When the USSA was founded in 2003, I was preparing for a year long deployment to Iraq. A challenging time; but, the country was grateful for our men and women in uniform. The leadership of the ASA realized the need to formally recognize anesthesiologists in the military and, with their approval, our society became a reality. In the intervening years, we have faced many obstacles; but, our membership rolls have remained robust and our annual meeting, in conjunction with the Association of Veterans Affairs Anesthesiologists (AVAA), has been a highlight for many of us. To remain a vital, growing organization, we must be more than a once a year phenomenon. During this period of relative peace, our challenge is to remain relevant to our members. In the years to come, we plan to develop more grass roots engagement as we work toward supporting the ongoing global military readiness mission. Along with our partners in the Uniformed Services University and the AVAA, we will forge a stronger society, one that epitomizes the spirit of military anesthesia.

Jack
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