



Nurse Corps News

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3

AUGUST 15, 2012

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Director's Corner



Maintaining Our Corps Values in the 21st Century

Having 30-plus years of Active Duty service upon which to reflect, I can tell you the Navy ethos of Honor, Courage, and Commitment are as important to the United States Navy today as they were in years past. In fact, some may argue, that these fundamental values are more important today than ever. So how do we as an organization ensure that Honor, Courage, and Commitment are not just words lightly tossed about in conversation, but rather a call to action in leadership and organizational social responsibility?

The Navy Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment, are fundamental to sound leadership in that these values remind us that our actions reverberate outward. Just as the ripples of a stone dropped in a lake flow out away from the stone, the ethical standards we keep as leaders will have resounding impact upon the future organization.

Ten years at war has been difficult. Whether at the Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) or in an austere battlefield environment, work is emotionally and physically demanding and that is not without its toll of stress on the force. Whether at home or deployed, you may find that at some point in your career your character will be tested, and during these times you may feel at odds with those in authority over you and challenged by what may seem to be a lack of support. You may also feel isolated and impelled to cut corners to accomplish the mission. Do not cut corners! Always do what is right. With courage in your convictions, never lose sight for why you wear the Navy uniform...even in the face of great adversity.



What do I ask of each of you?

- Set the example.
- Discuss the Navy Corps Values and expected behavior with those around you and those deploying.
- Allow for open dialogue.
- Discuss events before they become events.
- Know that nothing is private anymore – is what you are doing something you would want your parent/spouse/mentor to see, hear or read about?
- Never, compromise your integrity...without integrity, all else is lost.

(Continue next page)



Director's Corner



As you reflect on this call to action for every level of leadership, remember we all have the capacity to excel within us. One of my favorite quotes is by Retired General Colin Powell, who said, *"If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters. Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude."* I ask you to think about what matters to you, your command, your co-worker, your family, your career and the Navy? You must foster and develop the desire to excel in yourself and in the Sailors you lead. Without drive, without enthusiasm, and without excellence in our daily activities we will not accomplish our mission.

Thank you for your loyal devotion to duty and unselfish service to our country. It is my honor to share with you these thoughts today. I take great pride in the Navy Nurse Corps thank each and every one of you for your hard work, care and compassion that is truly the hallmark of our profession.

RADM E. S. Niemyer

23rd Director, Navy Nurse Corps



Chief of Staff Bureau of Medicine and Surgery



Rear Admiral Rebecca J. McCormick-Boyle

Rear Adm. McCormick-Boyle, Nurse Corps, U.S. Navy, is a native of Griffins Mills, NY. Following her graduation from the SUNY at Buffalo School of Nursing, she was commissioned an ensign in 1981 and reported to Naval Hospital, Orlando, FL, for her first military assignment where she gained first-hand experience in surgical and critical care nursing. In 1984, she transferred to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, and served as a coronary care staff nurse, before returning to Buffalo, NY, in 1987 for medical programs recruiting. In 1991, she reported to Naval Hospital, Okinawa, Japan, serving as division officer for in-patient care and ambulatory care. While in Okinawa she received her Master of Science degree in Human Resource Management Systems from Chapman University, and in 1992 the local nursing association recognized her as the Military Nurse of the Year.

McCormick-Boyle also earned a Master of Health Administration from Baylor University in 1996, and subsequently served in several leadership positions at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, NC, including director, Branch Medical Clinics, executive assistant to the Commanding Officer for Health Care Operations and Fleet Hospital senior nurse. Reporting to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in 1999, she served as a special projects coordinator for Navy Medicine's Optimization Initiative before being promoted to captain in 2003 and assuming the position of nurse corps career plans officer. Selected for Executive Medicine, she served as executive officer at Naval Health Clinic Great Lakes from 2005 to 2007, and was intimately involved in the early development activities leading to the establishment of the first integrated DoD/VA Federal Health Care Center at North Chicago. She was subsequently selected to serve as the commanding officer at Naval Health Clinic Patuxent River from 2007 to 2009. There, she successfully targeted patient satisfaction and access to care for improvement in addition to leading her staff in numerous community-based volunteer projects.

