

# USU Newsletter

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HM2 Michael Oliver

# History of Bushmaster...Part I of II

*By Dr. Barry Wolcott and  
Tsgt. André Nicholson*

The first dean of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, Dr. Jay Sanford, stated the educational objective of the curriculum is: "To prepare the graduate to serve successfully, following internship, as a general medical officer in the emergency room of a fixed military medical facility or as a general medical officer at the forward-most point on the modern battlefield at which physicians are positioned."

Dr. Sanford believed that the totality of the USU required curriculum in the basic sciences, clinical sciences, and military medicine formed a unique intellectual basis for this educational objective. He directed that the school's faculty create a formal curricular element using the structure of a military field exercise to test the ability of the students to meet the second element of this educational objective. He envisioned this exercise not as "field training," but as a "graduate level educational laboratory experience conducted in the field" during the senior year of medical school.

More than 30 years ago, Congress established USU as the nation's military medical academic university and it was in those formative years that Dr. Sanford's vision created what has come to be known as Operation Bushmaster.

At that time, there was not, and had never been, any such academic enterprise in American medical education. In fact, American military medical training had abandoned even medical field training exercises for medical corps officers in the aftermath of the Vietnam War. The university faculty would have to create this program from scratch, formally evaluate the program's outcomes, and modify the program's curriculum on the basis of those formal evaluations.

In 1978, Dr. Sanford appointed then Army Lt. Col. Barry Wolcott, MC, to USU's faculty to serve as the project officer for the Senior Course in Operational and Emergency Medicine, as which he served until the fall of 1982.

The first evolution of this unnamed academic endeavor took place in the fall of 1979 at the Army's field medical operations area at Camp Bullis, Texas, for the 29 students of the charter 1980 medical school class. The exercise's Operations Officer, Army Maj. Dennis Dugan, MSC, supplied the "Bushmaster" name before the second evolution in the fall of 1980; despite the fact that the name had no particular significance, it "stuck."

By 1981, expansion of class size required running the exercise twice; once the medical school reached the current class size of 165, it was necessary to run the exercise three times a year.

The Bushmaster exercise has had several important derivatives. These include:

-The Combat Casualty Care Course (C4); the university created this course based upon the Bushmaster curriculum for the services as the American military's first recurring tri-service training program (medical or otherwise);

-The Military Training Network; the university was the first military medical element to routinely train medical officers in Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Advanced Trauma Life Support, and therefore created this mechanism to maintain their proficiency after graduation;

-The "spin-off" from the senior year curriculum of Operation Kerkesner to be conducted at the end of the freshman year.

Bushmaster has contributed more than 4,000 graduates to military medical service since that first evolution in 1979. However, as with any academic endeavor, Bushmaster's most important legacy will remain the military medical intellectual capital created, nurtured, refined and expanded by the USU faculty responsible for this unique curricular element during the 28 years of its existence.

Throughout those past 28 years, the operation has gone from being held several times a year at different locations such as San Antonio, Texas, to more recently, being conducted once a year over a two-week period at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa (FIG).

Dr. Sanford's original vision of a graduate level educational laboratory experience conducted in the field during the senior year of medical school has since included students from the Graduate School of Nursing, and foreign exchange students.

In 2005, the Department of Military and Emergency Medicine (MEM) held both Operation Bushmaster and Operation Kerkesner simultaneously at FIG over a two week period. This year both field exercises will be conducted in July, again at FIG.

For a follow-up to this year's Operations Bushmaster/Kerkesner, look for Part II of the History of Bushmaster after the field exercise in a future issue of the USU Newsletter.



Photo by MCSN Raul Zamora

# USU Celebrates Asian Pacific Heritage Month

By MCSN Raul Zamora  
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) celebrated Asian Pacific Heritage month, Tuesday, June 12.

The celebration began with an invocation by LCDR Timothy Jannin, CHC, USN and the singing of the National Anthem by 2LT Ikaika Kahono, MS1, USA.

The keynote speaker was RADM Kenneth P. Moritsugu, M.D., MPH, acting surgeon general of the United States who began by saying hello in Hawaiian, Samoan, Japanese, Chinese and Hindi.

"We are here today to recognize the Asian American Pacific and Islander," Moritsugu said. "I'm a third generation American of Japanese ancestry, born and raised in Hawaii and proud of it. I am proud to have two medal of honor awardees in my family. When I search the internet for my 'not-so-common' last name, I'm surprised to find graphic artists, scientists, news reporters, and even a prize winning director."

He highlighted the theme of pursuing excellence in leadership diversity, unity and called attention to one of the priorities of his office, the elimination of health disparities.

"Diversity is something we should celebrate today and every day," Moritsugu said. "However, many Americans are members of racial and

ethnic minorities whose groups experience disparities and health outcomes in health care. While over all our nation's health has improved, not all populations have benefited equally."

Cancer is the second leading cause of death for most racial and ethnic groups in the United States. It is the number one leading cause of death among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders with diabetes are at high risk for heart disease, which is the second leading cause of death in these groups.

In spite of the numerous health problems facing Asian and Pacific Americans, Moritsugu applauded their cultural strength in the face of these adversities.

