

Lieutenant Commander Kevin Hoang, Medical Service Corps, United States Navy

A first generation Vietnamese-American native of Santa Ana, California, LCDR Kevin Hoang was raised in Saint Louis, Missouri. He obtained his Bachelor of Science in Biology as well as his Doctorate of Optometry from the University of Missouri in Saint Louis. His clinical training carried him across a wide spectrum, including a large urban hospital, Indian Health Service hospitals in Oklahoma and Alaska, and an Air Force clinic, leading to an interest in military medicine.

During this time, he developed a passion for humanitarian aid and increased access to care, coordinating students through a vision screening for Special Olympics of Missouri and making glasses for several dozen of the athletes that same day. In addition, he was instrumental in providing care to the two outlying villages of Koyuk and Brevig Mission in the Nome Census Area of Alaska, setting up multi-day eye clinics for patients without normal access to care. Following his time in the Arctic, he then pursued a humanitarian aid mission to central Jamaica, where a multidisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, dentists, and optometrists provided care to a small town in Saint Mary's Parish.

LCDR Hoang was competitively selected for a direct commission through the Health Professions Loan Repayment Plan in March of 2013 and commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps in August of 2013. He reported to Newport, Rhode Island to Officer Development School in September of 2013, serving as his class Administrative Officer. LCDR Hoang then checked aboard to the Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi, serving as staff optometrist in charge of the clinical externship program.

In March of 2015, LCDR Hoang was deployed in support of "Continuing Promise" aboard the hospital ship USNS COMFORT (T-AH 20) as the Assistant Department Head of Optometry. Over the course of six months, he provided care to nearly 7,000 patients across 23 medical sites in 11 different countries. He also developed a patient education initiative and an eye health pamphlet in English, Spanish, and French Creole. In keeping with his commitment to teaching and education, LCDR Hoang shared his knowledge through giving an accredited Continuing Medical Education lecture on eye care to 54 providers of the embarked Medical Treatment Facility.

Upon returning to the Naval Health Clinic in Corpus Christi in October of 2015, LCDR Hoang resumed his responsibilities, now as Department Head of Optometry, serving Active Duty, family members, and retirees at the core facility while being the sole provider of eye care services at Branch Health Clinic Kingsville and Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth. He also coordinated with Army Optometry at Fort Sam Houston and the Tri-Service Research Lab, increasing Joint training opportunities for continuing education among his staff.

In November of 2016, LCDR Hoang reported to the Naval Health Clinic Hawaii, serving as Department Head of Optometry and Legal Officer. He was also selected as part of the inaugural cohort for the new, enterprise-wide Surgeon General initiative known as the Digital Vanguard, a network of forward thinkers to advise Navy Medicine Leadership on how to leverage technology to improve health and readiness. Additionally, he has led initiatives through the Hawaii enhanced Multi Service Market to cross-credential optometrists across different MTFs to increase joint interoperability during a critical manning shortage.

In July of 2020, LCDR Hoang reported to the College of Naval Command and Staff, earning a Master of Arts in Defense and Strategic studies, with courses focused on the INDOPACOM AOR and Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief.

In June of 2021, LCDR Hoang reported to Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Unit Groton, serving as Director of Expeditionary Medicine as well as Department Head of Clinical Support Services, overseeing 75 staff across Optometry, Pharmacy, Lab, Radiology, Physical Therapy, Chiropractic Services, Platform Readiness, and Force Development.

LCDR Hoang is an Adjunct Professor of Optometry for the Southern College of Optometry, New England College of Optometry, Southern California College of Optometry, University of Missouri Saint Louis College of Optometry, and the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences; a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and member of the Armed Forces Optometric Society. His personal awards include a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals. He is the proud husband of Celena, a prior SSgt (68W) in the US Army and practicing physician assistant, father to Johnny and Alessandra, and dog-dad to Sasha.