



SOMOS Sentinel

The Official Publication of the Society of Military Orthopaedic Surgeons

August 2012

President's Message



Dear Colleagues,

It has been my honor to serve as your SOMOS President this year and I am happy to report that our organization continues to excel. Our success is dependent on the many hours committed by the dedicated officers and members of our organization. Most of this effort is given without recognition and truly represents selfless service to SOMOS, the medical branches of our services, and the heroes who we have the pleasure to serve.

This time of year finds us busy at work grading abstracts and putting the finishing touches on the 2012 Annual Meeting in Naples, 10-14 December. It will be held at the beautiful Waldorf Astoria property, located on the beach. We have a world-class faculty committed to an outstanding academic program that will honor our Wounded Warriors. Our Presidential Guest Speaker will be SFC Leroy Petry, who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions in OEF. The program promises to be rewarding and we have not neglected the social aspects of the meeting. A golf outing is scheduled and the beach offers a great venue to sort out the winner of this year's Commander's Cup.

The Disaster Response Course is in its second full year and we look forward to continuing to showcase the experience of our members from their service around the globe. This partnership with the AAOS and the OTA has been outstanding and highlights just how much we have to offer as a specialty society.

The Disaster Toolbox, found online at www.wheelsonline.com/ortho/disaster_preparedness_toolbox, is undergoing an update at the hands of Lt Col. Ky Kobayashi, Education Committee Chair, and should continue to be an excellent tool for deployed military surgeons as well as civilian surgeons serving in areas of disaster and humanitarian need.

Col. Ben Kam continues to do an excellent job with our blog, www.disaster-rx.com, again highlighting what military orthopaedics has to offer. Please send Ben your cases from overseas, as we continue to strengthen this ongoing effort.

Start thinking about colleagues deserving of the COL Brian Allgood Memorial Leadership Award. Presentation of the Allgood and Mazurek awards continues to be a highlight of the Annual Meeting and gives us a chance to reflect on the outstanding service of our members.

SOMOS is strong and continues to grow. I appreciate all of your service to our Nation and our patients, and look forward to seeing you all in Naples.

Sincerely,

Tad L. Gerlinger, MD
COL MC USA

Inside this edition of The Sentinel...

Save the Dates - Meetings and More

2012 Annual Meeting details

In Memoriam: COL (Ret) A.N. "Mike" Diodene, MD

SOMOS Award winners - 2011 Annual Meeting

SOMOS Gives Back - 2012 AAOS Playground Build

Welcome Aboard - 2012 SOMOS Board Members

From the Front: Humanitarian & Disaster Relief

A word from the Specialty Leaders

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About The Sentinel

The primary mission of the *SOMOS Sentinel* is to share information with our SOMOS membership. We would like to provide a forum where information may be conveyed from our orthopaedic consultants/service advisors, SOMOS leadership, and annual meeting organizers to all our members. We encourage you to give us your input for future editions. We, the SOMOS Board, are here to serve you, our members.

Our Society's mission is to provide a forum for the interchange of medical knowledge as it relates to the practice of orthopaedic surgery in the military. This newsletter serves as an important link.

SOMOS Newsletters are distributed electronically in July/August and November/December. Please renew your membership and/or update your information (to include a current email address) online at www.somos.org.

2012 Membership Categories

Active Members: Active duty, reserve, retired, or honorably discharged orthopaedic surgeons in the Armed Forces of the United States of America.
Annual Dues: \$150

Resident Members: Active duty, reserve, retired, or honorably discharged resident orthopaedic surgeons in the Armed Forces of the United States of America.
Annual Dues: \$0

Allied Members: Orthopaedic surgeons who are active, reserve, retired or honorably discharged members of foreign military services.
Annual Dues: \$150

Associate Members: Non-military orthopaedic surgeons, either active in practice or retired, who reside in the United States.
Annual Dues: \$125

Affiliate Members: Military or non-military physicians (active practice or retired) and physician assistants who have demonstrated interest in the advancement of military medicine and the mission of SOMOS.
Annual Dues: \$75

Emeritus Members: Upon request of the member, Emeritus Membership may be conferred by the Board of Directors upon an Active Member who has reached the age of 65 and has retired from active practice.
Annual Dues: \$0

Save the Dates

SOMOS "Delivery of Trauma Care" - presented at the Australian Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting, Sydney, Australia
October 12, 2012

SOMOS Member Reception at the AAOS Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
February 2013

Visit www.somos.org for details.

