
PREFACE

This report documents research on the organization of the Military Health System (MHS). This research was initiated as part of a larger project to assess the organization and cost of the Department of Defense's TRICARE health benefits program. A focus of this initial work was identifying organizational models in the civilian managed-care sector that might be applied to TRICARE. Subsequently, the research expanded when the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 requested a study of the expansion of joint medical operations, including an assessment of the merits and feasibility of establishing a joint command. Responding to this request required further investigation of medical readiness and joint organizations and the development of alternative joint-command structures.

This report should be of interest to those in the Congress, the Department of Defense, and elsewhere who are interested in the Military Health System. Portions of this report may also interest those concerned about the design of health-care organizations, especially in the public sector.

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