



About Dental Evaluation & Consultation Service (DECS)



The USAF Dental Evaluation & Consultation Service (DECS) was established as the Dental Investigation Service (DIS) on 1 October 1976 by Air Force Regulation 162-7 and was charged to provide investigative guidance and assistance for USAF dental personnel. Today DECS is part of the 59th Dental Group and provides clinical, laboratory, and consultative services for dental equipment, dental materials, dental facilities, infection prevention & control, and patient safety. DECS and its \$6 million laboratory are located within the Battlefield Health and Trauma Institute of Surgical Research at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX.

DECS priorities are:

1. Provide a responsive consultative service for the Air Force Dental Corps for Infection Prevention & Control Program, Patient Safety Program, dental materials, equipment, and facility design.
2. Fulfill the AFMS capability and knowledge gaps across the dental spectrum of care through multifaceted research, development, testing, and evaluation (RDT&E).
3. Provide Continuing Education on Swank and maintain a responsive website (AFMSKnowledgeExchange) with information on new products, literature, announcements, alerts, infection prevention & control, and patient safety
4. Review dental facility renovation and construction projects and high value equipment requests
5. Provide educational and research support for Tri-service and civilian residency programs
6. Collaborate with ADA and ISO on international dental standards

DECS is staffed with dentists, materials scientists, fellowship graduates, laboratory technicians, dental assistants, and a biomedical equipment-repair technician. Often, the multifaceted RDT&E reports put forth by DECS are shared between the personnel assigned to the Fort Sam Houston facility and clinical users throughout the Air Force. DECS works closely with AFMOA to insure the highest reliability in the safe delivery of dental care to our beneficiaries.

Please contact us using the information below:

Dental Materials	Dental Materials (e.g., curing lights, resin composites, bonding agents, glass ionomers, cements, impression materials)	DSN 389-2982/7036 Comm (210) 539-2982/7036
Equipment Evaluation; BMET	Dental Equipment (e.g., handpieces, dental chairs & units, operatory lights, air abrasion units, amalgamators, radiographic units & developers, table top steam sterilizers, instrument sharpeners)	DSN 389-2982/7036/7156 Comm (210) 539-2982/7036/7156
Infection Prevention & Control and Patient Safety	Infection Prevention & Control and Patient Safety	DSN 389-8239/6103/2982/8224 Comm (210) 539-8239/6103/2982/8224
Dental Laboratory Evaluations	Dental Laboratory Equipment/Materials (e.g., porcelain ovens, porcelain systems, dental stones)	DSN 389-7036/7121 Comm (210) 539-7036/7121
DECS Administration and Continuing Education	Application, Database & Development, CE	DSN 389-8239/8224/3327/2982 Comm (210) 539-8239/8224/3327/2982
Facility Design and Review	Review of Facility Construction and Modification Plans	DSN 389-7011/4115 Comm (210) 539-7011/4115