THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUL 25 2008

The Honorable John P. Murtha
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6018

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed report responds to the request in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08), Conference Report 110-434, that the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Service Surgeons General and the Nursing Corps Chiefs shall submit to Congress by April 25, 2008 a report describing the operation of the TriService Nursing Research Program. The report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

1) The number and topic areas of research proposals submitted and funded; and

2) A detailed accounting of the entire program, to include administrative costs, overhead and travel.

The report includes a brief description of the TriService Nursing Research Program; an explanation of the FY08 budget expenditures; studies funded with FY08 monies; and a list of representative studies with outcomes relevant to military healthcare.

Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System.

Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Enclosure:
As stated

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

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUL 25 2008

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6015

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed report responds to the request in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08), Conference Report 110-434, that the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Service Surgeons General and the Nursing Corps Chiefs shall submit to Congress by April 25, 2008 a report describing the operation of the TriService Nursing Research Program. The report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUL 25 2008

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6028

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed report responds to the request in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08), Conference Report 110-434, that the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Service Surgeons General and the Nursing Corps Chiefs shall submit to Congress by April 25, 2008 a report describing the operation of the TriService Nursing Research Program. The report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

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S. Ward Casscells, MD

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Ted Stevens
Ranking Member

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUL 25 2008

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6025

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed report responds to the request in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08), Conference Report 110-434, that the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Service Surgeons General and the Nursing Corps Chiefs shall submit to Congress by April 25, 2008 a report describing the operation of the TriService Nursing Research Program. The report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUL 25 2008

The Honorable Susan Davis
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Military Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6035

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

The enclosed report responds to the request in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08), Conference Report 110-434, that the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Service Surgeons General and the Nursing Corps Chiefs shall submit to Congress by April 25, 2008 a report describing the operation of the TriService Nursing Research Program. The report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable John M. McHugh
Ranking Member

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUL 25 2008

The Honorable Ike Skelton
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6035

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed report responds to the request in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08), Conference Report 110-434, that the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Service Surgeons General and the Nursing Corps Chiefs shall submit to Congress by April 25, 2008 a report describing the operation of the TriService Nursing Research Program. The report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Duncan Hunter
Ranking Member

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUL 25 2008

The Honorable Ben Nelson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed report responds to the request in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08), Conference Report 110-434, that the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Service Surgeons General and the Nursing Corps Chiefs shall submit to Congress by April 25, 2008 a report describing the operation of the TriService Nursing Research Program. The report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

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S. Ward Casscells, MD

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
Ranking Member

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUL 25 2008

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed report responds to the request in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08), Conference Report 110-434, that the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Service Surgeons General and the Nursing Corps Chiefs shall submit to Congress by April 25, 2008 a report describing the operation of the TriService Nursing Research Program. The report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable John McCain
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 Assistant Surgeon General of the Air Force for Nursing Services

Mission: **To provide resources for the conduct and use of research to foster excellence in military nursing care.**

Goals:
1) Increase the military nursing research capacity by providing opportunities for nurses to engage in military nursing research;
2) Expand the breadth and depth of the nursing research portfolio by encouraging and funding programs of research in the TriService Nursing Research Program's (TSNRP) focused areas of investigation:

- ***Military Deployment Health***
- ***Generating and Translating Knowledge/Research Findings into Practice in a Military Context***
- ***Recruitment and Retention of the Military Nursing Workforce***
- ***Developing and Sustaining Military Nursing Competencies***

3) Develop partnerships for collaborative research among the Services and their components, institutions, disciplines and agencies; and
4) Build an infrastructure to stimulate and support military nursing research and provide resources to support the exploration of salient military nursing research issues.

Background:

Congress established the TSNRP in 1992 and tasked the program 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 Executive Board of Directors of the TSNRP consists 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 begun to yield valuable results as military nurse investigators have successfully initiated efforts to expand the scientific foundation of military nursing into the patient care environment.

Program Management:

The current infrastructure of the TSNRP is based on recommendations from a commissioned 1996 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report titled "The Program of Research for Military Nursing." Grant proposals undergo a rigorous three-tiered review, consisting of: 1) Scientific Review by prominent civilian and military nurse researchers; 2)

Programmatic Review by military nurse researchers from the Army, Navy, and Air Force; and 3) Executive Board of Directors Review. Since being established in 1992, TSNRP has funded over $52.5M in research grants; approximately 55% of funding has been awarded to active duty military nurse researchers and 45% awarded to Universities to support eligible retired military nurses and active duty graduate students. Approximately 300 of 775 submitted applications have been funded for a 39% overall funding rate. More than 625 military nurses have participated in TSNRP support research teams.

TSNRP provides a Post-Award Grant Management Workshop to all Principal Investigators to provide regulatory information on conducting studies and managing grants. Dissemination of research through presentation and publication is an expectation of all funded researchers. This has resulted in publication in over 90 peer-reviewed nursing and multidisciplinary healthcare journals and dissemination at multiple national and international healthcare conferences.

