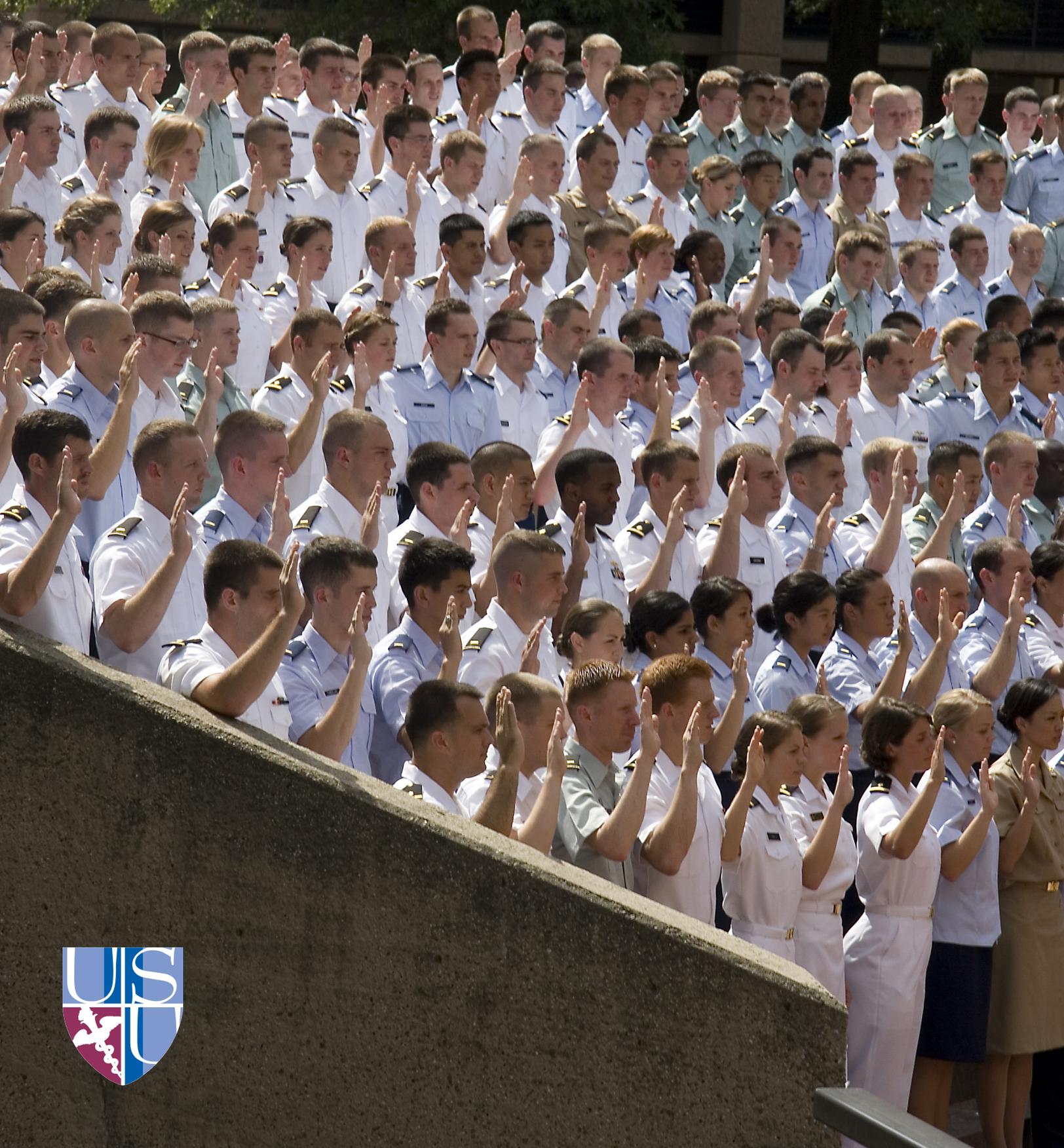


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USU Newsletter

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The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Class of 2013 takes the Hippocratic Oath during their welcoming ceremony on campus. (Cover photo: MC1 Chad Hallford)

A Profile in Leadership: Cmdr. (Dr.) Patricia McKay, Commandant, SOM

by MC1 Chad Hallford

Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Patricia McKay assumed responsibilities as Commandant, School of Medicine, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, July 2009.

McKay replaces Air Force Col. (Dr.) Kenneth Tashiro, who is now assigned to USU's Department of Military and Emergency Medicine.

