Louis H. Smith, III
2002–2006: COL William L. Tozier
2006–2010: COL Michael A. Robertson
2010–2014: LTC John E. Balsler
2014–2017: LTC Jeff Oliver

**Physician Assistant Consultant to The Army
Surgeon General**

2015–2019: COL John F. Detro
2019–Present: COL David Hamilton

**Deputy Physician Assistant Consultant to the Army
PA Consultant Appointed by the Army Medical
Specialist Corps Chief**

2017–2020: LTC Amelia M. Duran-Stanton–CUOPS
2017–2020: LTC Sharon Rosser–FUOPS

**Deputy Physician Assistant Consultant to The Army
Surgeon General**

2018–2020: LTC Amelia M. Duran-Stanton
2021–Present: LTC Sharon Denson

Awards for Valor or Secondary to Being Combat Wounded

The following Army PAs received awards for valor or secondary to being combat wounded. The descriptions of these awards can be found at <https://www.military-ranks.org/decorations>

Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor is the US armed forces' highest and most prestigious military decoration that may be awarded to recognize American service members who have distinguished themselves by acts of valor. The medal is normally awarded by the President of the United States in the name of the US Congress. Because the medal is presented "in the name of Congress," it is also known as the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Louis Rocco

Distinguished Service Cross

The Distinguished Service Cross is the second highest award in the US Army. It is awarded for true gallantry and selfless action in combat against an armed enemy force. Actions must be more significant than those of other ribbons, medals, and decorations but do not merit the Medal of Honor. The Distinguished Service Cross is awarded to a service member who, while serving in any capacity with the Army, distinguishes himself or herself by extraordinary heroism. The action must occur while engaged in combat against an enemy of the United States. The actions of heroism must be notable and have involved great risk of life, so extraordinary as to set the individual apart from his or her comrades.

Bryan C. Anderson

Silver Star Medal

The Silver Star, officially known as the Silver Star Medal, is the US military's third-highest decoration for valor in combat. It is awarded primarily to members of the US armed forces for gallantry in action

against an enemy of the United States. The Silver Star is awarded for gallantry that does not meet the requirements for higher valor awards: the Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, or the Air Force Cross. The action must have taken place while engaged in combat against an enemy of the United States in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

Christopher Cordova
Stephen M. DeLellis

James B. Jones
Patrick Williams

Soldier's Medal

The Soldier's Medal is the highest honor a soldier can receive for an act of valor in a non-combat situation. A member of another military branch may be awarded the Soldier's Medal if they are serving alongside the US Army. It is considered to be equal to or greater than the level of heroism that would have justified an award of the Distinguished Flying Cross had such an act occurred in combat. Any enlisted American service member recipient who is eligible for retirement pay will receive an increase of 10% in retirement pay if the level of valor was equal to that which would earn the Distinguished Service Cross.

Dennis J. Brady
Mark Dedmon
Robert Howes

Johnny W. Paul
Gary Reedy
Troy Vaughn

Bronze Star Medal With "V" Device

The Bronze Star Medal with "V" device is a US military decoration awarded to members of the US armed forces for heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone. The acts of heroism must be of a lesser degree than that required for the award of the Silver Star. The acts of merit or acts of valor must be less than that required for the Legion of Merit but must nevertheless have been meritorious and accomplished with distinction. The Bronze Star Medal is awarded only to service members in combat zones who are receiving imminent danger pay.

Robert S. Blough
Michael A. Broussard

Scott R. Leduc
John C. Maitha (three awards)

John F. Detro	Dawn L. Orta
Brian G. Gomez	Paul M. Schultz
James B. Jones (two awards)	James L. Shearer

Purple Heart

The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to members of the US armed forces who have been wounded or killed after April 5, 1917. Individuals must be engaged in combat or undertaking any action with a known enemy of the United States where the United States is not the belligerent party. It may be awarded to individuals wounded during an international terrorist attack against the United States or a foreign nation friendly to the United States. It may also be awarded as a result of military operations that occur during peacekeeping missions that take place outside of the United States.

Bryan C. Anderson	Garrett W. Larson
Seamus P. Bradley	Laurencio C. Lopez
James P. Conner (two awards)	John C. Maitha
Stephen M. DeLellis	Jeremy A. McGuffey
John F. Detro (three awards)	Kane Morgan
Kenneth J. Edwards	Kevin M. Myirski
Andrew D. Fisher	Antonio Narvaez (two awards)
Brett C. Gendron	Larry S. Pierce, Jr.
Joseph N. Gomez	Michael A. Ramos
Sean Grimes	Michael A. Robertson
Jeffrey A. Hobbs	Alec Ross (two awards)
Corey J. Jenkins	Renee A. Serell A.
James B. Jones	Marion J. Smith III
Andrew R. Kennedy	Stephen M. Witte
Daniel T. Knudsen	

Army Commendation Medal With “V” Device

The Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM) with “V” device is awarded to any member of the armed forces of the United States who, while serving in any capacity with the Army, distinguishes themselves by heroism, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service. Awards of the ARCOM may be made for acts of valor performed under circumstances described above which are of lesser degree than required for award of the

Bronze Star Medal. These acts may involve aerial flight. The ARCOM may be awarded for acts of noncombatant-related heroism that does not meet the requirements for an award of the Soldier's Medal.

