

Dated: April 14, 2008.

**Patricia L. Toppings,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Nationwide TRICARE Demonstration Project

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)/TRICARE Management Activity, Department of Defense.

**ACTION:** Notice Extending Deadline for Demonstration Project.

**SUMMARY:** On November 5, 2001, the Department of Defense (DoD) published a notice of a Nationwide TRICARE Demonstration Project (66 FR 55928-55930). On October 1, 2004, DoD published a notice (69 FR 58895) to extend the demonstration through October 31, 2005. On October 12, 2005, DoD published a notice (70 FR 59320) to extend the demonstration through October 31, 2007. On June 19, 2007, the Department published a notice (72 FR 33742) to extend the demonstration through October 31, 2008. On August 22, 2006, the Department published a proposed rule to implement sections 704 and 705 of the Ronald Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005, and is in the process of promulgating the final rule.

The demonstration is also referred to as the Operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom Reservist and National Guard Benefits Demonstration. This notice is to advise interested parties of the continuation of the demonstration in which the DoD Military Health System addresses unreasonable impediments to the continuity of health care encountered by certain family members of Reservists and National Guardsmen called to Active Duty in support of a Federal/contingency operation. The demonstration scheduled to end on October 31, 2008, is now extended through October 31, 2009.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), TRICARE Management Activity, TRICARE Policy and Operations Directorate, at (703) 681-0039.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The continued activation of Reserve Component members in support of Noble Eagle/Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom

warrants the continuation of the demonstration to support the health care needs and morale of family members of activated reservists and guardsmen. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2005 amended existing statutes to authorize the Secretary of Defense to provide these benefits permanently by regulation. The demonstration needs to be extended to allow sufficient time to complete the rule-making process. The impact, if the demonstration is not extended before the regulation is completed, includes higher out-of-pocket costs and potential inability of beneficiaries to continue to use the same provider for ongoing care. There are three separate components to the demonstration. First, those who participate in TRICARE Standard will not be responsible for paying the TRICARE Standard deductible. By law, the TRICARE Standard deductible for Active Duty dependents is \$150 per individual and \$300 per family (\$50/\$150 for E-4's and below).

The second component extends TRICARE payments up to 115 percent of the TRICARE maximum allowable charge, less the applicable patient co-payment, for care received from a provider that does not participate (accept assignment) under TRICARE to the extent necessary to ensure timely access to care and clinically appropriate continuity of care.

Third, the demonstration authorizes a waiver of the non-availability statement requirement of nonemergency inpatient care. This demonstration project is being conducted under the authority of 10 U.S.C. 1092. This demonstration is extended through October 31, 2009.

Dated: April 14, 2008.

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Air Force

#### U.S. Air Force Academy Board of Visitors Meeting

**AGENCY:** Department of the Air Force, U.S. Air Force Academy Board of Visitors.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355, the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) Board of Visitors (BoV) will meet in the Rayburn House Building, Washington, DC, on 8 May 2008. The purpose of this meeting is to review morale and

discipline, curriculum, instruction, physical equipment, fiscal affairs, academic methods, and other matters relating to the Academy. Meeting sessions will begin at 9 a.m. on 8 May 2008, in room 2105 of the Rayburn House Building, Washington, DC.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b, as amended, and 41 CFR 102-3.155, the Department of Defense has determined that a portion of this meeting shall be closed to the public. The Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force, in consultation with the Office of the Air Force General Counsel, has determined that one portion of this meeting be closed to the public because it will involve matters covered by subsection (c)(6) of 5 U.S.C. 552b.

Public attendance at the open portions of this USAFA BoV meeting shall be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis up to the reasonable and safe capacity of the meeting room. In addition, any member of the public wishing to provide input to the USAFA BoV should submit a written statement in accordance with 41 CFR 102-3.140(c) and section 10(a)(3) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and the procedures described in this paragraph. Written statements must address the following details: the issue, discussion, and a recommended course of action. Supporting documentation may also be included as needed to establish the appropriate historical context and provide any necessary background information. Written statements can be submitted to the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) at the address detailed below at any time. However, if a written statement is not received at least 10 days before the first day of the meeting which is the subject of this notice, then it may not be provided to, or considered by, the BoV until its next open meeting. The DFO will review all timely submissions with the BoV Chairperson and ensure they are provided to members of the BoV before the meeting that is the subject of this notice. For the benefit of the public, rosters that list the names of BoV members and any releasable materials presented during open portions of this BoV meeting shall be made available upon request.

If, after review of timely submitted written comments, the BoV Chairperson and DFO deem appropriate, they may choose to invite the submitter of the written comments to orally present their issue during an open portion of the BoV meeting that is the subject of this notice. Members of the BoV may also petition the Chairperson to allow specific persons to make oral presentations before the BoV. Any oral presentations