

Navy Medicine Oral History Project
Commander Alan F. Nordholm, MSC, USN
Interim Director, Navy Human Research Protection Program, and
Program Manager for Psychological Health Surveillance

Date and Location of Interview: 8 August, 2012, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine, Skyline Complex, Falls Church, Virginia

Interviewers: André B. Sobocinski, Medical Historian, Colonel Richard V.N. Ginn, USA, Ret., Michael G. Rhode, Archivist, Office of Medical History, BUMED

SYNOPSIS

Captain Nordholm (he was promoted to captain shortly after this interview) was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. He joined the Navy in 1976 upon graduation from high school, motivated in large part by the opportunity for college education that the Vietnam Era GI bill would provide. He completed basic training at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, MI, and Hospital Corps A School in San Diego, CA. This was followed by psychiatry technician training at Fort Sam Houston, TX with assignments in California at the Naval Hospital, Camp Pendleton; San Diego Naval Medical Center; and Oakland Naval Hospital.

Upon completion of his enlistment, CAPT Nordholm enrolled in Napa Valley College, where he received an A.A. degree in natural science in 1983, followed in 1985 by a B.A. in mathematics (emphasis Statistics) at California State University, Long Beach. He earned an M.A. in clinical psychology at Pepperdine University in 1989, and a Ph.D. in psychology and behavioral neurosciences at the University of Southern California in 1993. From 1993-1995 he was a postdoctoral fellow in pharmacology and toxicology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

CAPT Nordholm has had a remarkably varied military career, initially as enlisted sailor and psychiatry technician, and later as a commissioned officer with research assignments and leadership positions in jet fuel toxicology at Wright-Patterson AFB, and human performance at the NASA Ames Research Center; human performance consultant and leadership positions at five Naval commands; Pentagon staff duty as a Navy program analyst; Chief of Medical Education and Training for the U.S. Joint Forces Command; deployment to Afghanistan as OIC of a Mobile Care Team; and his current assignment as Director of the Navy's Human Research Protection Program.

In 2001, while assigned to the Navy's N1, he had a personal involvement with the 9-11 tragedy that led to the war in Afghanistan and Iraq. At the request of the Chief of Naval

Personnel he headed the Navy's recovery team for the identification of Naval personnel killed in the attack on the Pentagon.

KEY WORDS

COSC: combat and operational stress control
Individual Augmentee
MHAT-Mental Health Assessment Team
Mobile Care Team
Navy medical research
Navy Medicine
OEF: Operation Enduring Freedom
Psychology; military psychology

GLOSSARY

BHNAS: Behavioral Health Needs Assessment Survey
Boorda, Jeremy M., ADM, USN: CNO 1004-6; first enlisted sailor to rise through the ranks to CNO, and first non-Naval Academy graduate CNO; committed suicide 18 May 1996.
Boots on the Ground Tracker: report used in Afghanistan to identify location of individuals
Campbell, Justin S., Ph.D., LCDR, MSC, USN: research psychologist.
Chief of Naval Operations, 1994-present;
1994-1996: ADM Jeremy M. Boorda
1996-2000: ADM Jay L, Johnson
2000-2005: ADM Vern Clark
2005-2007: ADM Michael Mullen
2007-2012: ADM Gary Roughead
2012-present: ADM Jonathan Greenert
CNA: a not for profit research and analysis organization, its Centers for Naval Analysis are located on Mark Center Drive, Alexandria, VA.
DFIP: Detention Facility in Parwan; also called the Bagram Theater Internment Facility
Doll, Bruce A., D.D.S., Ph.D., RADM Upper Half, USNR; in October 2012 Commanding officer, Navy Medical Research and Development Command; Deputy Chief, M2, Navy Medicine Research and Development, and Deputy Chief, Reserve Dental Corps
Doonesbury: popular comic strip by Gary Trudeau.
Ferguson, Mark, ADM, USN: Vice Chief of Naval Operations
Flaherty, Karen, RADM (Upper Half), USN, Ret.; former Deputy Chief, BUMED & Deputy Surgeon General, U.S. Navy
FFC: U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk, VA; originally U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

Ford, Joseph, LCSW, LT, MSC, USN: BUMED, Washington, D.C.
Friedl, Karl E., Ph.D., COL, MSC, USA: Director, Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC), U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC), Fort Detrick, MD.

