



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

MAY 16 2012

The Honorable Carl Levin  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed semiannual report provides the current status of the Department of Defense Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration, as requested by explanatory material to section 732 of the Joint Explanatory Statement, accompanying S. 3001, the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. Autism services fall under my purview, and I have been asked to respond. While the report was due by April 30, 2012, it was delayed in our internal review process. I sincerely apologize for the delay.

Specifically, this report includes: 1) the number of autistic children served; 2) the type and frequency of services provided; 3) the number of available providers by region; and 4) whether reimbursement levels are sufficient to retain qualified providers in TRICARE networks. The report also includes demonstration cost information for FY 2011. Current results indicate continued increase in participation in the demonstration project by providers and TRICARE beneficiaries.

A similar letter has been sent to the Chairmen of the congressional defense committees. Thank you for your interest in the health and well-being of our Service members, veterans, and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Ann Rooney".

Jo Ann Rooney  
Acting

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc:  
The Honorable John McCain  
Ranking Member



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

MAY 16 2012

PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

The Honorable Jim Webb  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Personnel  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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Jo Ann Rooney  
Acting

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc:  
The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member



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PERSONNEL AND  
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MAY 16 2012

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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As stated

cc:  
The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Vice Chairman



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Vice Chairman



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PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeon  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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cc:  
The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member



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4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

MAY 16 2012

PERSONNEL AND  
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Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
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Enclosure:  
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cc:  
The Honorable Norman D. Dicks  
Ranking Member



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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND  
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MAY 16 2012

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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Ranking Member



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PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

April 16 2012

The Honorable Joe Wilson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Military Personnel  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

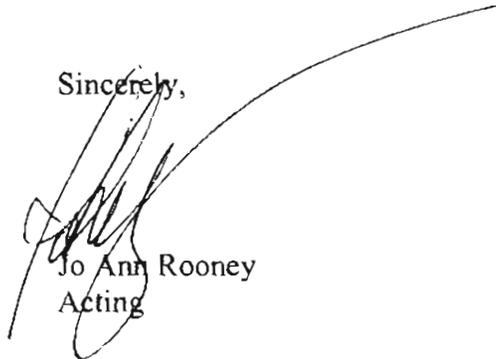
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Jo Ann Rooney  
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Enclosure:  
As stated

cc:  
The Honorable Susan A. Davis  
Ranking Member



# Report to Congress



## The Department of Defense Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration January 2012 Semiannual Report to Congress

**Requested by:** The Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying S. 3001, Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2009 the Proposal

Preparation of this study/report cost the Department of Defense a total of approximately \$8,100 for the 2012 Fiscal Year.  
RefID: 1-D622C73

# STATUS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ENHANCED ACCESS TO AUTISM SERVICES DEMONSTRATION

## INTRODUCTION

This semiannual report is in response to explanatory material to section 732 in the Joint Explanatory Statement to accompany S. 3001, the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. The Joint Explanatory Statement requested the Secretary provide an initial report to Congress not later than 90 days after the enactment of S. 3001 and semiannually thereafter on the status of implementation of the TRICARE demonstration.

## BACKGROUND

In response to section 717 of the John Warner NDAA for FY 2007, the Department of Defense implemented the Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration ("Demonstration") on March 15, 2008. This project tests the feasibility of expanding the pool of providers of autism treatment services to include those not meeting the strict guidelines of the current departmental regulations.

To increase access and test the advisability and feasibility of authorizing TRICARE reimbursement for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services delivered by non-professional providers, the Department developed and implemented the Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration. The key feature of the Demonstration is providing Educational Interventions for Autism Spectrum Disorders (EIA) by a two-tiered delivery model:

- Individuals certified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) at the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) or BACB Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) level as "supervisors" who have a contractual relationship with TRICARE, either individually or as an employee of a TRICARE-authorized provider; and
- Non-certified individuals, i.e., "Tutors" as the "hands-on" providers of ABA under the supervision of a BCBA or BCaBA.

The Demonstration was initially implemented on March 15, 2008. Administrative requirements of the Demonstration were substantially revised and implemented on September 10, 2008. In addition, section 732 of the NDAA for FY 2009 increased the limit of government liability for certain benefits, including Special Education, from \$2,500 per month to \$36,000 per year. That change was implemented on April 1, 2009.

