

ARMY MEDICAL CORPS



ARMY GENERAL SURGEONS THE U.S. ARMY RESERVE OFFERS SURGEONS A PRACTICE EXPERIENCE UNLIKE ANY OTHER

There are many reasons that general surgeons opt for an Army career. For some, it's a call to serve those who lay their lives on the line to preserve and protect freedom. For others, the economic incentives are quite attractive. And then there are those who enjoy the adrenaline rush of being at the forefront of medicine. For many, it's the combination of both tangible and intangible rewards.

According to Col. R. Russell Martin, M.D., "There are a lot of surgeons in the private sector who are very disillusioned with their current practices. It is getting harder to make money. It is getting nastier dealing with insurance companies and hospitals. There is a lot of dissatisfaction out there.

"On the other hand, Army pay with a multiyear bonus is pretty good. Quality of life is excellent. Army retirement is hard—if not impossible—to beat," says Col. Martin. "But most important, there is no other place to work with a finer group of surgeons and with the sort of camaraderie that we enjoy."

TREMENDOUS PRIDE A CHANCE TO BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER.

Col. Martin explains, "Most surgeons I know will tell you there is an intense satisfaction that comes from being an Army surgeon. It is the pride that comes from belonging to this elite club of surgeons. We know we are part of something that is bigger than surgery—it is ultimate surgery."

Lt. Col. Tommy Brown, M.D., F.A.C.S., wholeheartedly agrees. "As military surgeons, we have the opportunity to take on assignments where we operate in the most austere environments in order to care for the young men and women who protect this country. There is absolutely no comparable trauma experience anywhere in the United States. To be located somewhere in the mountains of

Afghanistan and operating on a young 21- or 22-year-old Soldier, and realize that your skill and your knowledge, and that of your partner standing across from you, are the only things keeping these young kids alive gives you a sense of satisfaction in your career and your profession that you will never be able to obtain anywhere else. For every military surgeon, we all realize that despite our many accomplishments, the pinnacle of our professional careers will always be those assignments, taking care of America's young men and women.

"To understand that depth of purpose and that sense of commitment is rare to find in any private sector practice," says Lt. Col. Brown. "And because of that link among all Army surgeons, we develop a bond with our partners and peers that carries well beyond our practice years and service to the military."



INNOVATIVE FOCUS

WE'RE CONTINUALLY BREAKING NEW GROUND TO PROVIDE OUR SOLDIERS THE BEST POSSIBLE SURGICAL CARE AND TREATMENT.

One of the largest health care organizations in the world, the U.S. Army Health Care Team represents an annual \$9 billion investment by our nation to provide its Soldiers, veterans and their dependents with the highest quality care. It operates more than 600 world-renowned hospitals, clinics and facilities around the globe. This gives general surgeons the opportunity to employ technologies and practices not often seen in the private sector, as well as pioneer new procedures that save lives.

For example, while serving with an Army unit in Afghanistan, a U.S. airman sustained injuries to his pancreas that were so severe that the organ had to be removed. Without a pancreas, the airman would have to deal with a severe form of life-threatening diabetes. That's when Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the University of Miami sprang into action to collaborate on performing a first-of-its-kind pancreas islet cell transplant.

The transplant was performed by Walter Reed surgeons in Washington, D.C., under the telemedicine-assisted guidance of Camillo Ricordi, M.D., Chief of the Division of Cellular Transplantation, Department of Surgery, and the Scientific Director and Chief Academic Officer of the Diabetes Research Institute at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Ricordi is also the inventor of the Automated Method for Islet Isolation (the Ricordi Chamber), the machine and the method for isolating large numbers of islets and transplanting them into the liver to reverse diabetes.

After the airman's pancreas was removed, it was shipped to Miami, where doctors harvested the cells that produce insulin (islet cells). Within hours, the cells were flown back to Walter Reed for implantation into the airman's liver.

Less than a week later, a c-peptide blood test showed evidence of pancreas islet function in the liver. Fifteen days later, the same test indicated the transplanted islet cells were producing insulin in the normal range, turning the liver, in Ricordi's words, into "a double organ." ¹

Surgeons with the U.S. Army Reserve are applying groundbreaking technologies like these at facilities around the world. Because of the Army's collaboration with organizations that are pushing the envelope in areas such as transplantation, organic and bionic implants and tissue regeneration, our surgeons work shoulder-to-shoulder with some of the best minds in the field, and are able to deliver tomorrow's medicine to our Soldiers and their families today.

CONTINUAL TRAINING

THE U.S. ARMY RESERVE OFFERS UNIQUE EXPERIENCES THAT CAN MAKE A GOOD SURGEON AN EVEN BETTER SURGEON.

The quality of Army surgery training is very high by all objective measures. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, a private sector organization, has national standards for surgical education that are evaluated through its Residency Review Committee (RRC) for general surgery. The committee scrutinizes each program's didactic instruction, clinical experience and case volume and complexity. Training programs are given approval for durations of one to five years, given the degree of confidence the RRC has in the program. All of the six Army programs currently hold five-year accreditations.

Programs include Trauma and Critical Care, Surgical Oncology, Colon and Rectal Surgery, Pediatric Surgery, Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery and Transplant Surgery. Surgery training programs are each six years in duration and consist of five clinical years and one year of research. Additional residency training is also available in cardiothoracic surgery, peripheral vascular surgery and plastic surgery.

ARMY MEDICAL CORPS



U.S. ARMY

ARMY STRONG[®]

SERVING IN THE ARMY RESERVE

AN EXPERIENCE THAT CAN ADVANCE YOUR CAREER,
AND ENHANCE YOUR LIFE.

As a surgeon with the U.S. Army Reserve, you'll make a difference in the lives of Soldiers and their families that you can be proud of. You'll also gain knowledge and skills that you'll be proud to take home to your own practice.

In return for your commitment, the U.S. Army Reserve provides a second income that includes regular pay raises and opportunities for promotion, plus various financial and educational incentives, including:

- **Health Professionals Loan Repayment (HPLR) program**, which provides up to \$250,000 in educational loan repayment; payments are made in yearly increments of up to \$40,000 for seven years
- **Paid continuing education** in your clinical specialty
- **Paid malpractice premiums**
- **Options to specialize** and serve at ever-increasing levels of leadership and responsibility
- **Seminars and specialty conferences** to expand your knowledge base
- **The opportunity to really put your strength in action** by participating in humanitarian missions both here in the U.S. and abroad



To receive an information packet about advancing your career with the U.S. Army Health Care Team, and to learn how to apply, go to <http://healthcare.goarmy.com/info-surgeon>.

¹Miller School's Diabetes Research Institute, military surgeons give soldier islet cell transplant, *The Transplantation Society*; May 12, 2010;

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