

THE RUDDER

Sailings of the U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps



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August 2025

Volume 13, Issue 3

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All previous editions of The Rudder can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Note that this site is CAC-enabled.

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FROM THE MSC DIRECTOR

MSC Colleagues,

Happy Birthday! This year we celebrate 78th anniversary of the Medical Service Corps! Our humble beginnings on Aug 4, 1947, started our legacy of service which began with five specialties and today, has grown to 31 communities. Our collective commitment to service and our deep connection to the Navy and Marine



Corps missions, serve as the foundation of the Navy Medicine Enterprise. It is perfect that we are known as “twigs,” because without that twig, or branch, the other leaves would not be able to thrive. As we celebrate our birthday, please take a moment to reflect on our collective accomplishments and the service of those who came before us; I hope that you are filled with pride for what we have done and that you are energized by what we will do together.

In this spirit, The Rudder is celebrating the MSC birthday alongside stories from within our own ranks such as Capt. Olusegun Olabode, who rose from an enlisted corpsman to become an MSC captain. He joined the Navy as part of a desire to belong to something bigger than himself, and how he described his journey to the Navy and in the Navy. Each of us has a unique story about what brought us to the Navy and about our Navy journey. This month, I encourage you to share your story as it is a powerful connection point for others who aspire to be like you.

Cover Page: Artwork generated with AI by Lt. Cmdr. Biggs using Gemini.

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In closing, I hope you take time to celebrate our naval history and remember the proud origins of the MSC officers who came before us. Take this opportunity to immerse yourself in our customs so that upholding the highest traditions of naval service and relish the things that make us unique. Go with renewed energy to continue to serve in the greatest naval fighting force our world has ever known!

*With respect
and admiration! M. Case*

M. CASE

Rear Admiral, Medical Service Corps

United States Navy

Director, Medical Service Corps

A Note from the Editors

You may have noticed a change in our formatting, specifically how we have shifted in abbreviating ranks (e.g., from “LCDR” to “Lt. Cmdr.”). This change is to comply with PAO requirements for external publishing, and will apply to all future issues.



Sigonella, Italy. NAMRU EURAFCENT celebrates the MSC birthday during the change of command, featuring the active-duty staff from Italy, Egypt, and Ghana. Pictured (Left-to-Right): HM1 Kirkashley Young; Capt. Marvin Sklar, MC; Cmdr. Micah Kinney, Optometry (XO); Lt. Cmdr. Robert Hontz, Microbiology; Capt. Michael Prouty, Microbiology (CO); Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Montgomery, Entomology; HMC Dianne Thorpe (CSEL); HM1 Michael Scaife; Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Forbes, POMI (DFA); and LS1 Johnny Muldrow. More birthday greetings on Page 15!

CORPS CHIEF'S OFFICE

FY25 OFFICER OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCEMENT

It's time to recognize outstanding Medical Service Corps (MSC) officers! Each year, the Director, Navy Medical Service Corps, honors officers by subspecialty for their significant contributions to warfighter performance, operational capabilities, and Navy Medicine through their leadership and professional expertise. While an official tasker will follow, we are requesting your assistance in disseminating this information widely within your communities and ensuring robust participation in the nomination process.

**Key Dates:**

- **Nomination Packages Due to SLs:** 10 October 2025
- **SL Selection Boards Completed:** 05 December 2025
- **Final Selection Packages Due to the Corps Chief's Office:** 12 December 2025

Corps Chief's Office Expectations:

- **Timely Submissions:** Adherence to the deadlines outlined above.
- **Subspecialty Representation:** At least one nomination from each subspecialty.
- **Complete Packages:** Each nomination package must include the following:
 - Signed Nomination Form
 - Command Nomination Letter
 - High-resolution Service Dress Blues Photo
 - Flag Letter of Commendation (FLOC) Write-up

✦ **Important:** Please use the provided FLOC template *without altering the format*. Ensure the writing is free of spelling and grammatical errors, and that there are two spaces after each period. Properly formatted FLOCs allow for faster processing and turnaround.

✦ Scoring Sheet Template

Documents can be found here (CAC enabled): [here](#).

Please direct any questions to Capt. (select) Bryan Pyle or to Lt. Kionna Myles.

Thank you for your dedication to recognizing the outstanding contributions of our MSC officers!

NAVY MEDICINE PROJECT MANAGEMENT TRAINING (PMPE)

Course Overview and Objectives: This course is aligned with the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK) Guide 6th/7th edition and structured for rapid understanding of the most important project management content and covering each Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) and Project Management Professional (PMP) exam objective: Initiating, Planning, Executing, Monitoring and Controlling, Closing, and Professional and Social Responsibility. Instruction encompasses a progressive series of proprietary models and exercises for immediate use as a project management practitioner as well as for career development.

Course Details:

- This is a five day virtual course
- Must be military or federal civilian assigned to Navy Medicine, Fleet, or FMF.
- Have your supervisor and organization Commander approval.
- Must complete at least one command-approved PM initiative; past projects are not accepted to meet this requirement.
- **NEW!** NAVMED Project Management (PM) Certification program available.
- **NEW!** AQD for PMP and NAVMED PM Certification.
- **NEW!** University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) NAVMED Partnership. Completion of this course will replace the UMGC Project Management course for those students enrolled in a UMGC degree program with the PM requirement.

To Register:

1. Go to: <https://carepoint.health.mil/sites/SPIDR/SitePages/Home.aspx>.
2. In the TRAINING box, select NAVMED.
3. In the Project/Portfolio Management Section, select Project Management Performance Excellence box.
4. Click on the Register box for the course you would like to attend.

The dates, along with their hosting regions and time zones, are as follows:

25-29 August 2025: Hosted by NMFP (PST)

8-12 September 2025: Hosted by NMFDC (CST)

15-19 September 2025: Hosted by BUMED (EST)

20-24 October 2025: Hosted by NMFL (EST)

Secure your spot now! Detailed registration instructions are available on SPIDR:

<https://carepoint.health.mil/sites/SPIDR/SitePages/Home.aspx>

AMSUS Awards

AMSUS acknowledges the abilities of many outstanding federal healthcare individuals each year through our distinguished Awards Program. Please mark your calendars: the Awards Submission Deadline is 15 November 2025.

Link: <https://amsus.org/page/AMSUSAnnualAwardsProgram>



UPCOMING COURSES CALENDAR

Course Name	Start Date	End Date	Location
Intermediate Leadership Course (ILC) - Dam Neck	Oct 06, 2025	Oct 10, 2025	Dam Neck, VA
Surface Warfare Medical Dept Officer Indoctrination	Oct 13, 2025	Oct 24, 2025	San Diego, CA
Senior Leader Legal Course (SLLC)	Oct 14, 2025	Oct 16, 2025	Newport, RI
Intermediate Executive Skills Course (IESC)	Oct 20, 2025	Oct 23, 2025	Virtual
Intermediate Leadership Course (ILC) - Dam Neck	Oct 20, 2025	Oct 24, 2025	Damn Neck, VA
Intermediate Leadership Course (ILC) - San Diego	Oct 20, 2025	Oct 24, 2025	San Diego, CA
Intermediate Leadership Course (ILC) - Dam Neck	Nov 03, 2025	Nov 07, 2025	Dam Neck, VA
Intermediate Leadership Course (ILC) - San Diego	Nov 03, 2025	Nov 07, 2025	San Diego, CA
Senior Leader Legal Course (SLLC)	Nov 04, 2025	Nov 06, 2025	Newport, RT
Capstone for MHS Leaders Course	Nov 17, 2025	Nov 20, 2025	Virtual
Intermediate Leadership Course (ILC) - Dam Neck	Nov 17, 2025	Nov 21, 2025	Dam Neck, VA
Intermediate Leadership Course (ILC) - San Diego	Nov 17, 2025	Nov 21, 2025	San Diego, CA
Senior Leader Legal Course (SLLC) - Virtual	Nov 18, 2025	Nov 20, 2025	Virtual

Full course details are available in the FY26 Navy Medicine Leadership Course Catalog. Check this resource for details about course description, purpose, available seats, required sign-up/nomination date, and any additional information related to the course.

To recommend additional courses or deadlines to include on the upcoming NMLPDC professional development calendar, please contact Lt. Cheryl Kivlehan or Lt. Micaela Barter (see MSC SharePoint for contact information).



