



## HERSTORY



### Lieutenant Colonel

### Christine Carolyn Lewis



*“Travel far and wide; if you do, you will find what you’re passionate about”.* My love of travel and passion for Nursing led me to join the army reserves where my story begins on March 23, 1979 as First Lieutenant. I quickly learnt that you are a soldier first and nurse second with my first duty in the field for weapons qualifications. I was assigned to 307 General Hospital as one of eight Registered Nurses for a 1000 bed hospital. I became the supervisor for orientation of all new nursing officers. Subsequently, as a result of these orientations, many nurses were later added to my unit, and six months into my career, I was promoted to Captain.

My early assignments continued within the realm of Army Nursing and Medical Department and Education. In 1981, my assignment and training continued in Fort

Sam Houston Academy of Health Services in San Antonio, Texas where my training enabled me to become the Assistant Director of a Medical Specialist Program with responsibility for establishment and implementation of a newly exportable course from Fort Sam to 307 General. This training taught me how to set up a school for 91A Medical Specialists and enabled me to make changes to the existing health system. Sometime after, my journey took me back to the hospital where the restructuring resulted in changes in my assignment. Further training at Fort Sam resulted in the upgrade and movement of the program to the local areas, including my unit, where my role expanded to an instructor for 91B Medical Specialists.

In 1985 the hospital again reconfigured leading to additional training as a DEPMEDS (Deployable Medical Systems)





## HERSTORY



nurse where I was trained to make the hospital a more portable unit. In 1990, 307 General Hospital retired its flag and I was transferred to 344 Field Hospital. In 1991 as a result of the deployment of the staff of the 208US Hospital for Operation Desert Storm, I was recruited to the 1150<sup>th</sup> USAR (United States Army Reserve) School as an instructor for the 91B Medical Specialist School. Subsequent assignments included instructor and tester, Assistant Director, and eventually, Director of the School. As a director one of my assignment was preparing for field and school inspections, where we achieved honors each and every time.



1996 the job description for the Medical Specialist (Medic) expanded. The Medic became the Emergency Medical Specialist, - the equivalent to the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), through a program that I facilitated, developed and taught, enabling the Medic to be certified in their home state as well as nationally. This certification made them marketable post military discharge.

As the transitions continued, the flag retired on the USAR school and in the late 1990s

Education fell under a new banner, IT (Institutional Training), leading to my last assignment to the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 98<sup>th</sup> Division, Institutional Training School. I successfully excelled in the expanded roles of Program Director of the Career Management Field for Military Occupational Skills, conducting courses for medical, non-commissioned officers and Enlisted Service Members for regional responsibility and accountability of New Jersey, New York, and New England states. In addition, I held positions as Battalion Executive Officer of the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 98<sup>th</sup> Division IT; Battalion Medical Liaison to the 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade; Brigade Operations Officer; Brigade Deputy Commander; Commanding Officer of the 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 98<sup>th</sup> Division, 98<sup>th</sup> Region.



As an officer I am the recipient of several awards for exemplary and outstanding performance, integrity, candor and selfless dedication and devotion to every mission pursued. They are: Meritorious Service Medal (2), Army Commendation Medal (3), Army Achievement Medal (6), National Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserved Component Achievement Medal (6<sup>th</sup> Award



## HERSTORY



with Silver Hourglass), Letters of Achievement and Commendation.

My civilian training encompassed an Associate's Degree in Applied Science in Nursing from Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC), a Baccalaureate in Nursing degree (BSN) from City College, and Master of Science degree in Nursing (MSN) from Hunter College of New York.

I was a dedicated Employee of Metropolitan Hospital Center, New York City for 45 years, functioning in a diverse spectrum of nursing specialties and positions of responsibilities. My many roles included: staff nurse, supervisor, manager, preceptor, mentor, and educator. I was a champion of excellence and quality improvement. During my tenure I participated on every nursing committee designed to improve care delivery, was the recipient of various awards and certificates of appreciation for: Outstanding Quality Performance, Award for Dedication and Commitment, Certificate of Appreciation for Exemplary Support to Recruitment and Retention, and Service Longevity. In 2009 I was the recipient of the Service Excellence Award, New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.

Motivated by continuing education and the desire to share knowledge, I became Adjunct Instructor for Borough of Manhattan Community College.

I am blessed to be the mother of a very special young man 30 years old, and an active member of my church involved

mainly with Women and Health Ministries. While I have retired both civilian and military careers, I continue to assist with orientation of new nursing staff and teaching Basic Life Support (BLS) at NYC Health+Hospitals/Metropolitan, my church and other community venues. I remain an active member of several professional and military organizations.

My career covered several transitional periods in the evolution of the United States Army Reserves educational systems requiring versatility and adaptability. It is also noteworthy that although my love for travel motivated me to join the Army, I was never deployed outside of the country! Nevertheless, throughout my military career I acquired significant and valuable educational experiences and opportunities that afforded professional and individual growth and development. I have lived my passion, as a Registered Nurse and an Officer of the United States Army Reserve Army Nurse Corps, hence, the title, "TWO TIMES A CITIZEN". Most importantly, I loved every aspect of both duties and learned to serve my country with fervor and enthusiasm!





# HERSTORY

