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# Joint Pathology Center

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## Health Affairs Joint Pathology Center Working Group (JPCWG) & Joint Task Force (JTF) Review of DHB Recommendations

Presented by CAPT Martha Girz  
representing the JPCWG

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# Clinical Scope of Service

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- Define the scope of subspecialty services - **concur**
- Define in-theater support- **concur**
- Define the scope of service for telepathology-**concur**
- Define level of support provided to OAFME- **concur**



# Clinical Scope of Service (con't)



- Process of handling individual cases, including accession, triage, disposition, flow, reporting, and quality assurance-**concur**
- Department pursue funding sources with other federal agency stakeholders-**concur**
- Encourage and embrace civilian collaboration-**JTF comment:** For clinical scope of service, if expands mission beyond NDAA08, would need to be on a case by case basis

**JPCWG concurs** with civilian collaboration for research/studies



# Positioning of JPC within Command Structure



- Recommend positioning of JPC directly under JTF CapMed leadership rather than as a component of hospital-based pathology department – **JTF non-concur**
    - Extensive efficiencies gained through combining of administrative and technical resources
    - Maintains focus on clinical services provided by JPC
    - Consistent with civilian models
- JPCWG recommends:** JPC under WRNMMC  
Commander and hospital pathology department  
under JPC
- JTF CapMed non-concur with JPCWG,** has proposed  
alternative to DASD C&PP



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# Projected Workload

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- Recommend survey of federal agencies to determine current and future pathology needs- **concur**
- Recommend case complexity be considered when determining projected workload and staffing- **concur**



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# Tissue Repository

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- Consider legal issues when non-DoD entities have access to tissue - **concur**
- Delineate access and usage limits of resources - **concur**
- Define route of access to specimens for civilian sector - **concur**
- Consider funding streams from collaborative agencies with industry - **concur**



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# Research

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- Research agenda should not be developed autonomously but rather through DoD health research management process - **concur**
- Process for criteria, inclusion, and prioritization for protocol approval must be clearly defined in strategic plan - **concur**



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# Education and Training

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- Define contributions by USUHS - **concur**
- Define level of GME support - **concur**
- Opportunities for collaboration and development with other professional organizations - **concur**
- Incorporate a method for adopting educational programs – **concur**
- Consideration of broad spectrum of interest areas
  - Aviation and accident forensics and investigation
  - Consistent with military treatment priorities and challenges
  - **concur**



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# Major Equipment / Special Design Requirements

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- Strategic plan includes measures to procure equipment - **concur**
- Advises workflow considerations and physical location that would allow consolidation of all consultative services
  - Separation impedes efficiency
  - Not adequately addressed by use of courier
  - **JTF non-concur**: separation of consult service from histology addressed with robust, responsive courier system; alternative provides no clinical advantage
  - **JPCWG recommends concur** with concept, provided funding and facilities are available
- Establishment of state-of-the-art laboratories
  - Molecular laboratories- **concur**



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# Other

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- Governance
  - Establish Governance Board of federal agency stakeholders – **JTF and JPCWG concur with caveat:** Advisory Board of federal agency stakeholders more appropriate; illustrates the need for common solutions for all DoD Centers and Institutes
- Organizational Structure
  - Utilize appropriate business practices to ensure adequate support and cost efficiency – **concur**
  - Periodic assessment of adequate resourcing as workloads clarify- **concur**



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# Other

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## Staffing

- Professional staffing issues: “Senior” vs. “junior”-level staff; salary, research, educational opportunities- **JTF and JPCWG concur with caveat:** must define staffing based on mission requirements; goal for most highly qualified individuals must follow regulatory hiring requirements
- Full man-power allocation review based on business plan – **concur**



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# Other

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- Staffing (con't)
  - Ratio of professional staff to admin inadequate – **JTF non-concur** : Insufficient justification provided on standards, current plan developed on DoD standards
  - JPCWG recommends** assessment of personnel requirements

