

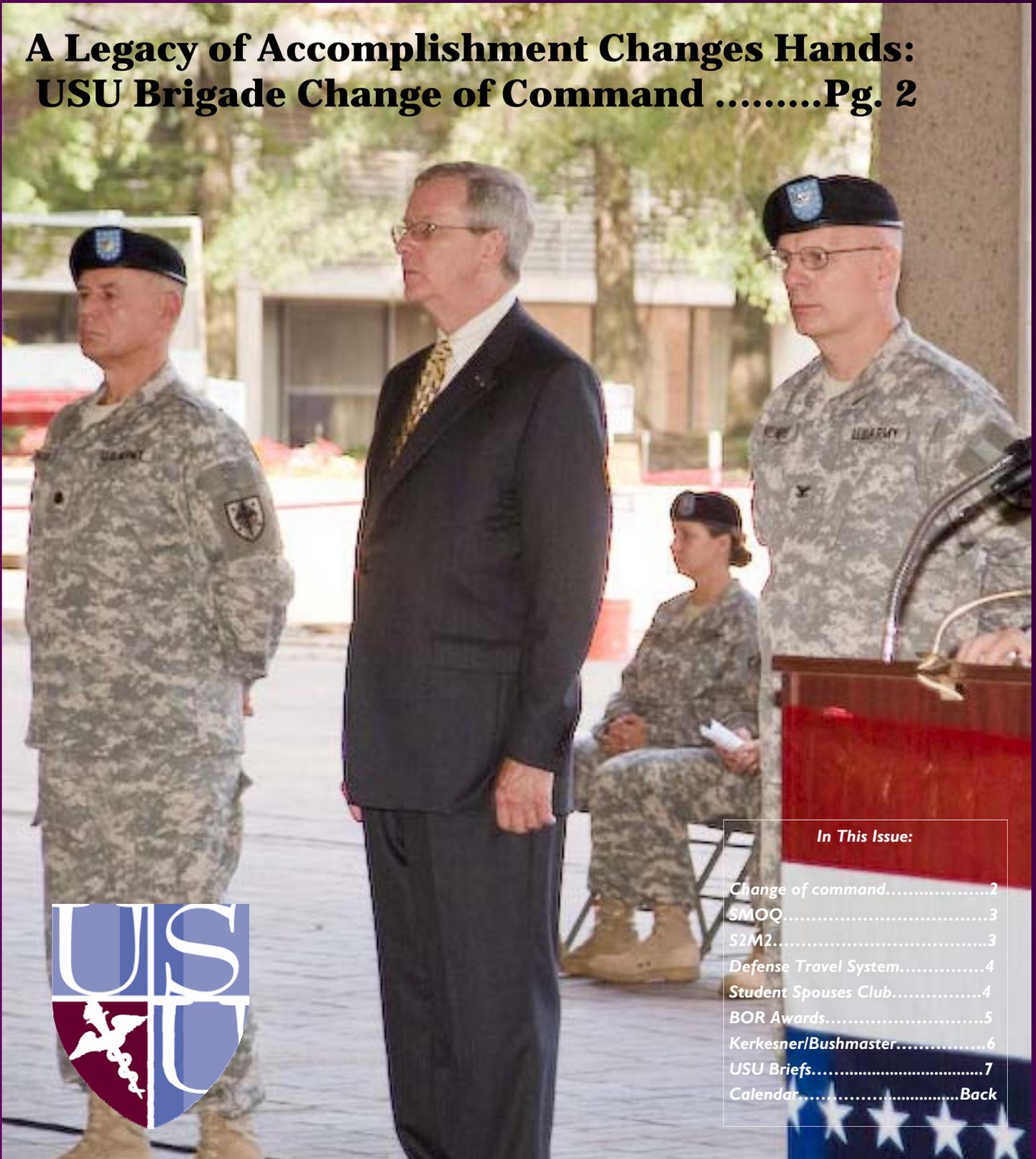
# USU Newsletter

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## A Legacy of Accomplishment Changes Hands: USU Brigade Change of Command .....Pg. 2



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**Front Cover Photo By**  
TSgt James Steele

## The Army Goes Rolling Along as COL Wempe Assumes Command

*By MC3 Jeff Hopkins  
Assistant Editor, VPE*

From month to month, new faces arrive and depart the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU.) These comings and goings are typical of the nomadic nature of military life; sentimental memories are kept of the servicemember who leaves, and new ones are forged with the incoming servicemember. It was with a poignant fondness that USU bid farewell to its former brigade commander, and an anticipated cheer as it welcomed the new commander during the Change of Command ceremony, Aug. 10.

