

Navy Medicine Oral History Project
Oral History Interview Synopsis and Key Words
John A. Clapp, Ph.D.
Senior Psychologist
Naval Center for Combat and Operational Stress Control

Date and Location of Interview: 6 June 2013, Naval Medical Center, San Diego NMSCSD, California
Interviewer: Colonel Richard V.N. Ginn, USA, Ret., Office of Medical History, BUMED

SYNOPSIS

Dr. John A. Clapp was born in 1941 in Rochester, New York, where he grew up. He attended McQueen Jesuit high school where he lettered in football and basketball, and was co-captain of the basketball team in his senior year. His parents were Albert and Brunnette Clapp, and he has one brother, James A. Clapp, Ph.D., a retired college professor now living in San Diego. In 1963 he married his high school sweetheart, Mary Ellen Donovan. He graduated LeMoyne College in Syracuse, NY, in 1963, received a masters degree in psychology from Syracuse University, and in 1975, a Ph.D. in psychology with honors from the California School of Professional Psychology. He is a Fellow of the American with honors, Board of Clinical Psychology, a member of the American Academy of Clinical Psychology, and a member of the British Psychological Society.

After completing his Ph.D. and internship in San Diego, Dr. Clapp returned to Rochester as the clinical director of a Veterans Administration day treatment center where most of his patients were World War II veterans. However, he found that California had gotten "under my skin", and in 1977 he moved back to San Diego to practice in a psychiatric medical group from 1977-1979. From 1979-1993 he was in private practice, where about a third of his patients were military families who were covered under the military's CHAMPUS medical insurance. As a CHAMPUS provider he was asked to serve on a CHAMPUS quality assurance committee, and there he met RADM James Sears, commander of the Naval Medical Center, San Diego. This led to Dr. Clapp accepting a position with the medical center, initially from 1993-1995 on the staff of the Health Clinic at the Naval Training Center, San Diego; and from 1995-2004, at the Naval Air Station, North Island.

From 1997-2004 he was the Adult Mental Health Clinical Supervisor at NMSCSD a position that included Director of the Navy Post-Doctoral Psychology Internship Program. In this position, he trained and mentored psychiatry residents, and as

the senior clinical psychologist, served as a treating provider for staff physicians, house officers, residents and interns. He was a frequent commencement speaker, and was selected teacher of the year three times.

Dr. Clapp retired from government service in 2004. While he served as a volunteer in civic activities, as well as an examiner for the American Board of Professional Psychology, he found that retirement was not fulfilling, and in 2008 he accepted his current position as the senior psychologist for NCCOSC.

KEY FIGURES

Johnston, Scott Ph.D., CAPT, MSC, USN; psychologist, Commander, Naval Center for Combat and Operational Stress Control (NCCOSC) Lynch, Rich, General, USA; Commanding General, U.S. Army Installation Management Command.

Moore, Homer J, Jr., M.D., CAPT, USN: neurologist; in 1995 Senior Medical Officer, USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV63), and recipient of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Award for Excellence in Military Medicine, an award established in 1993 by Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher.

Napier, Helen, Ph.D., LT, MSC, USN: psychologist.

O'Toole, Jerry M., Psy.D., CDR, USPHS; Associate Director of the Tri-Service Integrator of Outpatient Programming Systems (TriOPS); a DOD mental health initiative for a network of 30 DOD outpatient programs for treatment of post-deployment mental health problems.

Rothacker, James A., Ph.D., CAPT, MSC, USN: psychologist. In 2012, Director, Tricare Area Office, Okinawa, Japan.

Sears, J. James T., M.D., RADM (Upper Half), MC, USN; in 2011 Chair, TriWest Healthcare Executive Advisory Board (a TRICARE contractor).

Wesch, Jerry E., Ph.D., clinical psychologist; Director, Warrior Combat Stress Reset Program, Darnall Army Community Hospital, Fort Hood, TX.

KEY WORDS

combat and operational stress control

Gulf War Syndrome

military psychology

military outpatient mental health programs

psychologists/psychiatrists on aircraft carriers

Navy Medicine

Navy Center for Combat and Operational and Stress Control (NCCOSC)

Warrior Recovery Center proposal for NMCS D

GLOSSARY

- 4 F: During the years of United States universal conscription, draft age males registered with the Selective Service System were given an overall classification for military service eligibility; category 4F represented those not qualified for military service due to physical, mental or moral causes.
- Airedales: members of the Navy aviation community
- BRAC: Base Realignment and Closure Act of 2005
- C5 Program: Comprehensive Combat and Complex Casualty Care, an NMCS D program begun in 2007 that provides rehabilitation to wounded, ill, and injured service members.
- DCoE: Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health, Arlington, VA; established in 2007.
- Natick Contracting Division; an element of the Army Contracting Command; is located at Natick, MA, and is the contracting office for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Naval Health Research Center, and others DOD agencies.
- Oasis Program: Overcoming Adversity and Stress Injury Support (OASIS); an NMCS D residential program at Naval Base Point Loma, CA, for military members with combat-related mental health problems; opened 19 November 2012.
- Psychological Health Pathways (PHP): an NCCOSC initiative announced in 2009 to improve mental health care for service members returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. A pilot program was announced in 2013.
- RFP: Request for Proposals; a solicitation step in the government contracting process
- TRIOPS: Tri-Service Integrator of Outpatient Programming Systems, a DOD outpatient mental health coordination program.
- USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV-63): commissioned 29 April 1961, decommissioned 12 May 2009
- USS *Constellation* (CV-64): *Kitty Hawk* class aircraft carrier; commissioned 27 October 1961, decommissioned 7 August 2003
- USS *Nimitz* (CVN-68): nuclear aircraft carrier, lead ship of the *Nimitz* class; commissioned 5 May 1975.
- Wesch, Jerry E., Ph.D., clinical psychologist; Director, Warrior Combat Stress Reset Program, Darnall Army Medical Center, Fort Hood, Texas.
- WIIR, Wounded Ill and Injured Registry.
- Wounded Warrior Regiment: a USMC command established in April

2007 that provides and facilitates non-medical care to combat or non-combat wounded, ill or injured Marines and sailors attached to or in direct support of Marine units. Its predecessor programs were the Wounded Warrior Barracks, established in 2004 and Marine for Life in 2005.

R. Ginn 12/29/13; 12/5/14; Rev JAC 1/22/14