A USU alum, and no stranger to the D.C. beltway, McKay says she looks forward to the challenges and opportunities presented as commandant.

"USU was a great opportunity for me in my career to take up the level of supervision and still see patients, practice surgery at NNMC," said McKay.

"The university has really grown since I was a student; its mission is much bigger now," said McKay.

McKay's eclectic career provides many experiences to draw from to help students develop into "military physicians and leaders."

She has a vast range of experiences from tropical disease training, to a tour with a Marine Air Wing. She also deployed with USNS Comfort and spent a year at the prestigious Mayo Clinic, for a fellowship in Hand and Upper Extremity Surgery.

Her most recent experience was at NNMC as orthopedic surgery residency director. Initially the Navy orthopedic residency at NNMC, the program

merged with WRAMC's in 2007 to create the National Capital Consortium orthopedic residency. McKay describes this experience "as challenging, but rewarding, because of the caliber of people involved during the transformation."

McKay's primary vision as commandant is to "graduate students - physicians who USU can continue to be proud of. Our alumni are known for being professional, motivated, and excellent in their specialties," said McKay.

She avidly looks forward to the 2010 Commencement.



photo by Tom Balfour

Cmdr. Patricia McKay anticipates differences in communication, changing learning methods and the availability of information technology to be key areas for staff and faculty to master, enabling student success.



photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

Israeli Surgeon General Visits USU

Israeli Defense Force Surgeon General Nachman Ash poses for a picture with Dr. Charles L. Rice, Uniformed Services University president, during a visit to the campus by Israeli Defense Force leaders, Aug. 13.

IOM President to Present Integrated Grand Rounds

Harvey V. Fineberg, M.D., Ph.D., president of the prestigious Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies, will present a lecture on the USU campus Sept. 8 as part of the National Naval Medical Center - Walter Reed Army Medical Center - USU Integrated Grand Rounds series.

Dr. Fineberg will present "The Swine Flu Situation: 1976 as Applied to Now - What to Expect in the Fall" which will be held in the Sanford Auditorium, Building B, at 3 p.m.

The IOM was chartered in 1970 as a component of the National Academy of Sciences. The IOM's mission is to serve as adviser to the nation to improve health. The Institute provides unbiased, evidence-based, and authoritative information and advice concerning health and science policy to policy-makers, professionals, leaders in every sector of society, and the public at large. The IOM works outside the framework of government to ensure scientifically informed analysis and independent guidance.

Dr. Fineberg previously served as Provost of Harvard University from 1997 to 2001, following 13 years as Dean of the Harvard School of Public Health.



Dr. Harvey V. Fineberg, official photo

He has devoted most of his academic career to the fields of health policy and medical decision making. His past research has focused on the process of policy development and implementation, assessment of medical technology, evaluation and use of vaccines, and dissemination of medical innovations.

Dr. Fineberg helped found and served as president of the Society for Medi-

cal Decision Making and also served as consultant to the World Health Organization. At the Institute of Medicine, he has chaired and served on a number of panels dealing with health policy issues, ranging from AIDS to new medical technology. He also served as a member of the Public Health Council of Massachusetts (1976-1979), as chairman of the Health Care Technology Study Section of the National Center for Health Services Research (1982-1985), and as president of the Association of Schools of Public Health (1995-1996).

Dr. Fineberg is co-author of the books *Clinical Decision Analysis*, *Innovators in Physician Education*, and *The Epidemic that Never Was*, an analysis of the controversial federal immunization program against swine flu in 1976. He has co-edited several books on such diverse topics as AIDS prevention, vaccine safety, and understanding risk in society. He has also authored numerous articles published in professional journals. Dr. Fineberg is the recipient of several honorary degrees and the Joseph W. Mountin Prize from the US Centers for Disease Control. He earned his bachelor's and doctoral degrees from Harvard University.



photo by Tom Balfour

Dr. Jeffrey Longacre, USU's new VP for International Affairs and Affiliations, talks to Maj. Gen. Philip Volpe, deputy commander, Joint Task Force-Medical National Capital Region at the Class of 2013 Welcoming Ceremony, Aug. 20.

USU alumnus named new VP

Jeffrey L. Longacre, MD, was recently selected as the new Vice President for International Affairs and Affiliations. Dr. Longacre, a USU class of 1986 graduate, is an associate professor of Pediatrics and former vice chair of the department, and served most recently as the Special Assistant to the USU President for BRAC/Integration. In that capacity, he served as a liaison to the Joint Task Force-Medical, National Capital Region, to ensure that the university is included and appropriately involved in the establishment of the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Dr. Longacre replaces Dr. Emmanuel Cassimatis, who left USU earlier this summer to become president and chief executive officer of the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates. As Vice President, Dr. Longacre will be responsible for forming relationships with military treatment facilities and military medical systems worldwide.

