NAEVR Secures Listing of “Eye and Vision Research” within DOD’s CDMRP Program

Through the advocacy efforts of NAEVR Legislative Counsel Hogan & Hartson, the FY2006 Defense Appropriations Conference Report (HR 2863) passed by Congress and signed by the President on December 30 added “eye and vision” to research eligible for peer-reviewed funding under the Department of Defense’s (DOD) Congressionally-directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP). As a result, researchers can submit defense-related vision research grants for consideration by the program, which is funded at $50 million in FY2006. The CDMRP Web site at http://cdmrp.army.mil currently states that program announcements will issue shortly for research included in FY2006 funding. NAEVR will work with ARVO to inform and educate the research community of CDMRP grant requirements.

NAEVR had submitted an extensive justification to Congress early in the FY2006 appropriations process for this addition, emphasizing that vision is the sense most vulnerable to battlefield conditions, whether from direct trauma, biohazards or environmental conditions which foster abrasion and infection. The justification cited three key areas of research: visual acuity, eye trauma and infection and health disparities.