In July 2009 she reported as assistant deputy chief for Medical Operations at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. Serving in the Bureau's largest and most complex code, she led early efforts to establish Navy Medicine's primary care model, Medical Home Port, and has played a pivotal role in coordinating humanitarian assistance/disaster relief and contingency support activities. (Continued next Page)





Chief of Staff Bureau of Medicine and Surgery



In January 2012 she assumed position as the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery's Chief of Staff. Her decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. A certified health care executive, she is an American College of Health Care Executives fellow, and received the 2011 Navy Regent's Senior Health Care Executive Award.

Deputy Director Navy Nurse Corps Active Component

Now that the summer is almost gone, the slating season is upon us. You may be asking, "What is the slating season?" This is the time of year in which we begin the process of slating qualified individuals into Commanding Officer and Executive Officer positions as well as Senior Nurse Executive/Director of Nursing (SNE/DNS) positions. Both Executive Medicine positions and SNE/DNS positions are typically for individuals who have achieved or hold the rank of Captain. They have a history of diverse clinical assignments and duty locations as well as proven success in leadership roles and the ability to collaborate across disciplines/directorates to achieve optimal outcomes.

Nurses make a difference in people's lives every single day. The SNE/DNS opportunity is another way you can make a difference in the patient's life, as a mentor to junior nurses who follow in your footsteps, and for the Command ensuring that patient care is delivered with compassion. It is a personal and professional growth opportunity like no other. For those currently eligible for an SNE/DNS position, I encourage you to take a look at the recently published opportunities. For those who see themselves serving in this position in the future, schedule a meeting to speak with your leadership to discuss the pathway to becoming a SNE/DNS.



CAPT Sarah Martin, NC, USN

News From the Nurse Corps Detailers (PERS 4415)

Please welcome CDR Evelyn Tyler to the PERS team, as she assumes the role of the detailer for the CDR generalists and advanced practice nursing community. CDR Michael Service will be leaving the team in July. Many thanks to CDR Service for his tremendous contributions, and best wishes for him in his role as Officer In Charge (OIC), Mayport Branch Health Clinic in Florida.

PROMOTION BOARDS: Record Reviews and Continuation

Congratulations to those selected during this year's promotion cycle. All of the detailers are available to perform record reviews, particularly for those individuals who are in a first time failure of selection (FOS) status. For those in a multiple failure of selection (FOS) status, it is imperative you contact your detailer to determine retention status. For this year's promotion cycle, continuation was only offered for 2XFOS LCDRS; continuation was not offered for 2X FOS LTs. For promotion board eligible officers, review your BOL account upon release of the board results to determine selection status. BOL continuation codes are provided for reference and can be found on the following website (along with other helpful info related to continuation). <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/boards/officercontinuation/Pages/default.aspx> (Continue next page)



News From the Nurse Corps Detailers (PERS 4415)

Highlights of NAVADMIN 375/11:

- 2X FOS LCDRs with 14-18 years of active service (YOAS). Officers selected for continuation can continue until eligible for retirement at the completion of 20 YOAS (calculated from the active duty base date)
- 2X FOS LCDRs with less than 14 YOAS. Officers selected for continuation can continue in three year increments or until retirement eligible at the completion of 20 YOAS.
- 2X FOS LCDRs with 18 or more YOAS, as provided by law, will not be considered for continuation, but will be retained on active duty until retirement eligible at 20 YOAS.

AVAILABLE BILLETS

Please review the detailers' pages on the NKO website for upcoming billet vacancies. You are highly encouraged to contact your detailer when you are 12 months from your PRD. If you plan to submit a resignation, retirement, or extension request, please contact your detailer approximately 15 months to determine feasibility and eligibility. Your resignation or retirement request should be forwarded by your command to PERS approximately 12 months from your intended separation date. Your detailer does NOT write separation orders: resignation and retirement orders are handled by a separate PERS branch from PERS 4415.

Current highlights include from the following detailers' pages:

Senior NC Detailer: CAPT Starks (Email: lavencion.starks@navy.mil). An updated posting for CAPT generalists, BUMED, ETMS, manpower, and PhD billets are now available. There are two non-traditional opportunities at the JTF CAPMED in Bethesda, MD. Info on the upcoming CO/XO screening board is posted.

Detailer for CDRs, advanced practice, and PERIOP:

CDR Tyler (Email: evelyn.tyler@navy.mil). Priority and hot fill billets are available for a pediatric nurse practitioner for Camp Lejeune and PERIOP nurses for NH Lemoore.

