

**Navy Medicine Oral History Project**  
**Oral History Interview Synopsis and Key Words**  
**John Garr, COL, Medical Corps, USA**  
**Commanding Officer,**  
**The Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute (DMRTI),**  
**Fort Sam Houston, TX**

Date and Location of Interview: April 10, 2013, Telephonic  
Interviewer: André B. Sobocinski, BUMED Historian

Colonel Garr joined the Medical Service Corps as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in 1977 after graduating from the ROTC program at the University of Illinois, Chicago. He was commissioned as a Medical Service Corps officer, and spent his first assignment in Germany with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division in Hadack, Germany. He then went to the Augsburg, Germany MEDAC as the operations officer, and then to Fort Stewart, Georgia as the company commander with the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Bravo Company, 24<sup>th</sup> Medical Battalion, and then became an MSC officer in Detroit for his Tri Service assignment. He then spent four years teaching at the Army Medical Department, Fort Sam Houston, TX.

After a ten year break in service, Colonel Garr returned to Graduate School and got a Master's degree in biomedical engineering at UT Austin. He then spent a year as an engineer in the D.C. area before getting sent to Medical School, went back to San Antonio to attend Medical School on an HTSP scholarship, and was recommissioned in 1998. He then did an emergency medicine residency at Darnell Army Hospital and went to Korea for three years-one year as Chief of the emergency room for 121 Hospital and two years as the Division Surgeon for the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Afterwards, Colonel Garr went to Fort Bliss as Chief of the ER and deployed to Iraq while there. He then received an assignment to Heidelberg, Germany as the Deputy Commander for clinical services and then went back to Fort Sam where he was in common developments for two years, U.S. Army Medical Command for two years, and is currently Commander of DMRTI.

**KEY WORDS**

DMRTI- Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute  
C4 Task Force  
Joint Medical Administrative Center  
C4- Combat Casualty Care Course

USUHS-Uniform Service University Health Sciences  
DASD-Deputy Secretary of Defense  
Force Health Protection and Readiness  
Joint Operational Medical Management Course  
sequestration