

BUMED Oral History Project
LCDR Jinaki Shani Gourdine, MSC, USN
Operational Assessment Department Head,
Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE)

Date and Location of Interview: April 24, 2014, Telephonic
Interviewer: Mr. André B. Sobocinski, BUMED Historian

Synopsis

Lieutenant Commander Jinaki S. Gourdine is a native of Charleston, South Carolina. She enrolled in college at the University of South Carolina where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology in 1998. She continued her studies at Clemson University where she graduated with a Master of Science degree in Entomology in 2002. In 2003, she was commissioned in the Navy as a Lieutenant Junior Grade, Medical Service Corps officer and enrolled in the Officer Indoctrination School (OIS) in Rhode Island.

Following OIS, Commander Gourdine reported to Navy Disease Vector Ecology and Control Center in Silverdale, WA where she worked as Department Head of Operations. In 2005, she deployed as a staff entomologist for the Forward Deployable Preventive Medicine Unit (FDPMU) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Upon completion of her deployment, she was then assigned to the Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit No 5 in San Diego. As the Fleet Support division officer and instructor, she initiated the training and implementation of the new US Navy Ship Sanitation Control/Exemption certificate (SSCC/SSCEC) program. In 2008, she was assigned as Officer in Charge, Preventive Medicine Unit, at Marine Corps Base Lejeune in North Carolina, in which she provided oversight of the disease vector surveillance program serving MEF units at MCB Camp Lejeune, MCAS New River, Camp Geiger and Camp Johnson.

In 2011, Commander Gourdine reported to the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence as Department Head, Operational Assessment. During this tour, she was temporarily assigned to Bravo Surgical Company, Maintenance Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group at Marine Corps Base Pendleton in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan. As Officer in Charge of the Preventive Medicine Detachment and chairman of the Rabies Advisory Board for Regional Command-Southwest (RC/SW), she maintained the oversight of preventive medicine Disease Non-battle Injury (DNBI) status reporting and initiated the conversion of the new online DNBI reporting system for RC/SW Forward Operating Bases and Combat Outposts. Upon returning from deployment, she resumed her tour at the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence. There, she is currently overseeing the progress towards the completion of several multi-disciplinary projects funded through the Deployed Warfighter Protection Program.

LCDR Gourdine's personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal (3 awards) and various unit and campaign awards.

Key Acronyms

AOR—Area of Responsibility
DUINS—Duty Under Instruction Program
DVECC—Disease Vector Ecology & Control Center
EHO—Environmental Health Officer
FDPMU—Forward Deployable Preventive Medicine Unit
MRAP—Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle.
NEPMU—Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit
NECE—Navy Entomology Center for Excellence
NEPMU—Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit
OPTEMPO—Operations/Operating Tempo
PMT—Preventive Medicine Technician
OIS—Officer Indoctrination School
USDA—United States Department of Agriculture

Glossary

- Al Assad Airfield or Camp Al Assad—the second largest airbase in Iraq. During the Iraq War it was a major transportation hub. It was nicknamed “Camp Cupcake” because of the many amenities available to personnel—e.g., 24-hour coffee shops, ice cream stores, swimming pools and movie theaters etc.
- Al Taqaddum (TQ) Airbase (after 2004, “Camp Al Taqaddum”)—located in central Iraq approximately 46 miles West of Baghdad. The name “Taqaddum” is an Arabic word which means “progress.”
- BASF—Headquartered in Ludwigshafen, Germany, BASF is the largest chemical company in the world. Originally, BASF stood for “Badische Anilin- und Soda-Fabrik” or “Baden Anillin and Soda Factory.
- Bravo Surgical Company— Navy Medical Company located in Camp Fallujah, Iraq.
- Camp Geiger—satellite facility of Camp Lejeune. In use since 1953, it is home to the Marine Corps School of Infantry.
- Camp Gilbert Johnson—satellite camp of Camp Lejeune and home to the Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools (MCCSSS), where various support military occupational specialties are trained.
- Camp Leatherneck—1,600 acre USMC base in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.
- Clemson University— Founded in 1889, Clemson University is an American public, coeducational land-grant and sea-grant research university located in Clemson, SC. The school consists of five colleges: Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences; Architecture, Art and Humanities; Business and Behavioral Sciences; Engineering and Science and Health; and Health education and Human Development.
- Cope, Stan, CAPT (ret.), MSC, USN - a Navy entomologist who served 23 years in the Navy. At the time of this interview Dr. Cope was retired from the Navy and serving as the manager of technical services at Terminex.
- Dari—a Persian dialect that is spoken in Afghanistan.
- Dursban— Type of widely-used insecticide produced by Dow Chemical that proved to be toxic to humans.
- Gunnery Sergeant or simply “Gunny”— is seventh enlisted rank in the United States Marine Corps, just above Staff Sergeant and below Master Sergeant.
- Halliburton— A Houston-based, multinational company and provider of oilfield services. In the Iraq War Halliburton was awarded a no-bid \$7 billion contract leading to accusations of war profiteering.

Harrison, Howard, PhD. is a research agronomist at the United States Department of Agriculture's National Laboratory. His main interest is in the response of sweet potatoes to weeds and herbicides.

Hoffman, Eric CAPT MSC, USN, OIC, Navy Entomology Center of Excellence, 2011-Present and also Navy Entomology Specialty Leader.

James Island- A semi-rural town located in Charlestown County, Charleston, SC.

Jinaki-The name Jinaki comes from the Swahili word meaning "Self-confident" and "proud."

Joint Expeditionary Base East-Fort Story, Hampton, VA is an Army base controlled by the Navy. The base is the prime location and training environment for both Army amphibious operations and Joint Logistics-Over-the-Shore (LOTS) training events.

McCutcheon, Gloria PhD, is an associate professor in the Department of Entomology at Clemson University, Coastal Research and Education Center, Charleston, SC.

Motel 6-discount hotel chain. Originally, rooms cost just six dollars a night, hence the name "Motel 6." For many years the hotel's motto was "We'll leave the light on for you."

Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit (NEPMU)-provides operational support in industrial and environmental medicine, entomology, public health and surveillance, pest management and education and training. Commander Gourdine was assigned to NEPMU-5 located in San Diego, CA.

Preventive Medicine Technician (PMT) "C" School-formerly located at the Naval School of Health Sciences, San Diego, CA. It is now located at the Tri-Service Medical and Education Training Campus in Fort Sam Houston, TX.

University of South Carolina-Founded in 1801, the University of South Carolina is a public, co-educational research university located in downtown Columbia, SC.

USDA Vegetable Laboratory- U. S. Vegetable Laboratory at Charleston, SC, conducts research to solve region-wide and national problems in the production and protection of vegetable crops. (source: www.ars.usda.gov)