MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR – Maj. Chris Carter QARANC

Since our last newsletter in March, the BACCN Military Region has been busy undertaking a variety of projects which has included professional study events, developing a variety of online resources and a number of other projects which has increased the profile and development of military critical care nursing. I look forward to updating you on these work strands but before we do, I would like to introduce the new Chair of the National Board, Annette Richardson. Annette comes with a strong critical care background, she has written a short piece about her role.

We have also had a few changes within the regional committee. Capt. Debbie Harvey (Regional Treasurer) has stood down. Debbie has been an active member of the committee for a number of years undertaking the role of Industrial Liaison Rep and more recently Treasurer. During Debbie’s tenure we have seen the regional finances grow and kept on track during difficult times for the Region and the wider organisation. On behalf of the Regional Committee I would like to thank Debbie for her commitment, dedication and passion for military nursing. Debbie will remain on the faculty teaching on our Trauma Critical Care Skills Workshop.

I would finally like to welcome all our new members, and would encourage anyone who wants to get involved in the Region to contact me. We have a number of roles as Link Nurses or on the Regional Committee; it’s your chance to make a difference.

Chris Carter
C Carter
Maj
QARANC
Chair Military Region BACCN

AGM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Regional AGM will be held at the Tri-Service Critical Care Conference on 11 October 13 at the Defence Academy Shrivenham.

We are looking for members to join the Regional Committee and act as Link Members. Positions are open to all Services and Ranks. If you are interested in getting involved please contact the Chair to find out more information.
MESSAGE FROM ANNETTE RICHARDSON – NEWLY ELECTED BACCN CHAIR

I am delighted to have been elected to the position of Chair of the BACCN at this year’s AGM in September 2013. Having served on the National Board for ten years, firstly as Membership Secretary, Publicity and Web; and then as Journal Liaison for the BACCN Journal ‘Nursing in Critical Care’; I am confident this tenure has provided me with the knowledge and knowhow to oversee this prestigious critical care nursing association in the next two years.

The BACCN Chair’s role includes:

1. Providing clear vision to develop the BACCN
2. Ensuring the BACCN represents and informs the views of British critical care nursing at local, national and international level.
3. Facilitating collective critical care nursing expertise and mutual support for the membership
4. Liaises, builds and maintains collaborative relationships with relevant bodies in order to maintain the profile of BACCN

I hope to provide BACCN with the professional leadership it deserves and look forward to working in close collaboration with the BACCN National Board, BACCN regional committees, BACCN members and other critical care partners to influence the best for critical care nursing in the future.

Annette Richardson
Chair, BACCN

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE – Capt Lyn Jordan

As a region we have gained 5 new members June/July 13. Our total sits at 85.

There are also link members who are points of contact in your area of work regarding membership and any upcoming BACCN events. They are:

Katie Rushmere
Leanne Parry

Rebecca McAllister
Helen Gilchrist
If there is not a link member where you work and you would like to become one please contact lynda.jordan377@mod.uk or lynjordan02@hotmail.com

DIRECTOR OF ARMY NURSING SYMPOSIUM 2013 – Capt Lyn Jordan

DANS symposium 2013 “Return to contingency: the leadership challenge”. The key theme is the importance in developing professional practice within this area. As an organisation dedicated to professional development the British Association of Critical Care Nurses (BACCN) Award winning Military Region had a membership stand outlining how we support Military Critical Care Nurses and Health Care Support Workers (HCSW). To coincide with this theme and demonstrate the ambience of intensive care nurses in the Contingency Environment a Role 2 Light Manoeuvre (RLM) intensive care bay was set up including a ventilated, monitored manikin for authenticity.

Capt Lyn Jordan (Membership Rep) and Maj Chris Carter (Regional Chair) set up the BACCN Military Region membership stand at the Director of Army Nursing Services Conference in March 13. The things the Regional Committee go to, in order to raise the profile of critical care nursing!

BACCN MILITARY REGION COMMEMORATIVE COIN
‘Challenge’ coins are used by military units in a semi-official capacity to mark membership of a unit or denote special achievements (Mahoney, 2010). The origin of military challenge coins have been widely debated, but are believed to originate from the United States Army in World War I. Since then other countries have developed coins and area used to mark special achievements, mark presentations at military events and thank people for their contribution to military medicine (Mahoney, 2010. Municipal Coins, 2013).

