Military Health System Strategic Partnership
American College of Surgeons

Military Health System (MHS) Surgical Quality Consortium (SQC)

November 17-18, 2026
American College of Surgeons, Chicago, IL

Tuesday, November 17, 2026

0700 – 0730 **Breakfast**

0730-0745 **Welcome Remarks**
Michael Sutherland, MD, FACS
Director of the Division of Member Services, ACS

0745 - 0800 **Welcome and Introduction**
Col Robert Krell, MD, FACS
Surgical Quality Officer, WRNMMC & Associate Chair of Surgery for Quality, USUHS
CAPT (Ret.) Mollie Mullen, MBA, RN, CPHQ
Surgical Quality Program Manager & NMCSD SCR

0800-0830 **Military Health System Strategic Partnership American College of Surgeons (MHSSPACS)**
COL (Ret.) *Brian Eastridge, MD, FACS*
Medical Director, MHSSPACS
Objectives:
- Discuss the organization and mission of MHSSPACS, with a focus on the Quality Pillar
- Provide a forum for conference participants to engage with the Medical Director of MHSSPACS

0830 - 0930 **Civilian Keynote Address**
CAPT (Ret) *Eric Elster, MD, FACS, FRCSEng (Hon.)*
Dean of the School of Medicine, USUHS
Objectives:
- Discuss the present and potential applications of Artificial Intelligence in Surgery and Surgical Quality
- Describe the role of USUHS in fostering Surgical Quality research and other initiatives
- Discuss the relationship among USUHS, the MHS, and operational military medicine

0930-1030 **State of Surgical Quality in the Military Health System**

COL (Ret.) Paul Cordts, MD, SES

Deputy Assistant Director-Medical Affairs, DHA

Objectives:

- Review MHS surgical outcomes data
- Discuss the state of Surgical Quality in the DHA
- Review MTF NSQIP engagement with individual markets and the broader DHA

1030-1045 **Break**

1045-1145 **Military Keynote Address**

Lieutenant General John J. Degoes, MD

Surgeon General and Commander, Air Force Medical Command, Headquarters U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force

Objectives:

- Discuss the MHS' strategic view on Surgical Quality
- Discuss the link between MHS strategy and local leadership
- Discuss extending the Quality umbrella to the deployed environment

1145-1215 **Fireside Chat**

LT Gen John DeGoes, MD

COL (Ret.) Paul Cordts, MD, SES

CAPT (Ret) Eric Elster, MD, FACS, FRCSEng (Hon.)

Objective: Provide a forum for participants to engage with leaders in military medicine

1215 – 1315 **Lunch**

1315-1415 **Practical Applications of ACS NSQIP**

- Review of NSQIP modeling methodology and the Participant Use File (*Mark Cohen, PhD*)
- NSQIP Report Tutorial (*Arielle Grieco, PhD*)

Objectives:

- Review the modeling methodology underlying ACS NSQIP
- Review the appropriate interpretation of data presented in the Semi-Annual Reports and Interim Semi-Annual Reports
- Discuss NSQIP portal operational report options and uses

1415-1500 **A Tale of Many Different QVP Preparation Journeys**

Naval Medical Center San Diego Surgical Quality Officer: CAPT Stephanie Bedzis & Program Manager: Mollie Mullen

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Surgical Quality Officer: Col Rob Krell & Program Manager: Melanie McGarvey MSN, RN

Eglin Air Force Base Surgical Quality Officer: Col Kimberly Broughton

Womack Army Medical Center Surgical Quality Officer: LTC Andria Caruso

1500 - 1515 **Break**

1515-1650 **Role-Specific Breakout**

ACS NSQIP Track – SC
Location: Board of Regents Room (28th Floor)
Consolidation-Use of NSQIP data for improvement and research
Facilitated by Jyotirmay (Joe) Sharma, MD, FACS, FACE and Col Robert Krell, MD, FACS

ACS NSQIP Track – SCR
Location: 28 West Side Conference Room (28th Floor)
Consolidation – NSQIP Definitions, Experience Sharing and Problem-Solving
Faciliated by CAPT (Ret.) Mollie Mullen, MBA, RN, CPHQ
ACS Adult and Pediatric Clinical Support – Alaina Matthews, RN & Nicole Greene, RN

Objectives:
- Facilitate communication and collaboration among service leads on role-specific issues
- Identify best practices and common challenges across the MHS

1650 – 1700 **Day 1 Wrap-Up**
Col Robert Krell, MD, FACS
CAPT (Ret.) Mollie Mullen, MBA, RN, CPHQ
Objectives:
- Perform needs assessment
- Review Day 1 and preview Day 2

1700-1800 **Happy Hour Reception,** 28th Floor

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

0700 – 0730 **Breakfast**

0730-0745 **Group Photo**

0745-0800 **Welcome Day 2**
Col Robert Krell, MD, FACS
Surgical Quality Officer, WRNMMC & Associate Chair of Surgery for Quality, USUHS

0800-0845 **MHSSPACS Civilian Surgeon Partnership**
Jyotirmay (Joe) Sharma, MD, FACS, FACE

Professor and Vice-Chair for Patient Safety, Quality and Innovation, Department of Surgery, Emory School of Medicine

Objectives:

- Discuss surgeon case review process
- Discuss tips for consistent buy-in among clinical staff, surgeons, and perioperative nursing staff
- Share Georgia Collaborative system-wide improvement efforts

0845-0915 **Georgia Surgical Quality Scholar**

Anna Madia, MD

Objectives:

- Outline the roles and responsibilities of the Georgia Surgical Quality Scholar program
- Describe the role of surgical trainees in Surgical Quality and Quality Improvement

0915-0945 **Break/Networking opportunity**

0945-1215 **Rapid-Fire MTF Improvement Updates**

1. Introduction - *CAPT (Ret.) Mollie Mullen, MBA, RN, CPHQ*
2. MTF UTI/SSI Improvement Experience. *Maj David Schechtman, MD, FACS, WRNMMC Surgeon Champion*
3. MTF UTI/SSI Improvement Experience. Col Ben Allis, MD, FACS, DGMC Surgical Quality Officer
4. No-Nonesense System to Track KSA*s. Sarah Granger MD, FACS, ATAMMC Director for Surgical Services*
5. Opportunities for Scholarly Activity with the DoD PUF. *Col Robert Krell, MD, FACS*

Objectives:

- Discuss MTF-specific Quality Improvement projects underlied by NSQIP
- Provide a forum for conference participants to learn about QI projects initiated and led by their peers

1215-1315 **Working Lunch**

1315-1330 **Final Wrap-Up and End of Meeting Survey**

Col Robert Krell, MD, FACS

Objectives:

- Summarize index card exercise from the working lunch
- Review the 2026 SQC and gather suggestions for the 2027 SQC
- Close meeting and complete end of meeting survey