

FOREWORD

A highly trained and well equipped ready dental force is the essential ingredient for successful accomplishment of the dental service support mission.

The dramatic changes in the course of world events of the early 1990's, marked by disintegration of the former Soviet Union and the disappearance of the Iron Curtain, have become the basis for a "New World Order." The primal threat to United States interests posed by massive Warsaw Pact forces arrayed against Western Europe no longer exists; however, the threat posed as a result of regional conflicts throughout the world where United States interests are at stake remains. The defense strategy of the United States has adapted to the changing threat by shifting away from a massive forward-deployed force strategy toward one which relies on rapid projection of United States-based contingency forces in response to regional conflicts.

As part of the overall health service support system, dental service support must be responsive to the needs of the fighting force whenever and wherever they may be employed. To do so, dental units and dental assets must be prepared to support a broad range of contingencies from humanitarian assistance as part of low-intensity conflict to the high-tempo operations of mid- to high-intensity conflict. Today, more so than ever before, flexibility and the capability to adapt to rapidly changing situations will be the catalyst for successful accomplishment of the dental service support mission.

This manual contains the doctrine which will be used into the next century to provide dental service support in the theater of operations. It is the binding element of the dental service support portion of Medical Force 2000 which also includes new dental organizations and modernized dental equipment, all designed and developed as a coordinated package. The doctrine contained herein goes beyond "standard" operations. It also addresses those nonstandard situations which have been the bane of the dental service support system in the past. Most importantly, it provides options and possible solutions to problems which will be posed by a myriad of possible contingency scenarios.

This publication represents the collective input of many individuals from within and outside the Army Dental Care System. It incorporates experience and lessons learned from many exercises and deployments throughout the world. It represents the concerns of the major commands. It also addresses the concerns and experiences of the Reserve Component. It is consistent with the overall health service support doctrine contained in the keystone Field Manual 8-10. It is truly an outstanding product and will enhance dental service support to the fighting force, now and into the future.

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