MISSION STATEMENT
Provide caring and compassionate “home away from home” management of military hospitality houses for family members of patients receiving medical treatment in the San Antonio area at no cost to family members.

VISION
Be the national leader of military healthcare hospitality management with strong community support to sustain our mission.

STATISTICS
- Average stay: 13 days
- Longest stay: 425 days
- Over 7,818 families served
- Over 122,888 room nights
- Close to 7 million lodging dollars saved
- 50 States
- 3 territories
- 14 countries
- Over 1,378 volunteers last year
- 4,816 hours contributed
- CFC: #87784, SECC: #413062, SAMA: #8035

(as of November 2018)
The Fisher House Board of Directors and Staff worked hard to make this a successful year. This of course would not be possible without our donors and volunteers. The Board of Directors authorized and completed two house renovations valued at $500,000. This renovation project involved new carpet, paint, furniture, light, art, and much more. Please look at some of the beautiful photos from the house renovation grand opening in this newsletter.

As I travel around Texas talking with organizations, I often get asked, “how many military members did we help last year?” Fisher House provided a home away from home for over 374 families last year. However, Fisher House Inc. provides much more than that. The Fisher House Inc. is available for spouses of military members, children of military members, active duty and those who serve in the Guard or Reserve, and prior military members who receive VA benefits. In other words, the Fisher House is available for the entire military family. For example, a military spouse with cancer, a child with heart problems, or a military family member injured in an automobile accident can all stay at Fisher House Inc at no cost. The Fisher House is about the entire military family.

The 13th Annual Fisher House Inc. Golf Tournament was also a great success and raised over $23,000 for our daily operations. This involved 123 golf players at the Republic Golf Course in San Antonio Texas. Winners include first, second and third place, closest to the pin and longest drive for male and female golf players. Next year, the Golf Tournament will be held at the Golf Club of Texas in San Antonio on 16 August 2019. Golf registration should be open in January 2019.

I am extremely proud of all our donors and volunteers this year. Did you know that our Board of Directors is also a volunteer board donating all their time and services to Fisher House Inc. In fact, we just welcomed Brigadier General Charles Potter “Chuck” (USAF Retired) as new Board Of Directors member. Please welcome the General if you get a chance to meet. In addition, I know the half-million dollar renovation project would not be possible without critical donors like, USAA Bank, Finck Cigar Company, The San Antonio Defense Gang, Ed Rachal Foundation, Edmund DeBarba and Family, Mildred Currie McClanahan Family and many more. To be honest, every single dollar counts at Fisher House Inc. A big “THANK YOU” to all our donors and volunteers.
IN THE KITCHEN

Sister Margaret Yancey has volunteered to cook dinners and desserts for our guests on several occasions. Everyone who enjoyed dinner with her all agreed she is a magnificent cook, and they really loved her refrigerator biscuits. She was so taken back with their compliments she gave us the recipe.

Refrigerator Biscuits

No need to wait for rising. 6 cups all purpose flour 1 tsp baking soda
1 pkg. dry yeast. 3 tsp sugar. 1 tsp salt
1/2 cup warm water. 1 tbsp baking powder 1 cup shortening

Dissolve yeast in warm water. Set aside for 5 minutes. In large mixing bowl mix together flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Cut in shortening with pastry blender or fork till mixture resembles coarse crumbs.

Make a well in dry ingredients. Combine buttermilk and yeast and add all at once to the well in dry ingredients. Stir only until well moistened. Place in large, greased, bowl cover with press and seal. Refrigerate.

Use when needed. Use as much as needed. Dough should remain good for 3 or 4 days Carefully roll out on well floured surface to 1/2 inch thickness. Cut into biscuit shape. Place on a lightly greased baking pan with sides touching. Bake at 400 degrees for 15-18 minutes or until done. Makes 4 dozen biscuits.

Grace First Baptist Church

In 1997, First Baptist Church created a structured outreach program. Under the direction of their pastor and deacons, Sister Butler was the lead in establishing the outreach committee.

