

## “IS THE UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS READY FOR THE DIGITAL IMPRESSION?”

In a soon to be published article in the Jan - March 2011 issue of the AMEDD Journal, COL's Michael Craddock and Richard Windhorn cite the first known dental impressions resulting in dental casts made by the German Philip Pfaff in 1756. Over the last two centuries, steady improvements in materials and techniques have resulted in the very accurate dental impressions of today.

Recently, the “digital” impression has emerged where the impression material is replaced by a digital camera. Presently, there are four chairside digital impression systems on the US market: Cadent's iTero™; D4D Technologies' E4D Dentist™; Sirona's CEREC® Connect; and 3M™ ESPE™ Lava™ Chairside Oral Scanner (C.O.S). An article in the same issue by COL Jeff Hodd describes the Army's early use of the Computer Aided Design/Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAD/CAM) technology with the CEREC process. He attributes Dr Werner Mormann for devising the first plans for chairside fabrication of ceramic restorations with CAD/CAM technology.

As fellow clinicians, we marvel at the innovations and technological advances by our profession. The US Army Dental Corps continues to adapt and adopt the latest in dental technologies. The digital impression is a major new paradigm shift for fabricating a dental fixed restoration in the U. S. Army Dental Care System. Due to the widespread global locations of US Army dental clinics, the use of new dental technologies like the digital impression has the potential to greatly reduce time and costs. This can greatly benefit the US Army Dental Corps, and most importantly the patient.

I invite you to read the complete articles by these authors, describing the differences in applied technologies, and their overall benefits. You will find these and other interesting articles in the Jan-Mar 2011 issue of the AMEDD Journal, a special Dental Corps Centennial issue available in time for our Centennial celebration in March of 2011.