



The Journal

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Scores 2nd Consecutive
Accreditation

Photo by MC2 William Phillips

USU Celebrates 39th Commencement:
See Special Section Inside

“America’s Medical School” Graduate Selected for NASA Spaceflight Mission

Army Doctor, Astronaut Andrew Morgan heads to space in 2019

By Sharon Holland
USU External Affairs

Army physician Lt. Col. Andrew Morgan, a NASA astronaut, will be one of two members of the NASA astronaut class of 2013 going into space in 2019, according to an announcement released by the space agency May 24, 2018.

Morgan, a 2002 graduate of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences’ (USU) F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine – “America’s Medical School” – will launch in July 2019 as a member of the Expedition 60/61 crew headed to the International Space Station. Morgan’s colleague, astronaut Christina Hammock Koch, was also selected for a mission to the ISS with Expedition 59/60, which is scheduled to launch in April 2019.

Morgan, a New Castle, Pennsylvania, native, earned a bachelor’s degree in environmental engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, and a Doctor of Medicine degree from USU. He went on to complete a residency in emergency medicine at Madigan Army Medical Center-University of Washington, followed by a fellowship in primary care sports medicine from the Virginia Commonwealth University/Fairfax Family Practice.

Morgan’s military medicine career was jumpstarted with a volunteer assignment for U.S. Army special operations forces. He served as a medical team member in the Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and went on to an assignment as battalion surgeon for the 1st



PHOTO COURTESY NASA

Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, where he served for three years. Morgan then served on a strategic special operations assignment in Washington, D.C., before completing his sports medicine fellowship. Morgan has deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and Africa in support of combat operations.

“We are extremely proud of Drew and all of his accomplishments throughout his career. His unique background as a military medical officer will provide significant contributions to his ISS crew members and the next generation of space exploration,” said USU President Dr. Richard Thomas. “I can assure you the entire Uniformed Services University community will be watching when he launches into space.”

Bethesda Notebook

Another Chance AA

Another Chance Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Thursday at the NSAB Interfaith Center basement conference room 34 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information, email AnotherChanceAA@yahoo.com or call Dan at 760-628-8895 or call the Interfaith Center at 301-318-5058.

Prostate Cancer Support Group

The Prostate Cancer Support Group meets at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center the third Thursday of every month. The next meeting will be June 21 from 1 to 2 p.m. and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the America Building, River Conference Room on the third floor. Spouses and partners are invited to attend. Military ID is required for base access to Naval Support Activity Bethesda and WRNMMC. For those without a military ID, call the Prostate Center at 301-319-2900 at least four business days prior to event for base access. For more information, contact retired Col. Jane Hudak at 301-319-2918 or jane.l.hudak.ctr@mail.mil.

NCA Joint Graduation

The NCA Joint Service Graduation is June 22 at 10 a.m. in The Music Center at Strathmore. A bus will pick up staff guests and participants at 9:15 a.m. at Building 19 on Walter Reed National Military Medical Center to go to Strathmore. Non-stop shuttle service will be provided from Stone Ridge to and from Strathmore Music Center from 9 to 10:30 a.m., and from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Parking changes

In an effort to better serve staff, Naval Support Activity Bethesda has designated a new parking system. Carpool parking is now located in garages 54, 17 and 32. The new rainbow parking plan is in effect allowing cars with any color NSAB parking permit to park in garages 17, 32, 54, 57, 71 and Lot Z. Rainbow parking hours are in effect from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, email Ryan Emery, NSAB transportation officer, at ryan.d.emery3.civ@mail.mil.

Cooking with Spices

Walter Reed Bethesda registered dietitian Asha Jain presents and demonstrates “Cooking with Spices” the second Wednesday of each month from 2 to 3 p.m. in Café 8901 on the lower level of Building 9. Everyone is invited to attend the presentations.

Fleet, Family Support Center

The Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) on Naval Support Activity Bethesda offers programs intended to assist service members and their families with military life. FFSC’s workshops and seminars include job search strategies for military spouses, federal resume writing, time management, credit management, consumer financial awareness, interview skills, pre-deployment briefings, return and reunion briefings, and more. For more information, call 301-319-4087, or visit FFSC in Building 11, first floor.

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Nursing Team Leads Way to WRNMMC's Pathway to Excellence Designation

By Bernard S. Little
WRNMMC Command Communications

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center is the first Department of Defense organization and only the second facility in the state of Maryland to achieve the prestigious Pathway to Excellence (P2E) designation by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association.

During a ceremony May 30 at WRNMMC, Christine Pabico, P2E director, presented the designation trophy to WRNMMC director Navy Capt. (Dr.) Mark Kobelja, and Navy Capt. Valerie Morrison, WRNMMC's director of nursing services during much of its P2E journey and whose nursing team led the way in achieving the distinction.

The ANCC's P2E designation recognizes health-care facilities that have created positive work environments where nurses can flourish, thereby bettering patient outcomes, quality of care and safety. Pathway-designated organizations are deemed the best places to work for nurses, with high nurse satisfaction and retention, according to the ANCC, which promotes excellence in nursing and health care globally through credentialing programs.