LTC John Maurer, MS, USA, relinquished his command of the USU Brigade in an official ceremony in the USU breezeway, handing over the mission and values of the university to COL John Wempe, MS, USA.

Maurer, a retired Army Reservist, voluntarily re-entered active-duty in 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Originally, he was assigned as the USU Brigade's Executive Officer, but a short five weeks into his assignment, he took command as acting brigade commander when former Brigade Commander CAPT John R. Rumbaugh took a position at the Pentagon. Maurer officially assumed the duty of Brigade Commander in February.

During the Aug. 10 ceremony, Charles L. Rice, M.D., university president, expressed his gratitude for Maurer's return to service to his country during a time of turbulence, and his pleasure that the colonel will be remaining with USU at the Military Training Network.

"Colonel, the university owes you an expression of profound respect and heartfelt thanks for the outstanding job you have done," Rice remarked during his speech at the ceremony.

"Although it means we'll have to continue to endure the cigars of



*Photo by TSgt James Steele*

**Charles L. Rice, M.D., USU President, passes the university's guidon to COL John Wempe, MS, USA during the change of command ceremony, Aug. 10. LTC John Maurer relinquished command of the USU Brigade after serving seven months as the brigade commander. The passing of the guidon symbolizes the passing on of authority .**

which you are so fond, we are delighted that you will remain here at the university in a critical role."

To Wempe and his wife Diane, Rice extended a warm welcome on behalf of the university, and expressed his confidence in Wempe's ability to continue the brigade's legacy of one brigade, one team, one mission.

"Colonel Wempe, you inherit a command comprising officers and enlisted personnel of exceptional ability, commitment, integrity, and courage," Rice said. "Your service as a division surgeon and hospital commander among many other assignments, ensures that you will bring real world experience to your new position. We are delighted also to welcome Diane. With her continued help and support, you will provide these fine soldiers, sailors, airmen, and our marine with exemplary leadership. I am confident they will make you every bit as proud of them as they make me."

Wempe, who, prior to his assignment to USU, was Commanding Officer of Fort Drum's Medical Department Activity (MEDDAC,) in Fort Drum, N.J., said that he was

proud to take up the university's mission, stating it is one of utmost importance to the nation.

"I can think of no greater calling than preparing people to care for those in harm's way," Wempe said. "We absolutely can not fail; our nation depends on us."

The ceremony included the gift of a bouquet of flowers to Maurer's wife Diane by the Servicemember of the Quarter, SSgt Rachel Broussard, MTN, for her support of Maurer during his time as brigade commander, and the passing of USU's guidon, which makes a circuit from the senior enlisted advisor, through the outgoing brigade commander to president Rice, who then presented it to the incoming brigade commander. The guidon is then passed back to the senior enlisted advisor, symbolizing the passing down of a legacy.

The colors are traditionally at the forefront of a formation and signify the continuity of the organization, though individual members come and go. The University's colors reflect the services that comprise its brigade: the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Public Health Service.

# Service Member of the Quarter announced

Contributed by CAPT Jamie Luke and Dr. Mauri Hamilton  
CHE

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Service Member of the Quarter (SMOQ) was recently awarded to a member of the Air Force Flight.

SSgt Rachel A. Broussard, MTN, was honored as USU's Service Member of the Quarter for the third quarter, 2007.

Broussard serves as the Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) Program Manager for American Heart Association (AHA) DoD training programs across the globe. She shoulders a broad range of responsibilities, providing program management and administrative guidance for MTN PALS sites. She has traveled to numerous Military Training Facilities and clinics for staff assistance visits to PALS training sites, ensuring compliance with AHA accreditation standards in order to prepare health care providers with PALS resuscitative medicine expertise. Her most recent contribution to MTN was serving as a moulage injury make-up artist at Bushmaster.

Broussard said her selection as Service Member of the Quarter made a huge impact on her.

"This selection is quite a rewarding experience. I just hit my nine years of service in August, and this recent accomplishment has definitely "recharged" my batteries," She said. "I always had my goals in place, but I truly feel that this recognition gives me what I need to continue with my career plans."

