

CAPTAIN REES L. LEE, MEDICAL CORPS, U.S. NAVY



CAPT Rees Lee was born and spent his childhood in Sacramento, California. After graduating from Jesuit High School, he was awarded a Navy ROTC scholarship to attend Stanford University where he earned degrees in Biology (B.S. – honors) and Psychology (B.A.). Following college graduation, he spent 5 years as a Line Officer serving consecutively as Communications Officer and Navigator on USS GOLDSBOROUGH (DDG 20) and Training and Readiness Officer for Destroyer Squadron 35. CAPT Lee deployed twice to the Persian Gulf in support of Operations Earnest Will, Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He is a qualified Surface Warfare Officer.

In 1991 CAPT Lee transferred to the Medical Corps and received a Navy scholarship to return to Stanford University for medical school. He graduated from Stanford with honors and continued his medical education at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth (NMCP) as a Pediatric intern and resident. He spent 3 years at Naval Hospital Oak Harbor (NHOH) as a general pediatrician followed by completion of a Pediatric Pulmonology fellowship at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Since 2005, CAPT Lee has been a staff Pediatric Pulmonologist at NMCP. He is Board Certified in both Pediatrics and Pediatric Pulmonology. He is a member of the American Thoracic Society and a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Chest Physicians.

CAPT Lee has served in a variety of leadership positions including Division Head of a combined pediatric/family practice clinic at NHOH and Director of the NMCP Cystic Fibrosis Center, a nationally accredited center of excellence. He is a recognized medical staff leader having served as Chairman of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee and Vice-President of the Medical Staff at NHOH; and as Vice-Chair of the Institutional Review Board and the P&T Committee at NMCP. CAPT Lee was elected by his peers in 2008 to be the Directorate of Medical Services representative to the Executive Committee of the Medical Staff and served as the NMCP Medical Staff President from 2009 to 2010. In 2010, he was selected as the Chairman of the military's largest Pediatrics Department and Pediatric Residency. This joint Navy-Air Force teaching program embraced 13 primary care and specialty care clinics and 3 inpatient wards providing over 75,000 patient encounters annually. In 2013 he was asked to guide the development of the clinical operations plan for the Tidewater enhanced Multi-Service Market as the acting Director of Clinical Operations. In September 2013, CAPT Lee became the acting Executive Officer of the USNS COMFORT (T-AH 20).

In addition to his 2 deployments as a Line Officer, CAPT Lee deployed with USS BOXER (LHD 4) in support of Operation Continuing Promise where he served as the Medical Division Head and was the Officer in Charge for one-quarter of the medical missions ashore. In March 2011, he returned from a seven month deployment as the Senior Medical Officer of the NATO Role 3 Combat Trauma Hospital and Medical Director of Task Force Medical South in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

CAPT Lee has been a national leader to improve asthma care. As Chair of the DOD/Veterans Affairs Asthma Clinical Practice Guideline Development Group and Chair of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) Asthma Working Group, CAPT Lee led the development of new asthma guidance for the military as well as updating Navy policies governing asthma care.

CAPT Lee has an extensive research portfolio having received both undergraduate and medical school research grants. During fellowship, CAPT Lee conducted research on cystic fibrosis and antioxidants. He is currently the Chairman of the National Institutes of Health External Advisory Committee for the CounterACT (Countermeasures against chemical threats) Program of Excellence studying novel therapeutics for mustard gas exposure. At NMCP, he was the local Principle Investigator on numerous multicenter clinical trials studying the use of inhaled therapies for cystic fibrosis. He is the Principle Investigator and Government Sponsor of the Health Outcomes Research Center of Excellence, a public-private cooperative research program which uses Military Health System data to analyze healthcare outcomes. Working with corporate, academic and government collaborators, this project has 22 ongoing protocols exploring drug safety and clinical outcomes of both adult and pediatric diseases.

His personal awards include five Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals (one with the combat valor device) and two Navy Achievement Medals.