







+ NAVY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS LEGENDS + PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS



 In 1971, BUMED initiated a program to train hospital corpsmen to become physician assistants. Ultimately, these prospective Navy physician assistants were to serve as “**physician extenders**” helping to ensure that the Navy could deliver healthcare “at a level equal to or not severely denigrating from the level existing during the draft.”

 In 1974, 30 hospital corpsmen graduated from the program becoming the first Navy physician assistants.

 Navy physician assistants served as warrant officers until 1989 when they first received commissions. That same year, physician assistants became part of the Medical Service Corps.

 With over 350 active duty and reserve personnel, Navy physician assistants represent the **largest clinical specialty** in the Medical Service Corps today.