

# USU Newsletter

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**USU Newsletter**  
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**Front Cover Photo By**  
MC3 Jeff Hopkins

# Operations Kerkesner

*By TSgt Andre Nicholson*  
*NCOIC, Office of External Affairs*



*Photo by MC3 Jeff Hopkins*

**HM1 Monicka Boyd (right), AFRR1, evaluates an MS1's proficiency in administering IVs in a field setting as part of Operation Kerkesner's IV lane.**



*Photo by MC3 Jeff Hopkins*

**MS1 students aid each other in donning Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) gear as part of the survival lane.**



*Photo by MC3 Jeff Hopkins*

**ENS Paul Maliakel and 2nd Lt Ramon Riojas display their platoon's guidon. Each platoon creates and produces its own guidon to represent the platoon for the duration of the operation.**

After months of planning, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' Military and Emergency Medicine Department executed and successfully completed the third joint service exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Pa., July 19.

The field exercises known as Operation Kerkesner and Operation Bushmaster are unique to USU's medical school curriculum. This is the third consecutive year the exercises were held at the same time.

Operation Kerkesner provides first-year medical students (MS-I) with the opportunity to train on basic service member skills that will enhance their ability to communicate and save patients on the battlefield.

Operation Kerkesner is designed to give the MS-I students a feel of what it's like to practice medicine in a military environment. The students go through four days of intense training with three lanes of instruction a day. These training blocks take the students through a crawl, walk, run phase of training. Students received instruction in lanes such as IV, combatives, land navigation, and care under fire.

"Aside from the military medical skills that they gained I hope that the Kerkesner students were able to experience camaraderie and esprit de corps with their fellow classmates," said Lt Col Lisa Beck, MSC, USAF, director,



*Photo by Tech Sgt James Steele*

**During the Tactical Combat Casualty Care Lane, the first-year students get a taste of Bushmaster's mass-casualty drill, complete with moulage and simulated mortar fire. During the lane, a platoon of first-years is split into two groups; one third of the students are moulaged to be mass casualty patients, while the other group of students coordinates an effective triage mission, including the employment of scouts and radiomen to quickly and efficiently get their wounded friends to safety. Each group takes a turn as the moulaged patients.**

# er, Bushmaster—Part II

Academic Support Division, MEM, and officer in charge of Operation Kerkesner. “I also hope that for those students without prior service that they gained some confidence and leadership experience that they can carry with them as they begin their military career.”

Both faculty and staff members are involved with making the exercises a success. The enlisted support staff plays an intricate role in both field exercises from planning, setting up, tearing down, to offering mentorship and guidance to the students.

“The enlisted support staff is highly important,” Beck said. “We could not have accomplished the mission without their support. At Kerkesner the enlisted staff was even more critical because they not only accomplished all the logistics of the exercise but they were instructing the medical students as well.”

“Faculty members are also invaluable members of the team,” Beck added. “Visiting faculty from Texas, California, Colorado, North Carolina, New York and Ohio took time away from their regular duties to volunteer to assist us in training the students. The students had the opportunity to capitalize on the experience of faculty members from all over the United States that have recently been deployed.”

Operation Bushmaster is the School of Medicine exercise that serves as the practical exam for the Military Contingency Medicine (MCM) course. Drawing from all available “lessons learned” from the current and operational environments, it simulates a military joint task force deployment dur-

