

The Official USU Newsletter

# the pulse

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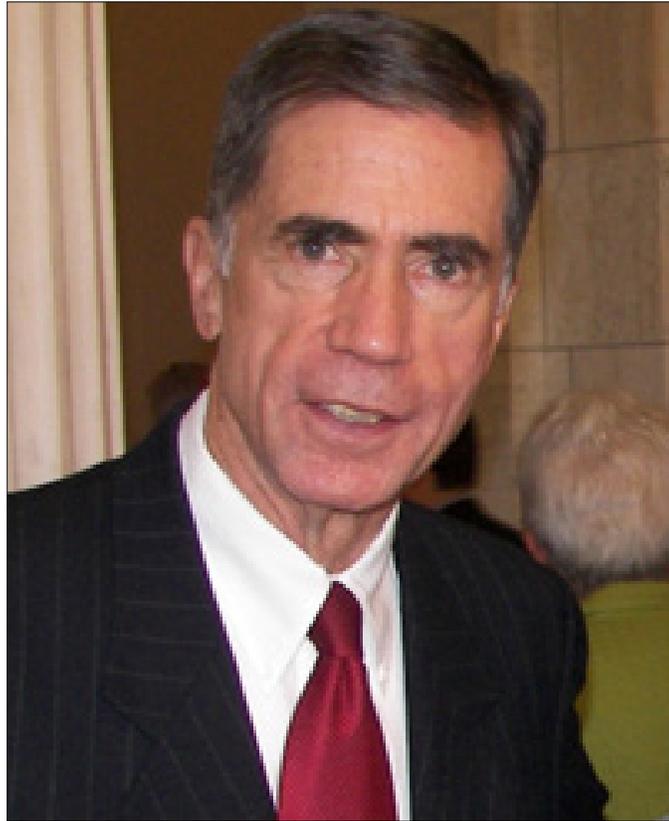
**On the cover**

*Air Force Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Robert Miller, a 1989 Hébert School of Medicine graduate takes over as Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) commandant in San Antonio, Texas, on Sept. 24. See article on page four.*



# Former U.S. Senator Charles Robb to serve on USU Board of Regents

by Sharon Holland, managing editor



Courtesy photo

Charles S. Robb, former U.S. Senator and Marine Corps veteran, has been appointed by the Secretary of Defense to serve as a member of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Board of Regents.

Robb, who also served as the governor of Virginia from 1982-1986, is a distinguished professor of Law and Public Policy at George Mason University.

Robb earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1961. A U.S. Marine from 1961-1970, he served two tours of duty in Vietnam, where he commanded a rifle company in combat and was awarded the Bronze Star. In 1973, he earned a law degree from the University of Virginia Law School, and clerked in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, later entering private practice.

He was elected lieutenant governor of Virginia in 1978, serving four years until his election as governor in 1982.

After a term in office, he once again entered private practice, only to be elected to the United States Senate in 1988. He was reelected six years later, and won reelection twice.

After his service in the Senate, Robb served on the Board of Visitors at the U.S. Naval Academy, and began teaching at George Mason University School of Law. President George W. Bush later appointed Robb as co-chair of the Iraq Intelligence Commission, and in 2006, he was appointed to serve on the U.S. President's Intelligence Advisory Board. Robb has served on the Board of Trustees of the MITRE Corporation for more than 13 years.

# USU students, staff receive German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge

By MC3 Laura Bailey, writer and photographer

Nearly 30 Uniformed Services University staff and students, from each branch of service, received the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge in Reston, Va., Sep. 25.

The GAFPB, a rare award, is highly sought after by U.S. military service members around the world and is one of several foreign badges approved by the U.S. Army for wear on the dress uniform. The German liaison office in Reston, Va., provided the backdrop for the event – and a chance of a lifetime.

“It’s an honor to receive this badge,” said Sgt. Cassie Barnett, non-commissioned officer in charge of the Veterinary Medicine Division, Center for Laboratory Animal Medicine at USU. “It’s a unique opportunity for us to do something that a lot of people know about, but don’t always get to do because there are not a lot of places that do it.”