Broussard said she feels that she could not have achieved the award alone.

"My fellow brigade service members have helped contribute to my selection for this award. I have never had one accomplishment

that was done alone. It takes the love and support from friends and family to listen to your ideas to make them happen."

Broussard received her Bachelor of Science degree in Health Care Management in 2005, and started taking classes again last spring to complete her pre-requisite courses for nursing school. She has two semesters left, but hopes to apply for nursing school in January 2008.



Photo by MC3 Jeff Hopkins

Members of the USU Brigade applaud as SSgt Rachel Broussard (white t-shirt) MTN, is announced as Servicemember of the Quarter at the post-Kerkesner/Bushmaster picnic, put on by Col Charles Beadling, MC, USAF, FAM, in the USU pavilion.

## Future medical leaders get peek into the world of military medicine during annual S2M2

By Bianca Bostic  
Administrative Assistant, BOR

The most recent participants of the Science, Service, Military and Mentoring Program (S2M2), presented their projects at the S2M2 Health Fair Aug. 10. High school students from diverse backgrounds were given an opportunity to experience medicine first hand.

S2M2 helps to broaden the minds of students interested in a science related field, but are having a hard time deciding on a concentration. Siddharth Mullick, of Clements High School in Sugar Land, Texas, whose future goal is to be a radiologist remarked, "This program is great for anyone who is interested in medicine ... I do not want to limit myself to one area of study, I want to look into everything, neurology, oncology, all of them."

Jason Carter of Oxon Hill High School in

Oxon Hill, Md., said, "This is a whole new outlook from what is seen on television shows such as E.R.," after completing his day-long shadowing with an NNMC cardiologist.

Besides shadowing, the students took part in different labs. Jackie Keeling, mother of S2M2 participant Laura Keeling stated, "Laura is really engaged in the program, I just wish she would stop comparing human anatomy to food at the dinner table."

The Office of Recruitment and Diversity sponsors the program and reaches out to students all over the country. Janell Holloway of Banneker High School in Washington, D.C., said, "I heard about the program through my church." William Jenkins

heard of the program through his high school principal and Dominique Perkins learned about S2M2 through her local hospital. Through continuous word of mouth, S2M2 will be guiding students and mentoring future doctors for years to come.



Photo By Bianca Bostic

Local high school students Janell Holloway and Siddharth Mullick present their HIV project at the S2M2 Health Fair.

# Defense Travel System - Quicker! Easier! Better!

By Melissa Martin  
DTS Administrator, RMI

The Defense Travel System (DTS) is a seamless, paperless travel management system that automates temporary duty travel authorizations, travel arrangements and reservations, voucher processing, payment and archiving for DOD travel transactions.

With this innovative system arriving soon, DTS training is currently underway for Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) personnel. The next available dates for Organizational Defense Travel Administrators (ODTA's) and Authorizing Official/Routing Officials (AO/RO's) training are Aug. 27 and Aug. 30. The four-hour classes are scheduled to begin each day at 8 a.m. and again at noon in the LRC's Computer Training Facility. If you would like to attend one of these classes, please RSVP with Melissa Martin at [mmartin@usuhs.mil](mailto:mmartin@usuhs.mil) or call 295-3230.

USU faculty, students and staff who either submit, review or approve travel authorizations/vouchers must self-register in the DTS. Self-registration is not required for personnel who have used DTS at a previous assignment. For these individuals, social security numbers will need to be provided to the Resource Management Office (RMI) so that they can be enrolled into DTS by USU.

In order to access DTS, you must have a CAC card with a valid PIN, CAC card reader and DBSign security software installed on your PC workstation/laptop. If your CAC card's PIN needs to be reset, you must contact the Personnel Support Detachment at the

National Naval Medical Center. If you do not have a CAC card reader or feel that it may not be working correctly, please contact the UIS helpdesk at 295-9800. To self-register in DTS, go to

[www.defensetravel.osd.mil/dts/site/index.jsp](http://www.defensetravel.osd.mil/dts/site/index.jsp), click on the "Login to DTS" link, and follow the registration instructions.

