

**AFSC 47H4, Staff**  
**AFSC 47H3, Qualified**  
**AFSC 47H1, Entry**

**★PERIODONTIST**  
**(Changed 31 Oct 23)**

**1. Specialty Summary.** Examines, diagnoses, and treats diseases and destructive processes of investing hard and soft tissues of teeth. Supports the dental health program. Directs periodontic service. Related DoD Occupational Group: 260307.

**2. Duties and Responsibilities:**

- 2.1. Examines, diagnoses, and treats diseases of investing hard and soft tissues of teeth. Examines patients and interprets radiographs to assist in determining extent of tissue breakdown. Evaluates findings and conducts treatment. Corrects defects of occlusion. Prescribes and administers medications in treatment of diseases and infection of the oral cavity. Instructs patients in oral hygiene and dental preventive measures. Provides consultation services.
- 2.2. Directs the periodontic service, supports oral health programs. Formulates and implements procedures governing operation of the periodontic service. Plans and schedules work assignments for periodontists and technical assistants involved in treating diseases of investing tissues and providing oral hygiene instruction. Instructs dental officers and technical assistants in preventive dental protocols and techniques. Works with Dental Health Officer in coordinating the total dental health program at base level.

**3. ★Specialty Qualifications:**

- 3.1. Knowledge. Fulfillment of the education and training requirements satisfy this requirement.
- 3.2. Education. For entry into this specialty, a Doctor of Dental Surgery or a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from an American Dental Association accredited college or university is mandatory.
- 3.3. Training. For award of AFSC 47H3, completion of a residency in periodontics, acceptable to the Surgeon General, HQ USAF, is mandatory.
- 3.4. Experience. Not used.
- 3.5. Other. The following are mandatory:
  - 3.5.1. For entry and retention of AFSCs 47H1, current enrollment in a periodontics residency program acceptable to the Surgeon General, HQ USAF.
  - 3.5.2. For award and retention of AFSCs 47H3/4:
    - 3.5.2.1. ★Must obtain and maintain clinical privileges IAW DHA-PM 6025.13 Vol 4 and/or AFI 44-119, *Medical Quality Operations* (or be immediately eligible for privileges if assigned to a non-clinical position).
    - 3.5.2.2. ★A state license to practice dentistry IAW DHA-PM 6025.13 Vol 4 and/or AFI 44-119, or
      - 3.5.2.2.1. Must be fully qualified, have passed Part I and II of the National Board, passed regional/state licensure exam, and have/applied for license (ready to work), or
      - 3.5.2.2.2. HPSP/FAP officers must have passed Part I and Part II of the National Board, have taken a regional/state licensure exam prior to entering active duty, and
      - 3.5.2.2.3. License must be obtained within 365 days of arrival at first permanent duty station.
      - 3.5.2.2.4. Residents have 18 months to obtain licensure.
    - 3.5.2.3. ★ For retention of AFSCs 47H3/4, must not have a revocation of privileges or permanent and substantial reduction, restriction, or denial of privileges IAW DHA-PM 6025.13 Vol 4 and/or AFI 44-119.