

SP Corps celebrates 57th Anniversary

*By Jen Rodriguez
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Three Soldiers, from the Army Medical Specialist Corps past, present and future, cut the 57th Anniversary cake, April 16, during the Brooke Army Medical Center ceremony.

Representing the past was Retired MAJ Velma Richardson, COL Rebecca Hooper, Chief, Army Medical Specialist Corps represented the present and 2LT Jessica Pesce, the youngest Soldier represented the future during the cake cutting ceremony marking 57 years of service to country.

The event honored each officer's commitment to the Specialist Corps and their duty to the nation's quest for peace and freedom worldwide.

"Looking back and remembering is the link between the past, the present and the future," Hooper said. "It's important to honor those who served before us, refresh and rekindle the spirit of those of us in uniform, and to preserve our history for those yet to come."

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed Public Law 36, establishing the Women's Medical Specialist Corps, the first leaders of the Corps who charted a course of excellence still maintained by the Corps today.

The Corps is made up of Occupational Therapists, Dietitians, Physical Therapists and Physician Assistants.

"It is very fitting to reflect on just how courageous, how visionary, and how doggedly determined the first leaders of our Corps were," Hooper said.

The first cut of the cake by Richardson, Hooper and Pesce was cut on behalf of the guests of honor -- Specialist Corps officers and enlisted Soldiers deployed throughout the world, who could not be present at the ceremony.

"They are doing great things and they are doing them for one reason -- for the Soldiers they serve," Hooper said. "Their sacrifices abroad along with your sacrifices here at home made on their behalf, are a testament to all that is good in the world."

Richardson, the oldest Specialist Corps Officer received the second piece of cake and passed it to Pesce, the youngest Corps officer, symbolic of the passing of experience and knowledge from the old to the young in the Corps.

The third piece of cake was given to Richardson to further emphasize that the Army Medical Specialist Corps takes care of the young Corps officers before the needs of their own.

