been published in the Federal Register. However, in accordance with the procedures of DESI, FDA may--and has--revised its ratings for specific drugs as new information is submitted by the drugs' sponsors.

We inquired into the status of Federal agency actions to insure that only effective drugs are purchased with Federal funds and noted that, in general, definitive actions taken have been limited to direct Federal health care programs.

Actions Taken by the Department of Defense

We testified in May 1972, that as of November 18, 1971, the Defense Medical Materiel Board had initiated action to stop further procurement and to eliminate from the supply system all items that FDA had then pronounced "ineffective" or "possibly effective." Also, the Surgeons General of the military departments had emphasized through instuctions to medical organizations the DOD policy on such drugs, which became effective January 21, 1971. This policy provided that remaining stocks of "ineffective" drugs withdrawn from the market were to be destroyed or other appropriate action was to be taken to remove them from the inventory. For items categorized "ineffective," but awaiting final determination FDA, further use of remaining stocks was