

# “Fair Winds and Following Seas” to Chief Sharp

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The recently retired Navy Chief Hospital Corpsman Charles Sharp, Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Small Business assistant director, began his quest to see the world by joining the Navy. He completed his Recruit Basic Training at Great Lakes, Ill., and retired from the same Navy Base location — Navy Operational Support Center, Great Lakes.

At the beginning of his career, Chief Sharp attended Hospital Corpsman School and was assigned to the Naval Regional Medical Center at Yokosuka, Japan, where he served a two-year tour as a senior emergency room and Medevac corpsman. His next assignment was at Fleet Marine Forces, Medical Logistics Company at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Following that assignment, Chief Sharp returned to Naval Hospital Great Lakes, where he advanced to hospitalman second class. He then requested sea duty and was assigned to the recommissioned historical battleship, *USS Missouri* (BB63).

Upon the end of his enlistment, Chief Sharp left active duty and returned to the Chicago area, where he enlisted in the Naval Reserves. His first assignment as a Reservist was to the Naval Hospital Unit at Great Lakes Navy Reserve Center. During this assignment he attained the rank of hospital corpsman first class and was mobilized to support Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in December 1990.

After demobilization, Chief Sharp supported various units and then was promoted to chief hospital corpsman. His next assignment was at Recruit

Training Command, where he completed numerous personal qualifications standards requirements and was soon appointed as officer-in-charge of the Surface Non-Prior Service Accession Course.

Throughout his distinguished career, Chief Sharp, who has a Bachelor of Science degree from Southern Illinois University, received many awards including the Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

On June 3, 2006, many of Chief Sharp’s friends and colleagues gathered to honor him and his long career of service. In attendance were members of his family, including his father, Cecil; wife, Mary; son, Cory; brothers, sister and other relatives; members of his DCMA and Navy families; and close friends.

His military retirement ceremony included elements unique to a chief hospital corpsman retirement ceremony, such as readings of the Hospital Corpsman’s Pledge and the Chief Petty Officer’s Retirement Creed. To conclude the ceremony, the retiree followed tradition by requesting permission from the captain to depart, which was followed by the boatswain’s mate of the watch sounding the call, “Pass the word,” and then piping “Over the Side,” symbolic of a final departure from a ship.

We all wish Chief Sharp “Fair Winds and Following Seas.”

**(Right)** Navy Chief Hospital Corpsman Charles Sharp (left) receives a DCMA citation presented by Col. Smith. (DCMA staff photo)

