

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9911007471003321
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Titolo	The SAGES Manual for Navigating a Successful Military Surgical Career / / edited by Andrew T. Schlusssel, Danielle B. Holt, Robert B. Lim, Tamara J. Worlton, E. Matthew Ritter
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer Nature Switzerland : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2025
ISBN	3-031-88490-6
Edizione	[1st ed. 2025.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (655 pages)
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Disciplina	617
Soggetti	Surgery Gastroenterology
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Part I. The Early Years -- History of Military Surgery -- Undergraduate Medical Education -- Graduate Medical Education -- Part II. The Organizations -- Defense Health Agency -- Navigating an Army Career -- Navigating an Air Force Career -- Navigating a Navy Career -- Navigating a Career in the Reserves -- Part III. Developing Your Career as a Military Surgeon -- Success in your First Job: How to Maximize Time and Overcome Low Surgical Volume -- Skills Maintenance in the Military (Mil-Civ, ERSA, Service Agreements [MOU,MOA], ODE, KSA) -- Administrative Leadership -- Academics and Research -- Professional Education and Leadership Development on Active Duty -- Command Tract: How to Become a Flag Officer -- Getting Ready for Your First Deployment -- Global Health Engagement, Humanitarian Assistance, and Disaster Response -- Operational Assignments -- Special Operations -- Space Medicine: The Surgeon's Role -- Part IV. Life Outside of the Operating Room -- Maximizing Military Finances -- Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity in the Military -- Mental Health for the Military Surgeon -- LGBTQ+ Surgeon Life on Active Duty -- Dual Surgeon Couple/Dual Military Couple Life on Active Duty -- Retirement,

Sommario/riassunto

The aim of this manual is to offer a comprehensive framework for both present and future military surgeons, enabling them to effectively navigate and build a successful career within the military, while also providing them with transferable skills upon completion of their military service. The military healthcare system operates within a unique framework with distinct challenges and opportunities. By acquiring knowledge and insights into the intricacies of military career paths, surgeons can make informed decisions about assignments, promotions and professional development. Navigating an Army, Air Force, Navy or Reserve career requires an understanding of the organizational structures, consultant roles and specific requirements of each service branch. Additionally, being aware of opportunities for advanced education, leadership development and operational assignments enables surgeons to develop a career trajectory aligned with their goals and aspirations. Presently there is not a sole source document, either in the military or civilian sectors, that allows easy access and references to the multiple opportunities afforded to military surgeons or an understanding of life as a surgeon on active duty. Furthermore, this text provides context to civilian organizations, administrative personnel, recruiting departments and family members that interact with or assist in making important decisions for military surgeons. This manual features insight and guidance from senior leaders of our Armed Forces, both past and present, who have excelled in academic, operational and clinical surgical careers. By providing a reference for successfully navigating a military career, this will not only enhance the professional growth of a surgeon, but also ensure the delivery of high-quality healthcare to our service members and beneficiaries both domestic and abroad.
