

Navy Medicine Oral History Project
Oral History Interview Synopsis and Key Words
HM3 William Malzow, USN
Hospital Corpsman, Navy Branch Clinic Port Hueneme

Date and Location of Interview: 4 June 2013, Port Hueneme,
California Interviewer: Colonel Richard V.N. Ginn, USA, Ret.,
Office of Medical History, BUMED

HM3 William Malzow was born and raised in Mundelein, a Chicago suburb about 30 minutes northwest from the city. His father is a machinist, his mother is a secretary, and his sister, Jacki, is married to a Navy corpsman. He graduated Carmel Catholic High School in 2005, and attended the College of Lake County in Mundelein for 2 ½ years, but was undecided about what he wanted to major in. He decided that the military could help him focus his life, and that its discipline would be good for him and help him progress. He explored military options and was initially attracted to the Army Ranger program. However, a Navy recruiter suggested he enlist for the Seals, which he did in 2008. He completed Boot Camp in 2008 and the Hospital Corps School at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in 2009.

Malzow did not get accepted for the Basic Underwater Demolition School (BUDS), which is the initial training step for the SEALs, whereupon he volunteered for service with the Marines. In 2009 he attended the Field Medical Service School at Camp Pendleton, California, and was assigned as a corpsman with the Medical Platoon of the Headquarters and Service Company, of the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division. Reporting to the battalion, he was sent to the Tactical Combat Casualty Course for training in combat casualty care. Portions of the battalion were deployed in Afghanistan, and from September to December 2010 he deployed to Afghanistan to replace a corpsman who had been wounded. There he was assigned to duty in the Battalion Aid Station.

Returning to Camp Pendleton he was sent to the Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia, which is a requirement for Marine Recon units. His second deployment to Afghanistan was for seven months, from November 2011 to June 2012, when he was assigned as a corpsman with 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, during which time a helicopter he was in came under fire during a night operation. His unit took some casualties, "nothing crazy, but concussions mostly, TBIs from IED blasts, both mounted and on foot patrol", and he describes his role in managing those cases at the unit level.

HM3 Mazlow is proud of his service with the Marines, and the pins he wears for parachutist and Fleet Marine Force qualifications. He particularly enjoys the camaraderie of a tightly knit group and infantry training. At the time of this interview he was assigned as a hospital corpsman at the Port Hueneme Branch Health Clinic. He is continuing his undergraduate studies at Oxnard Community College, with the view of completing course work in fire technology with the goal of being a fire fighter. He is currently undecided about re-enlisting. However, he is contemplating marrying his girlfriend who lives in Chicago, and is certainly aware of the military benefits for families.

KEY WORDS

combat casualty care training
combat and operational stress control
Navy Corpsman-Marines
Field Medical Service School
Marine Recon
Military Acute Concussion Evaluation (MACE)
Navy boot camp
Navy Hospital Corps School
TBI

GLOSSARY

BUD/S: Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL; mandatory course graduation for SEAL certification.
Corps School: Naval Hospital Corps "A" School, Great Lakes, Illinois; established in 1913 to conduct entry-level training of navy corpsmen ; its last class graduated 27 July 2011 when the school relocated to Fort Sam Houston as part of the consolidation of all enlisted medical training in the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC).
EAOS: End of Active Obligated Service
Fleet Marine Force Insignia: a pin (badge) awarded based on specific qualifications in three categories for enlisted, officer or chaplain service with the Marines; the enlisted version is the Fleet Marine Force Enlisted Warfare Specialist. The enlisted version is a silver badge; the officer and chaplain is gold.
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.
IDC: Independent Duty Corpsman; a Navy corpsman with advanced medical training
IED: Improvised Explosive Device; the "signature" weapon of the

wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

MACE: Military Acute Concussion Evaluation; a concussion screening tool used to evaluate severity of symptoms and cognitive effects of a brain concussion.

Paraloft: parachutist training facility at Camp Pendleton

PRT: Navy Physical Readiness Test

RPG: rocket propelled grenade

shoot house: tactical training structure for live fire close quarters training

TBI: traumatic brain injury (concussion)

TCCC: Tactical Combat Casualty Care Course: prepares hospital corpsmen to provide medical care in a combat environment using the principles of pre-hospital trauma life support; is conducted at the Naval Expeditionary Medical Training Institute, Camp Pendleton, California. At the time HM3 Malzow attended the course, it included live tissue surgical training (the Goat Lab); a practice that has ended.

R. Ginn 12/18/13