

President's Letter

"Unless every man is trained beforehand in peacetime for that role in war, one has only people who bear the name of the business without knowing how to practice."

Fredrick the Great

Welcome to the 2006 annual international meeting of the Special Operations Medical Association. This organization and meeting of truly dedicated, motivated and highly skilled medical professionals with an amazing diversity of backgrounds, training, education and experience. We are unified by a common mission; providing outstanding medical care to comrades and friends in tough situations and dangerous places. Our mission unites us, regardless of training, organizational affiliation or geographic location.

This year we have an enhanced focus on the military special operations and civilian tactical EMS "first responder" and "first receiver". There will be more interactive forums for discussions of our current and future challenges, ever increasing expectations and emerging solutions. We have worked diligently since the last conference to provide relevant, experienced and dynamic speakers. The selected topics, "hands on" sessions and presentations are more focused on the current, evolving, multidisciplinary requirements of the Global War on Terror.

If this is your first SOMA meeting I extend a special welcome to you! I encourage you to attend the lectures, participate in the informal interactions between participants and presenters and our social events. Last but not least, I want to thank those vendors that have contributed to the SOMA mission.

As you leave here at the end of the conference let us know how SOMA did. Did we exceed your expectations in terms of presentations, format and presenters? What would you like to see for next year? All suggestions are welcome. Be safe in your travels and deployments. Best Wishes in the New Year.

This meeting ends my 3 year term as President of SOMA. I want to thank all members of the SOMA family for your enthusiasm, ideas and support of our organization. To the volunteer(ed) officers Sammy Rodriguez, Dave Davis, Russ Justice and Bob Harrington, you have done great work, made some challenging decisions and helped (tried?) to steer me down the right pathTHANKS! To our perennial conference coordinator, Dale Hamilton, THANK YOU for all of your hard work. To our incoming President Bob Saum, Good Luck and Best Wishes.

Alan Moloff
COL, MC USA (RET)
SOMA President