

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY**

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## **DoD, DRA to Host Medical Clinics to Promote Wellness in Alabama**

*Daily clinics will be held in Monroeville, Thomasville*

**ALABAMA BLACK BELT** – The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and Delta Regional Authority (DRA) will hold two no-cost healthcare missions that will deliver medical, dental and optical care to residents across the region. The sessions will be held in Monroeville and Thomasville, Ala., from May 28-June 4. You do not have to be an area resident to receive treatment; anyone who attends will receive care on a first-come, first-served basis. Sessions will be held daily from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

“DRA, along with our partners at DoD, is glad to assist the Alabama Wellness Mission in providing quality healthcare services at no cost to area residents,” said DRA Chairman Chris Caldwell. “While helping Delta residents receive valuable healthcare services, the Mission also provides vital field training for our men and women in uniform, strengthening the relationship between Delta residents and members of our military.”

“This Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program provides real-world training opportunities for our service members to utilize the skillsets within their military occupational specialties while supporting the needs of American communities,” said Major Nathan DeVoe, 3<sup>rd</sup> Medical Command IRT Project Manager. “Our service members are excited to be supporting Alabama Black Belt residents and building stronger communities and connecting Americans to the U.S. Military.”

The Monroeville clinic will be located at Monroe County High School, 212 Tiger Drive. The Thomasville clinic will be located at Thomasville High School, 777 Gates Drive. Services provided will include non-emergency medical treatments and screenings, dental cleanings, fillings, tooth extractions, eye exams and single-vision prescription glasses. In addition to receiving medical services, residents will be able to obtain information at clinic sites about local healthcare services, public health programs, resources and general healthcare information to promote continued wellness.

No appointments are necessary at either location, though residents are encouraged to arrive early to ensure an opening for services. For more information, those interested in

care can call 202-434-4870. **Residents do not need to call ahead. All they have to do is show up at the location.**

"The Alabama Wellness Mission is a win-win program for our state and our nation's military," **said Governor Kay Ivey, (R-AL.)** "Residents of west Alabama will have access to no-cost basic healthcare, and military members will receive valuable hands-on training. I am thankful for this program and the benefits it will bring to those who live in Monroeville, Thomasville and surrounding areas."

"I hope residents in Southwest Alabama will take advantage of this excellent program organized by the Delta Regional Authority and the Department of Defense. Residents will get access to free medical care while providing valuable training for our nation's military medical professionals," **said Congressman Bradley Byrne, (AL-01).** "I appreciate the Delta Regional Authority for helping promote wellness in our local communities and for all the work they do for our region."

"The Alabama Wellness mission is a no-cost opportunity for families in Alabama's rural Black Belt to get the medical services they need to stay healthy," **said Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell, (AL-07).** "This mission also provides valuable field training for our men and women in uniform, who will have the chance to practice and build the skills they have learned through their service. Thank you to the Delta Regional Authority and the Department of Defense for teaming up to connect rural Americans with the healthcare they need."

"It was a wonderful day when Monroe County was awarded the Innovative Readiness Program. What a wonderful partnership between the Delta Regional Authority and the Monroe County Commission to be able to offer these outstanding medical services at NO COST to our communities," **said Monroe County Probate Judge Greg Norris.** "Many local businesses and volunteers are coming together to make this IRT mission a success. We are grateful to the Delta Regional Authority and the many ways they strive to improve our communities. They positively impact people's lives!!"

"Hosting this medical exercise in Thomasville is a Godsend for our community and our citizens!," **said Thomasville Mayor Sheldon Day.** "One of the biggest challenges for citizens in our region is access to adequate healthcare. This exercise brings the care to them!"

Joint IRT missions involving the military and DRA have been conducted for nine years and have delivered medical services to 80,000 Delta residents in 16 rural communities.

In June, the military and DRA will conduct another IRT mission in Harrisburg, Illinois.

**About the Delta Regional Authority**

The Delta Regional Authority is a federal-state partnership created by Congress in 2000 to help create jobs, build communities, and improve lives through strategic investments in economic development in 252 counties and parishes across eight states. To date, the DRA's SEDAP investments, together with its state and local partners, have leveraged more than \$3.7 billion in public and private investment into local small business owners, entrepreneurs, workers, and infrastructure development projects. These investments have helped create or retain more than 37,000 jobs, trained more than 3,700 workers for 21<sup>st</sup> Century jobs and provided water and sewer service to more than 66,000 residents since DRA was established. Learn more at [dra.gov](http://dra.gov).

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