TO:       Interested Parties
FROM:    Board of Registered Nursing
SUBJECT: Special Renewal Provisions for Military RNs

The California Board of Registered Nursing waives the continuing education requirement and the late penalty fee for renewals for RNs actively serving in any branch of the U.S. armed services during active U.S. military operations against any foreign power, whether or not war has been formally declared.

Sections 114 and 2811.5(g) of the Business and Professions Code provide the legal authority for the Board to make this special accommodation for RNs engaged in active military operations.

More specifically, the law states that if a registered nurse’s license expires while serving in the military whenever the U.S. is engaged in active military operations against any foreign power, he or she may reinstate the license without penalty under the following conditions:

1. The license was valid at the time of entering the armed services.
2. The application for reinstatement (renewal) is made while still in the armed services, or no later than one year after discharge from active service or return to inactive military status. (Time spent receiving treatment at any Veterans’ facility is excluded from the one-year period.)
3. A copy of their orders or other proof of service accompanies the application.
4. The renewal fee for the current renewal period is paid along with the application.

RNs may send their renewal request directly to the Board at the address below. (The online renewal system is not capable of handling this special provision.)

California Board of Registered Nursing
Attn: Active Military Duty
P. O. Box 944210
Sacramento, CA 94244-2100