*See EXERCISES, Page 4 and 5*



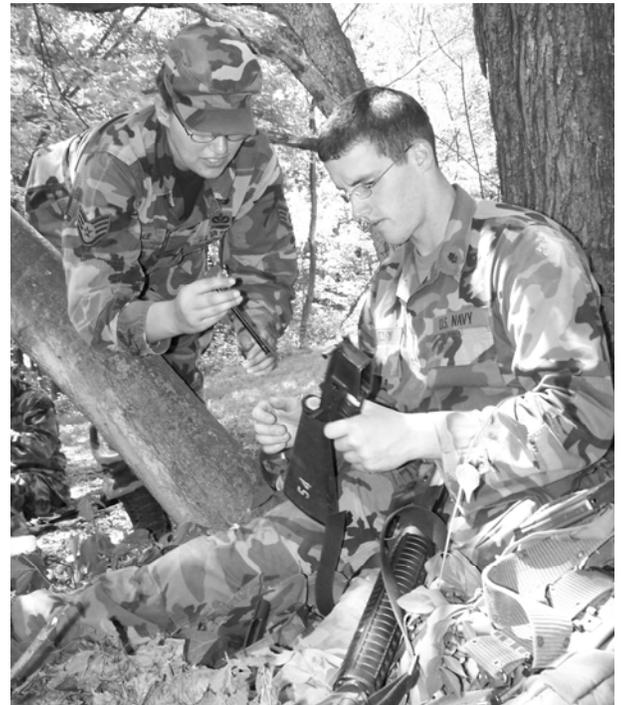
*Photo by MC3 Jeff Hopkins*

Students take cover from opposing fire during the Care Under Fire lane, in which a platoon is split into two opposing teams, and then attempt to capture the other team’s flag. The lane teaches the students to take care of their medics.



*Photo by Tech Sgt James Steele*

First-year students had to rely on teamwork to navigate through a series of complex obstacles during the Leadership Reactionary Course. The lane’s purpose is to help bolster leadership abilities and teamwork among the medical students.



*Photo by MC3 Jeff Hopkins*

SSgt Troyann Ernle, MEM, instructs ENS Brian Toupin, MS-I, in the proper reintegration of the M16 at the Survival lane.



Photo by MCSN Raul Zamora

Fourth-year students arrived at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA, for Operation Bushmaster, a field-training exercise which simulates care-giving in a hostile environment.



Photo by Tech Sgt André Nicholson

One of the first situations the students are put into is the triage tent exercise, where they have three minutes to quickly diagnose a number of patients.



Photo by MC3 Jeff Hopkins

Armed with non-firing M16 rifles, fourth-year students took turns standing shifts as sentries, providing security for their site. An operating-word and a password were set for each day; if the password was not spoken in a reply, the sentry would then deny access and further interrogate the subject.

## EXERCISES, continued from page 3

ing which the students must plan for and then provide all of the medical support for the mission. Students are evaluated on their ability to stabilize and treat combat casualties at the point of wounding and evacuate those casualties to higher levels of care with surgical support assets. They are also evaluated on their ability to provide routine care for non-battle related injuries and illnesses, to prevent illness through appropriate preventive medicine measures, and to provide screening and initial treatment for combat stress related problems.

Military Contingency Medicine's unique curriculum is specifically designed to prepare medical students to provide the highest quality health care for service members in austere environments. The training includes a three week didactic session that culminates with the four-day field exercise.

The exercise takes place in the fictional country of Pandakar. The students participate in a variety of roles including litter bearing, security officer, ambulance team leader, radio operator, commander and senior medical officer.

It begins with the students being transported by a CH-47 Chinook helicopter from the softball field behind USU to FIG. The flight emphasizes the challenges of providing health care during flight operations as the students experience the difficulty of obtaining vital signs on each other.

As the exercise gets underway students are tested on medical skills, judgment and leadership. They must be aware of the culture in the country and understand the care of detainees and prisoners of war. Students are even put through situations where illegal orders may be given to see how they will respond.

"These field exercises are very likely the last chance the students will have to train before they have to do this for real," said LTC Clifford Lutz, MC, USA, course director MCM, assistant professor, Department of MEM.

Along with the school of medicine, students in the Graduate School of Nursing (GSN) also participate in Operation Bushmaster.

