

American Dental Association

**ADACommons**

---

[ADA News Letter](#)

[ADA Publications](#)

---

8-1-1950

## ADA News Letter - 08/01/1950

American Dental Association

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.ada.org/adanewsletter>



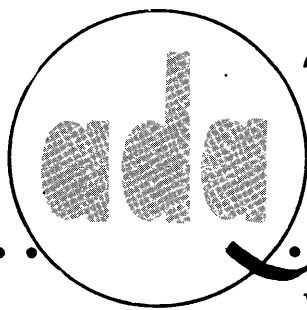
Part of the [Dentistry Commons](#), [History of Science, Technology, and Medicine Commons](#), and the [Nonprofit Administration and Management Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

American Dental Association, "ADA News Letter - 08/01/1950" (1950). *ADA News Letter*. 60.  
<https://commons.ada.org/adanewsletter/60>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the ADA Publications at ADACommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in ADA News Letter by an authorized administrator of ADACommons. For more information, please contact [commons@ada.org](mailto:commons@ada.org).



# News Letter

Vol. 3, No. 15 - August 1, 1950

## DENTAL RESERVISTS WILL FACE CALL TO DUTY IN NEXT FEW WEEKS UNLESS VOLUNTEERS INCREASE, DEFENSE CHIEFS REPORT

Formal orders calling up a substantial number of dental reserve officers will be issued by the armed forces within the next two or three weeks unless there is a sharp increase in the number voluntarily returning to active duty, dental corps chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Forces have informed the A.D.A. All three services are presently below authorized strengths of dental manpower. With the armed forces expanding rapidly, the dental corps will need hundreds and perhaps thousands of additional officers within the next 12 months. Exact needs were withheld for security reasons. To date, no dental reservists, other than those belonging to organized reserve units which have been activated as groups, have been called without their consent. The estimated 10,500 reserve dental officers (7,000 in the Navy, 3,000 in the Army and 500 in the Air Force), constitute the only substantial reservoir of dental manpower immediately available under existing authority granted the Department of Defense. In addition to reservists, dentists subject to call include those under 26 years of age who are not World War II veterans and thus are subject to the present draft law. While no reliable estimate of the number of dentists in this latter group is available, it is believed to be relatively small compared to the number of available reservists. Under present law, all other dentists, including those trained at government expense or who were deferred to complete their educations during World War II (see below) are not liable for service. A bonus of \$100 a month will be paid all dental and medical officers who volunteer for active duty. Those called up other than on a voluntary basis are not eligible for this bonus, defense officials pointed out.

### TEACHERS AND STUDENTS MAY BE ALLOWED 6 MONTHS DELAY

Teachers at dental schools and dental students who are reserve officers are expected to be covered in an over-all policy being formulated by the Department of Defense

to grant reservists engaged in essential civilian activities a delay in being called to active duty. Under present plans, reservists considered in essential work will be granted a six months delay in call. Such delays, it was said, would be granted only upon application of the reservist or his employer and would in all cases be limited to six months. At the end of that time, a new application for delay would have to be requested from the branch of service involved. No blanket delays will be granted any specific group, and each case will be decided individually, it was reported. Under new orders issued following the outbreak of hostilities in Korea in late June, the status of reservists has been frozen and no resignations are being accepted except for cause.

### URGE SPECIAL DRAFT OF ASTP AND V-12 TRAINEES

Enactment of legislation which would permit the armed forces to call up as dental officers former A.S.T.P. and V-12 trainees and other young dentists who saw little

or no active military duty was urged last week by the A.D.A. Council on Federal Government Dental Services. This recommendation, which has now been submitted to the Board of Trustees, was voted Friday (July 28) by the Council following a two-day conference with dental corps chiefs and top medical officials of Selective Service, the Department of Defense and the National Security Resources Board. The proposed legislation would affect an estimated 2,000 young dentists enrolled in the Army Student Training Program, about 500 who were enrolled in the Navy V-12 program, an undetermined number of dentists who were deferred from military service during World War II to complete their professional education, and other young dentists who have not

seen military service. The Council, headed by Dr. R. H. Freidrich, of Plainfield, N. J., declared that young dentists in these categories "have a moral obligation to volunteer for service immediately." The recommendations of the Council were considered Sunday (July 30) at a special meeting of the ad interim committee of the Board of Trustees called by President Philip E. Adams, of Boston, and referred to the full membership of the Board for consideration.

