

7. THE FORT MCCOY REGION'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM



The Fort McCoy Region is served by world class healthcare institutions. Within the Fort McCoy Region there are six general medical/surgical hospitals, thirteen clinics, and five health science and bio-medical research centers, Map 7-1. The region is committed to quality healthcare as the region's educational institutions and healthcare providers have created the La Crosse Medical Health Science Consortium which serves a multi-state 24 county region. Private medical corporations have found the region attractive as Logistics Health Incorporated, the leading provider of clinician information services to the Center for Disease Control and the Department of Defense, is headquartered in the region. Also, located only 50 minutes from the region is the world-renowned Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

The Fort McCoy Region has a much higher concentration of doctors and hospital beds than the state and the Nation as a whole. U.S. Census Bureau figures show that the three county Fort McCoy Region has a much higher concentration of both physicians and hospital beds than the state and the Nation as a whole as well as a number of other states that have high numbers of military installations, Table 7.1.

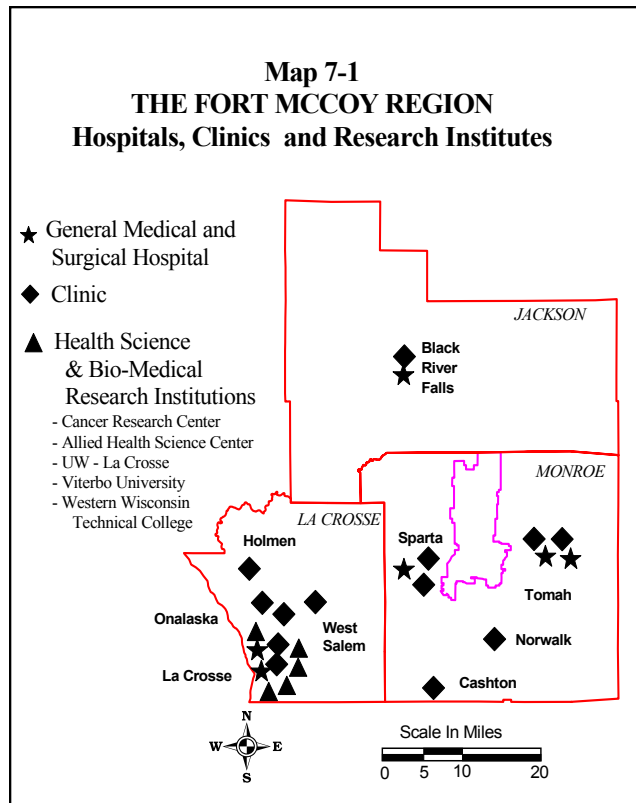


TABLE 7.1
Fort McCoy Region's
(Jackson, La Crosse and Monroe Counties)
Health Care Resources

	1999 # of Physicians per 100,000 Population	1998 # of Hospital Beds per 100,000 Population
Fort McCoy Region	301	395
Wisconsin	232	263
U.S.	284	311
California	248	228
Texas	205	287
Florida	243	330
Georgia	211	330

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County & City Data Book 2000

Gundersen Lutheran is a comprehensive healthcare network including one of the Nation's largest multi-specialty group medical practices. Gundersen Lutheran provides regional community clinics, hospitals, nursing homes, home care, behavioral health services, vision centers, pharmacies as well as air and ground ambulances. As a physician-led, not-for-profit healthcare system, Gundersen Lutheran employs 400 medical doctors who provide care for patients in 19 counties throughout western Wisconsin, northeastern Iowa and southeastern Minnesota.

Gundersen Lutheran comprises more than 500 medical, dental and associate staff and 5,000 support staff. Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center in La Crosse is a 325-bed teaching hospital, designated as the western clinical campus for the University of Wisconsin-Madison Medical School and School of Nursing. The hospital has been named in the Top 100 in the Nation four times, is a tertiary referral center and is able to meet patients' needs

for primary and specialized care. Every year, Gundersen Lutheran has more than 1,300,000 outpatient visits and sees nearly 30,000 patients in its Trauma & Emergency Center.



Gundersen Lutheran's recently completed \$30 million Cancer Center

Gundersen Lutheran's cutting edge technologies offer optimal care to patients outside La Crosse. TeleMedLink involves Gundersen Lutheran specialists in the care of patients who cannot regularly travel to La Crosse through face-to-face interactive video and audio links. While a nurse or physician at the remote location transmits patient vitals, symptoms and other case details, consultations, office visits and some types of treatment occur in the virtual company of a La Crosse-based specialist.

Gundersen Lutheran's Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS) is an advanced computer system in which Gundersen Lutheran Health System clinics and selected affiliates deliver, view and manage X-rays, MRIs, CT scans and other diagnostic images. The speed with which patients' X-rays and scans can be made available to their medical providers in the region and in La Crosse will mean faster diagnoses and improved communication.

Gundersen Lutheran hospital and clinics also accepts Tricare and active military insurance plans.

Franciscan Skemp Healthcare is an integrated delivery system that operates in 12 communities in western Wisconsin, northeastern Iowa, and southeastern Minnesota. Its delivery system is anchored by a multi-specialty physician group practice and hospital in La Crosse, Wisconsin, with two additional critical access hospitals with nursing homes and family

practice clinics in Sparta and Arcadia, Wisconsin. In total, Franciscan Skemp operates 12 family practice clinics in communities within a 55-mile radius of La Crosse.

On July 1, 1995, three entities—Franciscan Health System, Mayo Foundation and Skemp Clinic, each with a long-tradition of services to the region came together to create Franciscan Skemp Healthcare. The hospital, located in La Crosse and initially known as St. Francis Hospital, opened its doors in 1883 and was the first hospital in western Wisconsin. Today Franciscan Skemp Healthcare includes approximately 185 physicians and PH.D.s, 53 associate providers and 3,000 allied health staff.



