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NAVY MEDICINE IN FOCUS

NAMRU-6 Veterinary Specialist Goes From Green to Blue

BY VJOHNSON – APRIL 3, 2014

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By U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit No. Six Public Affairs

The U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit No. Six (NAMRU-6) is a world leader in vaccine development for protection against diseases that negatively impact the warfighting mission such as travelers' diarrhea or malaria.

One aspect of this work is the NAMRU-6 animal facility, an Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care certified facility, overseen by a U.S. Army veterinarian and enlisted veterinary specialist.

For NAMRU-6 the work of Staff Sgt. Jared Schaefer, the veterinary specialist, is mission critical as many vaccines for humans begin their life cycle in an animal model. In addition to work, Schaefer has been busy with school and in 2013 he completed his Bachelors degree with distinction and opted to apply for a Navy Commissioning program called the Health Services Collegiate Program (HSCP), under the Health Care Administration (HCA) track.



Staff Sgt. Jared Schaefer completed his Bachelors degree with distinction and opted to apply for a Navy Commissioning program called the Health Services Collegiate Program (HSCP), under the Health Care Administration (HCA) track. (Photo courtesy of NAMRU-6)

The HSCP is a competitive scholarship program designed to provide incentives for students in the HCA field to complete degree requirements prior to obtaining a commission in the Medical Service Corps. In early February, NAMRU-6 learned Schaefer was accepted into this highly selective program. He will start his Masters in Health Care Administration (MHA) at Texas A&M University, College Station this Fall.

Upon graduation he will be commissioned as a Lieutenant Junior Grade and serve at an MTF (Military Treatment Facility), FMF (Fleet Marine Force) or Shipboard for his first assignment.

"Staff Sgt. Schafer is a top tier enlisted member, one of the best I've ever worked with in 20 years," said Capt. Kyle Petersen, NAMRU-6 commanding officer. "His professionalism, dedication to the mission and knowledge and creative thinking are exemplary and an asset to the command. I am very excited for him for achieving this outstanding professional milestone in his career and proud to be able to call him shipmate in the near future."

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