



UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY
of the Health Sciences



Ernest Hepler, Jr., PhD
COL, (Ret.), USA
Executive Assistant to the Dean of the Graduate School of Nursing

Dr. Ernest Hepler was recruited to his current position as the Executive Assistant to the Dean of the Graduate School of Nursing in January 2003. Prior to this selection, he practiced as an audiologist for five years with the Henning & Cole Rehabilitation Agency in Baltimore.

Dr. Hepler's distinguished career in the U.S. Army culminated with his selection as Brigade Commander at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and in his selection as the Audiology Consultant to the Army Surgeon General.

Highlights of his early assignments include attending the Army's Warrant Officer Candidate Rotary Wing Flight and Engineer Officer Candidate Schools; serving as an Army Aviator with the 13th Combat Aviation Battalion in Vietnam; and a Platoon Commander and Instructor Pilot at the U.S. Army Aviation School Element at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Dr. Hepler left active duty in 1968 to attend college. He joined the Florida National Guard during this period and served as a Maintenance Platoon Commander and Aircraft Maintenance Officer for the 111th Aviation Company in Jacksonville, Florida.

Dr. Hepler graduated from the University of Florida in Gainesville in 1971 with a Bachelor of Arts in Education. After receiving a Master of Arts in audiology in 1972 from the University of Florida, he returned to Army active duty serving as the Chief of the Audiology at Walson Army Hospital in Fort Dix, New Jersey. Follow-on assignments include: Chief of the Audiology at the 97th General Hospital in Frankfurt, Germany (1975-78); the Army Medical Department Officer, Advanced Course (1978); and the Assistant Director at the Army Audiology and Speech Center at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. (1978-1981).

His distinguished military career continued after completing a Doctor of Philosophy degree at the University of Florida in 1984. He served as the Chief of the Audiology and Speech Clinic, 2nd General Hospital in Landstuhl, Germany (1984-85); Audiology Consultant for the 7th Medical Command and Chief of the Occupational and Epidemiology Branch, 10th Medical Laboratory in Landstuhl, Germany (1985-89); Chief of the Bio-Acoustics Division, U.S. Army Environmental Hygiene Agency (USAEHA), Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland (1989-90); Director of Radiation and Entomological Sciences, USAEHA (1990-91); and Chief of Staff, USAEHA (1991-1993).

Dr. Hepler's military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with 15 Oak Leaf Clusters and V device, Army Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters and V device and an Army Achievement Medal. Furthermore, he has been awarded the "A" proficiency designator, the highest award given in recognition of professional accomplishment within the Army Medical Department. Dr. Hepler has also been awarded the "Order of Military Medical Merit," which denotes distinguished service recognized by the senior leadership of the Army Medical Department.