



Uniformed Services University

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Release No. 02-06-21

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News Release

ARMY STUDENT EARNS MEDICAL DEGREE, IS PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN

BETHESDA, Md. – Capt. Roy F. Thomas, who is from Redlands, Calif., graduated from the Uniformed Services University's F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, the nation's only federal military medical school, May 18, 2002.

He was one of 64 U.S. Army officers among 163 students in this year's graduating class. More than 3,000 graduates, faculty, staff, family and friends gathered May 18 in Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C., at 11 a.m. for the two-and-a-half-hour ceremony.

The Honorable Everett Alvarez, Jr., chair of USU Board of Regents; and retired Air Force Col. Val G. Hemming, dean of the School of Medicine; conferred the medical degrees. Hemming also administered the Hippocratic Oath to the graduates.

Lt. Gen. James B. Peake, Surgeon General of the Army, reaffirmed the Oath of Office to the Army students, who were promoted to captain upon graduation and commissioned as medical corps officers.

Thomas, who received the Association of the U.S. Army Award and was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, has started his general surgery/otolaryngology internship at Madigan Army Medical Center in Washington.

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.

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.