#### **A.M.A. GROUP URGES SIMILAR DRAFT FOR YOUNG PHYSICIANS**

A similar stand regarding young physicians trained by the government during World War II was taken last Saturday by the A.M.A.'s Council on National Emergency Medical Service. Pointing out that the armed forces faced a drastic shortage of medical manpower, the A.M.A. council said that it believed these young physicians "have the greater obligation (to) come forward." Whether legislation establishing a special draft for young dentists and physicians would be sponsored by the Department of Defense could not be immediately learned. It was obvious, however, that legislation would be necessary to compel young professional men, not members of the reserves, to accept commissions against their consent. In addition to the 2,500 young dentists, there are about 9,000 physicians who were trained at government expense and subsequently discharged without seeing active duty. The recommendation of the A.M.A. Council was reported to be under consideration by the A.M.A.'s Board of Trustees.

#### **CONSIDER PLANS FOR DEFERRING PRE-DENTAL, MEDICAL STUDENTS**

Plans for the deferment of pre-dental and pre-medical students in sufficient number to maintain capacity enrollments in dental and medical schools in the event of all-out mobilization are under consideration by defense chiefs, A.D.A. officials were told at last week's Washington conferences. Under present Selective Service regulations, local draft boards are empowered to defer both dental and pre-dental students until the end of any school year. Plans are also being prepared to provide minimum safeguards for the maintenance of health services for the civilian population in the event of a national emergency.

#### **V.A. DENTAL SPECIALISTS BILL PASSES HOUSE, GOES TO SENATE**

A dental specialists bill, giving dentists in the Veterans Administration professional parity with physicians, was in the hands of the Senate this week after approval by the House. A companion measure (S. 2249), sponsored by Sen. Clyde Hoey (D., N.C.) at the request of the A.D.A., was already before a Senate Labor and Public Welfare subcommittee.

#### **SENATE BLOC SEEKS ADDED FUNDS FOR HEALTH INSTITUTES, INCLUDING \$1,900,000 BUILDING TO HOUSE DENTAL RESEARCH**

A new move to secure an appropriation of \$1,900,000 for a building to house the National Institute of Dental Research was launched in the U.S. Senate last week. Three million dollars was earmarked for dentistry as a bipartisan bloc of some 25 senators sought an increase of \$64 million in funds for the National Institutes of Health. An amendment calling for the increase was expected to be introduced by the bloc in connection with U.S. Public Health Service appropriations. The Senate is considering individual items in its \$34,688 million one-package appropriation bill. The appropriation for the dental research institute was authorized in 1948 by the 80th Congress. However, only \$100,000 of the \$2 million originally authorized has been granted.

#### **DR. HAROLD HILLENBRAND HONORED BY REPUBLIC OF FRANCE**

The honorary title of Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Santé Publique (Knight of the Order of Public Health) was conferred upon Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, A.D.A. secretary, by the Republic of France last week in Paris. The distinction was awarded by Pierre Schneider, minister of public health. Dr. Hillenbrand returned from Europe today (Aug. 1) after attending sessions of the Federation Dentaire Internationale and other dental groups abroad.

A.D.A. NEWS LETTER

Vol. 3 - No. 15

Aug. 1, 1950

Supplement

SPECIAL DRAFT OF DENTISTS AND PHYSICIANS UP TO 45 YEARS OF AGE  
PROPOSED IN CONGRESS -- ASTP AND V-12 GRADS TO BE CALLED FIRST

(Since press time for the current issue of the A.D.A. NEWS LETTER,  
two bills have been introduced in Congress which propose to  
establish a special draft of dentists and physicians up to 45 years  
of age. Details are listed in the following special bulletin:)

Washington, D.C., Aug. 2.- Two bills which would require  
dentists, physicians and various technical and scientific  
specialists up to 45 years of age to register with their local  
draft boards for possible induction in the armed forces have  
been introduced in the House of Representatives at Washington,  
D.C.

Both measures were proposed as amendments to the Selective  
Service Act and would give the armed forces authority to induct  
professional and scientific personnel in much the same manner  
as now exists for men between the ages of 18 thru 25 years. The  
surgeons-general of the Army, Navy and Air Force, however, have  
pointed out that professional men inducted through Selective  
Service would be given an opportunity to apply for commissions.

