



Media Release
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CRDAMC celebrates progress during Nurse's Week

FORT HOOD, Texas – This week marks the 150th anniversary of Nurses' Week and Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center proudly applauds its nurses for their dedication to service and compassionate patient care.

The American Nurses Association (ANA) has established this year's theme as 'Delivering Quality and Innovation in Patient Care'.



Figure 1: 1st Lt. Melissa Waterman, a certified registered nurse anesthetist student at CRDAMC, assists a surgeon by adjusting a patient during a surgical procedure. (Photo by Kimberley Zamarripa, CRDAMC Public Affairs.)

The basis of Nurses Week is to celebrate the accomplishment of nurses throughout the year. It is based around the birthday of the founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale, Maj. Edward Walsh, Army nurse and clinical nurse officer in charge of the CRDAMC medical/surgical ward.

“Nightingale was a British Nurse who was called to the duty of her country during the Crimean War in 1854. Upon arrival in the hospital that she was

assigned to take care of soldiers who were wounded or sick, she noted that there was a high mortality rate based on what seemed to be simple sanitation issues,” he said.

Based on what Nightingale learned, she established The Nightingale School for Nurses in 1860. For the first time nursing was elevated from a role performed by paupers to a profession that used theory and science to improve the care of patients.

“The trend to improve the care of our soldiers on the battlefield was continued during the Civil War, where much of Florence Nightingale's work inspired the nurses of the time,” Walsh said.

Nurses like Linda Richards, who according to Walsh, enrolled in training that led to her being the first trained American nurse in 1873 after suffering the loss of her husband during the war.

The first nursing school in America was established the same year.

Over the decades the profession of nursing has continued to evolve to what we recognize today as one of the most well respected professions in America Walsh said.

“Our nurses continue the traditions established by the pioneers in nursing,” he said. “Whether we see it on the battlefield or in a stateside hospital, our nurses continue to deliver quality and innovative patient care.”

One of the ways nurses continue to grow is through professional qualifications in their sub-specialty of choice.

“We have many professional organizations, which recognize our top nurses with post-license certifications. Here at CRDAMC our nurses have established a standard to seek out these certifications and continue to improve our profession,” Walsh said.

One of CRDAMC’s most recent nurses to receive her medical-surgical certification is 1st Lt. Amber Johnson.

“Successfully completing the Medical Surgical Certification has not only increased my confidence but validated my specialized knowledge in the medical surgical field,” Johnson said. “Achieving certification has allowed me to grow professionally and hold more credibility within my practice as a Registered Nurse. It's truly empowering knowing that I hold a professional commitment in such a passionate field and that I can continue to promote quality patient care with a higher knowledge base.”