AAPM Brief: Non-clinical Career Paths in the Navy

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Disclosures

• The views expressed in this presentation are those of the Navy Medical Physics community and do not reflect official policy or position of the following:
  – Department of the Navy
  – Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
  – Defense Health Agency
  – Department of Defense
  – U.S. Government
Disclosures

• Current member of the AAPM: Diagnostic Imaging Workforce Working group.
Outline

• Navy Radiation Health Officer program
• Scope of Medical Physics duties
• Accession requirements and benefits
• Future changes/developments
• Non-Medical Physics duties/Medical Physics 3.0
Navy Radiation Health Officer Program

• Commissioned Officer program within Navy Staff Officer Corps. Specifically, Medical Service Corps.

• Radiation Health Officer = Health Physicist and/or Medical Physicist

• History: Initially started in 1946 during Operation Crossroads.

• Mission: ensure the protection of personnel, patients, and general public from potentially harmful effects of radiation stemming from Navy operations, on shore, at sea, during peace time and war.
Scope of Navy Medical Physics duties

- Locations: shipboard imaging units, 2 large medical centers, numerous hospitals, and a worldwide footprint.
  - Shipboard imaging is primarily X-ray units
  - The hospital ships have more advanced imaging including an IR suite and CT

- Active duty military primarily support Diagnostic and Nuclear Medicine medical physics work.

- Initial training and qualifications review for imaging modalities is conducted within the Navy. This now includes a CAMPEP approved diagnostic imaging residency program.

- Inspection standards are set and updated by the Navy Medical Physics Advisory Board.
Accession Requirements & Benefits

- Candidates must have a minimum of a bachelors of science in mathematics or a physical science field. *(CAMPEP graduate programs will meet this requirement)*
- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Must meet physical fitness requirements.
- Must pass drug screening
- Must be able to obtain a security clearance
Accession Requirements & Benefits

- Loan repayment & scholarships
- Full medical & dental healthcare coverage
- Housing allowance (tax free)
- Travel around the Country & the Globe
- Fully funded graduate school opportunities
- Good pay, benefits, and retirement
  - Note: While ‘good’ it is below AAPM avg salary estimates
- Advanced rank based on degree at induction:
  - B.S. – O-1, M.S. – O-2, and PhD – O-3
Future Changes/Developments

- Defense Health Agency
  - The Military Health System has 51 hospitals, 381 clinics, and 247 dental clinics currently managed by the Navy, Army, and Air Force.
  - Transition of all of these facilities to DHA control will occur in next 2 years.

- American Board of Radiology
  - Residency Requirements for Board certification

- Joint Commission Accreditation changes
  - CT training requirements.

RHO – Health Physics Jobs

- **Job locations**
  - Ashore: Industrial facilities, Shipyards, Research institutes
  - At sea: Aircraft Carriers, Submarine Tenders

- **Types of work (entry level)**
  - Plan, direct, and administer radiation protection including dosimetry programs
  - Provide formal instruction and on-the-job training in health physics techniques and procedures

- **Types of work (Mid-level and executive)**
  - Policy development
  - Regulatory compliance
  - Act as liaison between Navy and other services and federal agencies
  - Leading Departments
  - Command
RHO – MedPhys 3.0+

• RHO’s must be able to explain their value in fiscally constrained environments.

• RHO’s are required to develop their leadership and executive skill sets while developing their technical skills.

• Medical Service Corps
  – 22 Specialties
  – Health Care Administration, Health Care Scientists, and Clinical Care
Questions