



180417-N-UP035-0249 PUERTO BARRIOS, Guatemala (April 17, 2018) Lt. Cmdr. Jason Souza of Bolton, Massachusetts and Dr. Jonathan Maldonado of Guatemala, remove a plexiform neurofibroma from a patient's face at the Hospital de Puerto Barrios in Puerto Barrios, Guatemala during Continuing Promise 2018. U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet has deployed a force to execute Continuing Promise to conduct civil-military operations including humanitarian assistance, training engagements, and medical, dental, and veterinary support in an effort to show U.S. support and commitment to Central and South America. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Mike DiMestico / Released)

A MESSAGE FROM THE NAVY SURGEON GENERAL: CELEBRATING 148 YEARS OF THE MEDICAL CORPS



Official U.S. Navy photo

It is my privilege and honor to congratulate our Navy Medical Corps on behalf of our entire Navy Medicine family, as they celebrate 148 years of service to our nation.

Steadfast and reliable in service for years before its formal establishment on March 3, 1871, the Medical Corps is comprised entirely of physicians who have dedicated their lives to medicine and national service. The special dedication to years of academics and grueling residency is fueled by a selfless dedication to patients, both current and future. The readiness and health of fellow Sailors, Marines, Soldiers, and Airmen is paramount to our nation's military service and the defense of our way of life.

75 years ago, as Marines led the charge of a ferocious island hopping campaign in the Pacific, Navy physicians were by their side storming the beaches and establishing forward aid stations, providing critical care to their brothers-in-arms. Navy physicians continued to provide this life-saving care during combat

operations in Vietnam and 15 years ago during the battles of Fallujah. Today, they remain steadfast as a ready medical force. They continue to operate on and from the sea, providing primary and surgical care to the fleet and our troops in combat zones. Their efforts have helped define the highest standard of care and with their health care teams, they have saved thousands of lives throughout our nation's history.

Their service extends beyond the battlefield in the countless hours of service ensuring our warfighter's readiness to fight. Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, there are always Navy physicians on-call and standing the watch. Their calling requires constant vigilance and we are grateful for their innumerable personal sacrifices in service of their patients, our nation's sons and daughters.

I am constantly reminded of our bright future as we look ahead to shape the future of navy medicine. The ingenuity and ability of our physicians to adapt and overcome any challenge, while ensuring the highest standards of care is one of navy medicine's finest qualities.

To all who have served in our navy medical corps, past and present, thank you for your sacrifices, your dedication, compassion, and selfless service as you care for those who need you most. Happy 148th birthday shipmates!

Released by Vice Admiral C. Forrest Faison III, Surgeon General of the Navy and Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery