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**National Nurses Week** is celebrated annually from May 6 through May 12. It falls on the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. The theme for National Nurses Week, 2008 is *Nurses: Making a Difference Every Day*. Today, there are nearly 2.9 million registered nurses in the U.S., and 2.4 million of them are actively employed. There are over 240,400 advanced practice nurses in the United States. Of these, approximately 144,200 are nurse practitioners, 69,000 are clinical nurse specialists, 14,600 are both nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists, 13,700 are nurse midwives, and 32,500 are nurse anesthetists. For more information about National Nurses Week and nursing in general, visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

# Navy and Marine Corps Medical News

*A Public Affairs Publication of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery*

## The Navy Nurse Corps Commemorates 100 Years of Dedicated Service

By **Christine Mahoney, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs**

**WASHINGTON** – The Navy Nurse Corps (NC) memorialized their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of dedicated service with a wreath laying ceremony at the Navy Memorial in downtown Washington, D.C., on Friday, May 2. The official Navy Nurse Corps 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary day is Tuesday, May 13.

Rear Adm. Edward K. Walker, Jr. (Ret.), United States Navy Memorial Treasurer hosted the event. Rear Adm. Christine Bruzek-Kohler, NC, Director of the Navy Nurse Corps and Chief of Staff, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED); Rear Adm. Karen Flaherty, NC, Di-

rector Navy Nurse Corps Reserves; and John F. Mulhern, Director, U.S. Navy Memorial; were honored guests and participants in the ceremony. Capt. Kathleen Pierce, Deputy Director Navy Nurse Corps was Master of Ceremonies.

"What links us with our Navy Nurse Corps predecessors who served 100 years ago, and throughout the years, is what makes us unique – it is what called us to naval service. Each of us joined the Navy Nurse Corps looking to make a difference and to serve this great country we love," said Bruzek-

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**WASHINGTON** – As the Navy Band played "Taps", Rear Adm. Christine Bruzek-Kohler (left), NC, NC, Director of the Navy Nurse Corps, and Chief of Staff, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED); Rear Adm. Karen Flaherty, NC, Director Navy Nurse Corps Reserves, gave tribute to past and present Navy nurses at the Navy Nurse Corps 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Wreath Laying ceremony held at the Navy Memorial May 2. *U.S. Navy photo by Christine Mahoney*

## USNS Mercy Deploys for Pacific Partnership 2008

By Mass Communication Specialist  
3rd Class Damien Horvath, Fleet  
Public Affairs Center, Pacific

**SAN DIEGO** - The Military Sealift Command (MCS) hospital ship, USNS Mercy (T-AH 19), departed from its homeport of San Diego for Pacific Partnership 2008 on May 1.

Pacific Partnership 2008 will bring together host and partner nation civilian medical personnel, as well as military medical and construction personnel. The four-month humanitarian and civic deployment is intended to strengthen relations in Southeast Asia and Oceania.

"I have gone on other more traditional Navy deployments, but this is my first humanitarian mission," said Operations Specialist 2nd Class Dung Pham. "I was elated to know that I was deploying on the Mercy. It will give me an opportunity to reach out to those in more impoverished regions of the world and let them know that we are here for them, and we offer our hands in friendship."

The staff and crew of the MSC-operated Mercy is comprised of Navy medical personnel, members of the U.S. Public Health Service, public health and preventive medi-

cine personnel, Seabees and members of the Air Force and Army.

"It's great to be working in a joint military environment," said Lt. Lori Thompson. "Every member of the Mercy team, regardless of what branch of service, brings their own experience and expertise to the table and makes significant contributions to mission accomplishment."

Mercy is scheduled to visit the Republic of the Philippines, Vietnam, the Federated States of Micronesia, Timor-Leste, and Papua, New Guinea.

Partner nations participating in the mission include Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and New Zealand.

Also participating in the deployment are several non-governmental organizations that provide medical, dental, construction and other humanitarian services ashore and afloat in Southeast Asia and Oceania.

"We are very fortunate as a military and civilian staff and crew to be assisted in our mission by gracious host nations and significantly contributing partner nations," said Command Master Chief (SW/



**SAN DIEGO** - Friends and family members of crew members aboard the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) watch and wave as Mercy departs San Diego for Pacific Partnership 2008 May 1. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Cale Bentley

AW) Mike Smith. "It is with great pride that we set sail, knowing that we will not be going at this alone, through selfless acts of friendship and relationships forged during previous deployments."

