**Dr. MATTHEW D. WELDER**

DNP, CRNA, FAWM, DiMM, DiDMM, TEC. MN’18,

LTC(R) USA

Dr. Welder is a board-certified anesthesia provider and retired Army combat veteran who is internationally recognized as an innovative leader in operational readiness.

He developed the operational readiness programs of study for Dive Medicine, Military Mountain Medicine Course, Cold Weather Medicine and Avalanche 1 at USU in 2016. He is a certified Divemaster, Fellow Academy of Wilderness Medicine, received the Diploma in Mountain Medicine, Diploma in Dive and Marine Medicine and inducted in the prestigious Explorers Club in 2018.

He served as the lead subject matter expert in the development and training of the Expeditionary Resuscitative Surgical Team – Africa for Army and Navy medicine and focuses his operational training on clinical, operational, physical and emotional readiness platforms.

His past experience includes developing health strategy for the Defense Health Agency through Partnership for Improvements, Chairing and participating in National Committees, Centrally Standardizing health systems to ensure efficiency, productivity, financial optimization while improving quality and sustaining safety. His efforts were pivotal in developing readiness and high reliability within the Military Health System. During his military career, Dr. Welder last served as the 1st Director of Surgical Services Service Line, Office of the Surgeon General. He is an out of the box thinker, with a passion to train and educate current and future medical providers.

**Military & Operational Background**

He deployed as an anesthesia provider to Abu Ghraib, Iraq. In 2007 he was selected to join the Joint Special Operations Command where he deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan as part of a special mission surgical unit.

He was then assigned to Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital (BAACH), Seoul, South Korea. After a successful tour where he served as the Chief, Anesthesia and Chief, Quality Management Division at BAACH he was hand selected for assignment to the Office of the Surgeon General and served as the Chief of Strategic Engagements within the Commander’s Action Group and as the 1st Director of the Surgical Services Service Line.

Dr. Welder has attended the AMEDD Officer’s Basic and Advanced Courses, in– residence Command and General Staff College (Fort Gordon, GA), Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape; High Risk (SERE), Combat Casualty Care Course. SERE-X, SERE 260 among other special operations mission training.

Dr. Welder’s top three military awards were: Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters.

Dr. Welder has been awarded the Combat Medical, the Expert Field Medical Badge, the Order of Military Medical Merit and is a Distinguished Member of the United States Army Medical Department Regiment. He was the recipient of the 2017 USU Alumni of the Year award, 2017 US Army Quarterly and Annual Wolfpack Award.

He was selected as 2017 USU Graduation Marshal, 2018 USU GSN Civilian Professor of the Year. Dr. Welder retired after 20 years Active Army Federal Service as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Dr. Welder is married and blessed with 4 children.