Following more than two years of efforts geared toward earning P2E designation, WRNMMC follows Union Hospital in Elkton, Maryland as the only two facilities in the state to achieve the honor.

Hospitals seeking P2E designation must be in compliance with all state and/or federal laws relating to registered nurses in the workplace. Hospitals must also meet other eligibility requirements and an application process including the involvement of nurses from across the facility. Hospitals must also submit a detailed document demonstrating qualitative and quantitative evidence-based patient care and outcomes, and have the participation of at least 60 percent of their nursing team in a confidential online survey. The designation process also includes an on-site visit by ANCC representatives who thoroughly assess the organization.

"I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate WRNMMC on your designation as a P2E organization," Pabico stated in a letter to WRNMMC and its nursing team. "The award is the culmination of hard work by many people in [the WRNMMC] organization, and on behalf of the Pathway Program



DOD PHOTO BY BERNARD S. LITTLE

During a ceremony May 30, Christine Pabico (front row, right), Pathway to Excellence (P2E) program director for the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), recognizes Walter Reed National Military Medical Center as the first P2E-designated military hospital, presenting the award to members of the WRNMMC nursing team who led the way in the hospital earning the distinction. The ANCC's P2E designation is an organizational credential to recognize health-care facilities that have created positive work environments where nurses can flourish, thereby bettering patient outcomes, quality of care and safety.

Office and Commissioners, I wish to applaud your efforts in achieving this prestigious recognition," she continued.

Pabico added P2E designation "is an ongoing process" requiring those organizations recognized with the distinction commit to sustaining excellence in [their] work environment.

During the May 30 ceremony at WRNMMC, Pabico personally thanked the entire Walter Reed Bethesda staff, stating the medical center continues to serve as an inspiration for others to follow.

"We are also beyond thrilled to be able to celebrate your great achievement of being the first Pathway-designated military hospital," Pabico said. She added P2E is the premier designation for practice environments globally, and achieving the distinction requires a "rigorous process" with organizations having to meet and maintain the six P2E standards of shared decision-making (for nurses in governance of the facility), well-being (of the nursing team), professional development (of nurses), quality (of care and services), safety (in patient care and the work environment), and leadership (for nurses).

"A premier organization carries premier designations," Morrison said.

Included among those designations is P2E, which emphasizes quality and safety, she continued. "That is truly who we are," she added.

"The journey has certainly been one of great pride for the nursing staff," Morrison continued. She furthered that earning P2E designation, as well as the other everyday efforts of the nursing team at WRNMMC, "is about ongoing work towards excellence for our patients and each other."

Morrison said P2E is about the health of the workforce, "not just the nursing workforce, but the entire multi-disciplinary team."

Sharing a personal story, Morrison said, "[WRNMMC] took care of me when I was diagnosed with cancer. [WRNMMC] surgically removed the tumor and ensured that I would have safe care through six weeks of radiation therapy and for five years of many follow-ups with the providers and nursing staff of all services and federal civilians. You all were excellent with my care, and every day, you are excellent with the care you give [our beneficiaries]."

Navy Cmdr. Bridgette Ferguson, department chief for the 5th and 7th floors as well as the P2E program coordinator for WRNMMC, stated,

"Research shows that healthy work environments improve not only nurse satisfaction, but also patient satisfaction and quality of care." She commended the entire P2E nursing team at WRNMMC for their efforts. She explained their efforts have resulted in improved engagement of the nursing staff and understanding of P2E standards of practice. She added their "way ahead" includes sustaining a culture of a positive working environment and recognition of nurses; empowering nurses; and building teams that foster cultural awareness, communication and professionalism; and sustaining Pathway Day and initiatives. "It truly does take a village," she furthered.

Of the approximate 5,000 hospitals in the United States, the ANCC has designated approximately 150 as P2E organizations, according to ANCC officials. P2E has its genesis in the Nurse-Friendly Hospital Program, established in 2003 by the Texas Nurses Association to improve the workplace and positively impact nurse retention. The ANCC was able to expand the Texas Nurse-Friendly program into a national initiative, acquiring it in 2007 and renaming it Pathway to Excellence.



DOD PHOTOS BY MC2 KEVIN CUNNINGHAM

Sailors are frocked at Walter Reed Bethesda during a ceremony June 1 in the medical center.

Sailors Frocked at Walter Reed Bethesda

By Bernard S. Little
WRNMMC Command Communications

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center recognized more than 80 Sailors during a frocking ceremony June 1 in WRNMMC's Clark Auditorium.

The frocking celebrated "the dedication and hard work of WRNMMC's newly-promoted petty officers," explained Chief Hospital Corpsman Sarah Pacquette, coordinator and master of ceremonies for the event.

In the Navy, frocking is the practice of a commissioned or non-commissioned officer selected for promotion wearing the insignia of the higher grade before the official date of promotion.

"On Sept. 24, 1894, the Navy introduced the now used rank insignias of today. The perched heraldic bald Eagle, commonly referred to as the 'crow,' with head to the right, and wings raised upward signifies intellect, strength, courage, and pride. The chevrons of a petty officer are equivalent to that of a non-commissioned officer. Commonly referred to as the 'backbone of the Navy,' the expertise and leadership [of petty officers] drive our fleet to success," Pacquette added.

