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

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Clinical Scope of Service

• 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
Projected Workload

• 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
Tissue Repository

• 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**
Research

- 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**
Education and Training

- 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**
Major Equipment / Special Design Requirements

- 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**
Other

• 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**
Staging

- 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**
Other

• 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
Questions?