

MAY 1 7 2010

HEALTH AFFAIRS

The Honorable Carl Levin Chairman, Committee on Armed Services United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed report responds to page 29 of House Report 111-105, accompanying H.R. 2346, the Supplemental Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009, which requested a report on the progress and costs associated with establishment of the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs Vision Center of Excellence (VCE). This report updates the April 30, 2009, report submitted to Congress on the implementation status of the VCE. Also enclosed is the Deputy Secretary of Defense's memorandum dated February 8, 2010, which delegates authority to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to establish the VCE, and a copy of the design authorization for the VCE, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland.

Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System.

Sincerely,

Charles L. Rice, M.D.

Charle L. R.

President, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)

Enclosure: As stated

cc:

The Honorable John McCain Ranking Member



#### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

**WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200** 

MAY 1 7 2010

HEALTH AFFAIRS

The Honorable James H. Webb Chairman, Subcommittee on Personnel Committee on Armed Services United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed report responds to page 29 of House Report 111-105, accompanying H.R. 2346, the Supplemental Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009, which requested a report on the progress and costs associated with establishment of the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs Vision Center of Excellence (VCE). This report updates the April 30, 2009, report submitted to Congress on the implementation status of the VCE. Also enclosed is the Deputy Secretary of Defense's memorandum dated February 8, 2010, which delegates authority to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to establish the VCE, and a copy of the design authorization for the VCE, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland.

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Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)

Enclosure: As stated

cc:

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham Ranking Member



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HEALTH AFFAIRS

The Honorable Susan Davis
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Military Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

The enclosed report responds to page 29 of House Report 111-105, accompanying H.R. 2346, the Supplemental Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009, which requested a report on the progress and costs associated with establishment of the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs Vision Center of Excellence (VCE). This report updates the April 30, 2009, report submitted to Congress on the implementation status of the VCE. Also enclosed is the Deputy Secretary of Defense's memorandum dated February 8, 2010, which delegates authority to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to establish the VCE, and a copy of outlines the design authorization for the VCE, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland.

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President, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

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Enclosure: As stated

cc:

The Honorable Joe Wilson Ranking Member



MAY 17 2010

HEALTH AFFAIRS

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye Chairman, Committee on Appropriations United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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The Honorable Thad Cochran Ranking Member



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The Honorable David R. Obey Chairman, Committee on Appropriations U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

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The Honorable Jerry Lewis Ranking Member



MAY 1 7 2010

The Honorable Norm Dicks Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense Committee on Appropriations U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

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Enclosure: As stated

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The Honorable C. W. Bill Young Ranking Member



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The Honorable Ike Skelton Chairman, Committee on Armed Services U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

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Enclosures: As stated

cc:

The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeon Ranking Member



# Report on: The Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs Vision Center of Excellence

#### **BACKGROUND**

Section 1623 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 directed the Department of Defense (DoD) to establish a center of excellence in the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of military eye injuries. The DoD is to collaborate to the maximum extent practicable with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), as well as educational institutions and other public and private entities. The Center shall be referred to as the Vision Center of Excellence (VCE).

One of the Center's responsibilities is to implement a comprehensive plan and strategy for a registry of information for the tracking of the diagnosis, surgical intervention or other operative procedures, other treatments, and follow up for each case of significant eye injury incurred by a member of the Armed Forces while serving on Active Duty. Additionally, the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly ensure that the information within the Registry is available to the appropriate ophthalmological and optometric personnel of the DoD and VA in order to encourage and facilitate the research, as well as the development of best practices and clinical education, on eye injuries incurred by members of the Armed Forces in combat. The Registry shall be referred to as the Defense and Veterans Eye Injury and Vision Registry. (DVEIVR).

Another responsibility of the VCE is to coordinate care and benefits between the DoD and VA, including the development of a comprehensive program for Armed Forces members with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) post-traumatic visual syndrome for the purpose of vision screening, diagnosis, rehabilitative management, and vision research, including research on prevention and visual dysfunction related to TBI.

House Report 111-105, p 29, Supplemental Appropriations for FY 2009, included the following language: "The Committee understands that the Department is currently determining the proper location for the Center of Excellence as part of the consolidation of National Capitol Region facilities. The Committee directs that within 60 days of enactment of this Act the Department report on the status of this process and costs that would be associated with the establishment of this center."

The VCE will be located on the ground floor of Building 2 in the future Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) adjacent to the Ophthalmology and Optometry Clinics and the Refractive Surgery Center allowing for collaboration and synergies with the vision care providers and patients in the National Capital Region. The location also provides close proximity to the new National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) for Traumatic Brain Injury, the National Eye Institute of the National Institute of Health, the Food & Drug Administration, the Uniformed Services University, and the National Military Advanced Training Center.