## RESULTS

The following information for the period April 1, 2011, through September 30, 2011, is based on contractors' reports and claims processed under the Demonstration.

Region	Number of Beneficiaries Enrolled in Demonstration	Providers		Hours of EIA Services Provided <sup>1</sup> (000s)	Cost of EIA Services Provided <sup>2</sup> (Dollars in Millions)
		Supervisors	Tutors		
North	905	331	1091	119	6.3
South	758	567	1665	119	6.1
West	1745	719	5031	297	15.6
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3408</b>	<b>1617</b>	<b>7787</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>27.9</b>
Increase over Same Period in FY 2010 (1 April 2010- 30 September 2010)	21.2%	64.1%	58.1%	28.5%	50.0%

## CONCLUSION

As evidenced in our previous reports and the above information, participation by beneficiaries and providers continues to increase steadily. We believe these increases reflect that reimbursement rates are acceptable to providers and this is allowing for increased capacity to meet the needs of enrolled TRICARE beneficiaries.

<sup>1</sup> Does not include: ASD-related diagnostic services provided outside the Demonstration, development of EIA Progress Reports and Updated Behavior Plans, and Supervisors' meetings with beneficiaries' primary caregivers.

<sup>2</sup> Claims data were processed from the Medical Data Repository on January 2, 2012.



110TH CONGRESS  
2d Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HASC No.  
10

DUNCAN HUNTER  
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

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COMMITTEE PRINT

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

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JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

TO ACCOMPANY

S. 3001



SEPTEMBER 2008

*Modification of utilization of veterans' presumption of sound condition in establishing eligibility of members of the armed forces for retirement for disability (sec. 727)*

The Senate bill contained a provision (sec. 1061) that would amend sections 1201 and 1203 of title 10, United States Code, to adopt the same presumption of sound condition used by the Department of Veterans Affairs in accordance with section 1111 of title 38, United States Code, that a disability is incurred while on active duty if the disability was not noted at the time of a member's entrance on active duty unless clear and unmistakable evidence demonstrates that the disability existed before the member's entrance on active duty and was not aggravated by active military service.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes this provision.

We believe that the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs must make consistent determinations as to whether a disability existed before the member's entrance or was aggravated by active military service.

Subtitle D—Other Matters

*Report on providing the Extended Care Health Option program to dependents of military retirees (sec. 731)*

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 732) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on including autistic dependents of military retirees in the Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) program.

The Senate bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would expand the scope of the report to cover all dependents of retirees who participate in the ECHO program, and clarify that the report should discuss including such dependents for a limited transitional period following retirement.

*Increase in cap on extended benefits under Extended Health Care Option (ECHO) (sec. 732)*

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 733) that would ensure that autistic children of members of the armed forces enrolled in the Extended Health Care Option (ECHO) program would be eligible for a minimum of \$5,000 per month of autistic therapy services.

The Senate bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would replace the monthly cap on services under the ECHO program with an annual cap of \$36,000.

We are concerned that the needs of military dependent children with autism are not being fully met due to the lack of availability of providers nationwide to provide therapeutic and other support services to children with autism. We expect the demonstration project initiated under TRICARE to go forward, incorporating to the maximum extent practicable, improvements identified by military family members. The demonstration project must complement other essential services to military dependent children with autism, including those authorized in section 587 of the National Defense

Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181). Those services include assignment of case managers, development of individualized services plans, and establishment of autism support centers.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to report not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, and semi-annually thereafter, on the status of implementation of the TRICARE demonstration project, including the numbers of autistic children served, the type and frequency of services provided, the number of available providers by region, and whether reimbursement levels are sufficient to retain qualified providers in the TRICARE networks.

Not later than February 1, 2009, the Secretary shall report to the congressional defense committees on the feasibility of establishing one or more autism support centers, as authorized by Public Law 110-181. The report shall describe the capabilities of such centers to serve military dependent children with autism of all services, the potential efficacy of such centers to meet the needs of military families with children with a diagnosis of autism, as well as the potential for training additional qualified providers of services to children with autism. We believe that each center should utilize medical, educational, and developmental therapies that have been successfully used to treat children with autism.

*Department of Defense task force on the prevention of suicides by members of the armed forces (sec. 733)*

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 735) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study to identify the mental health risks associated with the performance of military duties.

