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## **AFFRI to be designated nuclear historic landmark**

February 23, 2010—A bronze plaque identifying the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI) as a nuclear historic landmark will be installed at the Institute in a 10:00 AM ceremony, February 24. The plaque, awarded by the American Nuclear Society (ANS), recognizes the Institute as the United States' primary source of medical nuclear and radiological research, preparedness and training. The presentation by ANS Executive Director Jack Tuohy will be followed by a tour of the AFRRI facility.

“This recognition is a tribute to 50 years of dedicated work by the Institute’s military and civilian employees,” said AFRRI Director COL Patricia K. Lillis-Hearne, MC, USA. “In addition to the outstanding accomplishments of the scientists, medical professionals, managers, and support staff through the years, credit goes to the forward-thinking federal military and civilian officials who, in the late-1950s, recognized the need for continuing biomedical research into the effects of ionizing radiation, independent of the 1958 nuclear weapons testing moratorium.”

The award nomination describes the Institute’s ever-evolving mission, from the groundbreaking in 1960 as a research facility focused on understanding and counteracting the acute effects of ionizing radiation; through the 1990s with expansion into nuclear weapon biological effects, trauma, and toxicology, as well as non-ionizing radiation effects and cancer markers; and following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that generated interest in radiation protectants, treatments and biodosimetry standards and tools.

The ANS, a nonprofit, international, scientific and educational organization, has recognized some 70 sites or facilities that have been in operation for at least 20 years where outstanding physical accomplishments were instrumental in the development and implementation of nuclear technology and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. ANS membership encompasses nearly 11,000 engineers, scientists, administrators, and educators from more than 1,600 corporations, educational institutions and government agencies.

AFRRI shares its research findings with the scientific community through peer-reviewed journals, provides medical training for emergency responders and medical professionals through its Medical Effects of Ionizing Radiation Course, and activates its Medical Radiobiology Advisory Team to provide advice in radiological crises. Its Mark-F TRIGA research reactor, cobalt-60 facility, and cobalt-60 low-level irradiation facility are licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

AFRRI, on the grounds of the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, is part of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), the nation’s federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing. The University educates health care professionals dedicated to career service in the Department of Defense and the U.S. Public Health Service. Medical students are active-duty uniformed officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service who are being educated to deal with wartime casualties, natural disasters, emerging infectious diseases, and other public health emergencies. Of the University’s nearly 4,400 physician alumni and more than 400 advanced practice nurses, the vast majority serve on active duty and are supporting operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere, offering their leadership and expertise. The University also has graduate programs open to civilian and military applicants in biomedical sciences and public health committed to excellence in the didactic and research training which have awarded more than 300 Ph.D. and 100 M.S. degrees to date.

For more information about USU and its programs, visit [www.usuhs.mil](http://www.usuhs.mil).