Navy Capt. (Dr.) Mark Kobelja, WRNMMC's director, explained to the petty officers that their new appointments carry with them "the obligation that [they] exercise increased authority and willingly accept greater responsibility. Occupying a position of greater authority, you must strive with renewed dedication toward the valued ideal of service with honor."

According to naval historians, the term frocking dates back to the Age of Sail, a period lasting from the 16th to the mid-19th century when communications



Navy Capt. (Dr.) Mark Kobelja (left) congratulates a Sailor frocked during a ceremony June 1 at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

between the Department of the Navy and ships at sea could take months. News of the promotion of an officer arrived, usually by letters brought by another ship, and often with orders for the newly-promoted officer to report to a new ship or station. The ship that brought the news would often take that officer away to his new post. Since the departing officer created a vacancy on the first ship, the captain would often forward a recommendation for promotion for one of the remaining officers, which was to be carried back to the Department of the Navy.

One of the symbols of rank was a frock coat, the newly-promoted officer would pass his old frock coat to the officer remaining behind and recommended for promotion. Since a lengthy period of time could



Navy Capt. (Dr.) Mark Kobelja (left), director of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, congratulates a Sailor frocked during a ceremony June 1 at WRNMMC.

go by until the captain's recommendation made it back to the Department of the Navy and acted upon, the officer recommended for promotion would be accorded the privileges and authorities of his "new" rank, but would not receive the pay for it, since it was not yet official. Because it was not yet official, and because he was still wearing the old frock coat of the recently departed and (officially) promoted officer, the officer recommended for promotion was considered "frocked."

MWR Achieves 2nd Consecutive Accreditation

By Andrew Damstedt
The Journal

Naval Support Activity Bethesda's Morale Welfare and Recreation achieved its second consecutive "accredited status" after the Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) MWR Accreditation Team made an onsite visit May 14-17.

The accreditation program reviews the performance of Navy MWR program standards, leadership, customer service, financial performance, personnel development, innovation and process improvement.

"The [NSAB MWR] team has worked incredibly hard this last year in planning and delivering all of our programming and services as well as in the last few months to prepare for this validation assessment, and it's an honor to be recognized by CNIC for what the team is doing here every single day," said Megan Stadlman, NSAB's MWR Director. "Whether we're hosting a special event, trip, workshop, or working in daily operations, our team works together to support each other and ensure our customers are always our first priority."

NSAB was formed in 2011 and NSAB's MWR was first reviewed for accreditation in 2013 and received its



IMAGE COURTESY MWR

initial accredited status in 2015. Each accreditation lasts for three years. NSAB is one of 65 installations Navy-wide that participate in the accreditation program. Of those, 29 are Five Star programs; 39, accredited; and five, not accredited.

The accreditation team visited all MWR facilities and programs on the base, including Warrior Café, Below Deck, The Daily Grind, the Fitness Center, MWR Sports Complex, the Bowling Center and Spinz, Tickets and Travel, The Liberty Center and Community Recreation. MWR's support services such as marketing, training

and facilities maintenance were also reviewed.

"The team highlighted our Fitness Center and pool, Warrior Café, and Sports Complex as outstanding facilities that were exceptionally clean, well maintained, and presented a fresh, modern look for our customers," Stadlman said.

The team also noted the wide variety of programs and events MWR offers such as trips, tournaments, fitness classes, ticket sales, workshops and special events.

"Finally, they highlighted our focus

on attaining 100 percent Star Service Training for all personnel ensuring we're consistently delivering extraordinary, best in class customer service to our patrons," she continued.

The accreditation team provided "insightful, constructive feedback regarding our ultimate goal of being recognized as a Five Star program," Stadlman said. "Their words were encouraging and let us know that we are on the right track and well on our way to achieving that status in the future. We'll continue to focus on the items they identified and strive to continually grow and enhance our programs to continue providing the very best service we can offer to our patrons."

She thanked the other departments on base for helping MWR provide its services as well as patrons who choose to use NSAB's MWR.

"We're all striving to take care of our NSAB family together. We know that our patrons have a choice when it comes to utilizing our services here on base or going outside the fence line, and we want to thank them and let them know we appreciate them for choosing MWR," she said.



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Nurses Honor Morrison with DAISY Leadership Award

By Bernard S. Little
WRNMMC Command Communications

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center recognized former Director of Nursing Services Navy Capt. Valerie Morrison with The DAISY Nurse Leader Award during a ceremony on May 30 at WRNMMC.

The DAISY Nurse Leader Award honors executive leaders, middle managers, educators and preceptors who supervise nurses in health-care facilities. In addition, these nursing leaders also support the recognition of their direct care staff for the services and support they provide beneficiaries. They also celebrate the impact staff have on patients and their families, explained Army Col. Lozay Foots, the new director of nursing services at WRNMMC.

Morrison served as nursing director at WRNMMC for more than two years, relinquishing its helm to Foots at the end of May to assume a new assignment. Morrison helped guide the WRNMMC nursing team in achieving Pathway to Excellence (P2E) designation, making Walter Reed Bethesda the only Department of Defense organization, and only the second health-care facility in the state of Maryland to achieve the distinction.

