



Photo by Laura Pellegrino

Dr. Lawrence Ludwig and Red Cross volunteer Penny Cook prepare a patient for fillings.



Photo by Laura Pellegrino

Staff Sgt. Katie Rosenbeck uses a dental mirror to look for any kind of food build up or cavities.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy

Left to right: Airman 1st Class Claudia Pedroza and Capt. (Dr.) Cliff Bailey keep Holloman healthy one tooth at a time.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy



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Left and top: Capt. (Dr.) Aries Ganir uses a curing light to harden tooth-colored filling material for a patients' front tooth.

# Open up and say AAAAAHHH!

by **Laura Pellegrino**  
Sunburst Staff writer

The 49th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron Dental Clinic ensures Team Holloman members have clean and healthy smiles.

“Our base mission is to safeguard and protect the health of all active duty and German air force on Holloman,” said Lt. Col. Harry Holiday, 49th ADOS Dental Clinic flight commander. “This helps ensure they’re ready to meet the mission.”

The clinic’s top priority of care is active duty personnel.

Dependents can also receive emergency care for pain or bleeding, but routine check-ups are done on a space-available basis and space is extremely limited, according to the clinic’s website.

Dental assistant journeymen and dental craftsmen can provide services including examinations and fluoride treatments.

Dentists put in fillings and

do root canals, and dental laboratory journeymen create crowns and bridges, said Master Sgt. Daniel Amic, 49th ADOS dental craftsman.

Journeymen go through a nine weeks of technical school where they do basic training, book learning and hands-on training,” Holiday said. “When they’re sent to their first permanent station, we must continue that training on the job.”

With about 1,100 patients visiting the clinic each month, teamwork is very important,

Holiday said.

“It’s crucial that everyone is trained to work in different areas so we can always get the job done,” Amic said.

Red Cross volunteers are a new addition to the dental clinic’s team, Amic said.

The program, which started in February, puts volunteers through two weeks of training, Holiday said. They then go through on-the-job training with a fully trained assistant. Once they feel comfortable at that level, they begin to work on their own.

The program lasts six months, Holiday said. Afterwards, they’re trained enough to get a job with a civilian dental clinic.

The program also saves the clinic money, Holiday said.

“If we had to hire an assistant for six months, the cost would be about \$12,000,” he said. “We’ve already saved about \$30,000.”

The dental clinic is open for patient care from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Emergency care is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.