Brian J. Ahern	Kenneth J. Edwards
Joseph R. Bongiorno	Brett C. Gendron
Seamus P. Bradley	Jeffrey A. Hobbs
Franklin G. Brown	Garrett W. Larson
Kyle A. Busby	Daniel J. Maselli
Brandon J. Carroll	Jeremy A. McGuffey
David J. Cantron	Antonio M. Narvaes
Nicholas R. Coffey (two awards)	Roman R. Reyes
John F. Detro (two awards)	Marion J. Smith III (two awards)
Matthew J. Dower (two awards)	Nickolas M. Willer

Joint Service Commendation Medal With "V" Device

The Joint Service Commendation Medal was authorized on June 25, 1963, and is awarded by or in the name of the Secretary of Defense to members of the US armed forces who distinguished themselves by meritorious achievement, valor, or service after January 1, 1963.

Franklin G. Brown
Daryl G. Hilyard
Joshua J. Lane (two awards)

Air Medal With "V" Device

The Air Medal is awarded to recognize gallantry or meritorious service over a period of time in a combat zone. The Air Medal recognizes those personnel who are on current crew member or non-crew member flying status, which requires them to participate in aerial flight on a regular and frequent basis in the performance of their primary duties. The US Army and Navy also awarded a "V" pin (valor device) that denotes special acts for heroism involving aerial contact with an enemy force.

Matthew J. Chandler	Salvador M. Thorn
Robert S. Heath	Caroline B. Vickers
Kevin E. Mayberry	William N. Vasios III
Nathan C. Silvey (five awards)	

The Surgeon General's Physician Assistant Recognition Award

The Surgeon General's Physician Assistant Recognition Award (TSG-PARA) description can be found in Army Regulation 351-3. This annual award provides personal recognition by TSG to a PA who has made a significant contribution to military medicine. It is intended to increase PA motivation for exceptional job performance. The award program applies to all commands, agencies, installations, activities, and organizations having PAs assigned on a full-time basis.

1980:	Gerald T. Mlakar	2000:	Leonard Q. Gruppo, Jr.
1981:	Donald L. Parsons	2001:	James J. McIlwee
1982:	Keith B. Sunderlin	2002:	David L. Hamilton
1983:	William Donovan	2003:	Kevin W. Burnham
1984:	Stephen E. Brick	2004:	Christopher S. Van Winkle
1985:	Henry B. Sablan	2005:	John E. Hendricks
1986:	Samuel L. Jewett III	2006:	John F. Detro
1987:	Charles M. Russell	2007:	Patrick C. Williams
1988:	Patrick F. Roper	2008:	William C. Swaims
1989:	Judith E. Colver	2009:	Anthony J. Bohl
1990:	Terry L. Lewis	2010:	Andrew D. Fisher
1991:	Duane K. Paulus	2011:	Christopher Cordova
1992:	Michael K. Cavanagh	2012:	Manuel Menendez
1993:	John E. Hurley III	2013:	George A. Barbee
1994:	Peter A. Forsberg	2014:	Lindsey K. Faudree
1995:	Joseph F. Creedon, Jr.	2015:	John B. Robinson
1996:	Charles E. Solesbee	2016:	P. Jason Auchincloss
1997:	Jonathan R.C. Green	2017:	Kymerli Scruggs
1998:	Dale J. Rush	2018:	Johnny Paul
1999:	Anne M. Albert	2019:	Sean Donahue

Army Physician Assistants with “A” Designation

The “A” proficiency designator is the highest recognition for professional excellence in the Army Medical Department (AMEDD). Candidates for the honor must be eminently qualified to chair a department, division, or service, or have attained full professional status and national prominence in their field. This annual award can be given to eligible candidates in the AMEDD active component, Army National Guard, and US Army Reserve (USAR).

