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**MALCOM RANDALL VETERANS' HOSPITAL ANNOUNCES THE ADDITION OF
NEW WAITING ROOMS FOR SURGICAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT**

///Gainesville, FL - AND DATE///: Over the past two years, local Taco Bell Restaurants in the Gainesville and Tallahassee Areas have teamed up with the AFFF (Armed Forces Families Foundation / armedforcesfamilies.org) to raise money to support our troops' families. Donations were made at participating Taco Bell restaurants by purchasing a personalized paper bell or by giving change from meal purchases. More than \$19,000 has been raised in the Gainesville and Tallahassee Areas. The AFFF and Taco Bell chose to contribute the funds to support military families through the Gainesville Malcom Randall Veterans' Hospital, by constructing 2 new waiting rooms in the Surgical & Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Units.

Enhancements to these units were based on the input received from the patients and families using the medical center facilities. The Main Waiting Room was remodeled to improve the existing space both aesthetically and functionally to provide a more comfortable environment for families as they wait on their loved ones. The linoleum was replaced with vibrant cherry wood flooring. The cabinets and counters were modernized with sleek new wooden fixtures to not only look better, but also provide adequate storage for pillows, blanket and puzzles, as well as the new coffee maker and microwave that were also added to the room. New sofas and a larger television were installed to allow for comfortable

viewing and relaxation. Finally, a variety of inspiring artwork was hung to complement the new space. “The wonderful transformation focused on making a cold, stark waiting room a much warmer and friendlier place. The stress that the people who use this room face is daunting, and the impact of creating a welcoming, more homelike atmosphere for them can’t be emphasized enough,” said Debra Irish a Nurse Manager for the Intensive Care Units.

The second waiting room provides a smaller setting with privacy for discussion with doctors or family conferences. The carpet and artwork was also replaced in this room. “The new artwork and renovation will soften the room and make it more welcoming and is certain to be enjoyed by those in need,” stated Debra Irish.

At 2:00 p.m. on Monday, June 4, 2012 a ribbon cutting ceremony will take place in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit to reveal the new waiting rooms.

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