

costs will be calculated by multiplying the billed charge of each claim by the hospital's cost-to-charge ratio, and then adding 1% to that amount.

#### B. Current Status of Access

CAH providers in Alaska have notified the Department that they are considering no longer treating military beneficiaries due to low payment rates. The alternatives to local purchase of services for military officials are to transport patients to Seattle or another location for treatment, or to relocate scarce military medical assets to Alaska to provide services. The first is an expensive proposition that brings with it considerable lost duty time and other complications; the second approach is untenable in wartime, and as a practical matter medical practice in Alaska would not provide sufficient opportunity for military medical specialists to maintain their skills.

#### C. Description of Expansion of Demonstration Project

Under this demonstration, DoD will also waive, for services provided in the State of Alaska, the provisions of 10 U.S.C. 1079(j)(2), as implemented by 32 CFR 199.14(a) that do not exempt CAH providers from the Medicare Diagnostic Related Group payment methodology for inpatient services. Instead, CAHs will be reimbursed under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) payment methodology of 101 percent of reasonable costs for inpatient care and outpatient care.

This action will directly increase overall reimbursement levels for CAH providers, and is expected to result in increased access to care for military beneficiaries; reduced travel to Seattle, accompanied by a reduction in lost duty days; and improved morale for military members and families as a result of increased access and reduced separation.

#### D. Implementation

The expansion of the demonstration will be effective for inpatient admissions on and after July 1, 2007 and for outpatient services provided on and after July 1, 2007.

#### E. Evaluation

An independent evaluation of the demonstration will be conducted. The evaluation will be designed to use a combination of administrative and survey measures of health care access to provide analyses and comment on the effectiveness of the demonstration in meeting its goal of improving beneficiary access to healthcare by

maximizing the potential pool of healthcare providers in Alaska.

Dated: July 24, 2007.

**L.M. Bynum,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, DoD.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Defense Science Board

**AGENCY:** Department of Defense.

**ACTION:** Notice of Advisory Committee Meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Defense Science Board Task Force on Developmental Test and Evaluation will meet in closed session on August 22-23, 2007 and September 19-20, 2007 at Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), 4001 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA. These meetings will examine Test & Evaluation roles and responsibilities, policy and practices, and recommend changes that may contribute to improved success in Initial Operational Test and Evaluation along with quicker delivery of improved capability and sustainability to Warfighters.

The mission of the Defense Science Board is to advise the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics on scientific and technical matters as they affect the perceived needs of the Department of Defense. At these meetings, the Defense Science Board Task Force will assess: OSD organization roles and responsibilities for T&E oversight; changes required to establish statutory authority for OSD DT&E oversight, and recommend improvements in the DT&E process to discover sustainability problems earlier, and thus improve likelihood of operational sustainability in IOT&E.

The task force's findings and recommendations, pursuant to 41 CFR 102-3.140 through 102-3.165, will be presented and discussed by the membership of the Defense Science Board prior to being presented to the Government's decisionmaker.

Pursuant to 41 CFR 102-3.120 and 102-3.150, the Designated Federal Officer for the Defense Science Board will determine and announce in the **Federal Register** when the findings and recommendations of the May 31, 2007 meeting are deliberated by the Defense Science Board.

Interested persons may submit a written statement for consideration by

the Defense Science Board. Individuals submitting a written statement must submit their statement to the Designated Federal Official at the address detailed below, at any point, however, if a written statement is not received at least 10 calendar days prior to the meeting, which is the subject of this notice, then it may not be provided to or considered by the Defense Science Board. The Designated Federal Official will review all timely submissions with the Defense Science Board Chairperson, and ensure they are provided to members of the Defense Science Board before the meeting that is the subject of this notice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** MAJ Chad Lominac, USAF, Defense Science Board, 3140 Defense Pentagon, Room 3C553, Washington, DC 20301-3140, via e-mail at [charles.lominac@osd.mil](mailto:charles.lominac@osd.mil), or via phone at (703) 571-0081.

Dated: July 23, 2007.

**L.M. Bynum,**

*OSD Federal Register, Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Defense Science Board

**AGENCY:** Department of Defense.

**ACTION:** Notice of Advisory Committee Meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Defense Science Board Task Force on Defense Industrial Structure for Transformation will meet in closed session on August 14, 2007, at Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), 4001 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA. This meeting will characterize the degree of changed needed in industry due to the changing nature of DoD and the industrial Base. It will also examine the effectiveness of existing mitigation measures and make recommendations to ensure future competition and innovation throughout all tiers of the defense industrial base. The briefing will contain proprietary material and ensuing discussions will be at the collateral secret level.

The mission of the Defense Science Board is to advise the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics on scientific and technical matters as they affect the perceived needs of the Department of Defense. At the meeting, the Defense Science Board Task Force will: describe the defense industry required to cope with the international security environment in