

**EMBRACE THE PAST: ENGAGE THE PRESENT: ENVISION THE FUTURE**  
**U.S. Army Nurse Corps celebrates 113 years of service**



On Monday, February 03, 2014, Fort Irwin MEDDAC staff gathered to celebrate the 113<sup>th</sup> birthday of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. This year's theme "Everyday Heroes in Healthcare" recognizes that Army Nurses have provided trusted and compassionate care to America's sons and daughters in every major conflict since 1901.

MEDDAC Deputy Commander for Nursing, COL Carlette Toft thanked her staff for their selfless service, recognizing that these members don't receive nor do they ask for "extra" recognition for simply doing their jobs.

Several guest speakers shared stories of how their nursing career began. A recurring theme emerged; nurses nurse because they want to help patients. A rousing game of trivia pitted guests against each other as they tried to name the current leader of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. Finally, by tradition, the oldest and the youngest members present cut the cake. This year's honor went to COL Toft and 1LT Melisa Blachley.

The U.S. Army Nurse Corps was established on 2 February, 1901 as a permanent corps of the Medical Department under the Army Reorganization Act passed by Congress. The Army School of Nursing opened shortly thereafter, on 25 May 1918. In 2011 LTG Patricia D. Horoho was confirmed as the U.S Army Surgeon General marking the first time a Nurse has held this position.

