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How I Got Into Histology

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It was 8:00am on January 1st, 1991. I got the call that I was not prepared for, "Is this HM3 VonHall?" I affirmed and was notified that I was to report to my Naval Reserve Center in Charlotte, NC. ASAP. I was being recalled to active duty to go to Desert Storm aboard the USNS Comfort, the hospital ship currently in the Persian Gulf. This was going to be my first ever ship board cruise. I just wished it was for vacation instead.

I spend three months in the Gulf before returning home. Two weeks after my return, I was taking a relaxing ride on my motorcycle when a full sized truck came rushing thru a backed up turn lane. Of course, he didn't see me till he physically ran over me. Needless to say, my injuries ended my military career.

My next major decision after recovering from my injuries was now what? What can I do with a BS in biology? Not much but go back to school. Luckily, I found out that the local Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte was starting their first Histotechnology program in the fall of 1991. I applied and was accepted along with one other student, Heather. We were the first two guinea pigs for the program. So, I started that fall still on crutches from my last knee surgery and luckily, I had the forethought of taking typing class in school. They also hired me in the Pathology office to clerk part-time after school.

Heather and I tied for first of the class and both passed the HTL ASCP board our first attempts. The School of Histotechnology at Presbyterian Hospital did a great job preparing for the field.