"We should not lose sight of why we celebrate these cultures," he said. "Not to emphasize on our differences but rather noting how these differences contribute to our diversity and richness of our society. Today we can consider who the Asian Pacific Americans are, a diverse mix of people whose background springs from cultures that span more than half of the globe. It is an interweaving of people that results in the richness and beauty of the tapestry which is our nation."



Photo by TSgt. James Steele

**RADM Kenneth P. Moritsugu, M.D., MPH acting surgeon general of the United States speaks to USU staff and faculty at the Asian Pacific Heritage Month celebration.**

## Feature film brings military medicine from battlefield to big screen

By TSgt. André Nicholson  
NCOIC, Office of External Affairs

A full-length feature film that began with the idea of highlighting the education being provided at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), turned into a documentary about military medicine, the people who practice it and those who need it most.

The film is the brainchild of Tammy Alvarez, founder and president of the Friends of USU. Mrs. Alvarez, who is the wife of USU's Board of Regents Chair Everett Alvarez Jr., JD, said there were a few reasons for wanting to make the film: to provide greater public awareness of the contributions and sacrifices of military medical personnel, as well as the threat of closure of USU.

"The university is extremely grateful for the vision and dedication Tammy Alvarez has put into producing this extraordinary film," said Carol Scheman, vice president for the Office of External Affairs. "She truly believes in the mission of this university and appreciates the commitment our students make in an effort to become the future military medical leaders of our nation."

"Fighting for Life" is a portrait of American military medicine in a time of war that interweaves three stories:

■ Military doctors, nurses, and medics working with compassion, skill, and dedication during war.

■ Wounded service members reacting with courage, dignity, and determination to survive and heal.

■ USU students on their journey toward becoming military physicians.

The film crew consists of Producer/Director Terry Sanders, a two-time Oscar winner and one-time Emmy award winner who has produced and/or directed more than 70 award-winning dramatic features, theatrical documentaries, and television specials. Co-Producer Jennifer Glos is a Master of Fine Arts graduate of the University of California Los Angeles, Calif., School of Theater, Film, and Television where she studied documentary filmmaking. Cinematographer Erik Daarstad has photographed hundreds of films over the last 45 years, from 30 second commercials to feature films. Bruce Nolte is a 1976 BFA graduate of the School of Film/Video of California Institute of the Arts. His professional experience in both film and video production includes lighting director, camera operation, audio recording and many aspects of post-production.

Sanders said he originally started out to make a film about USU the "West Point" of military medicine or "the best medical school no one's ever heard of." It then grew into a story about military medicine in a time of war.

"The decision to make this film was a single decision by Tammy Alvarez, I just helped out," Sanders said jokingly.

The film crew traveled to Iraq, Germany and made several trips to USU, Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC), and National Naval Medical Center. Segments of the film document the lives of several wounded service members such as 20 year-old Army Specialist Crystal Davis, from her arrival at the field hospital in Iraq following the loss of one leg from an Improvised Explosive Device, to her subsequent care in Germany, and finally recovery and rehabilitation at WRAMC.



Photo by TSgt. André Nicholson

**Ms. Tammy Alvarez speaks to the audience at the special screening of "Fighting for Life" with the film crew and Dr. Charles Rice, USU president, in attendance.**

"For me, "Fighting for Life" is a portrait of the compassion, skill, dedication and bravery of military doctors and nurses, and the courage, dignity and determination of the wounded to survive, to heal and, in the words of Army Specialist Davis, "bounce back," said Sanders.

While at the university the crew filmed several events, ceremonies and exercises such as the White Coat ceremony, the Antietam Road March, Operations Bushmaster and Kerkesner and commencement, which are all featured in the documentary.

"The crew captured the essence of military medicine," said Dr. James Zimble, USU president emeritus and film viewer. "This film far exceeded my expectations and it was beautifully done."

The crew shot more than 150 hours of film and edited it down to the 89 minute documentary. The film is scheduled to be released in theaters nationwide later this year. For more information about the film visit:

[www.fightingforlifethemovie.com](http://www.fightingforlifethemovie.com).

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## Grand Rounds: CDHAM's Afghanistan Healthcare Sector Medical Reachback Program

By MC3 Jeff Hopkins  
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs

Members of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) had the opportunity to attend Dr. Jim Holliman's presentation on the Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine's (CDHAM) Afghanistan Healthcare Sector Medical Reachback Program (AHSMR).

Funding was obtained by Col. Donald Thompson, USAF, MC, (USU class of 1986) to start a project at the CDHAM both to hire staff, as well as to provide funding for initial programs.

The original goal of the AHSMR was to work with the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-4), whose aim was to reform the Afghan military structure to facilitate and guide their efforts to combine the Afghan National Police and Afghan National Army into the Afghan National Security Force and their respective medical systems. Holliman said that through the course of the visit, it became apparent that a much broader initiative would be required.

"The initial idea was to form a team of subject matter experts to conduct a "crash study" visit to Afghanistan to identify a program

management plan to assist the command surgeon and the CSTC-4 in carrying out quality health care for the ANSF," Holliman said. "It quickly became apparent that in order to fix health care for the ANSF, the health care for the entire country would need to be advertised in a coordinated fashion."

