

**BUMED Oral History Project**  
**CDR Chad Mitchell, MSC, USN, Head, Ionizing Radiation Health**  
**Branch, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED)**

**Date and Location of Interview:** 8 October 2013, Defense Health Headquarters, Falls Church, VA

**Interviewer:**

André B. Sobocinski, Historian, BUMED

**Synopsis:**

CDR Chad Mitchell was born and raised in West Virginia and attended Marshall University graduating with a B.S. in Physics and Mathematics. He would later attend Ohio State University where he received a Master's Degree in Physics as well as a Master's Degree and Doctorate in Biomedical Engineering

Having a long interest in the medical applications of radiation as well as its bio-effects, Mitchell decided on a career in the U.S. Navy in 1996.

Through the course of his career, CDR Mitchell has served in a variety of duty stations, both ship and shore. From 1996 to 2007, CDR Mitchell served at the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC), Bethesda, MD, Naval Hospital Naples, Italy, and at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS). In 2006, while at USUHS, Mitchell served as the Organizing Committee Chairman for the Bio-Dosimetry and Electron Paramagnetic Resonance (BioDos EPR) Conference, held at USUHS. The BioDos EPR was an international conference on radiation dosimetry in response to nuclear accidents and incidents attended by 140 scientists and government representatives from around the world. From 2007 to 2010, CDR Mitchell served as a Radiation Health Officer (RHO) aboard the nuclear powered aircraft carrier USS *John Stennis* (CVN-74).

In 2010, CDR Mitchell reported to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) as the Head, Ionizing Radiation Health Branch and specialty leader for the Navy Radiation Health community. Following the 9.0 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami in 2011, CDR Mitchell helped spearhead the RHO effort to support the Sailors and Marines stationed in Japan. The focus of the interview was the role CDR Mitchell and other RHOs played in the wake of this natural disaster.

**KEY TERMS**

AFRI-Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute  
Atsugi, Japan  
Camp Zama, Japan  
DTRA-Defense Threat Reduction Agency

Earthquake  
Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station  
RHO-Radiation Health Officer  
Tohoku, Japan  
Operation Tomodachi  
PACOM-Pacific Command  
"Star Trek" rule  
Tri-Service  
Tsunami  
Uniformed Services University  
USS *George Washington* (CVN-73)  
USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN-76)  
Yokosuka, Japan