My name is LCDR Lakeeta Carr and I have been a nurse for approximately 16 years.

My nursing career reflects experience in civilian and military sectors. After graduating from the School of Nursing at the University of Michigan, I worked as a nurse at the University of Michigan's Trauma/Burn Center for four years. Later, I worked as a clinic nurse in the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery department at the University of Michigan. In 2003 I was commissioned with the United States Air Force where I served as a clinic nurse at Bolling Air Force Base and as the Head Nurse of the Primary Care Clinic & Minor Surgery Clinic at the DiLorenzo TRICARE Health Clinic – Pentagon. After separating from active duty service with the Air Force, I joined the Air Force Reserves and served at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in North Carolina and at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. While in the Air Force Reserves, I worked as a Quality Improvement Coordinator for Peri-operative Services at Mary Washington Hospital in Fredericksburg, VA and as an ER Nurse at Potomac Hospital in Woodbridge, VA.

In 2011, I obtained a Master of Science in Nursing/Master of Health Administration from the University of Phoenix. That same year I became a Commissioned Officer with the United States Public Health Service working at Federal Occupational Health (FOH) in Bethesda, Maryland. Over the last few years, I've served as Clinical Services Manager for the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the U.S. Agency for International Development and was responsible for managing several interagency agreements. I currently serve as Associate Deputy Director of Clinical Health Services where I oversee services at approximately 100 Occupational Health Centers.

Question 1: What was/is your most challenging/difficult nursing experience?
Response 2: The trauma and burn center was the most emotionally and physically taxing nursing experience to date. We dealt with death, dying and excruciating pain on a daily basis. I can remember the most difficult day as if it was yesterday. The patient was approximately 80 years old. While placing wood in her wood burning stove, her dress caught on fire and she sustained 2nd and 3rd degree burns from her ankles to her abdomen. She was intubated on the scene by EMS and was admitted directly to the ICU where we had to debride her skin and release the pressure by performing fasciatomies at the bedside. Under normal circumstances, patients were intubated and heavily sedated. In this case, we couldn't heavily sedate her because her kidneys weren't fully functioning. The attending physician was 100% sure that the patient wouldn't survive this trauma; however, the family wanted us to do everything we could to prolong her life. Therefore, we couldn't heavily sedate her. While performing her would care, I could see the fear, pain and agony in her eyes, but there was nothing I could do, but hold her

hand and try to comfort her by touch. After several trips to the OR and excruciatingly painful dressing changes, she passed away within a week or two after the incident.

Question 2: What was/is your most rewarding nursing experience?
Response 2: Patients were often on the Trauma and Burn Unit for several months. Occasionally I worked in the Trauma and Burn Outpatient clinic. In the clinic, I was able to see patients after they'd been discharged from their extensive inpatient stays. It was rewarding to see them being productive in the real world. The long hours, extensive dressing changes, turning and repositioning, splinting, PT, OT and enforcing high calorie diets were truly benefical☺.