The space for the VCE is currently occupied by the Navy Exchange Uniform Shop. The Uniform Shop will be relocated to Building 1 currently being used as classrooms. The classrooms will be relocated and accommodated in spaces to be renovated within buildings 3 and 5. Renovation of the VCE spaces will be done in conjunction with renovation of the adjacent Optometry Clinic, which is being funded by and phased with the BRAC project at WRNMMC. When completed, the VCE will accommodate a staff of 25 personnel in 3,600 gsf and will provide informational kiosk areas to support visually impaired wounded warriors and their families.

The FY09 War Supplemental Appropriations contained \$4.052 million to support this effort. The funding is sufficient to renovate and outfit spaces for the VCE and to move and renovate spaces for the NEX Uniform Shop. The funding has been received by BUMED Naval Facilities Command, and the VCE facility design is underway. The timeline for execution remains dependent on the BRAC Optometry Clinic renovation. Currently, construction is estimated to start 3Q FY 2010 and to be completed 3Q FY 2011.



#### DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE 1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

FEB 0 8 2010

### MEMORANDUM FOR UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PERSONNEL AND READINESS)

SUBJECT: Delegation of Authority Under Section 1623 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 and Sections 721-723 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 for the Establishment of Health Care Centers of Excellence

You are hereby delegated the authority and assigned the responsibility of the Secretary of Defense under Section 1623 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, Public Law 110-181, and Sections 721-723 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, Public Law 110-417, concerning the establishment of Centers of Excellence for the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, research, and rehabilitation of military eye injuries and diseases, including visual dysfunctions related to traumatic brain injury; hearing loss and auditory system injuries; and traumatic extremity injuries and amputations. This delegation includes other matters provided for in said sections in partnership and/or collaboration to the maximum extent practicable with the Department of Veterans Affairs, institutions of higher education, and other appropriate public and private entities (including international entities). This delegation includes the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

In the absence of an Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)) and, a Principal Deputy USD(P&R), the authorities delegated by this memorandum may be exercised by an official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. The authorities delegated by this memorandum may be re-delegated in writing to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD(HA)) and, in the absence of an ASD(HA) or Principal Deputy ASD(HA), may be exercised by an official performing the duties of the ASD(HA). Further re-delegation is not authorized.

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OSD 12019-09



# OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SEGRETARY OF DEFENSE HEALTH AFFAIRS SKYLINE PIVE, SUITE \$10, 5111 LEBBELING PIKE FALLS CHURCH, VINGINIA 25041-3206

FEB 0 3 2010

### MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING

ATTN: NAVFAC-09MD NAVFAC-MCS

SUBJECT: Design Authorization 09-N-06; (PN75585); Vision Center of Excellence,

WRNNMC, Bethesda, MD

In response to your request, you are authorized to request pricing for the subject project within the Program Amount (PA) of \$4,050,000.

The scope and Program Amount (PA) for this project are included in the attached DD Form 1391.

John A. Becker

Director, Portfolio Planning and Management Division

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: As stated

cc:

**BUMED-M41** 

DEFINAL FY	2009 MILITARY CO	NSTRUCTION	PROJ	ECT DATA	2. Date JUL 2009		
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5. Peogram Element 6. Category Code		7. Project Nun	ther	8. Project Cost (\$000)			
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11. RBQ; 814 m2	ADQT	NONE		SUBSTD	: NONE		
for BRAC relocation to a Shop as required to according to the Army BRAC realignment.  REQUIREMENT: NDAA 2008 (Section 16 prevention, diagnosis, micharged with developing	space for the new Vision Cen paces within Building 2. The nanodate existing inventory at y and Air Force personnel who 23) directed the DoD to estab- itigation, treatment, and rehab- a Defense and Veterans Eye I and rehabilitation. The VCE is	project will also per not the increase in it is will be added to t lish a Vision Center ilitation of disorder injury Registry (D)	ovide exp iveniory he staff o r of Excel s of the v /EIR) to t	nended space for the meessary to support the Medical Certain literature (VCE) to print the many system. The track eye injuries in	te NEX Uniforms out the uniforms iter as result of the comote the VCE is also and promote		

CURRENT SITUATION:

in their uniform requirements.

There is no current Vision Center of Excellence to support our Military members serving the country. The current

affected by eye trauma and assist those suffering vision damage associated with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Visual Syndrome. The VCE is required to establish its headquarters in the National Capital Region.

Additionally, the Exchange Uniform Shop must expand to support the BRAC acquired Tri- Service military members

F. Component DEF (TMA)	FY 200	_ MILITARY CON	STRUC	TION PRO	JECT DATA	2. Date JUL 2009		
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The Vision Cent	er of Excellen	ice program will not have	adequate :	pace to suppor	this initiative.			
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