



**DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY**  
7700 ARLINGTON BOULEVARD, SUITE 5101  
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22042-5101

November 18, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (MANPOWER AND  
RESERVE AFFAIRS)  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (MANPOWER AND  
RESERVE AFFAIRS)  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (MANPOWER  
AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)  
DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT STAFF  
JOINT STAFF SURGEON

SUBJECT: Establishment of Ocular Trauma Centers

Pursuant to section 721 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (attached), I hereby establish the following four regional Ocular Trauma Centers (OTCs) for the enhanced treatment of ocular wounds or injuries and referral care for visual dysfunction related to traumatic brain injury: (1) Brooke Army Medical Center/Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center; (2) Walter Reed National Military Medical Center/Fort Belvoir Community Hospital; (3) Madigan Army Medical Center; and (4) Naval Medical Center San Diego.

Section 721 requires the establishment of at least four regional centers of excellence within the Defense Health Agency (DHA) no later than October 1, 2023. Moreover, it instructs that each center shall be located at a military medical center that provides graduate medical education in ophthalmology and related subspecialties, and shall serve as the primary center for providing specialized medical services for vision for members of the Armed Forces in the region in which the center of excellence is located. DHA Market Directors will provide oversight for the OTCs located within their respective regions. The Vision Center of Excellence, along with Service ophthalmology and optometry consultants, will oversee standardization and monitor enterprise performance for all OTCs.

RONALD J. PLACE  
LTG, MC, USA  
Director

Attachment:  
As stated

cc:

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs  
Surgeon General of the Army  
Surgeon General of the Navy  
Surgeon General of the Air Force  
Surgeon General of the National Guard Bureau  
Director, Health, Safety, and Work-Life, U.S. Coast Guard  
Medical Officer of the Marine Corps  
Defense Health Agency, Assistant Directors  
Defense Health Agency Deputy Assistant Directors  
Defense Health Agency Market Directors