

The Office of Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DOD), announced today that on March 1, 2001, a Federal grand jury in Springfield, MO, returned a superseding indictment against Dr. Forrest H. Braack, a clinical psychologist practicing in Waynesville, MO. Braack was charged in the 24-count indictment with 12 counts of health care fraud and 12 counts of making false applications for payments to Medicaid. The criminal charges relate to allegations that Braack submitted false and fraudulent claims to Government funded insurance programs, including TRICARE, Medicare and the Missouri Medicaid program.

According to the indictment, Braack enriched himself by submitting claims for services, which he knew to be false. The alleged schemes included billing for services when either Braack and/or the patients were out of town, billing for more than 30 hours a day on multiple occasions, and billing as though he provided services to patients. Some of the medical claims charged in the indictment were submitted when Braack was in the hospital for complications and eventual surgery relating to his gallbladder.

If convicted, Braack could face 10 years in custody for each count of health care fraud and 5 years in jail for each count of making a false application for payment to Medicare. Braack could also be ordered to pay a \$250,000 fine on each of the 12 health care counts and up to a \$1 million fine for each of the 12 counts of making a false application to Medicaid.