

BUMED Oral History Synopsis and Glossary
HCMC Keith Staples, USN

Date and Location of Interview: February 7, 2014, Falls Church, VA

Interviewer: André B. Sobocinski, Historian, BUMED

SYNOPSIS

Master Chief Staples grew up in Chicago, Illinois and Birmingham, Alabama. He enlisted in the Navy in 1984 and reported to basic training at the Recruit Training Command, Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, IL on 18 July 1984. Following recruit training Staples attended Hospital Corps "A" School, Great Lakes. As a Hospitalman Recruit, Staples reported to the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD, where he served as a General Duty Corpsman in Cardiovascular Surgery.

Hospital Staples attended Field Medical Service School at Camp Johnson, North Carolina in February 1986 and was assigned to Second Marine Division Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where he deployed to the Western Pacific and the Mediterranean. Hospital Corpsman Second Class Staples transferred to Naval Hospital Jacksonville in March 1989 where he worked as a General Duty Corpsman at the Branch Medical Clinic and as an Emergency Medical Technician Instructor in the Education and Training Department.

Hospital Corpsman First Class Staples was selected to attend the Surface Force Independent Duty Corpsman School in 1994. In February, he reported to the USS *Simpson* (FFG-56) homeported in Norfolk, VA, where he was advanced to Chief Petty Officer. After completion of his first Independent Duty Corpsman tour, Chief Staples was assigned to Naval Medical Clinic Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in February 1998, where he served as Fleet Liaison.

He was promoted to Senior Chief Petty Officer and assigned as the Leading Chief Petty Officer, Makalapa Clinic (Pearl Harbor, HI). In June 2001, Senior Chief Staples reported to the USS *San Jacinto* (CG-56) in Norfolk, as Senior Medical Department Representative. Upon completion of his second Independent Duty Corpsman tour, he was assigned as the Senior Medical Inspector at the Waterfront Support Unit, Norfolk, VA. In February 2006, Senior Chief Staples was assigned to USS *Nassau* (LHA-4) as Leading Chief Petty Officer for Health Services and promoted to Master Chief Petty Officer.

In July 2007, Master Chief Staples was assigned as Force Corpsman, First Naval Construction Division, Little Creek, VA. In 2009, he was assigned as Command Master Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Washington, DC. In July 2011, Master Chief

Staples reported to Kandahar, Afghanistan where he served as the Command Master Chief for Task Force Medical South and NATO Role 3 Multinational Medical Unit. At the end of this deployment, Staples returned to BUMED where he served as the Director of Enlisted Training, BUMED. He retired from the Navy in May 2014.

Master Chief Staples is a graduate from the Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy and holds a Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management. His personal awards include: Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (5 Awards), Navy Achievement Medal (4 awards) and various service and campaign awards.

ACRONYMS

ASVAB—Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery
BUMED—Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
EMT—Emergency Medical Training
FMSS—Field Medical Service School (FMSS)
Hospital Corps "A" School
IDC—Independent Duty Corpsman
MEDEVAC— Medical Evacuation
Seabees (CBs)—Construction Battalions

GLOSSARY

FMSS (Field Medical Service School) at Camp Lejeune, NC and Camp Pendleton, CA—Conducts the Field Medical Service Technician Course for NEC HM-8404-FMF, the Hospital Corpsman subspecialty for service with the Marines that requires completion of this training with the Marines.

IDC—Independent Duty Corpsman, a Navy Hospital Corpsman with advanced medical training who is qualified to manage health programs and provide primary care under indirect supervision on shore, at sea, on submarines, and on mission deployments. Separate twelve month courses are conducted for each NEC, HM 8402 Submarine Force IDC, HM 8403 Special Operations IDC, HM 9425 Surface Force IDC, and HM 8492 Deep Sea Diver IDC.

Luttrell, Marcus—A former United States Navy SEAL and war hero, who received the Navy Cross and Purple Heart for actions in June 2005 facing Taliban fighters during Operation Red Wings. He is the author of *Lone Survivor: The Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of Seal Team 10* (2007) which was adapted into the 2013 film *Lone Survivor*.

Quad Zero—HM-0000 is the NEC awarded a Hospital Corpsman upon completion of primary training specialty training, previously at the Hospital Corps "A" School, Great Lakes,

IL. The Great Lakes school closed in 2011 and relocated to the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC), Fort Sam Houston, TX as part of BRAC 2005.

Rickover, Hyman G. ADM, 1900-1986- "Father of the Nuclear Navy," Rickover emigrated from Poland at the age of six; retired in 1982 after 63 years of active duty.

Role 3- Established in Kandahar in 2005, the Role 3 Multinational Medical Unit (MMU) was the primary trauma receiving & referral center for all combat casualties in Southern Afghanistan.

USS *Nassau* (LH-4)-*Tarawa*-class amphibious assault ship, decommissioned on 14 January 2011.

USS *San Bernardino* (LST-1189)-*Newport*-class landing tank ship, commissioned 27 March 1971, decommissioned and transferred to Chile 30 September 1995, decommissioned on 14 January 2011.

USS *San Jacinto* (CG-56)-*Ticonderoga*-class cruiser, commissioned on 23 January 1988.

USS *Simpson* (FFG-56), *Oliver Hazard Perry*-class guided missile frigate, commissioned on 21 September 1985.