

SHIRLEY M. BOWENS

Captain, Nurse Corps, U.S. Navy

A native of Duluth, Minnesota, Captain Bowens attended the University of Minnesota – School of Nursing. Upon graduation in 1975, with a Bachelor of Science degree, she began her career as a professional registered nurse. Her civilian work experience includes: OB/nursery nurse, public health nurse, nanny school instructor, nursing supervisor, corporate health consultant and owner/director of a child care center. She enrolled in the University of Minnesota- School of Public Health graduate program and was selected to concurrently attend Planned Parenthood Inc. in St. Paul, Minnesota, to train as a Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner. Upon successful completion of these programs in June 1979, CAPT Bowens received a dual Masters degree in Public Health and Maternal-Child Health.

CAPT Bowens joined the US Navy and was commissioned in 1990. Under the Full Time Out-Service program, she attended the College of St. Catherine – School of Nursing graduate program and was awarded a Master of Arts degree in Pediatric Nursing. This program led to CAPT Bowens’ certification as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner by the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP).

CAPT Bowens provided clinical care at Naval Hospital- Bremerton, Washington and Naval Hospital- Rota, Spain in the Family Practice Clinic as a Pediatric and Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner. Drawing on her pre-Navy experience as a child care center Director she also served as the medical representative for the base child care facility. During this overseas assignment, CAPT Bowens supported several deployments including a MEDFLAG Tri-service humanitarian mission to Benin, Africa in 1997. CAPT Bowens requested a recruiting tour and follow on orders led to Navy Recruiting District in Dallas, Texas. While serving as Medical Recruiter and Officer Programs Officer, CAPT Bowens was awarded the “District Medical Recruiter of the Year” in 2000 and “Region Central Officer Recruiter of the Year” in first quarter 2001.

CAPT Bowens is currently stationed at the National Naval Medical Center. She served as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in the Pediatric and Adolescent Health Clinics in her initial assignment. CAPT Bowens later served onboard the USNS COMFORT (TAH-20) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 as a medical-surgical nurse and CJ-MEDEX training operations to Nova Scotia, Canada 2004 as Division Officer. In June 2005, CAPT Bowens was awarded the “Maryland State Award for Nurse Practitioner Excellence”. CAPT Bowens is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and member of several professional organizations.

In August 2005, CAPT Bowens was assigned as Senior Nurse Executive for the Branch Health Clinics Directorate. In OCT 2006, she was selected as the Assistant Director for the Public Health Services Directorate.

CAPT Bowens resides in Glenn Dale, Maryland with her husband and extended family.

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