UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES
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Month, Day Year

Deborah Trautman, President and Chief Executive Officer
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Dr. Trautman:

The Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing is immensely proud of its operational healthcare curriculum to train our military students for the deployed environment. We have developed this innovative curriculum to meet the unique needs of educating our military advanced practice nurses for practice in austere environments. This curriculum is integrated within our existing APRN programs of study. Please accept this nomination letter for the 2020 AACN Innovations in Professional Nursing Education in the Academic Health Centers (AHC) category.

Carol A. Romano

Dr. Carol Romano, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor

Enclosure

Project Title: Operational Healthcare Curriculum: Training Military Students for the Deployed Environment

For nearly two decades, the U.S. military has been involved in global conflict where the paradigm for operational medicine has evolved to meet the asymmetric nature of the battlefield. In parallel with this evolution on the battlefield, the role of the military nurse continues to evolve. Military nurses now serve far forward with direct action forces, in civil affairs units and on elite mobile surgical teams. Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) are deploying more often and in greater numbers than any other time in history. Many deployed APRNs immediately find themselves assuming a greater scope of practice and facing demands not typically encountered in their peacetime role in the resource rich U.S. healthcare system.

Nursing care in the operational military setting is different from civilian practice. To meet these new challenges the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing (GSN) has developed an innovative, interdisciplinary operational military healthcare curriculum integrated into the APRN program of study, designed to prepare its graduates for independent practice in operational environments. The elective experiences are integrated in each APRN specialty and conducted alongside USU medical students and other military healthcare team members (Special Forces combat medics).

Demonstrates advancement of professional nursing education consistent with AACN's mission and vision and Involves interdisciplinary teams of faculty

GSN APRN students may choose from a variety of operational experiences to augment the development of their operational clinical practice. Three courses are conducted with collaboration among the GSN, School of Medicine (SOM), and partner Department of Defense faculty.

The Military Mountain Medicine Course (M3C) is conducted at either Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Mt. Rainer, WA & Camp Ethan Allan, Jericho, VT. M3C is offered 4 times per year and is 10 days in length. The course is designed with didactic and practical exercises that integrate operational medicine with tactical skills like mountaineering, map reading, avalanche basics, patient transport and more. The practical training experiences are in a wilderness setting: climbing in the Green Mountains

of Vermont or the Cascades of Washington State. The course provides the opportunity for students to obtain the internationally respected DiMM (International diploma of mountain medicine), as well as credit towards the Wilderness Medical Society Fellowship in the Academy of Wilderness Medicine (FAWM).

The Cold Weather Medicine & Avalanche Course is conducted at the Army Mountain Warfare School Camp Ethan Allan, Jericho, VT. The course requires the completion of MC3 to attend, is offered 2 times per year and is 10 days in length. This course provides advanced cold weather and mountain training with an emphasis in casualty care and evacuation. The curriculum includes an introduction to avalanche terrain and navigations, snow pits, casualty care, patient packaging and transport and high-angle rescue.

The Dive Medicine Course is conducted at the U.S. Army Special Forces Dive School, Key West FL. This 10-day course is designed to introduce the learner to Dive and Marine Medicine as well as Water Rescue. The training includes didactic and practical exercises to enhance the learner's ability to medically perform in the austere environment. Students become open water, advanced open water and water rescue dive certified and learn to evaluate, prevent and manage the full spectrum of diving related injuries.

A syllabi, course objectives, didactic classes, clinical experiences and evaluation criteria for performance are included for each course. Academic credit is awarded for each of these courses.

Evidence of Execution and Sustainability

Since 2016, 348 participants from the GSN, SOM, and DoD have attended the operational curriculum. It is not uncommon for GSN alumni to deploy shortly after graduation – our alumni benefit from this curriculum. For instance, LT O'Driscoll, class of 2017, served as the sole anesthesia provider for 7700 service members in a carrier strike group. LT Greene, class of 2018, was the sole anesthesia provider to multiple sites in the Middle East and Europe, managing 150 trauma cases and 26 resuscitation cases. LT Pendry, class of 2019, was the sole anesthetist forward deployed in the Middle East her first summer after graduation.

Potential for replication and dissemination

2019 Parrott, J. & Taylor, L.A. The Individual Readiness Model: A Training Paradigm. AMSUS annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. (Dec 2019). Refereed, Poster.

D'Angelo, M. R., Seibert, D., Welder, M. D., Cervero, R. M., Durning, S. J. Decoding Readiness: Towards a Ready Military Healthcare Force. *Military Medicine*. pii: 5299195. doi: 10.1093/milmed/usy419.

D'Angelo, M.R., Seibert, D., Wanzer, L., Johnson, H., Alguire, K., Dillon, D., Welder, M.D. and Romano, C. (2019). Operational readiness: Redesigning Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) curriculum for an evolving battlefield. *Military Medicine*, *184* (3-4), e156–e162, https://doi.org/10.1093/milmed/usy269.

Wanzer, L., Oliver, J., Rodriguez, J., Bradley, D. & Taylor, L.A. (2019). Impact of the CNS on the transformation of Military Healthcare from bedside to battlefield. *Journal of Clinical Nurse Specialist*, *33* (6): 247-249. doi: 10.1097/01.NUR.0000604200.03201.6d.