New Medical Students Welcomed to Campus



photo by MCI Chad Hallford

Lt. Gen. David Huntoon, Jr., Director of the Army Staff addresses USU's medical school class of 2013 during the annual welcoming ceremony.

by Staff Sgt. Matt Rosine

The F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine (SOM) officially presented its newest students during the Class of 2013 Welcoming Ceremony, Aug. 20.

Dr. Larry Laughlin, dean of the SOM, administered the Hippocratic Oath to the 171 uniformed officers, closing with his customary, "Welcome to the study of medicine."

Army Lt. Gen. David Huntoon, Jr., Director of the Army Staff, addressed the assembly in the heat of the day, following the administration of the Hippocratic Oath.

Referring to the outdoor temperature, General Huntoon jokingly remarked, "I think I heard 'I do solemnly sweat' in that oath."

He went on to congratulate the students for the extraordinary

work they have already done and the work they will do while at USU. He praised the university's faculty as being world class, noting that their past accomplishments will make the students' accomplishments that much better in the coming years.

Huntoon also congratulated the students for raising their hands during a time of war.

The Class of 2013 is comprised of 45 women and 126 men. While all of the students have received their bachelor's degrees, 20 have earned master's degrees, one a Juris Doctorate, and one holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry. Additionally, 62 students have previous military experience – 20 were active-duty officers; four had prior active duty as officers; two were active-duty enlisted; 11 had prior active duty as enlisted personnel; 11 were 2009 service academy graduates; and 14 were graduates from ROTC programs.

AFRRI hosts presidential classroom

by André Nicholson

Although they didn't take lessons on the White House lawn, more than 40 high school students took part in the "Presidential Classroom" that was hosted by the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI) this summer.

The Presidential Classroom hosts week-long programs to address issues such as public policy, national security, science, energy technology, journalism and global health. The organization was chartered in 1968, with the rise of a strong youth voice in American politics. The original pilot programs, sponsored by two separate presidential administrations, outgrew their early beginnings and were transferred from the White House to a board of directors of prominent educators and citizens. The new organiza-

tion was named "A Presidential Classroom for Young Americans" and is known today as simply "Presidential Classroom."

Years ago the organization began a Science Technology and Public Policy program and as calls went out to several science labs around the Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia areas, AFRRI answered the call and has been a sponsor of the Presidential Classroom for almost 10 years.

"The students gain a better understanding of what our armed forces are doing, not necessarily on the battlefield, but in the lab as it relates to science and technology," said Annabelle Ombac, logistics manager, Presidential Classroom. "Specifically, they learn what radiation is, what every common-day items have traces of radioactivity and on a larger scale, what AFRRI is doing with their research of large traces of radioactivity so we can be prepared if attacked."

Award to honor success of female physicians

Courtesy of MHS and developed by Newsletter Staff

The Military Health System (MHS) recently announced its new “Building Stronger Female Physician Leaders in the MHS” award. The award is intended to honor outstanding female physicians who have made significant contributions to the practice of military medicine and who serve as exemplary role models for others.



It is one of many innovative initiatives designed to attract female physicians into the MHS, a vital need because of increasing numbers of females entering and graduating from medical schools.

“Female physicians are an integral part of the work of the MHS,” said Ellen Embrey, acting assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. “This award represents MHS’s commitment to honor their contributions to military medicine, and an opportunity to motivate the next generation of young women physicians.”

The award will honor one junior leader (pay grades O-3 through O-5) per service and recognize one senior (pay grade O-6) MHS-wide leader. Nominees must demonstrate distinctive achievement and service in their field of clinical expertise, involvement in enhancing the role of women in medicine by being a positive role model for women of all ages, and service to their communities. Winners will be announced formally at the MHS Conference, held in Washington, DC in January 2010.

Doctors, Scientists Team Up to Improve Wound Care

by Fred W. Baker III
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25, 2009 - Army Spc. Adonnis Anderson said he knew the pain was coming.

After a bomb blew off much of his left forearm in Iraq in 2003, nurses came to his room daily to wash out his wounds. He described the treatment as two minutes of torture. They would swab the open wound as Anderson gritted his teeth and white-knuckle gripped the hospital bed railing.

