

## **COLONEL RACHELLE A. RETOMA**

### **UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS**

Colonel Rachelle A. Retoma graduated from the University of Maryland Baltimore County with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1993. She earned her Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from Temple University School of Dentistry in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1997. COL Retoma worked as a private practice general dentist for ten years, during which she started and owned a successful solo practice in Tacoma, Washington. In 2007, she sold her practice to pursue an Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology residency program at Columbia University Medical Center. After graduating from her postdoctoral residency in 2010, COL Retoma accepted a commission into the United States Army Dental Corps to fulfill her lifelong dream of military service.

COL Retoma has enjoyed leading and serving in the following assignments: Chief Oral and Maxillofacial Pathologist and Mentor for the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and two-year Advanced Education in General Dentistry residency programs, Hawaii Dental Health Activity, Tripler Army Medical Center, and Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Hawaii; Officer-in-Charge, Chief Oral and Maxillofacial Pathologist, and Mentor for the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery residency program, Fort Bliss Dental Health Activity, William Beaumont Army Medical Center, El Paso, Texas; Instructor, Captains Career Course, U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, Joint Base San Antonio, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; and Forensic Odontology Manager and Lead Forensic Odontologist, Scientific Analysis Directorate, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii.

COL Retoma's professional military education includes the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Joint Medical Executive Skills Institute DHA Intermediate Executive Skills Course, the Army Medical Department Faculty Development Program Course, the Dental Management Development Course, and the Army Medical Department's Officer Basic and Advanced Courses. COL Retoma is also Combatives Level 1 certified, a Master Resilience Trainer, a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, and an Assistant Professor of the Uniformed Services University.

COL Retoma's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Overseas Service Ribbon with Numeral 2.