Air Force Radiology

Col Dana Cressler
Radiology Consultant
05 July 2017
Why Choose Radiology?

- Constantly Changing
  - Sophisticated imaging toys
  - State of the art technology
  - MR elastography
  - Functional MRI
  - PET/CT, Y90
  - 3D and 4D imaging
  - Image guided diagnostic & therapeutic procedures
  - Teleradiology
  - Wealth of digital, print, visual educational products

- Intellectually Stimulating
  - All the best cases go to radiology from all services
  - Encounter real examples of rare diseases
  - Make unsuspected diagnoses
  - In modern medicine, radiology is where much of the diagnosis happens

- Life Style
  - Excellent job market and job security
  - Excellent compensation
  - Most work is self-paced
AF Radiology Manning

AF Radiologist Authorizations:
- 89 Active Duty (AD) Radiologists
- 5 Government Service Radiologists
- 17 Contractor Radiologists

Current Manning:
- 56 General Radiologists
- 31 Sub-specialists
- 1 Academic USUHS Position
- 7 non-clinical leadership roles
- 1 Flight Physician

Current Manning:
- General Radiology: 100%
- Neuroradiology: 80%
- Interventional Radiology: 83%
- Pediatric Radiology: 150%
- Nuclear Medicine: 100%
- Musculoskeletal Radiology: 88%
- Body Imaging: 200%
- Cardiothoracic Imaging: 100%
- Women’s Imaging: 50%
Residency Opportunities
Academic Year 2018

- San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium (SAUSHEC), TX – 3 PGY1, 2 PGY2
- David Grant Medical Center, CA – 2 PGY1, 1 PGY2
- Portsmouth: Naval Medical Center, VA – 1 PGY1, 1 PGY2
- National Capital Consortium/Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (NCC/WRNMMC), D.C. – 1 PGY1, 1 PGY2
- San Diego: Naval Medical Center, CA – 1 PGY1, 1 PGY2
- Civilian Sponsored Positions – 6 PGY1, 6 PGY2
- Deferred Positions – 3 PGY1, 2 PGY2
Fellowship Opportunities
Academic Year 2018

- Fellowship opportunities after residency:
  - Neuroradiology (2 yrs) – 3 civilian (civ) sponsored
  - Interventional Radiology (1 yr) – 2 civ sponsored
  - Pediatric Radiology (1 yr) – 0
  - Nuclear Medicine (1 yr) – 1 SAUSHEC
  - Musculoskeletal Imaging (1 yr) – 2 SAUSHEC, 1 civ sponsored
  - Cardiothoracic Imaging (1 yr) – 0
  - Body Imaging (1 yr) – 1 civ sponsored
  - Women’s Imaging (1 yr) – 2 civ sponsored
### 2014-2016 JSGMESB Residency Selection Information

#### Primary Residency Selects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicants</th>
<th>Selected</th>
<th>Selected %</th>
<th>Non-medical Students</th>
<th>Medical Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>46%</td>
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#### USMLE Scores

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Step 1 Low</th>
<th>Step 1 High</th>
<th>Step 1 Mean</th>
<th>Step 2 Low</th>
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#### COMPLEX Scores

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<th>Level 1 High</th>
<th>Level 1 Mean</th>
<th>Level 2 Low</th>
<th>Level 2 High</th>
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<td>671</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>643</td>
<td>597</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Scoring Criteria 2016
Residency & Fellowship Match

- Pre-clinical med school years – maximum 2 pts
- Clinical med school years – maximum 3 pts
- Internship
  - Maximum 5 pts if completed internship
  - Maximum 3 pts if currently an intern
- Residency (pts only count toward Fellowship, not 2nd residency)
  - Maximum 10 pts if finished radiology residency & in utilization tour
  - Maximum 7 pts if currently in a radiology residency
- Post-Internship Operational/Utilization Tour
  - Maximum 5 pts
  - Maximum 3 pts if in initial tour for less than 9 months
- Potential for Successful Practice/Career Officer – 5 pts
Scoring Criteria 2016
Residency & Fellowship Match

- **Bonus points awarded by Panel Chair:**
  - Research – Maximum 2 pts
    - 2 pts – multiple publications/presentations
    - 1 pt – single publication/presentation
  - 2 yrs or longer prior military service (not as physician): 1 pt
    - USUHS, AF Academy, ROTC time does not count