The first of the two bills (H.R. 9294) was introduced in  
the House yesterday (Aug. 1) by Rep. Anthony Cavalcante  
(D., Pa.), and the second (H.R. 9311) was introduced today  
(Aug. 2) by Rep. John P. Saylor (R., Pa.).

Both bills propose the same order of priority to be used by  
the armed forces for the calling up of dentists and physicians  
for 21 months of service, the same time specified for other  
draftees.

The first group which could be called, should the bills be  
approved by Congress in their present form, would be young  
dentists and physicians who were enrolled in the Army Student  
Training Program or the Navy V-12 program during World War II  
and who have had no active duty as commissioned officers.

Second in the priority line would be those who also received  
such training but served on active duty as commissioned officers  
for less than 21 months, not counting time spent in post graduate  
training.

Third would be those professional men who did not receive  
any part of their professional educations at government expense

but who have had less than 90 days prior honorable military or naval duty.

Fourth in line are those whose total active service is less than 21 months.

Both bills also provide that others not included in the first four groups may be called up for service as prescribed by the President. The Saylor bill contains an added provision that inductees applying for a commission would be granted a 60-day deferment.

A.D.A. officials immediately asked to be given an opportunity to testify at any hearing on the bills before the Armed Services committee of the House. While official comment was withheld pending a study of the full text of the new measures, A.D.A. officials pointed out that the Association would insist upon amendments which would guarantee that dental personnel called up by the armed forces would be utilized in a professional capacity and that safeguards be included to maintain basic health services for the civilian population.

Although it was learned that defense officials were consulted concerning the bills prior to their introduction, no indication has been given as to whether the bills will be actively supported by the Defense Department.

As written, neither bill specifically mentions dentists or physicians although these two categories of personnel are their direct targets. The bills propose that "the President is authorized, pursuant to requisitions submitted by the Department of Defense, to require special registration of and to make special calls for persons in needed professional, technical, scientific and specialists categories who have not yet reached the age of 45 at the time of registration, and persons called hereunder shall be liable for induction for not to exceed 21 months of service in the armed forces."

# # #

## MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL REPEALING PROJECT TO TRAIN DENTAL NURSES AT FORSYTH INFIRMARY, BOSTON

Repeal of the enabling act setting up the federally-financed dental nurse training plan at Forsyth Dental Infirmary at Boston became law last week as Gov. Paul A. Dever of Massachusetts signed the bill passed by both houses of the Massachusetts legislature a month before. The governor's action put to an end the year-old state authority granted for the training of feminine personnel to prepare and fill cavities in children's teeth under the supervision of a registered dentist. Termination of the program, which has attracted national attention, was in accordance with A.D.A. policy established by the House of Delegates last October. In a resolution, the House declared: "A teaching program designed to equip and train personnel to treat children's teeth cannot be given in a less rigorous course or in a shorter time than that approved for the education of dentists." Last May, the House of Delegates of the Massachusetts Dental Society voted against the project. And in June the society's Board of Trustees went on record against the program. The Forsyth project was put into operation last July. According to reports from Boston, officials of the Forsyth Infirmary are considering plans for the termination of the project.

## 'DEPLORABLE' EFFECT OF NEW ZEALAND DENTAL NURSE PLAN ON CHILDREN'S DENTISTRY REPORTED BY DR. ALLEN GRUEBBEL

The dental nurse plan in New Zealand, operated by the government since 1921, has had a "deplorable" effect on the practice and development of children's dentistry in that nation, Dr. Allen O. Gruebbel, secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Health, declared in a report released Friday by the Association. Dr. Gruebbel spent two months in New Zealand surveying the system under which 85 per cent of New Zealand's 320,000 children, from 3 to 13, receive nearly all dental care from government-salaried dental nurses. The nurses, after limited training, fill, extract and clean teeth of children. Dr. Gruebbel was assigned by the A.D.A. Board of Trustees to evaluate the dental nurse plan after proposals were advanced for the establishment of a similar plan in Massachusetts. Dr. Gruebbel said he found that the incidence of dental disease, particularly dental decay, is "at least twice as high as in most areas in the United States." The dental nurse system, he reported, has had "a deleterious effect on the scientific development of pedodontics. Dentistry for children, which many authorities believe to be the most important part of dental practice," he said, "is almost completely neglected by the dental profession in New Zealand, and until three years ago was not taught in the dental school." He said that under the scheme, dental care for children has been "relegated almost entirely to partly trained auxiliary personnel."

