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## News Release

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# **USU's National Capital Area Medical Simulation Center Accredited by the American College of Surgeons**

**BETHESDA, Md.** — The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' National Capital Area Medical Simulation Center has been awarded accreditation by the American College of Surgeon's (ACS) Program for Accreditation of Education Institutes.

Opened in 1999, the Simulation Center, located in Silver Spring, Md, uses high-fidelity human patient mannequins, a full-scale immersive virtual reality area, 12 patient examination rooms, and surgical simulation within an operating room to train and assess the communication, interpersonal, professional, physical exam and diagnostic reasoning skills of learners. The center provides approximately 8,000 simulations each academic year and is open to all medical and nursing students, interns, residents and others in the USU community. The facility also provides continuing medical education and training to personnel from other federal and DoD agencies.

The ACS cited the Simulation Center's faculty, programs, simulators and leadership as key elements in its award of accreditation. This award is primarily the result of the efforts of Mark Bowyer, MD, director of Surgical Simulation, Dr. Gil Muniz, deputy director Simulation Center and Dr. Joseph Lopreiato, associate dean of Simulation Education.

Located on the grounds of Bethesda's National Naval Medical Center and across from the National Institutes of Health, USU is the nation's federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing. The university educates health care professionals dedicated to career service in the Department of Defense and the U.S. Public Health Service. Students are active-duty uniformed officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service, who are being educated to deal with wartime casualties, national disasters, emerging infectious diseases, and other public health emergencies. Of the university's more than 4,000 physician alumni, the vast majority serve on active duty and are supporting operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere, offering their leadership and expertise.

For more information, contact the Office of External Affairs at 301-295-1219.