- **Medical Student Packages**
  - Scored by 3 AF radiologists: PDs, associate PDs, and/or Radiology Consultant

- **Non-Medical Student Packages**
  - Scored by 1 AF, 1 Army, & 1 Navy Radiologist (usually the PDs or Consultants)
Caveats to military match:

- Try to keep same service joint military spouses together; does not apply to civilian or other service spouses
- USUHS students must match to a military program
- Applicants below "cut line" will not be recommended for radiology residency training, but may match to another program
Rotations & Interviews
For Residency Consideration

- Rotate at GME sites during the end of 3\textsuperscript{rd} and/or beginning of 4\textsuperscript{th} year in medical school, before interviews conclude in November
  - Strongly consider a Radiology Rotation at your 1\textsuperscript{st} choice location
  - Consider doing a radiology or non-radiology rotation at Travis and SAUSHEC and get to know (interview with) the Radiology Program Directors (PDs) & Associate Program Directors
  - Recommend in-person or telephone interviews with both SAUSHEC & David Grant AF Radiology PDs/associate PDs
  - Recommend in-person or telephone interviews with Naval PD, if a Naval training location is your 1\textsuperscript{st} choice and/or 2\textsuperscript{nd} choice
  - Contact sites early in 3\textsuperscript{rd} year for scheduling timeline
- Interview with multiple program directors. The more people who know you, the better you fare at selection boards.
- Be yourself, show intellectual curiosity, remember customs & courtesies, talk to the residents
- Remember “Officer Potential” counts for up to 5 pts
IMPORTANT

If you are a medical student interested in one of the Naval Radiology Residency Programs as your first or second choice, plan on scheduling an interview with the Transitional Internship Program Director at San Diego and Portsmouth or the Internal Medicine Program Director at National Capital Consortium/Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in addition to the Radiology Residency Program Director.

This process is not necessary for the Air Force Radiology Residency Programs. You only need to interview with the Radiology Program.
What Makes the Ideal Radiology Applicant?

- **Academic Aptitude to Succeed**
  - Radiology is hard: lots of information to read, process, retain, recall
  - Must make the most of every rotation
  - Medical School grades & USMLE/COMPLEX scores demonstrate your ability to handle the rigorous academic requirements of residency
  - Do well in internship/Step III; maximize your points during selection

- **Ability to Work Hard…Without Complaint**
  - Only 4 years to learn all 11 academic sections of radiology
  - Must be dedicate to radiology for all 4 years to become competent
  - Must have the discipline to read at home during week/weekends

- **Team Player with Good Customer Service Skills**
  - Radiology is a customer based specialty that relies on referrals from clinicians both within and outside the hospital
  - Must be kind, helpful, and affable when dealing w/referring clinicians
  - Resident morale & cohesion matters, must get along with fellow residents

*Borrowed from Portsmouth Program*
Staff Radiologist Opportunities

- Clinical radiologists at 22 military treatment facilities:
  - 13 Hospitals/Medical Centers
  - 8 Outpatient Clinics/Imaging Centers
  - 7 Overseas: German, Italy, England, Japan, S. Korea, Alaska
  - 2 Radiology Residency Locations
  - 2 Army Hospitals/Medical Centers
  - 1 Medical School (USUHS)

- Leadership positions:
  - Department Medical Director, Commander (Flt, Sq, Gp)
  - Chief Medical Officer (SGH) of clinic or hospital
  - GME Program Director or Associate Program Director
  - MAJCOM / Headquarters positions

- Opportunities:
  - Academic medicine: faculty for Radiology residents/fellows, Transitional interns, medical/nursing/PT students, PAs, NPs
  - Paid Fellowships / Additional education (MBA/MHA, PhD)
  - Flight Medicine & other unique military opportunities
AF Radiologist Retention Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% reach 20 years of service</th>
<th>Radiologists</th>
<th>All Physicians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Why do Radiologists Stay?
- Work pace is more humane than most civilian practices
- Varied work environments: outpatient only, inpatient/outpatient, GME/Academic
- Fellowship opportunities, when military sponsored:
  - Higher pay than civilians
  - Easier to get into prestigious civilian programs
- Easy to moonlight from home: civilian Teleradiology companies
- Travel Opportunities: bases in Europe, Asia, & coast-to-coast
- Leadership positions: Program Director, Department Head, Chief Medical Officer for Clinic/Hospital, Squadron/Group Commander
- Lifelong retirement pension & health-care benefits
San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium

