

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
INFORMATION PAPER**

SERVICE/AGENCY: U. S. NAVY

SUBJECT: BRAC 2005 - Walter Reed National Military Medical Center

DATE: 26 February 2008

1. QUESTION/REQUEST: Background information and Department of the Navy's (DoN) Plan of Action for implementing BRAC law effecting realignment of Walter Reed Army Medical Center to Bethesda.

RESPONSE:

Background: The Defense BRAC Commission was established by Pubic Law 101-510 and recommended the realignment of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, including the relocation of all tertiary medical services to the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) in Bethesda, MD, and the renaming of NNMC as the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC). Applicable BRAC law requires all services to be relocated by September 15, 2011.

Project scope: The new WRNMMC medical facility complex will include new outpatient and inpatient facilities as well as extensive renovations and upgrades to the existing hospital. New circulation pathways, utility tunnels, and a parking structure are also included. Supporting facilities to be built under a separate contract include non-clinical and Warrior Transition administrative spaces, barracks, gymnasium and additional parking. The total construction program cost is estimated to be \$940M.

When complete, WRNMMC will offer a full range of intensive/complex specialty and subspecialty medical services, including specialized facilities for the most seriously war injured. WRNMMC will be the U.S. military's premier worldwide tertiary referral center for casualty and beneficiary care, provide post graduate level education and other training, and serve as a critical medical research center. The Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) will administer the contracts for the construction program.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): Construction cannot begin until the Record of Decision (ROD) is signed. The Draft EIS was published in December 2007 and the public review and comment period ended on January 28, 2008. DoN is preparing the final EIS pursuant to Section (102) (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1986 and the regulations implemented by the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) (40CFR Parts 1500-1508). The final EIS will be distributed in early April 2008. Traffic mitigation, one of the community's biggest concerns, will be addressed in the final EIS. The final EIS will propose on and off-base construction to mitigate traffic congestion. Community representatives and elected officials have expressed concern that the Department of Defense should bear some portion of the burden to improve traffic flow around the NNMC Campus even though the impact of NNMC traffic in post BRAC environment falls well below Defense Access Road Program thresholds. NNMC is working with DoD leadership to examine possible revisions to the existing DAR policy. NNMC is

also taking steps to encourage staff and visitors to utilize mass transit and carpooling. The ROD is expected to be signed in early May 2008.

Plan of Action: NAVFAC plans to award the design-build contract for the initial construction phase on or about March 3, 2008. For the contractor to complete construction in accordance with BRAC legislation while minimizing impacts to ongoing patient care operations at the congested Bethesda complex, critical activities must be completed well in advance of the start of construction.

To ensure that the outcome of the NEPA process is not prejudiced by contract performance actions, the contract limits the contractor's performance before the ROD as follows:

- No construction or renovation work.
- No purchase of long lead materials.
- Design work limited to that necessary to apply for certain approvals from the National Capital Planning Commission and Maryland Historical Trust, and to apply for permits such as those related to storm water management, sediment control, safety, etc.
- Mobilization work is limited to setting up trailers that will be used to temporarily house hospital personnel who are displaced during construction.

Contract award for construction of supporting facilities (non-clinical facilities, Warrior Transition administrative spaces, BEQ, gymnasium, and additional parking) will not occur until September 30, 2008, well after the ROD is signed.

This action facilitates compliance with the BRAC law, will not prejudice the selection of any reasonable alternatives under the NEPA process, and will not pose any pre-ROD impact to the citizens of the surrounding community.

Additional construction details are as follows:

- Navy has compressed the Bethesda construction schedule. We expect the new outpatient Building A being completed by Sept 2010, and the new inpatient Building B being completed by Oct 2010. Renovations to existing facilities will be completed by July 2011.
- There are two separate RFP's because requirements contained in the second RFP were not fully developed when the original RFP was being finalized. The first RFP was issued as planned so as not to delay completion of tertiary medical facilities and to ensure conformance with BRAC legislation.
- The Navy expects to break ground in summer 2008 and the estimated completion date for requirements contained in RFP 1 is July 2011, RFP 2 is Sept 2011.