



Nurse Corps News

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Happy New Year Navy Nursing!



RADM Christine Bruzek-Kohler, NC, USN

Welcome back and welcome to a year of great historical significance for the Navy Nurse Corps! In May of this year, we will celebrate our centennial anniversary, a century hallmarked by courageous service in a time honored profession, rich in tradition and unsurpassed in its commitment to caring.

In the coming year, we will once again highlight recruiting as a priority for both the Active and Reserve components of our Corps. Your diligent work and engagement in local recruiting initiatives have yielded positive results. The role you hold as mentors to our corpsmen and junior officers also serves to bolster recruiting efforts in our pipeline programs and supports the retention of colleagues who perhaps once pondered a career outside of Naval Service. Keep up the great work and remember that each time you talk about the Navy and Navy Nursing; you serve as an ambassador for our Corps and our profession.

Nurses will continue to play an invaluable role in Navy Medicine in the coming year. We have been consistently relied upon for our clinical expertise and are recognized for our impressive ability to collaborate with a host of other healthcare disciplines in caring for our warriors, their families and the retired community. The development of innovative treatment modalities will require that we develop keen technologic savvy, but shall never replace the holistic manner in which we tend to the physical and psychological wounds of America's heroes and their families.

While this year holds many celebratory moments for us, we must also remember that it marks yet another year that our nation is engaged in ongoing conflicts in Iraq. And as much as our mission is to care and support the war fighter, we need each of you to offer the same level of support to your shipmates. Many of our deploying nurses have been asked to hold jobs requiring new skill sets often in a joint or Tri-Service operational setting. As individual augmentees, they deploy "alone" without the familiarity of their Navy unit, which oftentimes may pose greater stress and create special challenges. We ask each of you to reach out to your colleagues during deployments, their homecomings and re-entries to their parent command to "care for the caregiver."

Thank you for your unfaltering support and steadfast dedication to Navy Nursing and to the care of our returning warriors and their families.

Wishing all of Navy Nursing a Happy and Prosperous New Year!
RADM Christine M. Bruzek-Kohler & RDML Karen A. Flaherty



RDML Karen Flaherty, NC, USN

\$30,000 Nurse Corps Officer Sign On Bonus

As Navy Nurses, we should all play a role in the recruiting of civilian nurses into the Navy. At professional conferences, frequently we are asked by our civilian counterparts about a career in the Navy and recruiting incentives. The Navy has really made the job even more attractive to our civilian counterparts by announcing that it will sweeten an incentive used to lure civilian nurses onto active duty by paying them up to \$30,000 to accept a commission as a Nurse Corps officer.

Qualified civilian nurses can choose between a \$30,000 bonus for a four-year active duty obligation or a \$20,000 bonus for a three-year obligation, according to NAVADMIN 344/07.

“Last year’s bonuses were \$25,000 for four years of service and \$15,000 for three years of service”, said CDR Larry Bateman, the Nurse Corps Officer Community Manager at Navy Personnel Command.

Increased bonuses for Navy, Air Force, and Army nurses were authorized by a Defense Department policy update released last October and have been met with great enthusiasm.

To be eligible for the nurse accession bonus, applicants must be a graduate of an accredited nursing school, have obtained an unrestricted nursing license, not have received financial assistance from the Defense Department while in nursing school and not been discharged from the military within the past two years. They must be able to pass a physical and weight standards but most of all they should be excited about our challenges and opportunities. For more information on recruiting bonuses and what you can do to assist with recruiting, please contact at LCDR Darnell Hunt at darnell.hunt@navy.mil.
By LCDR Kathleen Harlow

Official Officer Photos

Per NAVADMIN 103/07 dated APR 07, all officers must have a current color officer photo in their record. To submit photos, attach it to NAVPERS 1070/884 this form is available for download along with additional information about the photo requirement in MILPERSMAN 1070-180 at <http://buperscd.technology.navy.mil/bpNewForms.htm>. Photographs must be mailed to Navy Personnel Command, Pers-312C, 5720 Integrity Dr., Millington, TN 38055-3120.

Once you have submitted your officer photo to PERS, you can verify it has been received and placed in your record by going to <https://secure.bol.navy.mil/menu.aspx> - in the BOL Application Menu select **FITREP/Eval Reports**. Once there, select **Performance Evaluation Continuity Report**. At the bottom of the page, it will tell you if the photo is there and is current. Remember the color photo is a **requirement** not an option!

By LCDR Kathleen Harlow

S.T.A.B.L.E. - National Instructor Course



The Neonatal Stabilization National Instructor’s course (S.T.A.B.L.E.) will be offered at the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) Bethesda, Maryland on April 28-30, 2008. There are 50 seats available for this course; however, transportation, meals and lodging must be funded by the parent command. There is no conference fee. The intended audience is residents (pediatric or obstetric), pediatricians, neonatologists, neonatal ICU and pediatric ICU nurses, OB nurses, and other healthcare providers who care for the neonatal population. For more information on S.T.A.B.L.E., go to www.stableprogram.org. If you would like to register for the course or have additional questions, please contact LCDR Stacia Fridley at stacia.fridley@med.navy.mil or (301) 319-6428.