Detailer for LT/LCDR generalists:

LCDR Palarca (Email: christine.palarca@navy.mil). Priority and hot fill billets include NH 29 Palms, NH Lemoore, NH Yokosuka and NH Okinawa. Also, the operational billet for FMTB Camp Lejeune is available for Fall 2013 (more info on LCDR Palarca's website is available). Priority billets for the CNS community (LT/LCDRs) have been posted.

Detailer for ENS/LTJG generalists and new accessions:

LCDR Gomez (Email: joseph.a.gomez1@navy.mil). Priority and hot fill billets include: NH Guam, NH Okinawa, NH 29 Palms, NH Rota, NH GTMO, NH Lemoore, and NRD Nashville.



Refer to the Navy Personnel website for the most up to date information.

<http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/Pages/default.aspx>

LCDR Christine Palarca, NC, USN



MERCEX Pacific Partnership 2012

I was not sure what to think when I was first told that I would be joining the team in support of Pacific Partnership 2012. Do not be mistaken, I was grateful to be afforded such a unique and amazing opportunity, but I had no clue what it would entail. I reported for MERCEX, a USNS MERCY training exercise, in February, and over the following 3 months, I would be active in the group tasked with “standing up” the Military Treatment Facility (MTF) aboard the hospital ship. When fully functioning for a Pacific Partnership mission the USNS MERCY carries over 1000 personnel and has inpatient pediatric, adult, and intensive care units. In addition, the ship has twelve operating rooms, an endoscopy suite, a laboratory, blood bank, and pharmacy, and physical therapy, dental, and radiology services. We started with the dusty remains of Pacific Partnership 2010 and quickly worked to get all areas up and running. Eventually, we pulled out of San Diego on what will surely prove to be a challenging and rewarding evolution.

MERCEX began when a small collaboration of personnel arrived aboard the USNS MERCY. The work-up was comprised of two, week-long training periods, which were designed to expedite the process of standing up the ship from reduced operating status. This time also served to familiarize the newly-reported staff with the ship, MTF areas, and shipboard safety. When you take a team of corpsmen, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, chaplains, and many others, (most of whom have never stepped foot on a ship) slap a lifejacket on them and sound “abandon ship,” pandemonium is likely to ensue. The humor of the situation was not lost on me, as a gaggle of people lined up on the flight deck in every direction while the Operations Officer screamed out orders from the bridge. We have come a long way since that first day and now routinely report to our lifeboats with a full muster in a matter of minutes, as abandon ship drills have become a regular and vital part of our ship life. Of course, MERCEX was more than just shuffling around wearing a lifejacket. We had a field day and gave our work areas a much needed scrub. We networked interdepartmentally and developed the plan for patient flow. We revised Standard Operating Procedure manuals, checked equipment function, and organized the Command’s Microsoft SharePoint® site. We also updated the orientation training for hundreds of civilian and military personnel joining the ship later in Hawaii and Guam. In addition, we staged a mock Medical Civic Assistance Program (MEDCAP), which is an elaborate exercise complete with ferry transport and active helicopter operations. Very few of the staff aboard the MERCY has participated in past Pacific Partnership missions, so these briefs, training evolutions, and mock MEDCAPs were invaluable in learning what our jobs will demand in the coming mission.

I have come to realize that life aboard the MERCY is a simple one. It can be monotonous at times but provides ample opportunity to better oneself as an individual, a medical professional, and an Officer. Collateral duties, cross-training, certification courses, and peer in-service training punctuate the work week. Early morning physical training has brought a sense of comradery among the group as we happily suffer through the workout together. Our cries fill the Casualty Receiving area of the ship and afterwards we enjoy a hot breakfast together. There is never a shortage of fine Navy coffee and stimulating conversation, and I can say without hesitation that the operational setting breeds strong bonds and fond memories. The crew aboard the USNS MERCY is no exception to this statement, as the Navy seamlessly brings together professionals from different states, backgrounds, and experiences to fulfill the mission. We are preparing in calm to respond in crisis, and hopefully improving the lives of those we engage in the process. Even though this is just the beginning of the mission, I know this will be an unforgettable adventure. My time in the Navy has led me from our nation’s capitol to Japan and from Afghanistan to California. It is a privilege and an honor to have a role in this mission, and to be able to serve and teach alongside such a diverse and dedicated team.



