For ~40 years following WWII, the AFIP experienced tremendous growth of its personnel, missions, subspecialties and capabilities







Aerospace & Veterinary Pathology

Medical Illustration

Subspecialty-based practice and education





As it grew, the AFIP became the world's premier pathology consultation center and was staffed by the best diagnosticians of the day



WHO Classification of Soft Tissue Tumors

Dr. Fathollah K. Mostofi, 1972 WHO Classification of Testicular Tumors







In the last decades of the 1900s, the AFIP established new capabilities and technologies, e.g. <u>Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES)</u> and <u>Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL)</u>



1986 – forensic investigation of the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster



1998 - mtDNA testing of remains from tomb of the unknown solider at Arlington Cemetery





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Adoption of molecular technologies at the AFIP empowered groundbreaking studies, e.g. <u>sequencing of the virus</u> in autopsy tissue from the <u>"Spanish Flu" pandemic of 1918</u>



Soldiers with the "Spanish flu" in 1918



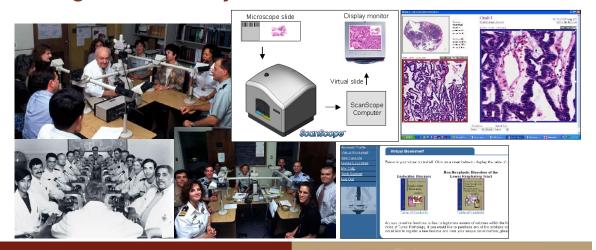
Drs. Ann Reid and Jeffery Taubenberger







Education remained central to the institute's mission throughout its history

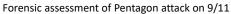




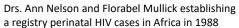


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The institute constantly <u>adapted to the challenges of the day</u> in order to serve the military, the nation and humanity











Anthrax molecular testing in 2001







In 2011, the <u>AFIP was disestablished</u> and <u>The Joint Pathology Center (JPC)</u> was established

- In 2005, the <u>Base Realignment and Closure</u> (BRAC) Commission recommended that the AFIP be disestablished.
- The historical goal of BRAC was to achieve savings by eliminating excess capacity in order to enhance military value.
- In 2008, the <u>National Defense Authorization Act</u> created The Joint Pathology Center to continue the AFIP's duties and to maintain and modernize the repository.



Agenda

- 1. History of military pathology, including the AFIP
- 2. Present status of the Institute: The Joint Pathology Center
- 3. Future Directions



Like the AFIP, the JPC's mission is to support secondary pathology consultations, education and research and to maintain and modernize the repository

- Currently, the JPC serves only federal pathologists, so civilian consultations are no longer provided.
- Several divisions of the AFIP became separate institutions (e.g. AFMES, AFDIL, National Museum of Health and Medicine)



The Joint Pathology Center main building, Silver Spring, MD







To support consultations, education and research, the JPC currently has 30 pathologist in 19 subspecialties

- Breast
- Cardiovascular
- Cytopathology
- Dermatopathology
- Endocrine
- Environmental
- Gastrointestinal/Hepatic
- Genitourinary
- Gynecologic pathology
- Hematopathology

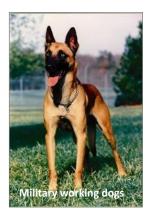
- Head and Neck
- Infectious Disease
- Molecular
- Neuropathology & Ophthalmic
- Orthopedic
- Pediatric
- Pulmonary & Mediastinal
- Nephropathology
- Soft Tissue







The JPC also has a veterinary pathology division to serve DoD-affiliated animals















For over a century, the institute kept the cases it received, which grew to become the world's largest repository of slides and paraffin embedded tissues.

