

## ADF NURSES INFORMATION

### NEWSLETTER - June 2004

The Directorate has been extremely busy over the last 6 months. "The Nursing Officer's Career Structure" has been endorsed by DPE and will be passed onto Single Service Heads for endorsement following the presentation at the Professional Steering Committee (PSG) 20 July 04. The Nursing Forum in November has been extended to 3 days and Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir, the Governor of NSW has accepted our invitation to open the Forum. The Military Nurse Practitioner project is gaining momentum and is on a par with State Registration Authorities. The Credentialling Database is near completion but needs your assistance. DDFN has presented at several conferences and has been invited to Canada to celebrate the centenary of the Canadian Nursing Service. With the increased operational tempo of the ADF many of our ADF nursing colleagues continue to serve in Australia and overseas.

#### THE ADF NURSING OFFICER'S FORUM

Preparations for the Forum are progressing at a hectic pace and the theme is "Collaborative Practices". The Forum has been extended to 3 days, Wed 10 to Fri 12 November, due to the many expressions of interest, in fact we have arranged concurrent sessions within R1 (Russell Offices) for that very reason. The call for abstracts has been sent out and your unit will receive them soon, copy enclosed. As mentioned the Governor of NSW has accepted our invitation to open the Forum which we are very pleased about. The Venue will be at the R1 Theatre, Russell Offices, ACT and the Dinner will be at the ADFA Officers Mess Wednesday 10 November. Costings have not been exacted yet as we are negotiating sponsorship for the Dinner but we anticipate it will be similar costings to last year. Personnel are advised to book their accommodation at respective defence messes within the Canberra region early as these will fill. Thursday night has been left free for colleagues to enjoy as they see fit.

3rd AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE NURSING OFFICERS FORUM

## ***COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE***

10 - 12 NOVEMBER 2004

R1 THEATRETTE  
RUSSELL OFFICES, CANBERRA

“Collaborative Practice in action”



The Director of Defence Force Nursing is convening the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Defence Force Nursing Officers Forum on 10, 11 & 12 November 2004. **This is a preliminary notice and a call for abstracts.**

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS.**

The deadline for the receipt of abstracts is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2004. The abstract should if possible have some affiliation to the forum theme “Collaborative Practice”, but all submitted abstracts will be considered. The text must be no more than 250 words, highlighting the main points to be communicated, and include a presenter profile. Applicants will be notified if their abstract has been accepted by 15<sup>th</sup> October 2004. Abstracts and expressions of interest to attend the Forum can be submitted by Email to [robin.barrett@defence.gov.au](mailto:robin.barrett@defence.gov.au) or [david.collins3@defence.gov.au](mailto:david.collins3@defence.gov.au)

**Surface mail, (please include a copy on disk)**

LEUT Robin Barrett

SO3 Nursing Projects

CP2-7-011

Campbell Park Offices

Department of Defence, ACT 2600

Ph (02) 6266 4001

## ADF NURSING OFFICER CAREER STRUCTURE

The career structure project continues to move forward. The project team together with the DGDHS recently briefed FASPERS who has expressed support for the initiatives. The next significant step of the project is a conceptual presentation to the Personnel Steering Group (PSG). In June and July members of the project team will be travelling to Sydney, Brisbane, Townsville and Darwin in order to brief ADF Nursing Officers on the details of the proposals. Travel dates and locations will be available on the DHS website.

## CREDENTIALLING

The Credentialling database has come about as a result of changing requirements of Nursing Registration Boards around the country. We are now required to document evidence of Nursing Officer competencies in the form of regular clinical assessments and continuing education. The ADF Nursing Officer Credentialling Database has been initiated to comply with Nursing Registration requirements however, only 60% of personnel have responded to DDFN request for completed form PM 522-1. The form is available on Webforms and it can be emailed to SO3 Nursing Projects, [robin.barrett@defence.gov.au](mailto:robin.barrett@defence.gov.au) or sent through the mail to DDFN at Campbell Park Offices, Canberra.

## PROFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO

A Professional Portfolio is a comprehensive account of your current state of practice, background, skills, expertise and professional development plan. It consists of your CV, Professional or Reflective Journal and any other supporting information. Your Journal should provide evidence that you are meeting your Competency Standards in your everyday practice. Our ADF Core and Specialist Nurse Competencies are located on our Web page and our Advance Practice Nurse competencies are based on Australian Nursing Federation guidelines.

New Entry Military Nursing Officers will undergo a suite of courses to achieve the ADF core competencies including the Field Nursing Course which has been rewritten to align with the core competencies. However it is up to you to negotiate with your supervisor the maintenance of your competencies. The General Military Nursing Officer would base their practice on the Core Competencies however if you are working at an Advanced Practice Military Nursing Officer level you would base your Professional Journal on The Advance Practice Nurse competencies.

The Nursing Officer Professional Portfolio Folder, PM 522 is available by ordering through your unit, stock number 7510 66 151 7281. SO3 has ordered a small number, which are available for those who do not have access to the defence stores system.

## MILITARY NURSE PRACTITIONER

The Defence Health Service (DHS) Steering Committee approved the concept of the Military Nurse Practitioner (MNP) in November 2001. This followed ADF participation in the ACT Nurse Practitioner Trial conducted during 2001, this trial showed that there was a definite role for the MNP based on a model of primary care with the possibility of Specialist models being considered at a later date.

