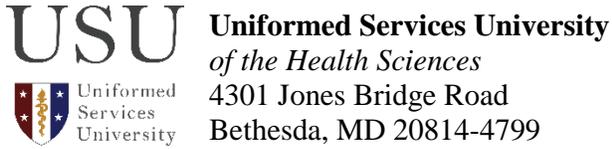


*Learning to Care for Those in Harm's Way*



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**'America's Medical School' Announces Enlisted-to-Physician Program Selectees**

**Bethesda, Md.** – Twenty-three non-commissioned officers from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps have been given the opportunity to follow their dreams of becoming physicians thanks to the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Enlisted to Medical Degree Preparatory Program, or EMDP2.

Nine Air Force, seven Army, six Navy, and one Marine Corps members were selected from hundreds of applicants for the Department of Defense program, which is entering its fifth year.

The EMDP2 is a 24-month program for promising enlisted service members interested in a career as a military doctor. Candidates attend school full-time at the George Mason University-Prince William (GMU-PW) campus in Manassas, Va., to prepare them to apply to medical school, while remaining on active duty. They must already possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited academic institution with a minimum of a 3.2 grade point average and meet their respective military Service requirements for commissioning.

The students will report to USU at the end of July to begin the program, which will include full-time medical school preparatory coursework in a traditional classroom setting at GMU-PW, structured pre-health advising, formal Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) preparation, dedicated faculty and peer mentoring at USU, and integrated clinical exposure. Students who complete the program successfully will qualify to apply to most U.S. medical schools.

The new class includes:

Staff Sgt. Zakary Bailey, 29, Army medic, Fort Bragg, North Carolina

Staff Sgt. Austin Barton, 29, Marine Corps intelligence analyst, McDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Fla.

Staff Sgt. Shane Berger, 31, Air Force intelligence analyst, Davis Monthan Air Base, Tucson, Ariz.

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Danielle Cain, 34, Navy hospital corpsman, Walter Reed National  
Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.

Sgt. Anthony Caskey, 28, Army combat medic, Fort Benning, Ga.

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Ka Chan, 28, Navy hospital corpsman, Naval Medical Research Center, Silver Spring, Md.

Sgt. 1st Class Devin Defeo, 39, Army medic, Fort Bragg, North Carolina

Senior Airman Leslie Gore, 29, Air Force emergency actions controller, Joint Base Andrews, Md.

Senior Airman Ashley Halverson, 28, Air Force medical technician, Travis Air Force Base, Fairfield, Calif.

Tech Sgt. Almaz Jamankulov, 32, Air Force linguist, Fort Belvoir, Va.

Sgt. Santosh Kachhepati, 31, Army combat medic, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Dawid Karapuda, 31, Navy hospital corpsman, Naval Health Clinic New England, Newport, Rhode Island

Staff Sgt. Judith Mathess, 29, Air Force cryptologic linguist, Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Alejandro Matias, 31, Navy hospital corpsman, Naval Medical Center, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

Staff Sgt. Verity Oltjenbruns, 27, Air Force public health technician, Joint Base McGuire-Dix, New Jersey

Sgt. Sandra Peprah, 26, Army medical laboratory technician, Yongsan, Korea

Staff Sgt. Amber Powell, 29, Air Force data systems operator, Beale Air Force Base, Calif.

Tech Sgt. Sean Smith, 32, Air Force special/network systems administrator, Chantilly, Va.

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Jon Solomon, 33, Navy hospital corpsman, Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Falls Church, Va.

Machinist Mate (Nuclear) 1st Class Robert Trent, 27, Navy nuclear machinist mate, Navy Power Training Unit, Ballston Spa, New York

Staff Sgt. Gabriel Vargas, 30, Army medic, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Staff Sgt. Erinne Vest, 28, Air Force cryptologic language analyst, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska

More than 22 students have successfully completed the EMDP2 program since its inception and are currently enrolled in medical school. Seventeen are attending USU's Hebert School of Medicine and two

are enrolled in medical school at other universities through the military's Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program. On May 16, 2018, 15 additional EMDP2 students will graduate from the program and begin their medical school studies in the fall.

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### **About USU**

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), founded by an act of Congress in 1972, is the academic heart of the Military Health System. USU students are primarily active-duty uniformed officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service who receive specialized education in tropical and infectious diseases, TBI and PTSD, disaster response and humanitarian assistance, global health, acute trauma care, and advanced practice nursing and dentistry. For more information, visit [www.usuhs.edu](http://www.usuhs.edu).