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(210) 292-5290 or 916-3290
- **San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC Campus)**
  - State of the art hospital opened in 1996 with addition completed in 2011
  - DoD’s only Level 1 Trauma Center, Burn Center

- **Wilford Hall Ambulatory Service Center (WHASC)**
  - Largest DoD outpatient center
  - Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH)
  - New facility open June 2017
SAUSHEC Radiology Residency
Program Strengths

- ACGME accreditation through 2021 under ACGME NAS
- Strong relationship with ARRS & AJR
- Fellowship trained staff in Radiology Journalism
- AJR, Radiographics, JCAR, JVIR and Emergency Radiology and Military Medicine journal reviewers
- Only Level 1 Trauma & Burn Center in DoD
- Volume of cases & complex diversity of pathology – largest and busiest medical center in the DoD – treat half of San Antonio’s civilian trauma and emergencies
- Experienced, diverse staff committed to resident education
SAUSHEC Radiology Residency
Program Strengths

- Strong affiliations with University of Texas Health Science Center (UTHSC-SA), Texas Children’s Hospital (TCH), and Audie Murphy VA Hospital

- State-of-the-art imaging with PET/CT, Y90, & Gallium 68-Dotatate PET/CT

- State-of-the-art treatments with Xofigo & Samarium 153

- Institute of surgical research

- One of the largest biomedical research science institutions

- Center for the Intrepid (amputee & burn rehab facility)
SAUSHEC Radiology Residency
Rotations & TDYs

- Funded Rotations & TDYs
  - Texas Children’s Hospital, Houston
  - 2 residents to Texas Radiology Society annual meeting
  - 1st author presentations at national meetings
  - American Institute of Radiology Pathology (AIRP), Silver Springs, MD

- Rotation Schedule
  - RAD-1: SAUSHEC, TCH
  - RAD-2: SAUSHEC, UTHSC-SA, Audie Murphy VA Hospital, Research Elective
  - RAD-3: SAUSHEC, TCH, Audie Murphy VA Hospital, AIRP
  - RAD-4: SAUSHEC, Electives
SAUSHEC Radiology Residency
San Antonio Lifestyle

- 7th largest US City!
- Affordable high standard of living
- Convenient air travel
- Universities: UTSA, UIC, Trinity, etc.
- Awesome climate/2 hrs to Gulf Coast
- Attractions: Seaworld, Six Flags, Hill Country, S.A. Zoo, Riverwalk, Schlitterbahn Water Park, Art & Science Museums, Majestic & Magic Theaters, the Alamo & other Missions, Government Canyon Texas State Natural Area, Natural Bridge Caverns & Wildlife Park, & more
- Employment opportunities for spouse: Finance (USAA, BOA), real estate, hospitality industry, manufacturing (Toyota), healthcare industry, government, etc.
David Grant (Travis AFB) Radiology Residency

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Clerkship Coordinator  
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(707) 423-7950

Breaking Barriers ... Since 1947
David Grant Medical Center
Residency Overview

- 85% of time spent at DGMC
  - Largest medical center in USAF
  - 130K Tricare & 377K VA beneficiaries
- Average Day
  - 1500 outpatient visits
  - 60 ER visits
  - 16 surgeries
  - 20 patient admits
  - 65 inpatients

- UC Davis Medical Center
  - One month in PGY-4 year covering ER, for trauma experience
  - One month in PGY-5 year for neuroradiology guided procedures

- Children’s Hospital Oakland
  - One month in PGY-3, PGY-4, and PGY-5 years
David Grant (Travis AFB) 
Residency Overview & Strengths

- Currently 13 residents (return to 12 in 2022)
  - Generally 2 med student & 1 field applicant per year
- 14 full time faculty (12 AD, 1 GS, 1 contractor)
  - No fellows
- Usually one resident per service
  - One on one education
- Strong resident performance
  - 100% ABR exam pass rate past 3 years
  - 2017 graduating class 99th percentile on ACR in-service exam
- Many opportunities for scholarly activity
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MAJ(P) P. Gabriel Peterson, MC, USA
Acting Program Director, AY 2016-2017
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Ms. Anita McKenzie
Program Coordinator
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Reason to train at NCC for Radiology

