



Uniformed Services University

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News Release

USU AWARDS 238 MEDICAL, NURSING, GRADUATE DEGREES IN 2003

BETHESDA, Md. – Two hundred and thirty-eight students were recognized during the 24th Commencement of the Uniformed Services University's F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine and Graduate School of Nursing May 17.

There were 152 medical and 62 graduate students from the School of Medicine and 24 students from the Graduate School of Nursing.

The USU graduation took place on the school's athletic field under a large tent that seated about 3,000 graduates, faculty, family and friends. The venue was chosen this year as a tribute to the numerous USU alumni who during the last several months cared for the wounded in deployable hospital tents in the Middle East during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

U.S. Public Health Service Vice Adm. Richard H. Carmona, the U.S. Surgeon General, was the Commencement 2003 guest speaker. Carmona was also one of three honorary degree recipients, receiving the degree of Doctor of Military Medicine and Surgery, *Honoris Causa*. John A. Mannick, M.D., also received the degree of Doctor of Military Medicine and Surgery, *Honoris Causa*, and U.S. Army Maj. Alfred V. Rascon received the degree of Doctor of Medical Jurisprudence, *Honoris Causa*.

F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine

This year's 152 medical graduates of the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine include 53 Army, 49 Navy and 50 Air Force officers.

The Honorable Everett Alvarez, Jr., chairman of USU Board of Regents; and retired Navy Capt. Larry Laughlin, dean of the school of medicine; conferred the medical degrees. Laughlin also administered the Hippocratic Oath to the graduates.

Maj. Gen. Kevin C. Kiley, commanding general of the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command, reaffirmed the Oath of Office to the Army students. Rear Adm. William J. Lynch, special assistant, medical department staff at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, reaffirmed the Oath of Office to the Navy students. Lt. Gen. George P. Taylor, Jr., Surgeon General of the Air Force, reaffirmed the Oath of Office to the Air Force students.

Army and Air Force students were promoted to captain, while the Navy students were promoted to lieutenant, upon graduation and all were commissioned as medical corps officers.

The year-round, four-year school of medicine's curriculum is nearly 700 hours – or about 20 weeks – longer than those found at other U.S. medical schools. The extra hours focus on epidemiology, health promotion, disease prevention, tropical medicine, leadership and field exercises, medical effects of weapons of mass destruction, and other subjects that relate to the unique requirements of career-oriented military physicians.

School of Medicine's Graduate Program

This year, 62 students in the School of Medicine Graduate Program in biomedical sciences and public health include one Army specialist and 18 Army officers, nine Navy officers, 13 Air Force officers, three U.S. Public Health Service officers, 17 civilians, and one Canadian Forces officer.

Degrees conferred include doctor of philosophy, doctor of public health, master of science, master of military medical history, master of public health, master of public health – health services administration, and master of tropical medicine and hygiene.

Graduate School of Nursing

Since the GSN was created in 1993, 197 officers have received their master of science in nursing degrees from the school.

This year, 13 Army officers and one USPHS officer were enrolled in the GSN's nurse practitioners program and received their master's degree at graduation. In the GSN's nurse anesthesia program, two Army, two Navy and six Air Force were recognized at graduation, but will complete their master's degree requirements this fall.

USU was established by Congress under the Department of Defense in 1972 and has the nation's only fully accredited federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing. With its motto "Learning to Care for Those in Harm's Way," the university has a worldwide reputation as a center of excellence for military medical education and research.