They prepare and serve meals twice a year for our residents of JBSA- Lackland Fisher House. For the past eight years, Sister Avis Banks has led this committee with the focus to carry out the Great Commission;

Matthew 28:19-20 (19) Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

They constantly lift our guests’ spirits, with their words of encouragement and prayers.
House III Gets A Fresh Look

Lackland Fisher House is out to make a difference in the hearts of our guests. After such a warm welcoming from the guests after House I renovation the board and staff knew they could not stop there. They worked tirelessly this past year on planning and improving the schematics of another renovation.

House III did just that with pops of color and beautiful pieces of artwork in each room. The rooms speak of history and bring a guest to a different state during their stay. The rooms span from Hawaii all the way up to New York and show the prettiest of landscapes and state monuments that each state has to offer. It was important to all involved to deliver a calm and healing environment as well as a positive space for each guest. Fisher House III was unique due to it is the only “Children's Inn” that Fisher House Foundation has built. It offers the guests two playrooms for children in the layout and now the new look offers a playroom for smaller children and a game room for teens and adults to use. The game room received fun new board games and puzzles for the guests to utilize during their stay.

We are beyond thankful for the active role the interior decorators at Finishing Touches played in this project. They did countless research on the Fisher House quality of furniture and accessories. Staff and Board Members talked about the everlasting feel they wanted the guests to have while still staying up to date with the current trends. The biggest challenge was to find commercial-grade products that delivered a warm feel to our guests. As you can imagine the quality of furniture needs to with stand the traffic of over 400 families yearly. Finishing Touches went above and beyond to ensure the atmosphere of the Fisher House remains a Home-Away-From-Home.

Donors made this new look for Fisher House III possible. The donors consisted of USAA Bank, Finck Cigar Company, The San Antonio Defense Gang, Ed Rachal Foundation, Edmund DeBarba and Family and Mildred Currie McClanahan. These names will be instilled in the House for all guests and volunteers to see as they enter the house in a plaque shown above. While the Fisher House mission has always been to give back to our military members and their families with a Home-Away-From-Home it would not be possible without our donors. The donors make all the differences in the guest’s lives by giving monetarily or a soft homemade quilt to use during their hospital stent.

Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher’s memory continue to live on through every single guest, staff member and house. Our goal at the Lackland Fisher House is to make their mission impel lives each day. We hope you stop by and see all the new changes at the Lackland Fisher House!
USAA Builds Complementary Guest Bag Totes

One of the services that the Lackland Fisher House is especially proud of is we provide our guests complementary travel and toiletry bags. The bags are usually filled with travel toiletries and other items that one might need or could use while traveling. Many Fisher House guests do not have very much time to pack adequately when they are on their way to help a loved one in need, and can find that they are missing key personal items. The Fisher House Foundation at no cost provides the Complementary Fisher House tote bags to all Fisher Houses. Donors and volunteers then provide the necessary supplies and service hours to pack these essential bags. This project is truly a team effort that further enhances a guest’s stay at the Fisher House. The staff at Lackland Fisher House is proud to be a part of projects like this, which really build partnerships with donors and volunteers alike.

USAA, one of Fisher House Incorporated’s major donors, recently purchased the needed toiletry supplies and packed over 100 tote bags for the guests at Lackland Fisher House. A big thank you went out to Jeanah Guerra, the numerous USAA employees involved and USAA for making this substantial project happen.

Custom Corn Hole

Mr. and Mrs. Bergo recently brought a custom-made corn hole game baring a unique Lackland Fisher House logo with a Texas flag and San Antonio backdrop. Mr. Bergo is a member of one of Lackland Fisher Houses largest donors The Defense Gang; a local non-profit comprised of retired military colonels who are dedicated to serving the military community.

Fisher House Inc. provides entertainment items for guests who are trying to pass the time during a sometimes-lengthy stay. Music instruments, video games, DVDs, laptops, tablets and books are available. The corn hole game will go into our popular inventory for guests’ entertainment.