Commanding Pacific Partnership 2008 is Capt. W.A. Kearns III, commander, Destroyer Squadron 31. The ship's Master is Civil Service Capt. Robert T. Wiley, and the commanding officer of Mercy Military Treatment Facility is Capt. James P. Rice.

## Boxer Surgical Team Techs Poised for Guatemala, Continuing Promise 2008

By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Matthew Jackson, USS Boxer Public Affairs

**ABOARD USS BOXER, At Sea** - The Biological Medical Technicians (BMT) of Fleet Surgical Team (FST) 5, embarked aboard USS Boxer (LHD 4), finalized preparations May 2 to work alongside Guatemalan healthcare providers in medical equipment repair as part of Continuing Promise (CP) 2008.

The CP deployment to the Latin-American region builds on and encourages the establishment of new partnerships between and among nations, non-government organizations and international organizations to demonstrate the lasting bonds and shared interests among neighbors.

"Our goal is to continue fostering cooperative partnerships while providing quality health care," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW) John Renner. "By repairing medical equipment we hope to expand patient care capabilities."

While en route to Guatemala, BMTs are honing their

skills by performing repairs on Boxer's medical equipment. They are also collecting manuals and information to share with partner-nation technicians. In addition to medical equipment repairs, BMTs will also exchange ideas with partner-nation medical professionals about specific equipment maintenance.

The training, idea-sharing and clinical capability the CP mission will bring to the area demonstrates America's commitment to fostering positive partnerships.

"Our countries are strengthening our combined interests by sharing the tools that allow us to do our jobs more efficiently and effectively," Renner added.

These FST 5 technicians are part of a large medical component leading an expeditionary medical team of over 100 specialized health care providers, who will team up with partner-nation counterparts. Their capabilities include general primary care, dental, optometry, pharmaceutical, preventive medicine and public health assessments, medical and nursing education, veterinary, and bio-medical equipment repair.

# Perfecting Combat Medical Skills in Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC)

By **Kathy L. MacKnight, Naval Health Clinic New England Public Affairs Office, Newport, RI**

**NEWPORT, RI** - Once a month, 20-25 corpsmen from all Naval Health Clinic New England (NHCNE) medical sites (Newport, RI; Groton, CT; Portsmouth, NH; Brunswick, ME; and Saratoga Springs, NY) gather for 4 days at Camp Fogarty, the RI National Guard training site in East Greenwich, RI, for "hands-on" instruction of combat trauma skills. The Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) course, was developed as the standard of care for the tactical management of combat casualties within the Department of Defense, and it is also endorsed by the American College of Surgeons, and the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians.

Chief Hospital Corpsman (HM) (FMF) Bryan Zimmerman, leading

Chief Petty Officer of NHCNE Staff Education and Training, set-up the NHCNE program, and the North American Rescue Products organization was so impressed with the results of the course he developed, he will be "training the trainers" at the Armed Forces Operation Medicine Symposium on May 13-15, in Charleston, SC. Navy Independent Duty Corpsmen (IDCs) and Air Force Independent Duty Medical Technicians (IDMTs) will be given the skills to set up a program at their own duty stations, to emulate what Zimmerman has put together in New England for NHCNE.

The primary goal of TCCC is to decrease preventable combat death at the point of wounding, as ninety-percent of combat wound fatalities die on the battlefield before reaching a medical treatment facility. At Camp Fogarty, NHCNE TCCC in-



**NEWPORT, R.I.** - Hospital Corpsman 1<sup>st</sup> Class David Beason (on the right), one of the Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) instructors, gives directions on treatment of a sucking chest wound to a TCCC student corpsman. U.S. Navy photo by Paul Cannemela

structors and students spend two days in a classroom setting, perfecting medical skills related to

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## Nurse Corps continued...

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Kohler. "We left our comfort zones, our families and friends. For each of us, I'm sure all of us would say that being part of the Navy Nurse Corps has exceeded all expectations, and has provided incredible personal and professional rewards. The Navy Nurse Corps has given us a rich life without regret and a life that will never be the same."

As a symbol of respect and honor to the Navy Nurses who have served and are currently serving, and for those Navy Nurses who have died, Bruzek-Kohler, Flaherty and Mulhern placed a wreath at the foot of the Lone Sailor statue at the memorial while the Navy Band played "Taps".

"To be a nurse takes a special person. The amount of training, study and the level of responsibility is awesome. Nurses who join the Navy are very special people. They have other opportunities to serve in less demanding and in less challenging environments. But because they are so special, so dedicated to

our nation, they choose to be Navy Nurses. I personally know how special Navy Nurses are because I have been happily married to one for the past 39 years," said Mulhern.