Participants must have approval from their command, complete combat lifesaver training, demonstrate proper donning and wear of a protective mask and all nuclear, biological, chemical clothing and complete three events within 90 minutes during the basic fitness test in order to receive the award. A grading point matrix is used to determine the score for each event. These scores are then averaged to determine what level badge – gold, silver or bronze, qualifies the participant before moving on to the pistol marksmanship event, foot march and 100-meter swim in military uniform.

“They carry a 33-pound ruck sack during a six-to 12-kilometer ruck march depending on which badge they qualify for,” said Barnett, who received the gold GAFPB in 2012 and now serves as a proctor for the competition. “They also have to complete a 25-meter marksmanship qualification where they fire two shots in three different

positions – standing, kneeling and prone (unsupported).”

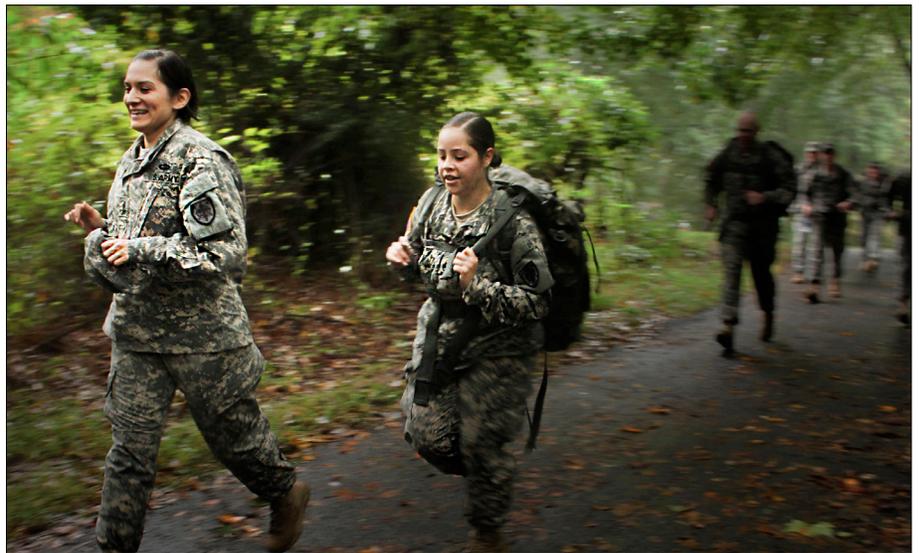
For one USU staff member, the desire to wear the GAFPB on her uniform was sparked more than 10 months ago.

“I first heard about the German badge late last year and I immediately knew it was something that I wanted,” said Staff Sgt. Steffany Molina Rivera, a health physics specialist for the Occupational Safety Division at USU. “I began qualifying in Jan. 2014.”

After successfully completing all

“It was hard, but I did it,” said Molina Rivera. “The 100-meter swim in uniform wasn’t easy either. I forgot how heavy it feels when it’s in the water. When I was getting close to the end of the ruck march I saw my first sergeant coming to help me finish. That really motivated me – I wasn’t going to give up. It felt awesome to receive my badge. It’s already displayed on my uniform.”

The USU participants who received gold awards are: 2nd Lt. Jason Ausman, 2nd Lt. Taylor Bates, 2nd Lt. Austin Bell, Sgt. Jeffrey Dillon, Senior Chief William Dow, 2nd Lt. Michael Eckhoff, 2nd Lt. Thomas Gilder, Col. Kevin Glasz, 2nd Lt. Spencer Hegggers, 2nd Lt. Yevgeniy Maksimenko, Lt. Col. James Mancuso, 2nd Lt. Brian Merrigan,



Senior Enlisted Advisor Army 1st Sgt. Celecia Kalili (far left) and Staff Sgt. Steffany Molina Rivera (center) of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences compete for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge in Reston, Va., Sep. 25. (Photo by Mass Communications Specialist 3rd Class Laura E. Bailey)

the events, she achieved her goal and received the silver award, Sept. 25. According to her, the feeling of accomplishment was worth the challenges.

“One of the tougher events was the hang,” said Molina Rivera.