The American Nurses Credentialing Center, a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association, designates the P2E distinction on those facilities that create and sustain positive work environments where nurses can excel, resulting in better patient outcomes, quality of care and safety. Pathway-designated organizations are considered by the ANCC to be the best places for nurses to work, with notable high nurse satisfaction and retention rates.

"The DAISY Nurse Leader Award gives staff, patients and families a way to express their gratitude for the compassionate environment nurse leaders provide," according to The DAISY Foundation, the organization that established the Nurse Leader Award, as well as The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses, which



DOD PHOTO BY BERNARD S. LITTLE

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center's Director of Nursing Services Army Col. Lozay Foots (left) and WRNMMC's Director Navy Capt. (Dr.) Mark Kobelja present former WRNMMC nursing director Navy Capt. Valerie Morrison with The DAISY Nurse Leader Award during a ceremony May 30 at WRNMMC.

recognizes a member of the nursing staff monthly.

The family of J. Patrick Barnes established The DAISY Foundation and Award program in 1999 in his memory. Barnes died of complications of the autoimmune disease Idiopathic Thrombocytopenia Purpura in Seattle, Washington at the age of 33. DAISY is an acronym for Disease Attacking the Immune System. The Barnes family established the foundation and awards in appreciation of the extraordinary nursing care Patrick received

during his hospitalization.

"The health-care landscape is very complex with increasing demands on our nurses," Foots said. "The Nurse Leader Award was created to recognize those nursing leaders who create an environment of compassion and recognition for others. These leaders are held up as models of outstanding nursing leadership. Despite working under tremendous pressure, through their leadership these nurse leaders provide a haven of safety for staff, both physically and emotionally, inspiring them to do their very best."

He expanded upon how Morrison role modeled caring behavior, and provided a setting where compassion is valued. "She supported shared decision-making, well-being, professional development, quality, safety and leadership, resulting in a positive practice environment."

Morrison said her assignment as nursing director at WRNMMC was probably one of her "most challenging, but exciting tours in [her] 28 years of service. When I was a young ensign, I gave my division officer my goals [and] being the chief nursing officer of a large medical center was one of them. I held on to that goal throughout my career."

She called her nursing team at WRNMMC "amazing. This is not about me; this is all about you and what you do every day for our deserving beneficiaries and their families."

Foots, and WRNMMC Director Navy Capt. (Dr.) Mark Kobelja, presented Morrison with the DAISY's Healer's Touch sculpture, which was hand-carved by a Shona artist in Zimbabwe, as part of her Nurse Leader Award. Officials from the DAISY Foundation explained that the sculptures, made from serpentine stone, "are especially meaningful because of the profound respect the Shona people pay their traditional healers. Shona healers are affectionately regarded as treasures by those they care for, and the well-being and safety of the healer is of community-wide importance. This describes exactly how we and our partners feel about nurses," stated DAISY officials.

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USU Celebrates 39th Commencement

New generation of military health care providers graduates

DOD PHOTO BY TOM BALFOUR

More than 340 uniformed and civilian professionals received their medical, graduate nursing, biomedical science, public health and clinical psychology degrees during the Uniformed Services University's commencement ceremony on May 19, which took place at the Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

By Sarah Marshall
USU External Affairs

It wasn't just mortarboards and tassels thrown in the air at the Uniformed Services University's commencement exercise on Armed Forces Day. Former Veterans Affairs Secretary Dr. James B. Peake, the keynote speaker, threw eggs into the crowd of graduates.

Peake, a retired Army lieutenant general, grabbed the audience's attention by first taking out a bowl of eggs, which he compared to the patients they will soon care for – full of richness and the essence of life. While they are strong on the outside, he said, they can also be fragile.

"[These patients] are going to come to you when they are most fragile, when they are ill, when they may be broken ... You will use all the tools, and the acumen, and the knowledge, and the empathy that you have developed at this university, and that you will continue to develop in your careers of lifelong learning, to make them well ... in some cases to put them back together," Peake said. He then threw a hardboiled egg into the crowd – a move he said he hoped would make his speech and words of advice, memorable.

While he used the eggs as a metaphor for their future patients, he explained that they could be used as a metaphor for another important piece of their lives – they are also like the organizations and the units they will join and one day lead. They, too, are full of goodness and richness, and full of life and capability, he said. Again, he told the graduates that they will use all of the tools, knowledge, and empathy, and leadership skills developed at USU, while serving in those organizations – and they will make a difference in those units, ensuring they are strong and able to accomplish the mission.

And this goes for the entire class, he said, recognizing all of the graduating physicians, nurses, dentists, as well



as civilians who earned doctorates and other advanced degrees.

Peake also recognized the importance of what he referred to as the double Os: obligation and opportunity. He explained that the graduates really have two professions – medicine and the military, which come with rights and responsibilities. These professions come with a certain deference to the education that they worked hard for, and because of that, they are respected for their special knowledge. In return, they are obligated to provide their services to that society.

