

BUMED Oral History Project
Rear Admiral William J. McDaniel, MC, USN, Ret.
Interview Synopsis and Glossary

Date and Location of Interview: October 1, 2014, BUMED Detachment, Skyline Complex, Falls Church, VA
Interviewers: André B. Sobocinski and Colonel Richard Ginn, USA, Ret.

SYNOPSIS:

Rear Admiral William J. McDaniel grew up on a small farm near Muskogee, Oklahoma, and graduated Blackwell High School in Blackwell, Oklahoma. He earned a B.S. in physiology at Oklahoma State University in 1964, and an M.D. at the Oklahoma School of Medicine in 1968 where he entered the inactive reserve under the Ensign 1915 program. He completed an internship at St. Francis Hospital, Tulsa, OK, in 1969 and was commissioned as a Lieutenant, MC, USN, that December. He then reported to Flight Surgeon School at the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute, Pensacola, Florida from January to June 1970. From 1970-1973 he served in a series of flight surgeon assignments at the Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, California; Marine Corps Air Station, Futema, Okinawa; Marine Air Group 14 aboard the USS *Tripoli* (LPH-10), off the coast of Vietnam; and the Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, Washington.

RADM McDaniel completed a residency in orthopedic surgery, at the Naval Hospital Oakland, California from 1973-7, and reported to Rota, Spain as an orthopedic surgeon and then the acting commanding officer of the hospital for six months before he went to Bitburg, Germany for four months with the Air Force. From 1980-3 he was assigned as an orthopedic surgeon at the Naval Regional Medical Clinic, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland. This was followed by attendance at the National War College from 1983-4.

From 1984-1986 he served as Surgeon, U.S. Seventh Fleet aboard USS *Blue Ridge*, Yokosuka, Japan. This was followed by duty as Commanding Officer, Naval Hospital Oak Harbor, WA 1986-1988; Commanding Officer, Naval Hospital Charleston, South Carolina 1988-1990; Surgeon, U.S. Pacific Command, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii, 1990-2; and Commanding Officer, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Virginia 1992-5. From 1995-7 he was Surgeon, U.S. Pacific Command, and Deputy Commander-in-Chief, PACOM, the position he held when he retired in January 1997. In 2000 he was hired by the CNO to head an investigation of allegations at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, and in 2005, he went to Indonesia to help with the tsunami relief.

While on active duty RADM McDaniel was a five-time Navy wrestling champion and the 1974 Silver Medalist in the World/CISM Freestyle Wrestling championships. He was a team

physician for the U.S. Track and Field team at the World Championships in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, the World Basketball Championships in Tehran, Iran in 1977, the World University Games in Bucharest, Romania in 1981, the U.S. Boxing Team in La Paz, Bolivia in 1981, the head physician for the National Sports Festival in Colorado Springs, CO in 1983, and a team physician for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

KEY WORDS:

Animal quarantine, Hawaii
BUMED
CENTPAC
Competitive wrestling
Consolidation of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and National Naval Military Medical Center
Humanitarian operations
Indonesia Tsunami, December 2004
Naval aviation
Navy Flight surgeon
Navy Medicine
Navy physician
Olympic physician
Reality show *The Mole*
Tsunami relief
Sports medicine
U.S. Seventh Fleet
USS *Tripoli* (LPF-10) - Vietnam
Vietnam War -Naval operations

GLOSSARY:

Arentzen, Willard P., VADM, MC—Navy Surgeon General 1976–1980.

Bono, Raquel C., RADM, MC, USN; in 2015 director, National Capital Region Medical Directorate of the Defense Health Agency.

Boorda, Jeremy Michael, ADM, USN (1939–1996)—appointed 25th CNO 23 April 1994; only enlisted sailor to advance through the ranks to CNO; committed suicide 16 May 1996.

Bucket handle meniscus tear—a tear around the rim of the meniscus.

CH-46 Sea Knight “Phrog 46”—USMC primary assault tandem rotor helicopter; the Army’s version is the much larger CH 47 Chinook.

CH-53: Sea Stallion heavy lift helicopter. Huey: UH-1 Iroquois

utility helicopter, the workhorse of the Vietnam War; Cobra: AH-1 Cobra, the attack version of the Bell UH-1 "Huey."