CAREER DEVELOPMENT

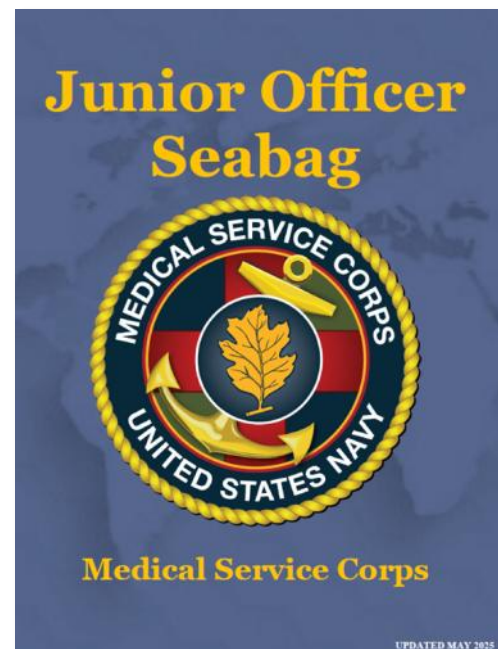
NEW JUNIOR OFFICER SEABAG AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (CDB) POLICY

Have you checked out the new Junior Officer (JO) Seabag and Career Development Board (CDB) Policy? Both can be found here:

<https://esportal.med.navy.mil/bumed/m00/m00c/M00C4/SitePages/MSC%20Resources.aspx>

The CDB Policy can be found as an official memorandum from the Director of the Medical Service Corps to all officers. Here are the highlights:

1. Purpose. To provide guidance for the management and execution of the MSC Officer Career Development Board (CDB Program).
2. Applicability. All Navy MSC officers. If you are reading The Rudder, and you are not retired, that includes you!
3. Background. The CDB Program is designed to help officers receive guidance and tools to make informed career decisions based on current Navy policies, programs, and procedures to achieve their personal and professional goals. The program aims to develop a positive mentorship experience with active involvement from the top down. Moreover, this program also creates a recurring opportunity to update and to review your record without waiting until you are up for the next promotion milestone.
4. Policy.
 - a. All officers in the ranks of ensign through commander are required to have a CDB within the first 180 days of reporting to a new assignment.
 - b. Exemptions. Officers meeting the following criteria are not required, but highly encouraged to complete one CDB per assignment:
 - (1) Officers in a full-time training or student status (e.g., residency, fellowship, DUINS) are not required to complete a CDB, but should be offered the opportunity. These officers may benefit from a CDB to enhance their planned return to normal duty or to receive guidance during their sabbatical.
 - (2) Officers who have approved separation/retirement status. Planning to separate is not an approved exemption. CDBs should always strive to support the member's personal goals and may include veterans, reservists, or member of a profession to which the individual plans to transition after service. Consideration should be made to include board members qualified to give guidance on separation or retirement.



Bottom line, a CDB is a chance to review your personal and professional goals. Identify several members of your professional community, current or future, who can provide guidance about your personal and career goals. Also, show the board respect by providing your materials well in advance of the CDB. These materials can include, but are not limited to: Last two FITREPS (redacted SSN), OSR, PSR, ODC, Military Bio, CV, CDB Profile Sheet (not required, but helpful), and think of at least three questions you would like to ask the board.

RESERVE UPDATE

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MSC RESERVES

By: Mr. Andre Sobocinski, BUMED Historian, and Lt. Katie Parizek, MSC, USN

The vital role of the U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps (MSC) reserves began not with a formal corps, but with the urgent demands of World War II. As the nation plunged into global conflict, the Navy desperately needed skilled personnel in a variety of specialized roles. The solution arose through temporary commissions granted to individuals with expertise in administrative, clinical, and scientific fields.

In March 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's declaration of a national emergency ignited the full mobilization of the Naval Reserve. By the war's end, an astonishing three million Naval reservists—80% of the entire Navy—had been mobilized. Among them were more than 800 officers designated as "hospital volunteer specialists" (H-V(S)). These healthcare pioneers hailed from many specialties, including clinical and research psychology, optometry, industrial hygiene, entomology, malariology, bacteriology, serology, environmental physiology, parasitology, hematology, among other specialties.

During the war, these dedicated professionals made immeasurable contributions in multiple fields. They served at the newly established Navy Medical Research Institute performing research on high altitude training and night lookout techniques. They developed psychological tests for naval airmen. And



Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. Navy Malaria Control Unit conducting field work. Archival photograph from 1943.

when tropical diseases ravaged troops in the Pacific, these specialists tirelessly worked to reduce their disease incidence rates. More than anything, their service laid the essential foundation for the future Medical Service Corps.

When the MSC was formally established in 1947, all its initial

"plank owners" were World War II veterans, with 44% being former reservists and included Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES).

Throughout the ensuing decades, Medical Service Corps reservists would play key roles across administrative, clinical and scientific specialties—serving where needed from the Korean War and Vietnam to the Persian Gulf War.

During Operation Desert Shield, MSC reservists served among the more than 6,000 Navy Medicine reservists recalled to active duty. Collectively, they provided crucial operational support to deployed Navy and Marine Corps units, staffed 500-bed fleet hospitals (Fleet Hospitals 6 and 15) deployed to Saudi Arabia, augmented active-duty crews on the hospital ships USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy in the Persian Gulf, and helped the Navy maintain high-quality healthcare for beneficiaries in stateside hospitals.

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The 1990s also marked a significant milestone with the advent of flag rank in the MSC Reserve. On 01 October 1990, optometrist William David Sullins, Jr., became the first MSC reservist to wear flag rank and the first to serve as the Reserve Director of the Medical Service Corps.

In the last two decades, MSC officers were among the more than 80,000 Navy reservists mobilized, providing both ready units and individual augmentees to support Navy and joint force efforts in combat operations, humanitarian and disaster relief missions around the world. MSC reservists have been an integral part of Expeditionary Medical Units (EMUs) deploying to Djibouti, augmenting Army and Air Force staff at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, and serving at NATO Role 3 in Kandahar, Afghanistan. MSC reservists have been regularly recalled to active duty to participate in large-scale humanitarian and disaster preparedness efforts like Hurricane Katrina (2005), Superstorm Sandy (2012) and Operation Unified Response (2010). During the COVID-19 pandemic, MSC reservists played key roles in support of efforts in Baton Rouge, Dallas,



Archival photograph. Lt. Sandra L. Doppelheuer, Dietician, providing nutritional guidance to a patient, Naval Hospital Bethesda, 1972.



Archival photograph. LCDR Richard Gorecki, Podiatrist, Naval Reserve Naval Hospital Portsmouth 201, 1996.

New Orleans, New York, Stamford, and overseas in Guam as well as historic deployments of USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy.

Today, the Medical Service Corps boasts over 330 reservists serving across 95 unique commands. This wide array of support includes the Expeditionary Medicine (EXMED) platforms, Adaptive Mobilization Medical Units (AMMUs), Accession Support Units (ASUs), Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Commands (NMRTCs), Navy Medical Readiness Logistics Command (NMRLC), BUMED Headquarters, and many positions in the Marine Corps and throughout the fleet. Their ongoing dedication continues to be a cornerstone of Navy Medicine's readiness and global reach.

PHARMACY OVERSEAS DELIVERING CARE

By: Lt. Karla M. Liendo, Director Resources Management, Naval Hospital Rota, Spain

Naval pharmacists play a crucial role in military healthcare, ensuring the well-being of warfighters and their families by optimizing readiness through the delivery of comprehensive pharmaceutical care. Their responsibilities extend beyond simply dispensing medications; they provide safe, high-quality care, ultimately contributing to improved health outcomes for operational units and beneficiaries within military treatment facilities (MTFs).

In demanding, fast-paced environments, efficient processes are paramount to mission success. Recognizing that long wait times at the pharmacy can lead to patient frustration and dissatisfaction, naval pharmacies are actively implementing innovative solutions. Q-Anywhere, for example, allows patients to remotely "get in line" for prescription activation via the internet or their cell phones. While availability varies by location, some pharmacies also offer QR codes for web-based enrollment, starting the prescription filling process before patients arrive!

Another valuable time-saving asset is the ScriptCenter automated dispensing machine. This secure system provides around-the-clock prescription refills for eligible beneficiaries. When integrated with Q-Anywhere, patients can activate their prescriptions remotely and then retrieve them at their convenience from the ScriptCenter, signifi-

cantly reducing wait times. Lt. Cmdr. Galka notes the impact of this combined approach, stating, "We changed our process and started loading the machine to proactively fill 275 prescriptions a week." While the ScriptCenter does have limitations, such as not being able to accommodate refrigerated medications, it offers a substantial improvement in dispensing efficiency.