"Operation Bushmaster allows medical and advanced practice nursing students a unique opportunity to train together under austere conditions," said Diane Seibert, Ph.D., CRNP program director, Family Nurse Practitioner program. "The relationships they build with one another as they collabo-



Photo by MC3 Jeff Hopkins

SSgt Rachel Broussard, Military Training Network, applies a mock injury to an MS-I student in the moulage tent. Staff members apply the simulated injuries to demonstrate a level of realism to the field training.

rate to solve operational and clinical problems will serve them well as they move out into federal health care settings and begin providing care for those who have been placed in "harms way." Bushmaster provides everyone a unique opportunity to hone skills and learn about many roles within an operational theater."

Many of the advanced practice nurses have been in deployed environments and are able to share that experience with the medical students during the field training.

"I was really impressed by one of the nurses during Bushmaster. During her time in our platoon (Platoon 5), MAJ Moultrie demonstrated great leadership skills," said 2LT Tracy Franzos, MS-IV. "Not only did she draw upon her experience to provide us with great advice, she used what little free time she had to help medical students hone their intubation and cricothyroidotomy skills. Furthermore, no matter how exhausting the exercises became, she always remained upbeat and never lost her sense of humor. I was very impressed by her professionalism and self-sacrifice, and I noticed the other students seemed impressed as well."

"The field training allows students the opportunity to train as they work . . . that being said, collaboration and teamwork are critical elements to our success in the operational environment in the care of those who have been placed in "harms way," said COL Linda Wanzer, M.S.N., R.N., CNOR, AN, assistant professor and program director of the Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist Masters program, and perioperative nursing consultant to the Army Surgeon General. "This exercise provided a unique opportunity for the second year advanced practice nurses in the GSN to explore their new roles in the "mock" operational theater along side their MS-IV colleagues, highlighting the value that each role brings to the care of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines."

The field exercises and the unique MCM curriculum have proven to be so successful that students and faculty from several other countries such as Japan, Canada, Mexico, and Thailand have come to participate in the training with the hopes of taking the military emergency medicine training they receive here back to their country.

As the importance of military medicine gains national and worldwide attention due to current operations, both field training exercises have garnered visits from senior level members within the Department of Defense, Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Public Health Service. As well as local and national media coverage, which provides a conduit for the university to demonstrate its importance and the leading role it plays in military medicine.

To read the *History of Operations Kerkesner and Bushmaster – Part I*, visit <http://www.usuhs.mil/vpe/newsletter.html> and look at issue 11.



Photo by TSgt James Steele

Ensign Katrina Vongsy, MS-IV, briefs senior leaders (left to right) Dr. S. Ward Casscells, assistant secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Lt Gen James Roudebush, MC, USAF, Surgeon General, Dr. Charles Rice, M.D., USU president, MG George Weightman, MC, USA, special assistant to the Army Surgeon General, at the Expeditionary Medical Squadron station during their visit to Operation Bushmaster.



Photo by MC3 Jeff Hopkins

Proper litter-bearing and ambulance loading were among field-skills fourth-year students practiced at Bushmaster.



Photo by MC3 Jeff Hopkins

A mock mass-casualty event, complete with moulaged patients marked the finale of each week-long iteration of Operation Bushmaster.



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

## Talk of the town

CAPT David Wade, MC, USN, gave a presentation on the latest BRAC/Integration updates during the university's town hall meeting, July 24. Some of the concepts revealed for the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center include three new operating rooms, 20 new ICU beds, an expanded emergency room, and additional patient and staff parking.

Other topics covered during the meeting were updates on building renovations, the National Security Personnel System, the Defense Travel System, and the university's Branding Initiative.

The next town hall meeting is scheduled for Sept. 20.

## USU Faculty Member Recognized as 2007 Honored Member of American Association of Clinical Anatomists

By MC3 Jeff Hopkins  
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs

A faculty member at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) was recognized as an honored member of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists (AACA) at the 24th annual meeting June 19.

Gary Wind, M.D., FACS, professor of surgery, USU, was awarded honored member status for his distinguished career in, and enthusiasm for clinical anatomy, as demonstrated by his anatomical and surgical publications, the insight of his anatomical, developmental, and surgical illustrations, and

his pioneer efforts in internet-based surgical education.