The true mission of the Navy Nurse Corps, both today and in 1908 when the corps was first established, has remained unchanged - caring for our nation's warriors as they go into harm's way. Nurses play an invaluable role in Navy Medicine. Nurses are relied upon for their clinical expertise and are recognized for their impressive ability to collaborate with a host of other healthcare disciplines in caring for our warriors, their families and the retired community. Navy Nurses are essential to Navy Medicine's Force Health Protection mission.

President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Naval Appropriations Bill authorizing the establishment of the Nurse Corps as a unique staff corps of the Navy on May 13, 1908. The first applications to the Nurse Corps were sent by women from around

the nation to BUMED, the headquarters of Navy Medicine. These candidates were required to travel to Washington, D.C., at their own expense and take oral and written examinations.

The first members of the Nurse Corps included a superintendent, Esther Hasson, and a chief nurse, Lenah Higbee, plus 18 other women. These women, known as the "Sacred Twenty", established the foundation of service and caring that defines the Navy Nurse Corps.

Over 4,000 active duty and reserve Navy nurses are serving in operational, humanitarian, and traditional missions on the home front and abroad. These men and women provide professional nursing care in peacetime and wartime under ordinary and extraordinary circumstances. Navy nurses are essential to Navy Medicine's Force Health Protection mission, integrating compassion with discipline, individuality with conformity, and wellness promotion with wartime readiness.

## The National Naval Medical Center Holds Annual Research Competition

By Cat DeBinder, National Naval Medical Center Bethesda Public Affairs

**BETHESDA, Md.** - The National Naval Medical Center Bethesda (NNMC) held its 23rd Annual Academic Research Competition April 24 in Laurel Clark Memorial Auditorium here.

The competition is intended to broaden the horizons of military medicine and inspire clinicians to explore beyond the status quo.

NNMC Commander Rear Adm. Richard Jeffries said research is essential to the advancement of medicine and the care of America's wounded heroes.

One of the judges of the competition, Frederic Sanford, former executive director for the Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S., said medical research competition is more than just competing to be the winner.

"It's all about sharing what you have learned," he said. "These

competitions also spark an interest in others to do research. I don't see how it could not inspire others."

Capt. Joseph Pellegrini, a nurse anesthetist in Bethesda's Anesthesiology Department, said the single most significant benefit of medical research is to improve the quality of patient care and increase patient's life expectancy.

Army Capt. Jason Hawksworth, a surgical resident at Bethesda, won the competition in the Resident Category with his project, Inflammatory Biomarkers in Combat Wound Healing.

Hawksworth said medical research is even more important at this critical time in our country's history. Research is essential in the treatment of wounded service members coming home from war, he said.

"We really think the research we've done will help impact the wounded Soldiers' care," he said.

Pellegrini said a large part of research is done using volunteers in

case studies. There is usually some apprehension on the part of the patient when asked to volunteer for a clinical study, he said.

"After a patient receives a thorough explanation of the study, about 50 percent are eager and willing to participate," he said.

Dr. Anuradha Ganesan, a staff physician in Bethesda's Infectious Disease Department, won the competition in the Staff Category with her research on chronic kidney disease. Ganesan said medicine and research is about learning and keeping up with the constant advancements.

"Things we thought were dogma in 1996 when I graduated from medical school are no longer the case," Ganesan said. "Without research and learning, there will be no more advancement."

The winners of the competition will go on to compete against the winners from Naval Medical Center (NMC) Portsmouth and NMC San Diego, for the Navy-wide title.

## Commander of NMCS D Nominated for Athena Pinnacle Award

By Mass Communications Specialist 1<sup>st</sup> Class Cindy Gill, Naval Medical Center San Diego Public Affairs

**SAN DIEGO** - Rear Adm. Christine S. Hunter, Commander, Navy Medicine West and Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCS D), was nominated for the 2008 Athena Pinnacle Award in the Life Sciences category. The Pinnacle Award was presented to women who have had a significant impact on the San Diego area.

Nominees and winners were honored at an awards dinner May 1 at the Manchester Grand Hyatt. The University of California, San Diego Athena program recognizes leadership, education and support programs for executive women in local life sciences, technology and healthcare industries. The annual Pinnacle Awards are typically given to those who have had a particular impact in promoting women in the workplace.

Hunter's nomination citation noted that she: "identifies future leaders and ensures they are provided relevant opportunities and assignments for expanded growth, development, and promotion."

Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) nominated Hunter for innovative forward thinking and a wide range of initiatives in support of San Diego's military community and humanitarian missions. Her nomination specifically cited the opening of the Comprehensive Combat and Complex Casualty Care (C5) rehabilitation facility at

NMCS D as well as Hunter's involvement in developing and mentoring future women leaders.

