



RHUMB LINES

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Medical Readiness: Navy Medicine's Support to the Warfighter

"Our corpsmen and other medical personnel are at the "pointy end of the spear" as they administer trauma and health care to our men and women fighting the nation's wars. Navy Medicine supports the warfighter by providing expeditionary medical care to our forces worldwide while simultaneously assuring our deployed Sailors and Marines that their families back home will be well cared for in their absence."

– Vice Adm. Adam M. Robinson, Navy Surgeon General and Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

[Navy Medicine](#) is fully engaged worldwide in support of the Maritime Strategy. This year, the Navy responded to an earthquake in [Haiti](#), and sent countless doctors, nurses, dentists and mental health providers around the globe in support of *Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom*, [Pacific Partnership](#), [Continuing Promise](#) and [Africa Partnership Station](#).

Navy Medicine's Dual Mission: Force Health Protection at Home and Abroad

- Navy Medicine balances increasing operational and humanitarian assistance/disaster response requirements with a commitment to patient and [family-centered care](#) at home for our Sailors and Marines and their families.
- Navy Medicine personnel deploy annually as Individual Augmentees (IAs) and conduct all expeditionary medical screenings for Navy IAs to ensure a high state of readiness is maintained.

Patient and Family-Centered Care

- Navy Medicine's Core Concept of Care is patient and family-centered to ensure patient satisfaction, focusing on increased access, coordination of services and safety, while recognizing the vital importance of the [family](#).
- The Navy provides medical care for the warfighter during every aspect of their service – both at home and forward deployed. This focus on care throughout the pre- and post-deployment cycles also provides a [seamless transition for our wounded warriors](#) from the battlefield to recovery.
- The successful transition of the [Walter Reed National Military Medical Center](#) to the campus of Naval Support Activity Bethesda is a top priority. Navy Medicine is executing this project properly to ensure there are no disruptions of treatment or services for Sailors, Marines, and their [families](#).

Excellence in Research and Development

- The Navy has made tremendous strides in combat casualty care and battlefield medicine in the areas of wound management, phantom limb pain in amputees, limb salvage, and mild to severe [traumatic brain injury](#) (TBI).
- Due to the nature of wounds endured in Iraq and Afghanistan, Navy Medicine is focusing its research on five priority areas including: TBI and [psychological health treatment](#) and support for both operational forces and home-based families; medical systems support for maritime and expeditionary operations; wound management throughout the continuum of care; hearing restoration and protection for maritime, surface and air support personnel; and undersea medicine, for divers and submariners.
- The new [National Intrepid Center of Excellence](#) facility at National Naval Medical Center will serve to research, diagnose, and treat traumatic brain injuries for wounded warriors who need healing in body, mind, and spirit.

Key Messages

- Navy Medicine conducts expeditionary medicine while simultaneously providing needed assurance to deployed Sailors and Marines that their families back home will be well cared for in their absence.
- The Navy provides [force health protection](#) and all aspects of operational medicine to the fleet, 24/7.
- Navy Medicine stresses [preventative care](#) over disease intervention.

Facts & Figures

- Navy Medicine has 39,000 active duty personnel, 8,000 Reservists, 13,000 government civilians, and 6,000 medical and non-medical contractors.
- 1,600 Navy Medical personnel are currently deployed.
- Navy Medicine is responsible for healthcare needs for more than 1 million eligible beneficiaries worldwide.
- Navy Medicine is comprised of three medical centers, 16 hospitals, 189 medical/dental clinics, and six specialty commands focused on research and development.