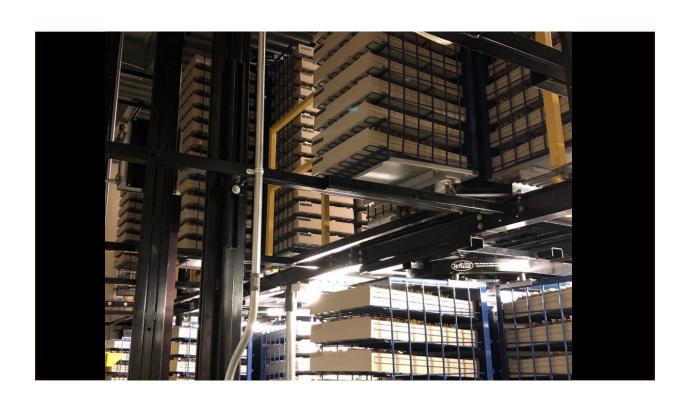
- Established 1917
- 55M slides, 31M tissue blocks
- Large collections of common and uncommon diseases
- Many new diseases were discovered at the institute

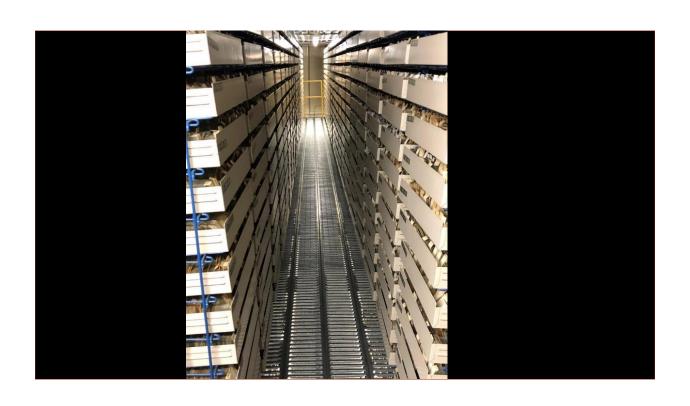














The repository continues to support multiple registries that track the health of active duty service members and veterans

- Pulmonary and Environmental Registry
- Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn Registries
- Agent Orange/Vietnam Service Registry
- Former Prisoner of War Registry



Agenda

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We believe the JPC repository is an unrivaled source of high quality data for machine learning

- Rare and challenging cases from across the world
- Racially diverse
- Wide range of pre-analytical factors
- Could potentially be linked with other sources of data within the DoD and the VA.



On 5Mar2020, the Defense Innovation Board voted unanimously to recommend the JPC digitally transform its repository - 6 recommendations

- Pilot on slide scanning 1-2M million slides in 1 year
- $\underline{Pilot\ on\ linkage\ to\ medical\ records}-connecting\ slide\ data$ to electronic health record data
- Pilot on molecular annotation to add molecular data to slides to enhance AI
- Process improvement plan to help ensure quality and efficiency of scanning
- Partnership plan defining desired partnerships and partnership structures
- Fully digitized and accessible repository



Defense Innovation Board



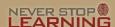




With the DoD's support, the JPC has begun a phased digital transformation initiative

- Phase I End to end scanning process (Minimal Viable Product)
- Phase II Scanning at scale, data integration, data governance
- Phase III Partnerships to develop machine learning prototypes







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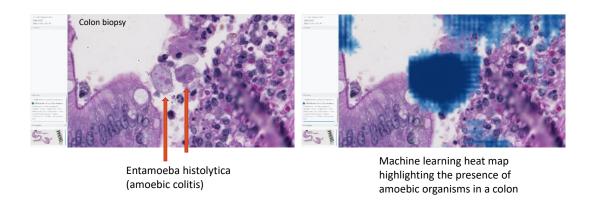
The JPC has already used some of its data to develop prototype artificial intelligence algorithms.

- The JPC has a large collection of infectious disease cases.
- >10,000 cases were used as a training set for an infectious disease algorithm











Bottom Line

- The U.S. Military has countless historic contributions to modern pathology.
- As of 2011, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) became The Joint Pathology Center (JPC), which serves patients from federal healthcare facilities.
- The JPC has the world's largest repository of slides and paraffin embedded tissues, which is being digitally transformed in support of research to develop machine learning algorithms.







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