



## **Uniformed Services University**

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## **News Release**

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### **Lansdale native and spouse join Navy to attend medical school**

**BETHESDA, Md.** – Two U.S. Marine Corps officers, a Lansdale native and her husband, were re-commissioned in the navy after being accepted to attend medical school at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine.

Capt. (major select) Wendy "Taylor" Gordon, daughter of Ronald Taylor and Judith Krause, was commissioned at the rank of ensign along with her husband, Maj. Jason Gordon, during a commissioning ceremony here Aug. 2.

"I felt proud putting the Navy uniform on this morning for the first time. It honestly surprised me that going back to being a butter bar (ensign) would be such a great feeling," said Taylor Gordon.

Before applying to medical school at USU, Taylor Gordon served almost seven years with the Marines as a supply officer before she and her husband decided to leave active duty in 2000 and transfer service to the Marine Corps Inactive Ready Reserves.

The Gordons explained that after leaving active duty, they became interested in becoming medical doctors while conducting wilderness emergency medical technician training during rotations at local hospitals in Fresno, Calif. The training, Jason Gordon said, was for a future business he and Taylor Gordon planned to open.

"We learned [Jason and Taylor Gordon] that statistically, the odds of people on a second career getting into medical school were usually lower than a traditional student right out of undergraduate school. So,

with the two of us applying together, we felt that it would be twice the obstacle to overcome,” said Taylor Gordon.

However, the Gordons were both accepted to medical school and will start class in August.

“I’m looking forward to meeting more of my classmates. The benefit of going to USU is that I will be surrounded by a class of medical students with similar priorities. So far the peers I have met are motivated as much by serving their country as they are by studying medicine. I’ve never had so much in common with a peer group like this before. It just feels like I’ve finally found the right place,” said Taylor Gordon, who hopes to pursue a residency in general surgery when she graduates.

Taylor Gordon graduated from the University of Pittsburgh, in Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1994 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration and journalism. That same year she joined the Marines to serve her country. When she’s not working, Taylor Gordon enjoys scuba diving, sky diving, exercising and various “high-adrenaline” sports.

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.