

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 481, June 10, 1950]

AN ACT TO PROVIDE MORE EFFICIENT DENTAL CARE FOR THE PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Within three months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Medical Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines shall be reorganized so as to provide for greater autonomy of the dental service in accordance with the provisions hereof.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of National Defense shall issue such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the intent of this Act, and the procedure for the performance of the dental functions of such Dental Corps shall be defined and prescribed by appropriate directions to be issued by the Chief of Dental Corps; to the end that the Dental Corps of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, shall study, plan and direct all matters coming within the cognizance of such corps and all matters relating to dentistry shall be referred to the Dental Corps.

SEC. 3. The Dental Corps shall (1) establish professional standards and policies for the conduct of the dental service; (2) issue instruction and conduct inspections and surveys for the maintenance of such standards; (3) initiate and direct all actions relating to the dental service and pertaining to facilities, equipment, supplies, research, tables of organization, planning and personnel, including the appointment, training, classification, assignment, transfer, promotion and decoration of personnel; and (4) submit estimates of the amount of funds needed to maintain the Dental Service: *Provided*, That hereafter all Medical Service Budgets shall provide for a separate allocation of funds for the maintenance of the Dental Service.

SEC. 4. An officer of the Dental Corps of the regular force of AFP who is not below the rank of Lt.-Colonel and who is credited with fifteen or more years of continuous service, shall be appointed as the Chief of the Dental Corps. All matters relating to the Dental Service as a whole are to be administered by the Chief of the Dental Corps, and such officer while so serving shall have the rank, pay, allowances of not lower than Colonel. In every AFP headquarters and installations having dental facilities, the dental surgeon of such headquarters or installations shall be directly responsible to the Commanding General/Officer of such headquarters or installations for the administration of all matters relating to the Dental Service.

SEC. 5. The number of officers of the Dental Corps shall be not less than two officers for every thousand of the total strength of the AFP authorized from time to time. Hereafter in time of war or other emergency the Dental Corps shall consist of commissioned officers of the same grades and proportionately distributed among such grades as are now or many hereafter be provided for the Medical Corps, and who shall have the rank, pay and allowances of officers of corresponding grades in