



National Intrepid Center of Excellence

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The National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) is a DoD institute dedicated to providing cutting-edge evaluation, treatment planning, research and education for service members and their families dealing with the complex interactions of mild traumatic brain injury and psychological health conditions.

COMMITMENT

A gift from the American people by way of the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, the NICoE is a tribute to America's military heroes and a place to heal the invisible wounds of war.

INNOVATION

Utilizing a unique blend of high-tech and high-touch care, the NICoE provides an interdisciplinary, holistic, patient and family-centered assessment. This evaluation is designed to uncover the issues that interfere with a service member's return to duty, and that interrupt inter-personal relationships with family and friends. Our detailed treatment planning allows us to lay the groundwork for physical, psychological and spiritual recovery.

VISION

Our vision is to be an instrument of hope, healing, discovery and learning.

- **HOPE:** Our comprehensive evaluation targets physiological and psychological processes that enable us to develop and provide education and treatment solutions to service members. We are beginning a trajectory of recovery, instilling hope in each service member that healing is possible.
- **DISCOVERY:** We aim to recognize currently unknown patterns of physiological and psychological processes to develop proven treatment solutions for service members and their families.
- **HEALING:** We provide each service member with the education and tools to allow them to achieve a trajectory of self-efficacy, directing their own healing and achieving their life goals.
- **LEARNING:** We seek to be the national scientific and research information hub for service members, families, providers, researchers, staff and our academic partners.



BACKGROUND

The IFHF led the fundraising effort for the NICoE, securing \$65 million in private donations from the American people and overseeing the construction and equipment of the facility. The 72,000 square foot, two-story facility is located on the campus of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. It was officially transferred to the DoD in a dedication ceremony on June 24, 2010. The NICoE was later transferred from TRICARE Management Activity's Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) to the Department of the Navy under the National Naval Medical Center in August of 2010, which became the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in September of 2011.

PURPOSE

The NICoE was created as a center of excellence to focus the collected wisdom and knowledge of our military, federal, academic and private industry partners to define the pattern of the disease state, identify definitive diagnostic criteria, advance novel treatments and share that knowledge with each other. Ultimately, together we can return our wounded, ill and injured service members back to productive lives.

TREATMENT

The NICoE's primary patient population is comprised of active duty service members with TBI and PH conditions who are not responding to current therapy. After being referred by their provider, patients come to the NICoE with their families for four weeks, during which time they stay in a NICoE-dedicated Fisher House on the Bethesda campus. Upon their departure, service members return to their referring military treatment facility and duty station with a personalized treatment plan and the skills to take control of their healing.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY FOR PATIENT CARE

The NICoE features advanced technology which is utilized to aid new discoveries related to the complex pathophysiological state created by TBI and PH conditions. The NICoE's Computer Assisted Rehabilitation Environment, or CAREN, is one of only eight such machines in the world, and features a 180-degree projection screen and customized virtual environments. Additionally, the NICoE utilizes some of the most advanced imaging technologies in the world, including a Positron Emission Tomography-Computed Tomography (PET-CT), 3T Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Magnetoencephalography (MEG). These images can then be combined and viewed in the Digital Imaging Visualization Environment (DIVE), a movie-theater styled room enabling providers to view brain scans and images utilizing 3D technology.

AMENITIES

The NICoE features the following amenities for service members and their families:

- Patient rooms dedicated to art and music therapy, sleep studies and recreation therapy
- Family-focused spaces such as a lounge, a playground, a café, a business center and an activity center
- Conference rooms, classrooms and an auditorium
- An atrium known as Central Park, which serves as a peaceful, naturalistic center with plants, simulated natural sounds, an indoor labyrinth, and challenging walking surfaces

THE FUTURE

The NICoE aims to be a leader in advancing traumatic brain injury and psychological health treatment, research and education. With its dedicated staff, the NICoE seeks to be an instrument of hope, healing, discovery, and learning for service members recovering from TBI and PH conditions.