The Senate bill contained a provision (sec. 581) that would require the Secretary of Defense to develop a comprehensive policy designed to prevent suicide by members of the armed forces.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a task force to examine matters relating to prevention of suicide by members of the armed forces.

*Transitional health care for certain members of the armed forces who agree to serve in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve (sec. 734)*

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 737) that would provide transitional health care benefits to members who separate from active duty and who agree to become a member of the Selected Reserve.

The Senate bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would delete the language related to funding, which is reflected in the tables.

*Enhancement of medical and dental readiness of members of the armed forces (sec. 735)*

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 362) that would authorize \$22.3 million to be appropriated for first term dental readi-



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**Preparation of this report/study cost the Department of Defense a total of approximately \$8,100 in Fiscal Years 2012 - 2014.**

**Generated on 20120215 RefID: 1-D622C73**

Bookmark this Cost Worksheet to gain instant access in the future by right-clicking the 'Reference' ID link above and selecting "Add to Favorites" from the popup menu. Type a new name for the bookmark if you want to, specify the folder that you prefer the bookmark to be saved in, and then click "Add". To access this in the future, simply find this bookmark in your 'Favorites' folder listed in the Internet Explorer toolbar.

**1. Report/Study Title**  
Semiannual Report on the Status of the Department of Defense Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration

To access the Cost Estimate again, use the following URL:

**2. Expected Publication Date**  
**3. Report/Study Number**

[https://www.cape.osd.mil/costguidance/studycostworksheet\\_prod.asp?cn=1-D622C73&pn=62543](https://www.cape.osd.mil/costguidance/studycostworksheet_prod.asp?cn=1-D622C73&pn=62543)

**4. This Report/Study was funded and performed during Fiscal Years**  
2012-04-16  
2012 to 2014

For an electronic .pdf version, press ctrl-p and select print to .pdf

**5. Name of Organization(s) Sponsoring the Report/Study**  
Department of Defense TRIACRE Management Activity

**6. Name of Organization Preparing the Cost Estimate**  
Department of Defense TRICARE Management Activity Policy and Operations Directorate

**7. This report/study is required to comply with DoD regulation: False**

**8. This report/study is required to comply with Congressional direction False**

**9. This report/study is required by law False**

**10. List costs of all non-labor activities used to prepare and complete the report/study (i.e., contracts, printing, travel, etc.):**

Contract/Task Order	Description	Units	Unit Amount	Actual Cost (\$K)
Other Costs	Contract Task Order 4001-011 Semi-Annual ECHO Autism Services Utilization	1	\$5,100	\$5.1k
Other Costs	Government Coordination	30	\$100	\$3.0k
<b>Subtotal:</b>				<b>\$8.1k</b>

**11. Total Government Manpower Required for Oversight of Report/Study Execution**

Oversight/Activity	Description	Grade	Manpower	Qualifier	Estimated Cost (\$K)
Study Activity	N/A	GS-14	0	FTE	\$0.0k
<b>Subtotal:</b>					<b>\$0.0k</b>

**13. Will this cost estimate data be required on a recurring basis? Yes**

**13b Enter the frequency of this recurring:: semi-annual**





Semi-Annual Report to Congress on Status of Autism Services Demonstration  
 PR000750-12

COORDINATION

ASD (HA)	Dr. Jonathan Woodson
(A)PDASD (HA)	Dr. Karen Guice
CoS (HA)	COL Lorraine Breen
OLA, DoD	LTC AnnMarie Amaral
OGC, DoD	John Casciotti
Assistant Deputy Director, TMA	Mary Kaye Justis
CoS, TMA	CAPT Timothy Weber
TMA, PI	Cyndi Speight
Deputy Chief, TPOD	Michael O'Bar
CoS, TPOD	Martha Taft
TMA/OGC	Michael Jacksonis - concur (based on changes made)
CoS, TPOD	Martha Taft
Director, Health Plan Policy Division	Kathleen Larkin
Chief, Policy and Benefit Branch	Danita Hunter



WEBER.TIMOTHY.  
 HARDING 10945905  
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Signed 19 Mar

O'BAR.MICHAEL.W  
 AYNE.1166665414

TAFT.MARTHA  
 H.1111518021

JACKONIS.MICHA  
 EL.JOSEPH.JR.1030  
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TAFT.MARTHA  
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LARKIN.KATHLE  
 EN.K.1148043260

