

Navy Medical Leader and Professional Development Command (NMLPDC)

Historical Timeline¹

1823. Navy Surgeon Thomas Harris (1784-1861) uses his “personal” income to establish a dissection laboratory in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to teach medical students, and, specifically, newly commissioned Navy medical officers anatomy and operative surgery, and share his experiences as a naval surgeon. This educational experiment proved such a success that Dr. Harris was encouraged by his Navy students to “give the course under government auspices.” The school (known as the Naval Medical School) is maintained for 20 years at an annual expenditure of \$400 dollars.

1878. Navy Medicine inaugurates formal course of instruction for junior officers at Naval Hospital Brooklyn, N.Y.

1883. The U.S. Naval Museum of Hygiene is formally established by an Act of Congress. As outlined in official communications, the museum’s purpose is “the collection from various sources of instruments, appliances, inventions, and designs relating to, and illustrating, the progress of sanitary science in its application to the exigencies of naval life.” Museum serves as an educational center for “the promotion and development of laboratory researches, in particular those dealing with chemical, bacteriological, and microscopical investigations.”

1893. Surgeon General J. Rufus Tryon issues order creating a 3-month instructional course at the U.S. Naval Laboratory and Department of Instruction in Brooklyn, N.Y.

1902. The Naval Medical School is re-established at the Naval Museum of Hygiene in Washington, D.C. School offers newly commissioned Navy physicians opportunities in postgraduate training. By Navy General Order 89, the Naval Museum of Hygiene becomes the U.S. Naval Museum of Hygiene and Medical School.

1902. Hospital Corps Basic Training is born. BUMED establishes the Navy’s first school for training prospective Hospital Corpsmen at Naval Hospital Norfolk, Virginia.

1903. First class of medical officers graduate from the U.S. Naval Museum of Hygiene and Medical School (April).

1907. Hospital Corps Training School relocates from Norfolk, Virginia to Washington, D.C.

1910s. Advent of first advanced training schools for Hospital Corpsmen.

1911. Hospital Corps Training School Washington, D.C. closes.

1911. General Order institutes regular and systematic teaching of first aid to all naval personnel.

1914. *Handy-Book of the Hospital Corps* (later known as *The Hospital Corps Handbook*) is published. This book was the first BUMED-sponsored text prepared for the education of prospective Hospital Corpsmen.

¹ Prepared by BUMED Historian, February 2022

1914. Navy Medicine reestablishes Basic Hospital Corps School (“A” School) Program.

1923. Naval Dental School is established as a department of the Naval Medical School in Washington, DC.

1923. First class of Hospital Corps dental technicians graduate Naval Dental School.

1935. By Navy General Order # 70, the Naval Hospital Washington, D.C., Naval Dental School and Naval Medical School become part of the Naval Medical Center Washington, D.C.

1939. Ground broken at the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) Bethesda, MD.

1939. Naval Medical School begins studies on Human Plasma development.

1941-1945. Naval Medical School coordinates residency training programs in 30 medical specialties, correspondence courses for officers and enlisted, residencies in clinical pathology and pathologic anatomy, and advanced technical schools (“C” Schools).

1941-1945. Navy Medicine operates Basic Hospital Corps Schools (“A” Schools”) in Bainbridge and Bethesda, Maryland, Brooklyn, N.Y., Farragut, Idaho, Great Lakes, Illinois, Portsmouth, Virginia, Sampson, N.Y., and San Diego, California. Collectively these schools prepare some 120,000 Hospital Corpsmen for the war effort.

1941. Naval Dental School and Naval Medical School relocate to Bethesda in December.

1942. National Naval Medical Center Bethesda is dedicated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on 31 August 1942.

1942. Navy Hospital Corps Officers School (NHCOS) is established at the National Naval Medical Center Bethesda. School is designed to provide training to warrant officers and temporary Hospital Corps officers in general hospital management.

1943. First female Hospital Corpsmen report to recruit training at Hunter College, New York.

1944. (WAVES) Hospital Corps School is established at NNMC Bethesda. On 12 January 1944, 230 WAVES hospital apprentices transfer from Hunter College to Bethesda. The last CorpsWAVES graduate from school on 10 January 1946.

1944. To address ongoing shortages of glass eyes, Navy dentists attached to the Naval Dental School develop the acrylic prosthetic eye.

1945. Hospital Corps Officers School is disestablished and Naval School of Hospital Administration (NSHA) is established as a component command of the National Naval Medical Center Bethesda.

