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## **Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Groundbreaking**

*New integrated medical, research, teaching and care center of excellence at the hub of the nation's premiere military regional healthcare system, specializing in tertiary and casualty care for America's ill and wounded warriors and their families.*

BETHESDA, Md. Defense Department officials will break ground on the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, July 3rd at 10 a.m. on the campus of the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda. Construction of the 345-bed facility represents a new era of joint health care for our nation's warriors and their families.

"Our warriors are our country's most important resource and when they return injured or ill from war, we must care for them without fail," said Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England. "This new joint facility will provide America's heroes and their families the most advanced medical care in the world."

The 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission recommended the relocation of certain Walter Reed Army Medical Center activities from D.C. to Bethesda, establishing the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. The medical center will provide tertiary, sub-specialty and complex medical services. The \$970 million project will add or renovate 2.5 million square feet and represents the largest single capital investment ever made in the Military Health System.

The Navy issued a Record of Decision May 6 to address actions necessary to build the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, B.J. Penn, signed the environmental document, officially allowing construction to begin, while the Department continues to work with State and local officials on measures for traffic mitigation.

"The exterior design of the Medical Center will be in keeping with President Franklin Roosevelt's vision of what the nation's premiere military Medical Center should look like," said Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical Commander, Rear Adm. John Mateczun. "While the walls on the outside reflect the Medical Center's historic significance, the inside will house the most state of art medical resources in the world."

Patients, staff members and visitors have already begun to see changes on the campus as crews prepare for construction.

"We must stretch the boundaries of progress and challenge complacency to provide unparalleled support to our warriors and veterans," said National Naval Medical Center Commander Rear Adm. Richard Jeffries. "It's our greatest desire to care for all the needs of our patients and their families. 'Caring Is What We Do Best' is more than just our motto — it's our promise to this nation."

The Walter Reed National Military Medical Center will be complimented by a new 120 bed community hospital at Fort Belvoir, Va. which will provide non-tertiary care services to the Northern Virginia area and

the two hospitals will constitute the Nation's premiere regional military health care system. The Base Realignment and Closure law requires construction of the two facilities to be completed by Sept. 15, 2011.

For more information on the integration of NNMC and WRAMC, visit: <http://www.jtfcapmed.mil>

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**Commander Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical (JTF CapMed):** Executive oversight for the BRAC-mandated consolidation and integration of the tertiary care and related medical support activities currently performed at WRAMC to the NNMC campus is managed by the Commander Joint Task Force National Capital Region–Medical (JTF CapMed) reporting directly to the Secretary of Defense through the Deputy Secretary of Defense. The Commander JTF CapMed is chartered to oversee, manage, and direct all inter-Service actions between the Navy, Army, and Air Force to accomplish the BRAC actions in the National Capital Region and implement an efficient, integrated health care delivery system bringing the “best of the best” together to work in concert on behalf of warriors, retirees and their families.