

## Biobehavioral Research Interest Group Is Launched

COL (ret) Penny Pierce, USAFR, NC

This summer, the Biobehavioral Research Interest Group (RIG) was launched during an invigorating 2-day summit at the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research (ISR) in Ann Arbor. ISR is internationally renowned for advancing the science of survey techniques and methodologies and has a long tradition of training scientists in the social sciences.

At the summit, consultants from ISR provided information sessions on survey methodology, establishing data repositories, data sharing, and innovative data collection techniques that are instrumental to advancing biobehavioral science.

The fruitful exchange between ISR and TSNRP began a collaboration that will yield exciting opportunities for the RIG's members to gain new skills relevant to their specific areas of research. Negotiations are under way to design a Summer Summit 2012 offering a curriculum in survey methods and advanced statistical techniques tailored to biobehavioral research.

Biobehavioral research is a broad field that recognizes the interactive relationships among the psychological, social, biological, and environmental influences on behavior. Rather than focusing on specific areas of investigation, the Biobehavioral RIG is designed to provide investigators with access to consultants, collaborators, and training opportunities, such as the proposed 2012 summit.

The initial Steering Committee, a combination of active duty and retired military nurse scientists,



**Attendees at the two-day Ann Arbor Biobehavioral Summit Meeting.**

Left to right: TSNRP Executive Director CAPT John Maye, Megan Foradori, LTC Ann Nayback-Beebe, Col (ret) Penny Pierce, LTC Felecia Rivers, Col Michaela Shafer, LTC Meryia Throop, and COL (ret) Linda Yoder.

includes LTC Ann Nayback-Beebe, AN, USA; COL (ret) Penny Pierce, USAFR, NC; LTC Felecia Rivers, AN, USA; Col Michaela Shafer, USAF, NC; LTC Meryia Throop, AN, USA; and COL (ret) Linda Yoder, AN, USA.

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Together, they have set the following goals for the RIG: (1) to provide academic opportunities to learn new approaches, methods, and analytic techniques in the behavioral sciences;

(2) to establish a mechanism for social exchange among new and experienced scientists; and (3) to advance the repertoire of research skills to meet the challenges of the increasingly complex problems confronting military nurse researchers.

If you are interested in joining the Biobehavioral RIG or would like more information, please contact Megan Foradori, RN, MSN, at [megan.foradori@gmail.com](mailto:megan.foradori@gmail.com). ★



### Recent Retirement

Please join us in wishing the very best to **CAPT Maggie Richard, NC, USN**, an outstanding military nurse scientist who has joined the ranks of the recently retired!