

Darnall celebrates the 111th anniversary of the Army Nurse Corps

By Patricia Deal, CRDAMC Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas—Army Nurses at Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center celebrated the



CRDAMC nurses model uniforms worn by Army nurses throughout history, from World War II to today's combat uniforms. The living display was part of the hospital's celebration of the 111th anniversary of the Army Nurse Corps Feb. 2. (U.S. Army photo by Patricia Deal, CRDAMC Public Affairs)

111th anniversary of the Army Nurse Corps at a cake cutting ceremony here Feb. 2.

Nurses also featured a 'walking history' of the Army Nurse Corps, and modeled special relic uniforms that have been reserved from the Army Nurse Corps Museum.

This year's theme "Embrace the past; engage the present; envision the future," is especially fitting today, Col. Risa Bator, deputy commander for CRDAMC Nursing and Patient Services told attendees.

"There's not a nurse who wore the uniform of their era who did not feel pride for serving and wearing the cloth of our nation. We should also be proud of the uniform we wear today and honor the service of those who went before us," she said. "It is a momentous time for nurses today. We now have a Nurse Corps officer as our surgeon general. There's only good things ahead for us as we head into the future knowing we are 'serving to heal, honored to serve.'"

Army nurses have been serving since 1775, however, the Nurse Corps did not become part of the Army Medical Department until 1901 when the Army Reorganization Act was passed and became law.

The ANC grew substantially during World Wars I and II, reaching 57,000 active duty Army nurses by 1945. The ANC has been and continues to be in every major conflict that the United States has taken part in. Today nearly 40,000 active duty, reserve and National Guard officers, non-commissioned officers, and civilians represent Army nursing, according to the site.

Almost 300 active duty and reserve Army nurses currently serve in various clinics and departments throughout CRDAMC.

For more information on the history of the Army Nurse Corps, visit www.history.amedd.army.mil/ANCWebsite/anhome.htm

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Representing the oldest and youngest nurses at CRDAMC, Lt. Col. Claire Joseph (right) and 2nd Lt. Jamie Hefter cut the cake at the hospital's celebration of the 111th anniversary of the Army Nurse Corps Feb. 2. (U.S. Army photo by Patricia Deal, CRDAMC Public Affairs)