Naval pharmacists contribute significant operational support at the enterprise level by using the Pharmacy Data Warehouse, a central repository, to track and to report on medication usage and trends. These comprehensive reports provide detailed data on which specific points of service, branches of service, MTFs, providers, or patients, as needed. This data allows for a complete understanding of the pharmacy community's impact



Naval Hospital Rota, Spain. Pictured above: Lt. Cmdr. Jason Galka, Pharmacist, DHB

on operational forces across the fleet.

Looking towards the future, the Navy is increasingly leveraging advanced software and artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance medication management, dispensing, and inventory control, with the aim of reducing errors and further optimizing readiness. By continually embracing innovation and maintaining a patient-centered focus, naval pharmacists are essential in ensuring the health and readiness of the U.S. Navy.

FROM THE LABS

NAMRU SAN ANTONIO RESEARCHERS COLLABORATE FOR NOVEL BONE FRACTURE FIXATION TECHNOLOGY

By: Burrell Parmer, NAMRU San Antonio Public Affairs

Researchers with Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU) San Antonio's Craniofacial Health and Restorative Medicine Directorate are engaged in a range of projects looking into technology to address and to treat bone fractures in U.S. service members.

One such technology, BoneTape, a flexible, resorbable tape intended to stabilize broken bones around the face and head, has been a part of this research portfolio since 2024. Resorbable (or biodegradable) implants are composed of materials designed to gradually degrade and be absorbed by the body over time and thus eliminate the need for a second surgery to remove the device.

Dr. Nancy Millenbaugh, with NAMRU San Antonio's Maxillofacial Injury and Disease Department, leads research into the use of BoneTape for bone fracture fixation, working in collaboration with the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, and Cohesys, a medical device company.

"While we have the capabilities to provide high quality research and data, collaborators provide specific expertise unique to each project that provides insight for specialized techniques and clinical perspective," said Dr. Millenbaugh. "Collaboration with end users helps NAMRU San Antonio achieve our mission of supporting warfighter readiness and transitioning knowledge and products from experimental phases to actionable items and products."



San Antonio, Texas. (Right-to-Left): Dr. Daniel Thompson, Research Scientist, Joseph Macaitis, Research Scientist. Photo by Burrell Parmer, NAMRU San Antonio Public Affairs.

According to Dr. Millenbaugh, 26% of battlefield injuries are to the craniomaxillofacial (CMF) region, with more than one quarter resulting in fractures. Additionally, most CMF fractures occur to bones within the region between the upper and lower thirds of the face such as the cheekbone.

"This research will evaluate the efficacy of a resorbable internal fixation device that requires no drilling or further damage to underlying

bone structure," Dr. Millenbaugh said. "This device is expected to significantly reduce surgical time and duration of patient recovery while improving post-injury quality of life and operational readiness."

Researchers will compare the performance and safety of the BoneTape device to an FDA-approved predicate device. This data will be used by Cohesys as part of a 510(k) submission to the FDA.

"We are committed to expanding partnerships in the medical field and the importance of sharing best practices, advancing medical capabilities, research and training opportunities," said Dr. Millenbaugh.

NAMRU San Antonio, part of Navy Medical Research Command (NMRC) supports Navy Medicine's efforts to deliver expeditionary medicine systems, increase Sailor and Marine deployability, provide quality healthcare and recruit and retain medical personnel. Its mission is to conduct gap driven combat casualty care, craniofacial and directed energy research to improve survival, operational readiness and safety of Department of Defense personnel engaged in routine and expeditionary operations.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

TAKING THE UNCONVENTIONAL PATH: THE STORY OF VALENTINO BAILEY

By: André B. Sobocinski, BUMED Historian

After more than two decades of distinguished service across multiple branches, Lt. Col. Valentino Bailey made an extraordinary decision: he left the Army, relinquished his rank, and pursued his dream of becoming a Naval Aerospace Operational Physiologist (NAOP).

Born an Air Force "brat," Bailey spent his childhood moving between seven different bases, eventually graduating high school in Okinawa, Japan. Despite his parents' advice to join the Air Force as an officer—a path they encouraged after their own enlisted careers—he initially wanted nothing to do with the military. His college years playing football at East Carolina University were initially devoid of military aspirations. However, a longing for structure in the otherwise chaotic college environment led him to join Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps. "Growing up as a military brat, you don't realize how much you thrive in a structured environment," he explained, highlighting his need for accountability.

His ROTC experience provided the framework he craved, offering clear milestones and a roadmap for his future. But his path to commissioning took an unexpected turn in 1998. A new Air Education and Training Command (AETC) mandate required all scholarship recipients to pursue STEM degrees. An economics major, he faced a choice: switch to Army ROTC, change his degree, or enlist. He chose the latter, enlisting in the Air Force to utilize his GI Bill and finish his degree later.

Upon arriving at his first duty station at Bolling Air Force Base, a conversation with his Chief Master Sergeant connected him to base education office where they directed him to point of contact for the Professional Officer Course Early Release Program. This program allowed enlisted personnel with or nearing a bachelor's degree to return to school and

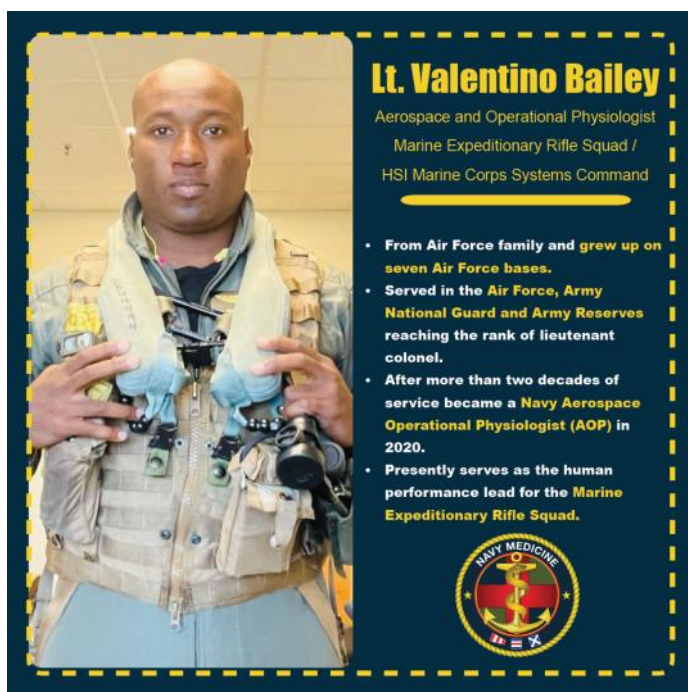
commission. Thirteen months later, he graduated and commissioned as an Air Force officer.

His early Air Force career included a stint at Space and Missile Command and working on a multi-billion-dollar satellite systems. In 2007, recognizing the Army's need for officers and their active "Blue to Green" transition program, he made the uncommon move from the Air Force to the Army National Guard. He found the transition surprisingly seamless due to the branches' shared heritage, similar rank structures, and terminology. His quick adaptation surprised his colleagues, who would ask if he was a West Point graduate. "You speak the language. It feels like you were homegrown," they would say, a testament to his dedication.

His time in the Army National Guard was marked by multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. This was a direct answer to his earlier "angst" in the Air Force, where his specialized skill as a cost estimator kept him stateside. "I joined to serve my country, and the Air Force was kind of inhibiting that ability," he shares. So, his first question to the recruiter was, "How fast can I deploy?" The answer was swift and frequent, leading to a six to seven-year stretch of almost continuous deployments. He served primarily in combat support roles as a Contingency Contracting Team (CCT) lead, often forward-deployed with special operations forces to procure essential supplies.

His experiences in joint environments alongside NATO allies helped further solidified his gratitude for their shared sacrifices. However, his last deployment as part of Operation Resolute Support, an advisory and assist mission training the Afghan Army, marked a turning point. The mission had changed, and with it, Bailey found himself with new questions and a desire to seek new opportunities.

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Returning stateside, the question of "what's next" loomed as his 20-year mark approached. After a conversation with his mother, who asked him, "What would you do for free?," sparked a new direction. He realized his passion lay in human performance. This revelation led him to pursue a second master's degree in exercise physiology and athletic training at the University of Miami.

