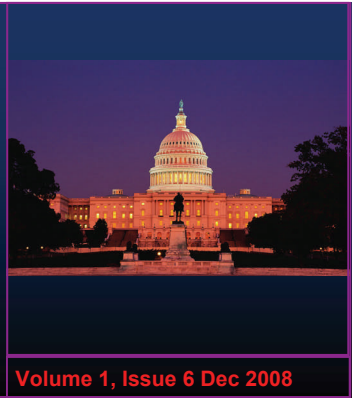




JTF CAPMED

December Newsletter



Volume 1, Issue 6 Dec 2008

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From the Helm



What do employees of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, National Naval Medical Center, DeWitt Army Community Hospital and the 79th Medical Wing have in common?

All will, in some way, become part of the transformation of military healthcare in the National Capital Region - a future that combines the best of Army, Navy and Air Force medical cultures into a new joint culture of medical excellence. The JTF CapMed Civilian Human Resources Council (CHRC), made up of senior leaders from the major medical facilities in the NCR, was created to ensure the best possible outcome for civilian employees as the new regional healthcare model is implemented.

The charter members of the new Council are:

The charter members of the new Council are:

- Colonel Dennis Doyle, Deputy Commander for Administration at Walter Reed;
- Captain Dan Zinder, Deputy Commander at the National Naval Medical Center;
- Colonel Dan Gall, Deputy Commander for Administration at DeWitt Army Community Hospital;
- Shelia Relerford, Human Resources Program Advisor, Air Force District of Washington;
- Debra Edmond, Special Assistant for Civilian Human Resources to the Commander of JTF CapMed;

Maureen Viall, the Chief Human Capital Officer for the Military Health System, who will serve as a Special Advisor to the Council and will work with the group to ensure that future plans are aligned with the overarching MHS Human Capital Plan.

In this season of reflection and celebrations, my family and I extend our warmest and most heartfelt wishes for a safe and joyous holiday to all of the medical personnel and their families in the National Capital Region.

Best Wishes, VADM John Mateczun

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From the Helm (continued)

In September, the Commander of JTF CapMed chartered the Council to develop and implement a plan that will carry out the provisions of an overall regional civilian human resources policy. The current focus of the Council is to:

1. Ensure the guaranteed placement of civilian medical employees who remain at Walter Reed Army Medical Center through closure or until their work is transferred.
2. Fully utilize available incentives and pay flexibilities to achieve Walter Reed sustainment and the availability of needed skills across the region.
3. Provide for a phased approach designed to maximize the movement of current employees to their preferred locations and the recruitment of new employees with designated 2011 duty stations in order to avoid involuntary displacements and to ensure that Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the new Community Hospital at Fort Belvoir have trained and ready staffs when the new facilities are available.

The Council members are committed to using a collaborative approach to solving the myriad of civilian personnel issues that will be encountered during the transition. They are dedicated to ensuring that the interests and concerns of civilians at all regional MTFs are identified and considered as decisions are made over the next two and a half years. The overall goal of the Council is to ensure that ALL MHS civilian employees have the opportunity to do challenging and rewarding work in a world class health care system in 2011.

The Council will meet monthly to develop a global understanding of data and processes in all of the affected hospitals and to hear information from HR experts from all of the facilities about how existing service and command specific processes can be merged or modified or re-defined to support MHS civilian personnel administration in a new joint environment. To date, the council has facilitated two decisions: All medical civilian staff at the new Walter Reed Military Medical Center and the new Community Hospital at Fort Belvoir will be Department of Defense (DoD) civilian employees, not Army, Navy or Air Force civilian employees. Also, a Guaranteed Placement Program (GPP) will be implemented at Walter Reed Army Medical Center to encourage current civilian employees to remain through the facility's closure. Both measures are designed to ensure that the new facilities have trained and robust staffs to carry out the mission of caring for our nation's beneficiaries.

Since these steps are historical in nature and have never been attempted before, many decisions remain to be made. Future articles will detail what the Council members are learning from each other and provide more information on the CHR Advisory Group, a team of human resources experts from across DoD, who are supporting the efforts of the CHR Council.

Additional information about the transition and the future medical civilian workforce in the NCR will be posted on www.JTFCAPMED.mil.

Noteworthy News

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WRAMC Town Hall



Brigadier General Phil Volpe, Deputy Commander of JTF CAPMED, addressed a group of Walter Reed staff members at a December 16th BRAC Town Hall meeting. The presentation was one in a series of Town Hall meetings being hosted across the Region to update the various medical staffs on construction, integration, civilian personnel issues, and transformation.

“This is a huge undertaking,” the General told the audience. “But it’s also very exciting and we want to do this right.”