“On a [pain] scale of 1 to 10, I’d give it a 15. It hurt really bad,” Anderson said.

But the pain was a necessary evil. After being evacuated from the battlefield, Anderson’s new fight was against dangerous infections that could destroy his chances of keeping his arm.

Anderson’s story is not unique. Many soldiers evacuated from today’s war zones suffer complex wounds from their injuries.

Bones are broken, and skin is burned or ripped by searing shrapnel. Mud, metal and fuel are fused into the wound. Harmful bacteria and other organisms are at work in the troops’ bodies before they can be carried from the battlefield.

For the first time within the Defense Department, military doctors and scientists are working hand in hand to understand and improve the treatment of these complex wounds.

As part of an overarching, interservice combat wound initiative, scientists at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology are researching the makeup of complex wounds to help doctors in military hospitals better individualize and chart a course of care.

Dubbed “translational research,” this partnership breaks down traditional barriers between the scientists who study the medical intricacies of the wounds and the clinicians who provide the care for the wounded. Now, each supports the work of the other, basically taking the science from “the bench” to the “bedside.”

At the core of their work, scientists and doctors hope to discover why some wounds heal and others resist treatment.

Army Col. (Dr.) Alexander Stojadinovic, a USU class of 1991 alumnus and surgeon at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, heads the combat wound initiative program. He said that while two wounds

may look similar, they don’t always react to treatment the same.

“We were perplexed. Why, when you close one [wound] it heals uneventfully, and when you close the other it has a complication that impairs healing? When by all criteria that we traditionally use you would have expected it to heal,” Stojadinovic said.

Since early 2008, Stojadinovic has spearheaded efforts to merge the actions of military and private hospitals to address complex wound care.

He now has a staff of Army and Navy doctors that operates out of Walter Reed’s Military Advanced Training Center. They deliver all of the needed specialists to the patients to collaborate on care.

“The nature of battlefield wounds today is complex. These are difficult medical problems that really challenge our creativity, our knowledge base and bring to bear teams,” Stojadinovic said. “There’s no single individual that can address all the problems that result from blast injuries.”

When Stojadinovic decided to add a research arm to his program, he did not have to look far. The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology sits right in his back yard, situated on the same complex as Walter Reed.

About a year ago, Stojadinovic began talking with officials at the institute about research that can help doctors decide how to treat a wound and determine when it can be closed without further risk of infection. Many wounded troops are forced to endure several additional operations solely to remove infection. According to officials at the institute, the average soldier with complex wounds takes nine trips to the operating room.

Using troops enrolled in clinical trials at Walter Reed, doctors provide the scientists with wound fluids, blood and tissue that otherwise would be discarded. Scientists at the institute study the wound and provide feedback to the attending physicians. Scientists also study metal and other fragments that are taken from the wounds.

Depending on the study, scientists work to determine the number of bacteria in the sample, and characterize them genetically. The degree of bacterial contamination in a wound affects how it heals. Providing doctors with the number and type of bacteria allows them to avoid treatments that won’t work and target treatments that will.

Soldiers' dress right, dress for future success



photo courtesy of www.army.mil

by C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

Out with the old, in with the blue. The Army has made it official; the green service uniform, which has defined the service since the mid-1950s, is on the outs.

In place of the green uniform will be a variation of the blue uniform, something many Soldiers already own. Official word on the new "Army Service Uniform," or ASU, was released Aug. 20 in a message to all Army activities. The message defines the wear policy and the "bridging" strategy for transition to the new uniform.

"It's a culmination of transformation efforts that started in 2004," said Sgt.

Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston of the new ASU. "We had three 'Class A' style uniforms, all the same style jacket, with just a different color -- the policies on how we wore accoutrements on them were different. We asked the question -- if we wear one only, which would it be? And the blue uniform was the most popular of the three."

The new ASU coat, similar to the existing blue coat, will be made of a wrinkle-resistant material and will have a more "athletic" cut.

Other changes to the uniform include authorization of a combat service identification badge to recognize combat service, overseas service bars authorized on the jacket sleeve for both enlisted Soldiers and officers, the wear

of distinctive unit insignia on the shoulder loops of the blue coat for enlisted Soldiers, authorizing paratroopers to wear the black jump boots with the blue ASU, and the decision to transition to a new short sleeve and long sleeve white shirt with shoulder loops.

It is also permissible for enlisted Soldiers to wear both overseas service bars and service stripes on the new blue ASU coat. Officers and Soldiers in the grade of corporal and above will additionally wear a gold braid on their slacks to indicate leadership roles.