Resource Center:

TSNRP established the Resource Center for Excellence in Nursing (Resource Center) in 1999 to strengthen and expand the capacity of military nursing research. The primary function of the Resource Center is to provide support and resources to nurse clinicians, nurse researchers, and policymakers in support of military nursing research. The center offers several annual courses and workshops, to include Grant Camp I and II, Advanced Grant Camp, Novice Researcher Development Course and Publication Workshop; provides resources and infrastructure for Evidence-Based Practice initiatives; provides support for Pacific Nursing Research Conference, American Military Surgeons of the U. S. (AMSUS) and the biennial Phyllis J. Verhonick Nursing Research Course; and provides outreach to local, regional, and international nursing research conferences

Proposed 2008 Fund Expenditure Plan
Overall Budget

TSNRP FY08 Budget	
Travel	$82,000.00
Rent	$66,000.00
Contract Services**	$2,365,990.00
Supplies	$30,000.00
Equipment	$15,000.00
Grants	$3,400,000.00
USUHS Support Cost Recovery	$192,000.00
Corps Chief Directed Projects	$249,010.00
Total	**$6,400,000.00**

***Contract Services*

	Grants Management Contract		Resource Center Contract	
	2007-2008	2008-2009	2007-2008	2008-2009
Personnel	$414,148.00	$430,000.00	$142,000.00	$180,000.00
Travel/Conference Registrations	$15,300.00	$20,000.00	$97,000.00	$110,000.00
Supplies	$9,500.00	$10,000.00	$16,500.00	$16,500.00
Pre-award activities (Scientific Review)	$16,700.00	$17,000.00		
Post-award activities (Investigator Training)	$14,400.00	$15,000.00		
Outreach (Newsletters, web, brochures)	$83,700.00	$85,000.00		
Other (Publication Contracts, Data software, Service Contracts)			$87,000.00	$80,000.00
Education			$86,000.00	$40,000.00
Direct Costs	$553,748.00	$577,000.00	$428,500.00	$426,500.00
Indirect costs (GM = 0.21)	116,287.08	121,170.00		
Indirect costs (RC = 0.167)			$71,559.50	$71,225.50
Yearly Total	$670,035.08	$698,170.00	$500,059.50	$497,725.50
	Total	**$1,368,205.08**	**Total**	**$997,785.00**
	Total for Both Contracts			**$2,365,990.08**

Expenditure Justification

TSNRP did not receive funding for FY07. The program maintained its current level of program management through its two contracts for program management and the Resource Center. These two contracts were written to cross Fiscal Years to enable the program to continue to function should it encounter years of no congressional funding. FY08 funding covers contractual cost for 2007-2008 and 2008-2009, thus the above contract figures actually reflect two years of overhead and management cost. Actual contract expenditures are approximately $1.1M - $1.2M per year.

The contract for grants management includes all aspects of assisting investigators to manage their research, from inception to final close-out reports. Also included in this contract is the post-award workshop, maintenance of the TSNRP website, publication of

brochures and newsletters, honoraria for scientific reviewers and assistance with public affairs clearances for dissemination efforts. Indirect costs for this contract are 21%.

The Resource Center contract includes traveling faculty and students to TSRNP hosted workshops and seminars, co-sponsoring traveling TSNRP funded speakers to military nursing research conferences (Pacific Nursing Research Conference, Phyllis J. Verhonick Nursing Research Conference) and the annual AMSUS conference. It also includes support for development of active duty military nurse researchers in research methods and in translating evidence to practice. Indirect costs for this contract are 16.7%.

The overall TSNRP budget includes the above contracts, traveling scientific and programmatic reviewers biannually to review research proposals, funding scientifically sound grants that mesh with TSNRP research priorities, and general office overhead. At times, there are extra available funds for which the Army, Navy and Air Force Nursing Corps Chiefs are able to institute "quick turn around" or "immediate hot item" projects needing investigation and/or intervention. This year, it is anticipated there will be approximately $250,000 available for such projects and the nature of the projects will be discussed at the next Executive Board of Directors Meeting in June.

FY2008 Grant Funding

2007 Proposals

- 24 submitted
- 5 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; and Use of Dopamine for shock

2008A Proposals

- 13 submitted (1 rejected for formatting)
- 5 funded; $1,861,513.00
- Topic areas funded: Health disparity; Women's health; Treatment for shock and lung preservation; Deployment health; and Amputee care

2008B Proposals

- 12 submitted
- Funding Decision pending (anticipated funding ~$1,124,289.00)
- Topic Areas: Nursing competency and knowledge development; Nurse recruitment and retention; Women's health; Deployment and coping; and Health promotion

