

KISHLA ASKINS

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PROFILE

Clinician executive, Veteran, strategist, health policy and national security advisor with over twenty years in leadership roles. Military career of 30 years included combat, global health, natural disasters, public health, humanitarian, policy, clinical, political, and senior executive environments. Transformational leader that bridges divides, builds relationships and leads multi-specialty teams that achieve strategic goals across functional and organizational sectors. TS SCI inactive (2019).

National Security
Public Health
Healthcare
Emergency Preparedness

Defense
Global Health
Congressional Affairs
Leadership

Medical Diplomacy
Strategy
Disaster Management
Veteran Affairs

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**CEO/Co-Founder**

Present

Global Bridge Health Strategies, LLC

- Leads the strategy and growth for a woman, veteran-owned small consulting business that works in the national security, healthcare, disaster management, global health, and climate change arenas. A key strength is our expertise in bridging these arenas (or stovepipes within) to provide cross-cutting input for our clients.

Senior Policy Volunteer

Biden-Harris Policy Committee

June – November 2020

- Drafted key strategic initiatives for implementation within the first hundred days, targeting workforce, special population, public health and Veteran health initiatives.

Principal Staff Officer to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs

July 2017 – May 2019

Office of the Secretary of Defense

- Led executive support team for the Senior Executive of the Military Health System (MHS) that encompasses 9.2 million beneficiaries, \$52 billion Defense Health Program (DHP) and TRICARE.
- Advised senior executive(s) on health policies, force readiness, global health, and change management during a historically significant transformation to the MHS, providing counsel and written recommendations for successful implementation and alignment.
- Acted on behalf of the Assistant Secretary to carry out the MHS strategic goals and objectives with internal and external stakeholders including the White House, Health and Human Services, Veteran Affairs, Centers for Disease Control, Department of Homeland Security, and National Institutes of Health.

Trusted National Security and Legislative Advisor

December 2014 – July 2017

Bureau of Medicine and Surgery United States Navy

- Policy and legislative advisor to the Surgeon General of the Navy. Advised, prepared and coordinated congressional hearing and legislative responses for senior executives implementing strategy and improving communication goals.
- Led a team of senior strategic members that developed a comprehensive analysis, mitigation strategies, and implementation recommendations for the most significant piece of legislation governing the DHP.
- Navy lead expert for the 2018 Federal, State and Interagency revision for the National Emergency Medical Services Scope of Practice Model. Efforts positioned DoD to establish partnerships and enable alignment of certification and training models across military and civilian practice settings.

Office of Senator Joe Donnelly (D-IN)

December 2014 – December 2015

United States Senate Hart Building

- Conceived and drafted legislation passed in the National Defense Authorization Act for Senator Joe Donnelly (D-IN) that improved mental health care for servicemembers and Veterans.
- Provided key advice and counsel to Senator Joe Donnelly on national security, foreign policy, Veteran, and personnel issues for over 70 Senate Armed Services Committee hearings and meetings with foreign dignitaries, senior Defense Department officials, and key defense/health industry stakeholders.

- Coordinated across federal agencies, constituents, and advocacy groups on behalf of Senator Donnelly.
- Prepared national security, Veteran, and health care issue-oriented speeches. Reviewer for communication products involving key areas of expertise.

Program Director of Emergency Medicine Program

January 2012 – October 2014

U. S Navy, Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCS D)

- Authored and implemented the Navy's first Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant (EMPA) graduate medical education program, creating a new healthcare business line and staffing model solving gaps in critical skillsets.
- Supervised the healthcare delivery and training of over 200 residents, medical students, and fellows in the emergency department while serving as the lead EMPA in a Trauma II emergency department.
- Developed and implemented the Rapid Triage Assessment Protocol that reduced wait-times, improved access by 25%, reduced the "left without being seen" rate by 40%, and improved patient experience while maintaining the highest quality assurance and patient safety.
- Led, planned, and executed a successful National Disaster Medical System statewide exercise improving disaster readiness (time to fully mission capable, capacity for patient flow, and accountability of patient movement), interagency collaboration, and developing solutions for lessons learned as the Federal Coordinating Center's NDMS coordinator.
- Improved baseline competency and integration of multi-service, cross-functional teams through instructional techniques delivered at the Surface Warfare Medical Institute.
- Created and led an annual scientific assembly task force for the second largest emergency medicine organization that recommends practice guidelines and scholarly projects for improving standardization across the specialty.

