

INFORMATION PAPER

AFRC-MD (40)

2 February 2000

SUBJECT: Reserve Components Annual Dental Examination.

1. Purpose. The Department of Defense (DoD) Health Affairs (HA) policy 98-021 directed all members of the Selected Reserve (SELRES) to have an annual dental examination. This HA policy asked each Service to prepare a plan that would fully implement this policy by February 19, 2001.

2. Points

a. Title 10, USC does not allow members of the SELRES to receive dental treatment at military dental clinics unless on active duty for more than 30 days. A dental examination is not considered dental treatment and can be done but the majority of SELRES members are geographically distant from a military dental treatment facility or unit, either active duty or Reserve.

b. Most SELRES members receive dental examinations annually from their civilian dentists. The DoD has developed a form to transfer this information to the reserve soldier's military dental record (Tab A). This DoD form 2813 allows the dentist to document the soldier's dental fitness category using the DoD guidelines. The form is available at the following web site: <http://web1.whs.osd.mil/icdhome/forms.htm>.

c. The DoD General Counsel determined that fitness for duty is a personal responsibility and that fitness requires an annual dental examination. The reserve component soldier is responsible for obtaining the examination and reporting the result. Approximately 50% of the Selected Reserve has current civilian insurance plans. The DoD does provide the low-cost TRICARE Selected Reserve Dental Program to assist those in need of a dental health plan (Tab B).

d. Implementation guidance from the Office of the Surgeon General and Chief, Army Reserve will follow. The dental classification and date of examination obtained from DD form 2813 will require a database entry and the form filed in the soldier's dental record.

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