COVID-19 brought new uncertainties, prompting him to consider if his newfound passion could align with continued military service. While the Army's research physiology program required a Ph.D., a U.S. Naval Academy graduate friend suggested the Navy had a similar opportunity. This tip led to an 18-month journey of applications, waivers, interviews and difficult decisions. He was simultaneously being considered for O-6 selection, War College, and command in the Army. The pressure mounted, and he made it clear to the Navy.

In a remarkable sequence, he was accepted into the Navy program, then accepted for Army command, and finally selected for O-6. Despite the opportunity to advance further in the Army, he chose the Navy, knowing it meant a significant reduction in rank. During his interview, wearing his lieutenant

colonel uniform, the panel strongly suggested he discuss rank with the Navy's personnel command. His initial "hubris," as he calls it, led him to believe he would retain much of his rank, earning him the temporary call sign "Icarus" after the mythological figure who flew too close to the sun with waxen wings before falling. Ultimately, the Navy reduced him to an O-3.

Adjusting to the new rank was a challenge. "I had to come to grips with the fact that I was going to go back in time," he explained. The desire to fly, to finally have that opportunity, was paramount. He even held a symbolic ceremony, burying his old rank in his backyard to psychologically move on.

Now, as an NAOP in the Navy, he finds himself in a small, tight-knit, and highly skilled community. His current role, working with Marines on a Marine Corps base, feels like "home," as he puts it. As the human performance lead for the Marine Expeditionary Rifle Squad, Bailey looks at how Marines can be integrated in systems. This multidisciplinary function ensures we never lose sight of our most important asset, the Marine.

His extensive background in acquisition from both the Air Force and Army, particularly operational acquisition in austere environments, proved invaluable. These experiences allows him to view the Marine as a "weapons system," considering factors like thermal burden and the downstream effects of new equipment on existing combat loads. He understands that gear must be functional, not just "cool."

When asked if he would follow the same path again, Bailey states his only regret was timing—"I would love to have found this opportunity earlier in my career."

However, now after looking back on his 26-year military career, he wouldn't change his past experiences, acknowledging that the Air Force and Army shaped who he is today. His advice to aspiring NAOPs, or anyone considering a service change, is simple: "Don't talk yourself out of it. Pursue it. The last thing you want to do is to live with regrets."

NMRLC SERVICE MEMBER RISES FROM ENLISTED CORPSMAN TO NAVY CAPTAIN

By: Julius Evans, Public Affairs Officer, Naval Medical Readiness Logistics Command



Williamsburg, Va. Official photo of Cmdr. Olusegun A. Olabode. Photo by Julius Evans.

Having begun service as an enlisted Sailor, Naval Medical Readiness Logistics Command's (NMRLC) executive officer, Capt. (select) Olusegun A. Olabode, traversed a unique path to becoming a Navy captain. Though a Chicago native, Olabode spent his formative years in Nigeria.

"Growing up there was tough, but also fun and memorable. It instilled in me mental toughness, resiliency, discipline, humility, and motivation to excel," he said. These dynamic traits undoubtedly shaped his character. "For me, the Navy is about duty and honor. Ultimately, serving in the Navy is about personal growth. It's about pushing my limits, learning new skills, and developing into a leader. It's about becoming a better version of myself, both personally and professionally," he explained. "It's a privilege to be part of this proud tradition, to stand alongside those who have come before me, and to contribute

to the legacy of the United States Navy. It's a commitment I take seriously, and it's something I'm incredibly proud to be a part of."

In 1998, Olabode enlisted under the Delayed Entry Program and attended Recruit Basic Training in 1998. In 2005, as a Petty Officer 2nd Class, he attended Southern Illinois University (Carbondale), completing his degree in Healthcare Management before completing his Master of Business Administration degree with a focus in Healthcare Administration. He attended Officer Indoctrination School during 2007 before reporting to Naval Hospital Yokosuka, Japan, for duty as a General Healthcare Administrator. After numerous other assignments and changes in duty stations throughout Navy Medicine, including a second master's degree, Olabode completed his doctoral degree in Healthcare Administration from Virginia University of Lynchburg in 2021.

Olabode attributes his success to his wife's support. Having been assigned to multiple overseas tours of duty, those changes always lead to family stress, but through her support, he thrived.

"My career in the Navy, and any success I have achieved, would be simply impossible without the unwavering support of my wife. She is the bedrock of our family. Her strength, resilience, and understanding allowed me to focus on my duties and pursuit of my goals with confidence, knowing that our home front was secured with love," he said. "Her sacrifices, both big and small, are what truly make my service possible. I am eternally grateful for her love, her patience, and her unwavering belief in me."

Today, as the NMRLC executive officer, Olabode is charged with achieving the command's mission to develop, acquire, produce, field, sustain, and provide enduring lifecycle support of medical materiel solutions to the Fleet, Fleet Marine Force, and Joint Forces in high-end competition, crisis, and combat.

BIRTHDAY MESSAGES

Environmental Health

Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) are a community with a vast experience level comprising of prior civilian experience and graduate level education. EHOs serve in lead positions during multiple deployments in support of Fleet, Fleet Marine Force, and Joint Force operations and Executive leadership positions. Currently have healthy manning, nearly 50% of all Lt.'s and Lt. Cmdr.'s are prior enlisted. EHOs are one of the most highly deployed officers in Navy Medicine. This comes from their scope of responsibility in Force Readiness and maintaining the warfighter on the frontline. EHOs play a critical role as Force Health Protection Officers in support of Navy and Marine Corps operations through their diligent efforts in monitoring and controlling environmental risks, thereby contributing significantly to the readiness and operational capabilities of our nation's maritime defense forces. Happy Birthday to all our fellow MSC officers!



Camp Mujuk, South Korea. EHO, Lt. Russell Ongkeko describes to Lieutenant Colonel Song, Republic of Korea Marine (left) free available chlorine testing on a water bull ISO Exercise Freedom Shield 2024.

Health Information Technology

Navy Medicine Healthcare Information Technology officers are highly skilled professionals who support healthcare delivery across the Navy, Marine Corps, and Military Health System (MHS). These officers serve in various leadership and staff roles throughout Medical Treatment Facilities, Regional Headquarters, BUMED, DHA, Expeditionary Medical Facilities as well as the USNS Comfort. We provide IT expertise to various medical specialties, ensuring optimal warfighter readiness and health while protecting networks and systems from cyber threats. Deployed officers fill multiple roles, such as Chief Information Officer (CIO), system/network administrator, technician, and security manager, all the while contributing to operational tasks such as mass casualty response and theater hospitalization. Maintaining this community of IT professionals is crucial to fulfilling the MHS global commitment to force readiness. Happy 78th Birthday!



Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. (Pictured Left-to-Right): Lt. Yekaterina (Katya) Anderson, Lt. Christina Blum, Internal Medicine Physician

BIRTHDAY MESSAGES

Comptroller/Financial Management

The Comptroller/Financial Management Community sends its warmest wishes to the entire Medical Service Corps (MSC) on its 78th birthday! Comptrollers advise Navy Medicine commands' leadership on all matters pertinent to management, disbursement, and allocation of funds and are an integral part of Defense Health Agency's combat support mission. We ensure effective financial management and audit readiness throughout One Navy Medicine and Defense Health Agency. Through our work, the comptroller community partners with fellow MSC officers around the world to ensure compliance of all budget and financial policies and regulations for all appropriations issued. Comptrollers are a testament of the professionalism, dedication to mission, and drive that has fostered a great level of respect and trust of the entire MSC. We are proud to manage the resources of military medicine, amid the most challenging fiscal environments and evolving mission sets!



2025 MHS Conference, Cleveland, Ohio. Current and Prior FM Specialty Leaders pose for a picture at the MHS Conference. (Pictured Left-to-Right): Capt. (Sel.) Jodi Phillips, Cmdr. John Ochieng, Capt. Thomas Piner, and Capt. (Ret.) Timothy Richardson.

Happy Birthday to all!

Industrial Hygiene Officer

The Industrial Hygiene Officer (IHO) community, comprising 126 dedicated officers, sends its warmest wishes to the Medical Service Corps on its 78th birthday! IHOs are committed to protecting the health and safety of our Navy and Marine Corps personnel through proactive hazard identification and risk management. From medical treatment facilities and aircraft carriers to Fleet & Fleet TYCOM Safety Offices, the Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV), Marine Logistics Groups, and Marine Aircraft Wings, IHOs are proud to contribute to the health and readiness of our warfighters. As part of the Medical Service Corps, we proudly play a vital role in ensuring mission success and safeguarding those who serve.

