

### **Aaron Epstein, MD- Biography**

Doctor Aaron Epstein is the president and founder of the Global Surgical and Medical Support Group (GSMSG), a nonprofit humanitarian organization of over 1500 US Special Operations veterans and medical professionals. His background includes a career in national security and a graduate degree from Georgetown University graduate School of Foreign Service with a master's degree in Intelligence and Security Studies in 2012. He subsequently went on to later attend Georgetown University School of Medicine, where he obtained his MD degree. In 2017 Dr. Epstein was designated a Fulbright Specialist in healthcare and global security issues. He has given numerous talks on the intersection of national security policies and health care, including interviews on Fox News and CNN, most recently while in Ukraine. With his organization, GSMSG, Dr. Epstein has personally led nearly two dozen deployments to conflict zones and austere environments in Africa, the Middle East, and South America, where they have provided medical and surgical training to host nation partners. His GSMSG teams in Iraq have deployed over a dozen times since 2015, have maintained ongoing medical training programs in-country, including a formal six-month nursing training program, and at one point, the largest contingent of US surgeons on the ground since Operation Iraqi freedom. He has also been a paid advisor and a senior consultant to the American University of Iraq in Baghdad on their medical curriculum and education system, as well as a senior consultant to the American University of Kurdistan in Duhok (northern Iraq), where he also advised them on development of their medical school curriculum as well as nursing programs. Dr. Aaron Epstein and his team were the first US surgical team on the ground in Ukraine at the start of the war with Russia in 2022. In advance of the Russian invasion, Dr. Epstein was personally in communication with the Ukrainian ambassador to NATO, specifically advising him to prepare his population for "Total War" and that broad training for combat casualty care should start immediately. Since then, Dr. Epstein has led the largest US medical and surgical training operation within Ukraine, including a rotating presence of US board-certified surgeons on the ground. In just the initial five months of the war, Dr. Epstein and his teams were attributed with training over 20,000 Ukrainian civilians, soldiers, and physicians/surgeons in Ukraine. Dr. Epstein's contributions have been significant enough that during his second year in surgical residency, he was awarded the American College of Surgeons Pfizer award for volunteerism/humanitarian work. In 2022 Dr. Epstein was awarded the US Citizens Award granted by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society for humanitarian contributions worldwide.