Holliman said there were many geographical and security problems facing Afghanistan's health care system.

"There are many high mountains, and isolated valleys in which people live," Holliman said. "The security situation is a lot worse, the diversity of ethnic groups there causes a lot of problems, many of them don't get along too well. The country is one of the most heavily mined countries in the world; there are thousands of land-mine victims."

Holliman said problems within the health care system itself included medical logistics, and medical equipment issues.

"The military has already started working on that, developing a logistics depot, for the ANSF in Kabul, and depots near each of the regional hospitals," Holliman said.

"There was a lot of irreparable equipment, as well as brand new equipment that had never been used, because medical personnel were either untrained with it, or too afraid of breaking it," he said.

Holliman said training for medical equipment repair was developed, so that at least the equipment already available remains functional.

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## USU researchers link high salt diet to ulcers

Scientists from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) have discovered that diets high in salt may increase the virulence of the pathogen *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*), which is the most common cause of ulcers in the stomach and duodenum.

"Apparently the stomach pathogen *H. pylori* closely monitors the diets of those people whom it infects. Epidemiological evidence has long implied that there is a connection between *H. pylori* and the composition of the human diet. This is especially true for diets rich in salt," says D. Scott Merrell, Ph.D., assistant professor of Microbiology and Immunology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, MD. Hanan Gancz, a postdoctoral fellow in the Merrell laboratory presented the research May 22, 2007 at the 107th General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in Toronto. High concentrations of salt in the stomach appear to induce gene activity in *H. pylori*, making it more virulent and increasing the likelihood of an infected person developing a severe gastric disease.

*H. pylori* is a spiral-shaped bacterium that can live in the acidic environment of the stomach and duodenum which is the section of intestine below the stomach. It is the most common cause of ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, accounting for

up to 90% of duodenal ulcers and up to 80% of gastric ulcers. Infection with *H. pylori* also causes gastritis, and infected persons also have a 2- to 6-fold increased risk of developing mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT) lymphoma, and gastric cancer compared with uninfected counterparts.

*H. pylori* infection is common in the United States and is most often found in persons from lower income groups and older adults. About 20% of persons younger than 40 years of age and about 50% of persons over 60 years of age are infected. Most infected people do not have symptoms and only a small percentage go on to develop disease.

Previous research has focused on the effects diet has on the stomach environment where *H. pylori* resides, but until now scientists have overlooked the response of the microorganism specifically to these dietary queues. Working from the epidemiological evidence that *H. pylori* infection combined with a high-salt diet results in an increased incidence of severe gastric maladies, Merrell and colleagues decided to look at the direct effect a high concentration of salt had on both the growth and gene expression of the bacterium.

"We noted that *H. pylori* growth rate shows a sharp decline at high salt concentrations. Moreover, bacterial cells exposed

to increased salt exhibited striking morphological changes: cells became elongated and formed long chains," says Merrell. "We conclude that *H. pylori* exposed to high levels of salt in vitro exhibit a defect in cell division."

They also discovered transcription of two genes responsible for the virulence of the bacterium was increased during high-salt conditions.

"The altered expression patterns of some virulence genes may partially explain the increased disease risk that is associated with a high salt diet in *H. pylori* infected individuals," says Merrell.



Courtesy photo

***H. pylori* infection combined with a high-salt diet results in an increased incidence of severe gastric maladies**

# New Study Suggests Potential for a Broadly-Protective HIV Vaccine

New research conducted at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) suggests that it may be possible to develop a vaccine that protects against the myriad strains of the HIV virus. HIV is extremely variable, so an effective vaccine may need to stimulate the body to produce cross-reactive antibodies that will neutralize multiple viral strains. These results demonstrate that induction of truly broad-spectrum neutralizing antibodies may be an achievable goal. This groundbreaking study titled:

“Extensively Cross-Reactive Anti-HIV-1 Neutralizing Antibodies Induced by gp140 Immunization” appears in the Early Edition of *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* <http://www.pnas.org/papbyrecent.shtml>.

USU Professors CAPT Gerald Quinnan, Jr., M.D., USPHS, and Christopher Broder, Ph.D., and their colleagues at USU attempted to elicit these broad-range antibodies in an animal model by immunizing with a particular HIV-1 surface protein, designated R2 gp140, and an immune response-boosting component. The researchers tested antibodies generated by the immunizations to determine their effectiveness in neutralizing the infectivity of a variety of HIV-1 strains. Antibodies produced as a result of immunization neutralized all 48 strains of HIV-1 tested. The results are encouraging for vaccine development, because they showed that it is possible to elicit a broad-spectrum antibody response.

This research was supported by a grant from a number of collaborators including the National Institutes of Health/NIAID and The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Inc.



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

## First sight of students in white

MS1 students received their first white coat at the end of their first year at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU). At the end of the first year the MS1 students are cloaked in their first laboratory coat as a welcome to the medical field. The white coat ceremony is a way to recognize and honor the doctor-patient relationship. With the white coat these officers have the privilege and responsibilities that characterize the physician-patient relationship. The Arnold P. Gold Foundation for Humanism in Medicine sponsors this ceremony for many of the medical schools in the United States.

