

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD) announced that on February 4, 2002, William S. Lewis M.D., pled guilty in U.S. District Court, Bridgeport, CT to a 3-count information charging him with fraud and false statements relating to the filing of both corporate and personal tax returns.

According to the criminal information, Lewis devised a scheme to divert payments received from attorney checks, workers compensation checks, insurance checks, and checks from others all made payable to his medical practice. Between the years 1993-1996, and as a result of this scheme, Lewis evaded the payment of \$795,976 on his personal and corporate income tax returns.

The investigation is the result of a 3-year undercover operation, code-named "Operation Overdraw." Overdraw established an undercover medical business that dealt with dozens of healthcare related companies in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey, suspected of engaging in fraudulent activities associated with Medicare, Medicaid, TRICARE and private insurance companies.

Lewis faces a maximum of 13 years imprisonment and fines totaling approximately \$1 million. Sentencing was scheduled for April 25, 2002.