

Navy Medicine Oral History Project
Captain John D. Larnerd, Jr., Captain, MSC, USN
Commander, U.S. Navy Medical Training Support Center (NMTSC)

Date and Location of Interview: 28 September 2012, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Interviewer: Colonel Richard V.N. Ginn, USA, Ret., Office of Medical History, BUMED

Synopsis

Captain Larnerd's career in Navy Medicine is characterized by wide-ranging experience in direct patient care and healthcare administration, initially as an enlisted corpsman and later as a commissioned officer, and the completion of bachelor's and master's degrees while on active duty. His enlisted experience included clinical patient care, operating room technician and independent duty corpsman. His commissioned experience has encompassed clinic and hospital administration, facilities construction management, graduate program instructor, medical administration staff officer; executive officer of a hospital ship treatment facility, and commander of the Navy Medical Training Support Center. He and his wife Deborah have a daughter, Sharon, and a son, LT John D. Larnerd, III, a Navy aviator on active duty.

Larnerd was born in Binghamton, New York near the Pennsylvania border, and he grew up in Binghamton and nearby Vestal, New York. He enlisted in 1975, and his initial assignments were in outpatient clinics in Treasure Island, California and Groton, Connecticut. This was followed by completion of the operating room technician school in Bethesda, Maryland with assignments as an OR Tech at Naval medical facilities in Adak, Alaska and Millington, Tennessee. He then completed independent duty corpsman (IDC) school, followed by assignment from 1985-1986 as the only medically trained crewmember for the nuclear submarine USS *Scamp* (SSN-558). He was an honor graduate of both the OR Tech and IDC schools.

In 1986 CAPT Larnerd was selected for commissioning in the Navy Medical Service Corps, and was sworn in as an ensign. Following completion of the Officer Indoctrination School, he was assigned to the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, where he completed his bachelor's degree on weekends. From 1988-1993 he was assigned to the Naval Hospital, Annapolis, as the Medical Construction Liaison Officer for an extensive modernization project. From 1993 to 1995 he completed in a full time master's degree program at the University of Maryland, which was followed by assignment as an instructor at the

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Subsequent tours were in Groton as the Director for Administration of both the branch health clinic, as well as the consolidated Naval Health Care, New England system. From 2001-2004 he was stationed in La Maddalena, Italy as the Officer in Charge of the Naval Clinic, and from 2004-2008 he was assigned to Norfolk, Virginia, as the Medical Administration Officer for the Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

From 2008-2010 he was assigned as the Executive Officer of the Treatment Facility, USNS *Comfort* (T-AH-20), and was serving in that capacity for the deployment of the *Comfort* to Haiti for the humanitarian mission following the devastating earthquake in 2010. Later that year he was assigned as the Executive Officer of the Navy Medical Training Support Center during the historic consolidation of all Army, Navy and Air Force initial medical training at the Medical Education and Training Campus, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. At the time of this interview he was the commanding officer.

KEY FIGURES

Boorda, Jeremy M., ADM, 1939-1996: CNO, 1994-1996, the first U.S. sailor to rise from the enlisted ranks to CNO; committed suicide in 1996. One of his first acts as CNO was to re-establish the Seaman to Admiral (STA) commissioning program.

Mateczun, John M., MC, VADM, USN; in 2011, Commander, Joint Task Force, National Capital Region Medical

Mittleman, Michael H., O.D., RADM (Upper Half): Command Surgeon, Pacific Command, 2010-2011; Deputy Surgeon General, USN, 2011-2013

Truran, Paul F., Jr., CAPT, MSC, USN, Ret." Medical logistics officer, the Paul F. Truran, Jr. Medical Materiel and Logistics Management Award was established in 1992 and is presented annually by the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS).

Zarkowsky, John, CAPT, MSC, USN, Ret. In 2003, Hospital Ship Project Manager, BUMED.

KEY WORDS

appendicitis aboard a submarine

BMTC

BRAC 2005 -- Consolidation of enlisted medical training
consolidation of military enlisted medical training

Haiti earthquake 2010

independent duty corpsman

military medical "jointness"

Joint Medical Executive Skills Program (JMESP)

Medical Service Corps in-service commissioning program
M ETC
Navy Corpsman
Navy Hospital Corps "A" School, Great Lakes, IL
Navy Medicine
operating room technician
Operation Continuing Promise
Presidential Suite, Bethesda
USNS *Comfort* humanitarian support for the Haiti earthquake
submarine duty
submarine medicine

GLOSSARY

9/11: Nearly 3,000 people were killed on 11 September 2001 in four coordinated suicide attacks by al Qaeda terrorists using hijacked commercial airliners. Two airliners were flown into the World Trade Center, New York City; a third attacked The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.; and a fourth designated for the U.S. Capitol, crashed into a field near Shanksville, PA, after passengers attempted to take control of the plane. Osama bin Laden, the al-Qaeda leader, claimed responsibility for ordering the attack. He was killed by U.S. forces in a raid in Pakistan on 2 May 2011.

