

NURSES' NOTES

June 2017



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MOAA UNIFORMED SERVICES NURSE ADVOCATES VIRTUAL CHAPTER "NURSES' NOTES"

"Nurses' Notes" E-Newsletter is published by the MOAA Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter, an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). This E-Newsletter contains a wealth of information from various websites, or in descriptive paragraphs, below, which are hyperlinked. Click on any underlined text to open.

MOAA VC01 VIRTUAL CHAPTER

The MOAA Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter is the first Virtual Chapter approved by MOAA and focuses on advocacy of Health Care issues. NEVER STOP SERVING! Check us out at our [Facebook Group Page](#).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Our next Chapter teleconference will be on **21 June 2017 at 2000 hours (Eastern)**.
Guest Speaker: COL (ret) Kathryn Scheidt - TriCare

1. Date and Time **06/21/2017 8:00 PM US/Eastern**
Dial In to the Conference (United States): **(712) 432-1212**
Access Code: **232-229-253**

2. Join Online Meeting:
Online Meeting Link: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/232-229-253>

STATE OF THE VA ADDRESS:

VA Secretary, David Shulkin, spoke in the State of the VA address of taking important steps to acknowledge that the VA must be reformed. He stated that work was being done to modernize the VA, to eliminate barriers to quality care for our Veterans, and to increase accountability for VA employees. Please click [here](#) for the video of Secretary Shulkin's remarks and summary of comments.

VA AND DOD ELECTRIC HEALTH RECORD UPDATE:

U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. David J. Shulkin announced his decision on the next-generation electronic health record (EHR) system for the VA at a news briefing at VA headquarters in Washington.

Let me say what lies ahead, as this is just the beginning of the process.

- VA has unique needs and many of those are different from the DoD.
- For this reason, VA will not simply be adopting the identical EHR that DoD uses, but we intend to be on a similar Cerner platform.
- In many ways VA is well ahead of DoD in clinical IT innovations and we will not discard our past work. And our work will help DoD in turn.
- Furthermore VA must obtain interoperability with DoD but also with our academic affiliates and community partners, many of whom are on different IT platforms.
- Therefore we are embarking on creating something that has not been done before — that is an integrated product that, while utilizing the DoD platform, will require a meaningful integration with other vendors to create a system that serves Veterans in the best possible way.
- This is going to take the cooperation and involvement of many companies and thought leaders, and can serve as a model for the federal government and all of health care.

For further information and details [click here](#)

NATIONAL P.T.S. AWARENESS MONTH:

June is National Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) Awareness Month, an important time to open up the dialogue about PTS so that those living with these invisible wounds do not feel alone in their struggle. According to the National Center for PTS, approximately 15% of Post-9/11 Veterans and 30% of Vietnam Veterans have grappled with PTS upon returning home.

The COVER Act, which was signed into law last year, recognizes that one size does not fit all when it comes to mental health care for Veterans. The legislation promotes alternative therapies so that Veterans suffering with PTS and other mental health conditions have a range of options, like service dog therapy, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, and more.

(The COVER ACT became part of S. 524, Sec 931 which can be found [here](#).)

PTS can happen to anybody who experiences a trauma, affecting about 8 million adults across the country. National PTS Awareness Month is a poignant reminder that seeking treatment for PTS is not a sign of weakness, but a sign of strength and commitment to a happy, healthy life.

MOAA National

Persons interested in learning more about the national organization of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) can follow this link: www.moaa.org.

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The *Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)* is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.



The [Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter](#) is an affiliate of MOAA and is dedicated to the goals of MOAA. It serves as a virtual advocate on health care issues throughout the United States.

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