



United States Navy **Biography**

HM1 (FMF/SW) KARL C. ZAPANTA
United States Navy

HM1 Zapanta is a native of Washington. Born in the Philippines and immigrated to the Seattle, Washington at the age of six. He is the youngest of three sons whom are all or were Hospital Corpsmen.

He enlisted in the Navy at age 23 from San Diego, California, and graduated from Hospital Corpsman "A" School in 2014. His first tour was at Naval Medical Center San Diego, where he served on the Pediatrics team in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. He then deployed aboard USNS MERCY (T-AH 19) as part of the Directorate for Administration, Patient Administration Department, during Pacific Partnership 2015. Upon returning from deployment, he was reassigned to the Directorate for Mental Health, Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program. As a General Duty Corpsman, he facilitated educational programs and provided daily operational support to his providers.

In 2016, HM1 Zapanta was selected as a General Duty Corpsman aboard USS HIGGINS (DDG 76). Shortly after reporting aboard, he advanced to HM3 while learning the operational requirements of waterfront medicine. Within his first five months, the command unexpectedly lost both its Independent Duty Corpsman and its other junior HM. His dedication enabled him to excel; he assumed leadership of the Medical Department and guided 330 Sailors through Fleet Support Operations-Medical, achieving an overall score of 86%. Filling the gaps of both an IDC and an HM for seven months, he collaborated with sister ships and maintained Individual Medical Readiness at 98%, earning USS HIGGINS the highest score on the entire waterfront. His outstanding performance led to his meritorious advancement to HM2 at the end of the 2018 deployment.

In 2019, he reported to U.S. Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command (NMRTC) Rota, Spain, where he served as Leading Petty Officer for the Directorate for Resource Management. Through his superior performance, he advanced to E-6 in December 2020 with a time-in-rate waiver. He was subsequently selected as Human Resources Department Leading Petty Officer and later as Directorate for Administration Leading Petty Officer. During his tour at NMRTC Rota, HM1 Zapanta was selected as Senior Sailor of the Quarter twice and was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

HM1 Zapanta attended Field Medical Training Battalion – West from October to December 2023. He reported to III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) Information Group. He was the Leading Petty Officer for 7th Communication Battalion and currently serves as the Leading Petty Officer for III MEF Support Battalion, spearheading Health Service Support operations delivering quality medical care. His leadership resulted in seven promotions, three Sailor of the Year and 12 Sailor of the Quarter selections.