

# The Army Medical Department Museum and AMEDD Museum Foundation

The original U.S. Army Medical Museum was founded as a research facility in Washington, D.C., in 1862. Today, that institution is known as the National Museum of Health and Medicine of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. In 1920, our Museum was re-established at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, with the Medical Field Service School. In 1946, the School and Museum were transferred to Fort Sam Houston, Texas. In 1955, the Museum received its designation as the U.S. Army Medical Department Museum from the Surgeon General of the Army.

## The “New” Museum

In 1978, the *AMEDD Museum Foundation* was established by concerned individuals to raise funds for a new museum facility. Built with private donations raised by the *Foundation*, the present AMEDD Museum officially opened its doors in July 1989, and ownership was transferred to the U.S. Government. The building is in the "Spanish Revival" architectural style, with a mission tile roof and fountain courts, in keeping with the historic buildings at Fort Sam. Large stone medallions representing the seals of the six commissioned corps, enlisted corps, and civilian corps decorate the facade.

## The Museum Today

Since its dedication in 1989, the U.S. Army Medical Department Museum has continued to enhance its reputation as one of the most outstanding facilities of its kind in the world as an ideal venue for the restoration, preservation and exhibition of significant historic medical items. Military medical artifacts and memorabilia are proudly displayed in an environment that blends visualization of history with the appropriate presentation of the Army's contributions to medicine during times of both war and peace. It serves as a living reference library and research facility for students of all ages who have an interest in military medicine. It also augments the training of the more than 36,000 military and civilian students who attend the U.S. Army Academy of Health Sciences at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, each year.

## Museum Dynamics

Built solely by the *AMEDD Museum Foundation* through private donations, Phase I and Phase II construction of Museum buildings were completed in 1989 and 1998. By Spring 2001, Phase III construction of the archival Artifact Repository was 85% complete. Recently acquired artifacts contributed to the Museum through the *Foundation* are a 1955 Willys MD-A, M170 Front Line Ambulance, an H13 D Model (Korean War) helicopter, and a UH1 Huey from the early Vietnam War. New initiatives include development of a membership program, broadening the *Foundation's* support base,

establishment of legacy grants, improvement of the Museum's website and development of a virtual AMEDD Museum.

## **The Foundation**

The mission of the *AMEDD Museum Foundation* is “to preserve the history of the AMEDD; to promote literary, educational, and artistic endeavors; and to sustain and support the AMEDD Museum”.

From MG Floyd W. Baker, U.S. Army (Retired), Chairman of the Board of the *AMEDD Museum Foundation*:

“Over the first two decades following the establishment of the *Army Medical Department Museum Foundation*, we were fortunate in having a groundswell of enthusiasm because of the vision of a magnificent new building on the horizon. Although it took a lot of work, monetary contributions were forthcoming that allowed construction to take place... The money came in; the Museum was built.

We [the Foundation] must sell the ‘powers that be’ that the Museum is an invaluable asset to the Army Medical Department that can imbue our medical soldiers with an enthusiasm toward and a sense of belonging to a magnificent organization. We must sell the leaders in the active Army that an understanding and appreciation of the history, heritage and legacy of the Army Medical Department by their troops can contribute to the effectiveness of their organizations. *A museum is not a static display but a dynamic, constantly changing representation of history so we must sell potential contributors that they should become involved in the continuing evolution of the Museum.*”

## **The Annual Sustaining Foundation Contributors Program**

This program was initiated in February 2001 to “broaden the *Foundation's* base of loyal contributing participants and increase the *Foundation's* stream of revenue” in support of the *Foundation's* mission.

There are two programs of ASFCP contributorship: *Individual* and *Organizational*. These are further divided into contributor levels as follows:

*Individual*: Maroon (annual contribution determined by military grade), Bronze (annual contribution of \$100), Silver (annual contribution of \$250), Gold (annual contribution of \$500) and Platinum (annual contribution of \$1000).

*Organizational*: Silver (annual contribution of \$250), Gold (annual contribution of \$500) and Platinum (annual contribution of \$1000).

For their *tax-deductible contributions*, all contributors receive a certificate of recognition, and varying additional benefits based on level of contribution. These may

include discounts at the AMEDD Museum Gift Shop and preferred seating at museum events and functions.

For more information contact:

**Army Medical Department Museum Foundation, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 8294**  
**San Antonio, Texas 78208-0294**

or visit AMEDD Museum Foundation's website @ [www.ameddmuseumfoundation.org](http://www.ameddmuseumfoundation.org)