

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on November 27, 2001, Rick Robison, Salt Lake City, UT, appeared for sentencing before Judge Ted Stewart in U.S. District Court, District of Utah. Judge Stewart sentenced Robison to 6 months home detention, 36 months probation, a fine of \$24,594.58, restitution of \$7,503.48 and a special assessment of \$100. Robison is a former Doctor of Optometry (OD) and owner of Eye Care Utah. Robison previously pled guilty to one count of false statements related to health care benefit programs.

The investigation disclosed that on July 10, 2000, Robison surrendered his license to practice optometry as a result of a prior prescription fraud conviction. However, Robison continued to practice as an OD without a license as corroborated by a Department of Occupational and Professional Licensing (DOPL) undercover operation and interviews of TRICARE and Medicare beneficiaries and former Eye Care of Utah employees.

Robison gave the Eye Care of Utah staff specific instructions to fraudulently bill a variety of insurance carriers, to include Medicare, Medicaid and TRICARE, in order to maintain and increase revenue to the clinic as a result of the surrender of his license