

Navy Medicine Oral History Project
Oral History Interview Synopsis and Key Words
Lonetta Canales, LCDR, U.S. Navy
Program Manager, Support Services, U.S. Navy Medical Training
Support Command (NMTSC)

Date and Location of Interview: 28 September 2012, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Interviewer: Colonel Richard V.N. Ginn, USA, Ret., Office of Medical History, BUMED

SYNOPSIS

LCDR Lonetta Canales was born in Dallas, Texas and raised in Corpus Christi. Following graduation from high school she attended the local junior college, but desiring "to do something with my life" and inspired by a friend who had joined the Navy, she enlisted in 1988 under the Navy Buddy Program. She completed boot camp in Orlando, Florida, where she was encouraged to pursue an administrative specialty, which she did by selecting Religious Program Specialist (RP), the Navy's equivalent of the Army chaplain's assistant. She completed RP "C" School in Meridian, Mississippi, and was then assigned over the next ten years in that specialty, beginning with the 2d Field Service Support Group, at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. There she experienced the demands of Marine Corps field duty, including "hikes" (humps in Marine Corps jargon) of 25 miles. She also experienced the challenges of being a female in a male environment during the expansion of women in the military. As she put it, flirting is one thing, but being the sole female in the midst of a hundred males can be disconcerting. Her assignment at Camp Lejeune was followed by duty at the Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas and Naval Station, Rota Spain.

While stationed in Spain, LCDR Canales completed an associate's degree. She was selected into the Navy's Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program, and in 1998 was assigned to the Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi as a full time student at the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, School of Nursing. In May 2001 she was awarded a BSN and commissioned in the Navy Nurse Corps. Following Officer Indoctrination School, she served in the specialties of medical, surgical and occupational health nursing in Navy hospitals at Camp Pendleton, California and the Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina, as well as the Naval Health Clinic, Corpus Christi.

In 2011 she was selected for assignment to Fort Sam Houston, Texas where she has been on the ground floor of the consolidation of all military enlisted medical training that was

directed by Congress in BRAC 2005. This included transfer of the Navy's Hospital Corps School from Great Lakes, Illinois to the newly formed Medical Education Training Center, where today Navy and Air Force basic medical training is jointly taught in the Basic Medical Technician and Corpsman Program (BMTCP). LCDR Canales describes the transition as quite challenging, but believes "we're definitely moving in the right direction." She tells her students "You're making history here."

KEY WORDS

basic enlisted medical training
Basic Medical Technician Corpsman Program (BMTCP)
Boot Camp
BRAC 2005 Consolidation of Enlisted Medical Training
Medical Education and Training Campus, Fort Sam Houston, Texas (METC)
Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program
Navy Medicine
Nurse Corps, U.S. Navy
Occupational Health Nurse
Women in the Military

GLOSSARY

AAACN: American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
BLS, BLSI: Basic Life Support; BLS Instructor
BMTCP: Basic Medical Technician/Corpsman Program, a consolidated entry level medical training course at the Medical Enlisted Training Center, Fort Sam Houston for Navy and Air Force enlisted medical training that was previously conducted for the Navy at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes Illinois, and for the Air force at Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, Texas. BMTCP was inaugurated 27 April 2011, and the first class graduated 19 July 2011.
BRAC: Base Realignment and Consolidation
Buddy Program: Navy Buddy Enlistment Program, for small groups of not more than four males or four females who wish to remain together as long as possible.
CNATRA: Chief of Naval Air Training, Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, TX.
Domino, Carol, HMC; first enlisted Navy instructor assigned to BMTCP.
DUINS: Duty Under Instruction: program that enables completion of full time university training
FSSG: Forward Service Support Group, U.S. Marines
Gonzales, Dahlia, Tech Sgt, USAF: Instructor, BMTCP
HIPPA: Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1966; enabled employees to retain health insurance coverage

when changing or losing a job; provisions addressed security and privacy of health data.

Joint Commission: accreditation survey by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations

MECP: Medical Education Commissioning Program: A fully funded BSN program that leads to commissioning in the Navy Nurse Corps.

METC: Medical Education and Training Campus, Fort Sam Houston, Texas (METC)

MHS: Military Healthcare System

MRSA: methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus*

Occupational Health:

POP Health: Population Health; efforts to improve health of an entire population; examples of components are disease and injury prevention services.

RP: religious program specialist (chaplain assistant)

RTC-Recruit Training Center

simulators: human simulators, mannequins used in training that are motorized and computerized and simulate a wide variety of conditions, and can blink, bleed, urinate, etc.; an example used at Fort Sam Houston is SimMan, manufactured by Laerdal Medical AS, a medical products and services company headquartered in Stavanger, Norway; products include patient simulators and manikins, including Resusci Anne, a training aid for mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, SimMan, and other devices.

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