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Dr. Kirkpatrick is currently the Senior Clinical Consultant for the Directorate of Doctrine & Combat Development in the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Center & School at Fort Sam Houston, a position he has held since 2005. Previously Dr. Kirkpatrick has held appointments as Bioterrorism Coordinator and Chief of the Office of Public Health, Preparedness and Response in the North Carolina Division of Public Health; Dean/Commandant of the Academy of Health Sciences at Fort Sam Houston; Commander of the 18th Medical Command and Surgeon for US Forces Korea and Eighth US Army; and Director of US Army Medical Command Health Policy and Services at Fort Sam Houston.

Academically, Dr. Kirkpatrick holds a BS in Zoology and Chemistry from Texas Technological University (1968), a MPH from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine (1981), and a MD from University of Texas Southwestern Medical School (1972). Dr. Kirkpatrick is Fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine and a member of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States. He has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with Three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Joint Services Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Achievement Medal and the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star. He has also authored 13 publications.