NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Possible Disclosure of Personal Information of Military Health System Beneficiaries

Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. - Walter Reed Army Medical Center officials are investigating the possible disclosure of personal identifier information through unauthorized sharing of a data file containing the names of approximately one thousand Military
Health System beneficiaries.

Walter Reed officials were notified of the possible exposure on May 21 by an outside company. Preliminary results of an on-going investigation have identified a computer from which the data was apparently compromised. Data security personnel from Walter Reed and the Department of the Army continue to investigate the source and causes for the information compromise.

The disclosure of this information raises the possibility that individuals named in the file could become victims of identity theft.

Hospital officials are working to notify each individual named in the file of the unauthorized release of information, and offering credit monitoring assistance and advice on protection against identity theft. **Walter Reed has also established a hotline number for people to call and check whether their identifying information was disclosed. The number is 877- 854-8542 ext. 9, or 202-782- 8333.**

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 protects patients from unauthorized release of their health records. The Walter Reed Army Medical Center has a robust information assurance program that meets all program standards and requirements. The compromised data file did not include protected health information such as medical records, diagnosis or prognosis for patients.

Additional information will be released as it becomes available. Media representatives may contact the Walter Reed Public Affairs Office at 202-782- 9351, 7177or 7500 or by e-mailing WRAMCPublicAffairs@amedd.army.mil.

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