

# Nursing Science Transforms TriService Nursing Research



## Transforming Military Health through Data and Evidence-based Practice

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Dr. Denise L. Hopkins-Chadwick recently retired from the position of Vice Provost at Army Medical Department Center and School Health Readiness Center of Excellence. As a Military Nurse Scientist, Dr. Chadwick studied the health readiness of junior enlisted military women, military nursing practice, characteristics of Combat Support Hospital patients during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and other essential data for the care of service members and other Tricare beneficiaries. These studies would not have been possible without the help of federal grant money from the TriService Nursing Research Program.

Furthermore, Dr. Hopkins-Chadwick witnessed firsthand the transformational change brought by funded nursing science. Two primary examples include the Military Nursing Outcomes Database (MilNOD) and evidence-based practice within the Military Health System. The federally-funded MilNOD study transformed the measurement of nursing specific outcomes and improved the rates of pressure ulcers, restraint use, patient falls, among many others and linked quality to nursing care hours and staff education mix. This data was not being tracked nor studied before this project.

Another federally-funded project was the Triservice initiative to establish a system-wide evidence-based nursing practice, and it changed military health practice by engraining evidence-based practice in the culture of military nurses. Service members are receiving better care thanks to nursing science and the support from federal grant dollars.