



March 3, 2024

RDML Guido F. Valdes, MC, USN
Chief, Medical Corps
Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
7700 Arlington Blvd.
Falls Church, VA 22042

Dear Rear Admiral Valdes,

The Bureau of Medicine & Surgery (BUMED) Office of the Corps Chiefs and Directors are thrilled to send our sincere congratulations and best wishes to you and the Navy Medical Corps on your 153rd birthday.

Navy Medicine’s greatest strength is its people working together to accomplish a common mission. And each day, our hospital corpsmen, dentists, nurses, Medical Service Corps officers and civilians have the privilege of working alongside our physician brethren collectively executing Navy Medicine’s ongoing mission of ensuring the operational readiness of our Sailors and Marines. What we do each day with the Fleet and our Marines, at MTFs, Public Health and Research activities, and at Education and Training installations across the globe in executing our Lines of Effort is nothing short of spectacular. And as we continue to sail towards our North Star our dynamic teams of many specialties and many corps will only further underscore the adage that the whole is truly greater than the sum of its parts.

As we celebrate this important anniversary, we also acknowledge that this year marks the 25th anniversary of the Medical Corps Chief becoming a separate position from that of Surgeon General. From 1989 when Rear Admiral Robert Higgins took the helm as the first Medical Corps Chief to today, Medical Corps Chiefs have helped ensure the professionalism and dignity of the corps and its value to our Navy.

Our warmest regards to all members of the Navy Medical Corps, both past and present, as you celebrate yet another anniversary of unparalleled service. The BUMED Office of the Corps Chiefs and Directors salutes you!

Sincerely,

M. CASE
Rear Adm., Medical Service Corps
United States Navy
Director, Medical Service Corps

R. J. HAWKINS
Rear Adm., Nurse Corps
United States Navy
Director, Nurse Corps

W. D. Bradford
Rear Adm., Dental Corps
United States Navy
Chief, Dental Corps

M. O. Boaman
Director, Civilian Corps

P. C. MANGARAN
Force Master Chief, Hospital Corps
United States Navy
Director, Hospital Corps



3 March 2024

Greetings Medical Corps,

On the 153rd anniversary of our U.S. Navy Medical Corps, I'd like to thank each of you for your hard work and steadfast commitment to the health and readiness of our nation's fighting force and Navy Medicine's mission.

Though we officially commemorate the birth of our Corps on March 3, 1871, our legacy extends well beyond that date. From the Continental Navy to recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, Navy physicians have cared for the ill and wounded, kept our warfighters in the fight, and saved countless lives.

From 153 physicians at our founding 153 years ago, today we stand more than 4,200 strong, active duty and Reserve, and represent more than 23 specialties. The work you do, whether saving lives on the battlefield, providing care in hospitals and clinics, or conducting medical research, is vital to our warfighters, our Navy, and our nation.

As your Chief, I am consistently inspired by your professionalism and leadership, and I am proud to serve with you. Happy 153rd Birthday, Medical Corps!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Guido F. Valdes". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Guido F. Valdes
Rear Admiral, Medical Corps
United States Navy

FM BUMED FALLS CHURCH VA
TO AIG 7783
CMC WASHINGTON DC
COMUSFLTFORCOM NORFOLK VA
COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI
NAVMEDFORLANT PORTSMOUTH VA
NAVMEDFORSUPCMD FT SAM HOUSTON TX
NAVMEDFORPAC SAN DIEGO CA
BUMED FALLS CHURCH VA
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SUBJ/2024 NAVY MEDICAL CORPS 153RD BIRTHDAY MESSAGE//

RMKS/1. On behalf of Navy Medicine and a grateful nation, I extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the men and women of the Navy Medical Corps as you celebrate 153 years of excellence.

2. Since March 3, 1871, when the Medical Corps was formalized as an official Navy staff corps, our physicians have led the charge for Navy Medicine while ensuring the operational readiness of our Sailors and Marines.

3. Education and training have long been foundational for the story of our physician corps. As we celebrate this anniversary, we also mark the centennial of graduate medical education in the Navy. To increase the “professional knowledge” of our physicians while also addressing issues related to recruiting and retention, the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery established an internship program at naval hospitals in 1924. Today, over a thousand Navy physicians take advantage of this training in over 50 full-time in-service programs, gaining the knowledge and skills critical for our warfighters and their families.

4. As we acknowledge the past and commend those who wear the uniform today, this birthday gives us ample opportunity to celebrate the future. Last month, I had the good fortune of welcoming 10 U.S. Naval Academy Midshipmen into the Medical Corps. As future physicians—and future practitioners of expeditionary medicine—they will be part of the team leading from the front and providing the medical force and operational medical capabilities to save lives in the battlespace.

5. The future remains bright for the Navy Medical Corps!

6. To the nearly 4,000 active duty and reserve Medical Corps officers serving today, thank you for your selfless service, continued dedication, and sacrifice to accomplish the mission.

7. Released by Rear Admiral Darin K. Via, Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.//