UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

JUN 2 2011

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed semiannual report provides the current status of the Department of Defense Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration as requested by explanatory material to section 732 of the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying S. 3001, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. Specifically, this report includes: 1) the number of autistic children served; 2) the type and frequency of services provided; 3) the number of available providers by region; and 4) whether reimbursement levels are sufficient to retain qualified providers in TRICARE networks. The report also includes demonstration cost information for FY 2010. Current results indicate a continued increase in participation in the demonstration by providers and TRICARE beneficiaries.

A similar letter has been sent to the Chairmen of the other congressional defense committees. Thank you for your interest in the health and well-being of our Service members, veterans, and their families.

Sincerely,

Clifford L. Stanley

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

JAN 2 2011

The Honorable Jim Webb
Chairman, Subcommittee on Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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cc:
The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member

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PERSONNEL AND
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JUN 2 2011

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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As stated

cc:
The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman

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PERSONNEL AND
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JUN 2 2011

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
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Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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Vice Chairman

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PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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As stated

cc:
The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

The Honorable Joe Wilson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Military Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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As stated

cc:
The Honorable Susan A. Davis
Ranking Member

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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As stated

cc:
The Honorable Norman D. Dicks
Ranking Member

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

The Honorable C. W. Bill Young
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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The Honorable Norman D. Dicks
Ranking Member

Report to Congress

Semiannual Report on the Status of the Department of Defense
Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration

Preparation of this study/report cost the Department of Defense a total of approximately $5,891 for the 2011 Fiscal Year.
RefID: 1-D622C73

REPORT TO CONGRESS

STATUS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ENHANCED ACCESS TO AUTISM SERVICES DEMONSTRATION

INTRODUCTION

This semiannual report is in response to explanatory material to section 732 in the Joint Explanatory Statement to accompany S. 3001, the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. The Joint Explanatory Statement requested the Secretary provide an initial report to Congress not later than 90 days after the enactment of S. 3001 and semiannually thereafter on the status of implementation of the TRICARE demonstration.

BACKGROUND

In response to section 717 of the John Warner NDAA for FY 2007, the Department of Defense implemented the Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration ("Demonstration") on March 15, 2008. This project tests the feasibility of expanding the pool of providers of autism treatment services to include those not meeting the strict guidelines of the current departmental regulations.

To increase access and test the advisability and feasibility of authorizing TRICARE reimbursement for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services delivered by non-professional providers, the Department developed and implemented the Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration. The key feature of the Demonstration is providing Educational Interventions for Autism Spectrum Disorders (EIA) by a two-tiered delivery model:

- BACB-Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) and BACB-Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts (BCaBA) as "supervisors" who have a contractual relationship with TRICARE, either individually or as an employee of a TRICARE-authorized provider; and

- Non-certified individuals, i.e., "Tutors" as the "hands-on" providers of ABA under the supervision of a BCBA or BCaBA.

The Demonstration was initially implemented on March 15, 2008. Administrative requirements of the Demonstration were substantially revised and implemented on September 10, 2008. In addition, section 732 of the NDAA for FY 2009 increased the limit of government liability for certain benefits, including Special Education, from $2,500 per month to $36,000 per year. That change was implemented on April 1, 2009.

RESULTS

The following information for the period October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2010, is based on contractors' reports and claims processed under the Demonstration.

Region	Number of Beneficiaries Enrolled in Demonstration	Providers		Hours of EIA Services Provided[1] (000s)	Cost of EIA Services Provided[2] (Dollars in Millions)
		Supervisors	Tutors		
North	578	198	685	129.3	7.3
South	496	335	869	130.3	6.5
West	1,186	452	3,370	339.8	17.3
TOTALS	**2,260**	**985**	**4,924**	**599.4**	**31.1**
Increase over FY 2009	**82.7%**	**57.1%**	**69.2%**	**183.1%**	**196.2%**

CONCLUSION

As evidenced in our previous reports and the above information, participation by beneficiaries and providers continues to increase steadily. We believe these increases reflect that reimbursement rates are acceptable to providers and this is allowing for increased capacity to meet the needs of enrolled TRICARE beneficiaries.

[1] Does not include: ASD-related diagnostic services provided outside the Demonstration, development of EIA Progress Reports and Updated Behavior Plans, and Supervisors' meetings with beneficiaries' primary caregivers.

[2] Claims processed through December 31, 2010.