

# WEEKLY DENTAL UPDATE



## SPECIAL EDITION

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#### PASSING OF CAPT ANDREW D. PETERS, DC, USN

14 August 1957 - 25 November 2013

A native of Allentown, Pennsylvania, Captain Peters attended Dickinson College where he received a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry in 1979, and Temple University School of Dentistry where he received the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery in 1983.

Captain Peters served on active duty as a Navy dental officer from July 4, 1983 until the time of his death. After attending Officer Indoctrination School at Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Virginia, he was assigned to various shore, ship, FMF, overseas, and executive medicine tours. He served as Assistant Dental Officer, Naval Dental Clinic, Orlando, Florida, 1983-85; Assistant Dental Officer, Branch Dental Clinic, Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan, 1985-86; and Fleet Marine Force (FMF) Assistant Dental Officer, 11<sup>th</sup> Dental Company, Iwakuni, Japan, 1986-87, deploying to South Korea, Okinawa, and the Philippines. After this FMF tour, he was assigned as Assistant Dental Officer, Branch Dental Clinic, Marine Corps Combat Development Center, Quantico, Virginia, 1987-88. In June 1988, Rear Admiral Shaffer, DC, USN selected Lieutenant Peters to serve as Administrative Assistant to Chief, Navy Dental Corps. During this tour he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander. Reporting aboard USS Blue Ridge (LCC-19) homeported in Yokosuka, Japan, as Dental Department Head in June 1990, Lieutenant Commander Peters deployed for 11 months, including over 110 days in combat to the Arabian Gulf for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.



In June 1992, Lieutenant Commander Peters began his Comprehensive Dentistry Residency at the Naval Postgraduate Dental School, National Naval Dental Center, Bethesda, Maryland. He graduated in June 1994 with a Certificate in Comprehensive Dentistry and a Masters Degree in Oral Biology from George Washington University. From 1994 to 1998, he served as Director, Branch Dental Clinic, Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. He was promoted to Commander in August 1995. In 1998, Commander Peters was selected as the first Navy dentist to attend the U.S. Army-Baylor University Masters Program in Health Care Administration, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. In February 1999, he was selected for promotion to Captain. After completing the 13-month U.S. Army-Baylor Program didactic phase in June 1999, Commander Peters traveled to Washington, D.C. to be an Administrative Fellow in the Office of the Corps Chief at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

Captain Peters was the first Navy Dental Corps officer to successfully challenge the Board of Governors' Examination in Healthcare Management and achieve Diplomate status, American College of Healthcare Executives. In addition, he successfully challenged the Certifying Exam and achieved Credentialed Health Service Administrator status in the American Academy of Medical Administrators. After completing a tour at MED-05D as Special Assistant for Personnel Information Systems and Executive Management Education, from August 2000 to June 2002, he served as Assistant Director, Naval Postgraduate Dental School, and Chairman, Military Dentistry Department, from June 2002 to May 2004.

From May 2004 to June 2006, he was Executive Officer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dental Battalion / Naval Dental Center, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, including 7-months as OIF 04.06-2 Dental Detachment Commander at Camp Taqaddum Iraq. From July 2006 to August 2008, Captain Peters served in the Office of the Corps Chiefs at the Bureau of

Medicine and Surgery, Washington, D.C. From 2008-2011, Captain Peters served in two positions: (1) as Head of Dental Programs, NAVMED MPT&E, where he was responsible for: guiding Dental Corps post-graduate education programs; formulating training plans; providing funding and support to over 250 dental officers; funding of CDE for non-BSO 18 dental officers; funding certification boards; and supporting FTOS tuition reimbursement; and (2) as Lead Executive for the 2009-10 CFC Campaign in NCA, raising \$1.6 million. From 2011-2013, Captain Peters provided comprehensive dental healthcare to Wounded Warriors and active duty Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Soldiers at the Pentagon and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

His personal awards include: Meritorious Service Medal 3<sup>rd</sup> star in lieu of 4<sup>th</sup> award; Joint Service Commendation Medal; Navy Commendation Medal, gold star in lieu of 2<sup>nd</sup> award; Navy Achievement Medal, gold star in lieu of 2<sup>nd</sup> award; Presidential Unit Citation; Navy Unit Commendation; Meritorious Unit Commendation with three bronze stars; Navy "E" Ribbon; Southwest Asia Service Medal with two bronze stars; Iraqi Campaign Medal; Fleet Marine Force Service Ribbon; National Defense Service Medal bronze star in lieu of 2<sup>nd</sup> award; Sea Service Deployment Ribbon; Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon; Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia); Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait); Navy Rifle Expert Ribbon and Navy Pistol Expert Ribbon. He was designated as a Surface Warfare Medical Department Officer (SWMDO) and earned his qualification as a Fleet Marine Force Officer (FMFOQ).

Captain Andrew Peters was married to Cindy for over 23 years; together they raised two sons: Cord, attending Duke University, Class of 2016; and Marshall, attending Cornell University, Class of 2017. Beyond his devotion to family and country, Captain Peters was very proud of his Pennsylvania German heritage and legacy as a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation dentist after his father and grandfather. While his interests were many, he most valued conservation, studying history, and collecting antique cars.

***S. M. Pachuta***  
***Chief, Navy Dental Corps***