



Nurse Corps News

VOLUME 3 , ISSUE 7

AUG 20, 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

March of Dimes and Naval Medical Center Portsmouth	1
RADM Lescavage 20th Director Navy Nurse Corps	2
ASYMCA Honors Military Families	2
To Our Clinical Roots: The Quest for Competence	3
OHSU Dallas in Jamaica	3
Spotlight: Naval Hospital Pensacola Operational Olympics	4
Communication From the Deckplates of Navy Nursing	5
USNS Comfort Nurses Play a Role in Nurses Week	5
Bravo Zulu!	5

March of Dimes and Naval Medical Center Portsmouth

On May 13, 2009, Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth (NMCP) became the first hospital in the Department of Defense (DoD) to collaborate with the March of Dimes to provide a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Family Support Program for our military families. NMCP has the largest and busiest NICU in the DoD, providing care to premature and critically ill infants born to Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marine families throughout the Hampton Roads area and beyond. In NMCP's Level III NICU more than 400 infants are admitted annually. Depending on their condition, babies stay in the NICU anywhere from several hours to more than five months. The NICU is a 24 bed unit staffed by six neonatologists, five neonatal nurse practitioners, 25 pediatric residents, 70 nurses, 18 ancillary critical care staff and one social worker.



Staff volunteers, as well as parents of infants that have been in the NICU, will work together with the March of Dimes to provide support and education to military families both while their infants are in the NICU and after they are discharged home. NICU Family Support addresses the needs of families during their baby's NICU hospitalization, during the transition home and in the event of a newborn loss.

This unique partnership includes specialized training for our volunteer staff members and parents, educational materials, as well as a kiosk that will provide parents with a web site that they can access to ask questions about the NICU and their babies' care and will also allow our parents to communicate to other parents in the more than 70 other NICU's participating in the March of Dimes NICU Family Support Program throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

LT Christi Marti, NC, USN

CUSTOMER SURVEY

We want to better meet your communication needs. The survey is open to military officers (active duty and reserve). The closing date is Labor Day, 07 Sept. The survey can be found at the following link:

<https://survey.cnet.navy.mil/Perseus/se.ashx?s=0CCABAD41B989139>

RADM Lescavage 20th Director Navy Nurse Corps Retires

Rear Admiral Nancy J. Lescavage, the 20th Director of the Navy Nurse Corps, retired after 37 years of Naval service. Her retirement ceremony was on March 13, 2009 at the Women in Military Service For America Memorial.

RADM Nancy J. Lescavage, originally from Port Carbon, Pennsylvania, most recently served as the Regional Director of the TRICARE Regional Office – West in San Diego, California where she provided oversight to managed care support contracts and an integrated health care delivery system in twenty-one states with almost 3 million TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries. She previously served as the director of the Navy Nurse Corps as well as commander of the Naval Medical Education and Training Command.



Side boys Piping RADM Lescavage ashore for the last time.



RADM Bruzek-Kohler presents RADM Lescavage with her retirement shadow box.

ASYMCA Honors Military Families

The Armed Services YMCA recently honored military families during a luncheon on Capitol Hill. Miss Niki Haws daughter of CAPT Kevin Haws, NC, USN was selected as a first prize winner for all Navy families entrants for her art contest submission titled “My Military Family”. Niki's picture was one of two that were chosen to be included in the framed gifts that were presented to the various award winners at the luncheon. Congratulations Niki!



ADM Kirkland Donald, Miss Niki Haws, CAPT Kevin Haws and Mrs. Yuko Haws.



MCPON (SS/SW) Rick D. West, Miss Niki Haws, Mrs. Yuko Haws and CAPT Kevin Haws after receiving one of the MCPON's prized “Golden Anchors” .

To Our Clinical Roots: The Quest for Competence

What does it mean to be a nurse?

The Service members, families, and public we treat have clear expectations and anticipations. These are emblazoned throughout our culture, our media, indeed, our collective psyche. One need only search the internet (so many image variants), watch prime-time TV, or ask a child. One of these expectations that serves as the foundation of our profession, our passion, our reason for existence is clinical competence. I know of no nurse who went into the profession without patient care in mind. But how do we measure and ensure quality care?

“Competence” – so simple in concept; so complex in measurement. Much like beauty, we believe we know it when we see it, but a common and consistent definition is often elusive. All professions exhibit the same issue, as they deal with more abstract concepts and large knowledge bases. Different from lawyers and engineers, our patients physically experience our competence on a more intimate and often invasive note than with legal briefs or a bridge.

We have an altruistic duty to ensure professional and relevant care, but a higher one, as well. Consider nurses in non-clinical positions: whether infection control, quality management, or nurse executive. Though not executing hands-on patient care daily, why do these positions need to be nurses? Clinical competence generates multiple second and third order effects. It drives sound clinical judgment and critical reasoning skills. It provides a profound experience and knowledge of the health care process: how care is delivered, how the professionals think and behave, and familiarity with the reason for our profession – patients. Withdraw clinical competence and the body of our profession collapses without the supporting skeleton.

On a closer note, think on why the Navy needs nurses. To hold clipboards, not really. To ride desks, not so much. The Navy needs competent clinicians. There are multiple options for administrators, medical and non-medical alike. The ever-present nursing shortage increased fiscal pressures have caused a strict review, under Human Capital Strategy. I posit that the critical reasoning and clinical judgment in nursing, obtained through clinical competence, should be the litmus test.

