OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

JUN 09 2009

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed report is submitted in response to the Joint Explanatory Statement for H.R. 2638, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009, that requests the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs (ASD(HA)), in conjunction with the Services Surgeons General and the Nursing Corps Chiefs, to report the number and topic areas of research proposals submitted and funded. It also requests that the ASD(HA) provide a detailed accounting of the entire program, to include administrative costs, overhead, and travel.

The Department of Defense has been urged to include the $6,400,000 for the Tri-Service Nursing Research Program in future budget requests, and has done so in the request for Fiscal Year 2010. This program provides funding for peer-reviewed research studies conducted by Active-Duty and Reserve military nurses on topics of military nursing that might not be competitive in other funding venues.

We are pleased to provide you with this report, which includes the program's mission, goals, background information, program management, the 2009 fund expenditure plan, and the proposals that have been submitted and funded. Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System.

Sincerely,

Ellen P. Embrey

Ellen P. Embrey
Performing the Duties of the
Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Health Affairs)

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

The Honorable Ben Nelson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

JUN 09 2009

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The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
Ranking Member

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

The Honorable Ike Skelton
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

JUN 09 2009

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cc:
The Honorable John M. McHugh
Ranking Member

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

The Honorable Susan Davis
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Military Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

JUN 09 2009

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

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cc:
The Honorable Joe Wilson
Ranking Member

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

The Honorable John P. Murtha
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

JUN 09 2009

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Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Health Affairs)

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable C.W. Bill Young
Ranking Member

The TriService Nursing Research Program

A Joint Program under the Leadership of the Chief of the Army Nurse Corps, the Director of the Navy Nurse Corps, and the Air Force Assistant Surgeon General for Medical Force Development and Assistant Surgeon General for Nursing Services

Deborah J. Kenny, LTC, AN, USA, Executive Director

Mission: **To facilitate nursing research to optimize the health of military members and their beneficiaries.**

Goals:

1) Expand the Cadre of nursing research;
2) Expand the breadth and depth of the nursing research portfolio by encouraging and funding programs of research in TSNRP's focused areas of investigation

- *Promote research in:*
  - ***Force Health Protection***
    - ***Fit & Ready force; Deploy with and Care for Warriors, Care for all entrusted to our care***
  - ***Nursing Competencies and Practice***
    - ***Patient outcomes, quality and safety; Translate research into practice/Evidence-Based Practice; Clinical Excellence; Knowledge management, education and training***
  - ***Leadership, Ethics and Mentoring***
    - ***Health Policy; Recruitment and retention; Preparing tomorrow's leaders; Care of the caregiver***
- *Support a range of studies encompassing new investigators through large-scale, multi-site studies*
- *Promote projects addressing the translation of knowledge and research findings into evidence-based practices in a military context;*

3) Foster partnerships for collaborative research;
4) Provide an infrastructure to stimulate and support nursing research and Evidence-Based Practice.

Background:

Congress established the TriService Nursing Research Program (TSNRP) in 1992 and tasked the TSNRP to "support research conducted by military nurses" (S.R. 107-732). The TSNRP was authorized as part of the Department of Defense Health Care Program and established at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) in 1996 for regulatory and fiduciary oversight (Chapter 104, Title 10, U.S. Code, as amended). The TSNRP is under the leadership of the Chief of the Army Nurse Corps, the Director of the Navy Nurse Corps, and the Assistant Surgeon General of the Air Force Nurse Corps. Through continuing investment of resources, guidance from Federal and private sector nursing leaders and support from the Congress, TSNRP research has yielded valuable outcomes as military nurse investigators have successfully initiated efforts to expand the scientific foundation of military nursing into the patient care environment.

Program Management:

- Current infrastructure is based on 1996 Institutes of Medicine (IOM) Report titled, "The Program of Research for Military Nursing"

- Proposal Review is three-tiered; 1) Scientific Review, 2) Programmatic Review, 3) Executive Board of Directors Review.
- Since being established in 1992, TSNRP has funded >$60.1M in research grants. 52.7% of the monies have gone to active duty nurse researchers and graduate students, 28.6% to active reservists across the country; 16.9% to retired military nurses in university settings; and 1.8% to active National Guard members.
- Approximately 303 of 799 submitted applications have been funded for a 38% overall funding rate. More than 650 military nurses have participated in TSNRP supported research teams.
- TSNRP provides a mandatory Post-Award Grant Management Workshop to all Principal Investigators to provide regulatory information on conducting studies and managing grants.
- Investigators have published in over 90 peer-reviewed multidisciplinary healthcare journals and disseminated their research findings via posters and presentations at national and international healthcare and specialty conferences.
- Each service is provided an updated book of all current funded studies, organized by service.

