

Ernest L. Hepler, Jr., Ph.D.

Dr.

Ernest L. Hepler is the Assistant Dean of Administration, Finance, and Technology and Executive Assistant to the Dean, Graduate School of Nursing, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Prior to coming to USU in 2003, he practiced as an audiologist for five years with the Henning & Cole Rehabilitation Agency in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Hepler's distinguished career in the U.S. Army culminated in his selection as Brigade Commander at USU and in his selection as the Audiology Consultant to the Army Surgeon General. Highlights of his early assignments include attending the Army's Warrant Officer Candidate Rotary Wing Flight and Engineer Officer Candidate Schools. He served as an Army aviator with the 13th Combat Aviation Battalion in Vietnam, and as a Platoon Commander and Instructor Pilot at the U.S. Army Aviation School Element, Fort Stewart, Georgia. Dr. Hepler left active duty in 1968, to attend college. He joined the Florida National Guard during this period and served as a Maintenance Platoon Commander and Aircraft Maintenance Officer for the 111th Aviation Company, Jacksonville, Florida. Dr. Hepler graduated from the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, in 1971, with a Bachelor of Arts in Education Degree. After receiving a Master of Arts Degree in Audiology in 1972, from the University of Florida, he returned to Army active duty serving as the Chief of the Audiology, Walson Army Hospital, Fort Dix, New Jersey. Follow-on assignments included: Chief of the Audiology at the 97th General Hospital, Frankfurt, West Germany (1975-78); the Army Medical Department Officer, Advanced Course (1978); Assistant Director at the Army Audiology and Speech Center, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC (1978-1981). After completing the Doctor of Philosophy Degree at the University of Florida in 1984, his assignments included: Chief of the Audiology and Speech Clinic, 2nd General Hospital, Landstuhl, West Germany (1984-85); Audiology Consultant for the 7th Medical Command and Chief of the Occupational and Epidemiology Branch, 10th Medical Laboratory, Landstuhl, West Germany (1985-89); Chief of the Bio-Acoustics Division, U.S. Army Environmental Hygiene Agency (USAEHA), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland (1989-90); Director of Radiation and Entomological Sciences, USAEHA (1990-91); and Chief of Staff, USAEHA (1991-1993). Dr. Hepler's military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with 15 Oak Leaf Clusters and V device, Army Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters and V device and an Army Achievement Medal. He has been awarded the "A" Proficiency Designator, the highest award given in recognition of professional accomplishment within the Army Medical Department. He has also been awarded the "Order of Military Medical Merit," which denotes distinguished service recognized by the senior leadership of the Army Medical Department. Dr. Hepler is married to the former Carol Skinner of Sanford, Florida.