Unless we, as nurses, continue to deliver current appropriate, timely, compassionate clinical care we become irrelevant—individually and collectively—valueless to our patients, our Service, our nation. Clinical Competence applies to all nurses in what ever environment or specialty they practice.

Questions or comments may be referred to CDR Spencer, andrew.spencer@tma.osd.mil or (703) 588-1832 on behalf of the 29 workgroup members of the Clinical Excellence: Readiness & Clinical Proficiency Workgroup.

CDR Andrew Spencer, NC, USN

OHSU Dallas in Jamaica

OHSU Dallas participated in the US Southern Command New Horizons Medical Readiness Training Exercise (MEDRETE) in Jamaica for the first time from 20Mar09 to 04Apr09. The team consisted of thirty personnel from OHSU Dallas and Camp Lejeune. Led by LCDR Alice Cooper, MSC, they were tasked with providing general medical, dental, optometry and pharmaceutical care and services to the indigenous population. These services were provided at two different sites in St. Thomas Parish in the southeastern area of the island. The Navy personnel worked closely with the representatives from the host nation, Army, and Marine Corps elements involved with the mission. Nurse Corps officers included: CAPT Mary Roger, LCDR Obie Austin, LCDR Kim Sullivan, and LT Jason Gillespie, NC.

LCDR Kathleen Harlow, NC, USN

Spotlight Naval Hospital Pensacola: Operational Olympics

In order to maintain operational readiness, NH Pensacola provides operational training every Thursday which has traditionally culminated in a mass casualty drill every year. Some of the monthly topics covered are: Tactical Field Care, MOPP gear exchange, Weapons Handling, Patient Drags/carries, Casualty evacuation, and Tactical Combat Casualty Care overview. This year, instead of the mass casualty exercise, participants actually competed in an Operational Olympics designed to test and highlight the "athletes" special skills learned over the past year. There were 15 teams with a variety of skill sets on each team with activities designed to test all members, assessment accuracy, speed and teamwork. Each multidisciplinary team consisted of a provider, a nurse, an HMC, and 2-3 junior corpsmen. The Operational competition had 8 scenarios including: drags and carries, MOPP exchange, an ACLS scenario, a small mass casualty with three different patients for all skill levels, a mental health scenario, Entry Control Point and a tent set up. Eight teams competed in the three and a half hour morning round and seven teams in the afternoon round. The winning teams were awarded medals and special prizes and all participants ate lunch prepared by the culinary specialists who were competing in an Iron Chef Challenge at the same time. If you would like more information about this innovative training the POC is HMI (FMF) D. Cunningham (David.Cunningham3@med.navy.mil), Operational Training DIVO for NH Pensacola Education and Training Department.



LCDR Kathleen Harlow, NC, USN



Communication from the Deckplates of Navy Nursing

The Fly on the Bulkhead is a closed membership blog for Navy Nurse Corps Junior Officers (O1-O4), both Active Duty and Reserve. This is a forum to discuss your ideas and to voice your concerns and solutions to problems you encounter as a Navy Nurse Corps officer. The goal of this site is to provide a means to communicate with other Navy nurses and to have your needs and ideas presented to the leadership of the Navy Nurse Corps in order to bring about change that betters our practice, increases career satisfaction, and promotes life/work balance. If you would like to join the blog please email LCDR Heather Ennis (heather.ennis@med.navy.mil) and request membership. In your initial email to request membership you must include your Navy email account and your home email address (many commands have firewalls that block Google Blogs so you will need to use your home email), your rank, your name, and your current duty station. You will then receive an email invitation to join the blog. Don't delay, join the blog today!

LCDR Heather Ennis, NC, USN

USNS Comfort Nurses Play a Role in Nurses Week

This year's Nurses' Week celebration in May was unequivocally enhanced by the contribution made by the nurses of USNS Comfort who have been working with the nurses of the Antigua and Barbuda Nurses Association. According to Clarissa Christopher, president of the Antigua and Barbuda Nurses' Association, planning the series of joint participation events began as far back as January 2008. The visiting nurses were instrumental in the Nurses' Week opening ceremony, which was a new experience for many of visiting nurses. They also played a significant part in an Education Conference where presentations were made by both contingents of nurses. A number of student nurses had the opportunity to join USNS nurses aboard ship each day to carry out their clinical as part of their nursing training. CDR Mark Marino, explained that once aboard ship, the nurses were matched with Comfort nurses to assist in pre-operation preparations and post surgery care of fellow Antiguan. The mid-week social was hosted by the USNS nurses on behalf of the Navy Nurse Corps and was also a chance for them to celebrate their 101-year anniversary.

Bravo Zulu!



Bravo Zulu to LT Laura Jensen at Naval Hospital Pensacola for completing her Masters in Education Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Phoenix.

Bravo Zulu to LTJG Molly Moffatt at Naval Hospital Pensacola for being selected Naval Hospital Pensacola Junior Nurse of the Year.

Bravo Zulu to LT Janice White at BMC Whiting Field for being selected Naval Hospital Pensacola Nurse of the Year.

NC News Staff

Editor: LCDR Kathleen Harlow

KathleenHarlow@texashealth.org

Design/Layout: LCDR Tim Rouselow

Timothy.Rouselow@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

Editor, Nurse Corps News

KathleenHarlow@texashealth.org

