



## **Media Release**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Educators tour Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center**

FORT HOOD, Texas – A group of educators received a two-fold lesson on the benefits of Army medicine during their visit to Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center as part of U.S. Army Recruiting Command (USAREC)'s Outreach and Education Division national educator tour June 17-18.

The group, made up of leaders in education such as counselors, principals, superintendents, school board association members and a state senator from across the country, spent the two days visiting different places on post and in the local community to learn about military life and opportunities available to Soldiers.

While at CRDAMC, Col. Patricia Darnauer, commander, briefed the group on the varied and comprehensive medical services the hospital provides to Soldiers and their families.

“We are committed to providing world-class healthcare to our beneficiaries. We’re proud of all our accomplishments—from the almost 3,000 babies born yearly in our Women’s Health Center to our almost 4,000 outpatient visits a day,” Darnauer said.

But, in addition to taking care of Soldiers, Darnauer told the group that Army medicine provides a wealth of opportunities for anyone looking for a career in medicine.

The group visited a few departments/clinics in the hospital and talked to staff to not only learn about the specific services provided, but also about the education and training the individual doctor, medic or technician received.

Lt. Col. Michel Courtines, chief of Radiology, explained to the group that the level of training and education Army radiology technicians received far surpassed that of their civilian counterparts.

“The professional development along a military career path in Army medicine is accelerated 300 percent compared to a civilian career. For instance, if someone goes to a civilian school for two to

four years, they become a general x-ray tech, and more than likely, stay at that level for the next 10-12 years. In the Army, normal career progression for an enlisted x-ray tech typically means that Soldier will be in charge of an entire department often before 10 years,” Courtines said.

The visit to Darnall was eye-opening for the group as they learned about the positive benefits of a career in Army medicine, according to Tony Castillo, chief of education for USAREC and tour director.

“Our mission is to promote Army education programs and services to help recruiters gain, maintain and improve access to our nation’s high schools and college students. By giving these educators first-hand and personal knowledge of the many opportunities in the military, we helped change the group’s perspectives and opened doors. We definitely hit our mark with this visit,” Castillo said.