The flexed-arm hang is one of the three timed events during the basic fitness test. In order to qualify for a badge, a participant must perform a pull-up while keeping their chin above the bar for a minimum of five seconds.

2nd Lt. Aimee Moores, 2nd Lt. Douglas Morte, 2nd Lt. Nicholas Nesbitt, 2nd Lt. Taylor Roth, 2nd Lt. Evan Shawler, 2nd Lt. Elan Sherazee, 2nd Lt. Wesley Sit and 2nd Lt. Michael Williams.

Silver badge recipients are: Staff Sgt. Marco Acevedo, 2nd Lt. Shane Goller, Staff Sgt. Henry Gonzalez, Capt. Sara Hegge, 2nd Lt. Connie Lin, Col. Frederick Lough, Staff Sgt. David Manzanares and Staff Sgt. Steffany Molina Rivera.

# Hébert School of Medicine graduate takes over as METC commandant

By Sharon Holland, managing editor



Photo by Lisa Brown, METC Public Affairs

Air Force Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Douglas Robb (left), director of the Defense Health Agency, presents the Medical Education and Training Campus guidon to new METC commandant Air Force Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Robert Miller, while outgoing commandant Rear Adm. (Dr.) William Roberts (right) looks on.

Air Force Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Robert I. Miller, a graduate of USU's F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine class of 1989, became the third commandant of the tri-service Medical Education and Training Campus in San Antonio, Texas, on Sept. 24.

Miller relieved Navy Rear Adm. (Dr.) William M. Roberts during the Change of Commandant ceremony, which was presided over by Defense Health Agency director Air Force Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Douglas Robb. Miller is METC's first Air Force commandant and is now also dual-hatted as the director of Education and Training for the Defense Health Agency. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Dr. Jonathan Woodson, was a guest speaker for the event, which was also attended by USU President Dr. Charles Rice and Senior Vice President Dr. Patrick Sculley.

"I was delighted to be present when Brig. Gen. Miller took the reins of the METC Commandant from Rear Adm. William Roberts," said Rice. "General Miller acknowledged the role USU played in his education and the tremendous support provided by fellow alumni as he

assumed progressive levels of responsibility in his U.S. Air Force career."

In his new role, Miller will oversee METC's 51 separate basic and advanced Army, Navy and Air Force enlisted medical courses of study. The campus graduates more than 20,000 medics, hospital corpsmen, and medical technicians each year.

"The retirement of Rear Adm. William Roberts as commandant of the METC leaves big shoes to be filled," said Sculley. "We are very fortunate in having Brigadier General Robert Miller step into that role. Bob has a superb background as a clinician, educator, and leader. He is perfect for his new duties," he said. "It makes me very proud that he is both a USU School of Medicine graduate and a graduate of my undergraduate alma mater, Washington and Jefferson College. I know that I will enjoy working with him as we advance the proposed affiliation between METC and the university for awarding of undergraduate degrees for METC students.

# Graduates return to campus for 2014 Alumni Weekend

By Sharon Holland, managing editor



USU Alumni Association President Dr. Leon Moores (right) introduces School of Medicine Dean Dr. Art Kellermann at the 2014 USU Alumni Weekend Awards Dinner. (Photo by Sharon Holland)

Graduates from the Uniformed Services University's Hébert School of Medicine and Inouye Graduate School of Nursing converged on the university campus for the USU Alumni Association's "2014 Alumni Weekend," Sept. 19-20.

The weekend's events kicked off with the USU Fall Convocation. USU President Charles Rice officially opened the academic year, welcoming new students to the medical, nursing, and graduate degree programs. Alumni and other physicians in attendance were invited to join medical students in reciting the Hippocratic Oath during the ceremony.

"Watching all the bright, young faces brought me back to 24 years ago standing in the atrium reciting that same oath," said Navy Capt. (Dr.) Eric Gessler (SoM 1994), who attended the ceremony. "It was a great reminder of the vital role the Hippocratic Oath serves in my daily practice. It was moving to think about all the lives this new class will touch and illnesses they will heal over their next 24 years and more."