LT Jessica Orzechowski, ENS Nicole Pendry

Certified Nurses Recognized at Naval Hospital Bremerton

Naval Hospital Bremerton recognized Certified Nurses Day on March 19, 2012 by acknowledging the professional credibility, achievement and improved patient care of staff members with nursing certification. *"It takes a lot of work, dedication and commitment to become a Certified Nurse,"* said CAPT Iris Boehnke, Naval Hospital Bremerton (NHB) Director of Nursing Services, noting that there are 64 nurses at NHB out of 169 who have achieved their certification. *"We have almost 38 percent of our staff certified, which is almost double the national average of less than 20 percent."*

LCDR Cherri Vilhauer was specifically honored for holding the longest certification tenure of 22 years as an Operating Room Nurse, and CDR Thecly Scott for holding the most certifications with four in Electronic Fetal Monitoring, Inpatient Obstetrics, Nurse Midwife, and Women's Health nurse Practitioner. *"I extend congratulations to everyone who has gone above and beyond for their certification. We all benefit, especially our patients. Certified Nurses improve on our overall quality, safety and patient care,"* said CAPT Christopher Culp, NHB Commanding Officer.

The date is testimony to the enduring legacy of Margretta "Gretta" Madden Styles, Doctor of Education, Registered Nurse and Fellowship of American Academy Nursing (1903-2005). March 19th is Styles' birthday, and she became known as the 'Mother of Nurse Credentialing' and a visionary scholar who made an international impact on the nursing profession.

"Today is Certified Nurses Day! I owe a lot to the nurses that got me where I am today. The thousands of certified nurses in the U.S. today and the growing role of certification in contributing to better patient outcomes are a lasting testament to Styles legacy. So, have a great day and thank you for everything that you do every day," exclaimed CDR Doug Stephens Officer-in-Charge of The David R. Ray Health Center at Naval Branch Health Center Everett.

According to LCDR David J. McIntire, NHB Critical Care department head, Registered Nurse, BSN (Bachelor's of Science in Nursing), CCRN (adult critical care nursing), board certification of nurses plays an increasingly important role in the assurance of high standards of care for patients and their loved ones. Nursing, like health care in general has become increasingly complex. While a registered nurse license provides entry to general nursing practice, the knowledge-intensive requirements of modern nursing require extensive education, as well as a strong personal commitment to excellence by the nurse.

"Becoming a certified nurse is proof you know your profession and certification in specific fields varies but not by much," said LCDR Geoffrey Plant, of NHB's Family Medicine and board certified in medical-surgical nursing. Plant achieved his certification approximately 10 years ago, which has to be renewed every five years. The initial eligibility criteria in Plant's field requires a nurse to hold a current, active registered nurse (RN) license within a state or territory of the U.S. or the professional, legally recognized equivalent in another country; have practiced the equivalent of two years full-time as an RN; have a minimum of 2,000 hours of clinical practice in the specialty area of medical-surgical nursing within the last three years; and have completed 30 hours of continuing education in medical-surgical nursing within the last three years. *"After putting in the hard work, then electing to get tested on your knowledge and competency and then passing the test really proves in an objective way that you know your job,"* Plant said.

(Continue next page)



BREMERTON, Wash. (Mar. 19, 2012) – Naval Hospital Bremerton (NHB) Director for Nursing Services CAPT Iris Boehnke leads the certified nurses in the pledge of allegiance during a celebration for Certified Nurses Day. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class (SW) Charlemagne Obana).

Certified Nurses Recognized at Naval Hospital Bremerton



BREMERTON, Wash. (Mar. 19, 2012) – Naval Hospital Bremerton (NHB) Operating Room Staff Registered Nurse LCDR Cherri Vilhauer receives a command mug from LCDR April Scheunemann for holding a certification the longest of all the certified nurses at NHB during a celebration for Certified Nurses Day. Vilhauer has been certified for 22 years as a CNOR (certified nurse operating room). (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class (SW) Charlemagne Obana).

