



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MCDS

25 March 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL U.S. Army Dental Command Personnel

SUBJECT: U.S. Army Dental Command (DENCOM) Policy 04-26, Soldier Demobilization Policy

1. Time constraints and limited feasibility of providing dental care at sites during demobilization dictate that the U.S. Army Dental Command establish procedures to assist both the dental units and the soldiers they serve.

2. Treatment of preexisting dental conditions rendered during mobilization to move a Dental Class 3 soldier to a deployable status of 2 does not necessarily qualify a soldier for a Line of Duty (LD) claim against the government at the end of a deployment cycle when less than 180 days. But deployments of at least 180 days activate the Veterans Administration (VA) system's benefits.

3. Assisting in LD determinations and treatment of dental conditions not met while on active duty will follow the criteria list below:

a. The dental unit/officer at the demobilization site is not the approving authority for dental LD claims. This is the responsibility of the unit commander. The dental officer, however, can assist the commander when the dentist has an accurate record of preexisting dental conditions at the time of deployment. If no such record exists, the unit commander accepts total responsibility for unit personnel LD dental claims.

b. During demobilization, routine dental care will be on a space available basis only. Soldiers will be informed of the following dental options:

(1) Soldiers who served less than 180 days are only eligible for dental care at the government's expense if the dental condition is LD yes and thus not a preexisting dental condition. These soldiers should be provided information on how to access dental care through the Military Medical Support Office (MMSO) at <http://mms0.med.navy.mil>.

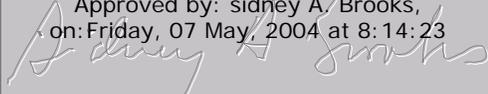
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(2) Soldiers who served at least 180 days may be eligible for a dental examination and dental treatment through the VA system. These soldiers should be informed that they can lose this benefit if they do not access the VA system within 90 days following separation from active service. At the dental demobilization site, soldiers in this category should also be advised that they could potentially lose this benefit if a demobilization dental exam and a 603A entry is not made delineating their unmet dental needs. The personnel section uses the 603A to complete DD Form 214, which in turn, the VA uses for verification of veteran benefits.

4. Enclosure 1 is an information sheet that can be provided to soldiers explaining both the MMSO and VA systems as related to their specific dental requirements. Enclosure 2 is a suggested flow chart for the Dental Demobilization site.

5. The point of contact is MAJ Langford at DSN 471-7264.

Signature Authenticated by Approval 
Approved by: sidney A. Brooks,
on: Friday, 07 May, 2004 at 8:14:23


SIDNEY A. BROOKS
Colonel, DC
Commanding

The Military Medical Support Office Dental Benefit

1. Military personnel who served less than 180 days active duty and incurred dental disease or injury during that period may be eligible to receive treatment at government expense following separation for the purpose of resolving only those specific conditions. Treatment for dental conditions that existed prior to the period of active duty is not authorized.
 2. If dental treatment for such conditions is not accomplished prior to deactivation, the service member may be eligible to receive care from a civilian dentist through a program managed by the Military Medical Support Office (MMSO), but only if all of the following criteria are satisfied:
 - a. The period of active duty was less than 180 days.
 - b. The disease or injury requiring dental treatment was incurred while serving in line of duty.
 - c. The service member's claim for dental care is validated by an approved line of duty determination, appropriate entries in the member's dental record, and supporting statements in separation documents.
 3. Personnel who believe they qualify for this program should contact the MMSO to verify their eligibility and determine program requirements prior to initiating any treatment from a civilian dentist. Failure to do so may result in personal financial liability to the service member for the provided care.
 4. General information and forms may be found at: http://mmsso.med.navy.mil/MMSO_Dental_Info.html. The MMSO may be contacted at 1-888-647-6676 to discuss eligibility and receive answers to specific questions.
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The Veterans Administration Dental Benefit

1. Military personnel who separate from active duty after having served at least 180 days and have unmet dental treatment needs may be authorized treatment from the Veterans Administration (VA) for the one-time correction of those conditions, but only if:
 - a. They are discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.
 - b. The period of active military service was at least 180 days.
 - c. The service member's dental record indicates that the dental conditions existed at the time of discharge or release from active duty.
 - d. The DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) states that the veteran was not provided a complete dental examination and all appropriate dental treatment within 90 days before the discharge or release.
 - e. Application to the VA for treatment is made within 90 days following discharge or release from active duty.
2. The VA determines whether the service member receives eligible treatment at the nearest VA facility or from a civilian dentist near the veteran's place of residence or work.
3. For complete information, contact a Health Benefits Advisor at the nearest VA health care facility. You can also call the VA Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222-8387, or visit the VA web site at <http://www.va.gov/>