Regimental Surgeon

October 2010 – January 2012

U. S. Marine Corps, Combat Logistics Regiment 27

- Advised the senior executive on strategic medical intelligence, health security, and readiness enabling his responsibility to provide expeditionary combat logistics for global national security operations.
- Managed a 50-person multi-disciplinary healthcare team responsible for a 2500 Sailor and Marine combat team, maintaining >95% medical readiness across all forces for contingency and global humanitarian operations.
- Drafted and implemented policy that reduced processing time for duty status from 2 years to 3 months. Coordinated specialty and private sector care to maintain a high level of integrated quality healthcare.
- Significantly revised the medical installation's construction plan, finding efficiencies and reducing cost while ensuring compliance with Joint Commission standards.

Officer-In-Charge

January 2009 – October 2010

U.S. Marine Corps, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit

- Team lead and operation planner for the Shock Trauma & Health Services Unit involving Iraq and Afghanistan missions for over 1200 U.S. and coalition forces in combat, contingency, and humanitarian operations.
- Led the critical infrastructure and hazard vulnerability inspections, health needs assessments, and clinical care delivery in response efforts for the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

Executive Officer

January 2008 – September 2008

U. S. Marine Corps, Combat Out Post Rawah, Iraq

- Managed a mobile surgical shock trauma platoon and forward resuscitative surgical suite team in Iraq for all U.S. and international forces; managed lifesaving patient care in combat; and completed mission critical combat patrols for intelligence gathering. Additionally, conducted multiple medical civic action program (MEDCAP) events to improve pediatric and women's health resources across Iraq and improving access to preventive and acute medical care.

Senior Medical Director

December 2006 – 2008

U.S. Navy, Naval Medical Center San Diego, Branch Medical Clinic

- Managed 20 providers and 40 ancillary staff in the delivery of safe and quality healthcare. Led a successful Joint Commission Accreditation and received the "model clinic" award from the Commission.

Director

1999-2004

Various Amphibious/Cruiser/Destroyer Navy Ships

- Prepared a large casualty receiving treatment ship for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Managed the healthcare and force health protection for over 3K Sailors and Marines engaged in Iraq and Afghanistan operations, 65 bed ICU/Ward, 6 operating rooms, and 30+ medical personnel within a restrictive \$1 million-dollar medical budget.

- Provided oversight of 36 Navy Cruiser Destroyer ship's healthcare delivery for over 10K Sailors for deployments in response to September 11, 2001 resulting in 100% medical readiness completion for global operations.
- Managed the healthcare delivery and medical operations for 450+ Sailors, JFK Jr burial-at-sea, deployment to the Red Sea, and medical efforts involving the terrorist attack on USS COLE.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

1. Master of Public Health (Disaster Management), Tulane University
2. Master of Physician Assistant Studies, University of Nebraska Medical Center
3. Bachelor of Science, University of Nebraska Medical Center
4. Bachelor of Health Science, George Washington University
5. Strategic Studies, National Intelligence University
6. Foreign Policy Fellowship Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
7. Capitol Hill Fellowship Program, Georgetown University Government Affairs Institute
8. Fellowship in Wilderness Medicine, Wilderness Medical Society

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

1. Volunteer Policy Reviewer. American Public Health Association. March 2021 – Present.
2. Character Does Matter Ambassador: Travis Manion Foundation. February 2021 – Present.
3. Committee Member, Disaster and Humanitarian Committee: Wilderness Medical Society. February 2021 – Present. Global agenda addressing and focusing on standards, competencies, and best practices.
4. Defense Council Member: Truman Security Project. January 2020 – Present Defense Council Member committed to efforts in support of national security and democracy.
5. Election Officer: City of Alexandria. October – Present. Worked to register and validate voter eligibility for Virginia, ensuring fair and efficient elections, and supporting the democratic process on Election Day.
6. Mentor: Girl Security January 2020 – Present; Lead Scholar Mentor June – December 2020 for a Girl Security Scholar in the area of biodefense – ultimately leading to a project identifying gaps in the National Biodefense Strategy and her presentation to Halifax International Security Forum's Peace with Women Fellows in November 2020.