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# USU Alumnus Named Deputy Assistant Secretary, DHHS

Kevin S. Yeskey, M.D., an alumnus and faculty member of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), was appointed May 27 to serve as the deputy assistant secretary and director of the Office of Preparedness and Emergency Operations within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Dr. Yeskey, a 1983 graduate of USU's F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, has been with the office since February, 2006. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Yeskey, an emergency physician, served as a member of the Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness (OPHEP) for DHHS. As such, he held a principal advisory role on matters related to public health and medical preparedness.

Dr. Yeskey retired from the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) in 2003, after spending more than 24 years on active duty. During that time, Dr. Yeskey held a number of key disaster response positions, including serving as the director of USU's Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine and as an associate professor in USU's Department of Military and Emergency Medicine. Dr. Yeskey served at FEMA, CDC, and in the HHS Office of Emergency Preparedness.

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## Staff Profile: TSgt. Walter Bennett

*By MCSN Raul Zamora  
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs*

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) has many outstanding staff members, and TSgt. Walter L. Bennett Jr., USAF, NCOIC, Environmental Program is no exception.

Bennett is not only the NCOIC for Environmental Programs but also the USU Brigade Member of the Year and the president for the Enlisted Social Committee (ESC).

He was born in Endicott, New York, but raised in Washington.

"My family was like a sitcom," said Bennett. "With six brothers and sisters life was never boring. We were always moving around and seeing the country."

Bennett's father is retired now but he was an Air Force computer inspector, and his mother had a full-time job raising kids. Bennett has a family of his own, wife Melissa and three kids Tyler, Nichole, and Skyler.

Since Bennett's father was in the military,

he became interested in joining as well. He has been in the Air Force for 15 years. "I was a military brat," said Bennett. "I liked the lifestyle of good food and traveling." His Air Force Specialty Code is Bioenvironmental Engineering Craftsman.

He has been stationed at Hill AFB, Utah; Brooks AFB, Texas; McChord AFB, Washington; Keesler AFB, Mississippi; Fairchild AFB, Washington; and presently, USU.

Bennett has learned how to protect DOD workers from exposure to hazardous noise, chemical exposure and other workplace hazards.

As president of the ESC he has led the organization of several events for the enlisted members and fundraisers. "I enjoy working in an organization that helps build morale and organizes fun activities for enlisted Airman, Soldiers and Sailors," he said.

As the Enlisted Service Member of the Year, Bennett carried the USU Mace during the 2007 Commencement Ceremony.

"I think this is a great place to work," he said. "I actually enjoy coming to work. We have a beautiful campus, some days it is easy to forget this is a military installation. One of my favorite memories here at USU was personally meeting the surgeons gen-

eral from all of the services at the graduation last month."

Bennett's plans for the future are to finish his master's degree in Elementary Education, be an elementary school teacher and retire in Harrington, Wash.

"I have enjoyed this area for all of the historical places I have been able to visit," Bennett said. "It's one thing to read about them and another thing to actually visit them."



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

**TSgt. Walter Bennett (Left) carried the USU Mace during the 2007 USU Commencement Ceremony.**

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## Former CHE Senior Director Receives Defense Superior Service Medal

*By MC3 Jeff Hopkins  
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs*

The former senior director for the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Continuing Education for Health Professionals (CHE) recently received the Defense Superior Service Medal.

Captain Jane E. Mead, NC, USN distinguished herself by exceptional meritorious service as senior executive director, Continuing Education for Health Professionals, from June 7, 2005

through Dec 18, 2006. Captain Mead was directly responsible for a 320% increase in continuing medical education offerings, providing resuscitative and trauma medicine training oversight for 925,000 DoD personnel. She assumed oversight of the USU distributed learning system providing connectivity for 4,800 students and faculty in 436 online courses and a \$3 million USU contract establishing the Education Technology & Innovation Support Office. She also served as executive secretary to the USU's Board of Regents. As the DoD Co-Chair of the Health Executive Council Continuing Education Workgroup, Captain Mead collaborated with the Veterans Health Administration to share 254 training programs, with a combined value of \$5,970,294.

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# USU alumni awardees

Congratulations to the following USU alumni who received awards during the National Capital Consortium/WRAMC/NNMC/USU Graduation and Awards Ceremony for interns, residents and fellows.

The recipients were:

**CDR William Carter, MC, USN, Class of 1994, Radiology  
National Naval Medical Center Staff Physician Teacher of the Year Award**

This award is presented annually to the outstanding faculty member of the NNMC's graduate medical education programs. The recipient of this award, selected by a committee of program chairs and house officers, is felt to best demonstrate the attributes of a knowledgeable, accomplished clinician, a dedicated and tireless instructor, and a principled, compassionate leader.

**CDR Patricia McKay, MC, USN, Class of 1993, Orthopaedics  
Vice Admiral James A. Zimble Award**

The Vice Admiral James A. Zimble Award is presented to recognize the program director whose contribution, dedication and interest in teaching has significantly supported the NNMC graduate medical education program. In addition to teaching, all candidates for consideration of the Vice Admiral Zimble Award must have demonstrated scholarly activities, including publications, invited lectures, membership and/or fellowship in national/international societies.