Annual Meetings



54th Annual Meeting
December 10-14, 2012
Waldorf Astoria Naples



55th Annual Meeting
December 9-13, 2013
Vail Marriott



Registration is open for the 54th Annual Meeting December 10-14-2012

A warm, effortless level of hospitality greets you at the Waldorf Astoria Naples. This inviting beach property sets the standard for treating guests and families to endless activities, incredible nearby sights, and an unmatched level of service and attention.

Rediscover this unique Florida resort, and indulge in a truly special getaway.



SOMOS President, COL Tad Gerlinger, MD, LTC Joe Hsu, MD and the entire 2012 Program Committee is diligently working to develop an outstanding program, paying tribute to the Wounded Warrior. Highlights include, Medal of Honor recipient, SFC Leroy Petry; nationally recognized civilian guest speakers; Commander's Cup events - Beach Volleyball and Golf; Industry luncheon workshops and a lot more. We anticipate another great meeting and look forward to seeing you in sunny Florida.

A block of rooms have been reserved for December 9-15, 2012. The special room rate will be available until



December 3rd or until the group block is sold-out, whichever comes first. Government/Military Rates (ID required at check-in) and Civilian/Industry rates are available.

To reserve a room, call 1-239-597-3232 or for online reservations visit www.somos.org. Mention you are attending the SOMOS Annual Meeting to ensure you receive the discounted group rate.

** There is a 3 day cancellation policy and a credit card deposit is required to book a reservation. The deposit is refundable if the reservation is canceled 3 or more days before the scheduled arrival date.

Should you need to cancel, please contact SOMOS at 1-800-494-1778 to assist with the room cancellation.

The closest airport is Southwest Florida International (RSW) and is about a 30-minute drive to the hotel.



Visit us online at www.somos.org for complete meeting details and online registration.

See you in Naples!

A Message from the Editor Maj. Mark Slabaugh, MD

Dear SOMOS Membership,

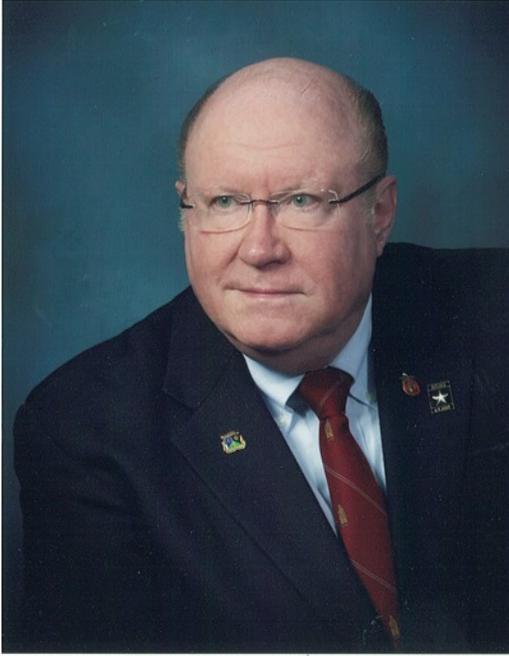
Thank you for your service and your contributions. Please continue to send us your stories and experiences as we approach mid-year 2012. The next edition of the Sentinel will be distributed in late November 2012. Forward articles, and pictures to info@somos.org for inclusion. We are always looking for ways to improve, your feedback and ideas are always welcome.

