THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUN 8 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (SAF/MR)
DIRECTOR, RESERVE AND TRAINING, USCG

SUBJECT: Policy for Enrollment of Reserve Component Members and their Eligible Family Members under Section 703 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004

This memorandum prescribes policy for enrollment of Reserve Component (RC) members and their families who become entitled to TRICARE because they receive a delayed-effective-date order to active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation, pursuant to section 703 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004. This memorandum is intended to provide additional policy information pursuant to the January 7, 2004 Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness) memorandum, "Health Care Benefits for Reserve Component Members and Their Dependents: Second Addendum to Mobilization/Demobilization Personnel and Pay Policy for Reserve Component Members Ordered to Active Duty in Response to the World Trade Center and Pentagon Attacks."

Reserve Component members must ensure that their Defense Eligibility Enrollment Recording System (DEERS) information is correct at all times. The residential address in DEERS should reflect the RC member's residence at time of activation or receipt of delayed-effective-date activation orders.

Enrollment Policy for Reserve Component Members

Upon establishment of eligibility for benefits under section 703, as referenced in the January 7, 2004 memorandum, RC members shall be provided health care in the direct care system or by reimbursement through supplemental care rules depending on the subsequent status of the RC member. RC members will not be enrolled into TRICARE Prime unless, and until, they reach their final duty station location. Enrollment in TRICARE Prime will be performed in accordance with one of the four following scenarios:

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- The member may report to active duty, pass medical/dental screening, continue on active duty, and report to a duty station inside the fifty United States. In this scenario, normal enrollment procedures are to be followed for the zip code of that duty station, and the member will take action to enroll in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Prime Remote.

- The member may report to active duty, pass medical/dental screening, continue on active duty, and report to a duty station outside the fifty United States. In this scenario, the member will remain eligible for TRICARE, obtain care in accordance with normal procedures overseas, and not enroll in TRICARE Prime unless directed to enroll into one of the appropriate TRICARE Prime overseas programs by the overseas TRICARE Area Offices in accordance with Service Guidance.

- The member may report to active duty and their orders may be terminated for failing to pass medical screening or for another reason. In this case, the member will lose TRICARE eligibility upon release to an inactive reserve status. No enrollment action in TRICARE Prime will have occurred in this scenario.

- The member's delayed-effective-date orders may be cancelled before the reporting date. In this scenario, the member will lose TRICARE eligibility upon the cancellation date. No enrollment action in TRICARE Prime will have occurred in this scenario.

Enrollment Policy for Family Members

Upon establishment of eligibility for benefits for RC sponsors under section 703 as described, their family members will become eligible for health care coverage under TRICARE Standard and the TRICARE Reserve Family Member Demonstration, which waives their TRICARE Standard deductible and enables higher payments to nonparticipating providers. Following normal procedures for persons newly eligible for TRICARE, family members who reside inside the fifty United States will be offered the opportunity to enroll in TRICARE Prime, or TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members (TPRADFM) if residing in a TRICARE Prime Remote zip code. Family members who reside outside the fifty United States will follow the appropriate enrollment procedures for the overseas programs. To be eligible for TPRADFM, eligible family members had to reside with the RC member before activation or receipt of a delayed-effective-date activation order and continue to reside at that address; transfers of TPRADFM enrollment to another TRICARE Prime Remote site are not authorized.

Policy for Dental Coverage

In accordance with normal procedures, RC members who become eligible under section 703 for active duty benefits under TRICARE, and who are presently enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) will be automatically disenrolled from the TDP. Instead, they will receive the same dental services as all other active duty service members either from a military dental treatment facility (DTF) or from a civilian dentist under normal procedures followed by the Military Medical Support Office (MMSO). Family members of RC members who become eligible for TRICARE under section 703 may choose to enroll in the TDP at this time. For those family members who were enrolled in TDP prior to the delayed-effective-date, orders will automatically continue their enrollment at the lower active duty family member premium rate.

This policy is effective immediately. The TRICARE Management Activity will coordinate these changes with the Defense Manpower Data Center to ensure eligibility for TRICARE coverage is reflected accurately in DEERS and with our TRICARE contractors to ensure that TRICARE Prime enrollment actions are performed in accordance with this policy. Guidelines to provide specific details for Regional Directors, MTF Commanders, the MMSO, and Service Members in support of this policy will follow separately. My point of contact for this action is Dr. Jody Donehoo, TRICARE Management Activity, (703) 681-0039.

William Winkenwerder Jr.

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cc:
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