

EXECUTIVE OFFICER — NAVAL HOSPITAL



CAPTAIN LINDSAY C. GETZEN, MC USN

One of the youngest Chief Pharmacist's Mates during World War II reported aboard the USS Repose as Executive Officer of the Naval Hospital in September 1969.

Dr. Lindsay C. Getzen's naval career began when he enlisted as a seaman on his 17th birthday, June 15, 1941. Graduating in November 1941 as Honorman from Hospital Corps School at Portsmouth, Virginia, his tours of enlisted duty spanned both coasts of the United States, the Philippines, and Australia. Having been stimulated by his exposure to medicine, our "chief" embarked upon that long road towards obtaining his M.D. degree under the G.I. Bill in 1947. After completing college at Wake Forest, our Lindsay entered Bowman Gray School of Medicine in 1949 and was commissioned an Ensign in the USNR at the same time. His dreams became a reality when this young officer obtained his Doctor of Medicine degree in 1953.

Combining both his medical and naval careers, Dr. Getzen served his internship and residency in General Surgery, which he completed in April 1959, at the Naval Hospital in Oakland, California. While there, Dr. Getzen married a Navy nurse, the former Edith Shaw Oliver, after a short courtship, on New Years Eve 1954.

Since then Captain Getzen has been Staff Surgeon at the Naval Hospital, Yokosuka, Japan; head, Surgical Research Unit and Staff Surgeon, Naval Hospital, San Diego; head, Dependent Surgery and Assistant Chief of Surgery, Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Maryland; and prior to coming to the Repose, Dr. Getzen was Assistant Chief of Surgery at the Naval Hospital, San Diego, California. However, Captain Getzen is no stranger in WESTPAC. He was a member of the operation that evacuated the Vietnamese from Haiphong to Saigon in 1954, and also served aboard the USS Valley Forge for a brief period in 1962, during an operation in support of the Marines in the South China Sea area.

Dr. Getzen is a Diplomate of the American Board of Surgery and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. His research interests include surgical physiology of respiration and the Gastro-Intestinal tract; upon which subjects he has published numerous papers.

The Getzen family has set up a permanent residence in San Diego; an excellent geographic area, especially for Dr. Getzen's twelve year old daughter, Valda, who is a champion swimmer in Southern California.

The Naval Hospital aboard the Repose wishes to salute this outstanding officer and surgeon!