Selected Funded Studies and Outcomes

- **COL Kathryn Gaylord - USA**
  - ***A Comparison of PTSD and Mild TBI in Burned Military Service Members (2008)***
  - **Study just beginning**
    - Will examine symptomatology of both Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Mild Traumatic Brain Injury to determine overlap and enhance diagnosis.
- **MAJ (ret) Mary McCarthy - USA**
  - ***The Impact of Sweat Calcium Loss on Bone Health in Soldiers: A Pilot Study (2006)***
  - **Study ongoing**
    - Addresses an important question to add to knowledge of bone health and frequency of stress fracture in soldier populations.
- **LtCol Marla DeJong - USAF**
  - ***Accuracy and Precision of Buccal Pulse Oximetry (2006)***
  - **Study Ongoing**
    - Potential for policy change measuring pulse oximetry in soldiers with extremity trauma.
- **COL Eileen Hemmen - USA**
  - ***Evaluation of the Combat Medic Skills Validation Test (2003)***
  - **Study Completed** – The aim of the study was to describe the psychometric properties of the Semi-Annual Combat Medical Skills Validation TEST (SACMS-VT).
  - **Outcomes**
    - Study results incorporated into new policy for training and testing of Combat Medics at Army Medical Department Center and School. Focus is now on intensive training and re-validation of specific critical skills rather than on every skill a combat medic must know.
- **Col Liz Bridges - USAFR**
  - ***Wartime Critical Care Air Transport (2004)***
  - **Study ongoing** - Assessing and tracking quality of documentation of patient care from point of injury to fixed facility.
  - **Outcomes**
    - Expected to provide basis and recommendations for seamless multidisciplinary documentation of injured soldiers during transport.
  - ***Nursing Battlefield and Disaster Pocket Guide Project (2006)***
  - **Project near completion** - Developed Evidence-Based Guidebook for deployment competencies for critical care. Evidence for Critical Care Air

Transport Teams derived from TSNRP studies. Other evidence for filed guide procedures derived from current literature.

- **Outcomes**
  - **Pocket Guide** Currently in press; 7500 guidebooks to be printed and distributed by August 2008.
  - Have received multiple requests from civilian agencies for copies of the pocket guide for their use.

- **LtCol (ret) Teresa Dremsa - USAF**
  - ***Critical Care Air Transport Teams (CCATT) Nurses' Deployed Experiences (2003)***
  - **Study Completed** – Study designed to describe CCATT Nurses' experiences in caring for soldiers during air transport.
  - **Outcomes**
    - Wilford Hall Medical Center has implemented pre- and post-deployment stress briefings with a brochure developed from data collected in this study.

- **COL Laura Brosch and COL Pat Patrician - USA**
  - ***The Military Nursing Outcomes Database (MilNOD III & IV) (2002 & 2003)***
  - **Study ongoing** - Collecting nurse-sensitive nurse outcomes data from Army, Navy and Air Force MTFs. Analysis expected to correlate staffing levels with outcomes indicators.
  - **Outcomes**
    - Large, multi-center database of variables affecting nurse-sensitive outcome indicators
    - U.S. Army Medical Command will continue funding for the project once the grant is completed.
    - Military nursing PhD students are using data from this study for secondary analysis.

- **CAPT Patricia Kelley - USN**
  - ***Evidence-Based Practice Center Grant (2002)***
  - **Study completed** - Provides training to nurses and funded initiatives from multiple military MTFs to translate evidence to practice.
  - **Outcomes**
    - 6 guidelines developed in the National Capital Area (Walter Reed Army Medical Center and National Naval Medical Center).
    - Collaborative Ventilator Acquired Pneumonia Prevention Program in San Antonio area.
    - 14 unit-based guidelines developed at Tripler Army Medical Center.
    - New Evidence-Based Practice Grant Category.
    - Supplemental Issue to the journal "Nursing Research" due out Spring 2009.

- **CAPT (ret) Reg Williams - USN**
  - ***STARS Project: Strategies to Assist Navy Recruit Success (2001)***
  - **Outcomes**
    - BOOT STRAP Intervention changed the policy of how Commanders approached recruits. Currently the atmosphere is less punitive and uses a more coaching nature. Educational materials on stress management are distributed to new recruits.
    - The number of recruits separated from the Navy (sent home before completing basic training) reduced from a high of nearly 30% to <15%.
- **CAPT Catherine Cox - USNR**
  - ***The Lived Experience of Nurses Stationed Aboard Aircraft Carriers (2000)***
  - **Outcomes**
    - Navy Nurse Corps assignments officers are no longer assigning junior nursing officers to Aircraft Carriers.
    - Navy Nurse Corps is exploring appropriate numbers of nurses to assign to carriers underway.
- **Col (ret) Penny Pierce - USAFR**
  - Developed a program of research from 1994 to present to examine effects of deployment on women.
  - **Outcomes**
    - Numerous publications in nursing and multidisciplinary journals.
    - Recent national press highlighting the strong relationship between work-family conflict and stress in women who have deployed.
    - Large database of multiple variables affecting deploying women available for secondary data analysis.
- **CAPT Janet Pierce - USNR**
  - A progressive program of bench research from 1993 to present to examine diaphragm fatigue; weaning from ventilatory support; and use of dopamine and differing concentrations of oxygen during shock to prevent lung cell death rat models.
  - **Outcomes**
    - Numerous publications in <u>multidisciplinary</u> journals.
    - Potential for standard of care changes for severely injured soldiers requiring shock support.