



**Uniformed Services University**  
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## News Release

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### **Compassion, commitment are essential for medical professionals says Marine assistant commandant**

BETHESDA, Md. — General James Amos, the 31<sup>st</sup> assistant commandant of the United States Marine Corps and a Naval aviator by trade, addressed the students and guests for the 31<sup>st</sup> commencement of the USU on Saturday, May 15, 2010, speaking about the role graduates will play in caring for service members and their families at home and abroad.

“Your role as caregivers in our military health system demonstrates your commitment to serve, no matter the degree you are receiving,” said General Amos before he imparted his personal thoughts on the USU graduates. “That commitment includes a willingness and ability to take on what I consider to be an almost biblical responsibility.

“In 2004, my mother passed away following complications from colon cancer surgery. There was not one person at fault for her unexpected passing, but there was an absence of a sense of responsibility or accountability on behalf of her caregivers when they missed signs that something was wrong. To this day I regret letting their mistakes affect her.”

An active supporter of military medicine, General Amos has praised the efforts of military medical professionals whom he has witnessed during multiple deployments and his visits to injured service members.

“Providing exceptional clinical medicine is only part of your responsibility,” said General Amos. “You are a sense of hope for our service members and their families. You will be there to hold the hand of a Marine who lost an arm and a leg in combat...or to spend time with his family as an injured gunny lays in a hospital bed in Germany before being returned to Walter Reed for recovery and rehabilitation. You will commit to the Sailor and to his family that you will do everything you can to return him in better condition than he is that day, so he can speak on behalf of all injured service members about the recovery process, the quality of military health care and the critical role you, as caregivers, serve in our military. And as a leader you will ensure that mistakes like the one that took my mother don’t occur in our military health system.”

Shortly after the last student crossed the stage to accept their diploma and the 162 graduates of the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine recited the Hippocratic Oath, the more than 200 new physicians and graduate nurses recited their Oath of Office, completing their transition from medical and nursing students to uniformed officers in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service.

The Uniformed Services University is located on the grounds of Bethesda’s National Naval Medical Center and across from the National Institutes of Health. It is 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. 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, national disasters, emerging infectious diseases and other public health emergencies. Of the university’s more than 4,500 physician alumni, the vast majority serve on active-duty and are supporting operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere, offering their leadership and expertise.

For more information, visit the USU Web site at [www.usuhs.mil](http://www.usuhs.mil).