

# SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER

Cmdr. Michael McGinnis



Cmdr. Michael McGinnis, from the Washington, D.C., area, joined the crew of Nimitz as the Senior Medical Officer in March 2007. He began his Internal Medicine residency at Naval Medical Center San Diego in 1993. His mother influenced him to join the medical field growing up.

“Being a physician and caring for your patients, being part of the process that keeps them healthy is a truly rewarding experience. My grandmother, who lived in Baltimore where I went to college, was an avid volunteer in a hospital and she opened my eyes to a career in the healthcare field.”

McGinnis believes the best reason to serve in the military is that it is important and rewarding.

“As our Admiral frequently says, only 1 percent of our population serves in the military – and these individuals are a cut above the average American.”

McGinnis believes serving as the SMO on Nimitz is the most important job in his career thus far, and everything he has done thus far has prepared him for this challenging job and this deployment.

“I am deeply honored to be the Senior Medical Officer aboard Nimitz. The ongoing tensions in the Persian Gulf, particularly with Iran, make the Nimitz’s mission of power projection and threat deterrence very important. There can be no greater job than being responsible for the care of our war fighters who are on the front lines keeping our fellow Americans safe.”

McGinnis has earned several degrees and naval accolades over the years, including two Navy Achievement Medals, one Navy Commendation Medal and his master’s in public health, health policy and administration. He is preparing for his Aerospace Medicine boards after cruise, but focused on Medical Department’s mission in the meantime.

“I hope to continually enhance our mission of being able to take care of the Nimitz warriors and keeping them in the fight. My senior leadership and I are focused on the internal customers as well – our corpsmen and providers. We want to ensure that their needs are met and that they are recognized for the high quality medical care that they deliver. I also want to maintain the high level of training of our personnel, both medical and ship’s crew, to keep them prepared for any possible medical contingency.”