Department Authorizing/Approving Officials (AO) and their alternates are required to complete the Certifying Officer Legislation (COL) course offered at [http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Training/DTS/COL\\_Training.cfm](http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Training/DTS/COL_Training.cfm). They must also complete and sign a DD Form 577, Appointment/Termination Record, and forward it along with a copy of the COL certificate to Jim Wolff in the Financial and Manpower Management department (FMG), in Room A1040B.

DTS will become operational at USU Oct. 1. Travel orders and vouchers will continue to be manually completed until this date.



## Defense Travel System

## USU's Student Spouses Club welcomes new students

By April Broussard  
SSC Publications Editor, OSA

As the new medical and graduate students arrive at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) for the upcoming academic year, many of them will be bringing much more than heavy books and their combat boots. For almost a third of USU students, the move to Bethesda is not one they make alone: they make the move with their spouses.

Whether seasoned veterans of military life or brand new to the uniformed services, these men and women—the "other half" of the USU students—choose to face the many challenges and required adjustments of the school along with their significant others.

Knowing that success is a family affair, the Student Spouses Club (SSC) looks forward to including these newly arriving spouses to the USU family.

Founded in 1980, the SSC's goal has always been to provide support, friendship, and community to spouses as they and their individual families face the many transitions involved in attending USU and being in the military. The club is open to both male and female spouses, fiancées, significant others, and family members of active duty USU students. The 73 current members each bring with them unique experi-

ences and backgrounds that enrich the character of the club.

As part of the club's mission, the SSC sponsors a variety of social and service activities throughout the year, beginning with the New Member Orientation (NMO) scheduled for Aug. 23. This orientation coincides with the first-year student orientation and is intended to officially welcome the new spouses to USU.

The event begins at 7:30 a.m., and is a full day of information on negotiating military health care, finding a local job, surviving DC traffic, and much more. It is a wonderful opportunity for the spouses to meet new friends and ask questions about their new school and new town.

In addition to the NMO, the SSC will host a Welcome Barbeque Sept. 15 and will soon kick-off their regular academic-year activities, including three school-wide parties, multiple social events and activities for every interest, and a monthly meeting, which is open to members and prospective members alike.



The USU Student Spouses Club sponsors several events throughout the year for the university's students and their loved ones.

The club-wide events are organized by six committees to which members may belong: Adult Social, Fundraising, Membership, Parent Tot, Sunshine, and SSC Parties. Each committee and individual member has played a special role in making the SSC an integral part of life at USU.

For more information about the SSC, visit their website at [www.usuhs.mil/ssc](http://www.usuhs.mil/ssc) or contact them at [studentspouses-club@yahoo.com](mailto:studentspouses-club@yahoo.com).

## Distinguished in service: USU Board of Regents members receive awards

By MCSN Raul Zamora  
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Science (USU) Board of Regents (BOR) have helped establish the goals and mission of USU over the years.

Three BOR members received awards Aug. 7, during the summer BOR meeting.



Photo by TSgt James Steele

**LTG Kevin C. Kiley, MC, USA, former Army Surgeon General, received the Distinguished Service Award for his service as a USU Regent from 2004–2007.**

the BRAC integration process. He supported the decision to involve the university in the planning for the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRAMC) as well. Kiley has consistently ensured that USU faculty billets were filled with highly qualified medical officers.

VADM Donald C. Arthur, MC, USN, Surgeon General of the Navy, also received the Distinguished Service Award for serving as a member of the BOR from August 2004 to August 2007. Arthur advocated promotion of the university as a key educational institution for the development of graduate health care professionals and leaders in the Department of Defense (DoD) Military Health Care System. His support of the university's role in meeting the operational and peacetime demands for highly skilled military health professionals has aided in securing DoD and congressional advocacy during the implementation phase of the BRAC integra-

tion process. He has also provided highly successful and competent professionals for key faculty and management positions at the university. Arthur made Navy medicine policy for medical corps officers pursuing a Masters in Public Health to enroll at USU, providing further testimony of his commitment to the university. He has encouraged the services to utilize the university as a resource to address future demands for distance learning, as a platform for a National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health, and as a vehicle to promote government inter-agency work in education and research.

Lt Gen George P. Taylor Jr., MC, USAF, former Surgeon General of the Air Force, received the Distinguished Service Medal for serving in the BOR from 2002 to 2006. He was also member and chair of the USU Executive Committee. Taylor has demonstrated his support of the university, providing active duty Air Force officers who serve in the university and increasing the number of Air Force students in the Graduate School of Nursing. He has incorporated Air Force assets into the new WRAMC and De Witt Army Community Hospital, ensuring there will be both educators and students from the Air Force in the region.