The coins identify the insignia of an organisation and are a symbol of pride, respect and fellowship (Municipal Coins, 2013). Next year marks 100 years since the start of WWI and the completion of UK military operations in Afghanistan. In preparation for these events the British Association of Critical Care Nurses Military Region has had a ‘Challenge Coin’ commissioned. These limited edition coins will be used to mark the contribution civilian and military nurses have made in the development of critical care nursing and as a thank you to those who have supported the Region.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Defence Operational Nursing Competencies Explained**

The following document was recently uploaded onto the BACCN Military Region Website; we have included it in this newsletter for information.

**Nursing Competencies**

Nursing competencies are not a new concept, the former UK nursing regulator the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting (UKCC) (1999) used the term competency to ‘describe the skills and ability to practice safely and effectively without the need for direct supervision’. This reference is still used today by the current Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) (2010); however they have further identified a nurse’s competence as ‘considering the nurse’s levels of competence as a whole. It combines the skills, knowledge and attitudes, values and technical abilities that underpin safe and effective nursing practice and interventions’.
The recent Francis Inquiry (2013) has identified there is a requirement to recognise the importance of professional competencies, by recommending nurses must demonstrate in their annual learning portfolio an up to date knowledge of nursing practice and its implementation. At the end of each annual assessment, the appraisal and portfolio should be signed by the nurse as being accurate and countersigned by their appraising manager.

The Defence Operational Nursing Competencies
The Defence Operational Nursing Competencies (DONC) was introduced for all Nursing Services in 2009, using Bloom’s Taxonomy Model (DGPL, 2009).

Bloom’s Taxonomy
Bloom’s taxonomy model was first published in 1949 and since then it has evolved (Bouchard, 2011). The 1956 model consists of three domains of educational activities:
- Cognitive
- Affective
- Psychomotor

The DONC specifically uses the cognitive levels from this model; the following table outlines the level, domain and explanation of each level and taxonomy (Bloom et al, 1956).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Taxonomy</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Knowledge</td>
<td>Recall from previously learned information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Comprehension</td>
<td>Demonstrates an understanding of the meaning or purpose of previously learned information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Application</td>
<td>Use of previously learned information in novel and concrete situations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Analysis</td>
<td>Examines the underlying components of learned information and gain an understanding of their organizational structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Synthesis</td>
<td>Integrate previously learned information and its components into new concepts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>Uses definite criteria (either provided or self-created) to judge the value of other material and information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DONC Competencies are written between levels 2-4. Core competencies outline essential skills for military nurses from all nursing Services (Core & Specialist Competencies) then Service specific annexes are completed as necessary.

Assessing Competency
In order to assess competence a range of assessments can be used including:
- Direct observation of the individuals performance
- Working alongside the individual
- Reflective discussion
- Oral presentation
- Clinical simulation
- Reflective writing
- Self and peer assessment
- Portfolio of evidence
- Feedback from mentors and others

(National Education for Scotland, 2007)

Evaluation of the DONC
Currently no formal evaluation of the DONC has been conducted, however, anecdotally it is recognised these competencies provide a framework for professional development within the military nursing environment. The US military also uses competencies and recognises the patient population for military nurses is broad and subject to change, making it necessary to have a wide range of skills, which differs from civilian practice (Ross, 2010). Agazio (2010) further identifies the importance of using military specific competencies not only to prepare military nurses for their deployed nursing role but also to assist in limiting occupational stress by not being adequately prepared.

Supporting Validation
To support military nurses develop their professional portfolio and validation, the British Association of Critical Care Nurses Military Region has provided the following learning resources:

- Training courses with generic DONC cross referenced training
- Training courses with practical elements
- Self and peer assessments

These resources have been peer reviewed by both military critical care nurses and the BACCN National Professional Advisors. The self-assessments are free and can be downloaded at www.baccn.org.uk

NURSING CRITICAL CARE ALLIANCE
Back in April the BACCN national board requested feedback on the ‘Collaborating for Quality in Intensive Care Medicine’. The Military Region Committee responded to this consultation project and raised a number of points relating to military critical care nursing.

Following this report key critical care nursing organisations (BACCN, Intensive Care Society, RCN Critical Care & Inflight Nursing Forum, National Outreach Forum and the Critical Care Network National Nurse Leads) got together and formed the Nursing Critical Care Alliance.

Due to the feedback we provided in the original project, NCCA have invited a representative from the military region to join this group. Although a relatively new group, it demonstrates the strength of the Military Region and how as a collective, united group our views can be recognised.

As Chair I believe this is an honour to have representation on this forum which will shape future policy, practice and training standards. I am keen to involve more
members to the Alliance in order to share the workload and also introduce people to the wider BACCN. If anyone is interested in supporting this forum please contact the Chair.

