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News Release

USU President addresses 2007 MHS Conference

Bethesda, Md. — Charles L. Rice, M.D., president of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), will address members of the Military Health System during its Annual Conference Jan. 29- Feb. 1.

As President of USU, Dr. Rice is responsible for the academic, research and service mission of the university. He advises the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and the four Surgeons General on a wide array of issues related to graduate health professions education and healthcare research.

More than 3,000 military medical professionals from around the world will gather at the annual MHS conference to learn about the new strategic plan that will shape the future of the MHS. The annual conference is a forum for military health care professionals and civilian partners to discuss new programs and initiatives that affect health care delivery to beneficiaries. The theme of this year's conference is "Transforming Strategy into Action."

The University is located on the grounds of the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. USU is the nation's federal School of Medicine and Graduate School of Nursing and grants the degrees of M.D., Ph.D., Dr.PH, M.S., M.P.H., and M.S.N. The university is a typical academic health center with a unique focus on health promotion and disease prevention and the specialized mission of educating health care practioners to deal with peace and wartime casualties, national disasters, emerging infectious diseases and other public health emergencies.

The University is also a partner in planning and establishing the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), a 21st Century academic health center. This new multiservice institution will provide state of the art health care, education and research across all three services; closely collaborate with the National Institutes of Health and the US Public Health Service writ large; and set a new standard for inter-governmental collaboration. USU will be the academic core of this new entity with WRNMMC as a premier teaching hospital and clinical care center serving the nation and our uniformed beneficiaries.

For more information about USU visit <u>www.usuhs.mil</u> or for more information about the MHS Conference visit: <u>http://www.tricare.mil/conferences/2007/default.cfm</u>.