

BUMED Oral History Interview Project
CAPT Anne Diggs, NC, USN
Synopsis and Glossary

Date and Location of Interview: May 1, 2014, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Falls Church, VA
Interviewer: André B. Sobocinski, BUMED Historian

Synopsis

A native of Atherton, CA, Captain Anne Diggs graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno, with a Bachelor's Degree of Science in Nursing. She spent eleven years as a civilian nurse specializing in Critical Care; specifically trauma, burns and cardio thoracic surgery.

Captain Diggs joined the Navy as a direct accession in 1988. Her first duty station was at the National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, MD, where she was a staff nurse in the ICU. In January 1992 she reported to Naval Medical Center, San Diego, CA, where she was assigned as Assistant Division officer of the ICU and Department Head of the Ambulatory Procedure Unit. In 1994, she transferred to Naval Hospital Groton, Connecticut, as the Clinic Manager for the Orthopedic Clinic and Department Head for Ambulatory Surgical Services. Her first overseas tour was U.S. Naval Hospital Naples, Italy where she coordinated the opening of the new Branch Health Clinic at Capodichino and then returned to the main hospital as the Performance Improvement Coordinator. During this period she earned her Master's in Business Administration from the University of Maryland (European Division).

From 2000 to 2005, CAPT Diggs served at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD, where her duties included Division Officer of the Ambulatory Procedure Unit, Critical Care Service Line Leader, and Assistant Director for Medical Surgical Services. In 2005 she took orders to U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka, Japan as the Director for Medical Services. She served as Executive Officer of Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton from June 2008 to March 2010. CAPT Diggs served as Commanding Officer, Naval Health Clinic Hawaii from March 2010 to June 2012. In March 2014, Captain Diggs became the Assistant Chief of Staff at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED).

Captain Diggs has had three operational tours on the hospital ship, USNS *Comfort* (T-AH 20) in the ICU; these include serving as a staff nurse during the 1990-1991 Desert Shield/Storm deployment and Division Officer during the 2001 New

York City post-September 11th and 2003 Operation Iraqi Freedom deployments.

Her personal awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards) and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards).

Key Acronyms

BUMED-Bureau of Medicine
CCR-Critical Care Rotator
CO-Commanding Officer
DEVRON-Submarine Development Squadron
ICU-Intensive Care Unit
EPW-Enemy Prisoners of War
NNMC-National Naval Medical Center
OIF-Operation Iraqi Freedom
WAVES- Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service
WII-Wounded, Ill, and Injured

Glossary

Atherton, CA-An unincorporated town in San Mateo County located on the San Francisco Peninsula in Northern California. In 2010 and 2013, Atherton (zip code 94027) was ranked as the wealthiest in the country by *Forbes* Magazine.

Bar pilots-Mariners who are responsible for guiding ships through the most difficult waterways (e.g., San Francisco Bay, Columbia River etc.)

Blankenship, Charles, CAPT (ret.), MC, USN-Served as the surgery department head aboard USNS *Comfort* from 1990 to 1991. From 1992 to 1995, CAPT Blankenship was the commanding officer of the *Comfort's* medical treatment facility, during which time the ship was activated for Operation Sea Signal (migrant processing) and Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti. He served again as commanding officer of the military treatment facility USNS *Comfort* from 2000 to 2003.

Cal-Maritime Academy-Established in 1929, as the California Nautical School. The school's mission was "to give practical and theoretical instruction in navigation, seamanship, steam engines, gas engines, and electricity in order to prepare young men to serve as officers in the American Merchant Marine."

Cedar Sinai Hospital-Founded in 1902, Cedars-Sinai is a world-renown non-profit hospital and research institution.

Eastwood, Clint-American Actor and Director. Eastwood served

as the non-partisan Mayor of Carmel from 1986 to 1988.

Faison, Forrest, RADM, MC, USN— RADM Forrest Faison, MC, USN. Admiral Faison served as the Commanding Officer of Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton (2007-2009), and Naval Medical Center San Diego, CA (2010-2012). Admiral Faison served as Deputy Surgeon General (2013-2015 and Surgeon General (2015-Present).

Ganz, William, MD (1919-2005) a cardiologist who co-invented the pulmonary artery catheter (Swan-Ganz Catheter) at Cedars Sinai in 1970.

