

# MY CREDENTIAL STORY



## **Kayla Potaracke, HT(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**

I joined the U.S. Navy in 2013 after graduating from high school. I went to Hospital Corpsmen School and then was selected for the Navy's Histology School for further training. We studied rigorously for nine months in San Antonio, TX, at Fort Sam Houston and San Antonio Medical Military Center until it was time to take our first ASCP Board of Certification exam. I prepared well, but was still so nervous as a 19-year-old taking an exam that could open so many doors. I hit the submit button on the exam, and passed. I was so thankful!

I went to my first duty station at Naval Hospital Yokosuka, Japan, for three years and flourished within my histology department. I enjoyed the awesome opportunities that histology offers as a career and the knowledge that our career field is important to the health of our patients.

Today, I am stationed at the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam. We have a unique community on Guam; histology is important to our often chronically- and acutely-ill patient population. My certification and career field have helped me to connect with many people, advance within the Navy, care for many patients, and support the people around me in their career growth and success. I love being an HT(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>!