There are 28 certifications in specific nursing fields held by staff members at NHB, including Adult Clinical Nurse Specialist, Adult Registered Nurse Practitioner, Ambulatory Perianesthesia Nurse, Case Management, Critical Care Nurse, Electronic Fetal Monitoring, Emergency Room Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner, Gastroenterology Nurse, Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inpatient Obstetrics, Lactation Consultant, Lactation Educator, Legal Nurse Consultant, Maternal Newborn Nursing, Medical-Surgical Nurse, Neonatal Intensive Care Nurse, Nurse Midwife, Occupational Health Nurse Specialist, Operating Room Nurse, Pediatric Emergency Nurse, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Post Anesthesia Care Nursing, Professional in Healthcare Quality, Professional in Utilization Review, Registered Nurse Anesthetists, Women's Health Nurse Practitioner and Wound Ostomy Continence Nurse.

Mr. Douglas H Stutz

Naval Hospital Bremerton Public Affairs Officer

Bravo Zulu!



Awards

LCDR Esther Morales at Naval Hospital Lemoore who is the 2012 recipient of the Midwest Nursing Research Society PhD Dissertation Award for her dissertation "*The Lived Experience of Hispanic New Graduate Nurses in the United States.*"

Certifications

LT Amy Aparicio at Naval Hospital Rota who passed her Maternal Newborn Nursing certification [RNC-LRN] Low Risk Neonatal exam.

LT Caitlin Putre and LT Kathryn Munson at Naval Hospital Rota who passed their Certified Emergency Nursing [CEN] exam.

LCDR Krystal Bauman at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth who passed her Adult Clinical Nurse Specialist, Board Certified [ACNS-BC] exam.

LCDR BradLee Goeckner at Naval Medical Center San Diego who passed his Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist [PCNS] exam.

ENS Rachelle Wilber at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth who passed her Certified Emergency Nursing [CEN] exam.

LCDR Ronald Cleveland at Naval Hospital Bremerton who passed his Certified Pediatric Emergency Nursing [CPEN] exam.

LCDR James Estoesta and RN Geraldine Dalaten at Naval Medical Center San Diego who passed their Inpatient Obstetrics certification [RNC-OB] exam.

LTJG Megan Caltagirone at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth who passed her Certified Medical-Surgical Nurse [CMSRN] exam.



Bravo Zulu!



Certifications

RN Barbara Sovich at Naval Medical Center San Diego who passed her Maternal Newborn Nursing certification [RNC-LRN] Low Risk Neonatal exam.

Publications

LCDR Julie Conrardy at Naval Hospital Rota, Spain

Conrardy, J. A. (2012). Implementing AORN Recommended Practices for Product Selection. *AORN Journal*, 95(6), 788-803.

LCDR BradLee Goeckner at Naval Medical Center San Diego

Hicks, R. W., Wanzer, L., & Goeckner, B. (2011). Perioperative pharmacology: A framework for perioperative medication safety. *AORN Journal*, 93(1), 136-42; quiz 143-5. The authors are the recipients of the Association of Registered Perioperative Nurses Journal 2011 Writers Contest Award.

Education (non-DUINS)

CDR Karin Warner at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital who earned her Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College.

CDR Shari Jones at Naval Medical Center San Diego who earned her PhD in Nursing after successfully defending her dissertation titled "*Obstructive Sleep Apnea: Effects of Cofactors on PACU Stay Time.*"

LCDR Mathew Loe at Navy Branch Health Clinic Gulfport who earned his Doctorate in Nursing Practice from Texas Tech University. He is also the recipient of the university's Outstanding Advanced Practice Nurse Capstone award for his work on "*Content Validity of a Heat-Illness Screening Instrument (HIIS).*"

LT Megan Moody at Naval Hospital Rota who earned her Master of Arts in Emergency & Disaster Management from American Military University.

LT Ana Texidor at Naval Hospital Rota who earned her Master of Human Relations from University of Oklahoma.

LT Brandi Alford at Naval Hospital Rota who earned her Master of Science in Nursing and Master of Health Administration from University of Phoenix.

LT Joshua Morgan at Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi who earned his Master of Science Family Nurse Practitioner from Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi and successfully passed his boards as a certified FNP provider.

NC News Staff

Editor:

LCDR Timothy Rousselow

Timothy.Rousselow@med.navy.mil

Design/Layout:

LT Nicholas Perez

Nicholas.Perez@med.navy.mil



Want to write a news article for
Nurse Corps News?

Submit your article via your chain of
command to:

LCDR Kathleen Harlow, NC, USN
Senior Editor, Nurse Corps News

NavyNurseCorpsnews@yahoo.com

