

The Office of Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DOD), announced today that on March 16, 2001, Dr. Russell Bufalino and Dr. Robert Hartzel were sentenced in U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida, Tampa, FL. The sentences were based on guilty pleas for conspiring to defraud the TRICARE and Medicare health care programs by making or receiving kickback payments for patient referrals. Bufalino and Hartzel each were sentenced to 36 months probation, 150 hours of community service, \$500 restitution, \$10,000 fine and a \$100 special assessment fee.