

Who was on the Black Sea MAP expedition?

What was your job in Black Sea MAP?

Expedition medic

Stuart
Plumbley -
Expedition
medic



What did your role involve?

My role was to look after everyone onboard the ship and manage any injuries or illness suffered whilst on board. I was also part of a small team looking after the divers during the project.

What do you enjoy most about your role on this project and your job?

Being part of a fantastic team – I am blown away by everyone's enthusiasm. I know nothing about archaeology but being around these inspirational people is very rewarding.

In my normal job, outside the project, the most rewarding aspect is patients getting better. You can administer key clinical interventions which help a person recover and go home to their loved ones.



How does the work you usually do compare to the work you do on the ship?

When I'm at work normally, I'm waiting for the phone to ring and I want to go out and help people. Here on board the ship it's very different. I'm with my friends and colleagues and don't want them to get hurt or become unwell. I want to do as little onboard as possible! My role becomes more about prevention and I tend to look out for potential risks where I think people could get hurt, and as a result I may suggest individuals or teams do things differently.

Which subjects did you study at school?

I didn't do particularly well at school, I have to say, and left with few qualifications. I was working in the building trade and enrolled at a local college to study a BTEC in business and finance. Once I was with the Ambulance service, I then studied at Hertfordshire University to become a Critical Care Paramedic.

What influenced you in deciding your career path?

I was in the building trade for many years. One day I watched an ambulance go by and I thought it must be good fun driving a van with the blue lights and as a result decided to join the ambulance service.

I found the medical and clinical aspect of the job was interesting. I found myself being incredibly driven to make people better. I have been very lucky, working with inspirational people of many skills and disciplines.

Do you think there are any skills key to being a paramedic?

Medicine can be pretty simple actually. What makes it difficult is the environmental pressures you are placed under to achieve good clinical care. One of the most important skills required is to be a good communicator - team work is key.

Favourite part of career so far?

You cannot beat the feeling of being part of a team that has saved someone's life.

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