**Maj Robert Elwood, USAF, MC, Class of 2000, Pediatric Infectious Diseases**

**Bailey K. Ashford Laboratory Research Award**

*"The American Cotton Rat: A Novel Model for Pulmonary Tuberculosis"*

Presented annually to the house staff member judged to have accomplished the most outstanding research during training at WRAMC. The selection committee considers the quality and significance of the work as well as the nominee's contributions to the research. These include both leadership and active participation in the conduct of the study in addition to its intellectual aspects. The award was initiated in 1975 by Colonel Marcel E. Conrad, the first Chief of Clinical Investigation at WRAMC, in the name of Colonel Bailey K. Ashford, in honor of Dr. Ashford's work in solving the problem of anemia caused by hookworm in Puerto Rico.

**MAJ Brian Hemann, MC, USA, Class of 2000, Cardiology  
General Graves B. Erskine Award - Fellow Award**

Presented annually to the outstanding resident and outstanding fellow as determined by a selection committee. The awards are sponsored by the estate of Mrs. Graves B. Erskine in the name of her husband, Gen. Graves Blanchard Erskine, who served in both World War I and World War II. He commanded the 3rd Marine Division in Iwo Jima and the 1st and 3rd Marine Divisions at Camp Pendleton, and later served as Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic.

**COL George W. Turiansky, MC, USA, Class of 1985, Dermatology  
Lieutenant General Claire L. Chennault Award**

The LTG Claire L. Chennault Award is presented annually to two members of the teaching staff, as determined by a selection committee. The award is presented to faculty who best demonstrate overall excellence, professional medical expertise and personality traits of innovativeness, fairness, leadership and tenacity in the face of adversity. Mrs. Anna C. Chennault sponsors the award in the name of her husband, LTG Claire L. Chennault, who founded the famed "Flying Tigers," the American flyers who raided Japan from

China in WWII.

**MAJ Matthew A. Javernick, MC, USA, Class of 2000, Orthopaedics  
Major General Lewis A. Mologne Award**

The Lewis A. Mologne Award is in memory of Major General Lewis Aspey Mologne, the first West Point graduate to become a General Officer in the Army Medical Department. His 35-year career was marked by an outstanding demonstration of commitment to the care of patients, and a deep sense of loyalty to his country, the U.S. Army, and his fellow soldiers. He showed the greatest respect for truth, honesty and dedication in the practice of medicine. MG Mologne served as commanding general of WRAMC from 1983 to 1988. The award is given annually to a physician in training who exemplifies these characteristics. The award is given by the Lewis A. Mologne Trust of the Henry M. Jackson Foundation.

**LT Scott M. Tintle, MC, USN, Class of 2006, Orthopaedics  
Outstanding Intern Award, National Naval Medical Center**

The Outstanding Intern is selected by the Intern Program Directors. This individual is judged to have excellence in academic performance, compassion for patients, and outstanding interpersonal skills. The recipient is presented with the Navy Achievement Medal for this outstanding performance of duties.

**LCDR Jonathan Forsberg, MC, USN, Class of 2001, Orthopaedics  
NNMC Annual Academic Research Competition, Protocol Category & Oral Presentations**

The Academic Research Competition Award is an annual award presented to staff and residents from the NNMC for submitted research projects. The NNMC winners go on to compete with the winners from the Naval Medical Centers at San Diego and Portsmouth, for a traveling plaque that identifies and awards their achievement.

**National Naval Medical Center Outstanding Resident Teaching Award**

Residents from the various training programs within the National Capital Consortium are recognized for their outstanding teaching abilities. They have made a significant impact on the learning experience of those who are following in their footsteps, contributing to a proud legacy of supreme graduate medical education.

**CPT Sung Cho, MC, USA, Class of 2003, Dermatology  
National Naval Medical Center Outstanding Resident Teaching Award, Dermatology Residency Program**

**LCDR Jonathan Gilhooly, MC, USN, Class of 2001, Neurosurgery  
National Naval Medical Center Outstanding Resident Teaching Award, Neurosurgery Residency Program**

**CPT Brad Dolinsky, MC, USA, Class of 2003, Obstetrics and Gynecology**

**National Naval Medical Center Outstanding Resident Teaching Award, Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Program**

**Walter Reed Army Medical Center Department Awards  
MAJ Geoffrey Grammer, MC, USA, Class of 1996, Psychiatry  
WRAMC Department of Psychiatry Outstanding Faculty Member Award, PGY-1**

**MAJ Gary Wynn, MC, USA, Class of 2000, Psychiatry  
WRAMC Department of Psychiatry Outstanding Faculty Member Award, PGY-2**

**Maj Charles Motsinger, USAF, MC, Class of 1997, Psychiatrist  
WRAMC Department of Psychiatry Outstanding Faculty Member Award, PGY-5**

Again, congratulations to these alumni for their outstanding achievements.

## In Memory of: Dr. C. Thomas Yarrington, Board of Regents Member



C. Thomas Yarrington, Jr., MD, surgeon, educator and retired military officer died peacefully at home May 30 with his beloved wife and family at his side. Born April 26, 1934 in Sayre, Pa, he graduated from the Hill School in Pottstown, Pa and received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University in 1956. He received a degree in medicine from Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia in 1960

and completed a medical internship at Rochester (NY) General Hospital and a surgical residency at Dartmouth Medical School. Deciding on a career in Otolaryngology, he completed residency training at the University of Rochester, NY Medical Center in 1965. There he met and married Barbara Taylor Johnson in 1963.

