

Navy Medicine Oral History Project
Oral History Interview Synopsis, and Key Word List
Robert E. Francisco, USN
LPO Radiology and Ancillary Services
Naval Branch Health Clinic, Port Hueneme, CA

Date and Location of Interview: 6 June 2013, Port Hueneme, CA
Interviewer: COL Richard Ginn, USA, Ret., Office of Medical History, BUMED

SYNOPSIS

HMI Francisco was born on 26 October 1967 in Olongapo, Philippines, where he grew up as one of eight children of Silvion and Rosita Francisco. He graduated Saint Joseph High School, Olongapo City, in 1984, and in 1989 earned a bachelor of science in electronics engineering from Saint Louis University, Baguio City. He is married to Eleanor Francisco, who he met while in college, and they have three sons: Jonathan, John and Jeffrey.

In 1991 he immigrated to the U.S. along with one of his brothers, and today all his siblings, with the exception of one brother, are living in the U.S. He worked as an equipment attendant in the operating room of the Lakewood Regional Medical Center in Lakewood, California for the next thirteen years. However, he became dissatisfied, and impressed with the opportunity in the military for education and training in x-ray technology, he visited Air Force and Navy recruiters. He was over the age limit for the Air Force, but acceptable for the Navy, and enlisted in September 1999. He completed Boot Camp and Hospital Corpsman "A" School at Great Lakes in 2000 and the Basic X-ray Technician "C" School at the Naval School of Health Sciences, San Diego, California in 2003.

His initial assignment from 2000-2003 was as a hospital corpsman at the Naval Medical Center, San Diego followed by duty from 2003-2006 as an x-ray technician at the Naval Branch Health Clinic in Sasebo, Japan. He returned to the States for attendance at the Advanced X-Ray Technician Course at the Naval Health Sciences School, San Diego, from 2006-7, and then returned for a second tour in Japan, this time at the Naval Hospital in Yokosuka. He was assigned to the Naval Branch Health Clinic Port Hueneme, California, in 2010, where he currently is the Leading Petty Office for Radiology and Ancillary Services.

HMI Francisco has had three deployments as an Individual Augmentee (IA) for periods of 7-8 months each. The first was in 2008 to the Expeditionary Medical Facility in Kuwait. The second in 2009 was also to EMF Kuwait. At the time of this interview he had recently returned from duty with the NATO Training Mission

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in Kabul, Afghanistan where he served as a medical advisor for the Afghan National Police. He described the challenges of advising his Afghan colleagues who desired to have the latest digital radiography equipment, but were faced with the lack of training at all levels (he encountered no certified radiologists), a broken supply system, and the lack of funding, which was in great measure due to corruption. It was a most frustrating task.

He and his wife were thrilled when he returned home, especially the chance to surprise his three boys at school with reunions that greatly moved him and will never be forgotten. As for the Navy, it has fulfilled his desire for training as a radiology technician. His only caveat is the requirement for semi-annual PT tests, which he must complete with an alternate test due to a back injury.

KEY WORDS

Enlisted X-Ray Technician, U.S. Navy
Hospital Corpsman
Individual Augmentee
Medical Advisor Afghan National Police
Navy Medicine
NATO Training Mission Afghanistan
OEF

R.Ginn 7/24/14