Mr. Bergos corn hole game was built by Bergo Yard Games. The company creates custom wood crafted gaming items. Email him for further information: bergoyardgames@gmail.com
WISH LIST 2018

Paper Products
• Toilet Paper
• Paper Towels
• Paper Napkins
• Plates and Bowls (all sizes)
• Cups (Cold 12-16 oz)
No Styrofoam Products Please

Kitchen Supplies
• Baking Supplies (mixes)
• Canned Fruit
• Anti-bacterial Liquid Hand Soap
• Glad/Zip Lock Disposable Storage Containers (large and medium)
• Zip-Lock Food Storage Containers (1 gallon & quart)
• 33 Gallon Black Trash Bags
• 13 Gallon Kitchen Trash Bags

Cleaning Products
• Furniture Wax for dusting
• Oust/Glade Air Freshener
• Bleach
• Fabric Softener Sheets
• Laundry Detergent (Liquids only)
• Laundry Stain Remover
• Dishwasher Detergent (liquid only)
• Bathroom Cleaner : Lysol Disinfectant 4 in 1
• 409 Cleaner
• Clorox Disinfecting 4 in 1 Spray (prefer Fresh Scent)
• Comet or Ajax

Residential Household Need
• DVD movies
• Keurig Coffee, Tea and Hot Chocolate K-cups
• Irons
• Toaster Ovens

Food Products
• Sugar (5 lb bag)
• Canned Meats
• Canned Vegetables
• Pasta Dishes

Hygiene Products
• Hand Soap (liquid,7.5 oz pump or gallon refill)
• Refill, Purell Hand Sanitizer, 40.5 oz
• Refill, Clorox Hand Sanitizer, 33.8 oz
• Batteries for Dispensers “C”

Resident Needs
• Prepaid long distance phone cards
• Passes to local attractions
• Gift Cards (BX, Walmart, Taco Cabana, Commissary, etc)
• Postage Stamps
• Large Umbrella (We will mark them with “Lackland Fisher House”)

Miscellaneous
• Copier/Printer Paper
• Large emergency size Flashlights
• Batteries “AA”

A special thank you to Ernst & Young LLP for donating six-hand sanitizer stands for our three Lackland Fisher Houses.
This will go a long way toward our infection control-necessities.

James Victor Harralson
GOLF TOURNAMENT

Silver Sponsor

BDO

AFFCU

Blue Skies of Texas

Senior Living

Aligned Mortgage

Financing Your Future

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RBFCU

FISHER HOUSE GOLF TOURNAMENT
Sponsored by:
CMSgt Wayne & Elaine Ruth Smith
Fisher House, Incorporated
Board of Directors

CENTURY 21
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Costco
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AF Branding & Trademark Licensing
Republic Golf Course
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas. —
When a military family member becomes ill, many of life’s everyday challenges get put on the back burner while treatment is sought.

This can be the case when the member lives more than 50 miles away from a military care facility that offers the life-saving treatment they need. Enter Fisher House. Fisher House offers support in many ways as military families in need try to find a new normal, one day at a time.

“We are a home away from home,” said Alexandra Murray, Fisher House volunteer coordinator.

Fisher House has 26 guest rooms, which can accommodate up to four people per room. The housing is provided free of charge to families of seriously ill or injured patients receiving care at medical facilities in the San Antonio area to include Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center and Brooke Army Medical Center.

Patrick Trevino Sr, a Vietnam veteran who was recently diagnosed with leukemia, often travels from Corpus Christi for medical treatment in San Antonio.

“If it wasn’t for the Fisher House I don’t know what I would have done,” Trevino said. “I love them [Fisher House] with all my heart. They’ve taken care of us. It’s a miracle we were blessed and brought here.”

The services provided by Fisher House are dependent on the kindness of volunteers and donors. Their contributions play an important role to the success of Fisher House.

Volunteers Jane and Bill Dubel have given their time and efforts for 30 years. Jane Dubel, volunteer president at Wilford Hall Fisher House, and her husband are recognizable faces at the surgical center, assisting patients navigate through the building or offering you a warm bag of popped kernels.

