

COMMANDER JESSICA L SAUNDERS
OFFICER-IN-CHARGE
NAVAL DOSIMETRY CENTER, BETHESDA

CDR Jessica Saunders is the OIC for the Naval Dosimetry Center in Bethesda, MD. A board-certified Diagnostic Medical Physicist (ABR) and Magnetic Resonance Safety Expert (ABMRS), she holds a PhD in Nuclear Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and completed her residency in Diagnostic Medical Physics at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth.



After her commissioning as a Radiation Health Medical Service Corps Officer, CDR Saunders served as a staff medical physicist at Walter Reed National Medical Center, Bethesda, MD from 2011 to 2014. There she worked with the radiology team to implement the DOD's first real-time dose tracking system, to minimize patient exposure to radiation while optimizing image quality for diagnosis. She conducted performance evaluations of diagnostic imaging equipment, audits of the radiation safety program, and managed equipment purchase and construction of facilities for imaging equipment to support the radiology and nuclear medicine departments and surrounding clinics. She qualified as a medical Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) and certified as a Lean Six Sigma/Green Belt.

In 2014 CDR Saunders transferred to the Georgia Institute of Technology where she conducted graduate research on secondary gamma detection and spectroscopy to advance proton tomographic imaging and earned both a M.S. and Ph.D. After reporting to Naval Medical Center Portsmouth in 2016, she established robust MRI safety and training programs at multiple Naval Medical treatment sites, ensuring that patients received safe and accurate imaging. Upon completion of residency, she was selected to be the division officer for medical physics, joined the residency staff, and was appointed Assistant Professor of Radiology/Radiological Sciences at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences. In this role, she mentored 26 residents in both radiology and medical physics residency programs guiding them in applying basic and advanced diagnostic imaging fundamentals to enhance diagnostic accuracy. Amidst these busy endeavors, she also completed the Joint Professional Military Education I program and the Joint Medical Executive Skills Program.

In 2019, she contributed to the success of diagnostic imaging services at Naval Medical Center San Diego by directing two additional imaging modality ACR accreditations—one for radiology MRI suites and another for the Breast Health Center's mammography imaging—across multiple facilities, demonstrating Navy Medicine's commitments to safe, patient center-care. Her direction led to the effective transition to electronic health record system without disruption to quality patient care. She volunteered for a difficult-to-fill OCONUS ship billet on USS Frank Cable (AS40) in Guam and served as the Medical Division Officer in 2021. While onboard she earned her Surface Warfare Medical Department Officer qualification. As the only qualified Medical Physicist in the central Pacific, despite being stationed shipboard, she went out of her way to support NMRTC Guam, providing qualification training for their staff on equipment assessment, assuring the facility met patient care standards.

CDR Saunders assumed her duties as the Assistant OIC and Science and Research Advisor at the Naval Dosimetry Center February 2023 where she led 6 department heads and 28 staff members to manage the DON's radiation exposure registry program and provide centralized dosimetry processing for Navy and Marine Corps commands worldwide, dosimetry health physics consultations and whole-body counting services. In September 2025, she assumed the duties as the OIC Naval Dosimetry Center.

CDR Saunders' personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and various unit and service awards.