



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL COMMAND
2050 WORTH ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

MCDS

18 March 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR All U.S. Army Dental Command Personnel

SUBJECT: U.S. Army Dental Command (DENCOM) Policy 04-15, Dental Licensure

1. REFERENCE:

a. Title 10, Section 1094.

b. Health Affairs Policy 98-010, Policy for Improving Access and Quality in the Military Health System.

c. Health Affairs Policy 98-017, Policy Memorandum for Management of Medical Licensure.

d. DOD Directive 6025.13, July 20, 1995.

e. AR 40-68.

2. SCOPE: This policy applies to all Army Dental Corps Officers, civilian dentists, and civilian hygienists.

3. POLICY:

a. Dentists will obtain and maintain a current, valid, and unrestricted license to provide patient care services independently in at least one U.S. jurisdiction. An unrestricted license is defined as one that has no limitations with respect to practice location, type, or scope of practice. An unrestricted license must allow the provider unabridged permission to practice in any civilian community in the jurisdiction of licensure without having to take any additional action to document competency. This does not include state requirements to pay additional licensing or risk pool fees, obtain malpractice insurance, meet state residency requirements, or other administrative actions. The issuing authority should accept and consider current practice and privileging information in determining continued licensure.

b. No dentist, with the exception of new graduates, will be

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accepted for appointment on active duty in the U.S. Army Dental Corps without proof of a valid, current, and unrestricted state dental license. This license must be issued by an official agency of a State, the District of Columbia, a Commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States to provide dental health care within the scope of practice for that discipline.

c. All recent graduates (persons whose entry on active duty is within three months of graduation from dental school), including AEGD-1 year residents, must show proof of having taken a state or regional board examination leading to state licensure prior to entering active duty. These new graduates must obtain a valid, current, and unrestricted state license within one year of eligibility. In the unlikely event that a dental officer is accessed without having completed Parts I and II of the National Board Dental Examinations, the officer must still satisfy the licensure requirement as specified. Failure to obtain or maintain a current, valid, and unrestricted dental license will be reason for flagging and adverse personnel actions, loss of and/or recoupment of special pays and benefits, and/or separation. Authority to grant a waiver to this requirement is the responsibility of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs).

d. Dentists who do not possess a valid, current, and unrestricted license will not be assigned to an OCONUS location. An unlicensed Dental Officer who fails his/her state board examination while enrolled in the U.S. Army Medical Department Officer Basic Course and who is scheduled for assignment OCONUS may be diverted to a CONUS location to allow for successful completion of state licensure requirements. Household goods may be required to be stored and not shipped OCONUS until after successful completion of a state board examination.

e. Dentists not possessing a valid, current, and unrestricted license will be privileged to perform dental procedures only under direct supervision.

f. Dental hygienists are required to have an active license. Expanded duty dental assistants and preventive dentistry specialists (X2) are not required to maintain a state license.

g. Conditions of employment and contracts for civilian dentists and hygienists should be worded to reflect the requirement to maintain a valid, current, and unrestricted state

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license. Coordination with the servicing civilian personnel or contracting office is required to ensure compliance applicable personnel regulations and policies.

Signature Authenticated by ApproveIt, 
Approved by: sidney A. Brooks,
on: Friday, 26 March, 2004 at 11:58:44


SIDNEY A. BROOKS
Colonel, Dental Corps
Commanding