9/11 Response: response by the Navy Clinic in La Maddalena Italy to this worldwide threat

68W: Army medical occupational specialty (MOS) for Health Care Specialist (Combat Medic); a 16 week course conducted at METC. Graduates are trained to the standard of Emergency Medical Treatment- Basic (EMT-B) of the National Registry of Emergency Technicians.

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 or Camp Pendleton.

A school: Navy enlisted basic specialty school, e.g. Hospital Corpsman

AIRLANT: Naval Air Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet

AMSUS: Association of Military Surgeons of the United States

Army-Baylor: U.S. Army-Baylor University Program in Health Administration, Fort Sam Houston, Texas

Anthrax attack: On 18 September 2001, a week after 9/11, letters containing anthrax spores were mailed to several news media offices and two U.S. senators in Washington D.C., killing five people and infecting twelve others. Bruce Edwards Ivins, a medical researcher at Fort Detrick Maryland, died on 29 July 2008 from a drug overdose. He was named by Federal prosecutors as the sole culprit on 6

August 2008, and on 19 February 2010, the FBI closed its investigation.

Beloved Community: The end goal of Martin Luther King's non-violent resistance that would bring reconciliation, redemption and a "beloved community".

BMET: biomedical technician; an enlisted NEC

BMTCP: Basic Medical Technician/Corpsman Program, a consolidated entry level medical training course for the Navy and Air Force; inaugurated 27 April 2011 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The first class graduated 19 July 2011.

BRAC 2005: Base Realignment and Closure Act of 2005; included consolidation of enlisted medical training at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX

Bubble memory: Bell Labs invention in the 1970's that promised to replace the computer hard disk. Magnetic bubble memory was a method of recording data in bubble-like regions on a chip, but difficulties in manufacturing, inconvenience and high cost prevented wide acceptance.

C School; Navy enlisted advanced specialty school; e.g. Laboratory Technician

cholecystectomy: removal of the gall bladder

COB; chief of boat, senior enlisted sailor aboard a U.S. Navy vessel

Continuing Promise: (CP09, etc.); an annual humanitarian civil assistance operation supported by U.S. and international military medical personnel.

Corps School: Naval Hospital Corps A School, Great Lakes, Illinois 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 (METC), Fort Sam Houston, Texas as part of BRAC 2005.

Corpsman: enlisted Navy hospitalman specialty.

CSR: central sterilization room

DRG: diagnosis related group; categories uses in costing medical procedures

DFAC: dining facility

DHA: defense health agency; a proposed consolidation of the three surgeons general and the Tricare Management Activity into a conglomerate.

DOD: Department of Defense

DRG: diagnosis related group: coding used to determine how Medicare will reimburse hospitals for medical services

fair-weather plane: a diving plane on a submarine, also called a sail plane due to its location on the sail; is used to control the submarine's angle of rise or dive while underway.

FMSS: Field Medical Service School: seven week "C" school conducted at Camp LeJeune, NC, and Camp Pendleton, CA to prepare Navy Corpsmen for assignment to Marine Corps units; awards NEC 8404, Field Medical Service Technician

FMF: fleet marine force

flank speed: in nuclear submarines, 100% power (full speed is 50%), and reserved for emergency conditions: the normal range of speeds is: 1/3, 1/2, standard and full.

GUARD III: Guaranteed Assignment and Retention Detailing (GUARD); Navy reenlistment incentive program

Haiti Earthquake: catastrophic earthquake 12 January 2010 displaced an estimated 1.5 million people; estimates of number killed ranged from 90-316 thousand.

HPSP: Health Professions Scholarship Program, a DoD program initiated in 1972, is the primary source of medical professionals in the military. Individuals selected for the program are commissioned as an ensign in the Navy or second lieutenant in the Air Force or Army.

ICD-9: ninth revision (1978) of the *International Classification of Diseases*, published by the World Health Organization

IDC: Independent Duty Corpsman, a Navy corpsman with advanced medical training

Iran Contra Affair: information surfaced during the Reagan administration that hostages in spite of an arms embargo the United States had been running arms to Iran to facilitate the release of American hostages, and using the proceeds of the arms sales to fund the "Contra" movement against the Communist government in Nicaragua in violation of Congressional actions.

