

Oral History Interview Synopsis and Glossary
Rear Admiral Charles D. Harr, MC, USNR

Date and Location of Interview: 26 August, 2013, Arlington, Virginia

Interviewers: Mr. André Sobocinski and Colonel Richard Ginn, Ret., USA, Office of Medical History, BUMED

SYNOPSIS

Admiral Charles D. Harr was born and raised in Bristol, Tennessee, and attended East Tennessee State University where he was a pre-med student with a major in biology. His family was of modest means, and in high school he began working at the local hospital as an orderly, and later as an emergency technician, a practice he continued during college and medical school during breaks and summer vacations. His family was of modest means, but was determined to assist him attend medical school, to the extent that his father offered to mortgage their home to make that possible. That would not be necessary as Admiral Harr's continued employment, the support of his home town, and a scholarship that covered his tuition for four years enabled him to go to medical school at Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Wake Forest University, where he graduated in 1983. This was followed by an internship, a residency in general surgery, and a fellowship and second residency in cardiothoracic surgery at North Carolina Baptist Hospital. He is board certified by the American Board of Surgery, and the American Board of Thoracic Surgery.

Motivated by a sense of obligation to pay back the support that enabled him to earn a medical degree, the ideals of the military, and the example of two "bigger than life" medical school professors who were also military physicians, Harr was commissioned as a lieutenant commander, Medical Corps, U.S. Navy Reserve in 1989. In 1991 upon completion of residency training, he was brought on active duty and after completion of Officer Development School at Norfolk, Virginia, reported to the Naval Hospital, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where he served as a general surgeon from 1991 to 2004. This duty included service with the Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery Team of the Naval Medical Center, San Diego, California, and interim duty as surgeon aboard the USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74).

In 2004, Admiral Harr reverted to active Reserve status, and entered private practice in Charlotte, North Carolina. As a Reservist he was assigned to the Forward Resuscitative Surgical System (FRSS) of the 4th Medical Battalion, a Marine Forces Reserve unit, which is also in Charlotte. This was followed by

assignments as the Officer in Charge, Detachment 12, Headquarters and Service Company; and Chief of Professional Services, Surgical Company Bravo. During this period he participated in African Lion and Arctic Care exercises in Morocco and Alaska, respectively. While in Morocco he served as the OIC of the FRSS, an assignment in a remote and isolated area that demonstrated the utility of the newly developed field hospital in an emergency surgery that saved the leg of a Marine injured in a training incident. From 2006 to 2009 he was Group Surgeon of the Fourth Marine Logistical Group in New Orleans, and from 2009 to 2011 he commanded the Fourth Medical Battalion until being selected in 2013 as the first Reservist Medical Officer of the Marine Corps.

KEY FIGURES

Anderson, Mike, M.D., RADM, USN, Ret.; Medical Officer of the Marine Corps, 2011-2013.

Andrus, Peter L., M.D., RADM, MC, USNR, Ret. 2005; assignments included Force Surgeon, Marine Forces Reserve

Bowman, H.R., M.D., CAPT, MC, USN; proponent of the FRSS

Chinn, Colin G., M.D., RADM, MC, USN Command Surgeon, U.S. Pacific Command and Chief, Medical Corps, U.S. Navy.

Kelly, Jerry R., M.D., RADM, MC, USN; Reserve Deputy Medical Officer of the Marine Corps

Kerr, Rocky, CAPT, MC, USN; in 2004, detachment OIC, 4th Medical Battalion

Moody, John, D., in 1979, Chief of Police, Bristol, Tenn.

Pecha, Brian S., M.D., CAPT/RDML (SEL), MC, USN; Force Surgeon, Marine Forces Reserve

Ranawat, Anwar S., M.D., CAPT, MC, USNR, Orthopedic Surgeon, New York, NY

Robinson, Adam M., M.D., VADM: Surgeon General, US Navy, 2007-2011

Rogier, George, M.D., COL, USAFR: Professor, Bowman Gray Medical School, 1979-83

Stevens, Ron, M.D., CAPT, MC, USN;

Tolmie, John D., M.D., Rear Admiral, USNR: Associate Dean Academic Affairs, Wake Forest University

KEY WORDS

African Lion
Arctic Care
Forward Resuscitative Surgery System (FRSS)
Innovative Readiness Training (IRT)
Inspector-Instructor, USMC
PRIMUS

GLOSSARY AND ACRONYMS

- 4th Medical Battalion: located in Charlotte, NC: assigned to the 4th Marine Logistics Group, Marine Forces Reserve,
- African Lion: annual bilateral U.S.-Morocco joint, combined exercise; the largest exercise conducted by the U.S. Africa Command
- Artic Care: a joint military medical readiness exercise that provide free health care to Alaska residents in rural communities, including medical, dental, optometry, and veterinary services, is an example of Innovative Readiness Training (IRT)
- AT: active training, i.e. Reservist on paid active duty for training
- "Colour My World", a song written by James Pancow, a founding member of the rock band Chicago; first released in March 1970, and a popular slow dance song at high school and college dances in the 1970s.
- Forward Resuscitative Surgery System (FRSS): a mobile field medical system developed by the Navy to provide battlefield general anesthesia and surgery forward of the Combat Support Hospital, with the ability to treat up to eighteen typical trauma patients for at least 48 hours without resupply of additional personnel, and able to move with its organic vehicles and personnel and to receive casualties within one hour of arrival at its new location; was first deployed in March 2003 in southern Iraq.
- Innovative Readiness Training (IRT): a Department of Defense program of civil-military projects designed to enhance unit training and readiness while fulfilling a community need; was established in 1993, and is directed by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.
- Inspector-Instructor (I&I): active duty Marines assigned to Marine Reserve units to enhance individual and unit readiness.
- "Knife and Fork School": Officer Development School (formerly the Officer Indoctrination School), U.S. Navy Training Command, Newport, Rhode Island
- MEF: largest Marine combined arms force: consists of a division plus, an aircraft wing, an aviation combat element, and a logistics group; about 50,000 Marines, commanded by a lieutenant general.
- Osprey MV-22: multi-mission tilt rotor aircraft with both VSTOL and STOL capability; fielded by the USMC in 2007 as replacement for the CH 46 Sea Knight helicopter. A training

crash 11 April 2006 during African Lion resulted in two Marines killed and two seriously wounded.

PRIMUS: Primary Medical Care for the Uniformed Services; the Department of Defense health plan for military families replaced by TRICARE, the Department of Defense health care program for active duty, National Guard, and Reserve military members, retirees, families and survivors.

P-ways: passageways

SMO: senior medical officer

UNREP: underway replenishment

U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM): one of nine unified United States combatant commands

USS *John C. Stennis* CVN-74): Nimitz Class nuclear aircraft carrier; commissioned 9 December 1995. The air wing consists of eight to nine squadrons.