

LA ROCHE UNIVERSITY
2021 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI CIRCLE AWARD RECIPIENT



Joe Blair II, M.S. '05

CRNA/Director of Detachments - Region II
Jefferson Medical Center, West Virginia
University Medicine
Expeditionary Medical Facility, Bethesda

Captain select Joe Blair is a certified registered nurse anesthetist for West Virginia University Medicine at Jefferson Medical Center in Ranson, West Virginia. He has worked as an emergency medical technician-paramedic in the areas of trauma, liver transplant and cardio-thoracic intensive care. He also has provided anesthesia services in obstetric, general operating room and regional anesthetic areas.

Captain Blair became an emergency medical technician-paramedic in 1992, a registered nurse in 1995 and a certified registered nurse anesthetist in 2005. He held civilian critical-care nurse positions at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Allegheny General Hospital and Johns Hopkins Hospital. Additionally he was a chief certified registered nurse anesthetist at Mease Countryside/Dunedin Hospitals in Clearwater, Florida, and the director of obstetric anesthesia at Del Sol Medical Center in El Paso, Texas.

He began his Navy Reserve career after the events of 9/11, commissioning as a lieutenant junior grade in 2002 assigned to Fleet Hospital in Fort Dix. He served in the following roles: training officer, assistant officer-in-charge, officer-in-charge for the Operational Health Support Unit DET in India and Florida; comptroller/Navy Reserve order writing system approver; and director of detachments for Operational Health Support Unit DET Head Quarters in Jacksonville, Florida, supervising 19 detachments and 642 sailors.

Recently Captain Blair held the positions of Command Manpower Officer and Command Director of Operations. Currently he is the Director of Detachments-Region II for Expeditionary Medical Facility Bethesda, consisting of 452 sailors. He was called to active duty from July 2009 to September 2010 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He deployed again March 2020 to May 2020 to New York City's Javits Center in support of COVID-19 operations.

A graduate of West Liberty State University and Duquesne University School of Nursing, Captain Blair holds a Master of Science in health sciences (nurse anesthesia) from La Roche University.