HUNTER.DANIT  
 A.F.1087110946



**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
HEALTH AFFAIRS**

SKYLINE FIVE, SUITE 810, 5111 LEESBURG PIKE  
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22041-3206

TRICARE  
MANAGEMENT  
ACTIVITY

**ACTION MEMO**

FOR: JONATHAN WOODSON, M.D., ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
(HEALTH AFFAIRS)

FROM: BG W. Bryan Gamble, M.D., Deputy Director, TRICARE Management Activity

SUBJECT: January 2012 - Semiannual Report to Congress on the Status of the Department of  
Defense Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration

- The cover letters (TAB A) transmit the January 2012 Report to Congress (TAB B). The Joint Explanatory Statement to accompany the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 requests the Secretary of Defense to submit a report semiannually on the status of the TRICARE demonstration project. A copy of the language, "Subtitle D-Other Matters," is at TAB C. This reporting requirement is due to the Congressional Defense Committees by April 30, 2012.
- The report includes: 1) the number of autistic children served; 2) the type and frequency of services provided; 3) the number of available providers by region; and 4) whether reimbursement levels are sufficient to retain qualified providers in TRICARE networks. This report also includes demonstration cost information for FY 2011.
- The cost to produce this report was \$8,100 (TAB D): Contract Cost: \$5,100 (Task Order 3001-011, Semi-Annual Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) Autism Services Utilization Report including ECHO Tutor-Demonstration Services), and \$3,000 (Government Coordination Process).

RECOMMENDATION: That the ASD(HA) sign the Action Memo and forward the package to the Acting USD(P&R) for signature on the letters at TAB A.

COORDINATION: TAB E

Attachments:  
As stated

Prepared by: Mr. Richard Hart, TRICARE Policy and Operations, (703) 681-0047



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

The Honorable Carl Levin  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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A similar letter is being sent to the Chairman and ranking member of each of the other Congressional Defense Committees.

Thank you for your interest in the health and well-being of our Service members, veterans, and their families.

Sincerely,

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**Comment [R1]:** This Subcommittee is not a congressional defense committee by definition.

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Sincerely,

Jo Ann Rooney  
Acting

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc:  
The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
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PERSONNEL AND  
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The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed semiannual report provides the current status of the Department of Defense Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration, as requested by explanatory material to Section 732 of the Joint Explanatory Statement, accompanying S. 3001, the proposed Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. Specifically, this report includes: 1) the number of autistic children served; 2) the type and frequency of services provided; 3) the number of available providers by region; and 4) whether reimbursement levels are sufficient to retain qualified providers in TRICARE networks. The report also includes demonstration cost information for FY 2011. Current results indicate continued increase in participation in the demonstration by providers and TRICARE beneficiaries. A similar letter is being sent to the Chairman and ranking member of each of the other Congressional Defense Committees.

Thank you for your interest in the health and well-being of our Service members, veterans, and their families.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Rooney  
Acting

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc:  
The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Vice Chairman



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed semiannual report provides the current status of the Department of Defense Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration, as requested by explanatory material to Section 732 of the Joint Explanatory Statement, accompanying S. 3001, the proposed Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. Specifically, this report includes: 1) the number of autistic children served; 2) the type and frequency of services provided; 3) the number of available providers by region; and 4) whether reimbursement levels are sufficient to retain qualified providers in TRICARE networks. The report also includes demonstration cost information for FY 2011. Current results indicate continued increase in participation in the demonstration by providers and TRICARE beneficiaries. A similar letter is being sent to the Chairman and ranking member of each of the ~~other~~ Congressional Defense Committees.

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Sincerely,

Jo Ann Rooney  
Acting

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc:  
The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Vice Chairman



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeon  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed semiannual report provides the current status of the Department of Defense Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration, as requested by explanatory material to Section 732 of the Joint Explanatory Statement, accompanying S. 3001, the proposed Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. Specifically, this report includes: 1) the number of autistic children served; 2) the type and frequency of services provided; 3) the number of available providers by region; and 4) whether reimbursement levels are sufficient to retain qualified providers in TRICARE networks. The report also includes demonstration cost information for FY 2011. Current results indicate continued increase in participation in the demonstration by providers and TRICARE beneficiaries. A similar letter is being sent to the Chairman and ranking member of each of the other Congressional Defense Committees.

