

BUMED Oral History Interview Synopsis and Key Words
Captain James D. Kielek, Jr., MSC, USNR

Date and Location of Interview: Uniformed Services University,
Bethesda, Maryland, 19 February 2011

Interviewer: COL Richard V.N. Ginn, USA, Ret.

SYNOPSIS

CAPT Jim Kielek is completing 38 years of service, 34 of which have been in the Navy Reserve. Born and raised in Baltimore Maryland, CAPT Kielek was one of nine children, including five sisters and three brothers. His father, now deceased, was a gunner's mate 3d class on an LST in the Pacific during WWII. CAPT Kielek enlisted in the Navy in 1973 upon graduation from high school. He completed basic training and Hospital Corpsman A-School at the Naval Station Great Lakes, Illinois, and served as a hospital corpsman at the Naval Hospital, Quantico, Virginia until 1977, when he left active duty and transferred to the Navy Reserve. He completed an associate's degree program as a physician assistant at Essex Community College in 1982, followed by a BA in biological sciences from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in 1984. He advanced to chief petty officer (E7) in 1983, and in 1984 was commissioned as a chief warrant officer (CWO2), physician assistant, and later learned he had been selected for promotion to senior chief petty officer (E8). In 1989 he was converted to ensign, Medical Service Corps, and to his knowledge, he is the only physician assistant in Navy history to advance from E-1 to E-7, warrant officer, and commissioned officer, 01-06. Throughout his career, his most satisfying assignments have been those that entailed hands-on tasks; he has not enjoyed purely administrative duties. His longest running assignment was fourteen years in a variety of duties with the USS *Holland*, a submarine tender.

Kielek has been mobilized twice through involuntary recall to active duty. The first was in 2004 for one year, with five months at MCRD, Parris Island, SC and seven months at NAS Jacksonville, FL. The second was in 2009 for fifteen months at the DWMCMC Clinic, LARMC in Landstuhl, Germany, where he was surprised at the number of combat stress cases that were coming through daily for transfer to CONUS medical facilities, and thus not returned for duty in OIF/OEF. His pre-deployment training for this tour was conducted with the Seabees at Port Hueneme, California.

In private life he has been employed as a physician assistant for over 25 years, and for the last ten years as the

Chief Physician Assistant of the Family Practice Clinic, Franklin Square Hospital Center in Baltimore, Maryland. He and his wife, Denise, an RN, were married in 1984, and have two children, James D., Jr., and Elise.

KEY WORDS

Deployed Warrior Medical Management Center (DWMMC), LARMC
Heat casualty in training
Hospital Corpsman
Hospital Corps School
Marine Corps medical support
Navy Reserve, Medical
OIF: Operation Iraqi Freedom
Operation Continuing Promise
Parris Island
Physician Assistant, U.S. Navy

GLOSSARY

1MC: 1 Main Circuit, the public announcement system aboard a Navy vessel
8404: NEC HM-8404-FMF, Hospital Corpsman (Field Medical Service Technician; hospital corpsman subspecialty for service with the Marines; requires completion of training at Camp Lejeune of Camp Pendleton.
Advanced Training Battalion, ATB:
AT: annual training
Bethesda 406: Operational Health Support Unit, Walter Reed National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD (office in Bldg 406).
BICEPS: a combat stress treatment protocol: brevity, immediacy, centrality, expectancy, proximity, simplicity
Bosun: Boatswain; boatswain mates are leaders and the backbone of a ship's crew; responsibilities include maintenance of all exterior surfaces, deck handling machinery and equipment, handling cargo, and operating small boats.
BRAC: Base Realignment and Closure; acts of Congress to close military installation; e.g. BRAC 2005 directed closure of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and its consolidation with the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD, as the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.
Brow: gangway or plank used to board or disembark a ship
Cho, John M., M.D., COL, MC: at time of interview, Commander, LRMCMC.
Chernobyl: Nuclear accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine on 27 April 1986, the worst nuclear incident in history.

Combat Life Saver: Army program that increases availability of life-saving capability on the battlefield by training non-medical soldiers in a 40-hour course of instruction that bridges the self-aid/buddy-aid instruction for all Soldiers in basic training, and the medical training of the combat medic.

Corps School: Naval Hospital Corps School, Great Lakes, Illinois
Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Michigan; conducts primary training for NEC HM-0000 "Quad Zero" hospital corpsman. The Great Lakes school closed in 2011 and relocated to the Medical Education and Training Campus, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX as part of BRAC 2005.

Corpsman: enlisted Navy hospitalman specialty, comparable to Army medic;

Crucible: 54 hour training exercise conducted as final phase of Marine Corps basic training
Dunbar, Al, HM1 USN

DWMMC: Deployed Warrior Medical Management Center created in 2002 at LRMC to handle the movement requirements, documentation needs, and case management needs of Soldiers evacuated from theater. It coordinates patient movement and medical care for service members and civilians who become wounded or ill while serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Fast Cruising: simulated underway exercise conducted while pier side

FEP: Fitness Enhancement Program; remedial physical fitness program for personnel who fail the periodic Body Composition Assessment (BCA) or Physical Readiness Test (PRT)

FOB: forward operating base

Franklin Square Hospital Center: 3d largest hospital in Maryland, located in Baltimore; is part of the MD; part of the MedStar chain.

