



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

MAY 17 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.
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 17 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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As stated

cc:
The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
Ranking Member



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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

MAY 17 2010

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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As stated

cc:
The Honorable Joe Wilson
Ranking Member



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HEALTH AFFAIRS

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

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Enclosures:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member



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Ranking Member



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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

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HEALTH AFFAIRS

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

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cc:
The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member



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MAY 17 2010

HEALTH AFFAIRS

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

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Enclosure:
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cc:
The Honorable C. W. Bill Young
Ranking Member



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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

MAY 17 2010

HEALTH AFFAIRS

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

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(Health Affairs)

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 08 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.



OSD 12019-09





TRICARE
MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITY

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
HEALTH AFFAIRS
SKYLINE FIVE, SUITE 616, 5111 LEBBERSBURG PIKE
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22041-3206

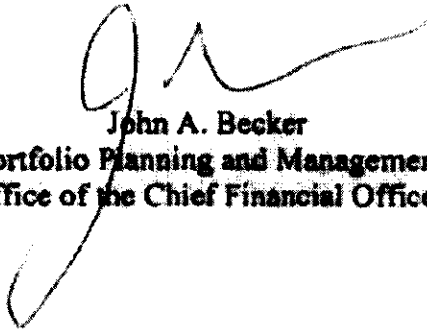
FEB 03 2010

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

1. Component DEF (TMA)		FY 200_ MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT DATA		2. Date JUL 2009	
3. Installation and Location/UIC: Bethesda Naval Hospital, Bethesda Maryland			4. Project Title Vision Center of Excellence		
5. Program Element 87717D		6. Category Code 610	7. Project Number 75585	8. Project Cost (\$000) 4,090	
<p><u>CURRENT SITUATION (Continued):</u> Uniform Shop is undersized to fully support the uniform requirements of the Navy, Marine Corps, Army and Air Force medical and staff members of this state of the art Tri-Service hospital complex.</p> <p><u>IMPACT IF NOT PROVIDED:</u> The Vision Center of Excellence program will not have adequate space to support this initiative.</p> <p><u>JOINT USE CERTIFICATION:</u> The Director, Portfolio Planning & Management has reviewed this project for joint use potential. Joint use construction is recommended.</p>					
12. Supplemental Data:					
ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION START:			JUN 2010		
ESTIMATED MIDPOINT OF CONSTRUCTION:			NOV 2010		
ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION:			JUN 2011		
<p>Chief, Acquisition and Management Office: Mr. David T. Clark, P.E. Phone Number: 703-681-4324</p>					