



CAPT Melanie J. Merrick
MC, USN

Captain Merrick was born in Winter Haven, Florida. After graduating from Santa Fe Catholic High School in 1983, she attended Emory University, completing her Bachelor of Arts degree in English in 1987. Captain Merrick joined the Navy in 1989 through the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program, earning her Doctor of Medicine degree in 1993 from the University of Miami School of Medicine in Miami, Florida.

Following a family practice internship at Naval Hospital Charleston, South Carolina, she served as a General Medical Officer in the Charleston Naval Shipyard Occupational Health Clinic and at the Recruit Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois until attending Undersea Medical Officer instruction in 1995 at the Naval Undersea Medical Institute in Groton, Connecticut. Her tour as an Undersea Medical Officer onboard the USS FRANK CABLE (AS-40) included a change of homeport venue from Charleston, South Carolina to Agana, Guam during which she earned her Surface Warfare Medical Department Officer qualification and achieved the distinction of Golden Shellback. In 1997 she then returned to residency training at Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Florida and earned Board Certification in Family Medicine. Captain Merrick's next tour was as a family practice staff physician at the Bangor Submarine Base Branch Medical Clinic associated with Naval Hospital Bremerton, Washington.

One year following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, she transferred to serve as staff family physician and later advanced to Senior Medical Officer at Branch Medical Clinic Bahrain. In 2004, she returned to Washington State as Department Head of Family Medicine at Naval Hospital Oak Harbor. In 2006, Captain Merrick deployed for seven months to Al Taqqadum, Iraq with First Medical Battalion, First Marine Logistics Group out of Camp Pendleton, earning her Fleet Marine Force Officer qualification. Returning to Oak

Harbor, she resumed her department head duties as well as becoming the Physician Advisor for Referral Management and Convening Authority for Medical Boards. She next transferred in 2008 for an operational tour as Senior Medical Officer onboard the USS BATAAN (LHD 5) out of Norfolk, Virginia. She led her department and embarked medical personnel during the BATAAN Amphibious Readiness Group deployment to FIFTH and SIXTH Fleets in 2009 and then responded in support of Haiti earthquake relief during OPERATION UNIFIED RESPONSE in 2010. Captain Merrick then served as Director for Branch Clinics at U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella from October 2010 to June 2012. During this time, she supervised branch clinics in three countries supporting NATO and DoD forces deployed to FIFTH and SIXTH Fleets during OPERATIONS ODYSSEY DAWN and UNIFIED PROTECTOR. She reported as Executive Officer, Naval Hospital Beaufort, South Carolina in July 2012.

Her awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (2), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (3), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2), Navy Battle "E" Ribbon (2), Iraq Campaign Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal as well as various personal and unit citations.