The Friends of USU hosted a reception for alumni, faculty, staff, students and other guests following the convocation and screened "Fighting for Life," the documentary about USU released in 2008.

Saturday, an academic symposium was held with presentations by several alumni leaders, including Navy Rear Adm. (Dr.) Forrest Faison III (SoM 1994), deputy surgeon general of the Navy and deputy chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; ret. Army Col. (Dr.) Terry Walters (SoM '84, MPH '95), acting chief consultant, Post-Deployment Health, Office of Public Health, Department of Veterans Affairs; ret. Air Force Col. (Dr.) Charles Beadling (SoM '84), Director, USU Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine; and Victoria J. Davey, PhD, MPH, RN (PhD '87, GSN '09), associate chief research and development officer for Epidemiology and Public Health, Office of Research and Development, Department of Veterans Affairs.

The afternoon was filled with family activities and the annual 'alumni versus students' athletic events. Saturday evening, graduates and their guests, faculty, staff and students gathered for the alumni awards banquet. This year's recipients were:

2014 Lifetime Achievement Award – Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Thomas Travis (SoM '86)

2014 USU Alumni Military Medicine Award – ret. Army Col. (Dr.) Tad L. Gerlinger (SoM '94)

2014 USU Alumni School of Medicine Award – ret. Army Col. Edward Arrington (SoM '88)

2014 USU Alumni Graduate School of Nursing Award – Army Col. Richard Prior (GSN '02)

Unfortunately, the Alumni Association did not receive nominations for the 2014 USU Alumni Graduate Education Award, so there was no recipient.

Dr. Leon Moores (SoM '90), president of the USU Alumni Association, said he was very pleased with the support from the university, the participation from alumni, and the hard work of the Alumni Association volunteers who helped put the weekend together.

"It's terrific that the university was excited about linking events like the Fall Convocation with the Alumni Weekend activities," Moores said. "It's always great for alums to touch base with students, share stories, and remind ourselves how important USU has been for us over the decades."

# USU honors Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, Fort Belvoir Community Hospital for teaching excellence

By Sharon Holland, managing editor

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences leaders recognized two military treatment facilities for their outstanding support of USU medical and nursing students last year.

President Charles Rice presented the USU Excellence in Teaching Award to the Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune in September, and the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in October. The university bestows the award on one small and one large military treatment facility each year. The award also includes a \$5,000 grant from the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, to be used for education and training at each facility.

"I am delighted to present the USU award for teaching excellence to the commanding officer and staff of Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune," said Rice during the presentation in North Carolina. "NHCL was selected based on the very

Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune commanding officer Capt. (Dr.) David Lane, who has subsequently been promoted to rear admiral and taken over as the Medical Officer of the Marine Corps, praised the hospital staff for their excellent support of USU programs that resulted in receipt of the award and for their focus on integrating teaching into patient care.

"We are thrilled at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune to get the USU Excellence in Teaching Award. It is one example of the many great improvements that have taken place at NHCL over the past three-five years. Receiving the award from USU validates the time, energy, and resources NHCL has placed on integrating clinical teaching into healthcare delivery," said Lane. "As you may know, the Camp Lejeune Family Medicine Residency was struggling just a few years ago, but the entire hospital has undergone a dramatic turnaround in its effort to be 'the medical center of choice.' In 2012, NHCL received

a full, five-year accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, and we had zero deficiencies - a rarity for any program and first for a Navy family medicine residency. In 2013 we received the AMSUS Military Health Care Facility of the Year Award, the AMSUS Rehabilitation Award, and one of our orthopaedic surgeons was selected as the AMSUS Physician of the Year. Also, we were ranked as the number one of 36 sites by Duke for its Certified Nurse Anesthetist Program."

Fort Belvoir Community Hospital director, Navy Capt. Jennifer Vedral-Baron greeted USU leadership and others in attendance at the awards ceremony there, saying, "Anytime Fort Belvoir can be put on another map is a good day. We have received this award for the quality of individuals on the staff who are here today. It's about the faculty, the people who every day welcome your medical students and nursing students. They are dedicated and value their abilities to impart those abilities to your students."