Interspersed throughout his presentation were humorous slides that elicited a few chuckles from the crowd. But while many in the audience had seen and heard information about JTF CapMed, his discussion also included the sharing of some updated information. BG Volpe included in his presentation a discussion on the definition of what “World-Class” means. Some of his bullet points on this topic included:

- Comprehensive Healthcare Services & Systems
- Quality and Safe Practice of Medicine
- Top Notch People (Military and Civilian)
- Developing and Attracting Leaders in Medicine
- State of the Art Equipment and Furnishings
- Modern 21st Century Facilities
- Leading Edge Research and Publications
- World Renowned Academics, Professional Education and Training
- Patient Friendly; Focus on the Customer; Service-Oriented Climate
- Specialized Healing & Wellness Environment
- Partnerships with other World-renowned Healthcare, Scientific and Research Institutions
- Multiple Integrated Specialty Centers of Excellence

He summarized that “World-Class is about building, sustaining and nurturing a reputation. It means nothing if you refer to yourself as ‘World-Class.’ It’s only when others refer to you as ‘World-Class,’ that you have really achieved something.”

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WRAMC Town Hall (cont)

His enthusiasm for the tasks that lay ahead was evident throughout the Town Hall meeting and was highlighted when he discussed “What can we gain from these transformational initiatives?” His focus was clear about the advantages of what we are building:

- Joint Regional Approach to Healthcare Delivery.
- Clear Lines of Authority & Priority.
- Unity of Effort & Resource Sharing.
- Promote Interoperability.
- Create Common Standards and Processes.
- Support Both Joint and Service-unique Requirements.
- Balance the Operational/Readiness and Benefit Missions.
- Eliminate Layers of Command and Duplication Over Time.
- Synchronization within the NCR & JOA.
- DHS / NCR Routine & Disaster Support Coordination.
- Advocate for Resources and Solutions to Challenges.
- Influence the MHS for Enterprise-wide Transformation.

As the Town Hall drew to a close, the General opened up the floor for questions, and there were a few questions on a variety of topics:

Q: “What about Malcolm Grow? We didn’t hear any discussion about how they will be involved in this transformational process.”

A: Malcolm Grow will be transitioned to an out-patient only facility by 2011, as mandated by BRAC Law.

Q: “I heard that civilians transitioning to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda will become Department of the Navy Civilians. Is this true?”

A: No. All civilians working at the new Walter Reed and the new Community Hospital at Fort Belvoir will be Department of Defense (DoD) civilians.

Q: “Traffic around and base-access to the Bethesda facility is difficult to navigate. Is there a plan to address that? What about Fort Belvoir?”

A: National Naval Military Center at Bethesda has not only published a Master Plan, but they have also developed a Transportation Plan to address these specific issues. This plan can be viewed at: http://www.bethesda.med.navy.mil/Professional/Public_Affairs/BRAC/index.aspx. As for Fort Belvoir, state and county officials are fully aware that Route 1, which is already congested and which runs right through the base, will need to be redone both on the base and off. As with Montgomery County’s efforts to secure funding for widening projects along Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda, Virginia government officials are looking at a variety of options and pursuing funding for Route 1 improvements.

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Noteworthy News

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WRAMC Town Hall (cont)



A continuing theme for the General throughout this Town Hall was this: BRAC is a *good* thing. "Many people don't see it that way, but it is," he said. "It's the tool we're using to implement integration and transform a stove-piped system. If it wasn't for BRAC, integrating military healthcare wouldn't get done. Thanks to BRAC, now we have a Law that says we have to do it. Thanks to BRAC, we have a Deadline. Once we're done, we will gain an effectiveness and efficiency that will truly make us a World-Class Regional Military Healthcare System."

Additional information on BRAC and transformation can be found at www.JTFCapMed.mil.



FT Belvoir Town Hall at USU



Colonel Chuck Callahan and Dr. Rick Repeta of the DeWitt Health Care network hosted two Town Hall meetings on December 17th, one at National Naval Medical Center (NNMC), and one at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USU) on the Bethesda campus. While the focus of the NNMC Town Hall was to show construction progress and discuss the expanded services and amenities of the new Community Hospital under construction at Fort Belvoir, the focus of the USU Town Hall was a request to consider the research potential of studying the effects of the Evidence-Based Design initiatives being incorporated into the new hospital.



Awards and Ceremonies



Navy LCDR William Grady, Executive Assistant for BG Volpe, is presented with the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal in a December ceremony.



Air Force Captain Lindsey Willhardt, JTF CapMed Aide de Camp, is presented with the Air Force Element Company Grade Officer of the Quarter Award by RADM Mateczun for her outstanding commanding support during the 4th quarter of FY 08.

