

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on Wednesday, August 30, 2000, Dr. Joel J. Lang, Podiatrist, living in Cheverly, Maryland, pled guilty in the United States District Court, District of Maryland, Southern Division, to one of count mail fraud relating to the submission of fraudulent health care billings.

Lang was originally indicted on June 19, 2000, charging him with ten counts of mail fraud. The indictment was unsealed on the aforementioned date and dismissed after the plea was accepted by the court. The indictment disclosed that Lang and his company, Dr. Joel J. Lang, D.P.M., P.A., a professional services corporation Riverdale, Maryland, submitted claims for non-covered, routine podiatry services to insurance companies, to include TRICARE and Medicare. At the time of the fraudulent conduct TRICARE was known as the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS). Investigation disclosed that Lang submitted these claims by disguising the Current Physicians Terminology Codes to reflect covered services when, in fact, non-covered services were being rendered.

Sentencing is scheduled for Monday, November 20, 2000. Lang faces a maximum sentence of up to five years imprisonment, up to three years of supervised release, a fine of \$ 250,000, a \$ 100 special assessment fee, in addition to restitution.