Happy 78th Birthday MSC!



Norfolk, Va. (The Industrial Hygiene Officer (IHO) community hosted the 2024 IHO Indoctrination Course 21 October to 8 November 2024 in Norfolk U.S. Navy photo by Charity Robinson/Released) Pictured left to right, first row: Capt. (Sel.) N. Cody Schaal (Specialty Leader), Lt. Jillian Kasun, Lt. Katie Sewester, Lt. j.g. Nika Martinez, Lt. Shunsey Brooks, Lt. Aiyanna Glover, second row: Lt. James Sainvilus, Lt. Dillion Luna, Lt. Derek Rivera-Rodriguez, Lt. Cmdr. Maccon Buchanan, Lt. j.g. Christopher Amoah, third row: Lt. j.g. Gilbert Morgan, Lt. j.g. Weston Lewis, Lt. Cmdr. Stefan Nwandu Vincent, Ensign Kenneth Hatfield, Cdr. Bryan Goff (reserve Specialty Leader), and Lt. Cmdr. Michael McKenna.

Naval Aerospace and Operational Physiology

The Naval Aerospace and Operational Physiology (NAOP) subspecialty is dedicated to enhancing warfighter readiness, combat effectiveness, and mishap survivability for Navy and Marine Corps operating forces. The NAOP program consists of 87 billets aligned with the pursuit of Navy Medicine Lines of Effort across three interrelated functional areas. First, the NAOP community manages and executes the Naval Aviation Survival Training Program curriculum, which provides life-saving high-risk training qualification for over 15,000 warfighters annually. Second, the NAOP subspecialty provides embedded and specialized aeromedical safety expertise to meet mission-critical safety and training requirements for over 40 Naval Aviation and Marine Corps Expeditionary commands. Third, Naval Aerospace and Operational Physiologists operate as part of the Defense Acquisitions Workforce leading research, development, procurement, fielding, and sustainment activities needed to deliver both warfighting and training system capabilities to optimize warfighter performance and mission success. Happy Birthday Medical Service Corps!



Naval Survival Training Institute (NSTI) staff and other Naval Aerospace and Operational Physiologists proudly show off the new "Dilbert Dunker" exhibit at the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Florida. The exhibit showcases the Navy's original underwater egress training device. Pictured (left to right): Cdr. Luke Quebedeaux, Capt. Sean McCarthy, Lt. Cmdr. Tristan Alston, Cdr. Shawn Dobbs, Capt. Corey Littell, Cdr. Kim Littell, Mr. Bill Little, Capt. Tyler Scheeler, Lt. Patrick Martin, Mr. Brian Swan, Cdr. Justin Meeker, HMC (Ret.) Jack Blaine, Lt. Cmdr. Carlos Alvarez, and Lt. Angelita Moreno.

Research Physiology

On this special day, we proudly celebrate the legacy of the Medical Service Corps (MSC) and the contributions of our Research Physiology community. Since the establishment of our community, Research Physiologists have stood at the forefront of Navy Medicine, advancing warfighter performance, protecting our Sailors and Marines in the most challenging environments, and closing critical capability gaps through Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation with real-world impact. We wish our fellow MSC officers the happiest of birthdays and thank you for your enduring fellowship, collaboration, and dedication to mission. The Research Physiology community is honored to serve alongside this essential and experienced group of fellow Navy Medicine leaders who ensure the readiness of our force and care for our families and service members at home. Happy 78th Birthday, Navy Medical Service Corps!



Pictured (From Left-to-Right), first row: Cdr. Patrick Dougherty, Lt. Cmdr. Travis Doggett, Lt. Brian Williams, Lt. Cmdr. Maile Richert, Lt. Dylan Holly, Cdr. Joshua Swift, and Capt. Sheri Parker. Back row: Lt. Matthew Peterson, Lt. Cmdr. Geoffrey Ciarlone.

BIRTHDAY MESSAGES

Medical Logistics

The Medical Logistics (MEDLOG) community extends its heartfelt congratulations to the Medical Service Corps (MSC) on its 78th anniversary. MEDLOG recognizes the vital role the MSC plays in sustaining health service support for warfighters in challenging environments. MEDLOG leaders are essential to the success of missions at all levels—strategic, operational, and tactical. MEDLOG professionals hold key leadership and administrative positions across a wide spectrum of organizations, including medical treatment facilities, Fleet Marine Force, hospital ships, expeditionary medical platforms, staff commands, joint commands, and various naval activities globally. We deeply appreciate the professionalism, unwavering dedication, and strong commitment that defines the entire MSC.

Happy 78th Birthday!



Williamsburg, Va. Medical logistics observed the Navy's new Role 2 Expeditionary Medical Unit (EMU) upon its return to the warehouse at Naval Medical Readiness Logistics Command (NMRLC). The EMU just completed its test and evaluation on the USNS CODY (EPF-14 Flight II). (Left-to-Right) Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Nestor, BUMED N42; Capt. Christopher Barnes, NMRLC CO; Cdr. Olabode Olusegun, NMRLC XO; Cdr. Kibwe Hampden, NMFL N4; and Lt. Cmdr. Rannie Gibson, NMFL N42.

Aerospace Experimental Psychology



Office of Naval Research, Arlington, Va. Back row (Left-to-Right): Lt. Rebecca NeSmith, Lt. Cmdr. David Rozovski, Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Geeseman, Cmdr. Jeff Grubb, Lt. Adam Braly, Lt. Cmdr. Sarah Sherwood, Cmdr. Lee Sciarini, Lt. Cmdr. Todd Seech, Lt. Cmdr. Mike Natali, Cmdr. Brennan Cox. Front row (Left-to-Right): Lt. Sarah Beadle, Capt. Chris Foster, Capt. Tatana Olson, Cmdr. Pete Walker, Lt. Xan Kaplan, Lt. Kaila Vento.

The Aerospace Experimental Psychology (AEP) community extends our warmest wishes to the entire Medical Service Corps (MSC) on its 78th birthday! Though small in number, our officers are embedded across Navy Medicine, Naval Aviation, and operational communities where we advance warfighter readiness through science and innovation. From optimizing aviation selection, training, and human performance to shaping policies on human-autonomy integration, AEPs proudly support Fleet, Marine Corps, and Joint Force missions. We are privileged to serve alongside such talented MSC colleagues whose unwavering dedication and professionalism continue to inspire.

Happy Birthday, MSC!

Podiatry

Navy Podiatry wishes the Medical Service Corps (MSC) community a very Happy 78th Birthday! A critical specialty in Navy Medicine, Podiatrists support on a daily basis mission readiness by keeping warfighters moving forward. As the only surgical specialists within the MSC and subject matter experts providing foot and ankle care across the enterprise, our team of highly trained podiatric physicians work side-by-side with healthcare professionals across all corps enhancing the safe and efficient care for all our beneficiaries. We are proud and honored to serve with so many excellent specialties in the MSC community to continue to support Navy Medicine's global mission, and to keep our Navy on its feet. Happy Birthday MSC!



Jacksonville, Fla.: Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Musmanno (left) and Cmdr. (ret) Alberto Rullan (right) in the operating room performing reconstructive ankle surgery.

Operations Research and Analysis

The Operations Research and Analysis (OR) Community sends its warmest wishes to the entire Medical Service Corps (MSC) on its 78th birthday! Although we have a small footprint within Navy Medicine, the military utilizes OR capabilities at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels. OR analysts cover a variety of topics to include: national policy analysis, resource allocation, force composition and modernization, logistics, human resources, battle planning, military operations scheduling, intelligence, command and control, weapon selection, engagement tactics, maintenance and replenishment, and search and rescue. Our Corps' strength and commitment shine through our professionalism, adaptability, dedication, and continued mission success.

Happy Birthday to all!



Left to Right: LCDR Stephen Cone, LT Heather Lancellotti, CDR Karl Matlage. MSC Ops Research Analyst (DHHQ; 2023).

CDR Elizabeth Farrar (right) promoting LT Tori Sweeney (NH Jacksonville; 2025)

LT Paul Heylinger (NPS, 2025)

Left to Right: LT Aaron Chamberlain, LCDR Joseph Cantwell (NPS; 2024).