"It should come as no particular surprise that the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital is the recipient of the large MTF award. Just a few years ago, DeWitt Army Community Hospital at Fort Belvoir was the recipient of the small MTF award," said Rice. "One more time winning, and you'll retire the award."

Nominations for the awards were received from throughout the military health system. Commands that demonstrated



From left to right: John Lowe, president and CEO, Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Dr. Arthur Kellermann, dean, USU's F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine, Navy Capt. Jennifer Vedral-Baron, Fort Belvoir Community Hospital director, Dr. Marguerite Littleton-Kearney, acting dean, Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing and Dr. Charles Rice, president of USU are all smiles during the USU Excellence In Teaching Award presentation. (Photo by Sharon Holland)

strong recommendation of students from the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing and the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine. Students were complimentary of the commitment, enthusiasm and intellectual rigor of all of the faculty and staff at NHCL."

outstanding clinical teaching effort, strong command support, strong faculty participation and performance, and strong administrative support for USU programs were then considered for the two awards by representatives from both the School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Nursing.

“What makes a great academic facility is a great teaching hospital, great patients, and great teachers; not just instructing, but teaching by example. Their skill, wisdom, judgment, and most of all, their compassion,” said medical school dean Dr. Art Kellermann. “We receive input from our students from the School of Medicine and Graduate School of Nursing and then negotiate until we determine the award recipients. There was no need to negotiate this year. It was a consensus. On behalf of the faculty and medical students of the F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine – America’s Medical School – thank you.”

Dr. Marguerite Littleton-Kearney, acting dean for USU’s Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing, who attended the ceremony at Fort Belvoir, also offered thanks to the hospital staff.

“It’s truly a privilege to be here. It’s a wonderful, dynamic environment full of excellent teachers. I know the enormous amount of time it takes to share your knowledge and expertise



Officer Capt. (Dr.) David Lane (second from left) are joined by USU medical students Ensigns Daniel Standish, Dawn Callahan, and Luke Womble for the USU Excellence in Teaching Award presentation at the Naval Hospital in Camp LeJeune, N.C. (Photo by Sharon Holland)

with our students. Thank you for dedicating your time to them,” she said.

In presenting the HJF award to each command, Foundation president and CEO, John Lowe, said “The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine is pleased to recognize the marvelous work you all do in support of USU’s teaching programs by presenting these awards to assist your continuing education efforts.”

## USU joins DC-area Educational Consortium

by Sharon Holland, managing editor

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences is the newest member of the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area following unanimous endorsement of USU’s membership application by the Consortium’s governing board.

“It gives me great pleasure to inform you that the board unanimously endorsed your application to join the Consortium at its meeting this morning. So, it is now official,” said Dr. John C. Cavanaugh, president and CEO of the CUWMA. “We are so very pleased to have USUHS as the newest member of the Consortium.”

The Consortium, founded in 1964, is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization which supports cooperative endeavors and is governed by the officers and

representatives of the participating universities and colleges. In addition to USU, the CUWMA is comprised of 13 colleges and universities in the Washington, DC, area. They represent public, private, federal, historically black, religious, and secular schools, as well as those devoted to the deaf and hard of hearing, and those focused on women’s education, with student body sizes that range from a few hundred to more than 35,000. The Consortium works on issues with local governmental entities, including the District of Columbia government, National Capital Planning Commission, and the National Center for Health Statistics, among others, and also provides students with opportunities to benefit from the combined resources of its members.

USU graduate students, particularly, will reap the benefits of the new relationship between USU and the CUWMA through the Consortium’s cross-registration program. Graduate students will be able to take courses at other member institutions without paying tuition.

“I am delighted that USU has been admitted to membership in the Consortium. We look forward to developing closer relationships with Consortium member institutions and working together on issues affecting higher education in our area,” said USU President Dr. Charles Rice.

# Final Frame



Photo by Thomas Balfour

*U.S. Public Health Ensign Devin Cooper provides medical aid in a simulated mass casualty drill as part of Operation Bushmaster. The annual Military Field Practicum is held at Fort Indiantown Gap in Pennsylvania for Uniformed Services University fourth-year medical students.*