Grey Lady (Red Cross)— A volunteer worker of the American Red Cross who provides nonprofessional care and services for the sick and convalescent usually in hospitals. So named, because of their grey uniforms.

Groton, Naval Hospital— Established as the Naval Submarine Medical Center on April 1, 1974, the facility was renamed Naval Hospital Groton in 1983. In 1998 it joined with Naval Hospital Newport and Naval Medical Clinic Portsmouth to be called "Naval Health Care New England." In 1998, inpatient care was discontinued and the clinic became the Navy's first free-standing Ambulatory Surgical Center. On Oct. 1, 2006, under guidance from the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, the clinic name officially changed to Naval Branch Health Clinic Groton.

Iwo Jima, Steam pipe accident aboard USS— In October 1990, USS *Iwo Jima* was in the Persian Gulf, as part of the buildup for Operation Desert Storm. She had developed a leak in a steam valve which supplied steam to a stand-by electrical generator. While docked in Bahrain the valve was repaired by a local contractor under U.S. government inspection. On 30 October, as *Iwo Jima* raised steam to get underway and rejoin the fleet, the valve began to leak once more. The bonnet blew off the valve, flooding the boiler room with steam from two boilers. Ten of the eleven crewmen in the room were killed, with the last surviving until 2330 that evening. (Source: Cummings, Timothy (December 3, 2012). "The Highest Level of Essentiality—When USS *Iwo Jima* Lost Ten of Her Own." *Mission Essentials*. September 3, 2012).

Kitty Hawk (CV-63, formerly CVA-63), USS—is a supercarrier named after the site of the Wright Brothers first powered airplane flight.

Loughney, Juel, CAPT (ret.), NC, USN—(1935-2009)—CAPT Loughney served 29 years as a nurse in the Navy retiring in 1995. She served aboard hospital ships in Vietnam (USS *Sanctuary*) and in the Gulf War (USNS *Comfort*). Upon her retirement in 1995, she was one of the most highly decorated Navy nurses.

Master's license (ship)— professional qualification required for

someone who serves as a person in charge/command of a commercial sea-going vessel (Master Mariner, Captain, etc.)
Matson Shipping Company/Navigation Company (now known as Matson, Inc.) -A public Pacific-wide Shipping company founded in 1882 by William Matson (1849-1917).

Matthews County-located on the Middle Peninsula of Virginia. The county includes Virginia Beach, Norfolk and Newport News, VA.

Memorial Sloan Kettering Center is a cancer research and treatment center located in New York City established in 1884.

Naples, Naval Hospital (Volcano Crater)- In July 1965, construction began on a new eight story, reinforced concrete structure on the slopes of a volcanic crater within the city limits of Pozzuoli, a suburb of Naples. The new hospital was occupied in October 1966 and in July 1968 was commissioned as Naval Hospital Naples. After severe damage to the hospital as a result of a series of earthquakes in the Pozzuoli-Agnano region the Navy began planning a newer facility that would keep pace with the latest seismic requirements. In April 2003, the new Naval Hospital opened in the Gricignano area of Naples.

Niemeyer, Elizabeth, RADM (ret.), NC, USN-Director Nurse Corps, and Deputy Director, Wounded Ill and Injured, (M9), BUMED (2011-2013).

Northampton, MA (WAVES)-Location of the WAVES Naval Reserve Midshipmen's School.

Shumway, Norman, MD (1923-2006) was a pioneering heart surgeon who is credited as the "father of heart transplantation."

Swan, Jeremy, MD (1922-2005) a cardiologist who co-invented the pulmonary artery catheter (Swan-Ganz Catheter) at Cedars Sinai in 1970.

Taos, New Mexico-Located in North-Central New Mexico. The name "Taos" derives from the native Taos language meaning "place of red willows."

WAVES (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service)-In August 1942, the Women's Reserve program or WAVES (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service) was organized under the direction of a former president of Wellesley College named Mildred McAfee. By the end of World War II, WAVES were serving as enlisted sailors and officers in the same ratings and specialties as their male counterparts at every naval station in the continental United States and, after 1943, the Territory of Hawaii (TH).

Worcester State Teachers College- Founded in 1874 as a teacher-training school, Worcester State University has grown to become a traditional liberal arts and sciences university

with programs spanning the biomedical sciences, business, humanities, behavioral sciences, the health professions, and, of course, education (source: www.worcester.edu).