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Here's your dental newsletter!

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Dental care for California's soldiers

The California Dental Association announced in the January 2005 issue of the "CDA Update" newsletter that "...nearly 100 state dentists have agreed to provide dental care to California National Guard soldiers." Dr. Gerber, during his tenure as president of the Beverly Hills Academy of Dentistry in 2004, was active in encouraging Academy members to join him in participating in the volunteer effort to prepare National Guard soldiers for deployment in Iraq.

These volunteer dentists will be a referral source for mobilizing soldiers who need expedient dental care and will be treated in the dentists' private offices. National Guard members are not eligible to receive dental treatment or have access to services at federal military bases until called to active duty. However, when soldiers are called to duty, they are rushed to complete dental treatments and risk having teeth extracted rather than repaired in order to deploy with their units.

Approximately 25 percent of soldiers called to active duty are considered nondeployable because they require urgent dental treatment or run the high risk of suffering dental emergencies within 12 months.

The California Dental Association is the first state dental association in the nation to take action in developing this service to assist the "citizen soldiers" who currently fulfill more than 50 percent of the demand for combat forces. The dental profession is proud to support our troops in the field.

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