Resource Center:

- TSNRP is committed to providing opportunities for development of researchers through the following offerings: Grant Camps I and II, Evidence-Based Practice Grant Camps, Advanced Researcher Forum, Novice Researcher Development Course, Publication Workshop and various other educational offerings.
- TSNRP provides resources and infrastructure for Evidence-Based Practice initiatives.
- TSNRP provides support for Pacific Nursing Research Conference, AMSUS and Phyllis J. Verhonick Nursing Research Course
- TSNRP provides outreach to local, regional, and international nursing research conferences

Proposed 2009 Fund Expenditure Plan

Personnel	**$569,438.00**
Travel**	**$350,000.00**
Supplies	**$12,638.00**
Pre-award	**$12,500.00**
Post-Award	**$25,640.00**
Outreach	**$149,085.00**
Equipment	**$10,000.00**
Rent/Other	**$16,118.00**
Education	**$92,075.00**
Indirect Costs	**$169,462.00**
Grants	**$4,801,044.00**
USUHS Support Cost Recovery	**$192,000.00**
TOTAL	**$6,400,000.00**

**Travel includes bringing in scientific and programmatic reviewers, sponsorship of investigators to TSNRP educational offerings and to disseminate findings at research conferences

2007-2009 Proposals Submitted and Funded

2007 Proposals
- 34 submitted
- 5 FY07 funded with FY08 funds (due to no FY07 funding); $414,198.00
- Topic areas funded: Stress, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder vs. Mild Traumatic Brain Injury, Evidence-Based Practice, Use of Dopamine for shock

2008A Proposals
- 13 submitted (1 rejected for formatting)
- 5 funded; $1,960,710.00
- Topic areas funded: Health Disparity, Women's Health, Treatment for shock and lung preservation, Deployment Health, Amputee Care

2008B Proposals
- 12 submitted
- 6 funded; $1,167, 947.00
- Topic Areas: Nursing Competency, Women's Health, Deployment and Coping, Tobacco Cessation

2008C Proposals
- 3 submitted (1 withdrawn)
- 1 funded; $153,213.00
- Topic Area: Evidence-Based Practice for falls and pressure ulcers

2009A Proposals
- 10 submitted (1 withdrawn)
- 4 funded; $826,661.00
- Topic Areas: Evidence-Based Practice for oral care, triage decision-making, antimicrobial efficacy of silver nanoparticle gel, hemostatic agent efficacy in hypothermia

2009B Proposals
- 14 submitted
- Scientific Review Pending
- Topic areas: Women's health, family caregiver stress, Nurse Corps retention, nursing competencies and performance

2009C Proposals
- Due 26 May 2009

2007/2008 Funded Studies

N08-701 CDR Reasor, James $119,871.00
The Effectiveness of Stress Inoculation Training with Military Personnel Deployed

N08-702 LCDR Dennis Spence $10,224.00
Individual Difference in HPA and SAM Axis in Students Attending BESS

N08-703 CAPT Linnea Axman $119,720.00
Development of the Evidence-Based Protocol: Back to Basics Bundle of Nursing Care

N08-704 COL Gaylord, Kathyn $119,779.00
Comparison of PTSD and Mild TBI in Burned Military Service Members

N08-705 CPT Bentley, Michael $44,604.00
Diazoxide as a Neuroprotective Element for Fluid Resuscitation

N08-001 Maj Hatzfeld, Jennifer $11,562.00
Assessing Health Disparities in the Air Force

N08-003 Col (Ret) Talbot, Laura $599,972.00
Strength, Pain and Function in OIF/OEF Amputees: A Nurse Managed Program

N08-007 Col (Ret) Pierce, Penny $449,195.00
US Army Deployment Resilience and Retention: WAVE II

N08-010 LTC (Ret) Ryan-Wenger, Nancy $449,981.00
A Trial to Maximize the Accuracy of Military Women's GU Deployed Settings 2008

N08-012 CAPT Pierce, Janet $450,000.00
Lung and Diaphragm Damage at Varying Oxygen Levels and Ventilator Modes Post Hemorrhagic Shock

N08-P02 Maj Candy Wilson $141,422.00
Military Women's Health and Illness behaviors in Deployed Settings

N08-P04 CDR (Ret) Zangaro, George $238,452.00
Army Nurses' Experiences as Faculty and Students' Perceptions of Military Nurses

N08-P07 MAJ Garner, Betty $17,802.00
Sleep Disturbances in U.S. Army Soldiers after Deployment to Afghanistan and Iraq

N08-P10 Col (Ret) Ross, Mary Candace $245,476.00
Impact of AF Nursing Retention Completion Phase

N08-P11 CAPT Kelley, Patricia $499,986.00
Clinical Knowledge Development: Continuity of Care for War Injured Service Member

N08-P12 MAJ Rivers, Felicia $ 24,809.00
Military Nurses' Experiences in Disaster Response

N08-C03 2 LT Yokoyama, Christine $153,213.00
Evaluating Evidence-Based Interventions to Prevent Falls and Pressure Ulcers