



Nurse Corps News

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Director's Corner



It's hard to believe that I will be leaving as your 22nd Director this month! Focusing on my priorities of *People, Practice and Leadership*, together we have been able to positively impact retention through improvements in DUINS opportunities, funding for HPLRP, and implementation of mentorship programs. The student nurses are very excited to hear about Navy Nursing via the student blog monitored by the NC Fellow, LCDR Toni McRae. Our civilian DUINS program was funded for a second year and will provide a pathway for our civilian workforce to enhance their education with an incentive to "Stay Navy." Recruiting goals were met for this fiscal year for the Active Component and are currently outpacing last year's progress for the Reserve Component, aided by continued or new financial incentives and the presence of NC officers at schools and conferences across America.

Despite our successes, the challenging times for our country, Navy Medicine and our Corps continue. To meet our operational mission and foster continued growth and development, I gave guidance to the Deputy Director and detailers to encourage PCS moves at a member's PRD while reviewing extension requests on a case by case basis. To maximize the strength of our high demand/low density communities such as critical care and mental health nurses, we are channeling members to MTFs that offer the full range of these specialties to sustain clinical skills. I completely understand your disappointment that some of our wonderful duty stations may not offer your specialty for assignment, however, I am fully confident that you will support me in these endeavors.

August has brought leadership changes to the Navy Nurse Corps. Our former director, RADM Christine Bruzek-Kohler retired after a stellar career of nursing leadership at its finest. She leaves an incredible legacy. I thank her for her dedication and faithful service to Navy Nursing and Navy Medicine and wish her the traditional "Fair Winds and Following Seas." I'd also like to welcome RADM (sel) Elizabeth Niemyer, as she takes the helm as the 23rd Director of the Nurse Corps. Admiral Niemyer brings a diverse background of clinical and business experience to the position. I know she will prove to be a very successful NC Director.

In closing, it has been an honor and privilege to serve as your Director. I look forward to continuing to work with you as I transition to the Deputy Surgeon General, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, otherwise known as the "DSG." Continue to keep your focus on the patient first and strive to decrease the incidence of suicide, improve the care and early detection for those with post deployment depression and incorporate evidence based practice and nursing research at every level. I have every confidence that Navy Nurses will continue to make a positive impact in patient outcomes! When people ask what I do, I proudly tell them, "I am a Navy Nurse." Thank you for what you do each and every day for our patients and our nation. Thank you for taking care of yourself and each other. You make me so very proud!

RADM Karen Flaherty
22nd Director, Navy Nurse Corps

Deputy Director Navy Nurse Corps Reserve Component

Serving as the Deputy Director, Navy Nurse Corps, Reserve Component has truly been one of the most rewarding experiences of my Navy career. I am both humbled and honored to have worked with and alongside you. We have implemented many initiatives ranging from clinical sustainment to force shaping our Nurse Corps as well as recruitment and retention activities. We endeavored to be operationally ready to support requirements including Iraq, Afghanistan, Landstuhl, Pacific Partnership, Continuing Promise, MEDRETES and many other humanitarian missions around the globe. As a new LT back in 1980 - I raised my hand and swore to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic." In my youth I only superficially considered the ramifications of what this meant for my future as a Navy officer. After almost 30 years of service in peacetime and in war, I understand our sacrifices as well as the rewards of leading and mentoring Navy Nurses. My legacy to you is to be respectfully courageous – lead from the front, choose principal over power and consult your moral compass often. Strive to ensure others are given credit for the work they do and empower them to succeed.

I retire on 01 October with great confidence in our nursing leadership and our nurses. Please join me in welcoming Admiral (sel) Maggie Rykowski as she assumes the position of Deputy Director, Navy Nurse Corps Reserve Component. CAPT Rykowski has commanded Operational Health Support Unit Bremerton until her mobilization in 2007 to serve with the Navy Expeditionary Medical Unit 08 at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany as Chief Nurse, Deployed Warrior Medical Management Center. Her current assignment is Reserve Surgeon, Commander THIRD Fleet Headquarters Unit, San Diego, CA.

