



# Nurse Corps News

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## The Angels of Bataan



Pictured with Vice Admiral Thomas Kincaid: Lieutenant Commander Laura M. Cobb (Wichita, KS), Lieutenant Mary C. Hays (Chicago, IL), Lieutenant Bertha R. Evans (Portland, OR), Lieutenant Helen C. Gorzelanski (Omaha, NE), Lieutenant Mary H. Nelson (Elk Point, S.D.), Lieutenant Margaret A. Nash (Wilkes-Barre, PA), Lieutenant Goldia O. Merrill (Hayfield, MN), Lieutenant Eldene E. Paige (Lomita, CA), Lieutenant Susie Pitcher (Des Moines, IA), Lieutenant Dorothy Still (Long Beach, CA), and Lieutenant C. Edwina Todd

Scared, malnourished, isolated and overworked, the Army and Navy nurses who served in the Philippines during the siege and fall of Bataan were true military heroes. The majority of the nurses were in Manila at the start of the World War II. After the fall of Manila, the nurses worked out of two makeshift jungle hospitals. Thousands of patients were treated at these facilities where the roof consisted of overhead vegetation and there were specific wards for gangrene patients. Like their war-fighting male counterparts, the nurses kept working despite dwindling medical supplies, inadequate facilities, and lack of food. Much of their diet consisted of rice and meat of "indeterminate origin." There was no time to be ill for these nurses. Many kept performing duties while suffering from dysentery and malaria themselves. Of the 99 nurses known to have served in or at Bataan, 22 escaped before the final fall of the Philippine Islands. The remaining 77, the largest group of female Prisoners of War in American history, were repatriated in 1945. Through four years of deprivation, cruelty, and constant death, they valiantly served to save others. To the men they served beside and to whom they ministered, they became known as the Angels of Bataan. The photo above shows Vice Admiral Kinkaid welcoming home 11 Navy nurses (and three civilian nurses). The 14 nurses were rescued from captivity on February 23, 1945, when American paratroopers and Filipino guerillas subdued the prison where they had been held for 37 months. They are wearing dresses they made for themselves while in captivity. The 11 Navy nurses were awarded the Bronze Star by the U.S. Army, and a Gold Star in lieu of a Second Bronze Star by the Navy.

The three civilian nurses each received the Bronze Star from the Navy. They are Miss Helen C. Grant (Glasgow, Scotland), Miss Maureen Davis (Northridge, CA), and Mrs. Basilia T. Steward (Fairfield, TX). A book has been released on this specific subject by Elizabeth Norman. "We Band of Angels" is a must read for anyone who wants to understand the hardships and sacrifices experienced by American service members in the Philippines during World War II. For her efforts in writing "We Band of Angels," Norman received the Lavinia Dock Award for historical scholarship, the American Academy of Nursing National Media Award, and the Agnes Dillon Randolph Award. There are only three remaining survivors of the original Angels of Bataan alive today.

## Revision to Health Promotion Instruction

With readiness as a top strategic goal of Navy Medicine, the recent release of BUMEDINST 6110.13A on January 14<sup>th</sup> 2008 reflects this commitment to Navy Medicine's roles and responsibilities in the U.S. Navy's Health Promotion and Wellness Program. BUMEDINST 6110.13A is a major revision of the previous instruction and affects those working with Health Promotion Programs at Navy Medical Treatment Facilities (MTF) as well as those working with Reserve Operational Support Health Units (OHSUs). One important change includes the appointment of a Health Promotion Director at each MTF and at each OHSU. Once appointed, per the instruction, the Health Promotion Director will attend the three day Navy Health Promotion and Wellness Course within 6 months of appointment. This course is offered semi annually by NMCPHC (Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center) and is only for E-6s and above or GS-9s and above. The course will be offered at the 47<sup>th</sup> Navy Occupational Health and Prevention Conference (NMCPHC conference) 14-16 March 2008 at Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton, VA. This process-oriented course offers valuable information regarding the planning, implementation, and evaluation of an effective Health Promotion Program. Additional information related to the Navy Health Promotion and Marine Corps Semper Fit Programs is also included in the course. To request a seat log in at website <http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/Conference08/Index.htm>, and register for course #19036. You will receive acceptance or declination within one week of registering. Seats in the course are limited with priority given to Health Promotion and Wellness Staff at the Navy's MTFs, and others in leadership positions at larger fleet or operational commands (aircraft carriers, CNIC, NPC, NAVSUP, etc.), Navy Reserve NOSCs and Reserve Fleet Hospital HP personnel, USMC Semper Fit Coordinators and USMC HQ staff. The second course for 2008 will be offered 10-12 June at Naval Station San Diego. Further information and the process to request a seat in that course will be posted on the NMCPHC HP Training website at: <http://www-ehc.med.navy.mil/hp/tc/hpd.htm> when available.