Being part of the Mayo Health System Franciscan Skemp can tap the resources of this highly regarded health care provider.

In July of 2004, a \$28.4 million modernization and service expansion at the La Crosse campus was completed. It included eight state-of-the-art operating rooms, medical oncology services, radiation oncology services provided by the Mayo Clinic Department of Radiation Oncology and space for a modernized emergency/urgent care department. In addition to the radiation oncology services provided by Mayo Clinic, Franciscan Skemp also has eight Mayo Clinic cardiologists on staff that provide 24-7 interventional services. Real time telemedicine also allows cardiologists in La Crosse to perform procedures with input from colleagues from the Mayo Clinic Department of Cardiology.

Mayo Medical Transport helicopter and ground transport also provide streamlined access to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN., for highly specialized care. Franciscan Skemp Healthcare also participates in the Department of Defense's Tricare insurance plans.

Sparta's Franciscan Skemp Mayo Health System Hospital is located less than 5 miles from Fort McCoy. Franciscan Skemp Mayo Health System operates a hospital, clinic and nursing home on its Sparta Campus. The 25 bed Critical Access hospital operates a 24-7 emergency room service that averages approximately 7,000 annual visits. Other services provided by this hospital and its affiliated clinic include: Behavioral Health, Birth by Design, Family Practice, Home Care and Hospice, Optometry (contact lenses and optical shop), Podiatry, OB and general surgery and walk in Urgent Care. There are a total of 128 employees in the hospital and clinic. Hospital providers include 13 physicians, two Nurse Practitioners and two Physician Assistants. The hospital, clinic and nursing home can also access the wealth of physicians, specialists and advanced medical technology resources of the Franciscan Skemp Mayo System. The hospital is a regular provider of services to Fort McCoy military personnel and their families, and participates in the Department of Defense Tricare insurance plans.

The Tomah Memorial Hospital is a 25 bed critical access hospital located less than ten miles from Fort McCoy. This modern facility offers medical and surgical care for adults and children, obstetrics, swing bed and respite care programs. Physical therapy, occupational therapy, cardiac rehabilitation, a renal dialysis satellite unit, dietician consultation and hospice services are also provided. Diagnostic services include radiology, CAT scan, and RMI's. There are 13 full time physicians on staff and 100 other medical specialists under contract with the hospital. The hospital regularly participates in the Department of Defense's Tricare insurance plans.

Tomah Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) and Clinics are located in the City of Tomah on a 173 acre campus. This large medical facility serves veterans in northern, central and southwestern Wisconsin and the bordering counties in Iowa, Minnesota, and Michigan. Primary care is provided at the medical center in Tomah as well as community clinics in Loyal, Wausau, Wisconsin Rapids, and La Crosse. Inpatient and specialty programs are also offered at Tomah, a 331 bed facility. The medical center consists of 86 hospital beds, 200 nursing home care beds, and a 45-bed psychiatric residential treatment program.

The Tomah VAMC has several inter-agency agreements with the Department of the Army, Navy and Air Force

through which Tomah clinicians provide medical, psychiatric and dental services. Under one of these Veterans Administration - Department of Defense sharing agreements, the Tomah VAMC manages and operates the Troop Medical Clinic at Fort McCoy. They provide same day primary care services for soldiers for acute injuries and minor illnesses, and routine primary care appointments including dental. The Tomah VAMC also manages Fort McCoy's troop medical clinic including laboratory and imaging. As a result of these services the Tomah VAMC is an active participant in the Department of Defense's Tricare insurance plans. In addition, the Tomah VAMC works in concert with the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of the Army to create an innovative on site 70-bed Veterans Assistance Center for homeless veterans. Tomah VAMC also has sharing agreements for space and services with Tomah area hospitals, city recreation departments and other private sector institutions. Tomah VAMC is an active participant in CHAMPVA and the TRICARE Mental Health Contract.



The Tomah VA Hospital not only provides medical services to veterans but also manages Fort McCoy's medical clinic

Another service the Tomah VAMC provides that benefits Fort McCoy is fire protection. A mutual aid agreement has been approved between the VAMC Fire Department and the Fort McCoy Fire Department.

The La Crosse Medical Health Science Consortium was formed in 1993 with the goal of enhancing health care, strengthening medical health science education, and encouraging applied research. As discussed in Chapter 6, the consortium is comprised of two regional medical systems and three institutions of higher education: Franciscan Skemp Healthcare/Mayo Health System, Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center; the

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Viterbo University, and Western Wisconsin Technical College. The consortium's health initiatives are focused on reducing adult illiteracy, regional educational healthcare programming, minimizing workforce shortages and bio-terrorism preparedness.

Logistics Health Incorporated (LHI) is a private corporation, headquartered in La Crosse, Wisconsin, that focuses on serving the needs of various government agencies with medical readiness as its core business. LHI is the leading provider of medical readiness for the U.S. military reserve components, clinician information services for the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Department of Defense (DOD), asset visibility, temperature control and distribution of vaccines for the government. In recent years, LHI assisted the CDC to implement the Anthrax Vaccine and Antibiotic Availability Program, developed a national call center to support the smallpox vaccination program, and LHI monitors Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), West Nile Virus, and monkeypox. LHI has recently committed to the construction of a \$11.4 million corporate center in downtown La Crosse that will employ approximately 500 employees.

The Fort McCoy Region's healthcare institutions, educational facilities/programs and medical/healthcare businesses clearly demonstrate that healthcare and medical research are one of the region's strengths. The commitment of the region's healthcare providers with new state of the art facilities is a clear indication that high quality healthcare will continue to be available in the region.