- World renowned faculty & services
- Excellent local training opportunities in a diverse metro area, including:
  - NIH/NCI
  - Shock Trauma at the UMD in Baltimore, MD
  - Children’s National Medical Center
- Mentorship by top AIRP & USUHS academic radiologists

To Schedule a rotation, please contact Mr. Elijah Harvey in the WRNMMC GME office at 301-295-4397
elijah.c.Harvey.ctr@mail.mil
Naval Medical Center
Portsmouth

CAPT Christopher Kuzniewski, USN, MC
Program Director
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When radiologists take a selfie

NMCP Radiology

Ms. Catherine Maxey
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The Navy’s Oldest Operating Hospital since 1830

• Serves the greater Hampton Roads region, with a population of more than 1.5 million
• Homeport to the majority of ships, aircraft and personnel assigned to the Atlantic Fleet.
B)reaking Barriers ... Since 1947

Naval Medical Center
Portsmouth

- Busiest Radiology department in the Navy!
  - Provides over 250,000 reads per year
  - All modalities/sub-specialties have fellowship trained faculty

- Current staffing: 30 active duty, contract and GS staff radiologists

- Residency consists of 19 residents
  - Credentialed for 28 by the ACGME - plenty of work for everyone!

- State-of-the-art CT scanners (Siemens Somatom FORCE)

- Central teleradiology site for Navy Medicine East (from GITMO to New England) & the PACRIM facilities (Guam, Okinawa and Yokosuka)
No weekends or overnight call first year
Typical workday is from 0730 – 1600
Two thirds of residents have families w/small children
Utilize the night float system
Our faculty LOVE to teach and you regularly get supplement teaching sessions at the workstations during the workday
Exposure to a myriad of pathology in every academic section
Will do well on your board exams
Will leave program well trained & independent practice ready
Outside rotations: AIRP 3rd year; Trauma 4th year
Two morale days each year
  - Busch Gardens amusement park in the fall
  - Climbing, shooting, or golfing in the spring
First year radiology resident curriculum

13 four week rotations

- Two Chest
- Two MSK (musculoskeletal)
- Two Neuro
- Two Peds
- Two Body/CT
- Two Ultrasound
- One Fluoroscopy
Why live & work in Hampton Roads?
- Low cost of living & family housing
- Excellent schools in Chesapeake & Virginia Beach
- Can live at the beach
- Or live close and walk to work
- Water Sports
  - Boating
  - Beach
  - Fishing
- Minimal Traffic
- Easy access to big cities
  - Richmond, Philadelphia, D.C.
Naval Medical Center
San Diego

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Also known as Balboa
Joint Commission accredited
One of the largest military medical facilities in the U.S.
Tertiary care referral center for military members and their families from the Southwestern U.S., entire Pacific Rim, & Southeast Asia
Most faculty hold appointments at USUHS & University of California San Diego
Nationally recognized for clinical research & teaching
Specialty training in 24 accredited programs
Naval Medical Center San Diego
Radiology Residency

- 4 Year ACGME accredited program
- Dedicated to training top-tier radiologists who will serve in a variety of general, academic & military settings
- Opportunities to acquire a broad range of diagnostic & interventional skills
- Cutting edge technology to include 3T MRI & digital breast tomosynthesis
- > 1:1 faculty-to-resident ratio
- Staff actively involved in research & teaching
  - Resident involvement in some type of scholarly activity
  - Many residents present papers/posters at national meetings
Naval Medical Center San Diego
Radiology Residency

- **Diagnostic Year I**
  - Basic radiology is emphasized covering ultrasound, thoracic, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, musculoskeletal, pediatric, nuclear medicine, emergency room, & neuroradiology.
  - Exposure to CT/MRI will be provided

- **Diagnostic Year II**
  - New rotations, in addition to those continued from Year I, include interventional radiology & breast imaging.
  - Nightfloat rotation starts

- **Diagnostic Year III**
  - Funded rotation to American Institute for Radiographic Pathology (Silver Spring, MD): radiologic-pathologic correlation

- **Diagnostic Year IV**
  - Completion of required rotations
  - Elective time
Colonel Dana K. Cressler, USAF, MC, FS
Diagnostic Radiology Consultant to the AF Surgeon General

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