P. Jason Auchincloss	Paul V. Jacobson
John E. Balsler	James J. Jones
David W. Broussard	Benjamin Kocher
George A. Barbee	Larry T. Lindsay
Bruce J. Beecher	Roberto E. Marin
Thomas A. Bryant	Jonathan D. Monti
Brian E. Burk	Kane Morgan
Aaron J. Cronin	Trisha A. McCracken
Michael A. Davidson	Jeffrey E. Oliver
Charles Day	Dawn L. Orta
Stephen DeLellis	James G. Pairemore
Sharon D. Denson	Christopher C. Pase
John F. Detro	Johnny Paul
Mathew S. Douglas	Dennison S. Segui
Amelia M. Duran-Stanton	Kenneth Shedarowich
Colin T. Frament	Erin J. Stibral
Michael E. Franco	James T. Schumacher, Jr.
Pauline V. Gross	Patrick A. Sherman
David L. Hamilton	Cleve B. Sylvester
Randolph “Scott” Harrison	Mohamad A. Umar
Robert S. Heath	Richard A. Villarreal
Owen T. Hill	Michael P. Way
George Horsley	Patricia M. Williams
May L. Jackson	Larry A. Wyatt

Army Medical Specialist Corps Chief's Award of Excellence

The Army Medical Specialist Corps (SP) Chief's Award of Excellence provides personal recognition by the corps chief to active and reserve company-grade SP officers who have made outstanding contributions to the accomplishment of military medicine in their respective fields. This annual award is may be given to active duty company-grade occupational therapists, physical therapists, and dietitians, and reserve component company-grade occupational therapists, physical therapists, dietitians, and physician assistants.

2009: Kristy Linginfelter	2015: Erik Hanson
2011: Michael Bell	2016: Joshua Radi
2014: Brian Neurohr	2019: Alex Merkle (USAR)

Army Physician Assistant Iron Majors Award

The Army Medical Specialist Corps Chief's Iron Majors Award is a selection process to identify outstanding majors and captains promotable of the SP Corps who have displayed exceptional leadership skills, with the ability to mentor junior officers and foresee and participate in the future growth and potential of SP Corps officers. This annual award is bestowed upon selected recipients and culminates with the attendance of a senior leader development symposium in the National Capital Area, where invaluable exposure to strategic issues, interagency relations, and senior leader interaction at the Office of The Surgeon General level occur, building the foundation of future SP Corps strategic leaders.

2009: David Bauder	2014: Christopher Pase
Robert Heath	
James Jones	2015: Aaron Cronin
	Ryan McGill
2010: George Barbee	Sharon Rosser
Marni Barnes	Brian Savage (USAR)
Michael Franco	
David Hamilton	2016: Anisa Garcia (USAR)
Kane Morgan	Maureen Giorio
	Seth Holland

2011:	Stephen DeLellis Amy Jackson Dawn Orta Bill Soliz	2017:	Benjamin Kocher Manuel Menendez P. Jason Auchincloss Sean Donohue Benjamin Vance (ARNG)
2012:	Michael Coote Michael Davidson John Detro Amelia Duran-Stanton James Schmid Bradley Warr	2018:	Ryan M. Rodriguez Jodi Wernikoff (USAR)
2013:	Roger Ball Chad Cole Owen Hill Dustin Martin Johnny Paul Larry Wyatt	2019:	Andrew Kennedy Timothy Pekari

The Junior Leadership Course Award

The Junior Leadership Course (formerly called the CJ Reddy Course and the Junior Officer Leadership Course) is an AMEDD event that starts with a nomination and selection process to identify outstanding active, reserve, and National Guard (ARNG) AMEDD officers, enlisted, and civilian employees who have consistently demonstrated the core Army values and warrior ethos and demonstrate the skills, attributes, and potential required of future leaders.

2015:	Garrett Larson Tammy Mayberry	2019:	Matthew Dower Timothy Pekari
2018:	Roland Salazar Travis Kaufman Dustin Stuart Jill Rogers Joshua Radi (ARNG)	2020:	Terrence Canny Jarrett Stark (ARNG)

Army Medical Specialist Corps Mary Lipscomb Hamrick Research Awards

The Colonel Mary Lipscomb Hamrick (MLH) Research Award fund was established in March 1985 upon acceptance by LTG Quinn H. Becker, The 36th Army Surgeon General, of a \$2,500 endowment tendered by BG (Ret) William A. Hamrick. BG Hamrick established a perpetual award recognizing outstanding SP Corps officers for their contributions to research or clinical investigations.

New Horizon Award

The MLH New Horizon Research Award recognizes outstanding junior researchers with less than 5 years of experience in the areas of research and clinical investigation.

2008: Amelia M. Duran-Stanton 2019: Brandon Carius

Lifetime Award

The MLH Lifetime Research Award recognizes an outstanding senior SP Corps officer who has accumulated significant research or clinical investigation contributions.

2017: Owen Hill 2019: Seth Holland

Manuscript Award

The MLH Manuscript Award recognizes outstanding published manuscripts.

2016: Brad Warr 2019: Nicole Lopez

Abstract Award

The MLH Abstract Award recognizes outstanding submitted abstracts.