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Sincerely,

Jo Ann Rooney  
Acting

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc:  
The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed semiannual report provides the current status of the Department of Defense Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration, as requested by explanatory material to Section 732 of the Joint Explanatory Statement, accompanying S. 3001, the proposed Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. Specifically, this report includes: 1) the number of autistic children served; 2) the type and frequency of services provided; 3) the number of available providers by region; and 4) whether reimbursement levels are sufficient to retain qualified providers in TRICARE networks. The report also includes demonstration cost information for FY 2011. Current results indicate continued increase in participation in the demonstration by providers and TRICARE beneficiaries. A similar letter is being sent to the Chairman and ranking member of each of the other Congressional Defense Committees.

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Sincerely,

Jo Ann Rooney  
Acting

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc:  
The Honorable Norman D. Dicks  
Ranking Member



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed semiannual report provides the current status of the Department of Defense Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration, as requested by explanatory material to Section 732 of the Joint Explanatory Statement, accompanying S. 3001, the proposed Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. Specifically, this report includes: 1) the number of autistic children served; 2) the type and frequency of services provided; 3) the number of available providers by region; and 4) whether reimbursement levels are sufficient to retain qualified providers in TRICARE networks. The report also includes demonstration cost information for FY 2011. Current results indicate continued increase in participation in the demonstration by providers and TRICARE beneficiaries. A similar letter is being sent to the Chairman and ranking member of each of the other Congressional Defense Committees.

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Sincerely,

Jo Ann Rooney  
Acting

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc:  
The Honorable Norman D. Dicks  
Ranking Member



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

The Honorable Joe Wilson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Military Personnel  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed semiannual report provides the current status of the Department of Defense Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration, as requested by explanatory material to Section 732 of the Joint Explanatory Statement, accompanying S. 3001, the proposed Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. Specifically, this report includes: 1) the number of autistic children served; 2) the type and frequency of services provided; 3) the number of available providers by region; and 4) whether reimbursement levels are sufficient to retain qualified providers in TRICARE networks. The report also includes demonstration cost information for FY 2011. Current results indicate continued increase in participation in the demonstration by providers and TRICARE beneficiaries. A similar letter is being sent to the Chairman and ranking member of each of the other Congressional Defense Committees.

Thank you for your interest in the health and well-being of our Service members, veterans, and their families.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Rooney  
Acting

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc:  
The Honorable Susan A. Davis  
Ranking Member

# Report to Congress



## The Department of Defense Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration January 2012 Semiannual Report to Congress

Requested by: ~~The Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying S. 3001, Duncan  
Hunter National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-~~  
~~The Joint Explanatory Statement Accompanying S. 3001, the Proposal~~

Comment [R1]:

Preparation of this study/report cost the  
Department of Defense a total of  
approximately \$8,100 for the 2012 Fiscal  
Year.  
RefID: 1-D622C73

## **STATUS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ENHANCED ACCESS TO AUTISM SERVICES DEMONSTRATION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This semiannual report is in response to explanatory material to section 732 in the Joint Explanatory Statement to accompany S. 3001, the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. The Joint Explanatory Statement requested the Secretary provide an initial report to Congress not later than 90 days after the enactment of S. 3001 and semiannually thereafter on the status of implementation of the TRICARE demonstration.

### **BACKGROUND**

In response to section 717 of the John Warner NDAA for FY 2007, the Department of Defense implemented the Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration ("Demonstration") on March 15, 2008. This project tests the feasibility of expanding the pool of providers of autism treatment services to include those not meeting the strict guidelines of the current departmental regulations.

To increase access and test the advisability and feasibility of authorizing TRICARE reimbursement for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services delivered by non-professional providers, the Department developed and implemented the Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration. The key feature of the Demonstration is providing Educational Interventions for Autism Spectrum Disorders (EIA) by a two-tiered delivery model:

- Individuals certified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) at the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) or BACB Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) level as "supervisors" who have a contractual relationship with TRICARE, either individually or as an employee of a TRICARE-authorized provider; and
- Non-certified individuals, i.e., "Tutors" as the "hands-on" providers of ABA under the supervision of a BCBA or BCaBA.