BIRTHDAY MESSAGES

Manpower and Personnel

On behalf of the entire Manpower and Personnel community, we wish the Medical Service Corps (MSC) a very happy 78th birthday! We thank you for your faithful and unwavering service to the Navy and Marine Corps warfighting team.

As Navy Medicine focuses on operational support and readiness, Manpower and Personnel Officers stand at the ready to support the Fleet, Marine Corps, and Joint Forces in all phases of Force Development, Force Generation, and Force Preservation. We are proud to work alongside each of the 31 specialties across the Medical Service Corps to meet any challenge.

Happy Birthday Medical Service Corps!!



Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory: Cmdr. Joseph LaBarbera (right) relieves Cmdr. Kenneth Jenkins (left) during the NMRTU Diego Garcia Change of Charge ceremony.

Occupational Therapy



Pictured (Left-to-Right): Lt. Cmdr. Tara Haugen, Lt. Jessica Haney (ret), Cmdr. (Sel.) Angela Sadosky, and Lt. Cmdr. Emmy Hartley.

The Navy Occupational Therapy community extends its warmest congratulations to the Medical Service Corps on its birthday! As a vital component of the MSC, Navy Occupational Therapists proudly serve alongside our colleagues, delivering comprehensive rehabilitative care to Sailors and Marines worldwide. From restoring function and promoting independence to enhancing operational readiness, we are dedicated to maximizing the health and well-being of our service members. We deeply value the collaborative spirit and unwavering commitment to excellence that defines the MSC, and we are honored to contribute to its rich legacy of service.

Happy 78th Birthday!

Microbiology

The Microbiology community wishes all Medical Service Corps (MSC) officers a very happy 78th birthday! Through operational, clinical, and research lines of effort, Microbiology officers enable proactive and effective management of health security threats in support of force health protection (FHP) around the globe. Key activities include surveillance to provide early warning of disease threats, test and evaluation of medical countermeasures and new diagnostics, and in-theater identification of biowarfare agents and disease outbreak pathogens. We proudly serve alongside our fellow MSC professionals to support Navy Medicine in safeguarding the health and readiness of our forces.

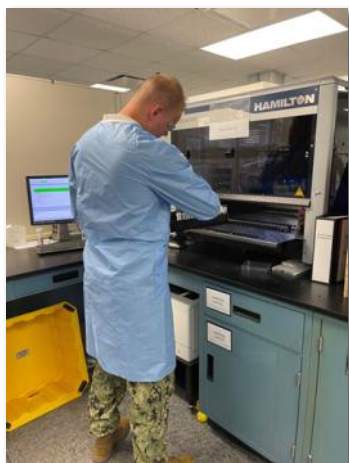
Happy Birthday MSC!



Meyuns, Palau. Pictured top left: Lt. Cmdr. Jose A. Garcia conducts hands-on PCR training at Belau National Hospital during Pacific Partnership 2022. (2) Suffolk, Va. Pictured top right: Lt. Alexandria Kesterson, Forward Deployable Preventive Medicine Unit (FDPMU) Team Six, completes weapons and tactics training prior to deployment to Camp Lemonnier ISO AFRICOM FHP. (3) Lima, Peru. Pictured bottom: Medical Service Corps officers participate in the U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit SOUTH Change of Command Ceremony. (Left-to-Right): Cmdr. Brian Pike; Lt. Cmdr. Yuliya Johnson; Lt. Cmdr. William Graham; Capt. Franca Jones; Capt. Hak Auth (Biochemist); Capt. Michael Prouty; Lt. Quinton Dotson (Research Psychologist).

Biochemistry

The Biochemistry and Toxicology community extends its warmest wishes to the Medical Service Corps (MSC) on its 78th birthday! Our vibrant community is comprised of 35 dedicated members, each holding a Ph.D. in Chemistry, Biochemistry, or a related Biological field. We are proud of our significant contributions to Navy Medicine. Our community is strongly represented in Navy Medicine Executive Medicine (ExMed) and Milestone billets. Currently, seven of our members serve as ExMed commanding officers (COs) or executive officers (XOs). Over their careers, 15 current members have collectively held 29 ExMed and one Milestone billets, demonstrating a deep well of leadership and expertise. We are privileged to work side-by-side with all the other outstanding MSC officer communities wherever we are stationed. Whether serving at sea, on deployments and humanitarian missions, staffing clinics and military treatment facilities (MTFs), or leading research units worldwide, MSC officers consistently demonstrate exceptional leadership and professionalism. The Corps' unwavering commitment to excellence and service have undeniably left an indelible mark on the history of the United States Navy operations around the world. To all 2900+ active duty and reserve Medical Service Corps officers, we wish you a very happy birthday! The Biochemistry community is honored to be a part of this elite group.



Lt. Cmdr. Kory Barnes prepares a batch of service member specimens for chemical analysis at NEPMU-5, San Diego.

BIRTHDAY MESSAGES

Research Psychology

We are proud that our community—small but mighty—is successful in combining academic foundations with uniformed capability to rise to the significant challenges our nation and Navy faces, making meaningful, measurable positive impact to our warfighters, their families, and the US. We directly support the operational readiness of our warfighters/direct impact on our Navy, Marine Corps, and Joint Force. We respond to demands from our customer (e.g., supporting new billets for new demand at line communities, such as Naval Special Warfare, SW, Naval Nuclear Power Training Command, etc.). We readily adapt to changing circumstances with policy-level contributions in such a way that always makes Research Psychology a fresh and exciting field of study! Happy 78th Birthday!



Navy Research Psychologist Lt. Jacob Westerberg engages in SERE training in support of POW study efforts at Navy Medical Operational Training Command.

Health Facility Planning & Project Officer



The Health Facility Planning & Project Officer (HFPPO) community sends its warmest wishes to the entire Medical Service Corps (MSC) on its 78th birthday! Despite a footprint of only 10 officers, we support BUMED at every echelon and are an integral part of Defense Health Agency's combat support mission. Through our work, the HFPPO community partners with fellow MSC officers around the world. We are fortunate to experience the professionalism, dedication to mission, and drive that demonstrates the strength and commitment of the entire MSC. HFPPOs are proud to build the foundation, maintain the crucial infrastructure of military medicine, and show the necessary flexibility to meet an ever-changing mission set!

Happy Birthday to all!

Tampa, Florida. Back row (Left-to-Right): Capt. Mark Lieb, Lt. Cmdr. Wesley Poirier, Lt. Cmdr. Jonathan Gomez-Rivera. Second row (Left-to-Right): Lt. Cmdr. Brendan Good, Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Miles, Cdr. Alexander Aldana. Front row (Left-to-Right): Lt. Cmdr. Brandon Elms, Lt. Cmdr. Ben Coker, Capt. (Ret.) Mike Plante, Lt. Lorenzo Lott, Capt. George Coan.

Physical Therapy

The Navy Physical Therapy (PT) community sends warm wishes to the entire Medical Service Corps (MSC) on its 78th birthday! With a community of 141 officers, Navy PTs are stationed around the globe in-garrison, at military treatment facilities (MTFs) and through the Fleet. Operationally, Navy PTs are assigned onboard aircraft carriers, Naval Special Warfare, MARSOC, EOD, and most recently with Naval Aviation and medical readiness divisions across fleet concentration areas. In addition to the evaluation and treatment of neuromusculoskeletal injuries, Navy PT works alongside other MSC and MC officers to provide preventive and holistic care, to include strength and conditioning techniques to enhance warfighter and mission readiness. Navy Physical Therapy remains ready to meet the ever-changing mission across Navy Medicine.

Happy Birthday to all!



Lt. Cmdr. Laura Riebel provides patient care during Continuing Promise 2025.

Occupational Audiology

Happy 78th Birthday to the Medical Service Corps!

The Occupational Audiology community is excited to celebrate this milestone with our fellow MSC officers. As a community of 30, we're proud to make a big impact. From supporting BUMED across the enterprise to helping ensure mission readiness through hearing conservation, we're honored to be part of the MSC story!

We're lucky to work alongside such a dedicated, talented team across the world. Together, we help keep military medicine strong, flexible, and ready for whatever comes next.

Here's to the MSC and all it stands for—Happy Birthday!



Atlantic City, NJ: Cmdr. Amy McArthur, Lt. Cmdr. Krystal Rapp, Lt. Christopher Barajas, OC1 Derica Parathundil, Lt. Cmdr. Richard Blair, Dr. Heidi McKay, Lt. Cmdr. Rob Summers, Lt. Cmdr. Melissa George, Lt. Damok Min, Cmdr. Amanda Boudreaux, Lt. Taylor Benson, OC1 Justen Knape, and Lt. Brittney Gardner.