By CDR Amy Branstetter

University Services University/Military Health System Nursing Awards

There are two newly established nursing awards being presented at the 2008 Military Health System (MHS) Annual Conference, which will be held January 28-31, 2008, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, in Washington, D.C.

This annual conference provides an opportunity to bring health care leaders of the MHS together to review our accomplishments, chart our priorities for the future, and show case the contributions by our dedicated and talented professional nursing staff.

The attached file introduces three new nursing awards that were the result of creative collaboration between Dr. Casscells, Assistant, Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and Dr. Rice, President, Uniformed Services University to recognize the contributions made by our professional nursing force throughout the different agencies. A commonality associated with all the respective nursing communities is a commitment to excellence in nursing.  

We encourage you to recognize your deserving nursing professionals. You will find the award nominating criteria and submission guidelines in the attached file and at the Military Health System Website link at <http://www.health.mil/conferences/2008MHS/>

Award nomination submissions are due by close of business January 21, 2008 in order for the awards review panel to determine selections. The website will reflect this change as well. It is our plan to present these awards at this year's conference on Wednesday, January 30th, during a special session beginning at 10:45.

By CAPT Ron Forbus - 2008 MHS Conference Planning Coordinator

Combat Operational Stress Control for Caregivers

Combat Operational Stress is an occupational risk factor for anyone who serves in the military, provides support to military missions, and ministers to service members and their families. This year's Professional Development Training Course (PDTC) has been designed by the Chaplain Corps in collaboration with BUMED, and is intended for 'non-mental health' caregivers, as an introduction to combat stress, psychological first aid, cognitive-behavioral strategies, spirituality, self-care, and resiliency. Combat operational stress profoundly impacts body, mind, and spirit and this training will address all three domains.


Target Audience: Non-mental health caregivers likely to serve or treat personnel in a combat environment. Funding: Local AD commands will fund travel, lodging, etc.

To register or to access pre-course information, assess the PDTC site on NKO:

1. Log on to NKO
2. Select "List all communities" from the dropdown list
3. Click on CLAPLAIN CORPS - a link to PDTC Information and Registration will be there.

For further information, contact the Chaplain Corps registration office at (401)-841-2557, x 215/ DSN 948-2557.

NC 100th Anniversary Coin

Looking to purchase a NC 100th Anniversary Coin? These coins are absolutely beautiful and are a true collectors item. Please see the attached order forms to get yours today. 



Supplemental DUINS Board


The Nurse Corps is planning to convene a supplemental DUINS board February 13, 2008. The board will meet to select officers to attend the Nurse Anesthesia (1 seat), and Manpower Systems Analysis (1 seat) programs.

Nurse Corps Officers projected rotation date (PRD) must not be later than the class convening date of the desired curriculum and cannot be greater than 12 months after the convening date of the selection board. Officers must not be in receipt of permanent change of station (PCS) orders at the time of application to the DUINS board.

NNCAP Applicants must also meet the following requirements:

1. At least 1 year of experience in acute physiologic monitoring. This can be met through ICU, CCU, NICU, ER, PACU, or OR experience.
2. Minimum GPA of 3.0 for BSN courses taken and a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 for all college courses ever taken.
3. Completion of a statistics course.
4. Completion of a college level biochemistry course in addition to the undergraduate introductory chemistry course. The biochemistry course must be retaken if the completion grade is less than a B (3.0), if it is older than 5 years or if it is less than 3 credits.
5. GRE with at least 1000 in Verbal and Qualitative and 4.0 in Analytical
6. Letter of interview or letter of recommendation from a Navy CRNA.

Contact the Director of NNCAP (CAPT Lee Olson at Lee.olson@med.navy.mil) as soon as you decide to apply to discuss admission criteria, time commitments of school and operational commitments after graduation.

Applications for DUINS must be submitted to Commanding Officer Navy Medicine Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education (Code 03CNC), 8901 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20889-5611. Applications must be no later than received by February 6, 2008. Please see attached for the sample application letter.  By CAPT Karen Biggs

Tricare Financial Management Executive Program

NAVMED Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education (MPT&E) command will sponsor and fund the TRICARE Financial Management Executive Program (TFMEP). The number of nurse corps slots for each course date is listed below. The target audience for this course includes the following: senior officers who are moving into CO/XO/OIC positions within Navy Medicine; Senior Nurse Executives; and Directors serving on Executive Steering Committee (ESC).

NAVMED MPT&E will forward-deploy a TFMEP class to NAVMED East Region (NMC Portsmouth) with TMA speakers on June 17-19, 2008. The course at NMC Portsmouth is a 3-day tri-Service course with a Navy Breakout session on the 3rd day (19 June). This training has been regionalized for cost effectiveness.

