

US Army Dental and Trauma Research Detachment has moved to Fort Sam Houston, TX

In accordance with the 2005 Base realignment and Closure (BRAC) law, the US Army Dental and Trauma Research Detachment (DTRD) moved from the Naval Training Center at Great Lakes, Illinois to Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Completed in August of 2010, this move marks a new era for military dental research, and positions the DTRD for new opportunities to collaborate with scientists and clinicians that are co-located at the Department of Defense's largest medical research campus – the Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute (BHI).

The BHI is on the campus of the Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC), and constitutes two newly constructed, state-of-the-art research facilities.

Commanded by COL Robert Hale, the DTRD includes researchers from the US Army Dental Corps, some of whom are PhD's. DTRD's vision is "to provide world class solutions to prevent, treat, and rehabilitate Warfighters with craniofacial trauma and infectious dental disease, contributing expertise across the spectrum of combat casualty care". DTRD focuses their efforts on three areas of research: 1) Biofilm-induced dental disease and wound impairment; 2) Craniomaxillofacial regenerative medicine; and 3) Mitigation of facial burns and scars.

For those who may have a professional interest in research, or just want to know more about reconstructing bone defects through bioengineering, or how a future "Biomask" can potentially optimize the healing of burn wounds, please take time to read MAJ Davin Mellus' article coming in the March 2011 AMEDD Journal. This special issue will be dedicated to the Dental Corps, celebrating our Centennial with many special articles, highlighting the numerous good news stories over our first hundred years.