“We sell popcorn two days a week and a lot of that money goes to the Fisher Houses. We have the Red Hatters and they make quilts and hats for the Fisher Houses,” Jane Dubal said. “Volunteering keeps us involved and giving back to our community and giving back to the military.”

Fisher House honored local donors during an appreciation luncheon Oct. 17 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Donors were also presented with the Helping Hands Award, for their many contributions and continued support.

Donor contributions include donating a combined total of more than $1 million and volunteering for special events hosted by Fisher House and helping with upkeep of the facilities.

Tony Imondi, a member of a donor group comprised of 340 retired veterans, expressed his appreciation for Fisher House.

“Nobody does more for our military families than the Fisher House,” he said. “They reach out around the world to our families in need.”
Thank You for Sponsoring our Appreciation Day Luncheon

RBFCU
rbfcu.org
SAN ANTONIO -- A retired Air Force Colonel who started a group to stay in touch with friends, never envisioned it would evolve into what it is today.

Tony Imondi served 30 years in the U.S. Air Force and when he was about to retire in 2006, he wanted to find a way to stay connected to his military family. “I never knew I would stay so long. But I found a home in the Air Force, and I loved being in the Air Force,” said Imondi. “I started a little group called the San Antonio Defense Gang. It was an informal group. We decided we would meet for lunch and support each other.”

It wasn’t long before other retired colonels at Fort Sam Houston heard about his gang. They asked if they could join them at their meetings. “What they wanted was to be able to stay in touch with people they worked with, people that shared a common bond. The things that we value like military service, taking care of our veterans, supporting military families,” he said.

Imondi’s gang that was originally made up of six retired colonels continued to grow over years. There are now 342 members. The Defense Gang even created a logo. It has an eagle with the colors of the Texas flag. “Together we formed a Defense Gang, to support the defense of the country, by supporting our veterans,” explained Imondi.

Their support is wide-reaching in San Antonio. They help new members transition out of the military and find new jobs.

“We had people hired right across the lunch room table. We have so many members and we cover so many industries in the San Antonio area. We’re able to help people connect,” said Imondi.

“If you stop and think about what military service is, you’re willing to give everything to your country. When you’re not in that role anymore as a member of the military, it’s ingrained into you as a person,” said Ret. Air Force Colonel John DiPiero, member. DiPiero who is now the director of military advocacy and military affairs at USAA, said he helped a member’s loved one land a job at his company.

“By following the rules not only on the Defense Gang side but on the side of my company, we were able to make things fit,” explained DiPiero. “It’s important to understand that it’s not just helping a military member that’s a member of the gang. We’ve done wonderful things to help gang members families.” While it is an informal group, there are rules. A new member must be endorsed by another colonel who can vouch for the person’s character and commitment. The group attends funerals for homeless veterans and contributes to their adopted charity, the Fisher House. Over the last 11 years, the group has donated $350 thousand dollars out of their own pockets.

The group has even helped the next generation of military members. Imondi said a member of the group who teaches ROTC at a local high school said one of his students, Orion Hollin, got accepted to West Point. But his family couldn’t afford to pay for travels to the academy. Imondi said he is proud of how the members have turned the Defense Gang into a veteran services organization.

“I’m very proud that it has. It’s not something that I envisioned, nor pushed for. It was the members, as a group that pushed this in the direction,” said Imondi. “Everywhere I go, I’m reminded of my service to the country and that it’s really respected here in San Antonio and all of Texas. We have a patriotic spirit here. I have no idea how far the Defense Gang will go or how large it will go – I just know that I can’t do it forever.”

Imondi said the five other original gang members still reside in San Antonio.
The Warrior Games was held in Colorado Springs from June 1-9, 2018. The games debuted in 2010 as a joint venture between the DoD and the U.S Olympic Committee. The Games were designed to introduce wounded, ill and injured service members to adaptive sports, promote resiliency and encourage camaraderie. The Navy, Marine, Army, Air Force, SOCOM, United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia have teams to compete for the three medals (Gold, Silver, Bronze).

