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Contact: Amy Rohlfs, Public Affairs Officer

E-mail: amy.rohlfs@med.navy.mil

Voice: (301) 295-0584; Fax: (301) 295-5020

## **Record of Decision Regarding Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Signed**

### ***Facility planned as a world-class medical center for wounded troops, families***

BETHESDA, Md.--The Department of the Navy yesterday issued a Record of Decision (ROD) addressing actions necessary to create the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on the campus of the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda. Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations & Environment, B.J. Penn, signed the environmental document officially allowing construction to begin.

The 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission recommended relocating certain Walter Reed Army Medical Center activities from D.C. to Bethesda, and establishing it as the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. The medical center will provide tertiary, sub-specialty and complex medical services. Also, a new community hospital at Fort Belvoir, Va. will provide non-tertiary care services to the Northern Virginia area. The Base Realignment and Closure law requires construction of the two facilities to be completed by Sept. 15, 2011.

The Record of Decision is the final step in the environmental evaluation process established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). NEPA requires federal agencies such as the Department of the Navy to consider the impact that major federal actions such as the BRAC may have on the environment.

“Our nation is building two world class medical facilities that will care for our warriors and their families in the National Capital Region. This is a pivotal step in the BRAC realignment process,” RADM John Mateczun, Commander Joint Task National Capital Region Medical, said. “But, more importantly, we are embarking on an exciting journey -- to take our existing world-class capabilities and enhance them through synergistic consolidation and integration. When we reach the finish line in 2011, we'll have the nation's premier Regional Healthcare System.”

A groundbreaking is planned for late June and construction will begin summer 2008.

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 Area and implement an efficient, integrated, world-class health care delivery system bringing the “best of the best” together to work in concert on behalf of warriors, retirees and their families.