

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON 20330



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

December 3, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR SAF/MI

SUBJECT: Department of Defense Civilian/Military Service Review Board  
Recommendation on the United States Cadet Nurse Corps

Under the provisions of DODD 1000.20, Determinations of Active Military Service and Discharge: Civilian or Contractual Personnel, the Department of Defense Civilian/Military Service Review Board recommends that the service of the members of the group known as the United States Cadet Nurse Corps not be considered active military service in the Armed Forces of the United States.

The Cadet Nurse Corps was established by law (57 Stat. 153) on June 15, 1943. The law provided for "the training of nurses for the armed forces, governmental and civilian hospitals, health agencies, and war industries, through grants to institutions providing such training, and for other purposes." The Corps was developed to meet the needs of civilian hospitals to replace graduate nurses enlisting in the military service; direct recruiting for the military was not a primary objective. The Corps was administered by the Public Health Service under the Surgeon General of the United States, with the U.S. Civil Service Commission acting as a clearing house for applicants. Altogether, 170,000 Cadet Nurses were recruited between July 1943 and October 1945, when admissions were suspended.

The Board recommends the United States Cadet Nurse Corps not be considered active military service for the following reasons:

The training provided to Cadet Nurses, although important to provide health professionals for the nation, did not duplicate military training programs. The training was a purely civil function even though more than 5,000 Cadet Nurses were assigned for instruction to Army hospitals. Nurses, once trained, had the option of entering the military services as commissioned officers. Those who did not make this choice provided little direct service to the armed forces nor was it found that student nurses provided such service.

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The Cadet Nurse Corps was recruited, organized and supervised by the U.S. Public Health Service, not one of the armed forces. Further, Cadet Nurses were not civilian employees of the federal government nor were they contract employees. Public Law 95-202 allows the Secretary to consider whether groups of civilians or contractual personnel rendered service to the armed forces. The Board finds that the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps, while engaged in training activities designed primarily to aid in supplying nurses for civilian hospitals in wartime, only indirectly aided in meeting the requirements for the armed forces. Therefore, the Board finds that service in the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps is ineligible to be considered active military service under the provisions of Public Law 95-202.

The Board recommends that the attached Secretarial instrument be signed.

Attachment  
Secretarial Instrument

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Upon the recommendation of the Department of Defense Civilian/  
Military Service Review Board, it is the determination of the Secretary  
of the Air Force that the service of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps  
shall not be considered active military service in the Armed Forces of  
the United States for purposes of all laws administered by the Veterans'  
Administration.

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