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## Media Advisory

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### **USU launches first phase of WMD collaborative medical readiness initiative**

**Bethesda, Md.** – The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) announced the first phase of its Weapons of Mass Destruction Collaborative Medical Readiness Initiative.

The initiative offers tuition-free online education about chemical, biological, radiological/nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) incidents for civilian, uniformed emergency responders and healthcare providers across the nation. The program is a self-paced, flexible program that introduces educational activities through a fictional scenario or by learning objectives. The site is available at: <http://opep.usuhs.edu/>.

The program was developed by the Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine (CDHAM) at USU in collaboration with experts from the Department of Defense, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, United States Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Veterans Administration and the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute.

USU is accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. The Online Preparedness Education Program has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. USU is accredited by both agencies to provide continuing medical education (CME) for physicians and continuing nursing education (CNE) contact hours for nurses. A certificate of completion with continuing education credits is available to participants not eligible to receive CME or CNE. Up to sixteen CME hours or nineteen CNE hours will be honored to participants who register and successfully complete program requirements.

USU is the nation's federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing. The medical students are all active-duty uniformed officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force and U.S. Public Health Service who are being educated to deal with wartime casualties, national disasters, emerging infectious diseases and other public health emergencies. The university's motto is "Learning to Care for Those in Harm's Way." For more information about USU visit: [www.usuhs.edu](http://www.usuhs.edu).