DENTAL OFFICER ACCESSION BONUS

A. Eligibility: To be eligible for the accession bonus, an individual must:

1. Be a graduate of an American Dental Association accredited dental school.

2. Be fully qualified to hold an appointment as a commissioned officer.

3. Execute a written agreement to accept a commission as an officer of the Dental Corps of the Army or the Navy, or as an officer of the Air Force designated as a dental officer, to serve on Active Duty for a period of not less than four years, upon the acceptance of the agreement by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned. An individual who holds an appointment as a dental officer in either the Active Duty or Reserve Component is not eligible for the accession bonus. A former dental officer who does not hold an appointment, and is otherwise eligible, must have been discharged from any Uniformed Service at least two years prior to execution of the written agreement to receive the accession bonus.

4. Not have received financial assistance from the Department of Defense to pursue a course of study in dentistry in exchange for an agreement to accept an appointment as a dental officer. This includes, but is not limited to, participants of the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program and Financial Assistance Program.

5. Be qualified to become and remain certified and licensed as a dentist, as determined by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned.

B. Bonus Authorized: The Secretary of the Military Department concerned may award an accession bonus to an eligible individual in an amount that shall not exceed $75,000. Eligible individuals who sign a written agreement, on or after October 1, 2007, to serve on Active Duty in exchange for receiving the accession bonus are authorized to receive the accession bonus.

C. Recoupment:

1. An officer who receives an accession bonus and who fails to become and remain certified or licensed as a dentist during the period for which the payment is made shall refund to the United States an amount equal to the full amount of such payment.

2. An officer who voluntarily terminates service on Active Duty before the end of the obligated period shall refund to the United States the unserved portion of that payment. An obligation to reimburse the United States under paragraph C is, for all purposes, a debt owed to the United States.

D. Bankruptcy: A discharge in bankruptcy under Title 11 that is entered less than five years after the termination of an accession bonus agreement does not discharge a person from a debt arising under such agreement or paragraph C. This provision applies to any case commenced under Title 11 after October 1, 2004.

F. Responsibilities: The individual Military Departments shall be responsible for establishing procedures for the administration of the dental officer accession bonus that shall be consistently applied to all officers in similar circumstances.

G. Authority: The Dental Officer Accession Bonus is under the authority of 37 United States Code 302h.

DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT DIVISION

REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL HEALTH AFFAIRS POLICY AND WEB POSTING

Subject: FY 08 POLICY for DENTAL OFFICER ACCESSION BONUS

DOCS Open: 136105, 138461

Action Office/Action Officer: RICH FRANCO, TMA/OCFO

Phone: 703·681·4321

CHIEF OF STAFF DECISION:

Upon signature, assign a Health Affairs policy number and post on the MHS Web site.

Approved: [signature] 10·29·07

Disapproved: _____