

Alumni Spotlight: Captain Peter Roberts, '99, MD



Information for this spotlight was provided by Dr. John Benfield, and adapted from <http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/usnsmercy/Commandinfo/Pages/COBiography.aspx>.

Captain Roberts received his undergraduate degree with honors from Middlebury College, medical degree from Temple University, general surgery residency at the Medical Center of Delaware and completed his Cardiothoracic Residency here at UC Davis in 1999. After finishing his cardiothoracic surgery residency, he stayed on as faculty at UC Davis, building a successful mixed general thoracic and adult cardiac surgery practice. He led the thoracic surgery efforts at the Sacramento Shriner's Hospital for Children, and served an active role in the Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG) and the Western Thoracic Surgical Association.

In 2003, Captain Roberts founded the cardiothoracic surgery program at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, which at the time was the only United States Military Medical Center



(MEDCEN) without cardiothoracic surgery capability. Captain Roberts has served numerous medical command responsibilities including in locations such as Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay, and Iraq. Captain Roberts is the Commanding Officer of the USNS Mercy. The primary mission of the USNS Mercy is to "provide rapid, flexible, and mobile

acute medical and surgical services to support Marine Corps Air/Ground Task Forces deployed ashore, Army

and Air Force units deployed ashore, and naval amphibious task forces and battle forces afloat." Its other mission is to "provide mobile surgical hospital service for use by appropriate U.S. Government agencies in Humanitarian Civic Assistance (HCA), disaster or humanitarian relief or limited humanitarian care incident to these missions or peacetime military operations." The USNS Mercy recently returned from a mission to Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia. The ship has 1000 beds and support facilities in 10 stories, thus making it the 4th largest hospital in the U.S. The Mercy has received the Navy's Retention Excellence Award, formerly known as the Golden Anchor Award.



**Captain Roberts, '99 (far left)
with Dr. Benfield (far right)**