"You owe the use of those special skills and knowledge to make them better, to lift them up ... and it is also an obligation to behave ethically," Peake added. "Professions by their nature are self-policing, if you will, so you have a responsibility to participate in that aspect in your professions."

In addition to these obligations, Peake explained the unique opportunities that lie ahead.

"I can't think of a better time to come into medicine," Peake said. "What an exciting time."

He explained that medicine is at a tipping point, moving from the industrial age to the digital age.

"You have telemedicine in your curriculum – that wasn't even a word when I was in medical school," he said.

During this new age of medicine, there are many advances being made, such as personalized medicine, and new techniques in surgery. Military medicine continues to re-organize and re-shape to try to better understand its mission, he said.

"My advice to you is to seek those opportunities, open those doors, walk through them, whether it's taking on a new scientific endeavor, taking leadership of a department, or a unique assignment ... and as you do, you will develop new networks of friends, new professional colleagues. You will find new cultures to understand, perhaps new countries to visit, and you will continue to grow personally."

Finally, Peake expressed his gratitude for the graduates and what they will accomplish in the future.

"Thank you for what you will do for our patients, for what you will do for military medicine, what you will do for our nation," Peake said.

More than 340 uniformed and civilian professionals received their medical, graduate nursing, biomedical science, public health and clinical psychology degrees during the May 19 ceremony, which took place at the Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. Graduates from USU's F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine included 159 Doctor of Medicine degrees and a combined 62 Masters, Doctor of Public Health and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. USU's Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing conferred 46 Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees and three Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Science degrees. USU's Postgraduate Dental College will confer 77 Master of Science in Oral Biology degrees during separate ceremonies this summer.

Steeped in tradition, USU's commencement exercise is one of the most unique graduation ceremonies in the nation. Graduates in uniform are active duty officers in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force or Public Health Service. After they cross the stage in academic regalia and receive their diplomas, USU's graduates exit the stage and change back into their military uniforms. Graduating medical students return to recite their respective service commissioning oath, led individually by each Surgeon General. They are then promoted to their next rank.

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Aaron Edward McIntire
Dean William Miller
Natalie Rose Miller
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Stephanie Katherine Skelly
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Cassidy West-Santos
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Capt Richard L. Brocksmith
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Maj Brent H. Burhite
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Capt Stephanie A. Doane
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Faith Elizabeth Grzesik
Marcie Knox Hart
Jared Lee Hartman
Lindsay Blair Howard
Sean A. Hutchison
Christopher Andrew Johnson
Tialicka Burgos Johnson
Tekia L. Jones
Brian Robert Kennedy
LT Mien Le
Capt Shanna Miller
Lauren Nicole Nash
Mary Margaret Pelton
Melissa A. Perkins
Cassy Ann Piela
Marylou Charlotte Proano

Ashley O. Robertson
Colleen Marie Spiri
Denise Kathleen Stiltner
Captain Keren L. Stimeling
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Adam Matthew Taylor
Christina Brandon Terehoff
Teresa N. Timms
Schadaq Torres
John W. Tranberg
Emanuel Montez Waddell
Charles Diep Walker
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LT Justin K. Wooley
MAJ Monica Wyatt
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Aaron H. Amano
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Jared D. Beam
Autumn L. Becker
Joshua P. Berridge
Michael J. Browning
Llena C. Caldwell
Anthony M. Carbonella IV
Joseph F. Carey
Albert W. Cheng
Wonil W. Chong
James T. Corbett
Katherine M. Darling-Lund
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Caitlin B. Fehlinger
Benjamin D. Fitzharris
Amanda A. Fix
Keaton B. Forrester
Wendy S. Foster
Daniel J. Fuhrmann
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George M. Hankewycz
Jason L. Hicks
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Craig E. Hofferber
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Kelley A. Hursh
George D. Hwang
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Steven L. Johnson
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Catherine L. Kubera