For more information on the Army uniform change, please visit www.army.mil/asu/faq.html.

Technology Watch: Encryption

by MC1 Chad Hallford

Users of mobile computing devices and removable storage media at USU may soon be getting an upgrade.

Mandated by the Secretary of Defense, various categories of sensitive unclassified data stored on DoD network assets that are not National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Federal Information Processing Standard 140-2 compliant will be forced to become compliant.

"Any mobile device, used within the DoD, must be encrypted. This includes laptops, PDAs, BlackBerrys, to name a few," said Joel Robertson, USU information assurance manager. "We are also examining and completing encryption for the desktops and workstations."

A completely encrypted hard drive ensures that a loss of the

asset in question, be it fixed or mobile, does not compromise the safety or integrity of the information stored on the device.

"USU is implementing this requirement to help protect the data and the device. This action is in the best interest for researchers and others who have Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act data, personally identifiable information, or other sensitive unclassified data," said Robertson.

"The encryption runs in the background, so the user won't see any of the process, nor will it interfere with their activities. It is designed to be seamless."

Many users may already be familiar with the policies and requirements to encrypt and/or digitally sign e-mails. If anyone has concerns over protecting data during transmission or at rest, review information from the UIS website or contact the UIS helpdesk.

USU Briefs

Helpdesk Closure: The UIS helpdesk is closed for training on Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m. During this time, you can leave a voicemail message at 295-9800, utilize the HEAT Self Service (<http://www.usuhs.mil/uis/forms/trouble.html>), or email help@usuhs.mil. If an emergency should arise, please call 295-9870.

Personal Exercise/Fitness Areas: Physical Fitness training should be conducted in designated areas. The only authorized space for PT within the university is room G060. All other spaces within the university are not authorized for exercise or fitness, with the exception of the Student Community Lounge area during specified PFT testing dates/times. Indoor PT is also authorized on base at the Comfort Zone Complex, or CZC, in building 23. The CZC hours of operation are Monday – Friday from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on weekends and holidays from are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

PFT/PFA/APFT Fall 2009: The Fall 2009 Physical Fitness Test for all services is scheduled for Oct. 13-15 and 20-22, 2009 at 0700 and 1200. Plan accordingly as all physical fitness testing, height, weight, and body fat measurements will be conducted at USU. No exceptions. If there are any questions please contact your service specific fitness coordinators - Air Force contact Tech. Sgt. Troyann Ernle at 295-3281; Navy contact IT3 Robert Grounds at 295-9800 or HM1 Joe Monsivais at 295-1479; and Army contact Staff Sgt. David Rogers at 295-3720.

Proper Use of Computer Resources: Security incidents continue to be a drain to limited USU Information Assurance manpower. The following highlight current DoD policy and best practices: Personnel must not install self-coded or non-licensed software on network resources; add, remove, configure, or attempt to modify USU computer operating systems or programs; move audio/visual or network cables, computers or attempt to connect personal computers to the network including MDL and lecture hall spaces; connect personal devices except for those previously authorized by UIS; download pornographic material and store or display offensive material, such as racist literature, sexually harassing or obscene language or material; store or process classified information on any USU system; permit unauthorized individuals access to a government-owned or government-operated system or program; access online gambling, games and social engineering sites.

Military Awards Nominations: The next military awards panel will convene September 29. Nomination packages will be due through the chain of command no later than September 22. Any award with higher precedence than the Defense Meritorious Service Medal must be submitted 150 days prior to presentation. Please provide a signed copy as well as an electronic version to Air Force Tech. Sgt. Louella Campbell at (301) 295-1515 or lcampbell@usuhs.mil or HM2 Sylvia McBee at (301) 295-3423 or Sylvia.mcbee@usuhs.mil.



photo by MCI Chad Hallford

Caption contest

Test your skills and write the best caption for this photo to win this edition's gift certificate for a free large coffee and doughnut courtesy of William III. Submit your caption in writing to the office B1009, or to USUNewsletter@usuhs.mil. The best caption wins and the top three, as judged by the USU Newsletter staff, will be printed in the next edition.

Name the Newsletter...

Thanks to all who have submitted suggestions over the last few weeks to rename the USU Newsletter. We have received dozens of responses and now need to consider all of the suggestions. Watch for our decision in early September. Thanks for your participation and for your continued support and readership.

The USU Newsletter Staff



UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY *of the Health Sciences*