The Primary Care Military Nurse Practitioner Model can be described as an advanced practice "specialist generalist" nurse with additional specific military nursing skills. Knowledge and practice of advanced life support and extended practice skills are gained as part of the nursing officer's role in the ADF within the first 12 months of service. The primary care MNP model is an extension and recognition of care provided by many ADF skilled nursing officers. The primary care MNP will operate within a framework, which encompasses health promotion, health screening and prevention including treatment of minor illness and injuries, immunization programs and advanced life support in emergency situations

The MNP will provide health care to the ADF individuals within the ADF community within established guidelines of advanced practice and

utilizing policy and protocols developed collaboratively with medical and allied health professionals. Within these guidelines the MNP will provide health care within an ethical framework through assessment, diagnosis and management of health problems to persons within the ADF who seek their care in an environment that may be complex and unpredictable.

## ADF NURSING CONSULTATIVE GROUP

The main focus of the Nursing Consultative Group has been to expand its membership and to date the group has fifty active members. Members of the group have been providing advice on a range of policy and clinical matters. The group held a national telephone conference in March this year, which was aimed at allowing members to make contact with each other and raise general matters of interest within the group.

Members of the group recently provided invaluable input into the Nurse Practitioner Focus Group, held at DHS in Canberra, and the group also provided comment and reviews of clinical care pathways and draft Health Directives. Future activity for the group will be a meeting to coincide with the ADF Nursing Officer Forum in November.

## HEALTH DIRECTIVES

**HD 502** "Standards of Nursing Care - Operating Theatre" has been replaced by ACORN Standards and units are encouraged to obtain this publication from ACORN for accreditation purposes.

The reviewed **HD 505** "Management of Drugs by Nursing Officers" will be presented to the DHS Steering Committee in August 2004.

The revised **HD 506** "Extended Roles for Nursing Officers" has been presented to and endorsed by the DHS Steering Committee.

**HD XXX** "Core Competency Standards for ADF Nursing Officers" is currently being reviewed out of session and the Scope of Practice will be the next HD to be reviewed.

## CONFERENCES

COL Wright, SO1 Nursing Projects and SO3 attended the recent Asia Pacific Military Medicine Conference in Brisbane where we met and discussed professional issues as well as entertained Nurses from US Army Nursing Corps and the New Zealand Nursing Corps. We celebrated International Nurses Day at breakfast with our overseas colleagues and attended the Forth Nursing Oration at Princess Alexandra Hospital later that evening. The Orator was Professor Judy Lumby, Executive Director of the College of Nursing in NSW. Professor Lumby will also be a Keynote speaker at the ADF Nursing Officers Forum in November.

The AMMA Conference will be in Canberra 23 October and many other conferences around the country, too numerous to mention here, are available to Nursing Officers. Details have been sent through respective Nursing Service Heads and hard copies have been archived by SO3.

## EDUCATION

You should all be aware that the ADF Health Facilities Clinical Practice Manual published by the Joanna Briggs Institute in Adelaide has replaced the ADFP 706 Nursing Procedure Manual. Ref; Para 2 of JHSA Minute 1790/02 dated 28 Oct 2002 states that "Hard copy manuals and CD-ROMs have been distributed to ADF health facilities by JHSA. ADF staff can also access current developments from the JBI website at: <http://www.joannabriggs.edu.au> . The username for the members' section is: DEFENCE, and the password is: DEFENCE." Recent enquires have prompted me to encourage all units to access or acquire a copy of this manual as part of their accreditation preparations.

We are always looking for photos and news from ADF Nursing Officers for inclusion into the newsletter. We want to hear your story whether you present it at a conference or send us a note telling the Nursing world what you have been doing. We would love to hear from you.

DDFN hosted the Canberra book launch of "Tears on my Pillow" written by Narelle Beiderman, an ex RAANC Nursing Officer, about Nursing in Vietnam.

## DDFN MOVEMENTS

DDFN will be attending and presenting at the XXXV International Congress on Military Medicine, Arlington, Virginia, USA 12-17 Sep 04 and the OPMED 2004 Conference in Canada 26-30 September 04.

This year has provided the opportunity for ADF nursing to continue to advance the profession of nursing.

## OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENTS

Nursing Officers have been Operationally active in the Solomon Islands, Timor, the MEAO and the Island of Nui over the last 6 months.

## EXERCISES

Nursing Officers continue to play an important role in exercises within the ADF. Nursing Officers participated in EX Crocodile where they served in XCMRCG headquarters coordinating real medical emergencies, rotary wing aeromedical evacuation, fixed wing aeromedical evacuation, field hospital and air transportable hospitals next to airfields. They nursed patients with a melieu of complaints from MVA to snakebite to paratroopers hanging 30m upside down in a tree. Such activities provide good training opportunities as well as the ability to network and exercise collaborative teamwork between nations, Services and units.

EX Sea Eagle was conducted off the Queensland coast during May 04. This exercise provided the opportunity to shake out HMAS KANIMBLA'S PCRF which provided the opportunity to test the set up and the PCRF capability since its last deployments to the Arabian Gulf.