While at Princeton, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve and following his residency, served as chief, ENT service at Ft. Carson, Co. Army Hospital from 1965 to 1967. He was assistant professor of Otolaryngology at the University of Washington Virginia Medical Center in Morgantown from 1967-1968 and then served as professor and chairman of Otolaryngology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha from 1968-1974. He moved his wife and three children to Seattle and joined the staff of the Mason Clinic and the Virginia Mason Medical Center in 1974. While on the staff at Virginia Mason, he was section chief of Otolaryngology and Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and later served a term as chief of surgery. He retired in 1997.

Honesty, integrity, education and service to others and to his

country were of paramount importance to him. After his Army active-duty service he transferred to the Air Force Reserves and served in a variety of positions including commander of the 39th Medical Service Squadron, Military Airlift Command at McChord Air Force Base eventually serving as mobilization assistant to the deputy surgeon general, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. He achieved the rank of brigadier general in 1979 and retired from the active reserves in 1986. His military decorations include, among many others, the Distinguished Service Medal and Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster.

Most notably, in 2006, he was appointed to the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences by the President of the United States. He was extremely proud of this appointment and it is a loss to all that he could not fulfill his term.

He was a member of many local and national organizations including The Seattle Yacht Club, Broadmoor Golf Club, the Reserve Officers Associate, and the Military and Hospitalier Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem. Professional Organizations included The American Broncholo-Esophogological Assignment, the American Academy of Otolaryngology and the American Society of Otology, Rhinology and Laryngology.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, children, Leslie (Randy Ochoa), Jennifer (William Steiner) and Barbara Jane. He also leaves his beloved grandchildren, Kelsey and Nicholas Ochoa and Justine and Valerie Yarrington and his brother, David. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. The compassion, dignity and grace with which he lived his life will continue in our hearts and memories forever. He was the finest of gentlemen. Donations in his name may be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma society at [www.leukemia-lymphoma.org](http://www.leukemia-lymphoma.org). Interment will be at the Tahoma National Cemetery. A Memorial Service and Celebration of his Life will be held Friday, June 22 at 7 p.m. at the Volney Richmond Auditorium, Lindeman Pavillion, 1201 Terry Ave. Seattle, Wash.



Photo by Tsgt. James Steele

### **In The Army Now: Former MTV Show Contestant Performs National Anthem**

ZLT Ikaika Kahoano, a USU School of Medicine student, class of 2010, sang the National Anthem for USU's Asian Pacific Heritage Month celebration June 12. Kahoano is a native Hawaiian and a former professional musician who sang with the bands O-Town, and LMNT (pronounced "element") before coming to USU to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor.

# USU Announces Junior and Senior Employee of the Quarter

By MC3 Jeff Hopkins  
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs

Each quarter civilian employees of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) and the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI) are nominated to compete for Junior and Senior Employee of the Quarter (JEO/SEQ), an award which recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of university employees.

The winner of this quarter's SEQ award is Barbara Marchetti, a program support assistant for the Office of the Dean, Graduate School of Nursing (GSN). Marchetti's duties include keeping budget logs, faculty calendars, all meeting minutes, procurement of supplies and equipment, management of computerized workload formula/systems, faculty monthly schedules, and coordination of all faculty travel and scholarly projects.

Retired BG William T. Bester, dean of the GSN, nominated Marchetti, and expressed confidence in her merit of the award.

"Her 'can do' enthusiasm, team mentality, and conscientious dedication to duty were displayed through her extraordinary work," Bester said. "Her work ethic and positive attitude has immeasurably contributed to the success and excellence of the GSN."

Marchetti said she appreciated her nomination and subsequent selection for the SEQ.

"I was very surprised and appreciative," she said. "Especially since the paperwork would have had to be submitted by the Graduate School of Nursing at the most hectic time of the year for our faculty and staff."

Marchetti, who has been selected as SEQ once previously, said what she most enjoys about working at USU are the people she works with.

"The best part of working at USU is the wonderful dedicated people I've met," she said. "The GSN faculty members are the hardest working people I've ever worked with, during my more than 20 years of government service."

Marchetti added that along with the recognition of being the SEQ, she also received the most coveted prize given at USU.

"This award is special. The recognition of one's efforts are always appreciated," she said, "But a reserved parking space at USU has to be the most welcomed prize considering the parking shortage."

This quarter's JEO winner is LaRhonda R. Baker, a program support assistant for the Office of Recruitment and Diversity. Baker's supervisor, CAPT Cynthia Macri, MD, FACS, FACOG, vice president for Recruitment and Diversity, nominated Baker for her assumption of additional responsibilities, while continuing to perform her own duties in an outstanding fashion.

"Ms. Baker consistently performs her duties with skill, knowledge, and commitment," Macri said. "I believe that she is worthy of this honor."