BIRTHDAY MESSAGES

Patient Administration

The mission of a Patient Administration (PAD) officer is “to effectively coordinate, deliver, and support the administrative needs of all patients regardless of category, service, or status with compassion, professionalism, accountability, and leadership.” PAD officers remain the critical link to ensure continuity of effort and consistency of communication between the operational Navy and Marine Corps and brick and mortar healthcare. Our operational expertise expands into all aspects of personnel readiness, joint patient movement, and decedent affairs operations. In the operational setting, PAD officers, the medical administrative specialists, serve as the Medical Administration officers and Medical Regulating Control officers onboard Naval ships and various deployed platforms. This administrative specialization acts as military medicine’s enabler by allowing the clinical care team to focus on the medical management of our forces to ensure continued mission focus. In traditional clinical care areas, PAD officers support numerous programs covering cradle to grave services to include Medical Boards, Medical Coding, Medical Records Administration, Patient Registration, Birth Registration, HIPAA Privacy, and Decedent Affairs. Happy 78th Birthday!



Bethesda, Md. Students from the Patient Administration Course (23-30) are joined by Patient Administration (PAD) Specialty Leaders. (Left-to-Right) Cdr. Maria Edusada, (Previous PAD SL); Ms. Kymarra Brown (CPMA), Lt. j.g. Sarah Stalsworth (HCA); HM1 Jennifer Hunt; Lt. Cmdr. Serge Shkuro (HCA); Lt. Cmdr. Timothy Rutherford (PAD ASL); Lt.j.g. Stephanie Williams (HCA); Mr. Gary Gibson (HCA); Lt. Cmdr. Richard Thatcher (HCA); Lt. Cmdr. Ryan DiParisi (HCA); Cdr. Shawn Morris (PAD SL).

Navy Clinical Psychology

With enthusiasm and esteem, the Navy community celebrates the Medical Service Corps (MSC) on its 78th birthday. As a community of over 260 officers, we have the opportunity to serve in complex and dynamic environments—we support submarine forces and carrier strike groups, are embedded with the Marine Corps and influence policy and training through administrative and leadership roles. Whether delivering therapy on land or offering mental health support underway, Navy psychologists always rely on the support and interconnectedness of the unique and exceptional capabilities of our fellow MSC officers. To all our fellow MSC officers, thank you for continuing to be the foundation for supporting the warfighter. We look forward to serving alongside you as we continue to navigate the seas of change with resiliency, toughness, and grit!



Picture Collage Top Left: Lt. Ro Aijian, Capt. Tara Smith, Lt. Cmdr. Lyndse Anderson, Lt. Evelyn Knipe, Top Right: Lt. Main. Mid Left: Lt. Delos Santos. Mid Right, Lt. Cmdr. Giangrande and ADM Gaucher. Bottom Left, Lt. Wood. Bottom Right, Lt. Cmdr. Sleight.

Plans, Operations, and Medical Intelligence

We are the tip of the spear for Navy Medicine, often serving alone and unafraid in austere and operational positions around the world. We write the operational war plans, orchestrate health service support in across domains, and integrate with the Fleet and Fleet Marine Corps to ensure Navy Medicine is ready to serve the warfighter, wherever and whenever needed. Our specialty also writes the requirements to ensure a fully evolving Navy Medicine postured to support current and future concepts of war.

Happy Birthday to all MSC officers!



MCAS Miramar. Lt. Cmdr. Michael Manning (POMI), US NORTHCOM, shows his Air National Guard counterparts an MV-22 Osprey and led discussion on the use of this platform for Defense Support to Civil Authorities missions.

Optometry



The Optometry community sends its warmest wishes to the entire Medical Service Corps (MSC) on its 78th birthday! In addition to comprehensive readiness eye exams and acute eye care, Navy optometrists may be found deployed on humanitarian assistance missions, providing care onboard a ship, conducting vision research, or obtaining flight hours to support the aviation community. Through our work, we provide the sight to fight! We are a well-rounded group of individuals that embody what it means to be an MSC!

Happy Birthday to all!

Bethesda, Maryland. (Left-to-Right): Cmdr. Jacqueline Anderson, Cmdr. (retired) Kevin Jackson, Capt. Robert Senko, Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Weinheimer, Lt. Cmdr. Victoria Piamonte, Lt. Matthew Orgill, Lt. Julianne Hui, Cmdr. Christopher Paulett, Lt. Cmdr. Brent Hume.

BIRTHDAY MESSAGES

Clinical Social Work

The Clinical Social Work (CSW) Community sends its warmest wishes to the entire Medical Service Corps (MSC) on its 78th birthday! As Naval officers and military psychotherapists, we are distinctly positioned to support the psychological health and resilience of service members and their families. Our vital work in mental health directly contributes to the overall readiness and well-being that the MSC champions across the Fleet and Fleet Marine Forces. We serve globally from military treatment facilities to operational units and in challenging environments. Our presence ensures comprehensive, compassionate care is accessible, strengthening the fabric of military medicine.

As proud members of the MSC, we value the collaborative spirit and interdisciplinary approach that defines our Corps. We work closely with our colleagues to deliver holistic care. We deeply appreciate the visionary leadership and unwavering commitment of the MSC in advancing healthcare excellence and prioritizing the well-being of our Navy and Marine Corps. May your 78th year be filled with continued success and impactful service.

Happy Birthday, Medical Service Corps ~ the future looks bright!



Newport, RI, Officer Development School, OCT24. Back row (Left-to-Right): Lt.j.g. Nairobi Matila, Lt. Hugh Rockwell, Lt. Ane Delly, Lt.j.g. Issac Dompreeh, Lt.j.g. Peyton Oldham. Front row (Left-to-Right): Lt.j.g. Amber Anderson, Lt.j.g. Kayla Neely, Lt.j.g. Yvonise Youngblood, Lt.j.g. Jacob Szigethy.

Radiation Health



Lt. Kristina Yopez, at sea aboard the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69).

A plankowner specialty of the Medical Service Corps, Radiation Health was born as part of the Manhattan project and follow-on atomic weapons tests in the Pacific. From the conceptualization and implementation of nuclear reactors onboard Navy ships to the development of nuclear medicine and modern diagnostic imaging techniques, Radiation Health Officers have been instrumental in ensuring the safe application of new technologies and advances in medical science, minimizing potential adverse impacts on the Sailors, workers, patients, public, and environment. This safeguarding of the public trust and confidence has allowed the Navy to project power to the farthest shores, to maintain unprecedented freedom of the sea lanes throughout the global environs, and to directly contribute to the security of our allies and partner nations.

Happy Birthday to all our fellow MSC officers!

Medical Laboratory Science

To our fellow MSC colleagues, the Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) community sends its heartfelt congratulations as we celebrate 78 years as a Staff Corps in service to the United States of America! The MLS community consists of 98 professionals spread across the entire globe. We work tirelessly behind the scenes to support and enhance combat casualty care, warfighter performance, and beneficiary care, as well as contribute to Navy Medicine's ability to project medical power and the Navy's superiority. Blood is one of our most important missions; and we will always ensure the highest purity and safety standards, and its availability when needed. It is indeed an honor to serve with you!

Happy 78th Birthday Medical Service Corps!



Okinawa, Japan. Armed Services Blood Bank Center (ASBBC) Okinawa's staff executing a two-day blood drive aboard the USS America (LHA-6).

Dietetics



Comfort CP- 25, Costa Rica: Lt. Andie Hayes, El Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres in Limon, Costa Rica, provided education on healthy eating for heart disease and diabetes.

The dietetics community works to optimize the warfighter's health and human performance through good nutrition. The dietitians in our community not only provide education through our military treatment facilities nutrition clinics; additionally, we assist in both physical readiness and health promotion programs around the Fleet, we work in many of the hospital galleys and provide input on resources, research, and programs for all of the Navy. The 24 active duty and 4 reserve dietitians work to improve knowledge, food quality, menus and the education provided to everyone.

Happy birthday to the Medical Service Corps!

