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## News Release

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### **USU's Nurse Anesthesia Program Ranks Sixth in the Nation**

**BETHESDA, MD.** — The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Graduate School of Nursing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesia (CRNA) program received a national ranking of 6th out of 106 Nurse Anesthesia Programs according to the recently published 2007 U.S. News and World Report.

“This is quite an accomplishment for the nurse anesthesia program that admitted its first students in 1994,” said Air Force Lt Col Adrienne Hartgerink, CRNA program director. “This is the first time the program has been ranked. This is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of the USU faculty and the outstanding performance of the students from all services.”

The U.S. News and World Report bases its nurse specialty rankings on ratings by educators and deans at peer schools.

“This impressive ranking is directly attributable to the university's reputation and all the exceptional faculty involved with educating our future Air Force, Army, Navy, and Public Health Services' CRNAs,” said Hartgerink. “Our nurse anesthesia program didactic faculty, Army LTC (Promotable) Bruce Schoneboom, Navy CDR John Maye, Air Force Lt Col Kevin Bohan, and retired Army COL Patricia Cordts, do a superb job in preparing the next generation of nurse anesthesia providers, as well as the outstanding clinical faculty at all our phase II sites and of course our outstanding students.”

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists are vital to the Federal Health System's mission of delivering quality healthcare to eligible beneficiaries in the federal sector. Upon graduation, our nurse anesthetists provide safe, competent care, adhering to the highest practice standards. Anesthesia is practiced in a variety of settings, including modern, state of the art medical centers, in the field with Special Operations teams and ground forces, onboard ships, in the air, at overseas duty stations, and remote locations that are serviced by the Public Health Service. Independent practice and the ability to perform a wide variety of anesthetic techniques, including regional anesthesia, is expected.

The 30-month program consists of two phases. The Phase I didactic component is 12 months long and is conducted on the campus of USU. A strong scientific program provides the foundations upon which all academic and professional education is based. Courses provided are necessary for entrance into the clinical arena and include the basic sciences, nursing core courses, basic and advanced principles of anesthesia, basic and clinical pharmacology, and statistics and research methodology. Human Patient Simulation is extensively used to prepare students for clinical practice.

The eighteen-month Phase II clinical component focuses on critical thinking and the application of science and research to clinical anesthesia. Students are assigned to a military medical treatment facility as their primary clinical training site. The clinical phase is designed to progress the graduate student toward the goal of functional autonomy and independence in decision-making appropriate to the student's level of experience.

The Graduate School of Nursing was established within USU in 1993. It offers programs in Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesia, Family Health Nurse Practitioner, and Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist leading to the Master of Science in Nursing. The GSN also offers a full- and part-time Ph.D. in Nursing Science option that began in 2003 and graduated its first class in 2006.

For more information on the Certified Registered Nurse program at USU, visit our Web site at [www.usuhs.mil](http://www.usuhs.mil) or contact the Office of External Affairs at (301) 295-1219.

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