Baker is coordinator for Youth Programs, for which she arranges appearances of USU faculty and students, provides program schedules, and arranges meeting locations. During the quarter, she collected 25 applications from high school students for the summer outreach program S2M2: science, service, medicine, and mentoring, and served as a chaperone for a visit of 18 ninth grade students to USU and the main operating room at the National Naval Medical Center.

Any civilian employee in a non-supervisory position at the grade level GS-7/WG-7 or below may be nominated for the JEO, and those in non-supervisory positions, level

GS-8/WS-8 and above can be nominated for the SEQ. In addition, nominees must have been employed at USU or AFRRI for 12 months or more, received an overall performance rating of highly successful or higher on their most recent annual performance rating, and must not have been selected for JEO/SEQ in the two years previous to the current nomination period.

Some benefits of winning the SEQ and JEO each receive a \$250 on-the-spot award, and exclusive use of a designated USU parking spot for the quarter.



Photo by MCSN Raul Zamora

## 232 years of HOOAH!

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) celebrated the U.S. Army's 232nd birthday on Thursday, June 14.

The ceremony started with an invocation followed by the Army Service Song. Afterwards a cake was cut by the oldest and the youngest Army service members.

The Army was established on June 14, 1775, a year before the Declaration of Independence was signed. The Army has played a vital role in the growth and development of the United States. Soldiers have fought for freedom, from the American Revolution through the Cold War, The Vietnam War, the Gulf War, to the current War on Terror.

Happy birthday Army, HOOAH!

## **Paid performance: Switch to NSPS**

*By MC3 Jeff Hopkins  
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs*

Civilian personnel at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences who are paid by the General Schedule (GS) system will soon be switching over to the National Security Personnel System (NSPS).

The NSPS was designed to provide a more performance based system of hiring, pay and evaluation; it places more emphasis on pay for noteworthy performance and less on seniority. One of its main tenants is to promote and reward employees who show their value to the organization and the mission.

Under the NSPS classification system, every GS position within the Department will be assigned to a career group, pay schedule, and pay band. Many of the factors used to classify positions under NSPS are the same as those contained in the old system, such as complexity and level of work. There are four career groups: Standard Career Group; Scientific & Engineering Career Group; Investigative & Protective Services Career Group; and Medical Career Group. There are typically four pay schedules: Professional/Analytical; Technician/Support; Supervisor/Manager; and Student.

There are typically three pay bands for each pay schedule: Expert; Journey; and Entry/Development.

The NSPS operates on three "core concepts":

**1) accountability, whereby an employee is responsible for their career and performance, and contributions will be directly com-**

**pensated through salary increases and bonuses; 2) flexibility, by which employees are no longer bound by narrow job descriptions tied to discrete grade levels; and 3) results, an employee's contributions and performance directly link to organizational and DOD goals.**

The NSPS eliminates the GS "step" system, which provides incremental raises within pay grade for time in service. However, it offers several means of earning an increase in salary; employees are eligible to receive a performance-based increase if they have a rating of record of Level 3 (Valued Performer) or higher. A reassignment occurs when an employee moves, voluntarily or involuntarily, to a different position or set of duties within his/her pay band or to a position in a comparable pay band. A reassignment may result in a pay increase up to five per cent. A rate range adjustment is an increase to the minimum and/or maximum of the pay band that is adjusted based on market drivers. Employees are eligible to receive a rate range adjustment if they have a rating of record of Level 2 (Fair) or higher.

The NSPS will not affect certain benefits under the GS system; NSPS does not affect rules governing retirement benefits and eligibility, health and life insurance, leave, attendance, and other similar benefits. Similarly, employees will not lose any salary during conversion.

Currently, the pay system switch will only affect GS personnel. No determination has been made about wage grade employees. USU administratively determined personnel, Henry Jackson Foundation and contract employees are exempt. All civilian and military supervisors of GS personnel will be required to attend NSPS training courses.

For more information regarding NSPS, please visit [www.cpm.osd.mil/nsps](http://www.cpm.osd.mil/nsps).



Photo By HM2 Michael Oliver

### **USU Brigade Runs the 2007 Tom's Run**

Members of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Brigade ran the 2007 Tom's Run June 8 and 9. Rochelle Frazier, single mother of two, ran the entire 208 miles. She trained for a year to get to that point. She started Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. and ran until Saturday 10:53 a.m. The Tom's Run started in Cumberland, MD and finished at USU. The Tom's Run is held annually to raise awareness of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and is named in honor of CWO4 Tom Brooks, USCG (Ret.), who contracted ALS (also known as Lou Gehrig's disease) in early 1999.

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# USU News Briefs

## Uniform Policy:

Brigade Uniform Policy Change: The Brigade Uniform Policy has changed. To view the new Brigade Uniform Policy, go to the following link:

<http://www.usuhs.mil/bde/pdf/BrigadeUniformPolicy.pdf>

## Service Member of the Quarter:

Supervisors are encouraged to submit their personnel for the Service Member of the Quarter award to recognize the contributions of the enlisted staff at USU. Nominations for April-June are to be routed through the Headquarters Company command to SFC Peña, USA (BDE) by June 29. The Service Member of the Quarter Board will be held July 27 at 2 p.m. in RM A2054.