Location: NMC Portsmouth

17-19 June 2008

Nurse Corps seats allotted (6)


Nominations due: 25 April 08

Location: NMC Bethesda

11-12 August 2008

Nurse Corps seats allotted (7)

Nominations due: 30 June 08

Please complete and forward the nomination form by the respective due date. Forward all nomination forms to vanessa.scott@med.navy.mil. 

By CAPT Vanessa Scott



Johnson & Johnson - Wharton Fellows Program in Management

Attached are the brochures for the 2008 Johnson & Johnson - Wharton Fellows Program in Management for Nurse Executives, to be held June 1-20, 2008. This internationally recognized program, now in its 26th year, offers chief nursing officers a unique opportunity to spend three weeks of study and dialogue on health care strategic design, management, and financial planning. Classes are held at the Inn at Penn Hotel located on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

There are a number of materials that should be reviewed and/or downloaded from the website including the application, instructions for applying, program brochure, a fact sheet explaining the program prerequisites, cover letter for your CEO or COO, the CEO or COO Nomination Form, and 2 video clips about the program. To apply:


Go to www.executivefellows.net, and select Nurse Fellows Program from the menu at the top left of your screen. Then select Application.

Tuition, program materials, special events, and most meals are covered by a gift from Johnson & Johnson Worldwide Contributions. Chief among the prerequisites are:

1. The candidate must be the organization's chief nursing officer.
2. The candidate's CEO or COO must agree to attend the Executive Forum at the conclusion of the program (June 17-20, 2008).

I encourage you to apply if you are interested and meet the criteria described in the brochure fact sheet.

As part of the nomination process, a commitment letter is required from your CEO or COO. This signed agreement is meant to signify his/her commitment to your participation in the program as well as the intent to attend the Executive Forum on June 17-20, 2008.

The deadline for Nurse Corps office receipt of all application materials, which includes a completed application, a copy of your organization chart, a nominating statement from your CEO or COO, and a signed commitment letter from your CEO or COO is January 25, 2008. Forward all copies electronically to CAPT Vanessa Scott @ vanessa.scott@med.navy.mil. DO NOT submit applications to University of Pennsylvania until directed by the Nurse Corps office. 

If you have any questions about the program or the application process, please contact Meghan Mueller, Program Manager, at (215)573-9443 or mmueller@wharton.upenn.edu Vanessa M. Scott_vanessa.scott@med.navy.mil

NKO NC "Feedback" Mini-Page

A "feedback" mini-page has been posted on the NKO NC homepage. This mini-page allows you to provide direct feedback to the NKO NC website overhaul team.

Please take a moment and provide some constructive feedback on the NKO NC website.

:: NKO Nurse Corps Website Overhaul

To have your input recorded, please enter your feedback below, and then click on

The NKO Nurse Corps Overhaul Team is currently developing a new Nurse Corps Homepage that is slated to debut in Summer of 2008. What improvements and elements would you like to see incorporated as part of this progressive redesign?




Bravo Zulu!



- CDR Linda Troup, Department Head of the Ambulatory Procedures Unit and Senior Nurse Officer of Maxillofacial Surgery at Naval Medical Center San Diego published The USNS Mercy's Southwest Asia Humanitarian Cruise: The Perioperative Experience. *AORN Journal*. 85(5):781-790.
- LT Michael Urton of Naval Hospital Jacksonville on his recent certification as an Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist.
- CDR Mary Ann Yonk for selection as the Operational Nursing Specialty Leader.

Surgeon General's Speaker Series

The Surgeon General's Speaker Series is scheduled to continue on April 29, 2008 with the lecture: "Care Amidst Nursing Shortage: The Relationship Between the American Red Cross and the Navy NC During WWI" by Jennifer Telford PhD. This lecture will take place in Memorial Auditorium at 1000 at National Naval Medical Center Bethesda. If you would like information about this and all future lectures in the Surgeon General's Speaker Series please email andre.sobocinski@med.navy.mil. Please see attached flyer. 

NC Newsletter Publishing Guidelines

The Nurse Corps Newsletter wants to hear from you. We are always looking for well written, informative articles. Help us make the Nurse Corps newsletter a first class publication. We publish many types of articles: naval or nursing policy, innovative practices, case studies, nursing highlights, etc. It's as easy as one, two, three.

1. Think of something others should know, it should relate to the navy or nursing
2. Start with a list of ideas, chose one, make an outline
3. Fill in the outline and follow the format:
 - Text –Times New Roman, 12 pitch
 - Graphics – when providing photos (.jpg or bitmap) include name, rank, corps, USN
 - References – if included use APA format
 - Email addresses – complete email address in lower case, unless case sensitive
 - Length – in general articles should be between 100 words and 500 words

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100th Anniversary Countdown

May 2nd 2008



105
Days



Wreath laying ceremony at the Navy Memorial in Washington DC at 1300 on May 2, 2008.

Want to write a news article for Nurse Corps News?

Submit your article via your chain of command to:

LCDR Kathleen Harlow, NC, USN
 Editor, Nurse Corps News
KathleenHarlow@texashealth.org

