

The Office of Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on March 20, 2001, Romulo D. Estoesta, Republic of the Philippines, was sentenced in U.S. District Court, Western District of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, to 18 months incarceration followed by 3 years supervised release. Estoesta was also ordered to pay \$192,383 in restitution and a \$50 special assessment fee.

On October 20, 1999, a Federal Grand Jury indicted Estoesta on nine counts of mail fraud and one count of submitting false claims to TRICARE. On January 4, 2001, Estoesta pled guilty to one count of submitting false claims to TRICARE.

The sentence was the result of an investigation that determined Estoesta, a retired U.S. Navy veteran residing in the Republic of the Philippines, submitted three false claims to the TRICARE health care program for services allegedly rendered to himself and his dependents. Wisconsin Physicians Service, Madison, WI, a fiscal intermediary for the TRICARE program, processed the false claims on behalf of TRICARE. The payments for the fraudulent claims totaled \$192,383.