### SCIENTIFIC TRAINING 'DELIBERATELY EXCLUDED'

Dr. Gruebbel was sharply critical of the two-year training course provided dental nurses by the government. "Although the dental nurse is expected to provide a scientific health service, a considerable portion of which is of a surgical nature, she is given no scientific training." Dr. Gruebbel said scientific aspects were "deliberately excluded from the course of instruction in order that dental nurses will not develop a professional attitude." He said a child was supposed to be referred to a dentist if the dental nurse believed he required treatment beyond her scope, but added that "this practice is more often the exception than the rule." He continued: "Young children need such expert services as surgical treatment of the pulp, preventive and corrective orthodontic care and preventive and corrective treatment for abnormal growth and development -- services which few children in New Zealand now receive." He said that satisfactory examinations and diagnoses were made impossible by the almost complete lack of x-ray equipment. He also found the use of questionable types of filling materials. Dr. Gruebbel said that the government sponsorship of the scheme had given New Zealand parents a false sense of security regarding the dental health of their children. Pointing out that the dental nurse plan has served as the basis for the development of a large scale system of state dentistry in New Zealand, Dr. Gruebbel reported that a large number of dentists believe "that dental care controlled by the state eventually will lead to a serious deterioration of the quality of dental care as is now taking place in the field of medicine in New Zealand."

## **MRS. HAROLD W. OPPICE, WIFE OF A.D.A. PRESIDENT-ELECT, DIES**

Mrs. Harold W. Oppice, wife of the president-elect of the A.D.A., died July 15 at her home at Lincolnwood, Ill., after a brief illness. In addition to her husband, Mrs. Oppice is survived by a son, Dr. Robert W. Oppice, who is associated with his father in the practice of dentistry, and a daughter, Mrs. Ruth C. Miller. There are two grandsons, Thomas L. Miller and Harold W. Oppice.

## **DR. HARRY BEAR, VIRGINIA DENTAL DEAN, DIES**

Dr. Harry Bear, dean of the Medical College of Virginia School of Dentistry since 1929, died July 30 in Richmond following an operation. He was 59 years old. Dr. Bear had served prominently in the American Dental Association and associated dental groups for many years. He was vice president of the A.D.A. in 1929 and a trustee from the fifth district from 1932 to 1935. In 1929 he was president of the Virginia State Dental Association. He was a charter member of the American Society of Oral Surgeons, serving as president of that organization in 1931 and secretary-treasurer from 1933 until his death. In 1940 he was president of the American Association of Dental Schools.

## **DR. ARTHUR MERRITT CHOSEN FOR HENRY SPENADEL AWARD**

Dr. Arthur H. Merritt, of New York City, A.D.A. president in 1939-40, was singled out last week as first recipient of the Henry Spenadel Award for significant service to dentistry, it was announced by Dr. Isadore Teich, chairman of the award committee. The honor will be conferred Oct. 2 by the First District Dental Society of New York, of which Dr. Merritt was president in 1918-19.

## **A.D.A. DENTAL TRADE COUNCIL MEETS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF LABORATORIES - JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE PROPOSED**

Appointment of a joint standing committee from the A.D.A. and the American Dental Laboratory Association to discuss mutual problems was proposed at a meeting in Chicago of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Trade and Laboratory Relations with representatives of the A.D.L.A. in mid-July. The proposal will be submitted to the House of Delegates along with a recommendation that the accreditation program, on a state basis, be given another year of trial. The meeting, called by Dr. F. W. Herbine, of Reading, Pa., chairman of the Council, reiterated its opposition to the licensing of dental technicians and laboratories.

## **REPORT \$931 MILLION SPENT ON DENTAL CARE IN 1949**

Americans spent \$931 million for dental care in 1949, the U. S. Department of Commerce estimated last month. The new estimate, released in Survey of Current Business for July, showed that dental expenditures last year were at an all-time high, nearly 4 per cent above the total in the previous peak year, 1948. The figure did not include dental expenditures by government or by philanthropic organizations. The estimate of direct consumer expenditures for physicians' services was \$2,267 million, about two and one-half times the total received by dentists.

