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Release No.09-02-05

February 25, 2009

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## News Release

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### **Simulation Center Expands Breadth and Scope, Thanks to Federal Support**

**BETHESDA, MD** — The National Capital Area Medical Simulation Center added to its breadth of resources recently with the opening of the Wide Area Virtual Environment (WAVE). This 8,000-square foot full-scale immersive virtual reality area allows teams of students to take part in mass casualty drills, biochemical attacks and other medical training scenarios, in conjunction with simulators and live simulated patients. It is one of the only facilities of its kind in the world.

The facility has received \$4 million in additional federal support thanks to the efforts of Congressman Chris Van Hollen (MD-08), who hopes the center can extend its mission of providing state of the art technologies to conduct clinical and surgical skills training.

The 20,000 square-foot center Simulation Center, located in Silver Spring, is part of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU). It is one of the world's most advanced medical education and training simulation centers, hosting approximately 8,000 simulations each academic year, and is open to all medical and nursing students, interns, and residents in the National Capital Area. The Center also provides continuing medical education and training to personnel from other federal and DoD agencies.



Visitors receive a tour of the Wide Area Virtual Environment, also known as the WAVE, by Dr. Gil Muniz, deputy director of the Simulation Center.

“The SIM Center provides students with some of the most advanced medical simulation technologies available in the world,” said Gil Muniz, Ph.D., deputy director of the center. “The support we received through the work of Congressman Van Hollen’s Office is going to allow us to expand our resources while continuing to provide state of the future education and training.

"The training and simulations conducted at this center are critical components of our regional readiness and ability to respond to man-made or natural disasters," said Congressman Van Hollen. "I am proud to have helped secure the funding needed to expand the facility and allow additional teams of students to prepare and train for how to respond to mass casualty emergencies, including biochemical attacks."

**WAVE Funding (Page 2)**

USU students receive more simulation practice than they would at most other medical schools. By the time they graduate, USU learners will have participated in roughly 40 different simulations, helping to prepare them for their careers as military medical officers.

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, natural disasters, emerging infectious diseases, and other public health emergencies. Of the university's more than 4,200 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) 295-3981 or visit the USU Web site at: [www.usuhs.mil](http://www.usuhs.mil).

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