

INFORMATION PAPER

AFRC-MD

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SUBJECT: The Dental Panorgraphic X-Ray Requirement.

1. Purpose. One dental panoramic x-ray has always been required for the diagnostic completion of the dental record (AR 600-8-101, Chap 4). This panoramic x-ray is used primarily for clinical and diagnostic purposes, but may also serve as a valuable backup or adjunct for casualty identification.

2. Points.

a. Only the duplicate panoramic x-ray has been eliminated because of Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) sampling. The DNA samples replaced the duplicate panoramic x-ray requirement for forensic identification. The United States Army Reserve soldiers need to complete DNA sampling by 31 December 2002.

b. All reserve soldiers should have one panoramic x-ray in their dental record. The initial panoramic x-ray taken during BCT/AIT does not expire, and is adequate for most reserve component (RC) soldiers. It is not necessary, nor is it required by regulation to have a panoramic x-ray every 5 years, when the physical exam is done. The only time a new panoramic x-ray is necessary is when the soldier has had major dental reconstruction.

c. The Department of the Army DCSPER is the Proponent for AR 600-8-101 (Personnel Processing, In-and out-and mobilization processing). This regulation requires a panoramic x-ray as part of each soldier's Dental Treatment Record and any departure from that position requires regulatory change. Neither DoD Health Affairs nor OTSG has changed AR 600-8-101.

d. The U.S. Army Dental Command (DENCOM) policy is to support the requirement of one panoramic x-ray located in the dental record of every soldier of all components in compliance with AR 600-8-101.

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