Joint Medical Executive Skills Program (JMESP): In 1991 Congress (HR 251 Sec 8096) mandated that prospective military medical facility commanders must demonstrate administrative skills in 40 "military medical readiness competencies that would have to be re-validated every three years. Source: "What Are the 40 Competencies?" [http://med.navy.mil/sites/nmcp/Partnerships/MSCA/Documents/40 competencies undated, ca. 2005](http://med.navy.mil/sites/nmcp/Partnerships/MSCA/Documents/40%20competencies%20undated,%20ca.%202005)

jon boat: one, two or three bench seat flat-bottomed boat made from aluminum, fiberglass or wood

master at arms: Navy law enforcement rating; assigned to a command, these sailors maintain good order and discipline, by enforcing rules and regulations, and protecting life and property

METC: Medical Education and Training Campus: consolidation of enlisted medical training at Fort Sam Houston, TX, directed by BRAC 2005; initial operating capacity

established 30 June 2011; full operating capacity was reached 15 September 2011.

MH-60 S: is a member of the Seahawk series of helicopters that are based on the Army's UH 60 Blackhawk; is designed for two missions - troop transport and vertical replenishment - and can also perform search and rescue (SAR).

MHS: Military Health System

MTF: medical treatment facility

National Defense Service Medal (NDSM): established in 1953, the oldest U.S. service medal still in circulation, is awarded for honorable service in the armed forces during a designated period in which a national emergency has been declared:

Korean War: 27 June 1951-27 July 1954

Vietnam War: 1 January 1961 - 14 August 1974

Persian Gulf War: 2 August 1990-30 November 1995

War on Terror: 11 September 2011-Present.

Naval Health Care, New England: The Navy health care system in the Northeast now called the Naval Health Clinic, New England; is headquartered in Newport, Rhode Island, with branch clinics in Groton, Connecticut; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; and Saratoga Springs, New York.

NAVFAC: Naval Facilities Engineering Command

NEC: Navy Enlisted Classification Code. For example, the NEC for operating room technician is HM-8483.

NESP: Navy Enlisted Scientific Education Program; program, which was terminated, provided four years of college education, all expenses paid, to selected enlisted applicants; the STA-21 was its successor program.

OIS: Officer Indoctrination School (later renamed Officer Development School), U.S. Navy Training Command, Newport, Rhode Island

P-3 Orion: Lockheed four engine turboprop airplane developed from the Lockheed commercial Electra airliner for anti-submarine and maritime intelligence aircraft.

Quad Zero: Hospitalman , NEC HM-0000

RAD: radiation

Reduced Operating Status (ROS): designation by Military Sealift Command of an inactive ship with a small cadre crew aboard to ensure the readiness of propulsion and other systems needed to activate the ship. ROS-5 indicates it will take five days to make the ship ready to sail, fully crewed, and operational.

SCI: sensitive compartmented intelligence: a higher category of intelligence information for which access is granted only in "compartments".

Seaman to Admiral (STA) Program: a fleet commissioning program,

re-energized by Admiral Jeremy Boorda in 1994, and since combined with six other commissioning programs as STA-21. It provides \$10,000/year educational expenses for sailors who go to college while continuing on active duty and drawing full pay and allowances, and includes any promotions during that period. The time spent in school counts toward purposes but not for retirement.

SRB: selective reenlistment bonus

Sree-Durga Dump: large open dump in Calcutta, India.

SUBLANT: Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet

Submarine Force Independent Corpsman: NEC HM 8402; requires completion of the Submarine Force IDC course of instruction at the Naval Undersea Medical Institute (NUMI), Groton, CT.

TAD: Temporary Additional Duty

Truran Award: Paul F. Truran, Jr. Medical Materiel and Logistics Management Award was established in 1992 and is presented annually by the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS).

Treasure Island: Naval Base Treasure Island, San Francisco, CA, was closed 30 September 1997 under Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) III.

turtleback: arched structure built over the bow and sometimes the stern of a ship as a protection against heavy seas; the area on top of the submarine behind the sail

TYCOM :Type Command; a Naval command that performs administrative, personnel and operational training missions for a "type" of weapons system, eg: Commander Submarine Forces U.S. Atlantic Fleet (COMSUBLANT)

UA: unauthorized absence; cf. Army AWOL , absence without leave

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

USS *Scamp* (SSN 588): Skipjack class fast attack nuclear submarine; commissioned 1961; decommissioned 1988.

Her sail was damaged during a rescue attempt for stricken Panama flagged freighter which led to her early retirement.

USUHS: Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, now called the Uniformed Services University (USU) ; Department of Defense medical school established by Act of Congress in 1972; the first class entered in 1976 and graduated in 1980.