2018: Matthew Douglas 2020: Brandon Carius

Army Medical Specialist Corps LTG Ledford Award

The LTG Frank Ledford Physician Assistant Award for postgraduates provides personal recognition to the most outstanding active duty physician assistant postgraduate DSc or PhD student.

2010: Jonathan L. Saxe	2015: Kurt Fossum
2011: Colin M. Dunderdale	2016: Zebulon L. Wilkin
2012: D. Alan Nelson	2017: Matthew S. Douglas
2013: Benjamin K. Kocher	2018: James E. Huang
2014: Joseph T. Costello	2019: Brandon Carius

USAREUR Physician Assistant of the Year Award

The USAREUR PA of the Year award is a unique representation of commitment and medical contribution to the US Army-Europe (USAREUR) mission. Its purpose is to recognize excellence and promote fellowship and esprit de corps among assigned USAREUR PA personnel.

2013: Zebulon Wilkin	2017: Donald “Royce” Frazee II
2014: Marshall Healy	2018: Militza Rivera-Cortes
2015: Christina Carrigan	2019: Jay O’Hara
2016: Jon Christiansen	

Association of Military Surgeons of the United States Awards

Army Federal Physician Assistant of the Year Award

Every year between 1990 and 2009, the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS) awarded the Federal Physician Assistant of the Year Award, recognizing superior contribution, steadfast mission support, and accomplished technical performance. Four Army PAs have been honored with this accolade. From 2010 to present, the Federal PA of the Year Award was discontinued and the PAs were included in the Andrew Craige Allied Health Professional Award.

1991: Jimmie E. Keller	2006: John F. Detro
1992: Michael Champion	2009: Louis H. Smith III

Andrew Craig Allied Health Professional Award

This award recognizes the leadership role of federal allied healthcare professionals. The award is intended to recognize sustained excellence in the provision of allied healthcare, and to grant recognition and to promote awareness of federal allied healthcare practitioners who distinguish themselves in the provision of care. The professions that are eligible for this award are licensed healthcare provider in an allied health profession, including, but not limited to, pharmacists, physical, occupational, and recreational therapists; social workers; clinical psychologists; optometrists; physician assistants; dietitians; and veterinary practitioners.

2020: George Barbee

Rehabilitation Award

This award recognized a team or individual who has provided outstanding rehabilitative service or treatment to active duty personnel, transitioning personnel, or veterans in an inpatient or outpatient setting. This award is no longer given.

2018: Tyson Baynes

American Academy of Physician Assistants Awards

Military Service Award

This American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) award honors veteran or active duty PAs who have demonstrated exemplary health care service to their community, to current members of the military or veterans, or to the medically underserved. Applicants must be current AAPA members in good standing.

2017: Pauline V. Gross

2019: David Hamilton

2018: John F. Detro

2020: Richard Villarreal

***American Academy of Physician Assistants
Preceptor of the Year Award***

The AAPA Preceptor of the Year Award honors preceptors who have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in the clinical education of PA students as a mentor and instructor. PA applicants must be current AAPA members in good standing. Individuals who are preceptors to PA students but not PAs are not required to be AAPA members. This award is given in collaboration with the PA Education Association.

2013: Joseph Cohen

**Henry Jackson Foundation
Hero of Military Medicine Award**

The Heroes of Military Medicine (HMM) Award honors outstanding contributions by individuals who have distinguished themselves through excellence and selfless dedication to advancing military medicine and enhancing the lives and health of our nation's wounded, ill, and injured service members, veterans, and civilians. The HMM Award is presented by the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine. Three awards presented at the HMM dinner are given to active duty military medical professionals from the Army, Navy, and Air Force, respectively. The Office of the Surgeon General for each service nominates the candidates for these awards, and the final honorees are chosen by the HMM Advisory Committee, comprised primarily of former surgeons general. In addition, one HMM Ambassador Award and one HMM Senior Leader Award are presented at each dinner.

2018: Andrew Fisher

2019: Stephen DeLellis

2020: George Barbee

LATINA *Style* Distinguished Military Service Award

The purpose of the *LATINA Style* Distinguished Military Service Award is to recognize women in the military and the Department of Defense (DoD) civilian workforce who, through their service, have enhanced the role of Latinas in their organization and the DoD.

2020: Kelly Guerra

Order of the Military Medical Merit Inductees

The Order of Military Medical Merit (O2M3) is a unique private organization founded by the commanding general of US Army Health Services Command in April 1982. Its purpose is to recognize excellence and promote fellowship and esprit de corps among AMEDD personnel. Contact O2M3 for a complete list of Army PAs awardees (<https://ameddregiment.amedd.army.mil/merit/o2m3.html>).

