

INDUCTEE

Col. Scott Russi, MD

Graduated. . . . 1979
Married. Michelle
Children Spence, Magnus, Ian, Deacon, Brigid and Neilla
Resides. Colorado Springs, Colorado

In high school, Scott Russi was an active athlete, finding a sport for every season. He was probably most active in football and the classroom but he was involved in drama and debate as well and in Key Club which took him out into the community serving others. At the end of his high school career he was awarded an appointment to the Air Force Academy and as it turned out that took him *everywhere*.

During his senior year at the Academy he was a squadron commander and squadron honor representative and achieved outstanding-graduate status. He was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant USAF in 1984 and given the opportunity to attend the Ohio State University College of Medicine. Finishing his class work in 1988, Scott was promoted to Captain USAF.

After an internship in Internal Medicine at University Hospital, OSU, he began his Internal Medicine Residency at Wilford Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, received his Board certification in Internal Medicine in 1991, subsequently became a staff internal medicine physician assigned to Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin, Texas, and graduated from the School of Aerospace medicine in 1992. He interned in General Surgery back in San Antonio and was promoted to Major. After a second year of general surgery he was transferred to Kessler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi, where he completed his general surgery residency in 1998. Also in that year Scott graduated from Air Command and Staff College.

Scott's next posting was as general surgeon and internist at Incilik Air Force Base, Turkey, in 1998; he was assigned Chief of Staff and became board certified in General Surgery. In 2000 he was assigned to Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, as general surgeon. Now a Lieutenant Colonel USAF, Dr. Russi was Chief of Outpatients Services, then in 2001 he became Chief of Surgery. In May 2002 he was deployed as surgeon to Oman in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM until September. His next two assignments were with OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM: first to Guam as hospital commander with the 765th Air Expeditionary Wing in 2003 and next as general surgeon with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Balad Air Base, Iraq, in 2005. During this time period he graduated from Air War College in 2002.

Obviously Dr. Russi has traveled the world. He will soon be serving yet another tour, this time going to Afghanistan while his wife Michelle and their six children carry on their stateside lives and await his return. His military and medical career is impressive but Scott has things in perspective. He has said, "In reviewing my career, I would say my greatest lessons in life were learned thru my failures and not thru my successes. And, my greatest accomplishment has yet to come, and this one will be shared with my wife Michelle...I hope that we bring into the world six children who have a relationship with God and have a positive contribution to society."