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# Performing clinical skills on Operations: Preparing UK military Emergency Nurses for their role.

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## I. Abstract Body (up to 250 words)

**Background** – Clinical skills development for civilian & military emergency nurses is paramount to provide competent practitioners. The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) have recently introduced a comprehensive competency framework for civilian Emergency Nurses produced by an expert panel of clinicians and academics. The military have a similar system, the Deployed Operational Nursing Competencies framework (DONC); this document assesses nurses over a three-year period but provides an inconsistent approach to the identification and assessment of skills and knowledge. From a military viewpoint, there is an assumption that all emergency nurses, upon completion of this document can perform the appropriate skills pertaining to their operational clinical role. This assumption has never been tested or explored and therefore the author would like to use this basic premise to answer the research questions: 'What clinical skills do military emergency nurses need to perform their operational roles?' and 'What factors affect and influence the individual confidence levels of military emergency nurses in performing these skills whilst working in different military and civilian environments?' **Methodology** – A two-phased, mixed-methods project is ongoing, comprising a Delphi study to identify specific skill sets associated with military emergency nursing. The results of this will then be used to inform the second phase, which is a quantitative correlation study. This will analyze relationships between confidence levels (of the skills identified in phase 1) against times exposed to a skill, experience levels, age and academic qualifications. Follow up interviews will be utilized to explore factors influencing skill attainment within individual units. **Results and recommendations** – Results will be compared to existing civilian and military frameworks and disseminated to the military chain of command and wider civilian population with the view to revising future military emergency nurse training and education, thereby ensuring the best clinical capability for emerging military Operations.

## II. Biography:

Warrant Officer Tony Kyle is a military nurse research fellow at James Cook University Hospital, United Kingdom; his academic projects include examining clinical skill attainment in military emergency nurses for his PhD, interrogation of Afghanistan data to explore the correlation between blood product use and hypocalcemia, this has recently been published in the Emergency Medical Journal. He has also produced a paper on the success rate of surgical airway insertion in a military population and has co-authored on numerous pre-hospital and emergency care articles.

He has been in the Royal Air Force (RAF) for 20 yrs.', employed in numerous nursing and education specialties. Having spent time as a senior lecturer at Birmingham City University, he is currently a visiting lecturer at Sunderland and Teesside universities.

Tony is married to Sharon with a 7-year-old daughter named Ellie; they like to spend time touring the countryside with their VW campervan.

## III. Presenting author details

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