**MILITARY CRITICAL CARE NURSING – DEVELOPING OUR EVIDENCE BASE**

This document aims to capture professional outputs from Critical Care Nurses from the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force, over the past two years in order to develop critical care nursing.

Understanding and representing military critical care nursing is a key output of the BACCN Military Region. Over the past two years the Region has grown in size with a 30% increase in membership (BACCN, 2013), won two awards, delivered a variety of study events for Military Critical Care Nurses and Health Care Assistants in the UK and abroad on deployed operations and introduced the Trauma Critical Care Skills Workshop for junior military nurses. This document not only captures these efforts, but also the efforts of other military critical care nurses and organisations that have developed the evidence base of military nursing.

It includes details of conference presentations, study events and articles published by military nurses. It is hoped this document will be updated annually and become a professional resource for both military and civilian nurses.

The Regional Committee has tried to capture all the professional presentations, study events and publications from military critical care nurses; however we recognise this may not have been possible. The second edition will be published in June 14 and we would like to include any work you have been involved in.

On behalf of the BACCN Military Region Committee I hope you find this document useful and if you would like to contribute to a future edition please contact the Regional Chair.

This document can be downloaded at:  

**FREE ONLINE RESOURCES**

In order to support professional development wherever military critical care nurses are based, the Regional Committee has developed a number of online learning resources, these include:

- Role 2 Light Manoeuvre Compac 200 Ventilator Quiz  
- Military Trauma Quiz  
- Reflective practice documents.

These resources can be used by members to undertake continuing professional development, but also use them as additional supporting information for your Defence Operational Nursing Competencies (DONC) portfolios.
We are keen to develop these resources so if you would like to contribute to a future project, please contact the Regional Chair.

**BACCN NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

The 27th BACCN National Conference will be held on 15-17 Sep 13 at Southport. The Regional Committee will be delivering the following papers:

- The Development of a Trauma Critical Care Skills Workshop
- Catastrophic Haemorrhage Workshop
- Trauma Critical Care Skills Workshop

We look forward to meeting any members who will be attending conference and in the next edition we will update you on what happened at conference.

**TRANSFER WORKSHOP**

The Transfer Workshop is progressing and we will be holding a planning at the BACCN National Conference. It is hoped this will be launched early 2014. Further details will be available on the BACCN Military Region website.

**STUDY EVENT FEEDBACK**

**Trauma Critical Care Skills Workshop**

Since launching the Workshop earlier this year, 4 courses have been delivered at:

- Fort Blockhouse, Portsmouth
- Royal Centre for Defence Medicine, Birmingham
- Merville Barracks, Colchester
- BACCN National Conference, Southport.

The aim of the course is to:

- Share knowledge and skills in order to provide a foundation knowledge of nursing the critically ill trauma patient
- Provide skills which are transferable between the military and civilian clinical environments
- Promote professional development amongst military critical care nurses

The workshop has been cross referenced with the Defence Operational Nurse Competencies which means you can use the course and reflective practice as supporting evidence for your assessments and portfolios.

Feedback has been positive and the course has evolved. For future course dates please look at the BACCN Military Region webpages.
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tri-Service Critical Care Conference

The Tri-Service Critical Care Conference will be held on 10-11 October 2013 at the Defence Academy, Shrivenham.

Please note the Trauma Critical Care Skills Workshop due to run on 9 Oct 13 has been cancelled.

RCN Defence Nursing Forum – Contingency Operations: Are we ready?

This national conference will be held at RCN HQ, London on 19-20 Mar 14. Details of the programme and booking process can be found at: http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/communities/rcn_forum_communities/defence/events

BACCN Military Region Critical Care Nursing Conference – 28-30 May 14

This conference will be our first joint conference aiming for all military nurses and Health Care Assistants involved in critical care nursing. A varied educational and social programme will be held at Fort Blockhouse, Portsmouth.

More details to follow shortly.

NEXT EDITION

The next edition will be published in March 14; if you have any items you would like included please contact the editor Chair Maj Chris Carter (chris.carter946@mod.uk) by 1 Feb 14.

Nurstoons by Carl Elbing

www.nurstoon.com
References

Defence Operational Competencies Explained


Defence Operational Nursing Competencies Core

Defence Operational Nursing Competencies – Land Annex

Defence Operational Nursing Competencies – Air Annex

DGAMS Policy Letter 05/09 Defence Operational Nursing Competencies (Land Environment)


UKCC (1999) Fitness to practice (the Peach report): The UKCC Commission for Nursing and Midwifery Education. London. UKCC


NMC (2010) Glossary


BACCN Commemorative Coin