The Demonstration was initially implemented on March 15, 2008. Administrative requirements of the Demonstration were substantially revised and implemented on September 10, 2008. In addition, section 732 of the NDAA for FY 2009 increased the limit of government liability for certain benefits, including Special Education, from \$2,500 per month to \$36,000 per year. That change was implemented on April 1, 2009.

## RESULTS

The following information for the period April 1, 2011, through September 30, 2011, is based on contractors' reports and claims processed under the Demonstration.

Region	Number of Beneficiaries Enrolled in Demonstration	Providers		Hours of EIA Services Provided <sup>1</sup> (000s)	Cost of EIA Services Provided <sup>2</sup> (Dollars in Millions)
		Supervisors	Tutors		
North	905	331	1091	119	6.3
South	758	567	1665	119	6.1
West	1745	719	5031	297	15.6
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3408</b>	<b>1617</b>	<b>7787</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>27.9</b>
Increase over Same Period in FY 2010 (1 April 2010- 30 September 2010)	21.2%	64.1%	58.1%	28.5%	50.0%

## CONCLUSION

As evidenced in our previous reports and the above information, participation by beneficiaries and providers continues to increase steadily. We believe these increases reflect that reimbursement rates are acceptable to providers and this is allowing for increased capacity to meet the needs of enrolled TRICARE beneficiaries.

<sup>1</sup> Does not include: ASD-related diagnostic services provided outside the Demonstration, development of EIA Progress Reports and Updated Behavior Plans, and Supervisors' meetings with beneficiaries' primary caregivers.

<sup>2</sup> Claims data were processed from the Medical Data Repository on January 2, 2012.



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

ACTION MEMO

FOR: JO ANN ROONEY, ACTING UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PERSONNEL AND READINESS)

FROM: Jonathan Woodson, M.D., Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)

SUBJECT: January 2012 - Semiannual Report to Congress on the Status of the Department of Defense Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration

- The cover letters (TAB A) transmit the January 2012 Report to Congress (TAB B). The Joint Explanatory Statement language on section 732 to accompany S. 3001, the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 requests the Secretary of Defense to submit a report semiannually on the status of the TRICARE demonstration project. A copy of the language, "Subtitle D-Other Matters," is at TAB C. This reporting requirement is due to the Congressional Defense Committees by April 30, 2012.
- The report includes: 1) the number of autistic children served; 2) the type and frequency of services provided; 3) the number of available providers by region; and 4) whether reimbursement levels are sufficient to retain qualified providers in TRICARE networks. This report also includes demonstration cost information for FY 2011.
- The cost to produce this report was \$8,100 (TAB D): Contract Cost: \$5,100 (Task Order 4001-011, Semi-Annual Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) Autism Services Utilization Report including ECHO Tutor-Demonstration Services), and \$3,000 (Government Coordination Process).

RECOMMENDATION: That the Acting USD(P&R) sign the letters at TAB A.

COORDINATION: TAB E

Attachments:  
As stated

Prepared by: Mr. Richard Hart, TRICARE Policy and Operations, (703) 681-0047

Comment [R1]: You do not really mean "coordination process" do you? The coordination process is not to count into our cost of producing a report to Congress.





UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

The Honorable Carl Levin  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed semiannual report provides the current status of the Department of Defense Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration, as requested by explanatory material to Section 732 of the Joint Explanatory Statement, accompanying S. 3001, <sup>proposed</sup> of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. Specifically, this report includes: 1) the number of autistic children served; 2) the type and frequency of services provided; 3) the number of available providers by region; and 4) whether reimbursement levels are sufficient to retain qualified providers in TRICARE networks. The report also includes demonstration cost information for FY 2011. Current results indicate continued increase in participation in the demonstration by providers and TRICARE beneficiaries. A similar letter is being sent to the Chairman and ranking member of each of the other Congressional Defense Committees.

Thank you for your interest in the health and well-being of our Service members, veterans, and their families.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Rooney  
Acting

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc:  
The Honorable John McCain  
Ranking Member

# Report to Congress



## The Department of Defense Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration January 2012 Semiannual Report to Congress

*Requested* *the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying S. 3001, the*  
**Required by:** ~~The~~ Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)  
for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, ~~Section 732 in the Joint Explanatory Statement to~~  
~~accompany S. 3001.~~ *Prepared*

Preparation of this study/report cost the  
Department of Defense a total of  
approximately \$8,100 for the 2012 Fiscal  
Year.  
RefID: 1-D622C73