The internship at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center is comprised of an orientation period followed by two 16-week rotations (Adult Outpatient Behavioral Health and Psycho-diagnostic Assessment), and two 8-week rotations (Behavioral Health in Primary Care/Behavioral Sleep Medicine and Inpatient assessment and intervention), the overarching trans-rotation experience which is 12 months, operational training trips, and didactic presentations to include the Psychiatry Grand Rounds series and other military-specific didactic training.

Interns receive training from the Center for Deployment Psychology (CDP), associated with the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, MD. CDP provides training in empirically supported treatment (both Prolonged Exposure and Cognitive Processing Therapy) for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Didactic training during the internship includes lectures, seminars, and Psychiatry Grand Rounds, sequenced in order to build on the training already received in graduate studies. Didactics include topics relevant to the general practice of clinical psychology (including professional ethics), topics more specific to the practice of clinical psychology in the military, and ongoing education related to professional development as a Navy psychologist and naval officer.

Training trips include, whenever possible, approximately one week providing psychological services aboard a major Navy combat vessel at sea, giving the interns a firsthand overview of life and clinical issues in the Navy Fleet. Additionally, interns will visit either Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA to observe training and health service delivery in a Marine Corps Unit.

The Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, a large tertiary care hospital, offers a full range of administrative assistance opportunities. Interns have identified office space and are provided with laptop computers. The Medical Center’s medical library includes a range of journals, books, and electronic search capabilities related to the practice of psychology, as well as staff
assistance with online literature searches.

The training manual for the Walter Reed, Bethesda internship can be found at: http://www.wrnmmc.capmed.mil/ResearchEducation/GME/SitePages/Psychology/Internship.aspx

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