Synopsis

HMC Zenonian was born in Homestead, Florida. His father was a Navy cryptologic technician, whose final duty station was Anchorage, Alaska. After leaving the military he worked in telecommunications, and the family lived in Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Utah, and New Mexico. HMC Zenonian graduated high school in Farmington, Idaho in 1995, where he was in Junior ROTC. He joined the Navy the following year to become a corpsman with the Marines, and after Naval Hospital Corps A School in 1997, he completed Field Medical Service School at Camp Pendleton California, which qualified him for duty with the Marines. It was the beginning of a well-rounded Navy medical career in field medical support, clinical duty ashore and afloat, and instructor duty at the Corps School, along with its historic move to Texas as part of the BRAC 2005 consolidation of military enlisted medical training.

Zenonian’s initial assignment was at Twentynine Palms, California, as a company corpsman in 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division. He found the infantry training vigorous, and the experience was very much to his liking. While assigned there he participated in extended jungle warfare training in Okinawa in addition to field exercises in South Korea. This was followed by duty at the Navy Branch Medical Clinic in Everett, Washington. He was then assigned to the USS Frank Cable, a minesweeper home ported in Guam.

HMC Zenonian’s next assignment, from 2009 to the present, was as an instructor at the Corps School, just as all military enlisted medical training was being consolidated at the Medical Education Training Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. He continued in his instructor duty during the move of the school to Texas and the inauguration of the Basic Medical Technician/Corpsman Program, which consolidated Navy and Air Force entry level medical training. His duty position at the time of the interview was Leading Petty Officer, Student Control, and he had been alerted for assignment in 2013 to the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson.
Key Words

BMTC
BRAC 2005
Consolidation of enlisted medical training
Marine Corps corpsman training and duty
METC, Fort Sam Houston, TX
Navy Hospital Corps “A” School, Great Lakes, IL

Glossary

68W: Army medical occupational specialty (MOS) for Health Care Specialist (Combat Medic); a 16-week course conducted at METC. Graduates are trained to EMT-B.

A school: Navy enlisted basic specialty school, e.g. Hospital Corpsman

BMTC: Basic Medical Technician/Corpsman program, consolidated entry level medical training course for the Navy and Air Force; inaugurated 27 April 2011 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The first class graduated 19 July 2011.

BRAC 2005: Base Realignment and Closure Act of 2005; directed consolidation of enlisted medical training at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX

Branch Medical Clinic, Everett: a subsidiary of the Naval Hospital, Bremerton, located in the David R. Ray Health Center, Naval Station Everett, Washington.

C School: Navy advanced enlisted specialty school; e.g. Laboratory Technician

Corps School: Naval Hospital Corps A School, Great Lakes, Illinois conducts primary training for NEC HM-0000 “Quad Zero” hospital corpsman. The Great Lakes school closed in 2011 and relocated to the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC), Fort Sam Houston, Texas as part of BRAC 2005.

Corpsman: enlisted Navy hospitalman specialty.

Evolution: preferred term for an exercise, as in, “I was in charge of the evolution.”

FMF: Fleet Marine Force

FMSS: Field Medical Service School: seven week “C” school conducted at Camp Lejeune, NC, and Camp Pendleton, CA to prepare Navy Corpsmen for assignment to Marine Corps units; awards NEC 8404, Field Medical Service Technician.

IDC: Independent Duty Corpsman, a Navy corpsman with advanced medical training

Laerdal Medical AS: a medical products and services company headquartered in Stavanger, Norway; products include patient simulators and manikins, including Resuscitative Anne, a training aid for mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, SimMan, and other devices.
METC: Medical Education and Training Campus: consolidation of enlisted medical training at Fort Sam Houston, TX, directed by BRAC 2005; initial operating capacity began 30 June 2011; full operating capacity was reached 15 September 2011.

Twentynine Palms: location of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in San Bernardino, CA in the Mojave Desert; is named for a legendary stand of palm trees surrounding a spring called the “Oasis of Mara”;

USS Frank Cable (AS-40): submarine tender home ported in Apra Harbor, Guam; commissioned 29 October 1979; in active service in 2012.

R. Ginn 12/27/12 as reviewed RWZ 2/6/13