BIRTHDAY MESSAGES

Pharmacy

As MSC officers, we are proud of serving as integrators of care and as a conduit between clinical capabilities, administrative requirements, and scientific discovery. The Pharmacy specialty, as an MSC plank owner, is a MSC cornerstone and an integral part of the patient health care team, impacting all medical capabilities and levels of care. Pharmacists bridge the medication knowledge gaps between providers, nurses, and patients, spearhead electronic advancements, and lead the way with financial cost-savings across all of DoD. Beyond their work in the military treatment facilities, pharmacists are key players in the operational arena. They are at the forefront of vital supply logistics and provide critical clinical knowledge to both the Fleet and Fleet Marine Force, facilitating high reliability integration and ensuring mission success. Happy Birthday to the MSC!



Flightdeck of USNS CODY (EPF-14) in Mobile, AL. SCPO John Ross, Lt.j.g. Charles Porter, Capt. Jeremy Kilday, HM2 Noah Fisher, Capt. Toni Bowden, Lt. Cmdr. Theresa Ramkissoon, Lt. Meagan Rawers (Pharmacist)

Physician Assistant

The Physician Assistant (PA) community is 375 personnel strong and we serve on every major operational platform leading in critical roles supporting the warfighter. PAs are prepared to enable Navy Medicine to further advance EX-MEDs while continuously developing talent through recruiting and retention. This year we developed a unique sponsorship program mentoring the Health Services Collegiate Program selectees to be better prepared for the Navy and operational medicine. In addition, our PAs are at the tip of the spear leading several advanced educational programs. The future of the Physician Assistant is bright and preparing for campaign plan 2027 and beyond.

Happy 78th Birthday!



Lt. Cmdr. Mattox (Naval Expeditionary Medical Training Institute) conducting trauma training aboard a U.S. Navy Aircraft Carrier

General Healthcare Administration

General healthcare administrators (HCAs) lead and direct a myriad of projects, assignments, and day to day tasks that keep CONUS, OCONUS, and operational units and medical facilities and capabilities viable. Most notably and recently, General HCAs are at the forefront leading and directing changes at the deckplate with Navy Medicine and DHA ensuring commands are meeting operational requirements from both organizations. HCAs continue to evolve, utilizing their advanced degrees and wide array of assignments to meet requirements in the operational and medical treatment facility landscapes. Serves as the foundation of the Health Care Administration community feeding the pipeline for all of our specialized product lines.



San Antonio, Texas. A lunch and learn PME event. (From left-to-right) Lt. Melissa Enriquez,, Lt. Amethyst Marrone,, Lt. Wesley Mouton, Lt. Gwendolyn Brown-Jiles, Lt. j.g. Laretha Lewis, Lt. Kimberly Lavelle-Melin, Lt. Cmdr Amanda Rose, Cmdr. Renardis Banks, and Cmdr. Roderick Medina.

Happy 78th Birthday to all!

Education and Training

Happy Birthday to the Medical Service Corps! From Education and Training, we want to wish you all the best on your special day. We are a small but mighty force within the larger medical landscape, dedicated to learning, adapting, and empowering others within the medical field. We recognize and appreciate all you do to support the health and readiness of our service members.

Cheers to another year of excellence!



Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia. Lt. j.g. Ginger Myers, from Phoenix, Arizona, middle, teaches local Micronesian medical laboratory technicians how to properly test blood at the Chuuk State Hospital in as part of Pacific Partnership 2024-1, Jan. 16, 2024. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jacob Woitzel).

BIRTHDAY MESSAGES

Entomology

The Navy Entomology community would like to congratulate the Medical Service Corps family on its 78th year! Navy Entomology is mission critical to force health protection that ensures force lethality in combat. Entomologists are dedicated to preventing the spread of vector borne disease to our warriors. Our community is fully engaged at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels with a diversity of assignments around the world. In addition to support to warfighter health, Navy Entomology prevents invasive pests in support of our Fleet and both homeland and our partner nations' biosecurity. As the Navy's bug warriors, we are humbled by the mosaic makeup of the MSC and the unmatched dedication to our shared mission of providing care and readiness for the warfighter. We are proud to be a part of the MSC and are excited for our future!

Happy Birthday Brothers and Sisters!



Camp Blanding, Florida. Lt. Wong, Victoria controlling mosquitoes for training forces.

MSC BOOK CLUB

WHO: All MSCs

WHAT: An opportunity to share a book that you believe other MSCs may benefit from reading.

WHEN: Accepted on a rolling basis.

HOW: Email your information, a 250-word (or less) summary, and a book photo to Lt. Cmdr. Thuy Phung.



Twentynine Palms, California. Cake cutting ceremony for the 78th birthday at NMRTC Twentynine Palms. Pictured (from left-to-right): Capt. Janiese Cleckley, Rear Adm. Matthew Case, Lt. j.g. David Naiman, Cmdr. Bill Lawson.



Naples, Italy. Cake cutting ceremony for the 78th birthday at Naval Medicine Readiness and Training Command Naples. Pictured (from left-to-right): Lt. Blessing Ikedi, Cmdr. Isaac Nyangena, and Lt. John Junker. Photo credit: Mr. Todd Folts.

BIRTHDAY MESSAGES



Silver Spring, Md. South Korea. Naval Medical Research Command celebrates the 78th Medical Service Corps birthday. Front Row (Pictured Left-to-Right): Capt. Franca Jones, Capt. Sheri Parker, Lt. Cmdr. John Casachagua, Lt. Daniel Silberger, Lt. Sara Tuck, Cmdr. Michael Stockelman. Back Row (Pictured Left-to-Right): Lt. Jareese Shirlee, Lt. Alexander Wade, Lt. Joel Ramirez, Lt. Ha Choe, Lt. Cmdr. Danett Bishop, Lt. Cmdr. Travis Doggett, Capt. Eric Welsh, Capt. Guillermo Pimento. Bottom right: Lt. Tuck and Cmdr. Stockelman cut the birthday cake.



Okinawa, Japan. The Okinawa Medical Service Corps Association (MSC) hosted the 78th MSC birthday celebration on Camp Foster. Pictured (from Left-to-Right): Lt. Ray Daniels, Lt. Nathaniel Perry, Lt.j.g., Jeffrey Kleitsch, Cmdr. Robert Nevins, Lt. Jacinta Do, Lt. Kyle Rodgers, Lt. Emmanuel Boadu, Lt. Ross Vollstedt, Cmdr. Timothy Hopkins, Lt. Cmdr. Apolinar Ortiz, Cmdr. Michael Kerekgyato, Lt. Cmdr. Rohan Jairam, Capt. Richard Gilliard, Lt. Cmdr. Kent Wong, Lt. Cmdr. Edgar Escobar, Cmdr. Hunter Coates, Cmdr. Vince Deguzman, Lt. j.g. Austin O'Kelly, Lt. Shelley Torio, Lt. Lily Lam, Ensign Benjamin Torine, Lt. Roscoe Gillum, Lt. Chatty De Belen, Lt. j.g. Jose Santiago, Lt. j.g. Alexander Moreno, Lt. Vanessa Pursel, Lt. j.g. Josh Maigue, Lt. Jessica McFadzean, Lt. Chonghui Ji. Photo credit: MC1(SW/AW) Trey Fowler. Bottom left: Capt. Richard Gilliard and Ensign Benjamin Torine cut the birthday cake.

CONTACTS

Navy 250 Photo Album: [Here](#).

MSC Photo Album: [Here](#).

Rear Adm. Matthew Case

Director, Medical Service Corps

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The Medical Service Corps supports Navy Medicine's readiness and health benefits mission. It is the most varied Officer Corps in Navy Medicine with 31 specialties organized under three major categories: Healthcare Administrators, Clinical Care Specialties, and Healthcare Scientists. There are over 3,000 active and reserve MSC Officers that serve at military treatment facilities, on ships, with the Fleet Marine Force, with Seabee and special warfare units, in research centers and laboratories, in a myriad of staff positions with the Navy and Marine Corps, and with our sister services around the world.



CORPS CHIEF'S OFFICE STAFF

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Career Planner
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RUDDER SECTION LEADS

MSC Book Club
Lt. Cmdr. Thuy Phung

HRO Spotlight
Lt. Dana Farmer & Lt. Karla Liendo

Reserve Update
Lt. Katherine Parizek

From the Detailers
Lt. Micaela Barter & Lt. Cheryl Kivlehan

Career Development
Lt. Cmdr. Nhu Do & Lt. Francis Oladipo

From the Labs
Lt. Jessica Lee and Lt. Crystal Shin

MSCs in Focus
Lt. Cmdr. Jaime Zhunepluas &
Lt. Cmdr. Janine Badic