Gonzales, Alfred H., Jr., Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel Development and Allocation, Fleet Forces Command

Greenert, Jonathan W., ADM, USN: Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, 2007-9; Vice Chief of Naval Operations, 2009-2011; Chief of Naval Operations, 2011 to present.

Horoho, Patricia D., MG, ANC, USA: Deputy Surgeon General, U.S. Army, and Army Surgeon General designee. LTG Horoho assumed command of the USA MEDCOM on 5 October 2012. On 7 October she was sworn in as TSG, as the first female and first Army Nurse Corps officer appointed by Congress to hold those positions. (MG Gale Pollock, ANC, was appointed acting TSG 11 March-11 December 2007, replacing LTG Kevin S. Kiley, who was relieved from duty on 11 March 2007 and retired later that year in the grade of MG.)

Hunt, Richard W., VADM, USN: Director, Navy Staff, 2012 to present; Commander, Naval Surface Force, Pacific Fleet, 2011-2012. In a previous assignment was Deputy CNO for Resources, Requirements and Assessments (N8).

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, the Navy IA program on its Facebook page stated there were 9,532 Navy IAs (4,793 Active Duty and 4739 Reserve). In September, 2011, BUMED reported there were over 15,000: Bettios, Iona N., CAPT, IA Deployment Support and Readiness, M92, BUMED; Email Msg 23 Sep 2011, Subj: Deployment After Action Reports.

JCS Tank: JCS conference room in The Pentagon

JFCOM: U.S. Joint Forces Command, Norfolk, VA. (Disestablished 11 August 2011)

Joint Combat Casualty Care Research Team (JC2RT): a multidisciplinary team composed of clinical researchers from the Army, Air Force, and Navy. The work of the team is coordinated by the US Army Institute for Surgical Research, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; the first researcher was placed at a US military base in Afghanistan 2009.

Koffman, Robert L., M.D., CAPT. MC, USN: Deputy Director for Clinical Operations National Intrepid Center of Excellence, Bethesda, MD.

M1: Deputy Chief for Total Force, BUMED
McCarten, Michael D., D.O., CAPT, MC, USN; Commander, Task Force Medical, South and Commanding Officer, NATO Role III Multinational Medical Unit, Kandahar, Afghanistan 2010-2011
Mittleman, Michael H., O.D., RADM (Upper Half): Command Surgeon, Pacific Command 2010-2011; Deputy Surgeon General, USN, 2011-2013
Nardulli, Pattick, HMCS (SWF/FMF), USN, Ret.: Curriculum Developer, NCCOSC, San Diego, CA
Narro, Marlo, LCSW, LCDR, MSC, USN: Clinical Social Worker
Nathan, Matthew L., VADM: Surgeon General, U.S. Navy, 2011-Present
NHRC: Naval Health Research Center, San Diego, CA
NCCOSC: Navy Center for Combat and Operational Stress Control, San Diego, California
Parwan: Parwan Detention Facility (also Called Bagram Theater Internment Facility); located next to Bagram Airfield in Parwan Province, Afghanistan
PRT: provincial reconstruction team. Training is currently conducted at the Joint Maneuver Training Center, Indiana at Camp Atterbury, an Indiana National Guard installation.
PSA crash: Pacific South Airways Flight 182, a Boeing 727, struck a Cessna near San Diego, CA on 25 September 1978 and crashed into North Park, a San Diego suburb. There were 144 fatalities, including all 135 people aboard the plane.
Role 3: NATO Role III Multinational Medical Unit at Kandahar, Afghanistan
Ryan, Norbert J., Jr., VADM, USN, Ret.; at the time of his retirement in 2002 was Chief of Naval Personnel, and Deputy CNO (Manpower and Personnel).
Shinseki, Eric K., GEN: Chief of Staff, US Army, 1999-2003; currently Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
SSB: Senior Strategy Board, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, USN
TBI: Traumatic Brain Injury; MTBI is mild TBI
Walsh, Patrick M., ADM. Ret.: Vice CNO, 2007-2009; Commander, Pacific Fleet, 2009-12; Ret. 2012.
Zumwalt, Elmo R., Jr., ADM, USN: 1920-2000; CNO 1970-1974.

R. Ginn 3/24/13