

BUMED Oral History Interview Synopsis and Key Words
Interviewee Name, Rank, Position and Organization:
Captain (ret.) Gary Breeden, MSC, USN

Date and Location of Interview: 21 May 2014, Telephonic

Interviewer: André B. Sobocinski, Historian, BUMED

Dr. Breeden grew up in Colorado Springs, CO. He earned his Master's in entomology at Colorado State and his Ph.D. at Virginia Poly-Tech. In September 1976, Captain Breeden was commissioned as a Medical Entomologist in the Medical Service Corps of the United States Navy and began a series of operational tours in support of Navy and Marine Corps commands. These included the Navy Disease Vector Ecology and Control Center, Jacksonville, Florida (two tours); the Navy Environmental Preventive Medicine Unit No. 7, Naples, Italy; 2nd Medical Battalion, 2nd Force Service Support Group, FMFLANT, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; and 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group, FMFPAC, Camp Pendleton, California.

From June to November 1983, Captain Breeden was assigned ashore in Beirut, Lebanon, to the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit as the preventive medicine team leader. As one of the Medical Department Officers ashore, he participated in the rescue, stabilization and evacuation of the surviving casualties from the 23 October 1983 bombing of the Battalion Landing Team Headquarters.

As a result of his Beirut experiences, Captain Breeden attended the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia from August 1987 to January 1988. Upon graduation, he was transferred to the 1st Medical Battalion and became the Commanding Officer in September 1988 after brief periods as the Operations Officer and Executive Officer. In December 1990 for "Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM," he deployed to Saudi Arabia to command his battalion consisting of six augmented field hospitals.

From June 1991 to August 1994, Captain Breeden was assigned to the joint US Transportation Command as Deputy Command Surgeon. While there he was instrumental in the reengineering of the DoD global patient regulating and evacuation processes by creating a new global one-stop shop for combat & peacetime patient movement as well as a new C² system (TRAC²ES) integrating the separate theaters and processes for patient movement worldwide.

From August 1994 to March 1997, Captain Breeden served as Executive Officer of the Navy Environmental Health Center in Norfolk, Virginia responsible for the oversight of the delivery of preventive and occupational medicine to the shore-based, pier-side and deployed Naval and Marine Forces.

From March 1997 to March 2000, Captain Breeden was Deputy

to the Chief for Operational Medicine and Fleet Support at the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Wash D.C. He was responsible for policy, plans and resource advocacy for preventive medicine, occupational medicine, undersea medicine, surface warfare medicine, aerospace medicine, operational readiness and research & development as well as oversight of 26 subordinate commands including operational commands, research laboratories, and training institutes.

From March 2000 to May 2006 Captain Breeden served as Director and then Research Liaison Officer for the Armed Forces Pest Management Board. He was responsible for the policy, direction, oversight and research priorities for the entomology programs for the over 1.4 million military personnel and the 500 installations and 60 million acres comprising the US Department of Defense. While there he established a multimillion dollar multiyear research program, the Deployed War Fighter Protection Program (DWFP), to reinvigorate research into public health insecticides, repellents and application technologies to control insects that carry diseases.

Key Words

DVEC-Disease Vector, Ecology, and Control Center
MSSG-Marine Corps Service Support Group
TRANSCOM-Transportation Command
air EVAC-air evacuation
TRAC2ES-TRANSCOM Regulating and Command and Control Evacuation System
NEHC-Navy Environmental Health Center
BUMED-Bureau of Medicine
FDPMU-Forward Deployed Preventive Medicine Unit Program
NECE-Navy Entomology Center for Excellence
servant leader