

Lieutenant Colonel Jasper W. Watkins III, M.S.A., R.Ph., N.P., B.C.N.P.

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It was the *Physicians' Desk Reference*® (PDR) that first inspired LTC Jasper Watkins III to seek training in the pharmaceutical field. Living in Okinawa, Japan, where his father was stationed as a military cook, Watkins was selected to participate in a summer pharmacy youth work program. There, he often saw doctors poring over this cryptic book, and he was intrigued. "Instead of being the one to query the book, I wanted to be the one to comprehend the book," said Watkins.

To further explore his interest in medicine, Watkins spent his teenage years working as a pharmacy clerk. "I had been around pharmacy for a long time. It didn't frighten me. I went into pharmacy with my eyes wide open, instead of wide shut," said the marathon runner who runs up to five miles at 5 a.m. each day.

After spending his childhood living at military bases across the United States, Watkins never thought about a military career until he decided on nuclear pharmacy, which is the last line of defense in detecting the root of a health problem when traditional diagnostic procedures stop. The Army allowed him to pursue his specialized focus and offered a residency, which led him to become the first African American pharmacist to be board certified and licensed by way of an American Society of Health-System Pharmacists residency.

Safety with medicine use also has been a core focus for Watkins. Throughout his 22 years in the military, he has traveled around the world as part of a multidisciplinary health care team, training health care providers on emerging medical safety tools. "There is a continuous need for us to maintain competency in the practice of pharmacy. There are new drugs being released each day. We need to maintain education competence and cultural awareness as to their effects," he said.

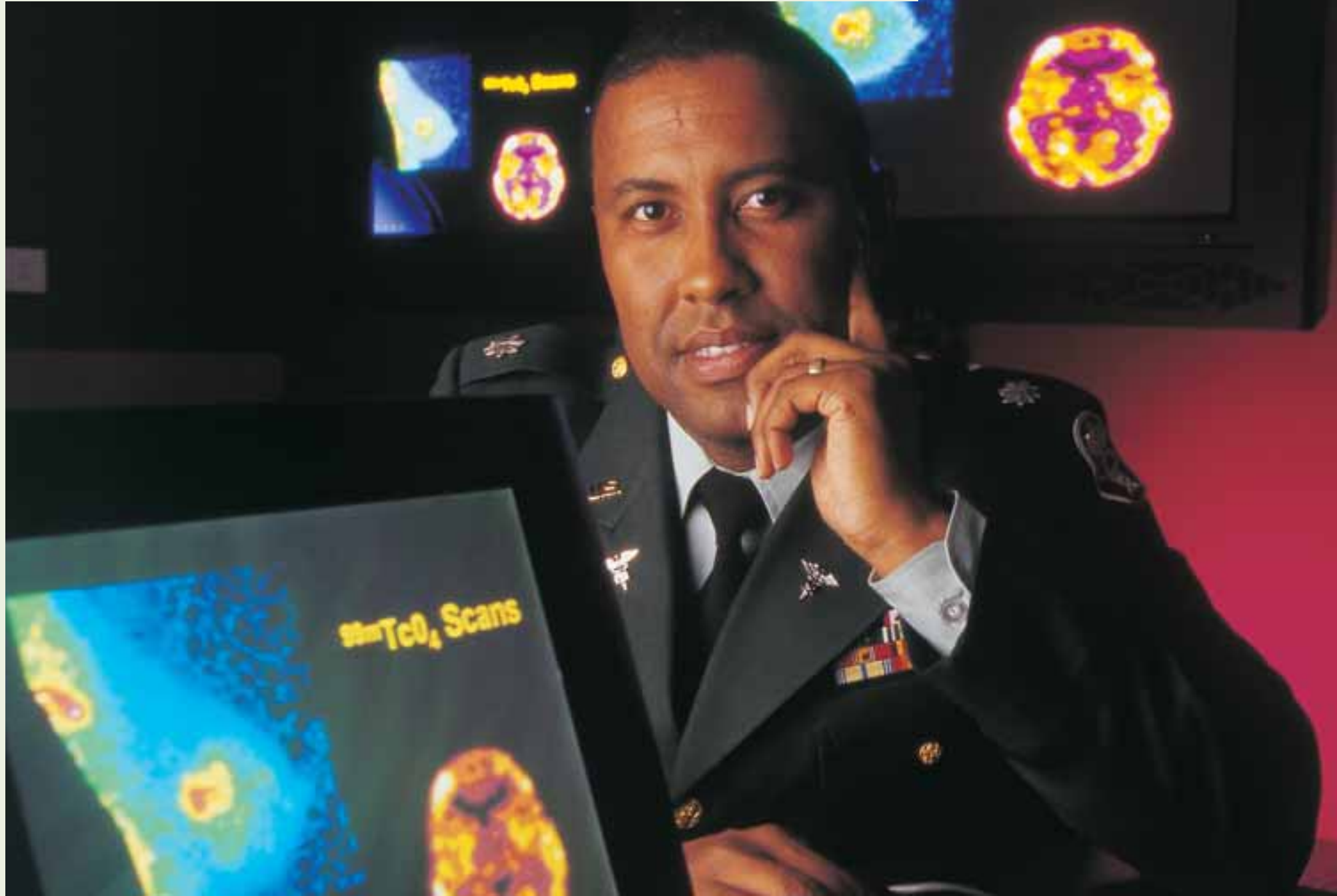
Pharmacists, he believes, must continue to be advocates and collaborate with other organizations to address disparities in health care, in particular the medication use process. "The same drug can affect each person differently. For those with dietary issues or certain religious beliefs, such as fasting