1945. HA2c Ruth Isaacs, HA2c Katherine Horton, and HA2c Inez Patterson become the first African-American women to graduate WAVES Hospital Corps School (April).

1949. CDR Victor Niiranen, DC, USN, head of the Audio & Visual Department at the Naval Medical School begins work on numerous innovative training aids for the Navy. These include a life-like arm with simulated veins for practicing injections and blood withdrawal; a special mouth guard (“resilient plastic interdental splint”) for the National Boxing Association to prevent dental trauma in the boxing ring; and the Navy’s first bleeding trauma manikin (AKA, “Mr. Disaster.”)

1949. First class of Hospital Corpsmen graduate from Naval School of Hospital Administration in July.

1949. The world’s first tissue and bone bank is established at the Naval Medical School by Navy orthopedic surgeon George Hyatt (1920-1993). The Navy program was the first of its kind in the world and established many of the standards that are followed today.

1950. Illustrators attached to the Naval Medical School complete the *Color Atlas of Pathology*, a 600-page book and 1,000 color illustrations. The first of its kind, the *Atlas* was designed to provide medical personnel “usable standard of comparison for study and interpretation of both visual and microscopic findings in pathology.”

1956. After viewing a demonstration of a hydraulic contra angle air turbine handpiece developed by Robert J. Nelson, Carl Pelander, and John Kumpula in 1953, Navy dentists CAPTs Curtiss Schantz and Bill Ludwig generate the idea for a similar system that could be developed by the Navy using compressed air. CDR John V. Borden, a Reserve Navy dentist took on this project while working at the Navy Dental School. In June 1956, Borden developed a free running air-driven turbine handpiece that required less pressure to cut a tooth structure.

1958. Naval Dental School became an associate member of the American Association of Dental Schools.

1960. Naval Dental School inaugurates the first inter-service medical military television network.

1963. Navy Medical School’s Tissue Bank begins plans for harvesting live tissue. In 1963, three quarter of tissues harvested by Tissue Bank is sent to civilian institutions.

1964. Naval Dental School Seminar of Restorative Dentistry (SRD) is established.

1965. NSHA is assigned additional responsibility of providing a 5-week Indoctrination Program for officers newly commissioned through in-service procurement program.

1962. Naval Medical School establishes the Nurse Anesthesia Program.

1968. Naval Medical School establishes specialty courses in operating room and orthopedic nursing.

1970. Naval School of Hospital Administration is renamed Naval School of Health Care Administration (NSHCA) in March.

1971. Naval Medical School is redesignated the Naval Medical Training Institute (NMTI).

1971. Naval Dental School is redesignated Naval Graduate Dental School (NGDS).

1972. NSHCA established new program with The George Washington University to establish a Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration degree at the university (Navy/George Washington University Undergraduate Program).

1973. Navy Surgeon General convenes special education and training board to explore centralization of Navy Medicine's education and training program.

1973. NSHCA establishes Executive Medicine Program for senior physicians and dentists in order to increase management capabilities.

1974. Naval Health Sciences Education and Training Command (HSETC) is established as an echelon 3 command in July. The new command has oversight over 7 echelon-4 training commands—Naval School of Health Sciences (NSHS) Portsmouth, VA, NSHS San Diego, CA, Naval School of Healthcare Administration Bethesda, MD, Naval Graduate Dental School, Naval Aerospace Medical Institute (NAMI), Pensacola, FL, and Naval Undersea Medical Institute (NUMI) Groton, CT. The Naval Medical Training Institute (formerly Naval Medical School) is subsumed into HSETC.

1974. A Navy dental officer is assigned to HSETC to oversee coordination of all training programs for dental officers and technicians.

1975. NGDS is realigned as subordinate command of the National Naval Medical Center.

1977. NSHCA establishes 16-week course in Financial and Supply Management in June.

1977. NSHCA is redesignated the Naval School of Health Sciences (NSHS) Bethesda, MD.

1980. NSHS establishes Patient Administration Course in October.

1984. HSETC is accredited as an educational institution.

1985. NGDS establishes a three-year oral pathology residency, to include a one-year rotation at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

1986. HSETC establishes the Plans, Operations and Medical Intelligence (POMI) Course in January.

1994. The NGDS periodontics residency expands to three years, to include an extensive three-month rotation in anesthesia / parenteral sedation.