Chang, Ming E., RADM, USN, Ret. RADM Chang was born in Shanghai, China in 1932, and came to the U.S. in 1950. He was the Navy Inspector General from 1989-1990, and retired in 1992.

Chinn, Colin G., RMDL, MC, USN in 2015 Command Surgeon, U.S. Pacific Command.

Comăneci, Nadia—winner of three gold medals in 1976 Olympics, and two gold medals in 1980 as member of the Romanian women's gymnastics team; defected to the U.S. in 1989; married Bart Conner in 1996.

Comlish, Jeannie, CAPT, NC, USN; CO, Naval Hospital Guam, 2014-present.

Connor, Bart—U.S. gymnast, Olympic gold medal 1984; married five-time gold medalist Romanian gymnast Nadia Comăneci in 1996.

Cox, William J., VADM, USN Surgeon General, USN, 1980-1983

Cowan, Michael S., VADM, MC, USN, Ret., Surgeon General, USN, 2001-4.

Decker, Mary Slaney—American track athlete, was heavily favored to win a gold medal for the 3,000 meter run in the 1984 summer Olympics.

Doctors Without Borders—Médecins Sans Frontières (MSW), medical humanitarian non-governmental organization based in Geneva Switzerland that provides medical professionals, logistical experts, water and sanitation engineers and administrators to provide medical aid in war-torn countries and disease epidemics.

Ensign 1915 Program—named for the establishment of the Naval Reserve in 1915, commissioned medical students as ensigns in the inactive reserve, and provided pay at enlisted or ensign rates during medical school. Participants incurred an active duty obligation upon graduation from medical school.

Executive Order 9050—dated 6 February 1942, signed by Franklin

Roosevelt, authorized the Secretary of the Navy to issue citations in the name of the President to Navy and Marine Corps units for outstanding performance in action.

Faces of the Tsunami (2014)—book by RADM McDaniel detailing his experiences in the Indian Ocean Tsunami relief operation.

Fundador—Spain's largest selling export brand of brandy.

Ghandi, Indira—Prime Minister of India 1980-1986.

Gulf War—2 August 1990-3 August 1991: includes Operation Desert Shield, 2 August 1990-17 January 1991, and Operation Desert Storm (ODS), 17 January 1990-28 February 1991

Hall, Thomas F. RADM, USN, Ret. At time of his retirement was Chief, U.S. Navy Reserve.

Hurricane Hugo—made landfall north of Charleston, SC on 21 September 1989, was one of the strongest hurricanes in South Carolina history.

Indian Ocean Tsunami/Earthquake (2004-05)—massive tsunami struck Banda Aceh, Indonesia on 26 December 2004. USNS *Mercy* (T-AH-19): a hospital ship based in San Diego, California, departed San Diego on 5 January 2005 as part of Operation Unified Assistance, and commenced humanitarian assistance operations 5 February 2005, 39 days after the tsunami. An 8.7 earthquake struck Nias Island, Indonesia on 28 March 2005.

Kelso, Frank B., II; 1933-2013, ADM, USN, Ret.; Chief of Naval Operations, 1990-1994.

Koch, Edward I., 1924-2013, Mayor, New York City, 1978-1989.

Koenig, Harold M., VADM, MC, Surgeon General, USN, 1995-1998.

Lane, David A., RMDL, MC, USN; in 2015, Medical Officer, U.S. Marine Corps.

Louganis, Greg—American diver, won gold medals in the 1984 and 1985 Olympics.

Lyons, James A. (Ace), ADM, USN, Ret.; Commander, Pacific Fleet, 1985-7.

Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, 1943-1999; decommissioned 1999.

Martin, Kathleen, RADM, NC, Ret., Deputy Surgeon General, USN, 2002-5.

Matsunaga, Spark M., U.S. Senator, Hawaii, 1997-1990.

McCarthy, Paul F., Jr., VADM, USN, RET., deceased 2011; Commander 7th Fleet 1985-6, followed by Director Research, Development and Acquisition, USN, 1987-1990, when he retired.