Wind said he was proud to join the ranks of honored members of the AACA which include several notable people.

"It is a great honor for me to be included with surgical luminaries such as Chester B. McVay and Oliver Behars, as well as anatomic icons like Russell T. Woodburne, Keith Moore, and John Skandalakis," Wind said, "and particularly to be linked with Frank Netter and his art."

Wind was also the 2007 Keith L. Moore/Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins Presidential Speaker, and delivered a speech entitled, "What You See is What You

Get," a challenge to the meeting's attendees to effectively present the next generation of visual medical information.

In addition to working at USU, Wind is also the director of art and education for Vesalius, an internet-based resource for surgical education, and a staff surgeon at the National Naval Medical Center.



Gary Wind, M.D., FACS  
Professor of Surgery,  
USU

## Look Who's Talking... What did you learn from this year's Operation Kerkesner?



SSG Sherry Kwasnik  
NCOIC, Grad Health  
EHS

"I think the most important thing to learn is how to be organized and plan carefully, which is what made the mission successful."



SGT Rachael Thompson  
FAP

"I learned not to go against HM2 Charles in pugil sticks. The face she makes alone is scary, and it's just inevitable that you're going to get beat."



2d Lt Roselyn Clemente  
SOM,  
Class of 2010

"It was a good reminder of why we're at USU, and good motivation for second year and providing good care for the battlefield."

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## Look Who's Talking Too... *What did you learn from this year's Operation Bushmaster?*



"I learned that the people of the university have an incredible ability to be flexible, and to adapt and grow into new positions that they may not have."

**Col Charles Beadling**  
USAF, MC  
Academic Division  
Director, Vice Chair  
MEM



"I learned to work closely with each of the different services, and I met a lot of people that I had never met before. Water/Power/Fuel for life!"

**SGT Jeff McQuaid**  
NCOIC, Veterinary  
Medicine Division  
LAM



"I learned to listen to LTC Lutz, 'Stay away from poison ivy!'"

**ZLT Greg Brown**  
SOM  
Class of 2008

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## USU News Briefs

**Change of Command Ceremony:** The Brigade Commander, LTC John Maurer, USA, will change command with COL Jack Wempe, USA, Aug. 10 at 10 am in the USU Courtyard. This is a mandatory event for all Brigade faculty, staff, and students. Uniform will be BDUs/ACUs/Cammies.

**2007 USU Picnic:** The annual USU Picnic will be held Aug. 29 from 11 am—4 pm in the USU Courtyard and Dining Facility. Tickets are \$3.00 each, and children under three years old are free. Tickets must be purchased by Aug. 17. Families are welcome. To purchase your ticket, contact Nadine Utz in RM A1040C or April Broussard in the Office of Student Affairs in Bldg C.

**Assistant Awards Program Manager:** The Brigade is soliciting for an Assistant Awards Program Manager for the Military Awards Program (MAP). This service member should route their request through their chain of command to the MAP Program Manager, HM1 Hassan, USN (BDE).

**USU Leave and Liberty/Pass Policy for Military Personnel:** A new USU policy has been signed into effect for all military personnel at USU and AFRRI. One change is that requests for leave must be submitted in advance at least seven days prior to departure. Additionally, individuals leaving the CONUS must complete a security brief prior to their departure. This policy can be found on the USU website or by clicking:  
<http://www.usuhs.mil/bde/pdf/USULEAVELIBERTYPOLICYFORMILITARYPERSONNEL.pdf>.

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## USU Alumni, Faculty Promotions

Congratulations to the following USU alumni and faculty who were recently selected for promotion to commander in the US Navy Medical Corps, Nurse Corps, and Medical Service Corps.