It has been my honor and my utmost privilege to have served in the Navy Nurse Corps with you. You have my deepest respect and my most sincere gratitude. All the best.

RDML Cynthia Dullea, NC, USN

Deputy Director Navy Nurse Corps Active Component

Greetings Navy Nurses,

I hope this finds you healthy and happy enjoying the last month of summer. This quarter I had the pleasure to meet with a great many of you while I attended two conferences. The first was the National Naval Officers Association and the Association of Naval Services Officers (NNOA/ANSO) held in Portsmouth, Virginia in late July. It was well attended by line and military medicine across the services. The emphasis of this conference is diversity to sustain and improve the strides made to provide equal opportunity for all.

As Admiral Michelle Howard, Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group 2 emphasized, "As officers, we have an obligation to develop all individuals and provide equal opportunity based on skills, not gender or the color of someone's skin." How do YOU measure up to her challenge?

The other conference I attended was the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) in Seattle, Washington this month. Did you know there are 103 Nurse Anesthesia programs in the country and the military program at USU is expected to advance its current position in the top 5% ranking in the upcoming edition of US News and World Report? One of the reasons the USU program is so strong is its emphasis on research, and Navy Nurse researchers DOMINATE!

Of the eight research awards presented by the AANA, three were awarded to Navy Nurse researchers. This theme carries throughout the Navy Nurse Corps for other specialties. For those interested in research, at the novice or expert level, or somewhere in between, please consider applying for a research grant available through the Tri Service Nursing Research Program (TSNRP). If you don't know how to get started, contact your SNE/DNS.

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Deputy Director Navy Nurse Corps Active Component (Cont)

In closing I'd like to thank RADM Flaherty for selecting me as her Deputy, which is the opportunity of a lifetime. RADM Flaherty is a dynamic leader and a genuinely caring person. The NC is very proud that she will now serve Navy Medicine as the DSG. I'm also looking forward to working with Admiral Niemyer again later this month after a "lull" of twenty years. During this transition, we'll try to keep changes to a minimum while keeping the forward momentum going. If it looks like we're dropping the ball or you're confused about what is going on, we're only a phone call or email away. Additionally, there is a wealth of information on the NC Homepage. The NC Homepage can be accessed via NKO by clicking on the drop down menu for "Organization and Communities" (at the top left of the page), select "Communities of Practice," then at the bottom right of the page under Navy Medicine select "Nurse Corps."

CAPT Pamela G. Giza, NC, USN

Attending The Naval War College

"Have you ever thought about attending the Naval War College?" This is the question a former Commanding Officer asked me at USNH Rota, Spain, in 2005. At that time I was a Lieutenant and knew very little about the Naval War College. I knew that the college was in Newport, Rhode Island, and that the selection process as a resident student (to attend in Newport) was very competitive. In 2008 another Naval Officer mentored me in the options available to attend the college. In 2009 I exercised one of the options by filling out an online application and a few months later I started the Fleet Seminar Program in the Washington D.C. area. I have been and continue to be very pleased with this program. Now I will ask you the same question: Have you ever thought about attending the Naval War College? Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) is that portion of Professional Military Education concentrating on the instruction of joint matters in order to develop officers skilled in attaining unity of efforts across Services. The Naval War College mission is to provide JPME in order to develop leaders, who are operationally and strategically minded, critical thinkers, proficient in joint matters, and skilled naval and joint war fighters.

In today's global theater, joint operations are a common theme and the Navy Nurse Corps plays an important role in the strategic environment. The Naval War College recognizes the importance of Navy Nursing in the joint environment and, therefore, seeks to admit Navy Nurse Corps Officers annually. You can be one of those nurses, and it is easier than you might think to become a student. If you are not one of the lucky few admitted to attend the Resident Program in Newport, Rhode Island, you can exercise one of several options available through the Non-Resident Curriculum. The Fleet Seminar Program is offered on an academic year basis, commencing in early September and ending in early May. This program involves attending weekly lectures that are currently offered in 20 different fleet concentration locations in the continental United States.

