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Press Release

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FEDERAL SCHOOL OF NURSING TO CONDUCT VIRTUAL GRADUATION

BETHESDA, Md. – The Graduate School of Nursing at the Uniformed Services University will hold its second virtual reality graduation May 15.

Thirty-three students from nine distance learning sites throughout the United States have completed the 20-month adult nurse practitioner post-master's program, which combines didactic course work and clinical experiences. The sites are located in Detroit; Buffalo, N.Y.; West Los Angeles, Calif.; Cleveland; Shreveport, La.; Milwaukee; Washington, D.C.; Atlanta; and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The ANP program prepares master's level clinical nurse specialists to diagnose and manage primary care problems of adults. Student receive a broad foundation of educational preparation in adult health, advanced nursing practice, nursing theories and nursing research. Health assessment, primary prevention, health maintenance, clinical decision-making, illness management and pharmacology are emphasized.

Implemented as a distance learning curriculum, the didactic course work is delivered via state of the art distance learning technology such as satellite, two-way video and the Internet. The supervised clinical work occurs in the student's home area.

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense started the distance learning program at USU in 1997 after the VA issued a directive calling for a 200-percent increase in the number of nurse practitioners in VA health care facilities. The first class of 26 students graduated in 1999.

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Created in 1993, USU's Graduate School of Nursing is fully accredited by the National League for Nursing, with emphasis on advanced nursing practice, theory, role, research and the basic sciences. In addition to the distance learning program, active duty military officers can earn a master of science in nursing degree on the USU campus by completing either the 24-month family nurse practitioner program or the 27-month nurse anesthesia program.