LCDR Kathleen Harlow NC, USN

## Updated Sentinel Event Information From The Joint Commission

Since January 1995, the Joint Commission has received 4,693 reports of sentinel events from accredited organizations. Of these events, approximately 70 percent resulted in patient death. The most frequent events were:

SENTINEL EVENT	NUMBER
Wrong-site surgery	615
Suicide	574
Operative/post-operative complication	557
Medication error	438
Delay in treatment	354
Patient fall	271
Patient death or injury in restraints	173
Assault, rape or homicide	171
Perinatal death/loss of function	141
Unintended retention of foreign body	130

These data on sentinel events plays an important role in the development of National Patient Safety Goals and focus energy on why serious errors occur in health care systems. For more information see <http://www.jointcommission.org/SentinelEvents/Statistics/>

CDR Rebecca Malara, NC, USN

## NC 100th Anniversary Pins

The 300 NC Anniversary pins that were ordered from jeweler Ann Hand have sold out. Thanks to all of you who purchased these pins and made this fundraiser a success. Since there is still a demand for the pin, Ann Hand and her staff will order additional pins if they receive a minimum of 72 pre-orders. Once the minimum number of orders has been received, it will take approximately 4 weeks for you to receive your pin. If interested, please send your check to Ann Hand, 4885 MacArthur Blvd. NW, Washington D.C., 20007 Attn: Maria. Checks should be made out to Ann Hand for \$175.00. This is the guaranteed price for 2008 and will include shipping and handling. Be sure to include your mailing address, telephone number and e-mail. You can also pay by credit card by contacting Maria directly at 202-333-2979. Inquiries concerning the commemorative pin can be sent to [Maria828@comcast.net](mailto:Maria828@comcast.net).




## NC Live VTC on Medical-Surgical Nursing

The next NC Live VTC will be on March, 27 at 1100 ET and the theme will be Medical-Surgical nurses. The audio stream of the presentation will be posted on the NC webpage on NKO by 30 March.

## Applying for Certification Exam Funding

Following BUMEDINST 1500.18B and contingent upon funding availability, qualified Medical Department personnel will be sponsored for participation in professional examinations for certification and recertification required to meet the needs of the Medical Department. Active duty and reserve personnel are eligible. Refer to BUMEDINST 1500.18B for details.

What does this mean to you? Nurse Corp Officers who wish to apply for certification or re-certification in a program or specialty can request funds to pay for the exam. For information on your specialty certification exam, visit the American Nurses Credentialing Center web site at: <http://www.nursecredentialing.org/cert/index.htm>. Once you have met the requirements and set the date for the exam, send your request to Navy Medicine Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education Command with a Command endorsement at least 6 weeks before the exam per the request form. If the specific date is not available when registering for the exam; forward the date as soon as possible to NAVMED MPT&E Code 03CNC, and send the request for funding so that the request can be worked on. The standard form required follows. 

Pay the registration cost for the exam up front to hold your 'seat'; this will be reimbursed at the time of your travel liquidation. Members make their own travel and lodging arrangements through their Commercial Travel Office (accounting data is sent to your command for inclusion in your travel orders). It is expected that the certification exam will be taken at the closest physical site to their duty station. Overseas commands can request to have the exam sent to their DANTES site.


NC Officers who are in receipt of release from active duty or have submitted a pending request for retirement or resignation will not be approved for funding.

# Bravo Zulu!



- LTJG Keith Gilchrist of National Naval Medical Center recently earned his National Oncology Certification and is now an Oncology Certified Nurse (ONCC) working on the Inpatient Oncology Unit.

## Interested in Becoming a CRNA?





Have you decided that the challenging world of a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist may be the ideal opportunity for you? The Navy Nurse Corps Anesthesia Program (NNCAP) is available to active duty Navy Nurses who have completed a minimum of 2 years of commissioned service in the United States Navy Nurse Corps. Once the minimum active duty time requirements have been met, acceptance into the NNCAP is based on a competitive Duty Under Instruction (DUINS) selection process. This process evaluates specific academic accomplishments as well as Navy Nurse and Navy Officer proficiencies. This is a very competitive program but is challenging and rewarding. Please see the attached document for detailed information on NNCAP.  LCDR Lonnie Hosea NC, USN

## Joint Commission News - New Patient Flow Tracer

Numerous reports have implicated poorly managed patient flow as a contributing factor in sentinel events. Starting this year hospital surveys may include a new system tracer specific to patient flow. When patient flow issues are identified during an onsite survey, the surveyors will identify a patient who experienced a delay and trace the patient's experience throughout the organization. Then, staff and leadership interviews will be conducted to determine if any actions have been taken to relieve consequences of poor patient flow.

More information on requirements to identify and correct patient flow issues may be found in the leadership chapter (LD.3.15) of the Hospital Accreditation Standards. CDR Rebecca Malara, NC, USN

## NNMC Bethesda is Sponsoring Certification Prep Courses in May

Preparation courses for the Nursing Administration Certification Course and the review course for the Medical Surgical Certification exam are now available. Please see the attached flyers and registration forms.    

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**100th Anniversary Countdown**  
 May 2nd 2008



**62**  
Days



Wreath laying ceremony at the Navy Memorial at 1300.  
Reserve your hotel room now.

Want to write a news article for Nurse Corps News?  
 Submit your article via your chain of command to:  
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