



A Look Inside the NICU and OB/GYN Departments



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Introduction

I spent a month shadowing many neonatologists, pediatricians and obstetricians throughout a military hospital. I spent one week shadowing the NICU team, and three weeks rotating through the OB/GYN clinic, Labor and Delivery and the operating room.



Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) bed for infants. These beds are thermoregulated, with humidity settings as well. Image from <http://kpfamilybirthcenter.org/nicu>



Labor and delivery operating room: Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada. Image from <https://www.nellis.af.mil/News/Art/igphoto/2000850620/>

Site Information:

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center

8901 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20889

Dr. Strickland (LCDR)

WRNMMC provides innovative care and leads the world by transforming the teaching and practice of military medicine

Issues within the hospital:

Some cases were more testing than others, posing challenges for the healthcare team. Some patients were faced with tragedy, while others were faced with difficult decisions. It is a job in which not every patient will survive. Communication was a vital tool.

Personal Impact:

As a pre-health student it reassured my desire to become a physician and strengthened my passion for medicine.



Outside of a surgical operating room at WRNMMC. Taken prior to surgery one of four on a Friday morning.

Activities:

Each day held a new and exciting opportunity to learn. I was able to shadow multiple doctors and follow many patients. While in the NICU I was able to sit in rounds, help with new admissions and observe during high risk deliveries and cesarean sections. While in OB/GYN clinic I was able to meet several patients all at different stages in pregnancy. During my OR rotation I was able to watch multiple surgeries including those using laparoscopic techniques and with some of the newest medical equipment such as the Da Vinci.

Acknowledgments:

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Future Work:

I was inspired by the team of healthcare professionals working together to help patients. The military healthcare system works differently than the civilian one and was a unique experience I was able to be a part of. I hope that one day I will have the opportunity to serve in a healthcare team like at WRNMMC.

