Date and Location of Interview: 1 May 2013, Naval Medical Research Center, Silver Spring, Maryland.
Interviewer: Mr. André B. Sobocinski, Historian, BUMED

Synopsis
Commander Pimentel was born in 1970 in Manhattan, New York, and grew up in Guanica, Puerto Rico. His father served in the Merchant Marine, his mother was an Air Force nurse, and he had uncles and cousins who served in the Army and Navy. Pimentel was strongly encouraged by his father to pursue his education, and motivated by the GI bill and the examples of his immediate family, he enlisted in the Navy in 1988. He completed boot camp and Corps School in San Diego, and served in the Reserves for eight years in Puerto Rico (including a deployment in 1991 to Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm). During that period he completed a B.S. magna cum laude in industrial microbiology, and an M.S. in microbiology from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez. In 1995 he married Leida Rivera-Lorens, and they relocated to Pullman, Washington where he completed a Ph.D. in plant pathology (with a mycology major) from Washington State University in 1999. He and Leida have three sons.

Key Figures
Boynton, Bruce R., M.D., CAPT, MC, Ret.: Commanding Officer, NAMRU-3, 2005-2007; in 2009, Commanding Officer, Medical Treatment facility, USNS Comfort. Currently Regional Medical Director, Corizon Health, Albuquerque, NM (Prison Healthcare)
Earhart, Kenneth, C., M.D., CAPT, MC, Ret.: Commanding officer, NAMRU-3, 2007-10; currently Country Director, CDC-India.
Elster, Eric A., M.D., CAPT. MC, in 2010, Chair of the Regenerative Medicine Department, NMRC, who deployed to Afghanistan in 2010 as the Chief of Surgery, Role 3 Multinational Hospital in Kandahar; currently Chair, Department of Surgery, USUHS, Bethesda, MD.
Hoogstraal, Harry, Ph.D., 1917-1986: entomologist and parasitologist; member of the NAMRU-3 team for nearly 40 years; the Harry Hoogstraal Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Medical Entomology, an award by the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, is named for
him.

Porter, Kevin R., M.D., CAPT, MC, USN, Ret. At time of retirement in 2012 was Director, Infectious Diseases Directorate, NMRC, and in 2013 in the same position as a civilian.

Sanders, John W. III, M.D., CAPT, MC, USN: Commanding Officer, NMRC, September 2012-present

Sebeny, Peter J., M.D., MPH, formerly CDR, MC, USN, infectious disease physician, currently Appledore Medical Group Infectious Diseases, Derry, New Hampshire.

Sharp, Trueman W., M.D., CAPT, MC, USN, Ret.; Commanding Officer NAMRU-3, 2002-5; currently, Chairman, Department of Military and Emergency Medicine, USUHS, Bethesda, MD.

**Key Words**

biomarkers
infectious disease surveillance
bird flu epidemic
military medical research
Navy medical research
NAMRU-3 (Navy Medical Research Unit Three, Cairo, Egypt)
swine flu pandemic
tropical medicine
microbiology

**Glossary and Acronyms**

AFIP: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Silver Spring, MD; the DOD pathology reference center; disestablished in 2011 by the provisions of BRAC 2005; re-established by Congressional action as the Joint Pathology Center, the premier Federal pathology reference center.

assay: laboratory test or examination

ASVAB: Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, a multiple choice test used to determine qualification for enlistment in the U.S. military

Bali bombing: terrorist attack by a violent Islamic group 12 October 2002 on the tourist district of the island of Bali, Indonesia that killed 202 people.

BD-EID: biodefense and emerging infectious diseases; a program of the Biological Defense Research Directorate, NMRC-Detrick, MD.

biomarker: generally refers to a measured characteristic, specifically genes and proteins, which may be used as an indicator of a biological state or condition.

CDC: Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, GA

CENTCOM: U. S. Central Command, headquartered in Tampa, FL.

DNA: deoxyribonucleic acid

DTRA: Defense Threat Reduction Agency, headquartered at Fort
Belvoir, VA: the official Combat Support Agency for countering weapons of mass destruction (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high explosives).

EIP: Emerging Infections Program; a CDC program


H1N1: swine flu pandemic outbreak in 2009 with estimates as high as 579,000 deaths worldwide

Maadi: an affluent suburb south of Cairo

NAVSEA: Naval Sea Systems Command; headquartered at the Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.

erucysticerocis: the most common tapeworm infection of the brain; is a tissue infection after exposure to the eggs of the pork tapeworm.

OCONUS: outside the continental United States

PCR: polymerase chain reaction: a technique for amplifying DNA sequences

PCS: permanent change of station

RNA: ribonucleic acid

R. Ginn 11/11/13