



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. Dental Command Personnel

SUBJECT: U.S. Army Dental Command (DENCOM) Policy Letter 04-29, Initial Dental Classification

1. REFERENCES:

a. HA Policy 02-011, Policy on Standardization of Oral Health and Readiness Classifications. 2002.

b. AR 40-66, Medical Records Administration, 1992

2. SCOPE: This policy applies to all DENCOM facilities that process soldiers at Initial Entry Training (IET) sites and Officer Basic Course Training sites.

3. POLICY:

a. The nomenclature and definitions as described in HA Policy 02-011 will be used to classify the dental fitness of service members

b. As per AR 40-66, section 5-18, paragraph 1, personnel entering active service or active duty for training for more than 30 days will have a panoramic radiograph of the teeth and surrounding tissue taken. Although the primary purpose of the radiograph is for identification, it is also a key tool for identifying dental class 3 conditions.

c. If soldiers present to IET training or officer basic course training with a current panoramic radiograph of diagnostic quality, a new radiograph does not need to be taken.

d. A dentist will examine the panoramic radiograph of each IET soldier and classify them as a dental class 2* or 3 from the review of the radiograph. The classification criteria should be consistent with HA Policy 02-011 and soldiers who have conditions present that are deemed to potentially cause a dental emergency in the next 12 months should be classified as dental fitness class 3. All other soldiers should be classified as a dental fitness class 2*. The 2* identifies the classification was not from a periodic oral examination, but from a review of the radiograph and will be carried in CDA as such. The initial dental classification is a one-time event upon a soldier's entry into the service.

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e. A screening question to determine if the soldier has acute dental pain will be administered when the dental record is being created. The question will be "Do you have dental pain that needs attention now?" An affirmative answer to the question will require that the soldier be classified as a class 3.

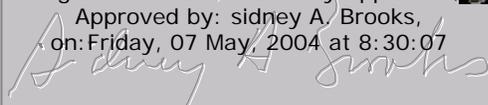
f. Conversion to class 4 is based on the date of the initial entry examination. Soldiers in dental class 2 will convert to class 4 on the 13th month after the Initial Dental Classification.

g. The dental records of all soldiers being assigned OCONUS at the completion of AIT or the officer basic course will be reviewed. An annual examination will be performed on soldiers who were placed in class 2* from the panoramic examination in accordance with AR 600-8-11, *Reassignment*, and associated DA 4036R, *Medical and Dental Preparation for Overseas Movement*.

h. A periodic oral examination will be compulsory the first time an IET or officer basic course soldier is seen in an Army Dental Clinic. If these soldiers report for sick call, a periodic oral examination with bitewing radiographs is required.

i. A periodic oral examination will be performed on soldiers when they inprocess into their first permanent duty station after leaving AIT or the officer basic course.

4. Point of contact is MAJ Jeffrey Chaffin at DSN 471-8865/6528.

Signature Authenticated by Approvel 
Approved by: sidney A. Brooks,
on: Friday, 07 May, 2004 at 8:30:07


SIDNEY A. BROOKS
Colonel, Dental Corps
Commanding