## **BRIEFS IN THE NEWS**

Two distinctions have recently been conferred on Sen. Lester C. Hunt (D., Wyo.), only dental member of the Senate. He was presented with an honorary membership in the District of Columbia Dental Society. An honorary L.L.D. degree was conferred upon him by the University of Wyoming....Rear Adm. Clemens V. Rault, who recently retired as chief of the Navy Dental Corps to become dean of the Georgetown University School of Dentistry, has been awarded the Navy Distinguished Service Medal for "exceptionally meritorious service" as chief of the corps....The A.D.A. Council on Dental Education has approved the dental internship programs at two U. S. Marine hospitals -- at Chicago and at Brighton, Mass....More than 7,000 staff positions in U. S. hospitals are held by dentists, according to a partly-completed census compiled by the A.D.A. Council on Hospital Dental Service.

A.D.A. NEWS LETTER

Vol. 3 - No. 16

Aug. 11, 1950

SPECIAL BULLETIN

ARMY ISSUES CALL FOR 343 RESERVE DENTAL OFFICERS TO REPORT FOR ACTIVE DUTY -- INCLUDES 285 GENERAL PRACTITIONERS, 58 SPECIALISTS

A formal call for 343 reserve dental officers to report for active duty with the Army between Sept. 22 and Oct. 6 was issued this afternoon, Friday, Aug. 11, at Washington, D. C., by Army Surgeon General Raymond W. Bliss.

In the same order, Gen. Bliss issued a call for 734 medical officers, 50 veterinary medical officers and 455 medical service officers.

Quotas were assigned to each of the six Army districts. Each command was requested to attempt to fill the quotas with volunteers but to call reserves without their consent if necessary.

Reserve officers who have had no active military duty are to be called first. Second in priority will be those who have had less than one year active duty.

Under the order, one-third of the reserve officers are to report for duty by Sept. 22, one-third by Sept. 26 and the remaining one-third by Oct. 6.

Those who volunteer for 21 months of active duty will be eligible for a \$100 a month salary bonus, while those called without their consent will receive only the authorized pay and allowances for their respective grades, Gen. Bliss declared.

For the purpose of the \$100 a month bonus, reserve officers will be considered to be volunteers if they voluntarily request active duty prior to their actual assignment by the Army. This means, it was explained, that a reservist could volunteer for duty after he received his call to report for a physical examination provided he has not already been assigned by the Army.

For dental reservists, deferments or delays in call will be granted to those who are senior residents or post-graduate students for the balance of their current year's training, to essential members of dental faculties, and to reserve officers "in communities the health of which would be duly jeopardized if such officers were ordered to extended active duty."

In all cases, requests for delays in call must be made by the individual after receipt of his orders. In no cases will blanket deferments be made for those in the above categories, it was said.

(more)



Included in the quota for dental officers were 285 general practitioners holding the rank of captain or lieutenant; 29 oral surgeons, including 6 lieutenant colonels, 18 majors and 5 captains or lieutenants; and 29 prosthodontists, including 6 lieutenant colonels, 18 majors and 5 captains or lieutenants.

The quotas by Army commands were established as follows: (In each case the quota for general practitioners is listed first followed by the quotas of oral surgeons and prosthodontists respectively.)

First Army (New York) 81, 8, 8; Second Army (Laurel, Md.) 57, 6, 6; Third Army (Atlanta, Ga.) 27, 3, 3; Fourth Army (San Antonio, Tex.) 20, 2, 2; Fifth Army (Chicago) 81, 8, 8; and Sixth Army (San Francisco) 19, 2, 2.

Reservists called up with organized units will not be counted in filling the assigned quotas.

The announcement of the call, the first to be made by a branch of the armed forces on other than a voluntary basis, was read to representatives of the A.D.A., the American Medical Association, the American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Nurses Association at a meeting especially called by Gen. Bliss.

It could not be immediately learned if the Air Force and the Navy were planning to issue similar calls for reserve dental officers.

At the meeting, Maj. Gen. Walter D. Love, chief of the Army Dental Corps, said that he had instructed all dental surgeons not to call dental reservists to active duty until full dental facilities were available.

Reservists will be given 21 days in which to report after they are accepted and assigned to duty.

The action by the Army came as four separate bills were pending in Congress to authorize the armed forces to call up first those dentists and physicians who received all or part of their training at government expense during World War II and did not see active service. Hearings on these bills, which in general follow recommendations supported by the A.D.A., will not be held for 10 days to two weeks. The latest of the bills (S.4029) was introduced in the Senate on Aug. 9 by Sen. Guernsey (R., S.D.) and is similar to the Saylor bill (H.R. 9311) and the Cavalcante bill (H.R. 9294). (See A.D.A. News Letter, Aug. 1)

# # #