



A Salute To: Maxwell AFB Network Hospital Partnership

A robust and cooperative network is absolutely essential to the effective provision of the TRICARE benefit. As an extension of care often originating within the MTF, our local hospitals deliver essential services to military members, their families, and retirees. In an effort to foster communication and enhance relationships, the 42d Medical

Group at Maxwell AFB, AL, started a bilateral partnership initiative with its four local network hospitals.

As an outpatient clinic with no emergency, surgical, or inpatient services, the 42d Medical Group, like many other MTFs, relies heavily on network hospitals to care for its enrolled population. During the summer of 2008, the clinic made initial contact with Jackson Hospital. They requested a visit of the facility, to include a tour and meeting between the two facilities' senior leadership teams. Following the success of this first meeting, the same overture was made with Maxwell's three other local hospital partners – Baptist South, Baptist East, and the Veterans Hospital. All three eagerly agreed, and each visit delivered tangible results such as enhanced communication, better understanding, and identification of new cooperation opportunities such as continuing medical education programs. The fourth and most recent visit was held in the spring of 09.

During these local hospital visits, the civilian facility team members became more interested in the 42d Medical Group, as well as the mission of Maxwell AFB. Many of these important community leaders had never visited the base and did not have a strong understanding of the installation's mission. In response, the 42d Medical Group held an open house for the local hospitals to visit the base, meet the installation commander, and tour the MTF. The results were absolutely remarkable. Each civilian healthcare leader was surprised with the diversity of the base's mission responsibilities and the medics' involvement in global contingencies, such as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and all the other humanitarian medical missions to Central and South America. In addition to reaffirming relationships built during earlier meetings, the visit to Maxwell cemented the civilian leadership teams' commitment to the military, the base, and their continued participation in the TRICARE program.

There is a quote that states "All healthcare is local." This adage certainly holds true for military clinics since cooperation with local network hospital partners is essential to meet the healthcare needs of the military enrolled population. The 42d Medical Group found a unique way to grow these local partnerships and will continue to foster these relationships in the future.

HAVE A PERSON OR PROGRAM YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE?

The purpose of the "SALUTE TO..." section is to enhance awareness of special interest items, best business practices, exceptional staff members, and/or unique or successful programs within our region. There is always someone who has an interesting story or background to share; someone who has done something that is noteworthy, exceptionally important or has been awarded an honor of distinction. Special programs that have proven to be successful or recognized as a best business practice should also be considered for recognition and shared with others. You can also submit an article about your specific MTF (history, accomplishments, mission, etc.) Please include a picture (jpeg format) to go along with any article that is submitted.

We hope this addition to our TRO-S newsletter will enlighten our MHS staff within the region with stories that are motivational and interesting. If you have any questions, please feel free to call DSN: 554-3278 or commercial (210) 292-3278. Submissions can be sent directly to janet.hudson@tros.tma.osd.mil.