Best regards,

Maj. Mark Slabaugh, MD
Communications Committee Chair

In Memoriam

COL (Ret) A. N. "Mike" Diodene', Jr. MD
July 10, 1941 to July 18, 2012



A. N. "Mike" Diodené, Jr. M.D., Col. Ret. USA MC passed away on Wednesday, July 18, 2012 at his home. Survived by the love of his life, Jeanelle B. Diodené, for 49 years, his daughter, Paula Diodené McCaskell, her husband, Frank McCaskell, their son, Jude. His son, A. N. "Mike" Diodené, III, his wife Regina R. Diodené and their daughters, Isabella and Victoria. Preceded in death by his parents A. N. "Lonnie" Diodené, Sr. and Gladys Knoll Diodené.

A native of New Orleans and current resident of Plaquemine, LA in Iberville Parish since 1994. A graduate of Francis T. Nicholls High School, class of 1959. A graduate of Louisiana State University with a BS in 1963. Graduate of LSU School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA, Medical Doctor 1967. Internship, Charity Hospital of LA 1967-1968. Pre-speciality training, Neurosurgery, Ochsner Foundation Hospital and Clinic, New Orleans, LA 1968-1969. Resident in Training, Orthopedic Surgery, Walter Reed General Hospital, Walter Reed Medical Center, Washington, D.C., 1969-1972. Fellowship in Hand Surgery, Walter Reed General Hospital, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. and Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, MD. 1976-1977. Diplomate American Board of Orthopedic Surgery since 1974.

He proudly served his country for 40 years in the United States Army and Army Reserve, with service in Vietnam, Panama, Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

He entered Group practice of Orthopedics and Hand Surgery with Redler, Brown, Williams Orthopedic Clinic in 1980, New Orleans. He served two terms as Coroner of Iberville Parish. He founded the Iberville Parish Medical Society, serving two terms as President. He was a member of the Orleans Parish Medical Society and the Louisiana State Medical Society. He was a lifetime member of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). A lifetime member of the Reserve Officers Association (ROA). He served three years as Commander of the Francis C. Grevenberg Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars (MOWW), New Orleans. He was a member of the Society of Military Orthopedic Surgeons (SOMOS) and served for many years on their Board of Directors. He was a thirty year volunteer of Special Olympics Louisiana; serving as Medical Director and also as a serving member of the Board of Directors. He was a man of Manresa for the past 23 years. He was currently employed as Chief of Orthopedic Surgery, VA Medical Center, New Orleans. He also served as Associate Professor of Orthopedics and was an attending surgeon for Tulane Medical Center Orthopedic Residency Program. He was well known as an avid LSU fan and a fixture in the South Endzone of Tiger Stadium.

Honorary pallbearers are Master Jude F. McCaskell, Frank C. McCaskell, Trey R. Bourgeois, Keith Craft, Brian Picou, and Sgt. Robbie Johnson. He was laid to rest with Full Military Honors.

Please visit <http://www.lakelawnmetairie.com/obituaries/tribute.html?url=http://stei-23818.tributes.com/show/A.-N.-Mike-Diodene-94174484> to view the entire tribute or to get information related to the many charities he supported.

He was a great friend to SOMOS and will be missed.

2011 Award Winners

SOMOS would like to acknowledge and congratulate the following Award Winners from 2011 and the 53rd Annual Meeting in San Diego, California:

Col (Ret) Theodore Parsons III, MD
COL Brian Allgood Memorial Leadership Award



MAJ Josef Eichinger, MD
CDR Michael T. Mazurek, MD
Clinician Scholar Award

LTC Brett D. Owens, MD
Founder's Award

LCDR Christiaan Mamczak, DO
Founder's Award

CPT Jonathan F. Dickens, MD
Norman T. Kirk Award

CPT Katherine Bedigrew, MD and LTC Joseph Hsu, MD
Louise House Award

Visit www.somos.org for a full description of each award.



2012 COL Brian Allgood Memorial Leadership Award



Nominations for the 2012 COL Brian Allgood Memorial Leadership Award will be accepted August 15, 2012 through October 15, 2012.

