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For Immediate Release:

USU professor receives top surgical society honors

Bethesda, Md. – USU professor of Surgery Air Force Col. (Ret.) Mark W. Bowyer, MD, FACS, received the Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Meritorious Service Award from the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma at the 89th Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

Dr. Bowyer, chief of USU's Division of Trauma and Combat Surgery and director of Surgical Simulation at the National Capital Area Medical Simulation Center, was recognized for his "selfless dedication and commitment to improving the care of the trauma patient through innovative organization and promotion of the ATLS(R) Course for Doctors, generous contribution of time and expertise, and unflagging support of the ideals upheld by the ACS Committee on Trauma."

ATLS is a course designed to teach physicians how to care for traumatically injured patients during their initial presentation to the hospital. This course which began in 1980 and now taught to over 24,000 students a year in more than 60 countries, has strong ties to the Uniformed Services University. USU offered one of the first ATLS courses in the world in 1980 and in 2002 was the first to use simulation technology instead of animals for the surgical skills lab.

The Meritorious Service award has been presented to one instructor annually since 1984. Dr. Bowyer is one of three individuals with ties to the USU to have received this honor. In 2007, Army LTC (Ret.) Christoph R. Kaufmann (SoM, 1982) was the recipient and in 2009, the late Army Col. (Dr.) David G. Burris (SoM 1982), past chair, department of Surgery, was honored.

"I am pleased to have been recognized with this esteemed honor," said Dr. Bowyer. "I have to think that having three members of the USU family receive this award in the last six years certainly underscores the significant role USU plays in the international world of trauma training."

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, or USU, is the nation's federal health sciences university. USU students are primarily active-duty uniformed officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service who are being educated to deal with wartime casualties, emerging infectious diseases and other public health emergencies. Of the university's more than 4,500 physician and more than 900 advanced practice nursing alumni, the vast majority are supporting operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, offering their leadership and expertise. For more information, visit www.usuhs.mil.