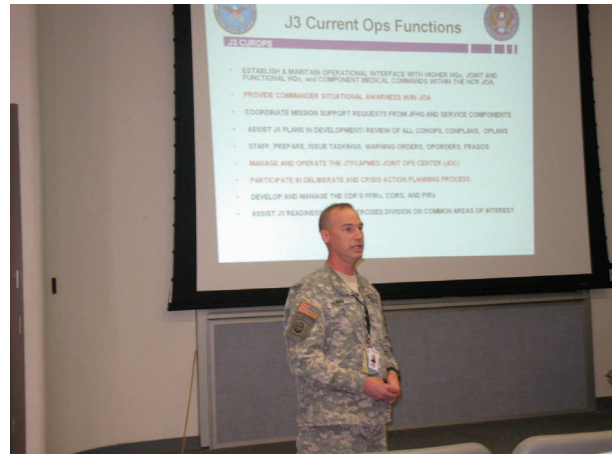


JTF CapMed takes a break to enjoy a special end-of-year luncheon.

On the occasion of his promotion, Vice Admiral John M. Mateczun, Commander, JTF CapMed, address his staff at a December 16th 3-star flag ceremony held at the headquarters.



NCR Emergency Managers Conference



In December, JTF CapMed hosted the first ever Emergency Managers Conference at USU and invited Emergency Managers and Public Health Emergency Managers from the Region.

The conference's main purpose was to familiarize Emergency Managers with JTF Capmed, and to discuss the roll out of the CONPLAN 3600 supplementals (Emergency Management Plans in the National Capital Region) and to advise Planners of Future Plans in the works... CBRNE, Pandemic Influenza, Continuity and others.

Future Emergency Management Conferences are already being planned and will include several more civilian counterparts going forward.

WRNMMC Construction



December construction photos of the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center



Ft Belvoir Construction

December construction pictures of the new community hospital being built at Ft Belvoir. Featured are pictures of progress on Buildings A, B, C and D, the linear accelerator space, and the two parking garages.



Building A Swoop



3rd Floor of Building B



Under Building A Swoop



Basement of Building C



1st Wall Pour of Building C



Linear Accelerator Space



Linear Accelerator Space



D Building Floor Pour



D Building Floor Pour



Cup and Tunnel



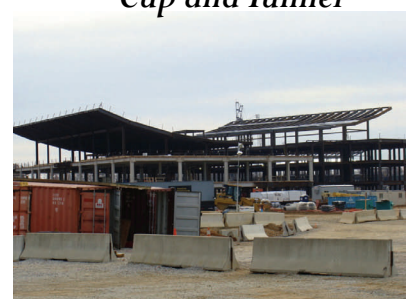
Cup and Tunnel



North Parking



South Parking



Buildings A and B

From the Deputy's Desk

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GREETINGS!

It's December and the winter holidays are upon us. While it is a time for many festivities, celebrations and sharing warmth and good cheer with family and friends, we also remind ourselves that there are over 300,000 United States Service men and women serving in hot spots around the world during this joyous season who will NOT be able to join their Family and Friends. They serve and sacrifice, along with their Families, so we and the rest of our Nation's citizens have an opportunity to celebrate and live freely. So, while we share good tidings and the wondrous liberties to indulge in eating, drinking and having a grand old time, let's spare a few moments of every single day to pause, pray for, and respectfully thank those in harms way --- IT'S OUR DUTY TO DO SO!

JTF CapMed is moving forward at an enormous pace with a multitude of initiatives to integrate healthcare in the National Capital Region. Both the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital have been approved to be established as the first two truly Joint Hospitals in Military Medicine. In addition, we will be establishing one common DOD Civilian Personnel System to recruit, manage and professionally develop our wonderful and dedicated Civilian Employee Force who superbly contribute to the success of our Medical Clinics, Dental Clinics and Hospitals on a daily basis --- now and in the future. Finally, it is with great pleasure that we announce the promotion of our Commander, Rear Admiral (Upper Half) John Mateczun, to Vice Admiral. He was promoted by the Deputy Secretary of Defense on Tuesday, 16 December, at a small ceremony in the Pentagon followed by a "Flag Breaking Ceremony" with his 3-Star Flag and raising it at our HQs on Bethesda Naval Base. Congratulations Sir!

Facing significant challenges to get fully established and to full operating capability this past year, our team has performed magnificently. BRAC is well on the way and is on target, on schedule, and on a successful path to completion on 15 September 2011. We are well into planning our support for the Presidential Inauguration and associated activities and are looking forward to working with other government agencies as part of the team effort required for a successful event in January. 2009 will be another key year for JTF CapMed as there is still much to do. We appreciate the great work by everyone on the entire team and look forward to another historic year in 2009. This is tough government work and we have the right people in place to lead the effort.

But now....this time of year....as we close out 2008....it is time to sit back a bit during the holidays and spend some time reflecting on our blessings while enjoying the season with Family and Friends. Thanks for all that you do for Service Members, their Families, Veterans and our Civilians. Please stay safe and take extra precautions during this season while celebrating.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS and have a Happy New Year in 2009!

Phil Volpe

Deputy Commander

JTF National Capital Region Medical



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