Joint Pathology Center Update for the Defense Health Board

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Background

- BRAC 2005: AFIP must be disestablished by September 2011
- NDAA 2008, paragraph 722:
  - JPC must be established within DoD
  - Mandate is consistent BRAC law
- Mission was delegated to:
  - Department of Defense: 28 April 2009
  - JTF CAPMED: 19 December 2009
- JTF CAPMED Implementation Team
  - Members: three services, VA, USUHS, AFIP, JTF CAPMED, Army EA, Health Affairs
  - Activities: performed gap analysis, developed detailed concept of operations, drafted JPC establishment plan
- JTF CAPMED Transition Team
  - Activities: Developing operation plan; assisting in personnel, equipment, budget, facilities issues, etc.
The Five Pillars of the JPC

Pathology Consultation
- Full spectrum surgical pathology consultation utilizing state-of-the-art technology
- Telepathology Services
- Environmental/Biophysical Toxicology Service
- A "one-of-a-kind" Veterinary Pathology Consultative Service

Tissue Repository
- Maintain and modernize the world's largest tissue repository
- Utilize material in support of clinical care
- Utilize material in support of education
- Develop and implement strategic plan for the utilization of tissue for federal government research

Pathology Research
- Pathologist-driven research
- Support clinical research (TBI initiative, USMCI initiatives, etc)
- Utilize the repository material for research in support of DoD and other federal government priorities
- Veterinary Pathology research
- Utilize Tissue Cohort Registries for research

Pathology Education
- Provide Graduate Medical education rotations and other support to federal government residencies and fellowships
- Offer robust online CME activities in collaboration with USU
- Provide Veterinary Pathology Residency for DoD
- Provide Support to Navy Oral Pathology Residency Program
- Support Live Continuing Medical Education Offerings

Strategic Partnerships
- Augment and enhance capabilities through partnership
- Partner with USUHS for education
- Partner with VA and other federal agencies for research
- Opportunities for partnership and support of Comprehensive Cancer Center and USMCI

World Class Support of the Mission (DOD, VA, HHS, other)
Consultation

36 Pathologists:
- Dermatopath
- Veterinary path
- Genitourinary path
- GI/Hepatic path
- Neuropathology
- Hematopathology
- Infectious Disease
- Bone/Soft Tissue
- GYN/Breast
- Oral/ENT
- Cardiovascular path
- Pulmonary
- Environmental
- Nephropathology
- Molecular pathology

Support Services:
- Environmental/Biophysical Toxicology
- Cohort Registries and ACTUR
- Telepathology
- Molecular Laboratories
- Histology/IHC/Special Stains Immunofluorescence
- Muscle Biopsy
- Electron Microscopy

Personnel providing direct support: 46
Education and Research

**Education**
- Graduate Medical Education
  - Subspecialty rotations
  - Support of oral pathology residency
- Veterinary Pathology Residency
- Continuing Medical Education
  - Robust online offerings
  - Focus on MOC/Solo Pathologist
- Support for Live Courses
  - Support DoD live course offerings
  - Opportunity for support of civilian courses

**Research**
- Research
  - Research by Pathologists
  - Utilization of Repository
  - Support of Clinical Initiatives
  - Utilization of Cohort Registries
  - Utilization of ACTUR data
  - Veterinary Pathology Research
  - Opportunity for collaboration, support, and funding through existing processes within JOA
Tissue Repository

- **Maintenance**
  - Continue ongoing maintenance
  - Access to cases requested for continuity of clinical care by other facilities

- **Modernization**
  - Continue current digitization project
  - Develop plan for organization/utilization of BRAC material

- **Utilization**
  - **Clinical Mission:** utilization of cases for support of consultative mission
  - **Education:**
    - Slide digitization project for online digital slide repository
    - Utilization of material to develop online courses
    - Opportunity for utilization of digitized material for other courses
  - **Research**
    - Development of plan to fully utilize Tissue Repository
    - Opportunities for partnership
Develop plan for utilization of repository material in research:

- Develop carefully and deliberately
- Utilize Repository Consensus Findings (2005) and Asterand findings and recommendations
- Engage strategic partners
- Ensure sustainability of repository material
- Establish process for:
  - Access to repository material (federal and civilian)
  - Prioritizing utilization of tissue
Veterinary Pathology Service

- Continue AFIP mission of:
  - Consultation: consult with DoD and other federal agencies
  - Education: continue Veterinary Pathology Residency training and online education to Veterinary Pathology community worldwide
  - Research: continue critical veterinary pathology research in support of DoD priorities

- Ensure no disruption of services during transition

- Facilities: 10,000 square feet on Forest Glen Campus for remodeling (includes electron microscopy suite)
Governance and Organizational Structure

- JPC aligned under headquarters, JTF CAPMED
- Separate from hospitals and Centers of Excellence
- Director reports to Deputy Commander JTF
- Four divisions and Office of Director
- Board of Advisors comprised of senior subject matter experts from stakeholder agencies and services
Budget and Facilities

- Operating Budget separate from hospitals and Centers of Excellence
  - Currently being refined and finalized for inclusion into FY11 core budget
  - Estimated at $21.7 M

- Facilities:
  - Consultative Service: 10,681 square feet
  - Repository: 32,000 square feet
  - PMO/ACTUR: 880 square feet
  - Veterinary Pathology and electron microscopy: 10,000 square feet
  - Environmental/Biophysical Toxicology Lab: pending
  - Histology/IHC/Specimen Accessioning/Molecular Labs: 7900 square feet (integrated into WRNMMC lab space)
  - Exploring opportunities for future modernization
Support of Stakeholders and Other Opportunities

- **Support of Armed Forces Medical Examiner**
  - Critical support of mission
  - Plan worked carefully with Medical Examiner

- **Support of Operations in theater:**
  - Full support of pathology within theater through telepathology and consultation

- **Other Federal Agencies**
  - Major stakeholders
    - Department of Defense
    - Veterans Administration
  - Other Key Federal Stakeholders
    - NIH, CDC, PHS, IHS, FDA
    - Vet Path support of stakeholders
    - Non-medical federal stakeholders
  - Organization allows for sufficient flexibility to address stakeholder current and future needs

- **Opportunities for civilian collaboration**
  - Utilization of Tissue Repository
  - Education; support of live courses
  - Research
  - Consultation
Plan for Establishing JPC

- Initial Operating Capabilities: 01Oct 2010
- Full Operating Capabilities: Sept 2011
- AFIP and Army will support as JPC establishes
- Establish to allow:
  - Continuity of Clinical Services
  - Well-established command and control throughout process
  - Allow AFIP to take care of employees during transition
By 1 September 2011, the Joint Pathology Center will reach full operational capability.
Way Forward

- Top priority: ensure **continuity** of clinical services during establishment
- Finalize Establishment plan with AFIP support
- Initiate hiring process
- Finalize budget requirements
- Finalize facilities requirements
- Finalize logistical/IT requirements
- Implement strategic communication plan
- Refine specimen accessioning process
- Develop Policies and Procedures
- Initiate and transfer pertinent contracts
- Apply for College of American Pathologists Accreditation
- Engage partners in development of strategic plan
  - Full utilization of Tissue Repository
  - Development of Telepathology plan