1995. BUMED restructures Navy Medicine Education and Training. HSETC is disestablished and education and training policy functions are transferred to BUMED. HSETC executive functions are transferred to NSHS Bethesda which now has oversight over technical training schools (NSHS Portsmouth, Virginia and San Diego, California).

1995. Two major advances in the field of endodontics are introduced into the NGDS residency curriculum—the surgical operating microscope allows for significantly enhanced magnification and visibility, improving the clinician’s ability to appreciate and negotiate morphological intricacies during both surgical and non-surgical endodontic procedures. In addition, the introduction of rotary nickel titanium files in the 1990s greatly enhances efficiency in endodontic instrumentation.

1997. NSHS establishes the Global Medicine Course in March.

2001. NSHS establishes the Clinic Management Course (March), Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (July) and Sugar, Temperature, Airway, Basic Life, and Emotional Support Course (July).

2001. Naval Graduate Dental School (NGDS) is redesignated the Naval Postgraduate Dental School (NPDS).

2001. The NPDS Orofacial Pain Center is founded by CAPTs Dale Ehrlich, Peter Bertrand, and John Johnson for the purpose of “evaluation and treatment of patients with atypical pain presentations such as temporomandibular disorder, neuropathic pain, neuralgias, and headache disorders.”

2002. NSHS establishes TRICARE Financial Management Executive Program (February).

2002. NSHS Bethesda is renamed the Naval Medical and Education Training Command (NMETC) in August.

2005. Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) list for relocation is released. Under BRAC, the Walter Reed Army Medical Center is slated for closure and the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) for alignment.

2005. NMETC establishes the Advanced Medical Department Officers Course (AMDOC) and Executive Medical Department Enlisted Course (EMDEC) in March.

2005. Navy Medical Support Command (NMSC), Jacksonville, Florida, is commissioned.

2005. NPDS establishes a one-year Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) program for recent dental school graduates.

2006. Navy Medicine Manpower, Personnel, Training & Education Command (NMPT&E) is established in Bethesda (October). The new command integrates elements of BUMED Human Resources Division and NMETC. Command serves as hub for “Navy Medicine’s health services support training and education mission.” It organized under NMSC in Jacksonville.

2008. Postgraduate training in oral and maxillofacial radiology transitions to out-service basis at civilian institutions.

2008. NMPT&E establishes the Emergency Medical Technician Program Oversight Course (October).

2009. The Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bethesda, MD is established to oversee the 2,470 acre complex.

2009. NPDS is realigned under NMPT&E.

2011. Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), Bethesda, MD is formally established.

2011. NMPT&E establishes the Military Tropical Medicine (February) and Hemodialysis (May) courses.

2012. NMSC is renamed and re-scoped as the Navy Medical Education and Training Command (NMETC).

2012. NMPT&E is renamed Navy Medicine Professional Development Center (NMPDC) in January.

2014. NMPDC establishes the Clinical Informatics and Predictive Index courses (May).

2015. In conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee, NMPDC establishes the Interagency Institute for Federal Health Care Executives (October).

2016. NMETC is renamed the Naval Medical Education, Training and Logistics Command (NMETLC).

2016. NMPDC is awarded the USS *Bainbridge* Award for Overall Excellence in Community Service by the Commander, Naval Installations Training Command (CNITC).

2018. Navy Medical Leadership Development Academy (LDA) is established under CAPT Robert Mitton.

2019. NMETLC is renamed the Naval Medical Forces Support Command (NMFSC).

2019. NMPDC assumes command of the Visual Informatics Directorate (VID), formerly under the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED). VID is one of seven directorates along with Academic Programs (APD), Leader Development Academy (LDA), Officer Programs (OPD), Naval Postgraduate Dental School (NPDS), Directorate for Administration (DFA) and the Directorate for resources (DFR). VID is formally realigned to NMPDC in June 2020.

2019. NMPDC Advanced Medical Department Officers Course (AMDOC) is renamed the Advanced Readiness Officer Course (A-ROC).

2019. The Basic Medical Department Officer's Course (BMDOC) is retired, curriculum redesigned and relaunched as the Basic Medical Department Officer's Course (B-ROC).

2020. NMPDC is redesignated the Naval Medical Leader and Professional Development Command (NML&PDC) in July.

2020. NML&PDC oversees inception and piloting of the Navy Medicine 101 Course (September). Formally adopted in 2021, course allows newly commissioned Navy medical officers to receive structured orientation to Navy operational medicine.

2021. NML&PDC is re-accredited by the Council on Occupational Education.

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