Hibiclens: antiseptic, antibacterial soap

HIPAA: Health Insurance Portability and Accessibility Act of 1996; Title I established national standards for electronic of healthcare transactions, and Title II addressed security and privacy.

HME: home-made explosive

HRA: health risk assessment

IA: Individual Augmentee; Sailors who support or "augment" another Navy, Marine Corps or Army command. Sailors usually go to their IA assignment on temporary or TAD orders and return to their current or "parent" command once

they complete their assignment. Assignments vary in length from a few months to a year or more. In January 2011, there were 9,532 Navy IAs: 4,793 Active Duty and 4739 Reserve (Source: Navy IA Facebook page)

IED: improvised explosive device

IMSP: Integrated Medical Support Program; initiative to shift Reserve unit drills to a mobilization site; eg. NNMC Bethesda became a primary drill site for some 450 officer and enlisted Reservists.

LRMC: Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, (formerly Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center), Landstuhl, Germany

M 240B: 7.62 machine gun adopted by the U.S. Army in 1977.

MEDRETE: Medical Readiness Training Exercise

MTF: medical treatment facility

MRSA: methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus*

NEC: Navy Enlisted Classification

Naval Weapons Station Charleston, as of 1 October, 2010, part of Joint Base Charleston—a consolidation of Air Force and Navy units under BRAC 2005.

New Horizon: 2007 MEDRETE in Suriname (formerly Dutch Guiana)

Operation Continuing Promise: annual four-month humanitarian exercises conducted by U.S. Southern command; in 2009 conducted in Panama, Columbia, and El Salvador.

OSHU: Operational Health Support Unit, WRNMC, Bethesda, MD; five detachments: Det HQ, Q, and S at WRNMC, Bethesda; Det P is at Andrews AFB, and Det I is at NOSC, Baltimore, MD.

PA: physician assistant; first program was started in 1965 at Duke University, Durham, NC, by Eugene A. Stead, Jr., MD; the first class, composed of Navy corpsmen, graduated in 1967.

Parris Island: Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina

PHA: Periodic Health Assessment

PIES: proximity, immediacy, expectancy, simplicity - protocol for treatment of combat stress.

Port Hueneme, California: Seabee base

Prowler: EA-6B Grumman Prowler; twin engine electronic warfare/attack aircraft

RFAS Code: Reserve Functional and Sex Code; used to identify positions for assignment

SSBN: ballistic missile submarine

St. Michael School: St. Michael the Archangel School, Baltimore, MD.

TCCC: Tactical Combat Casualty Care Course; course curriculum developed by the National Association of EMTs.

Towson University: regional university located in Towson, MD, about eight miles north of Baltimore.

Tsunami Japan: March 11, 2011 tsunami; damage included nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant when the cooling system failed and three reactors melted down.

USS *George Bancroft*: SSBN-643; nuclear submarine, decommissioned 21 September 1993

USS *Frank Cable*, AS-40; submarine tender

USNS *Comfort*, T-AH 20: hospital ship, based in Baltimore, MD.

USS *Holland*, AS-3: submarine tender; decommissioned 21 March 1947

USS *Emory S. Land*, AS-39: submarine tender

USS *Proteus*, AS-19: submarine tender; decommissioned September 1992.

USS *L.Y. Spear*, AS-36: submarine tender; decommissioned 6 September 1996 watch: the watch system assigns regular periods of duty (watch) that allow ships to effectively operate 24 hours per day.

Wet/Dry Program: assignment swapping program

windlass: apparatus for moving heavy weights

YFNB: 260' by 48' steel covered lighter, non-self propelled; provides housing for submarine crew and shops for sub maintenance.

Yoke: Yoke is a material condition, and setting yoke is designating one of three material conditions that is set during operations at sea and in port, X-Ray, Yoke and Zebra, and hatches are marked X, Y or Z.

UNIQUE EXPRESSIONS AND TERMINOLOGY

- Gear Adrift: loose items; area not picked up
- "Sweepers, Sweepers, man your brooms. Give the ship a clean sweep down both fore and aft. Sweep down all lower decks, ladder wells and passageways. Dump all garbage clear of the fantail." -- a routine announcement over the 1MC aboard Navy ships.
- Setting Zebra: highest condition of material readiness aboard ship to maintain water tightness and damage control; is automatically executed whenever general quarters is called
- "mashed together": physical and military drills as part of Boot Camp
- "Happy Hour": one hour of physical and military drills as punishment in Boot Camp
- Signing yoke: Condition X-Ray (X) is the minimal level of watertightness and the greatest ease of access throughout the ship. Yoke (Y) is a greater level of integrity, and Zebra (Z) is the highest level. Yoke is routinely checked twice a day by

a sailor "signing yoke", i.e., signing a checklist for his area that identifies each opening.