



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

25 FEB 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Directive 2019-07 (Army Dental Readiness and Deployability)

1. References. A list of references is in the enclosure.
2. Purpose and Scope. The Army of 2028 will be ready to deploy, fight, and win decisively against any adversary, anytime and anywhere, in a joint, multi-domain, high-intensity conflict while simultaneously deterring others and maintaining its ability to conduct irregular warfare. Individual Soldier readiness directly affects unit readiness and our ability to meet combatant commander requirements. This directive implements changes to dental readiness policy in accordance with reference c to enhance the readiness of all units. These changes are in concert with the Secretary of Defense's Administrative and Personnel Policies Working Group to Enhance Readiness and Lethality. Commanders are reminded that oral health disease is one of the most common causes of disease non-battle injury, and Soldiers with uncorrected, severe dental deficiencies have a 75 percent chance of experiencing a dental emergency within 1 year. Although the Army has experienced a considerable reduction of the number of nondeployable Soldiers since June 2016, more will be done to reduce this number further.
3. Policy
 - a. Soldiers are considered deployable unless they have a Service-determined reason that prevents them from deployment in accordance with reference c. To be deployable, Soldiers must meet the criteria established in reference e.
 - b. Soldiers with Dental Readiness Classification (DRC) 3 conditions are in Medical Readiness Classification (MRC) 3 category as Deployment-Limiting (DL) code 2 and will be considered deployable in accordance with reference c. Until the medical readiness system can be updated to automatically show these Soldiers as not medically ready and deployable, commanders will routinely make DRC 3 Soldiers deployable in the Commander's Portal of the Medical Operational Data System. Commanders retain the ability to determine the Soldier is unable to deploy based on the dental treatment required.
 - c. Pursuant to references c, d, and i, commanders will ensure that Soldiers receive all appropriate dental care to correct deficiencies to their Individual Medical Readiness.

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d. A physical profile is based on a clinical assessment of a Soldier's ability to perform duty. Dental conditions that cannot be corrected within 30 days will be profiled and categorized as MRC 3, DL code 1 similar to other duty limiting medical conditions requiring a recovery period of 30 days or more in accordance with references f and j. Commanders will minimize administrative delays and barriers to care to optimize readiness for resolution upon identification.

e. Soldiers who are deficient in annual dental examination requirements, DRC 4, are deployable in accordance with reference c.

4. Applicability. The provisions of this directive apply to the Regular Army, Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and U.S. Army Reserve.

5. Proponent. The proponent for this directive is The Surgeon General, who will incorporate these changes into Army Regulation (AR) 40-3 (Medical, Dental, and Veterinary Care); AR 40-35 (Preventive Dentistry and Dental Readiness); and AR 40-501 (Standards of Medical Fitness), and will coordinate revisions with the proponents of other relevant regulations within 2 years of the date of this directive.

6. Duration. This directive is rescinded upon publication of the revised regulations.



Mark T. Esper

Encl

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REFERENCES

- a. Title 10, United States Code, section 10206 (Members: physical examinations).
- b. National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-91, section 1062, 131 Stat. 1575.
- c. Department of Defense Instruction 1332.45 (Retention Determinations for Non-Deployable Service Members), July 30, 2018.
- d. Department of Defense Instruction 6025.19 (Individual Medical Readiness (IMR)), June 9, 2014.
- e. Army Directive (AD) 2018-22 (Retention Policy for Non-Deployable Soldiers), 08 November 2018.
- f. AD 2018-11 (Update to Redesign of Personnel Readiness and Medical Deployability), 10 September 2018.
- g. AD 2016-07 (Redesign of Personnel Readiness and Medical Deployability), 01 March 2016.
- h. Army Regulation (AR) 40-3 (Medical, Dental, and Veterinary Care), 23 April 2013.
- i. AR 40-35 (Preventive Dentistry and Dental Readiness), 21 July 2016.
- j. AR 40-501 (Standards of Medical Fitness), 14 June 2017.
- k. AR 600-20 (Army Command Policy), 6 November 2014.

Enclosure