



## Uniformed Services University

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## News Release

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### Nation's military medical university celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> commencement

**BETHESDA, Md.** – They can be found in the far reaches of the globe diagnosing and treating patients. From battalion aid stations and air transportable support hospitals on the battlefield to hospital ships and medical treatment facilities around the world, they deliver health care to the U.S. military and others who need it.

These are the graduates of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the nation's one and only fully accredited federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing.

Since the graduation of its first School of Medicine class in 1980, the university has earned a worldwide reputation as a center of military medical education and research excellence. USU specializes in military medicine, which differs greatly from civilian medicine, and involves prevention, diagnosis and treatment by health care personnel who are integral to the global military operations they support.

This year, USU celebrates its 25th commencement, with its School of Medicine graduates accounting for roughly 22 percent of the active duty physicians in the Military Health System today.

Joining the university in commemorating this momentous milestone, as this year's graduation guest speaker, is retired U.S. Army Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey. At the time of his retirement, General McCaffrey was the most highly decorated four-star general in Army history. He twice received the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest medal for valor; he was awarded two Silver Stars and received three Purple Heart medals for wounds sustained in combat.

General McCaffrey is now the Bradley Distinguished Professor of International Security Studies at the United States Military Academy, and is also a national security and terrorism analyst for NBC News.

The general's military career included four combat tours, and with his personal experience of receiving life-saving medical care in the battlefield, General McCaffrey has been a long-time supporter and advocate of USU.

The U.S. Congress established the university under the Department of Defense in 1972. President Gerald R. Ford turned the first spadeful of earth in 1975 at the ground-breaking ceremony for USU. Five years later, 29 physicians became the first graduates of the nation's only federal medical school, later named the USU F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, in honor of the Louisiana congressman who fought for its establishment. The USU campus is located on the National Naval Medical Center compound in Bethesda, Md.

Over the years, the university has expanded its programs to meet the evolving educational requirements of the military services. Today, it offers 18 graduate degrees in the biomedical sciences and public health. Doctor of Philosophy degrees are offered in nine areas that range from clinical psychology to emerging infectious diseases. The university also offers a Doctor of Public Health degree, and has a new physician scientist (MD/Ph.D.) program. Most of these programs are open to civilian as well as military students.

A later and significant addition to the university was the Graduate School of Nursing, created in 1993 in response to a shortage of advanced practice nurses in DoD and the U.S. Public Health Service. Master level core curricula of theory, research and basic science form the basis for the Family Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Anesthesia and Clinical Nurse Specialist – Perioperative programs. In 2003, the school was expanded to include a Ph.D. program in Nursing Science.

With its motto "Learning to Care for Those in Harm's Way," USU is the only university dedicated to ensuring readiness for the nation's uniformed physicians and nurses.

Commencement 2004 will be held from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. May 15 at the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall, 18th and D Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C.

During the ceremony, 168 doctor of medicine, 25 master of science in nursing and 35 biomedical sciences graduate degrees will be conferred. Since the School of Medicine's first commencement in 1980, the university's has conferred 3,421 doctor of medicine, 776 graduate degrees in the biomedical sciences and 197 master of science in nursing degrees.

A commemorative coin will also be given out at this year's graduation, in recognition of USU's worldwide reputation of providing quality military medical education and research.