The Web-Enabled Program is offered to students located throughout the world. For this program you must have access to the internet, allowing you to participate in asynchronous discussion boards. The CD-ROM Program is open to students on sea duty or at remote duty stations with no internet access. For more information and to apply online for any of these programs, go to the following email address:

<https://www.usnwc.edu/Academics/College-of-Distance-Education.aspx>

Mentoring is a process we participate in daily – we are either receiving information from a mentor or acting as one. I believe the Naval War College will expand your horizons. I hope this information is helpful and will assist you in your professional endeavors.

LCDR T. BALDWIN-VOEKS, NC, USN



U.S. Naval Hospital Guam: Where Navy Nursing's Day Begins!

Where...



The doctors, nurses and corpsmen assigned to Guam have been serving the military and the civilian community on this island for over 100 years! It is more than an island paradise with great weather and recreational activities. It is a place where you can develop and hone your nursing skills.

There are 12 to 15 resuscitations in our Emergency Department (ED) each month. Our ED also accepts direct trauma patients and typically admits 4 patients a day.

We commonly have at least 3 ventilated patients in our Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and also provide cross-training opportunities (e.g., staff working in both the ED and ICU).

US Naval Hospital Guam had 2,252 admissions in the last year including approximately 40 births per month.

Nurses are sent for critical care air transport (CCAT) training, with a few that go TAD to the Los Angeles Navy Trauma Training Center for expanded training. Inpatient and specialty care to patients is provided for those veterans seen at the on-site Veteran's Health Administration Clinic.

Our Mother-Baby Unit team received the "Military Health System's 2009 Patient Safety Award" from the Assistant Secretary of Defense, (Health Affairs) for the multidisciplinary project that improved maternal outcomes and continues today: Obstetrics Safety Training Assessment Team (OSTAT).

We are also looking forward to a new hospital and clinic that will be open in 2014.

But it doesn't have to be all about work. For those who love water sports, we have some of the WORLD'S best scuba diving and snorkeling! Guam's weekend "Boonie stomps" (hikes) around the island include both breathtaking ocean views and historic World War II sites where artifacts are still being uncovered.

Travel opportunities exist for many exotic and interesting locations in our part of the world. The outer Mariana Islands provide beautiful and secluded weekend get-a-ways. Australia is in our time zone, and the Philippines and Japan are also less than 5 hours away.

We are a close-knit command that enjoys a high level of camaraderie across all corps. We have Officer Wardroom functions such as Hails and Farewells, Dining-Ins and Dining-Outs, and Navy celebrations such as birthday balls, all of which are guaranteed to create great memories for officers and their families.

The spouse's club is very active at the hospital: the Oak Leaf Club supports many great projects at the hospital and for our staff. They also host wonderful social and other events (e.g., Bunko, photography classes) and family-centered functions that provide instant connections for newly arriving single officers, spouses and children.

There is an active unofficial group of single officers who also enjoy great adventures both on and off island. We are proud of our command's sponsorship program that will help every new member coming to Guam have the smoothest transition possible. Our single and unaccompanied tours are only two years... blink and you'll be sad you're leaving.



View of Guam from Cocos Island. Photo by Mrs. Melanie Aylsworth, wife of LTJG Aylsworth, NC, USN

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U.S. Naval Hospital Guam: Where Navy Nursing's Day Begins! (Cont).

The Navy has a long-standing relationship with the University of Guam School of Nursing. Senior baccalaureate nursing students from the university work with Nurse Corps officers on a Nursing Leadership Change Project during their final semester. We are dedicated to the professional development and success of EVERY Nurse Corps officer and civilian nurse at our Command! We are proud of our DUINS, operational billets and perioperative nursing program acceptance rates.