Please visit www.somos.org to nominate a friend, mentor or co-worker. The awards presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at the 54th Annual Meeting, Naples, Florida (date and time sub-

ject to change). Full award description and other details available at www.somos.org.

Welcome Aboard!

SOMOS would like to acknowledge new appointments and congratulate the newest members of the Board of Directors:

CDR John Paul Rue, MD
2nd Vice President

MAJ Travis Burns, MD
Treasurer

CDR Charles Craven, MD
Secretary

CDR David L. Cannon, MD
Reserve Representative - Navy

Lt Col. Ky Kobayashi, MD
AAOS BOS Education Representative

Maj. Mark Slabaugh, MD
AAOS BOS Communications Representative

We appreciate your willingness to serve and your dedication to the mission and membership of SOMOS.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining a committee or would like to get more involved with the organization, contact us at info@somos.org.

From the Front: Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Mission - USNS Mercy

Navy Orthopaedic Surgeons are well-represented on the USNS Mercy (TAH-19) as part of Pacific Partnership 2012. An annual Humanitarian and Disaster Relief (HA-DR) mission, Pacific Partnership and Continuing Promise have evolved into some of the largest annual humanitarian and civic action missions in both the Asia-Pacific (Pacific Partnership) and South America (Continuing Promise). The mission seeks to build relationships and enhance capacity in order to promote peace, and help improve our collaborative efforts to respond to natural disasters in the region.

The USNS Mercy has been deployed since April 2012 to Southeast Asia, and will visit 4 countries (Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, and Cambodia) to deliver medical, dental, veterinary and engineering services to local host nation populations. In addition, the mission continues to evolve with significant emphasis on education and host-nation intellectual exchanges in order to build capacity and long-term medical-surgical growth. Currently, CDR Matthew T. Provencher is deployed as the Director of Surgical Services, overseeing a group of about 250 surgeons and anesthesia providers, nurses, dentists, operating room technicians as well as students and translators from over 14 different partner nation countries and 10 different NGO (non-governmental organization) groups. CAPT Eric Hofmeister is currently deployed as well as the Department Head of Orthopaedic Surgery, and just replaced



CAPT James Toledano who was the Orthopaedic Surgery Department Head for the first half of the mission. In addition to active duty orthopaedic surgeons, there are several NGO orthopaedists representing multiple different locations and sub-specialties. The motto for Pacific Partnership is to "Preparing in to Respond in Crisis" and is a viable model for future humanitarian and civic action programs, with a focus on disaster relief preparations. From an orthopaedic standpoint, the cases are wide in variety and scope - from congenital hand disorders, tumors, pediatric clubfoot and lower extremity deformities to a variety of malunion, nonunions and joint

abnormalities. The cases are rewarding and provide meaningful and impactful care for the host nation patients. For more information about the Navy's humanitarian missions, and how to learn how to participate as an NGO (or military surgeon) please visit:

Engage us on

fb! www.facebook.com/pacificpartnership

Subscribe to the

Blog: <http://pacificpartnership.wordpress.com>

SOMOS Gives Back at the AAOS Annual Meeting

Although it was a rainy day and the Playground Build took place at the same time as the Disaster Response Course, the Society of Military Orthopaedic Surgeons once again lent a helping hand at the 13th Annual American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Playground Build in San Francisco, California. In the course of a day, we were able to transform an unused lot into an open playground that will provide the children of Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center a fun and safe place to play.

Although this build was a bit smaller in size than previous playgrounds, the impact it



will have on the community is large. SOMOS volunteers could be found mixing cement, building benches, painting tables and moving mulch. As any of the participants can attest, there was plenty of fun to be had during all of this work. Still, it was the overwhelming excitement that exuded from the kids of Telegraph Hill that made the experience so rewarding.

We hope that SOMOS can continue to have a strong showing at these events and look forward to seeing you all next year in Chicago.



Letters from Your Specialty Leaders

Greetings Navy Orthopedic Surgeons!



