



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC**

01 NOV 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR ALMAJCOM/SG

**FROM: HQ USAF/SGO
110 Luke Ave, Room 400
Bolling AFB DC 20032-7050**

SUBJECT: Dental Care Optimization Implementation

This letter provides additional direction to my 15 Dec 2003 Dental Care Optimization (DCO) policy letter.

DCO is the most significant change to our dental care delivery in the last 30 years. My expectation is that we will provide general dental care managers (DCM) two treatment rooms, two dedicated chair-side assistants, and sufficient additional support staff to develop into efficient dental treatment teams. This provision of resources will maximize the capability of our dental providers and improve the oral health of our beneficiaries. It will also help ensure that the use of private sector care funds are reserved for procedures that the in-house dental staff cannot perform. Since conservative estimates are that private sector dental costs are three times that of in-house costs, this endeavor is timely and in line with our Long View Transformation Initiatives.

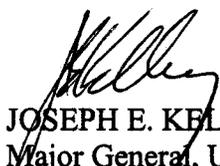
We will phase in DCO over a multi-year period (Atch 1). The DCO staffing model, developed by the Product Line Analysis and Transformation Team (PLATT) and accepted by the AFMS in December 2003, was not completed in time to make necessary programming changes for the FY06-11POM. Therefore, the necessary adjustments to the Unit Manning Documents (UMDs) could not occur in time for the beginning phases of DCO. However, we cannot afford to wait until 2008 to make the necessary improvements to the dental delivery system. The DCO staffing model identifies the manning required to provide the maximum dental care at each facility. As with Primary Care Optimization and Specialty Care Optimization, we desire to lay in the staffing dictated by the model for facilities implementing DCO in FY04-07, doing so ahead of our ability to change the UMDs.

For the implementation of the twelve FY04-05 DCO bases, the AFMS Modernization Panel is providing the offsets for contract personnel and implementation year additional supply funds. Sustainment of all existing contract personnel and purchase of additional personnel for bases implementing DCO in FY06 and 07 will be centrally managed by the Dental Operations Panel. It is imperative that UMD authorizations are straightlined, whether currently filled or not, and remain "on the books" on dental UMDs until the next POM cycle.

The Dental Operations Panel will be using all existing unfilled authorizations to pay for this initiative and correct the UMDs.

BOTTOM LINE: I ask the MTF and MAJCOM-level medical and dental leadership to work closely with your dental commanders *prior* to making any changes to existing UMDs. The key is not to remove any of the existing FTEs. Additionally, I ask assignment managers to provide the necessary support to help ensure that this new staffing model for DCO has the full support of the medical personnel community for FY04-07 bases, prior to changing UMDs in FY08.

Questions regarding dental care optimization, manning at individual bases, and funding requirements may be directed to Col Barbara King, Director of Dental Operations, AFMSA/SGD, DSN 297-4411, e-mail barbara.king@pentagon.af.mil, or your MAJCOM/SGD.



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Attachment:
DCO Implementation Timeline

DCO Implementation Timeline FY04-11

MAJCOM	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
ACC	Shaw	D-M	Seymour-Johnson Dyess	Cannon Ellsworth	Mt. Home Whiteman	Barksdale Beale	Holloman Offutt	Langley Nellis
AETC	Little Rock	Randolph Tyndall	Columbus Vance Laughlin Altus	Maxwell Brooks	Luke Goodfellow	Keesler Sheppard	Lackland	
11 th WG						Bolling		
AFMC		Hill Kirtland Robins	Eglin	Edwards	Wright-Patterson	Hanscom	Tinker	
AFSPC		Patrick	Los Angeles	Vandenburg	FE Warren	Peterson	Malmstrom	Buckley
AMC		Grand Forks Fairchild	McConnell Charleston	McChord McGuire	Pope Dover	Andrews	MacDill	Scott Travis
USAFA			Academy					
AFSOC			Moody					Hurlburt Field
PACAF				Eielson	Andersen Kunsan	Elmendorf Hickam	Osan Yokota	Kadena Misawa
USAFE				Incirlik Lajes Croughton Upwood	Aviano Geilenkirchen Menwith-Hill	Spangdahlem	Lakenheath	Ramstein