Elizabeth Adriano—Class of 1996  
Tracy Altland—Class of 1997  
Robert Browning—Class of 2000  
Donald Crain—Class of 1996  
William Cramer—Class of 2000  
Kara Crismond—Class of 1996  
Michelle Corriere—Assistant Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics  
Kimberly Davis—Class of 1996  
Steven Escobar—Class of 1996  
Dennis Faix—Class of 2001 (MPH Program)  
James J. George—Class of 1996  
John Grimwood—Class of 1994  
Harold Groff—Class of 2000  
Francis Hall—Class of 2003 (MPH Program)  
Reid Holzclaw—Class of 1996  
Suezane Holzclaw—Class of 1996 (MD,) Class of 2003 (MPH)  
Cheuk Hong—Class of 1992  
Michelle Kane—GSN Ph.D. Student  
David Krulak—Class of 1998

Christopher Landes—Class of 1996  
W. Trevor Lennard—Class of 1999  
William D. Leonard—Class of 1995  
Kevan Mann—Class of 1996  
Patrick McEldrew—Class of 1996  
Erica Kitchell Miller—Class of 1996  
Cathleen Shantz Mills—Class of 1996  
Gary Morris, MSC, USN—Assistant Professor of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics, USU  
Timothy O'Hara—Class of 1996  
Angelique Craig Olszowka—Class of 1996  
J. Reed Pate—Class of 1992  
Lisa Pearce—Class of 1991  
Ralph Pickard—Class of 1996  
Emerich Piedad—Class of 1996  
Robert D. Polley—Class of 1999 (Nurse Anesthesia Program)  
Bryn Reina—Class of 1996  
Sara Saltzstein—Class of 1996  
Stuart Shippey—Class of 1999  
Craig Spencer—Class of 1996  
Michael Sullivan—Class of 1996  
Sally Tamayo—Class of 1996  
Kristopher Thibodeau—Class of 2000  
Gregory Their—Class of 1996  
Jeff Tjaden—Class of 2003 (MPH Program)  
Jeff Tomlin—Class of 1999  
Harvey Wilds—Class of 1997

Michael Wittenberg—Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, USU

Congratulations to the following USU alumni and faculty who were just selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force, Nurse Corps, Biomedical Sciences Corps, or Medical Service Corps:

Maj Sarah Beal, Commandant's office/Air Force Company Commander  
Maj Julie Bosch, GSN Family Nurse Practitioner class of 2000, current GSN Ph.D. program student  
Maj Elizabeth Decker, GSN FNP class of 1997  
Maj Brian Koonce, GSN Nurse Anesthesia class of 1999  
Maj Timothy Middleton, MPH Class of 1988  
Maj Scott Nemmers, Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics, USU  
Maj Susan Perry, GSN Nurse Anesthesia class of 1998  
Maj Alesia Ricks, GSN Nurse Anesthesia class of 1999  
Maj David Stamps, GSN Nurse Anesthesia class of 1997



# USU Calendar of Events



<b>August</b>			<p>1 Administrative Offi- cers/Departmental Representatives Meeting <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Lecture Room B</p> <p>Medical Effects of Ionizing Radiation Scientific Update AFRRI Conference Room</p> <p>USU Toastmasters Meeting <b>noon—1 p.m.</b> Room A2011</p>	<p>2 Medical Effects of Ionizing Radiation Scientific Update AFRRI Conference Room</p> <p>USU Brigade Photo <b>7:15 a.m.</b> USU Ampitheater</p>	<p>3 Medical Effects of Ionizing Radiation Scientific Update AFRRI Conference Room</p>	4	
	5	6	7	<p>8 USU Toastmasters Meeting <b>noon—1 p.m.</b> AFRRI Small Conference Room</p>	9	<p>10 Change of Command Ceremony <b>10 a.m.</b> USU Courtyard</p> <p>DTS: AO/RO Training <b>8 a.m.—noon</b> LRC</p>	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	<p>22 USU Toastmasters Meeting <b>noon—1 pm</b> AFRRI Small Conference Room</p>	23	24	25