Capt. Kristina Polk

Executive Officer, Naval Hospital Jacksonville
and
Navy Medicine Readiness & Training Command Jacksonville

Capt. Kristina Polk was born in Pensacola, Florida, the daughter of a career Marine Corps aviator. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Urban Systems Engineering from George Mason University in 1998 and worked as a civil engineer before changing course and following her passion to become a physician. She attended medical school via the Navy Health Professional Scholarship Program at West Virginia University School of Medicine, earning a Doctorate in Medicine in 2007.

After finishing a General Surgery internship at Naval Medical Center (NMC) Portsmouth, Virginia, in 2008, Polk was selected for Aviation Medicine training at Naval Aerospace Medical Institute where she earned her wings of gold. She served as a Flight Surgeon for Carrier Air Wing-17 from 2009-2011, completing two carrier-based deployments including active engagement in humanitarian aid and disaster relief efforts in support of Operation Unified Response Haiti, and a Western Pacific deployment, while earning her designation as a Surface Warfare Medical Department Officer.

In 2014, Polk concluded a Emergency Medicine (EM) residency at NMC Portsmouth where she was retained as medical staff and faculty. She then transferred to Naval Hospital (NH) Jacksonville, Florida where she was appointed Interim Department Head and Senior Medical Officer (SMO) of the EM Department (EMD) and Program Manager of the Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Exam program. In 2018, she transferred to NH Naples, Italy, and quickly deployed as an Individual Augmentee to the NATO Role 3 MMU in Kandahar, Afghanistan, serving as EM Department Head and Joint Trauma Systems Co-Chair. After deployment, she was appointed EMD SMO and Medical Director, Chairman of the Emergency Response Committee, and representative to several MEC subcommittees.

Upon arrival to 2nd Medical Battalion in 2021, she was immediately appointed EM Department Head at NMC Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, leading a staff of nearly 200 members, and successfully demonstrating integration of green and blue medical assets while simultaneously earning designation as a Fleet Marine Force Warfare Officer. In 2023, she transferred to Navy Medicine Readiness & Training Command (NMRTC) Camp Lejeune, and was competitively selected to lead the command's largest directorate as Director for Medical Services. In 2024, she deployed as the Assistant OIC for EMU-10G in support of Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve, Iraq, and continued to lead the Directorate of Medical Services upon return from deployment.

Polk assumed the role of executive officer of NH Jacksonville (and its five branch health clinics) and NMRTC Jacksonville (and its five units) in May 2026.

Polk is board-certified by the American Board of EM, is an Advanced Trauma Life Support Instructor, holds an appointment as Assistant Professor of Military and EM at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland, and has presented at local and regional Grand Rounds. She has completed Joint Professional Military Education Phase I and has been an active contributor to BUMED and DHA special projects. Personal military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (3), Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal (6), Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Operation Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal, NATO Medal, Humanitarian Aid Medal (3), Armed Forces Service Medal, as well as numerous other service-specific and unit awards.