Christina L. Lilli
Elizabeth M. Litman
Richard M. Low
Arbel Maghsoodpour
Patrick E. McCurdy
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Elizabeth L. Morris
James S. Morris
Kyle T. Nelson
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Meghan J. Vanderheiden
Travis J. Vertolli
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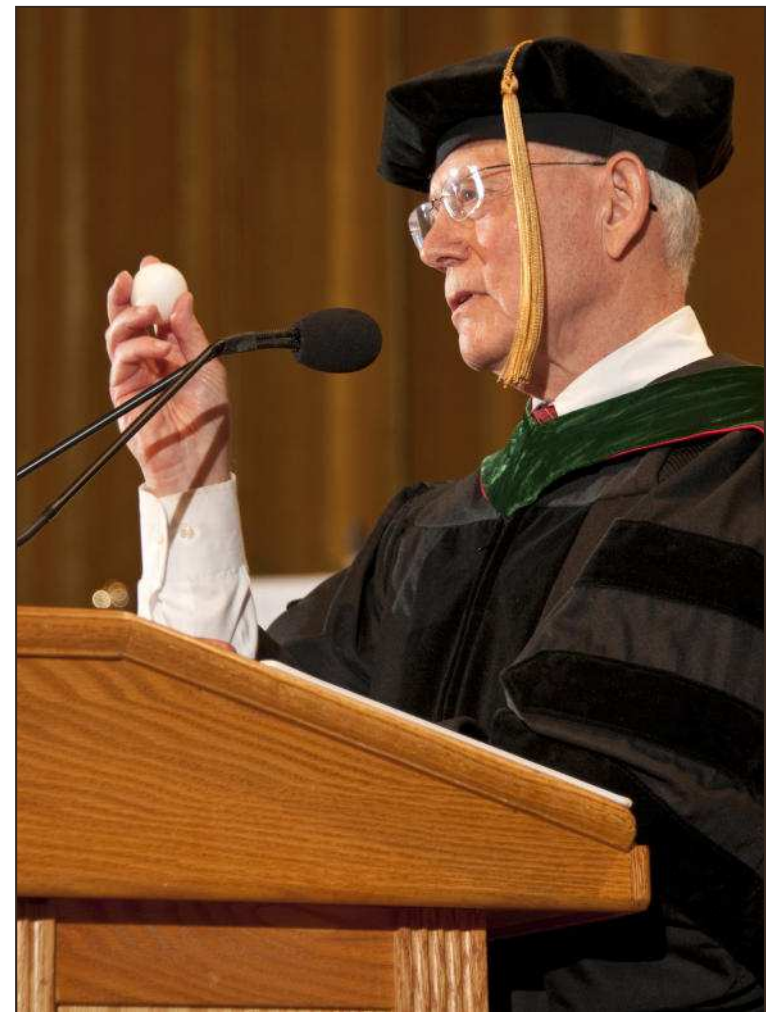
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Infectious Diseases**
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Laura Kropp
Riley Sennett
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Health Sciences**
Edward Benchoff CDR, USN
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Amy Lee LT, USN
Jessica MacIntyre
Kyna Pak LT, USN
Amanda Webb, MAJ, USA
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Edwin Szeto
**Doctor of Philosophy
(PhD) — Molecular
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Ramona von Leden
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Tony S. Kim Col, USAF
Jaimie M. Laib Capt, USAF
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Nicole Rowley CPT, USA
Brianna L. Rupp
LCDR, USN
Robert Scalise LCDR, USN
Riley Sennett
Colby C. Uptegraft
Capt, USAF
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— Public Health**
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Brian Knott CPT, USA
**Master of Tropical
Medicine & Hygiene
(MTM&H) — Public Health**
Dianne N. Frankel
Maj, USAF
Christie Joya LT, USN
Jennifer H. Masel CPT, USA



DOD PHOTOS BY TOM BALFOUR

On stage, from left to right, during the Uniformed Services University's (USU) 2018 Commencement: Dr. Ronald Blanck, chair of USU's Board of Regents, Dr. Ar Kellermann, dean of USU's F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, Dr. Carol Romano, dean of USU's Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing, Dr. Thomas Schneid, executive dean of USU's Postgraduate Dental College, Dr. Mitchell Seal, dean of USU's College of Allied Health Sciences, Mr. Thomas McCaffery, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, and Army Col. Jerome Buller, USU Brigade Commander.



Former Veterans Affairs Secretary Dr. James B. Peake, a retired Army lieutenant general, was the keynote speaker at the Uniformed Services University's 2018 Commencement ceremony. He used eggs as a metaphor for the patients that the graduates will soon care for — and he grabbed their attention by throwing a hard boiled egg into the crowd.



DOD PHOTOS BY TOM BALFOUR

More than 340 uniformed and civilian professionals received their medical, graduate nursing, biomedical science, public health and clinical psychology degrees during the Uniformed Services University's commencement ceremony on May 19, which took place at the Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.



Annual Aware for All Event Highlights Importance of Research



DOD PHOTO BY BERNARD S. LITTLE

Richard Cicero, a medical study test subject for osseointegration at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, said it's an honor to be able to help advance medicine so others may benefit. He is the first person in the U.S. to have osseointegration in both an upper and lower limb.

**By Bernard S. Little
WRNMMC Command Communications**

Richard Cicero knows the value of research and how it has contributed to advances in medical care. He spoke about this during the Department of Research Program's 6th Annual Aware for All event May 23 at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

"To think that nearly four years ago I really started my journey into the advances here at Walter Reed, when surgeons performed neurosurgery on my arm," Cicero said. "Here I am today, now working on becoming truly the 'Bionic Man.' This has been made possible through the team effort that exist at WRNMMC," he added.

On Aug. 4, 2010 while working as a military contractor in Afghanistan, Cicero, a former Army paratrooper, lost his right arm and right leg to an improvised explosive device. "The wonderful people in modern medicine that's available today, saved my life, have put me back together like Humpty Dumpty and are making wonderful parts for me every day," he said.

Cicero added that at WRNMMC, "futures are made," and he's making history here as a medical study test subject for osseointegration, work being led by Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Jonathan Forsberg and Army Lt. Col. (Dr.) Kyle Potter at Walter Reed.