The U.S Olympic committee led and organized the Warrior Games from 2010 to 2014, and then in 2015 the DoD assumed the responsibility for planning and organizing the Games. DoD tasked the services as follows to take the lead: 2015- Marine Corps, in Quantico, Va; 2016- Army, in West Point, Va; 2017- Navy, in Chicago, Il; 2018- Air Force, Colorado Springs, Co and for 2019 SOCOM has the lead in Tamp Bay Fl.

The committee made a few changes by expanding athlete’s eligibility and emphasized family participation. To assist with the families, the Fisher House Foundation representatives and the Air Force Fisher House Mangers or representative were there to help the families in any way needed this year.

Kenneth Fisher, Chairmen and CEO, Fisher House Foundation, was the guest speaker at the Family Program Welcome Dinner where he set the tone for the week-long games and family events. On his way out, he took a picture with Alexandra Murray, Volunteer Coordinator.
The Fisher House Family would like to offer their sincerest thanks and appreciation to all of those who have generously and thoughtfully provided their time, talents and treasures to support the guest residents of the Lackland Fisher Houses. We appreciate your encouragement for our continued success in service of our military families with medical crises. The following “Friends of Fisher House” have provided financial support between April 1, 2018 and October 31, 2018.

**Businesses and Corporations**

- Aetna Foundation, Inc.
- Amazon Smile
- Andeavor Foundation, Inc.
- AT&T Employees
- Bank of America Employee Giving
- Bank of America United Way Campaign
- Birdies for Charity
- BE3J2& Co.
- Beere Family Charitable Gift Fund
- Benevity Community Impact Fund
- Campbell Charitable Gift Fund
- Charities Aid Foundation of America
- Cybergrants, LLC
- Dell Giving
- Dick and Judi Johnson Foundation
- Edison International
- Employees Autodesk
- Enterprise Holdings Foundation
- Educational Testing Service
- Finck’s Cigar Factory Outlet
- Hagaman-Daugherty Foundation
- Hanover Insurance Group
- Intercontinental Hotel Group
- JC Penny Corporation, Inc.
- JP Morgan Chase Good Works Employee Giving Campaign
- Leaders Empowered
- Lockheed Martin AERO Club
- Lockheed Martin Employee’s Political Action Committee
- McDonough Family Giving
- McGregor Family Charity Fund
- Musical Arts Center of San Antonio
- New York Life
- Pacific Gas and Electric
- Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program
- Progressive Casualty Insurance Company
- Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union
- Richard L. Kirby Fund
- Target Corporation
- Trust
- USAA Federal Savings Bank
- Valero Entergy Foundation
- Wells Fargo Community Support
- Wiens Giving Fund
- Vizient, Inc.
- Your Cause, LLC

**Organizations**

- 502 CS/SCOY-L
- American Legion Post 300
- American Legion Post 326
- American Legion Post 336
- Columbus Women’s Organization
- Devine Area Health and Hospice Resource
- Disabled American Veterans
- First Sergeants Council, Warhawk Diamonds
- JW Barnett, Jr. Family Foundation
- Ladies Philoptochos Society
- LOSC Thrift Shop
- Pancitun Civic and Educational Foundation, Inc.
- VFW Lackland Post 9174
- West Fork Community Church
- WHMC Volunteer Auxiliary

