

JACKSON HEALTH SYSTEM MIAMI, FLORIDA

Defense Health Information Technology Initiative

Federal Request: \$5 million from the FY2007 Defense Appropriations Bill, Defense Health Program Account for the Jackson Health System information technology initiative. (Army contact - SHERYL MERRITT)

Background:

Jackson Memorial Hospital located in Miami, Florida, is one of the nation's busiest hospitals, and serves as the designated medical center for first responders in Miami Dade County. The world-renowned trauma center at Jackson Memorial is the only Level 1 trauma center in South Florida for adults and children.

In addition to the day-to-day traumas it handles as the primary medical center in a major metropolitan area, Jackson Memorial must also be prepared to respond to all types of emergencies from natural disasters to terrorist events and be able to provide state-of-the-art acute care to victims in any mass casualty event. In addition to the expected natural disasters in a coastal area, Miami Dade County is an increasing potential terrorism target because of its strategic location, mass population, and the presence of strategic military installations including United States Southern Command headquarters, whose mission has become more critical and its profile has increased since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Purpose of Request:

Jackson Memorial must continue to upgrade its capabilities in order to effectively respond to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, as well as incidents involving chemical, biologic, radiologic, or explosive events. In order to prepare and successfully manage a mass casualty event, Jackson must make upgrades to its information management and communications systems, which have not been updated in over a decade and are critically in need of an overhaul. The total project cost over six years is \$132 million and includes clinical systems, infrastructure, administrative and patient safety upgrades.

Jackson is requesting \$5 million from the FY2007 Defense Appropriations Bill, Defense Health Program Account. As the only Level I trauma center in South Florida, Jackson would provide critical first response care for patients from the military installations in the area. Having this capability supports the U.S. Southern Command even as it places additional resource burdens on the hospital. These infrastructure upgrades are critical to Jackson being able to effectively respond to incidents.

Furthermore, as one of the nation's largest hospitals, Jackson plays a unique role in establishing standards and practices that can be implemented at other medical centers throughout the country and serve as a model to the military medical community, training Army physicians prior to their departing to Iraq and Afghanistan. The state-of-the-art information system Jackson intends to implement can serve as a model for all medical systems needing to improve their response capabilities and patient care.

The Department of Defense (DoD) has been committed to improving health care delivery through the integration of state-of-the-art information systems. DoD has been working to integrate medicine and C4ISR (command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) to provide better health care. The military medical community is committed to developing a standardized, integrated and seamless system and has been interested in working with industry to provide the best means to integrate information technologies with health systems. By partnering with the private sector, including large institutions like Jackson, DoD can promulgate global interoperable standards. The size and complexity of Jackson's operations makes it an ideal partner for the Defense Department in developing a state-of-the-art health information technology system.