McNeil, Reginald B., CAPT, MSC, USN, Ret; assignments included flag aide to the Commander, Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA, 1992-4. His initial ten years of Navy service was as an enlisted hospital corpsman. He was appointed as a chief warrant officer upon completion of the Navy's physician assistant program in 1980, and was later commissioned as a lieutenant (junior grade), in the Medical Service Corps. At the time of his retirement in 2010 he had completed forty years of service and was assigned to Northern Command as Branch Chief, Joint Regional Medical Plans and Operations, Northwest Command Surgeon.

Nathan, Matthew L., VADM, USN, Surgeon General, USN, 2011-2015

Nelson, Richard A., VADM, MC, USN, Ret., Surgeon General, USN, 1998-2001.

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

OPREP 3 (Operation or Event Incident Report)—established by the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff for use by military units to report to their next level of command.

Plummer, Jeffrey M., CAPT, MSC; CO, Naval Hospital Guam, 2012-2014.

Potter, Bonnie Burham, M.D., RADM, M.C., Ret; first female physician admiral in the Navy; at time of her retirement in 2003 was Surgeon, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

Project HOPE (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere): an international non-governmental health organization.

PROPAY: Professional Pay, an extra monthly allowance based on specific professional categories.

Retton, Mary Lou—Winner of the Women's All Around Gold Medal in Gymnastics in the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, CA.

RFFIT (Rapid Fluorescent Focus Inhibition Test)—laboratory test for rabies immunity.

Ridenour, RADM Richard—served as medical officer of the Marine Corps from 1989 to 1991. He would later serve as the Commander of the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., 1992 to 1997.

Sparks, Henry, RADM, MC, USN (1924-1997)— A native of Woodland, California, RADM Sparks was commissioned an ensign in the Naval Reserve (HV-P) program in 1946. While serving as part of Mobile Surgical Team One, in LST-898, Sparks took part in the landing at Inchon on 15 September 1950. In April 1954, Sparks was assigned to the medical unit of the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. He served on the staff naval hospitals San Diego (1955-1958), Tripler Army Hospital (1958-1960) and Camp Pendleton (1960-1963) and later at Bethesda where he served as Assistant Chief of Medicine (1963-1966). Sparks would serve as Commanding Officer of NAMRU-3, Cairo, Egypt (1970 to 1974) when he was promoted to flag rank. From 1974 to 1977, Sparks served as Commanding Officer of the Naval Medical Regional Medical Center Oakland, Calif.

Tobin, Byron E. (Jake), RADM, USN, Ret., Naval aviator who logged over 6,000 hours as anti-submarine warfare pilot, held nine commands, and at the time of his retirement in 1996 was the commander of U.S. Naval Forces Japan.

Tsoulos, Demetrios G., COL, MC, USA, Ret; Command Surgeon, CENTCOM during ODS; previously Surgeon, 5thth Special Forces Group; currently general surgeon, Springfield, Georgia.

USNS *Mercy* (T-AH-19): hospital ship based in San Diego, California, sister ship to the USNS *Comfort*. USNS; a non-commissioned ship owned by the Navy; launched 1 June 1975, in service USN 8 November 1986.

USS *Tripoli* (LPH-10)—*Iwo Jima* class amphibious assault ship, commissioned 8 August 1966, decommissioned 10 September 1995.

Walter Reed Army Medical Center—formerly the Army General Hospital, at Fort McNair, Washington, D.C., admitted its first patients on 1 May 1909 at its new location at 6900 Georgia Avenue, NW, D.C. , and was renamed the Army Medical Center in 1951. It closed on 27 August 2011 as part of the

2005 BRAC legislation that consolidated it with the National Naval Medical Center to form the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Wilson, James E., M.D. (1937-2013), CAPT, MC, USN.

Xerox Conference Center—a 110 acre corporate training facility, was sold by Xerox to Oxford Capital Partners in 2000, and is now called the National Conference Center. Its design was particularly distinctive for its confusing layout which had the effect of disorienting attendees.

Zero zero seat—modern ejection seats are designed to function at zero speed and zero altitude.

Zimble, James, VADM, MC, USN, Surgeon General, USN, 1987-1991