"In the simplest terms, osseointegration refers to the direct skeletal attachment of a prosthesis, so we're putting an implant into the bone and bringing it out through the skin," Potter explained. The procedure is in its early development as a program in the Department of Defense, but it has enabled Cicero

to get a battery-powered arm that comes as close as possible to mirroring his natural one, and is capable of much more articulate and precise movement than other prosthetics. In March, Cicero had the surgery again so that surgeons could attach a prosthetic leg straight to his thigh bone, making him the first person in the U.S. to have osseointegration in both an upper and lower limb.

Cicero said it's an honor to be able to help advance medicine so others may benefit. "I can't put it into words how much of an honor it is. We're all one team, one fight for years to come," he added.

Lisa Thompson, academic research education specialist for DRP at WRNMMC, agreed that research is vital to making significant advancements in military medicine and improve health care of Military Health System beneficiaries. She added the Aware for All event recognizes "research heroes" whose participation in investigative studies moves medicine and patient-centered care forward, as well as "encourage collaboration among researchers, foster networking, and encourage people to take part in research." The event included 26 booths from various agencies involved in medical research and health care.

Navy Cmdr. Robert A. Liotta, director for education, training and research at WRNMMC, said it's a privilege to be involved in the entire health-care process, including as a participant in a research study, a research assistant, primary investigator or health-care provider. "It's a great thing that affects all of us," he added. "Research is driving us to the next levels in our health care. It's constantly changing. It's constantly getting better," he concluded.

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A dancer with the Natananjali School of Dance performs at Walter Reed Bethesda's Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration May 31 in the medical center.



Navy Lt. Cmdr. (Dr.) Nawaz Hack serves as guest speaker at the Walter Reed Bethesda's Multicultural Committee's program May 31 celebrating Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month.



A dancer with the Natananjali School of Dance performs at Walter Reed Bethesda's Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration May 31 in the medical center.

Unite Our Vision by Working Together

DoD photos by Bernard S. Little

Walter Reed Bethesda's Multicultural Committee hosted a program May 31 at the medical center celebrating Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Navy Lt. Cmdr. (Dr.) Nawaz Hack served as guest speaker at the program, which also included performances by the Natananjali School of Dance. Unite Our Vision by Working Together was this year's theme for the observance, which Hack addressed, emphasizing the importance of respecting the cultures of others, embracing diversity and promoting unity.

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DOD PHOTO BY BERNARD S. LITTLE

Reception and Reintegration Team Members Recognized

By Bernard S. Little
WRNMMC Command Communications

The Department of Defense recognized (from left) U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Brian Neubauer, Army Col. Lisa Teegarden, Army Col. Charles Unruh and Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman Brandon Carrillo with the Joint Service Achievement Medal for their efforts as members of the Reception and Reintegration

Team at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center May 8-12. They were called upon with less than 48 hours notice to train on understanding the psychological aspects of captivity; and be prepared to receive and complete reintegration procedures for three American detainees from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). The team members ensured the released detainees received comprehensive physical examinations and medical treatment, including debriefings, and facilitated the

reunification with their families in a safe and secure environment. This required extensive coordination with the State Department, Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Personnel Recovery Agency.

