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Army Reserve supports Native Americans

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WASHINGTON (July 24, 2001) -- Army Reserve dental and medical teams continue to provide much-needed care to Native Americans at locations in South Dakota, Montana and Minnesota as part of Operation Walking Shield.

Medical units from the 804th Medical Brigade, headquartered in Devens, Mass., along with other Army Reserve units, are providing on-going support at reservations in Leech Lake, Minn., Crow Agency, Mont., Rosebud, S.D. and Pine Ridge, S.D.

The teams from the 804th were made up of Army Reserve soldiers from the 405th Combat Support Hospital, West Hartford, Conn.; 309th Combat Support Hospital, Bedford, Mass.; 399th Combat Support Hospital, Taunton, Mass.; and the 287th Medical Detachment, Chicopee, Mass.

Teams began support as early as April 2001 and will continue at some locations through September.

Dental teams provide services such as oral surgery, pediatric dentistry, endodontics, extractions, cleanings, x-rays and exams. Medical support included examinations, minor surgery, laboratory work, pharmacy, x-ray and psychiatric care.

These missions are part of Operation Walking Shield, which was conceived and developed by the Walking Shield American Indian Society for the purpose of helping to improve the quality of life among Native American people who live on Indian reservations.

Other units participating include:

Unit	Unit Headquarters	Supporting
333rd Medical Co. (Dental Services)	Savannah, Ga.	Rosebud/Pine Ridge
350th Medical Co. (Dental Services)	Charleston, S.C.	Rosebud/Pine Ridge
380th Medical Co. (Dental Services)	Memphis, Tenn.	Rosebud/Pine Ridge
806th Medical Co. (Dental Services)	Atlanta, Ga.	Crow Agency
143rd Medical Co. (Dental Services)	Salt Lake City, Utah	Crow Agency



Medical professionals from the 804th Medical Brigade (Devens, Mass.) perform a medical procedure on a patient during last year's support to Operation Walking Shield.

Operation Walking Shield is one part of the larger military Civil-Military Innovative Readiness Training programs. These programs are conducted within the United States, its territories and possessions by the U.S. Armed Forces, especially the Reserve Components. The purpose of IRT programs is to provide "hands-on" readiness training opportunities for the soldiers and units involved, while simultaneously providing a direct and lasting benefit to the communities in which IRT missions are conducted.

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