



Marion J. Balsam

**Rear Admiral
Medical Corps, U.S. Navy**

**Commander, Naval Medical
Center, Portsmouth
(1998-2000)**

Rear Admiral Balsam received her Bachelor of Arts degree with Honors in Philosophy from Cornell University. She then attended the New York University School of Medicine from which she was awarded a Doctor of Medicine degree. After internship at Bellevue Hospital, New York, she completed residency in pediatrics and a fellowship in metabolic disease, both at Children's Hospital in Philadelphia.

Following formal medical training, Rear Admiral Balsam worked in Guam and the Trust Territories of Micronesia as Chief of the Crippled Children's Services Program (Department of Public Health) and as the first Medical Director for the Head Start Programs of Guam and the Trust Territories. She joined the Navy in 1975 as a staff pediatrician, Naval Regional Medical Center, Camp Pendleton, California. In 1981, she was assigned as Head, Division of Inpatient Pediatrics, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD., where in 1985 she was appointed as Chair, Pediatrics Department and as Program Director, Pediatric Residency Training Program. In 1989, Rear Admiral Balsam assumed the position of Medical Director and Director of Graduate Medical Education, Naval Hospital San Diego. In 1991 she was assigned as Deputy Commander, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD., and in 1993 became Commanding Officer of Naval Hospital Pensacola. In July 1995, she became the Fleet Medical Officer, United States Naval Forces Europe, (London, U.K.). On March 13, 1998, she assumed Command of Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA.

Rear Admiral Balsam is a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatrics. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, where she has served on numerous committees, most notably the Committee on Pediatric Workforce, chairing the Subcommittee on Women in Pediatrics. She has an academic

appointment at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Rear Admiral Balsam has served on the Health Professionals Advisory Committee, March of Dimes. She has authored several scientific publications, most of which pertain to metabolic disorders in children.

Rear Admiral Balsam's awards include the following: Legion of Merit (with two gold stars), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Humanitarian Service Medal, and several awards for excellence in medical education.

Source: Office of Public Affairs, Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth