



**MEDIA ALERT – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013**

**United States' military chief to address Plastic Surgery Congress**

As a plastic surgeon and former head of the military hospital that treats wounded soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan, Brigadier General Bryan W. Gamble has first-hand experience of the terrible casualties inflicted in modern warfare, and the extraordinary skills required by the surgeons who treat them.

**Brigadier General W. Bryan Gamble MD will present a keynote lecture on “Plastic surgery in contemporary warfare” at the Plastic Surgery Congress at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, Southbank on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 9am.**

Gamble is the former Commander of US-operated Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany (2005 – 2007), the largest military hospital outside the United States. During his time at Landstuhl, Gamble oversaw the establishment of the first American College of Surgeons-accredited level II Trauma Center outside the United States.

He has completed numerous tours of duty and has been responsible for joint and coalition health services for military operations in 27 nations on the Arabian Peninsula, Horn of Africa, Red Sea and in Asia including Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom from 2007 – 2009.

Since 2011 Gamble has served as Deputy Director of the United States military medical operation, TRICARE Management Activity (TMA), making him responsible for the coordination of healthcare for more than 9.6 million uniformed service members, retirees and their families worldwide.

Brigadier General Gamble is one of the few plastic surgeons in the world to hold a one star ranking.

War has been a vital catalyst in the development of plastic surgery – from WWI where aircraft injuries drove plastic surgeon Sir Harold Gilles to pioneer sophisticated tissue moving techniques, to the rise of skin culturing techniques that have been developed throughout the modern Arab-Israeli conflict.

Now, modern warfare practises mean plastic surgeons are encountering new forms of injuries such as those inflicted by IEDs (improvised explosive devices).

Brigadier General Gamble will also participate in a special ANZAC Day ceremony on 25<sup>th</sup> April to be held at the Congress, organised by the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons.

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Founded in 1970, the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons Inc (ASPS) is the peak body for Specialist Plastic Surgeons (both reconstructive and cosmetic). The Society's main role is to protect the integrity of plastic surgery as a specialty.