"I'm proud to be able to ensure the highest quality care for our military and their families, and honored to contribute to the development of our next generation of leaders - both women and men. Our future is very bright in their hands," said Hunter, who is a physician, board certified in Internal Medicine and Hematology/Oncology. "I am humbled to be nominated for such a prestigious award."

Hunter took command of Navy Medicine West and Naval Medical Center San Diego Jan. 19, 2007. Prior to this position, she served as Chief of Staff, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery where she organized medical support for the 2006 tsunami and Hurricane Katrina relief missions, and ensured the ongoing deployment of medical personnel in support of the Global War on Terror. Additionally, Hunter led the development of Navy Medicine's Enterprise Enabler Strategy and implemented the reorganization of Navy Medicine to create an Echelon II Command and Control Headquarters with four subordinate regional commands.

"Rear Adm. Hunter exemplifies the vision of Athena and is a top nominee for the Life Sciences/Healthcare Pinnacle Award," said Jeanine Jacobson, president San Diego area Athena Award.



**YOKOSUKA, Japan** - Cmdr. John Leung repairs dental casts at the Fleet Dental Clinic onboard Fleet Activites Yokosuka, April 17. The casts are made from molds of a patient's teeth and sent to U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka where they are made into false teeth. *U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Juan Antoine King*

## DoD Surveys Staff At Military Treatment Facilities

By Gail Cureton, TRICARE Public Affairs

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – Health care professionals at Department of Defense military treatment facilities (MTFs) are encouraged to share their opinions in a Tri-Service Patient Safety Survey.

The web-based survey, sponsored and funded by TRICARE Management Activity, will assess staff opinions about issues related to patient safety in military health system facilities.

"We first deployed the survey in 2005/2006," said Col. Steven Grimes, director, Patient Safety, TRICARE Management Activity. "The new survey will allow us to assess change over time. In order for the military health system to get a real picture of the issues facing our mili-

tary health professionals, we need their feedback."

The survey is being conducted to raise staff awareness about patient safety and to identify strengths and areas for patient safety improvement. "The care we provide at our MTFs across the globe is unsurpassed, but there is always room for improvement," Grimes said.

The Department of Defense Patient Safety Program is a comprehensive program with the goal of establishing a culture of patient safety and quality within the Military Health System.

MTF staff are encouraged to participate in the survey and should contact their service patient safety representative directly or by visiting <http://dodpatientsafety.usuhs.mil/index.php?name=News&file=article&sid=486>.

## TCC continued...

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penetrating trauma before the course moves outside to the field. Outdoors, students rotate through various training stations in an operational environment, such as hostile fire, smoke, ambush, often encountering physical obstacles before reaching the victim or victims.

The corpsman, with limited medical equipment carried in his/her pack must assess, treat and stabilize the "patient", often while under simulated enemy fire. Mannequins weighing 180-200 pounds, are used as the casualties, present-

ing with injuries that require the use of combat applied tourniquet (CAT) in the case of severe bleeding or severed limbs, needle decompression to re-inflate a lung, the use of Hemcon & Quikclot clotting agents, intra-osseous punch to gain IV access via FAST-1 which is inserted in the sternum, performing emergency cricothyroidotomy, and treatment of a sucking chest wound.

Once the tactical field care has been rendered and the casualty is no longer under hostile fire, evacuation of the patient by hand carried litter, transport by armored vehicle, and finally evacuation by helicopter, are each simulated. This comprehensive field training gives the corpsman the experience of rendering life saving care while under combat conditions when concentration and endurance are tested.

After 12 years with the Marines, NHCNE is Zimmerman's first shore duty in 12 years. His deployment experiences and his passion for teaching have given him the tools to develop the TCCC program for

the New England region. Zimmerman said, "This course means so much to me because after playing a vital role as IDC of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Marines, in the Battle of Fallujah, and losing Marines that were close to me, I like to believe that in some small way I can prevent the loss of more shipmates, Marines and friends. I realize that due to medical limitations, I will not be returning to Iraq, and instructing TCCC helps fill a huge void in my life – which is the need to be where I am needed in battle with my Marines and Corpsmen. Everything happens for a reason and I was hand selected to head up the Tactical Combat Casualty Care course for New England because of my extensive FMF experience, and I thank God everyday for this opportunity."

Since NHCNE implemented TCCC training in October 2007, over 100 staff corpsmen have successfully completed the course, which is a yearly requirement of Navy Hospital Corps staff, or within 90 days of deployment.



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