## Brigade photo:

All USU Brigade members will be taking a formal photo in the courtyard. Aug. 2, 6:45 a.m. This picture is intended to include all USU and AFRRRI staff and faculty military personnel. Uniform for the picture is Class A Service Uniform. This is an all-hands scheduled event, therefore absences should be coordinated. Officer personnel coordinate non-attendance to CDR Trotter. Enlisted personnel coordinate non-attendance to SFC Pena.

## 5K Summer Fun Run/Walk:

There will be a 5K Summer Fun Run/Walk June 21 at noon at the

Comfort Zone. To register, please contact [wtomkins@mwrbethesda.com](mailto:wtopkins@mwrbethesda.com). Free t-shirts to participants.

## Navy Reenlistment and Extension Bonus:

Information for Selected Reserve Navy Enlisted personnel on Selection Reenlistment Bonuses, Extension bonuses, and the Montgomery GI Bill Kicker program, go to <http://www.npc.navy.mil/NR/rdonlyres/4418E774-7CF8-4A4F-A19D-B50D500E6CB6/0/NAV07142.txt>.

## Enlisted Applications to the Naval Academy:

The US Naval Academy is currently accepting applications for appointment. If you would like to know more information about this opportunity, go to:

<http://www.npc.navy.mil/NR/rdonlyres/EEFC3FC2-0551-4DBE-BF6F-2CEA25E88C2C/0/ALN07048.txt>.

## Kings Dominion:

Kings Dominion is having Federal Government Employee Appreciation Days. Discounts (4 tickets for \$99.99) will be given on single-day admission tickets that are used before July 15. Coupons can be picked up in the USU Alumni Bookstore.

## Promotions:

Please congratulate the following: Second Lt King, USAF (PMB) promoted to 1st Lt.; HM3 Connor, USN (AFRRRI) promoted to HM2; YNSN Ford, USN (MPO) promoted to YN3, and MCSN Hopkins, USN (VPE) promoted to MC3.

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## USU History



**Charles L. Rice,  
Fifth USU President  
2004– present**

Charles L. Rice, M.D., was sworn in as USU's fifth president on July 1, 2005. His nomination was approved by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and the Secretary of Defense.

Before assuming his present position, Rice, a Navy-trained surgeon and researcher, served as the vice chancellor for health affairs at the University of Illinois, Chicago, from 1999-2004. Prior to that, he was vice dean of the UIC College of Medicine, as well as a professor of surgery and professor of physiology and biophysics.

As President of USU, Dr. Rice is responsible for the academic, research and service mission of the university. He advises the assistant secretary of defense (Health Affairs) and the four surgeons general on a wide array of issues related to graduate

health professions education and health-care research.

Originally from Atlanta, Ga., Dr. Rice graduated with an A.B. from the University of Georgia in 1964 and earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia in 1968. He interned at Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C. He completed his general surgery residency at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., followed by a research fellowship at the Naval Medical Research Institute in Bethesda.

His research interests, many funded by the National Institutes of Health, have been in the biology of lung injury and in mechanisms of cell and tissue injury in shock. His clinical focus has been in trauma and critical care. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Surgery, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a member of numerous professional organizations, including the American Surgical Association and the Society of University Surgeons, and is a past president of the Shock Society. Dr. Rice was a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow and served as a Legislative Assistant to Senator Thomas A. Daschle (D-SD) from

1991 to 1992. During that time he also served as the surgeon to the President of the United States. He was a member of the Board of the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education from 1998 to 2004 and served as its chair from 2002 to 2004. Dr. Rice has also been a Petersdorf Scholar-in-Residence at the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Dr. Rice was commissioned as an ensign in the Naval Reserve Medical Corps in 1966. Three years later, he transferred into the regular Navy. He left active duty, but remained in the Naval Reserve, and was promoted to captain in 1991. He retired in 2003. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit.

In addition to appointments at the University of Illinois, Chicago, Dr. Rice has served on the faculty of the University of Chicago, the University of Washington, and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. He has authored numerous scientific papers, abstracts, and medical texts.

Dr. Rice is a member of numerous professional organizations and health policy groups, and is a recognized leader in American academic medicine.



# USU Calendar of Events



17 <i>June</i>	18	19	20 USU Toastmasters Meeting Room A2011 <b>Noon-1p.m.</b>	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 USU Toastmasters Meeting in AFRRRI Small Conference Room <b>Noon-1p.m.</b>	28	29	30
1 <i>July</i>	2	3	4 USU Toastmasters Meeting Room A2011 <b>Noon-1p.m.</b>  Student Spouses Club Meeting Small Dining room <b>6:30p.m.-7:30 p.m.</b>	5	6	7
8	9	10 Operation Bushmaster Exercises <b>July 10-20</b>  Administrative Officers Departmental Representatives Meeting Lecture Room E Contact Dawn Patti 301-295-3104 <a href="mailto:dpatti@usuhs.mil">dpatti@usuhs.mil</a>	11 Operation Bushmaster Exercises <b>July 10-20</b>	12 Operation Bushmaster Exercises <b>July 10-20</b>	13 Operation Bushmaster Exercises <b>July 10-20</b>	14 Operation Bushmaster Exercises <b>July 10-20</b>