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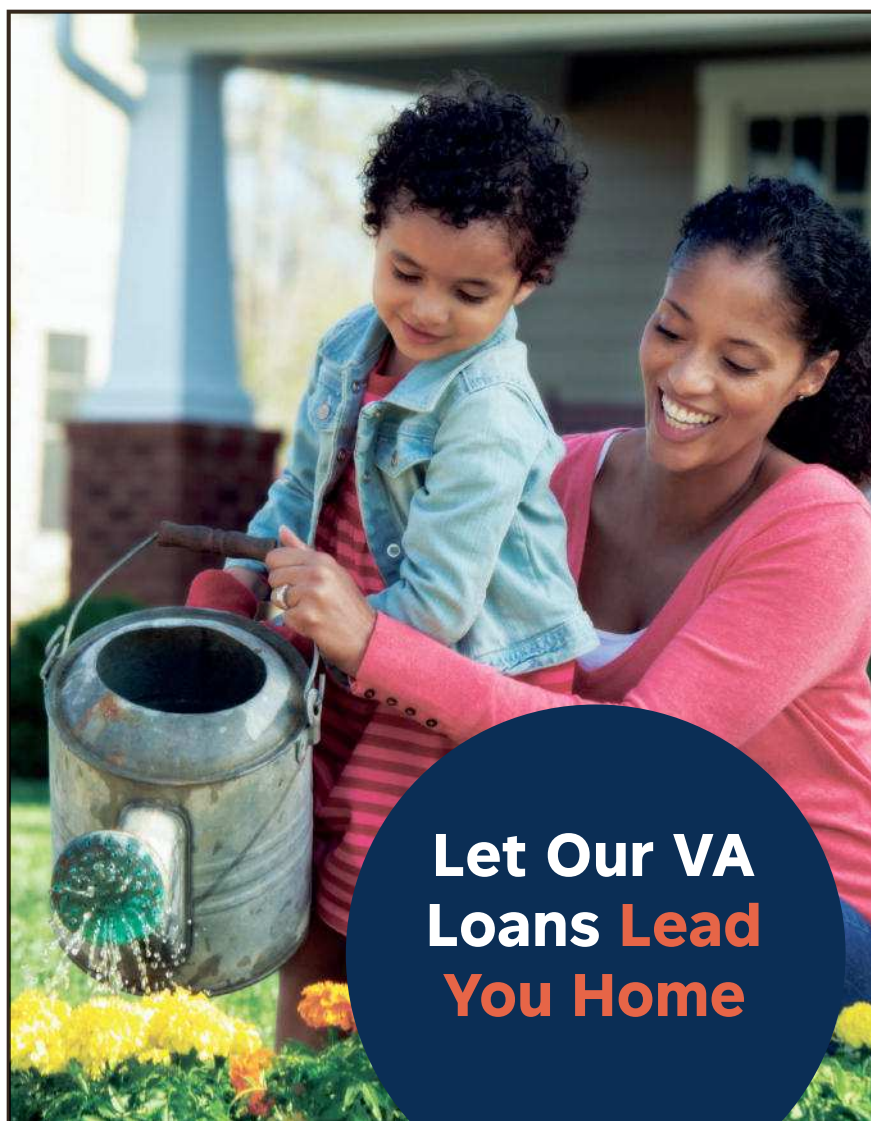
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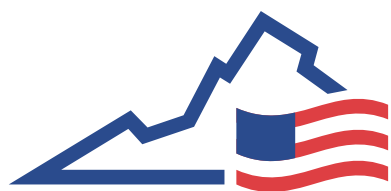
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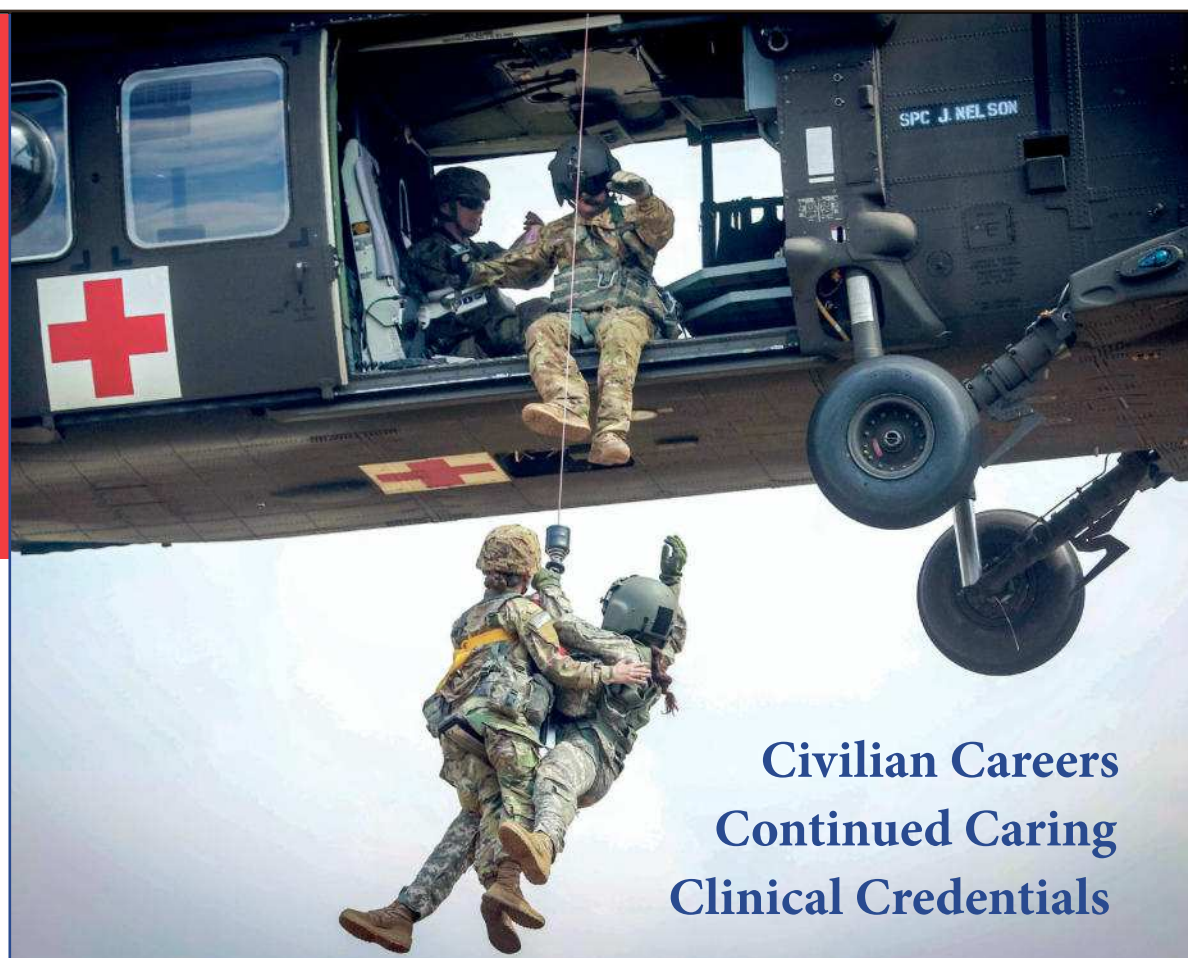
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