



CAPT Nichole Olson, U.S. Navy Commanding Officer, Navy Medicine Operational Training Command



A native of New Mexico, Captain Olson received her Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of New Mexico in 1997 and went on to obtain her Doctor of Optometry from Nova Southeastern College of Optometry in 2001. Upon graduating, she commissioned with the Public Health Service and was stationed on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. In June 2002, Captain Olson transferred her commission to the U.S. Navy and was assigned to Branch Medical Clinic Oceana as a staff optometrist. In 2004 she was the first Navy optometrist deployed to Kuwait where she served as the sole eye care provider in theater. In 2005, she was transferred to U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka, Japan. She established the first ever eye clinic in Atsugi, Japan and served as Department Head of Optometry at the Naval Hospital. After serving in Japan for three years, she promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander and returned to Virginia and became the Department Head of Clinical Support Services at Naval Branch Health Clinic Norfolk. While there, she was instrumental in the establishment of a new 5-million-dollar radiology suite. In 2010, she reported on board at Naval Hospital Naples, Italy, where she served in multiple roles. These included Department Head of Optometry and Chair of the Credentials Committee. For her next assignment in 2013, Captain Olson transferred to Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi, Texas and in 2014 was promoted to the rank of Commander. She served as Director of Clinical Support Services, Chair of the Medical Executive Committee and Department Head of Optometry and Audiology. In 2016, she transferred to Naval Hospital Guam and served as the Director of Clinical Support Services, expanding her knowledge at the hospital level. In April of 2019, she was selected to a career milestone position as the Officer in Charge, Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Unit Meridian, Mississippi, where she paved the way for the transition to the Defense Health Agency and MHS Genesis. In December 2021 she was promoted to the rank of Captain. Captain Olson reported to Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Corpus Christi as the Executive Officer in July 2022. In August of 2024, she reported to Navy Medicine Operational Training Command (NMOTC) as the Command Officer.

Her personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (5), a Meritorious Unit Service Medal and multiple campaign and service awards.

Captain Olson is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and Adjunct Professor at Southeastern College of Optometry.

