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# RHUMB LINES

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## **Navy Nurses – Building a Legacy Through Caring Since 1908**

*“The practice of nursing has changed over the last 100 years with research and technology, but the basic tenets of the profession are unchanged and timeless. We volunteered to wear the uniform, to practice our profession in a different environment and through this we have unlocked the secrets to our humanity and what is most important in caring for those willing to make the supreme sacrifice for their country.”*

**-- RADM Christine Bruzek-Kohler, NC, USN**

On May 2, the Navy Nurse Corps commemorated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a wreath laying at the Navy Memorial Plaza Amphitheater in Washington, D.C.

### **Supporting the Global War on Terror**

- During the past year, nurses at the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) have treated, cared for, cried with, laughed with, and, at times, mourned for more than 500 casualties from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.
- Navy Nurses at the Expeditionary Medical Facility (EMF) Kuwait cared for 3,564 casualties in the last six months of 2007 and are continuing to provide excellent care to their incoming patients.
- At Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, 98 Navy Reserve Component nurses work alongside their colleagues from the Army and the Air Force providing nursing care to our wounded warriors from operational theaters.
- The Comprehensive Combat and Complex Casualty Care (C5) Program at the Naval Medical Center San Diego opened in Oct 2007 to provide the highest quality of care for wounded warriors and their families. It now includes the addition of a psychiatric clinical nurse specialist and a Family/Emergency Room Nurse Practitioner who serves as the C5 medical holding company’s primary care manager.

### **Supporting the Maritime Strategy at home and around the world**

- The precepts of Navy nursing align with the CNO’s maritime strategy. Navy nurses support our maritime strategy by participating in humanitarian missions which contribute to the prevention of war through their frontline efforts in foreign countries to build trust and demonstrate goodwill through caring.
- For 100 years, Navy nurses have provided and continue to provide the highest quality of care for our Sailors, Marines, family members, and retirees.
- Navy nurses continue to answer the call of duty whether it be at the bedside of a patient in a stateside military treatment facility, aboard an aircraft carrier transiting the Pacific, in a joint humanitarian mission on one of our hospital ships, in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, or in the throes of conflict in Iraq. They are ready to be deployed anytime, anywhere to support our Maritime Strategy.

<b>Key Messages</b>	<b>Facts &amp; Figures</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Navy nurses are pivotal to quality health care, a key retention factor in the Navy and Marine Corps.</li> <li>• Navy nurses serve in Navy hospitals and clinics in the U.S. and around the world and in other military medical treatment facilities such as Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, the Expeditionary Medical Facility in Kuwait and in the combat arena.</li> <li>• Today’s Navy nurse can be deployed anytime, anywhere making them one of the most visible professions in the medical community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Naval Appropriations Bill that authorized the establishment of the Nurse Corps as a unique staff corps of the Navy on May 13, 1908.</li> <li>• Today’s Active and Reserve Component Nurse Corps is more than 4,000 members strong.</li> <li>• Today’s Nurse Corps is one of the most diverse and highly educated nursing staffs in the United States with approximately one-third holding Masters and Doctorate degrees.</li> </ul>