**Military Chapels**

- 14 FTW/HC
- 31 FW/HC
- 5 BW/HC
- 501 CSW/HC
- 65 ABW/HC
- 78 ABW/HC

**In-Kind Donations**

- Amber Perry
- American Heritage Girls #0334
- American Legion Post 300
- Assistance League of San Antonio
- Atonement Lutheran Church
- Bracketville Church of Christ
- BST- East
- BST- West
- Chesters Angeles
- Chick-fil-A
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Defense Gang
- Ernst & Young
- Gernell Smart #79
- GFP
- Gilbane
- Girl Scouts #436
- Girl Scouts #590
- Health Professions
- Hondo HS
- Hormel Foods
- JBSA Lackland Honor Guard
- Supply Core
- Texas Road House
- USAA
- Veterans United
- WHA
- Alex Melo
- Alice Irving
- Andrea Salazar
- RAFB Sergeant association
- Road Runners
- Rotary
- San Antonio Spurs
- Schulenburg Public Library
- SMD
- Sock Brigade
- Stacey Jr/Sr HS Student Council
- Texas Road House
- USAA
- Veterans United
- WHA
IN-KIND DONATIONS CONTINUATION

Austin Cooperrider
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Thomas Kim
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Thomas Waters
Diane Weimer
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SPOUSES CLUBS

Edwards Officers’ Spouses’ Club
Ellsworth Spouses Club
Goodfellow Combined Spouses Club
Hanscom Spouses Club
JB MDL Spouses’ Club

Minot Officers’ Spouses’ Club
Mountain Home Officers’ Spouses’ Club
Offutt Officers Spouses’ Club
Ramstein Officers’ Spouses’ Club
Randolph Spouses’ Club

Scott Spouses’ Club
Seymour Johnson Officer and Civilian’s Spouses Club
Shaw Spouses Club
Sheppard Officers’ Spouses Club

Spouses of Aviano
Tinker Spouses’ Club
Vance Spouses Club
Warren Spouses’ Club
At Fisher House Inc., we are so thankful for our homes by the Warrior Games in the United States, the Invictus associated veterans take part in sports, including wheelchair injured or sick armed service’s personnel and their associated. The Invictus Games is an international adaptive multi-sport event, created by Prince Harry, in which wounded, injured or sick armed service's personnel and their associated veterans take part in sports, including wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, and indoor rowing. Inspired by the Warrior Games in the United States, the Invictus games have been going on since 2014.

At Fisher House Inc., we are so thankful for our homes at JBSA-Lackland to be part of the fly the flag endeavor. For many Invictus Games competitors and their loved ones, their journey to recovery began at a Fisher House. The flags travel will represent the journey of the family, and we are excited to be part of it.
FISHER HOUSE

ALASKA
JBER Hospital
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JBER, AK 99506
(907) 222-1673
Manager: Jenny Hall
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Arizona.fisherhouse@va.gov

CALIFORNIA
Camp Pendleton
MOI WEST – Fisher House
BLDG 2014 San Jacinto Rd.
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055
(760) 763-5308
Manager: Kiana Bright
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VA Long Beach Healthcare System
Attn: Fisher House
5901 East 7th St.
Long Beach, CA 90822
562-826-5905
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VA Greater Los Angeles HS
11301 Wilshire Blvd (10AF)
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VA Palo Alto Health Care System
3801 Miranda Ave.
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Acting Manager: Tracy Marino
Tracy.marino@va.gov

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Naval Medical Center San Diego I, II
34800 Bob Wilson Dr. Bldg. 46
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Manager: Lori Erickson
lorene.l.erickson.naf@mail.mil

David Grant USAF Medical Center I, II
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(707) 423-7550 fax: (707) 423-7552
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CONNECTICUT
VA Connecticut Healthcare System
950 Campbell Avenue, Mail Code 135
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Manager: Amanda Salthouse
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DELAWARE
Fisher House for Families of the Fallen
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Dover AFB, DE 19902
(302) 677-6660
Manager: TSgt. Dorothy Whitfield
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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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50 Irving St. NW
Washington, DC 20422
(202) 745-2482
Manager: Stacey Childs
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FLORIDA
Bay Pines VA Healthcare System
10000 Bay Pines Blvd.
Bay Pines, FL 33744
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fax: (727) 319-1106
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Shentrela.diggins@va.gov

Eglin Hospital
350 Boater Rd.
Eglin AFB, FL 32542
(850) 832-2865, fax
Manager: Marc Ambrose
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