

I am an emergency physician at Lexington Medical Center and have been working there for almost 12 years. During my 26 years of military service, I was the South Carolina State Air Surgeon for the SC Air National Guard (SCANG) and an F-16 fighter pilot. I served the SCANG as the public health emergency officer tasked to coordinate emergency relief to the citizens of this state and I directed state-wide mass disaster responses and exercises. It is my hope that my military experience and leadership roles as the SC State Air Surgeon, Air Force F-16 mission commander of large force deployments, and as an emergency physician have prepared me for the responsibilities required of the medical board.

In the ER, we have watched the effects of everything from train crashes to floods to COVID affecting our communities. We prepared for exposures to devastating disease processes of tuberculosis, Ebola cases and even to the COVID pandemic back when its effects were not fully understood. Our ER sees 300+ medical cases per day on a regular basis. Sometimes, we are overwhelmed and as a result, I have had to make some very difficult decisions over the years.

I have seen the effects of regulations and policies from the medical board impact these decisions and our medical care for our resilient community. Sometimes independent thought is stifled and I would like to think my contributions will have a very positive impact on decisions that affect our practice, especially on the "front lines." Decisions that affect how we conduct ourselves as physicians, the privileges of mid-level providers and credentials that should be required for autonomy in the practice of medicine, and how government policies like patient satisfaction have affected the opioid crisis I witness devastate our community every Friday and Saturday night I work in the ER, are just a few of those that dictate the reasons we need a strong medical board to protect our practice and our independent decision-making authority. I think I can have a sizeable impact here and my experience as the South Carolina State Air Surgeon has helped me in countless ways to learn how to "cut the red tape" at the state level, especially during disasters like the 2016 flood, where I worked in the South Carolina's State Emergency Operations Center to direct the military medical response to the entire state.

I would like to fill the "at large" medical board seat of Dr. Jim Chow, the three-term physician, who has been my mentor. I hope my contributions will be in the same wonderful spirit and mirror his grand motivation to constantly improve our practice of medicine, with a goal of optimizing Board of Medical Examiner policies and practices for our physicians. I hope you will have the confidence to elect me as your representative on this board. I have attached my bio as testament and my CV. Thank you for considering me to serve you.

Bio

Dr. Rob Kosciusko, MD, received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from M.I.T., and his doctorate from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He is board certified in emergency medicine and has been practicing in the Midlands for 14 years, the last 11 of which have been at Lexington Medical Center. Dr. Kosciusko served the state of South Carolina as the public health emergency officer for the Air National Guard and liaison to the S.C. Emergency Operations Center, where he coordinated mass casualty emergency medical response exercises and operations. In that position, he led the South Carolina Air National Guard emergency response

for the 1,000-year flood in October 2016, coordinating medical relief to the citizens of the state as the disaster was unfolding.

Dr. Kosciusko is a highly decorated 26-year veteran of the Air Force, the Air Force Reserve, and the Air National Guard. He was a fighter pilot with multiple combat tours in Iraq, Kosovo, and Serbia. Colonel "Koz" Kosciusko flew the F-16C as an Instructor Pilot and Mission Commander and led packages of over 50 aircraft into combat. He was the first fighter pilot "wild weasel" (surface-to-air missile hunter) to employ weapons in the Kosovo conflict. Colonel Kosciusko was awarded 33 ribbons and 21 medals, including the Legion of Merit, the Air Medal, multiple Aerial Achievement Medals, and the Global War on Terrorism Medal. During medical school, Dr. Kosciusko continued serving the nation piloting F-16s in the Air Force Reserve. Upon completion of medical school, he transitioned to the Air National Guard and ultimately became the South Carolina State Air Surgeon. He served as a Colonel until his recent retirement, at which point he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General.

Dr. Kosciusko has been certified in hyperbaric medicine, he has completed the national course for Tourette's Syndrome and is a member of the Tourette's Organization. He supports Tourette's research on behalf of his son, who suffers from the disease. Dr. Kosciusko volunteers for the S.C. Special Olympics and is active in his church, where he has participated in retreats to help the homeless. He founded, developed, and taught a recurring STM class for computer programming at Brockman Elementary School in Columbia. He has tutored inner city high school students in mathematics, and Dr. Kosciusko founded a program in the Midlands whereby high school students teach computer programming to elementary school students in the public school system. Dr. Kosciusko lives with his wife and two children.

Robert D. Kosciusko

EDUCATION

Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Doctor of Medicine, 2007

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Master of Science, Aeronautical Engineering (Avionics specialty) 1991 (GPA 5.0/5.0)

- Charles Stark Draper Fellow at Draper Laboratory, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Bachelor of Science, Aeronautical Engineering, 1990 (GPA 4.9/5.0)

- Tau Beta Pi National Engineering Honor Society

- Sigma Gamma Tau National Aeronautical Engineering Honor Society

EMPLOYMENT

Dept. of Emergency Medicine, Lexington Hospital, Attending Physician Aug 2010 to Present

Dept. of Emergency Medicine, Palmetto Health Richland Hospital, Resident Jul 2007 to Jun 2010

Dept. of Surgery, University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Research Asst. Summer 2004

- Developed C-programming language-based neural-network model to predict relative risk of organ failures in trauma victims using independent variables correlated by massive database look-back.

