



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1200

JAN 29 2001

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE

SUBJECT: Policy for Implementation of the Pharmacy Officer Accession Bonus

Attached is policy guidance for the Pharmacy Officer Accession Bonus, in accordance with the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, signed into law October 30, 2000. The Secretary of each Department concerned shall establish implementing guidance based on each Department's own accession requirements and capabilities.

The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall ensure their implementing guidance is promulgated within ten working days upon receipt of this memorandum, with a copy to Health Affairs. My point of contact for special pay issues is Major James Wooten, (703) 681-7894.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jarrett Clinton".

J. Jarrett Clinton, MD, MPH
Acting Assistant Secretary

Attachment:
As stated

cc:
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management Policy)
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs)
Surgeon General of the Army
Surgeon General of the Navy
Surgeon General of the Air Force
Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service
Defense Finance and Accounting Service

HA POLICY: 0000009

PHARMACY OFFICER ACCESSION BONUS

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

1. Be a graduate of an accredited school of pharmacy.
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 Medical Service Corps of the Army or the Navy, or as an officer of the Biomedical Science Corps of the Air Force, and to serve on active duty for a period of not less than four years. An individual who holds an appointment as a pharmacy officer in either the active or Reserve component is not eligible for the accession bonus. A former pharmacy officer who no longer holds 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 or the Department of Health and Human Services to pursue a course of study in pharmacy in exchange for an agreement to accept an appointment as a pharmacy 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 licensed or registered as a pharmacist, as determined by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned.

B. Bonus Authorized: The Secretary of the Military Department concerned may, upon acceptance of the written agreement described in paragraph A.3., pay an accession bonus to an eligible individual in an amount that shall not exceed \$30,000. Eligible individuals who sign a written agreement, on or after October 30, 2000, 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 pharmacist 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.

3. 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 30, 2000.

E. Termination Authority: The authority to execute a Pharmacy Officer Accession Bonus agreement expires September 30, 2004.

F. Responsibilities: The individual Military Departments shall be responsible for establishing procedures for the administration of Pharmacy Officer Accession Bonuses that shall be consistently applied to all officers in similar circumstances. The Department of Health and Human Services will promulgate corresponding policy and procedures for USPHS officers.

G. Authority: The Pharmacy Officer Accession Bonus is under the authority of 37 U.S.C. 302j, as added by section 628 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Pub. L. No. 106-398, October 30, 2000).