

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on August 9, 2001, a Federal grand jury in San Diego, CA, returned a 15-count indictment against Rick A. Shacker, Doctor of Osteopath (D.O.), for allegedly filing false corporate and personal Federal income tax returns, tax evasion, and conspiracy. In addition, Dr. Shacker was indicted on 11 counts of alleged mail fraud and 12 counts of allegedly filing false claims submitted to TRICARE.

The indictment was the result of an investigation that disclosed Shacket, owner of the Hemorrhoid Care Medical Clinic and San Diego Medical Associates, San Diego, CA, allegedly submitted hundreds of fraudulent claims to the TRICARE program to increase his reimbursements. In addition, Shacket allegedly conspired with his former attorney to set up bogus businesses and a false identity to avoid paying his 1994-1997 personal and corporate Federal income taxes. The total amount of the diverted funds improperly deducted on Shacket's tax returns was \$546,350.

If convicted on any of the conspiracy, mail fraud, filing false claims, or tax evasion charges, Shacket faces a maximum sentence of 5 years in prison and a fine not to exceed \$250,000 per count. If convicted on any of the filing a false tax return charges, Shacket faces a maximum sentence of 3 years in prison and a fine not to exceed \$250,000 per count.