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News Release

CDHAM Faculty Research Featured on Oprah

BETHESDA, Md. — Research reported in a recent issue of the *Annals of Emergency Medicine* by two current faculty members of the Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine (CDHAM) of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) was featured in the Aug. 29 episode of the Oprah Winfrey Show.

The show's focus was on New Orleans two years after Hurricane Katrina hit the region. USU CDHAM faculty, Dr. Lynn Lawry, associate director and director of Research, and Dr. Michael P. Anastario, research associate, studied the health of residents living in FEMA trailer parks in Louisiana and Mississippi to determine whether gaps in aid and health care services existed for this population. Their findings, referenced in the Oprah show and published in the March issue of *AEM*, determined that more than 85,000 people still remain displaced and living in FEMA trailers, and while food, water and shelter were generally adequate in these trailer parks, health services and mental health needs largely remain unaddressed. They also found that suicide and intimate partner violence rates were much higher than expected, with suicide rates 79 percent higher than the national average and depression seven times greater.

The Oprah episodes on Hurricane Katrina, and reference to the study are available for viewing at http://www2.oprah.com/world/global/slide/20070829/global_284_109.jhtml.

USU's Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine was established to be the focal point for medical aspects of disaster relief and humanitarian assistance worldwide. The uniquely positioned academic center is actively developing relationships between governmental agencies, non-governmental agencies, and private volunteer organizations as a means of improving relief efforts. CDHAM uses training, technology, and best management practices to improve military medicine capabilities and readiness for humanitarian missions, especially in partnership with the inter-Agency process, the international medical community, and the host nation medical infrastructure and beneficiary populations.

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences is the nation's federal health sciences university. USU educates health care professionals dedicated to career service in the Department of Defense and the United States Public Health Service. The university provides military and public health-relevant education, research, service and consultation to the nation and the world, pursuing excellence and innovation during times of peace and war.

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