United Airlines, Pilot Jul 2000 to Dec 2001

U.S. Air Force and U.S. Air Force Reserve May 1991 to Jul 2005

Instructor Pilot and Mission Commander, F-16 Fighting Falcon.

- Commander, Alert Detachment of 20th Fighter Wing (Southeastern sector of U.S.), executing Operation Noble Eagle, following Sep 11, 2001.

- Over 180 combat hours accumulated in 3 combat tours over Iraq, Kosovo, and Serbia earning multiple air medals

- Over 3500 flight hours in: F-16 CJ, F-16C, F-15, F-4, T-37, T-38, AT-38

- Veteran of Operation Allied Force (1999), Operation Southern Watch (2001), and Operation Northern Watch (2002)

- Awarded USAF Commendation Medal for discovering and classifying enemy radar emissions allowing Coalition forces to target previously immune enemy surface-to-air missile batteries. Discovery resulted in the reprogramming of the electronic database of every aircraft in the USAF fleet.

- First pilot deploying from the U.S. to attack and employ weapons in Kosovo following receipt of hostile missile fire.

U.S. Air National Guard Aug 2005 to Jun 2016

State Air Surgeon of South Carolina

- Organized the state of SC military medical emergency response for the Air National Guard

- Public Health Emergency Officer for the 1,000-year flood in October 2016 and assembled the full capability of the 169th Medical Group to assist the state in its emergency response

- Spearheaded the coordination of medical relief and was the liaison for the SC Emergency Operations Center providing military medical response to the citizens of the state, even as the disaster, the most severe flooding known in South Carolina history, was unfolding.

Embry Riddle Adjunct Professor of Aeronautics Dec 1992 to Jun 1994

- Taught the masters program and developed courses for Embry Riddle University

RESEARCH and PUBLICATIONS

- R.D. Kosciusko, M.D., et al., The Probability of Cardiomyopathy in Hypertensive Emergency Room Patients, Department of Emergency Medicine, Palmetto Health Richland

- S.A. Fann M.D., R.D. Kosciusko, MSc., et al., Use of Prognostic Indicators in the Development of a Statistical Model Predictive for Adrenal Insufficiency in Trauma Patients, *The American Surgeon*, 2007 March; 73(3):210-4.

- Researched parameters of enemy radar emissions during Kosovo conflict. Combed through weeks of recorded data to discover a previously unknown radar guided surface-to-air missile system. Reprogrammed the F-16 to search for new threat which was subsequently destroyed. USAF Electronic Intelligence updated the database for the combined fleet of Air Force and Navy aircraft. Results published in classified USAF

and USN database.

- **R.D. Kosciusko, Correlation of Fighter Aircraft Performance with Combat Effectiveness in a Tactically Significant Environment**, CSDL-T-1073, Draper Laboratories, June 1991

ACHIEVEMENTS

Top graduate, F-16 Training Course, and Top Gun (Air-to-Air)
Top graduate, Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Course, and Top Gun (Air-to-Ground)
Top graduate, Pilot Instructor Training class 92-15
Top graduate, Euro-Nato Joint Jet Pilot Training class 92-05
Top graduate, Squadron Officer School class 99A. First out of 702 officers.
Top graduate, ROTC Field Course. First out of 200 cadets.
Awarded the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, two Air Medals for combat performance, one Aerial Achievement Medal for combat in Iraq, five Air Force Commendation Medals, one AF Achievement Medal, five Outstanding Unit Awards, two Combat Readiness Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Expeditionary Medal, the GWOT Service Medal, the Overseas Long and Short Tour Ribbons, the AF Expeditionary Service Ribbon, the AF Longevity Service Award, two Armed Forces Reserve Medals, the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, the NATO Medal (Kosovo), and the AF Training Ribbon. Awarded the Guardsman Retirement Medal and promoted to Brigadier General upon retirement.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Started a STEM program for the Brockman Elementary School in Columbia, SC in 2018
- Personally taught and tutored computer science and programming to children in Columbia, SC in 2019
- Created a two-year learning program whereby students from AC Flora high school teach elementary school children in the Richland I school district to program computers
- Volunteered as the Treasurer for Brockman Elementary School
- Active member of Eastminster Presbyterian Church
- Attended retreat in Charlotte for homeless helping to arrange free clothing
- Incentive Mentoring Program, P.L. Dunbar High School - tutor and mentor Baltimore inner-city children
- Moore Free Clinic, Outpatient Treatment Center, Johns Hopkins Hospital - Regular volunteer to care for HIV+ patients in departments of psychiatry, gynecology, and dermatology
- Volunteered to re-activate with the military following September 11, 2001 attacks
- Volunteered to teach officers in remote assignments the materials necessary to obtain their master's degrees through distance learning programs. This tutoring program was so successful that Embry Riddle University formalized the program and appointed Dr. Kosciusko an Adjunct Professor.

ACTIVITIES and ASSOCIATIONS

- Member of the American College of Emergency Physicians
- Member of the SC Medical Association
- Member of Tourette Organization of America and provides donations for Tourette's medical research
- Volunteers for the SC Special Olympics
- Member of Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC
- Member of the Experimental Aircraft Association
- Sports: Kiteboarding, skiing, soccer, running, and biking.
- Hyperbaric Society: Certified in Hyperbaric Medicine, completing primary training in Hyperbaric Medicine
- PADI certified scuba diver
- Certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM)