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The
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NEWS

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REGIS COLLEGE ARMY NURSE RESERVES AND UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
SET UP CLINICS FOR SOUTH END ELDERS

Boston, Mass.--Saturday, August 25, will be the first day of an unusual monthly tour of duty for 15 members of the Army reserves. In collaboration with the University Hospital's (UH) Home Medical Service, these reserves--all officers and registered nurses working toward their bachelor of science degrees at Regis College--will provide free health education, physical assessments and referrals for residents of two South End elderly housing programs one day a month for the next year.

This special tour of duty will give the nurse reserves credit toward their degree at Regis College and fulfill their monthly reserve obligation at the same time. It will also give the University Hospital's Home Medical Service additional clinical hands for reaching the elders who live in these homes.

Last year, the U.S. Army selected Regis College's nursing program to provide its reserve nurses with the opportunity to earn their bachelor of science degrees in nursing. Amy Anderson, Ed.D, R.N., chairman of the division of nursing at Regis College, worked with Anna Bissonette, R.N., associate director of UH's Home Medical Service, to develop this special community nursing rotation for the reserve/nurse/students.

Earlier this month, the reserves--who work as nurses throughout New England during non-reserve time--spent their two-week summer reserve duty doing preliminary assessments of every resident at the Franklin Square House and the Eva Whiting White Development at Castle Square in the South End as the first step in this on-going program.

"This program is a great way for us to stay in touch with the needs of these elders and a unique community nursing experience for the officers," says Bissonette.

Says Anderson: "This clinical component of the Community Health Nursing courses has been an excellent learning experience for our students. We plan to continue clinical experiences with residents of elderly housing for the Army Reserve nurses and some of our other BSN students."

Regis College's part-time, weekend and summer program is designed for any registered nurse interested in earning a bachelor of science degree in nursing.

The University Hospital's Home Medical Service is the oldest program in the country that provides low-income elders with medical care in their homes. UH is a principal teaching hospital of Boston University School of Medicine and a member of Boston University Medical Center.