

**CDR Debra L. Yniguez**  
**Board Certified Naval Aerospace Physiologist**  
**Medical Service Corps**  
**United States Navy**



After commissioning as a Medical Service Corps Officer in May 1995, LTJG Yniguez reported to the Naval Aerospace Operational Medical Institute as Student Naval Aerospace Physiologist. At the conclusion of Flight School training she was designated as Naval Aerospace Physiologist (205) in Feb 1996. She reported to the Aviation Survival Training Center (ASTC) aboard MCAS Cherry Point, NC, where she completed her Aerospace Physiologist Internship and served as the Department Head for the ASTC until September 1997.

From October 1997 to December 1998, LT Yniguez served as the Aeromedical Safety Officer (AMSO) for Marine Aircraft Group-Fourteen, aboard MCAS Cherry Point, NC. LT Yniguez managed the MAG-14 Night Vision Training Laboratory for all aviators aboard MCAS. In addition, she was the Subject Matter Expert (SME) for Aviation Life Support System (ALSS) issues, the sole instructor for the Night Vision Goggle laboratory, and LASER programs.

From 1999-2001, LT Yniguez worked under the NAOMI umbrella, starting at the Naval Survival Training Program Model Manager Directorate. She developed the Aerospace Physiologist Internship Standard Operating Procedures manual. This training product oversees and directs an 18-24 month long internship program which fulfills the BUMED sponsored professional development process for all Aerospace Physiologists. This manual is still actively used today. She transferred to the Naval Aerospace Medicine Institute (NAMI), where she served as a Training Officer for Student Naval Aerospace Physiologists. In this position she assisted with training students enrolled in the Medical Service Corps (MSC), Aerospace Physiologist, and warfare specialty designation program. Concurrently, LCDR Yniguez served as the Command Managed Equal Opportunity (CMEO) officer and the Physical Readiness Training (PRT) officer for the entire NAOMI Command.

In February 2001, she was transferred to the Second Marine Air Wing (MAW), located aboard MCAS Cherry Point, NC, where she served as the AMSO on the General's staff. In addition to working all ALSS issues for four Marine Aircraft Groups within 2D MAW, she became a Technical LASER Safety Officer (TLSO) and a Range LASER Safety Specialist (RLSS). This training allowed her to become one of only two individuals in the military on the east coast that could officially certify military LASER ranges. She also trained to become the SME for aviation Chemical Biological Radiological (CBR) device systems. During this tour LT Yniguez was requested by COMNAVAIRPAC to deploy to the Arabian Gulf in order to train all USN Carrier Air Groups in the region on aviation CBRNE life support systems. LT Yniguez completed this task and was recognized with a mid-tour award for her commitment and service during the war.

In August 2003, LCDR Yniguez, relocated to San Diego, CA, to become the AMSO for three Helicopter Wings and one fixed Wing for the Naval Air Pacific Commander. Supporting over 30 aviation squadrons aboard NAS North Island LCDR Yniguez became the ALSS SME. In addition, LCDR Yniguez introduced and trained all West Coast Carrier Air Groups (CAGs) on the Combat Survivor Evader Locator (CSEL), an Over-the-horizon, secret encrypted, SATCOM survival radio system. This became the fleet's newest and most advanced aviation radio system. Because the fleet needed to be trained rapidly to become operationally joint in exercising their Search and Rescue efforts in a wartime environment, LCDR Yniguez assisted by deploying on West Coast aircraft carriers, training events included; Air Fallon, COMTUEX, JTFEX, and the first leg of WEST PAC deployments for all CAGs. LCDR Yniguez also served as the CMEO and Sexual Assault Victims Intervention Representative (SAVI) during her tenure as the Helicopter Sea Wing Pacific Command AMSO.

From 2006-09, LCDR Yniguez was assigned as the Director of Resources and Logistics for the Naval Survival Training Institute (NSTI), located aboard NAS Pensacola. NSTI oversees eight geographically dispersed ASTCs throughout the country. This organization is responsible for the safety and training of over 25,000 Naval Aviators annually. She was responsible for all finances, budgeting and OPTAR spending for eight outlying directorates. LCDR also managed the re-validation of all Naval Aviation Survival Training Program training devices totaling \$32M in physical assets. She became Board Certified by the Aerospace Medical Association in May 2008.

CDR Yniguez is currently stationed at BUMED in Washington, DC. She is the Deputy Diversity Officer, Special Assistant to the Surgeon General of the Navy. She holds a TS clearance. She has tested in the DLAB and DLPT for Spanish, Italian and French. She is currently in the process of working on elective courses through the Naval War College, with an African focus

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of study. CDR Yniguez is board certified in Aerospace Physiology through the Aerospace Medicine Association. She lives in Alexandria, VA with her husband Major Dan Sheils and their five children.

CDR Yniguez is the recipient of the 1010 HENAAC STEM Military Heroes Professional Achievement award. CDR Yniguez was also named STEM Role Model of the Week 10 Dec 10 by Great Minds in STEM Organization.