Also provided are Professional Development Boards for all O-1 to O-3s and everyone applying for DUINS. These positive interactions most often result in an ongoing mentoring experience.

Across the entire command, we provide many leadership opportunities for ALL Nurse Corps officers regardless of rank.

"Hafa Adai!" Be sure to contact your detailer today about available Guam billets. You can also check out these Guam websites for more information. www.mwrguam.com www.guam-online.com www.36fss.com

POC: CAPT Cynthia Gantt; Cynthia.gantt@med.navy.mil



View of Tumon Bay from Two Lovers Point, Guam. Photo by Mrs. Melanie Aylsworth, wife of LTJG Aylsworth, NC, USN.

CAPT Cynthia Gantt, NC, USN

Director for Nursing, NH Guam

FY11 Projected DUINS Subspecialty Education Opportunities

On behalf of RADM Flaherty, the FY11 projected DUINS Subspecialty Education Opportunities are posted on NKO. Please share with your staff and guide them through the DUINS process. This year's DUINS offerings reflect the Nurse Corps' continued emphasis on clinical advancement to include the DNP for Licensed Independent Practitioners to keep pace with professional guidelines for recommended entry level practice. The FY11 Plan also includes unique opportunities to blend clinical knowledge with business or policy acumen as it relates to health care. The intent of these offerings is to provide diverse learning experiences to prepare nurses for traditional as well as emerging leadership and staff roles for now and the future.

CAPT Pamela G. Giza, NC, USN

Deputy Director, Navy Nurse Corps

Bravo Zulu!



Congratulations to the following officers selected for the Perioperative Nurse Training Program!

LT Eric J. Ellington, NC, USN at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune

LT Jeremy T. Venske, NC, USN at Naval Health Clinic Great Lakes

LTJG Erica L. Gawrys, NC, USN at National Naval Medical Center Bethesda

LTJG Keith J. Freeman, NC, USN at Naval Medical Center San Diego

LTJG Dominick B. Stelly, NC, USN at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune



Bravo Zulu! (Cont)



Bravo Zulu to LT Reynalda McBee at Naval Hospital Naples who recently passed her CNOR exam and is now a certified Perioperative Nurse.

Bravo Zulu to LT Patrielle Johnson at Naval Hospital Naples who recently passed her RNC-OB exam and is now a certified Inpatient Obstetric Nurse.

Bravo Zulu to LTJG Nicky Tomblin and ENS Angela Laurence at Naval Hospital Okinawa who passed the AW-HONN Intermediate Fetal Heart Monitoring course.

Bravo Zulu to CDR Janet Gehring at Naval Hospital Okinawa who was awarded a Federal Nursing Chiefs Certificate of Appreciation and Third Place, Karen Rieder Research Section award, for her poster presentation, "Nursing Core Values and Caring During Operation Iraqi Freedom" at the November 2009 AMSUS Meeting.

Bravo Zulu to CDR Karin Warner at Naval Hospital Okinawa who was re-elected as Navy Director of the Federal Nurses Association for a term through June 2012. CDR Warner has received DoD certification as a LSS Green Belt instructor and has achieved DON certification as a LSS Black Belt. She is participating in a DoD- level project team to standardize LSS training tools for all services.

Bravo Zulu to LCDR Lonnie Hosea at Naval Hospital Okinawa who was the recipient of the 2010 Regents-At-Large Healthcare Early Career Executive Award of the American College of Healthcare Executives. The award was presented at the recent ACHE conference in Chicago, Illinois. He is the current president of the Network of Overseas Healthcare Executives (NOHE) of Okinawa.



RADM Christine Bruzek-Kohler, CAPT Kriste Grau, CAPT Mollie Mullen and ENS Shantel Morris celebrate the 102nd Nurse Corps birthday with the traditional cake-cutting at Naval Medical Center San Diego.



RADM Michael H. Mittelman, LCDR Lonnie S. Hosea, CAPT Terry J. Moulton, and CDR Robert S. Fry.

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