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Photo by TSgt James Steele

**Lt Gen George P. Taylor Jr., MC, USAF, former Air Force Surgeon General, received the Distinguished Service Medal for his service as a USU regent from 2004–2007.**



Photo by TSgt James Steele

**VADM Donald C. Arthur, MC, USN, Navy Surgeon General, received the Distinguished Service Award for his service as a USU Regent, 2004–2007.**



## USU Staff Member Earns 2007 ACP Rosenthal Award

COL Naomi Aronson, MC, USA, Director of the Division of Infectious Diseases for the Department of Medicine (far right,) received the 2007 Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Award from the American College of Physicians in April.

The Rosenthal Award honors its nominees for their research that has made, or promises to make a notable contribution to improved clinical care.

Aronson's nomination reflected her dedicated, innovative work in the treatment of patients with leishmaniasis and her published studies on the prevention of advanced tuberculosis with the bacillus calmette-guérin (BCG) vaccine.

# Behind the scenes: a staff view of Operation Kerkesner, Bushmaster

By MC3 Jeff Hopkins  
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs

There was little refuge from the heat and humidity; fans did little more than blow air as warm and wet as bath water in every direction, and the few tents equipped with air-conditioning units were reserved for those in need of medical attention. Fort Indian-town Gap, Penn. (FIG) was more than accommodating for the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences to conduct its annual field training exercises (FTX.)

Despite the withering heat, members of USU's staff and faculty still managed to not only perform their duties to perfection, but to also have a good time. Each year, first and fourth year USU students participate in Operations Kerkesner and Bushmaster, USU's unique field-training exercises (FTX) which serve to condition students for caring for patients in a hostile or deployed environment. This year marked the third time these exercises, held at FIG July 10-20, were held simultaneously.

Kerkesner/Bushmaster veterans like SGT Lenearo Ashford, LOG, described this year's exercises as much more efficient compared to years previous in spite of the fact that the exercise was allotted fewer resources.



Photo by MC3 Jeff Hopkins

**SGT Lenearo Ashford, LOG, ensured that the FTX had its vehicles fueled, troops hydrated, and tents powered as the NCOIC of Water/ Power/ Fuel.**

which required lighting and power were provided with electricity. He was also constantly on call in case problems with the generators and other borrowed equipment occurred, and often worked long into the night.

Ashford was one of three servicemembers who received the Joint-Service Achievement Medal at the conclusion of the exercises. He said he felt the award was more of a unit achievement rather than a personal one.

"Everybody out there was working hard, I don't feel like I was any more special than the people working all around me."

Newcomers to the FTX said they enjoyed the unique operational environment and mission. SGT Jamie-Lea Divan, MDC, was an instructor for the Survival lane at Kerkesner, which introduced first-year students to the M16 rifle, basic communications, unexploded ordnance, improvised explosive devices, and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) countermeasures.

Kerkesner was a really good experience," Divan said. "It was NCO driven, so not only did it give me an idea as to what the

"It was more organized," Ashford said. "There was more cohesion with less resources; we had less people, less vehicles, and still everything went down smoothly."

Ashford was assigned as the NCOIC of water, power, and fuel for Bushmaster, which entailed keeping hand-washing stations and water-buffalos filled and operationally ready, as well as ensuring all vehicles were gassed up, and all stations

medical students will encounter, as well as the different roles the NCOs play from all the different parts of the university."

Divan added that the FTX could not be compared to any training experience she'd ever encountered.

"It's like apples and oranges," she said. "This was a joint-service, medically-driven exercise, as opposed to the Army's combat-gear training exercises."

But not all of the important action was taking place at FIG. With such a large portion of the university's staff and faculty deployed, the university relied on the Rear Detachment (RD,) a collection of people in vital roles, to keep the university running. Petty officer third class Johnny Ford Jr., MPO, was among the sup-



Photo by MC3 Jeff Hopkins

**SGT Jamie-Lea Divan, MDC, instructed students in the basics of the M16 rifle, basic communications, UXO, IEDs, and CBRNE as part of Kerkesner's Survival lane.**

port personnel who stayed behind, and his office, typically manned by seven or more personnel, was down to three service members.

