

## CoTCCC Hail and Farewell

**D**r Frank Butler, CAPT (SEAL) MC USN (Ret) is retiring from his 12-year tenure as the Chairman of the Committee on TCCC (CoTCCC).

*I have been extraordinarily blessed to have been part of the incredible work done by the Committee on TCCC and the Joint Trauma System (JTS) over the last two decades.*

*Most of the individuals who serve on the CoTCCC, the TCCC Working group, and the other JTS combat trauma committees are not assigned to the JTS—they volunteer their time and expertise to help in the effort to improve combat casualty care. THANKS to all of those selfless individuals for helping to conceive of, develop, and implement the remarkable advances in battlefield trauma care that have been made since the conflict in Afghanistan began.*



*I'm happy to report that the CoTCCC will have superb leadership going forward. CAPT Brendon Drew is now serving as the Interim Chairman. CAPT Drew is the First Marine Division Surgeon and the Navy Surgeon General's Specialty Leader for Emergency Medicine. He has served with both USMC and Special Operations*

*advanced resuscitative teams in the prehospital combat environment and so has personally seen TCCC concepts in action for many years.*

*It is a tribute to CAPT Drew's sense of duty that he has agreed to take on the responsibilities of being the CoTCCC Chair in addition to the duties of the other two important medical leadership positions that he already holds while the JTS identifies the next full-time CoTCCC Chair. This is yet another example of how TCCC's success has been based largely on the personal initiative of individuals dedicated to improving battlefield trauma care and who are willing to contribute far more to this effort than their military assignments would require.*



*MSG (retired) "Monty" Montgomery has been proposed by Dr Butler to serve as the new Vice Chairman of the CoTCCC when that position has been finalized. Monty was one of the primary architects of the uniquely successful TCCC-based Casualty Response Program in the 75th Ranger Regiment. This program is the model*

*for the DoD of how lives are saved in combat when combat unit commanders and medical leaders work*

*together to enable—and demand—excellence in battlefield trauma care from their organizations. Monty also brings a decade of superb service as a CoTCCC member to this new position and will add an invaluable combat medic perspective to the CoTCCC leadership structure.*

*The long-term plan for the CoTCCC Chair position is to restructure it so that the compensation for this full-time civil service position better reflects what physicians using their clinical expertise receive in both the military and the civilian sectors. This upgrade has been initiated by the JTS but has not yet been finalized by the Defense Health Agency.*

*Once that action has been taken, my recommendation to the JTS leadership as the person best qualified to assume leadership of the CoTCCC is COL (Ret) Bob Mabry. COL Mabry is well known to JSOM readers as a former Special Forces 18D medic; a recipient of the Silver Star for his actions in the Battle of Mogadishu; a superb Emergency Medicine physician; the former Director of the Army Combat Medic Training program; the founding Director of the tri-service EMS Fellowship program; a Robert Wood Johnson Congressional fellow; and, in his final active duty assignment, the Command Surgeon for the Joint Special Operations Command. In addition to those remarkable career accomplishments, COL (Ret) Mabry is a well-recognized thought leader in the field of battlefield medicine and was a charter member of the CoTCCC.*



*IF the CoTCCC Chair position is upgraded as recommended, and IF COL (Ret) Mabry applies for and is selected for this position through the civil service hiring procedure, the CoTCCC will continue to be in supremely capable hands after CAPT Drew completes his interim term as Chair.*

When asked about his future and TCCC, Dr Butler responded with:

*What will be my future role in TCCC? I am not going away—just moving from the front of the room at the CoTCCC meetings to join the great group of dedicated trauma care experts in the audience who continue to help with TCCC long after they have left the military—or who were never even in the military.*

*God bless all of the men and women who have been or will be wounded in the defense of our country—and all of those who do such a magnificent job of caring for them.*

## Retirement Ceremony

Dr Butler's retirement ceremony was held at the conclusion of the meeting on 11 September. His daughter, Meredith, presented a blessing for the retirement dinner. His son Jeff was unable to reschedule his shift as a rescue specialist at the Springfield, MO, fire department, but he wrote a moving letter detailing Dr Butler's commitment to TCCC that Dr John Holcomb read at the dinner. Jeff's descriptions of how the entire family was involved in his father's devotion to TCCC over the years provides a very human insight into what drove Dr Butler. Both of these tributes can be read in their entirety at <https://jsom.us/HailFarewell>.



The Butler family celebrates Frank's most recent retirement at his retirement dinner held on 11 Sept 2019 following the CoTCCC meeting in San Antonio.

Family members shown here from left are grandson Mitch Cantrell, daughter Meredith Berwanger, wife Debbie, Frank, daughter Jennifer Falk, and son Chris. Not at the dinner—but present in spirit—was son Jeff.



Debbie Butler gets a very well-deserved standing ovation!

From left: COL Jennifer Gurney, MSG Mike Remley, Dr Mary Ann Spott, Mrs. Debbie Butler, Dr Frank Butler, Col Stacy Shackelford.

Dr Butler holds the Trident that was presented to him as a retirement gift by MSG Mike Remley on behalf of all the medics, corpsmen, and PJs on the Committee on TCCC. It was cast from melted-down brass cartridge cases from expended 7.62 rounds. Dr Butler said "it is a truly beautiful gift and one that I will always treasure."



From left: HMCM Jeremy Torissi, MSgt Shawn Anderson, MSG (Ret) Harold "Monty" Montgomery, SFC (Ret) Dom Greydanus, SOCM (Ret) Steve Viola, HMCM Mark Boyle, MSG (Ret) Chris Murphy, MSG (Ret) Win Kerr, MSG Mike Remley, CAPT (Ret) Dr Frank Butler, HMC (Ret) Gary Pesquera, CMDSGM Tim Sprunger, SFC Dominic Thompson, MSG (Ret) John Dominguez, HSCM Glenn Royes.

Col Stacy Shackelford, the Chief of the Joint Trauma System, presents Dr Butler with a bronzed tourniquet in recognition of his successful efforts to re-introduce tourniquet use into the US military. The inscription reads:

*"When we started the war in Afghanistan, almost no one in the US Military went to war with tourniquets and hemostatic dressings.*

*In 2019, no one goes to war without them."*

—CAPT (Ret) Frank Butler  
*The Father of Modern Battlefield Medicine*



From left: Dr Frank Butler, Col Stacy Shackelford, Dr Mary Ann Spott.