Thank you to all who have or about to deploy, and the many who on short notice have helped cover the many Navy hospitals this summer due to PCS moves, to include Okinawa, Yokuska, Naples, and Walter Reed. As we enter the summer months, fall and the GMESB is right around the corner. Over the last few years we have seen a tremendous increase in the caliber and number of applicants for Orthopedic Residency, and this trend should continue. I have been in many discussions with NMPE&T, and although we will not know until the last week of November, I am anticipating several deferments for residency and several FTOS fellowship positions. If interested, be sure to get your application in on time!

Navy Orthopedic Surgeons continue to be in high demand for deployments, with approximately 12 of us deployed at any one time. The number deployed with the USMC and Fleet Surgical Teams have decreased, but we continue to assist with IA missions and filling missions previously tasked to the reservists. We have been successful in being notified of taskers several months in advance, which has helped with planning and notification, but also means these missions may be turned off prior to deploying or individuals may be notified of deploying while getting ready to PCS to their new duty station. There are very few Navy Orthopedic Surgeons who have not deployed, so if you have not, now is the time to volunteer! Every effort is being made to protect those taking Part 2 of the boards, but without volunteers, we, as a community may not be able to continue this protection.

Funding is available for the Combat Extremity Surgical Course run by Major Blease and the Army! This is a "required" course to be completed every three years, and before deployment. Priority is given to anyone tasked to deploy, but open to all. Please let me know if need further information.

Hope to see you all at the SOMOS Annual Meeting this December; no doubt this again will an incredibly rewarding and high caliber conference. In addition to having a Specialty Leaders' time, I will be available throughout the meeting to discuss personal career progression, GME, PCS's, deployments, and anything else that may be on your minds.

Wishing you a safe and fun filled summer!

CAPT Eric P. Hofmeister
Navy Orthopedic Specialty Leader

Dear USAF Colleagues,



I think it is only appropriate to start with a word of thanks to CDR Matt Provencher for a tremendous job leading SOMOS forward in 2011, as well as COL Tad Gerlinger who has put together an exciting agenda for 2012. The job of President of SOMOS takes an incredible amount of time and effort and we all benefit from the leadership they have shown. LtCol Bob Sullivan will certainly lead SOMOS to new heights in 2013! I would also like to congratulate JT Tokish, Ben Kam, Jon Shereck, and Kurt Mentzer for their recent selection to the rank of Colonel...well done guys! I hope everyone has had a safe, healthy, and rewarding year in 2012. There are a number of things in the works and I look forward to discussing them in greater detail with you in the coming months. Most of you are aware of the changing deployment tempo and coverage over the past year. We have been tasked to provide humanitarian relief, support OEF, and provide occasional backfill for our sister services. The USAF is currently covering 4 AF slots with an additional 2 Army FST positions. In addition, a CCMRF team remains deployed within the AOR to provide short notice relief wherever and whenever it may be needed. These positions will likely remain for the foreseeable future. As many of you are aware, the tremendous work done by Dr. Jim Keeney and Dr. Alan Murdock in the way of 'consultant balanced deployments' has gone away. Unfortunately, we are back to the system established 6-7 years ago with deployed positions being filled only within each band unless someone volunteers to deploy out of their assigned band. As such, all of us should know which band we have been placed in by our commanders and expect to deploy during those times. Conflicts (i.e. pregnancy, PCS, board exams, etc.) should be identified early to prevent short notice deployment for a replacement. Additionally, the AFMS has assigned deployable locations to specific MAJCOMs. I will go into more detail on this subject in a follow-on email to the AF Orthopaedic Surgeons in the near future. In short, your deployed location will be determined by the base and MAJCOM you are assigned without any input from the consultants. We have a growing number of surgeons serving on second, third, and even fourth tours since 2003, and I sincerely appreciate all of the hard work and cooperation you and your families have shown in fulfilling these obligations. I will be working with Lt Col. Jan Allen (AFPC) on assignments for Summer 2013 in the coming months. Because of the limited number of PCS moves this year,