Ford also remarked that it was a learning experience for him, in that he now knows how he reacts under stress.

"It certainly wasn't a dead season for MPO," Ford said. "There was more than enough work to go around."

"I learned that I could handle a much larger workload than I thought I was capable of," he said. Some RD personnel were not as affected by the man-power loss, working in departments manned mostly by civilians. Petty officer third

class Johnna Helinski, SEC, said that only her supervisor, petty officer first class Julio Jauregui took part in the FTX, and that there was no significant additional stress, but said she feels she missed out on an interesting event.

"I wish I could have gone," Helinski said. "I really think I missed out on a great experience."

Working hard out in the heat or working hard to keep the university safe and running; either way, USU personnel worked hard this summer during Operation Kerkesner/Bushmaster, and the countdown to FTX 2008 has already begun. With the shining example of efficiency the brigade showed during this year's FTX, one can only expect great things from the years ahead.



Photo by MC3 Jeff Hopkins

**Petty officer third class Johnny Ford Jr., MPO, supported the 2007 FTX as part of the rear detachment, which stays at the university to keep it running in the absence of most of the university's military personnel.**

# USU News Briefs

**2007 USU Picnic:** The annual USU Picnic will be held on Aug. 29 from 11 a.m.—4 p.m. in the USU Courtyard and Dining Facility. Tickets are \$3.00 each, and children under 3 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.

**Tax Information for Ohio Residents:** Ohio state residents: beginning with the 2007 tax year, military residents who claim Ohio as their state of legal residence and are stationed outside the state are tax exempt. In order to receive the tax exempt status, members must complete an Ohio IT 4 MIL form and submit it to their

local servicing activity. To obtain this form, members may <http://tax.ohio.gov/>.

**Henry Jackson Fellowship awards:** The Graduate Education Office is pleased to announce the winners of the Henry M. Jackson Foundation Fellowships in Medical Sciences, and the Val G. Hemming Fellowship.

**Ms. Christina Clark**, Emerging Infectious Diseases Program, is the 2007 recipient of the Val G. Hemming Fellowship.

**Ms. Lara Kingeter**, Emerging Infectious Diseases Program, received an HJF Fellowship in Medical Sciences.

**Ms. Robyn Osborn**, Department of Medical and Clinical Psychology Program, received an HJF Fellowship in Medical Sciences.

Congratulations to these USU graduate students as the 2007 recipients of these awards.

## Look Who's Talking... *Why did you choose USU for your Medical Education?*



**ENS Dimana Dimatrova**  
USPHS, SOM  
Class of 2011

"I worked here for two years, so it's a familiar environment, and the staff, faculty, and students were very friendly and welcoming."



**2d Lt Scott Stuart**  
USAF, SOM, Class of  
2011

"For the opportunity to practice medicine for those who are serving our nation."



**2d Lt Ross Graham**  
USAF, SOM, Class of  
2011

"I picked USU for the opportunity to serve our country."



**ENS Isaac Young**  
USPHS, SOM Class of  
2011

"Seeing the morale and camaraderie of the students really helped. Some members of my church were USU students, and their experiences seemed very exciting."



**ENS Mark Cruz**  
USN, SOM Class of 2011

"I did ROTC, and out of all the med-schools I looked into, this one struck me as the coolest. Plus I've always wanted to be a Navy doctor."



**ENS Travis Allemang**  
USN, SOM Class of  
2011

"Because it's really the only med school where you get a taste of the military lifestyle and a great medical education."

"I wanted to be an Army doctor. Coming here makes a lot more sense to me, because all of our rotations are done at military installations. Also, I went to the US Military Academy."

**2LT Maggie Clark**  
USA, SOM Class  
of 2011



**2LT Jacquelyn Christensen**  
USA, SOM Class  
of 2011

"I also wanted to be an Army doctor. Nothing can compare to the experiences you have here, even our summer experiences so far, and with Kerkesner, and the classes you take, the military knowledge you receive is great."



# *USU Calendar of Events*



19	20	21	22 USU Toastmasters Meeting <b>noon—1 p.m.</b> AFRRI small conference room	23	24	25
<i>August</i>						
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
						<i>September</i>
2	3 Labor Day observed	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15