

**BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY
OF THE AIR FORCE**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
POLICY DIRECTIVE 47-1**



14 MAY 2026

Dental

DENTAL SERVICES

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This publication implements the following statutes for the Air Force Dental Service (AFDS) and its activities worldwide: Title 10, United States Code (10 U.S.C.) §§ 1074, 1074a, 1076, 1076a, 1077, and 9036 when applied to Dental Practice. This publication also implements the dental health and readiness policy portions from Department of War Instruction (DoWI) 6025.19, *Individual Medical Readiness*; Department of Defense Directive (DoDD) 6200.04, *Force Health Protection*; DoDI 6200.05, *Force Health Protection Quality Assurance (FHPQA) Program* and Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) policy letters: 01-025, *Reserve Forces Periodic Dental Examination*; 98-021, *Policies on Uniformity of Dental Classification System, Frequency of Periodic Dental Examinations, Active Duty Overseas Screening, and Dental Deployment Standards*; 02-011, *Policy on Standardization of Oral Health and Readiness Classifications*; 05-020, *Policy for Cosmetic Surgery Procedures in the Military Health System* when applied to oral surgeons; 07-017, *Dental Readiness Within The Services*; and 07-011, *Policy on Space Available Dental Care*. This directive establishes the Air Force Dental Service policy to develop and maintain comprehensive programs for preventing and treating dental disease and conditions. The primary goal is to ensure the dental health and readiness of service members for expeditionary operations. It defines individual dental health and readiness classifications and assigns the responsibility for clearance evaluations. It applies to all Active Duty Air Force, Space Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard personnel in military status.

Ensure all records generated as a result of processes prescribed in this publication adhere to Air Force Instruction 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, and are disposed in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule, which is located in the

Air Force Records Information Management System. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the office of primary responsibility (OPR) using the DAF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Product*; route DAF Forms 847 from the field through the appropriate functional chain of command. This Department of the Air Force Program Directive (DAFPD) may not be supplemented.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This document is substantially revised and must be completely reviewed.

1. Overview. Health Affairs Policy Memorandum 02-011 states the Military Health System is responsible for the oral health of all uniformed Department of Defense personnel. Dental clinics within Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs), Dental Treatment Facilities (DTFs) and dental clinics in expeditionary or other austere environments will provide dental services safely and efficiently to optimize oral health and force readiness. Oral health is the condition of a patient who has completed a recent dental examination and requires no further treatment or reevaluation to maintain their dental readiness.

2. Policy. The Air Force Dental Service (AFDS) will:

2.1. Maintain operational readiness programs for the prevention and treatment of dental diseases and conditions.

2.2. Support the Defense Health Agency (DHA) military dental clinics in providing periodic dental evaluations, clearance examinations, risk-based assessments for oral diseases and conditions, and treatment to optimize dental health and readiness of all active duty Department of the Air Force (DAF) personnel (including Regular Space Force and Space Force Active Status on Non-Sustained Duty (SFAS-NSD) in active status per current guidance) and Air Reserve Component (ARC) members in military status (paid and unpaid) as defined by current policy. A priority-based appointment system will be used to maximize dental readiness.

2.3. Establish individual dental health and readiness classifications.

2.4. Monitor the dental readiness status of all active duty DAF personnel and coordinate with DHA on any issues, gaps, and mitigating actions to ensure the deployability of the force.

3. Roles and Responsibilities.

3.1. The Air Force Surgeon General (AF/SG) will:

3.1.1. Serve as the principal advisor to the Secretary of the Air Force, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and the Chief of Space Operations on all health, medical and dental matters of the Air Force Medical Service, including strategic planning and policy development relating to such matters consistent with 10 U.S.C. § 9036 and DAF Program Directive (DAFPD) 40-8, *Air Force Medical Service (AFMS)*.

3.1.2. Engage with the Defense Health Agency (DHA) Director and Assistant Secretary of War for Health Affairs on the provision of healthcare delivery in MTFs and DTFs as clinical readiness platforms.

3.1.3. Ensure the medical readiness of DAF personnel and the development of policies in order to implement DoDI 6025.19, *Individual Medical Readiness Program*.

TROY E. MEINK
Secretary of the Air Force

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

- 10 U.S.C. § 1074, *Medical and dental care for members and certain former members*
- 10 U.S.C. § 1074a, *Medical and dental care: members on duty other than active duty for a period of more than 30 days*
- 10 U.S.C. § 1076, *Medical and dental care for dependents: general rule*
- 10 U.S.C. § 1076a, *TRICARE dental program*
- 10 U.S.C. § 1077, *Medical care for dependents: authorized care in facilities of uniformed services*
- 10 U.S.C. § 9036, *Surgeon General: appointment; duties*
- DoWI 6025.19, *Individual Medical Readiness Program*, 13 July 2022
- DoDI 6200.05, *Force Health Protection Quality Assurance (FHPQA) Program*, 16 June 2016
- DoDD 6200.04, *Force Health Protection*, 9 October 2004
- OASD(HA) Policy Letter P98-021, *Policies on Uniformity of Dental Classification System, Frequency of Periodic Dental Examinations, Active Duty Overseas Screening, and Dental Deployment Standards*, February 19, 1998.
- OASD(HA) Policy Letter P01-025, *Reserve Forces Periodic Dental Examination*, February 5, 2001
- OASD(HA) Policy Letter P02-011, *Policy on Standardization of Oral Health and Readiness Classifications*, June 4, 2002
- OASD(HA) Policy Letter P05-020, *Policy for Cosmetic Surgery Procedures in the Military Health System*, October 25, 2005.
- OASD(HA) Policy Letter P07-011, *Policy on Space Available Dental Care*, July 25, 2007
- OASD(HA) Policy Letter P07-017, *Dental Readiness Within The Services*, August 28, 2007
- DAFPD 40-8, *Air Force Medical Service (AFMS)*, 18 June 2025
- AFI 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, 23 March 2020

Prescribed Forms

None

Adopted Forms

DAF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Product*

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFDS—Air Force Dental Service

AFMS—Air Force Medical Service

ARC—Air Reserve Component (inclusive of both Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard)

DAF—Department of the Air Force

DHA—Defense Health Agency

DoDD—Department of Defense Directive

DoDI—Department of Defense Instruction

DoWI—Department of War Instruction

DTF—Dental Treatment Facility

MTF—Medical Treatment Facility

OPR—Office of Primary Responsibility

Office Symbols

AF/SG—Air Force Surgeon General