Letters from Your Specialty Leaders continued...

most of our CONUS surgeons will be staying in place. There may be multiple opportunities for overseas assignment next summer so would ask that you keep this in mind and let me know early if you are interested. CONUS to CONUS PCS requires 4 years time on station while CONUS to OCONUS may move after two years. Hopefully, we can have the assignment information released to everyone ahead of schedule. I would ask those of you who are interested in pursuing fellowship training to visit the AFMS Physician Education Branch website. This year I was pleasantly surprised to see that we have 8 sports medicine, 4 arthroplasty, and 1 trauma position available for selection. I have been attempting to offer more fellowship opportunities for everyone in order to retain our quality personnel and provide a rewarding practice. Applications are due NLT 14 September for these slots so please get them in early to prevent oversight. I hope that each of you will mark your calendars for the 2012 SOMOS Meeting in Naples, Florida, Dec 10-14, under the direction of COL Tad Gerlinger. Tad and his staff are putting together an excellent academic program and are looking forward to making this the most productive meeting to date. Thank you for your continued support of Air Force Orthopaedic Surgery and the quality people that we are taking care of, both overseas and at home.



Best wishes for a successful year and please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns.

Warren R. Kadrmas, MD
LtCol, USAF, MC, FS
Orthopaedic Surgery Consultant to AF/SG
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preparing for the Orthopaedic Board Exams, or other personal and professional selfless sacrifices. Your spirit of cooperation is truly inspiring. We are experiencing an historic era with senior leadership that simultaneously challenges our resources to continue the fantastic clinical care and graduate education as well as motivates us to outreach and teach our lessons to those colleagues not able to serve, yet committed to serving on missions, disasters or local communities. We are very proud of the cooperation between SOMOS and civilian organizations to develop the Disaster Response Course, and the progress of the Extremity War Injuries Symposia to place emphasis on caring for our wounded on and off the battlefield. We have also witnessed universal communication among nearly all specialties toward closer connections and opportunities. We now have 12 available funded fellowships, including shoulder/ elbow and regenerative medicine—directly resultant of this cooperation. For surgeons interested in competing for a sponsored training program in Hand, Sports, Adult Reconstruction, Pediatrics, Spine, Ankle & Foot, Trauma, or shoulder/ please ensure you visit and apply through the army GME website (www.mods.army.mil/MedicalEducation/), and contact me at james.ficke@us.army.mil for more information. We have enjoyed excellent standings in the various matches due to the high quality of previous fellows, and extremely competitive Army applicants. This is extremely important to preserve the training programs and draw the best educators into academic positions. However, because we have had success in expanding the fellowship possibilities, we have been able to assign some fellowship trained surgeons to larger medical treatment facilities outside the MEDCENS. if anyone is interested in subspecialty training, yet not necessarily enthusiastic to teach residents, we now have four large hospitals at Forts Bragg, Hood and Campbell and Landstuhl where fellowship trained surgeons may seek assignment. As space is available these opportunities arise, so I urge you to apply before the site closes 15 September. Finally, our specialty is strong, we have been deploying for 11 years which for many of you may be the duration of your military service, yet we continue to contribute frequently to our peer-reviewed literature, teach nationally and provide historic excellence in care. The upcoming SOMOS meeting is no exception- Dr Gerlinger and his Program Committee have organized a superb schedule. I am looking forward to learning much, sharing time with friends and colleagues, and teaching as well. Please attend, and for any residents who wish to seek assignment or training development, I will have time set aside to meet with you as well as many informal opportunities during the week.

With my deepest appreciation for your service, this is respectfully submitted. Hooah!

COL James Ficke, MD

Greetings Fellow Army Surgeons,

I once more have the privilege to represent over 250 outstanding Army orthopaedic surgeons and residents as we move into the 11th year of current overseas conflict. We have deployed over 95% of our surgeons into Iraq or Afghanistan, and many patriots have volunteered for multiple tours: standing in for younger individuals