between sunup and sundown on certain days, it can affect their treatment. We have to figure out ways to address patients by relating their medications to their daily activities," said Watkins.

The military has allowed Watkins to practice in many areas, from the front lines, to administration and policy, to administering medications. "It is my goal to be part of the health care team that creates a standard of excellence that delivers

quality pharmaceutical services and leadership in support of readiness and managed care missions of the Army."

Watkins also volunteers his time to speak to students about trends in pharmacy practice because he believes it is important to give back, especially to his alma mater, Florida A&M University, where his daughter, Aja, is studying to be a nurse. And when he's not traveling, he's on the sidelines watching his son, Jasper Watkins IV, play high school football and run track. "He says I'm his favorite fan."



ONE GOAL: *To Protect*

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>3</p> <p>1688: The Quakers in Germantown, Pennsylvania, make first formal protest against slavery.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Independence Day 1900: Traditional birthdate of Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, jazz pioneer.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1892: Andrew J. Beard patents rotary engine. 1991: Nelson Mandela elected president of the African National Congress.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1957: Althea Gibson wins women's singles title at Wimbledon, first black to win tennis's most prestigious award.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1948: Cleveland Indians sign pitcher Leroy "Satchel" Paige.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1889: Frederick Douglass named U.S. Minister to Haiti.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1872: Elijah McCoy patents first self-lubricating locomotive engine. The quality of his inventions helped coin the phrase "the real McCoy." 1964: President Lyndon Johnson signs Civil Rights Act into law.</p>
<p>10</p> <p>1875: Educator Mary McLeod Bethune, founder of Bethune-Cookman College, born.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1905: W.E.B. DuBois and William Monroe Trotter organize the Niagara Movement, a forerunner of the NAACP.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1937: Actor, comedian Bill Cosby born. 1949: Frederick M. Jones patents cooling system for food transportation vehicles.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1965: Thurgood Marshall becomes first black appointed U.S. solicitor general.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>1955: George Washington Carver Monument, first national park honoring a black, is dedicated in Joplin, Missouri.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1943: Faye Wattleton, first black director of Planned Parenthood, born. 2000: Venus Williams wins women's singles championship at Wimbledon.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1893: Dr. Daniel Hale Williams performs first successful open-heart operation.</p>
<p>17</p> <p>1953: Jesse D. Locker appointed U.S. ambassador to Liberia.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>1899: L.C. Bailey issued patent for the folding bed. 1998: African American Civil War Soldiers Memorial dedicated, Washington, D.C.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1925: Paris debut of Josephine Baker, entertainer, activist and humanitarian.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1950: Black troops (24th Regiment) win first U.S. victory in Korea.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>1896: Mary Church Terrell elected first president of National Association of Colored Women.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1867: Maggie Lena Walker, first woman and first black to become president of a bank, born.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1822: Violette A. Johnson, first black woman to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, born. 1862: Anti-lynching activist Ida B. Wells Barnett born.</p>
<p>24</p> <p>1807: Shakespearean actor Ira Aldridge born in New York City.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>1916: Garrett Morgan, inventor of the gas mask, rescues six people from gas-filled tunnel in Cleveland, Ohio.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>1948: President Harry S. Truman issues Executive Order 9981, ending segregation in armed forces.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1880: Alexander P. Ashbourne patents process for refining coconut oil.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>1868: 14th Amendment, granting blacks full citizenship rights, becomes part of the Constitution.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>1939: Jane M. Bolin of New York City appointed first black female judge.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1868: The 14th Amendment is ratified, granting citizenship to blacks.</p>
<p>31</p> <p>1874: Rev. Patrick Francis Healy inaugurated president of Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.</p>					<p>29</p> <p>1895: First National Conference of Colored Women Convention held in Boston.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>1822: James Varick becomes first bishop of African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.</p>

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AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY CALENDAR
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