PRESENTATIONS

1. *Leadership Panel – Veteran Transition Expectations*. Deloitte Virtual Employment Boot Camp. March 12, 2021
2. *Leadership and Public Service*. Gannon University School of Public Service and Global Affairs. February 8, 2021
3. *Mentorship in National Security*. Girl Security X Halifax (Peace with Women Fellowship). November 9, 2020.
4. *Leadership for the Future of Public Health*. Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. November 19, 2020.
5. *Opening Remarks* (on behalf of Senator Joe Donnelly). 2015 Navy Enlisted Recruiters of the Year Awardees. Washington, DC. 2015
6. *Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant Fellowship*. American Academy of Physician Assistants Annual Conference. Washington D.C. 25 May 2013.
7. *The Six Life Threatening Causes of Chest Pain*. Surface Warfare Medicine Institute Fleet Symposium. San Diego, California. 16 May 2013 and 23 July 2013.
8. *Special Public Health and Medical Considerations for Women Travelers in Austere Environments*. Wilderness Medical Society Frederick J. Travers III Lecture Series in Austere and Wilderness Medicine # 3. San Diego, California. 4 May 2013.
9. *Operational Pearls: Successful Blue Green Integration*. Surface Warfare Medicine Institute. Surface Warfare Officers Indoctrination Course 23 July 2013.
10. *GI Bleeds in the Emergency Room*. Naval Medical Center San Diego Emergency Department Indoctrination.
11. *Seizures in the Emergency Room: Recognition, Management and Treatment Pearls*. Naval Medical Center San Diego Emergency Department Indoctrination
12. *Overview of Search and Rescue in an Austere Environment*. Wilderness Medical Society Frederick J. Travers III Lecture Series in Austere and Wilderness Medicine. San Diego, California 21 September 2013.
13. *Medical Kits for Exotic & International Travel*. Wilderness Medical Society Frederick J. Travers III Lecture Series in Austere and Wilderness Medicine. San Diego, California.
14. *Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant Fellowship Challenge Bowl*. American Academy of Emergency Medicine Scientific Assembly. New York, New York 12 February 2014.

PUBLICATIONS

1. Askins, K., Mead, A. M., Lawson, B. D., & Bratley, M. C., "Sopite Syndrome Study I: Isolated Sopite Symptoms Detected Post Hoc From a Preliminary Open-Ended Survey of Subjective Responses to a Short-Duration Visual-Vestibular Stimulus," *Abstracts of the Aerospace Medical Association 68th Annual Scientific Meeting*, no. 204, May 1997. Naval Operational Medical Institute (NOMI), *SPAD Protocol*, Pensacola, FL: 1997 (Contributing Author)
2. Askins, K. A. (2011, April 04). *Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant Fellowship*. Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.
3. Askins, K. A. (2011). *Going Green (USMC) – A Naval Officer’s Toolkit*, Chapter 4, The Mid-Grade Officer Toolkit 2011. Medical Service Corps Executive Steering Committee Professional Development Team.
4. Askins, K. A. (2013, June 20). *Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant Challenge Bowl*. American Academy of Emergency Physicians 20th Scientific Assembly. <http://www.aaem.org/education/scientific-assembly/competitions/emergency-medicine-pa-fellowship-challenge-bowl>

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member, Military Officers Association of America
- Member, Veteran of Foreign Wars
- Member, AMSUS
- Member, World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine
- Member, International Association of Emergency Managers
- Member & Policy Reviewer, American Public Health Association
- Defense Council Member, Truman Security Project
- Member, Society of Emergency Medicine Physician Assistants
- Fellow, Wilderness Medical Society