



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
92D MEDICAL GROUP (AMC)  
FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR 92 MDG PATIENTS

FROM: 92 MDG/CC

SUBJECT: Tobacco Free 92 MDG Treatment Facility Campus

1. Effective 1 Oct 2012, the 92 MDG will become a tobacco free campus. The MDG campus includes all outdoor areas (e.g. parking lots, grass areas) with prohibition including the use of both smoking and non-smoking forms of tobacco. This action is in response to the new AFI 40-102, *Tobacco Use in the Air Force*, and DODI 1010.15, *Smoke-Free DoD Facilities*. Aligned with this policy is our support of the additional restrictions that must be implemented at Fairchild AFB.
2. Tobacco is the cause of 443,000 deaths annually and those exposed to secondhand smoke exposure have higher risk for heart attacks and cancers. The U.S. Surgeon General has emphasized that there is no safe level of exposure. In addition, **Wounded Warriors who use tobacco suffer from impaired wound healing and greater post-operative complications.**
3. It is important to emphasize, the intent of this AFI is to promote healthy lifestyles, reduce the incidence of disease, and establish the MDG as the role model for our beneficiary population. In our effort to support this goal, the *Health and Wellness Center* provides valuable resources on tobacco cessation and smoking prevention programs. Interested individuals may contact the HAWC at 247-5590 for more information.
4. We realize this is a sensitive matter that will impact many. Our goal is to offer as much information and resources that are available to make this significant policy change as seamless as possible for everyone.
5. Attached is the Air Force Tobacco-Free Military Treatment Facility (MTF) Campus Frequently Asked Questions and Answers.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Thomas F. Roshetko", is positioned above the printed name.

THOMAS F. ROSHETKO, Col, USAF, NC  
Commander

Attachment  
AF Tobacco-Free MTF FAQ

# 92 MDG Fairchild AFB

## Air Force Tobacco-Free Military Treatment Facility (MTF) Campus

### **What is the tobacco-free MTF campus policy?**

The tobacco-free MTF campus policy is detailed in Air Force Instruction (AFI) 40-102, *Tobacco Use in the Air Force* (2.2.2). All tobacco use is prohibited on the MTF campus.

### **How is tobacco use defined?**

Tobacco use includes, but is not limited to, cigars, cigarettes, electronic cigarettes (“e-cigarettes”), stem pipes, water pipes, hookahs, and smokeless products that are chewed, dipped, or sniffed.

### **How is the MTF campus defined?**

MTF campuses are defined as the contiguous area surrounding the clinic or hospital, to include parking structures and lots; lawns, and other outdoor areas contiguous with the MTF. MTF campus boundaries are approved by the installation commander.

### **When does the policy take effect?**

1 Oct 2012

### **Who does this policy affect?**

*All staff, patients, and visitors* on the MTF campus.

### **Why are we implementing tobacco-free MTF campuses?**

The purpose of the tobacco-free MTF campus policy is to: promote the mission readiness of our Total Force; protect the health of our staff, patients, and visitors; help tobacco users to quit and maintain abstinence; and demonstrate Air Force commitment to healthy workplaces and set an example for other work sites to follow.

Our Air Force Medical Service (AFMS) Vision is *World-Class Healthcare For Our Beneficiaries Anywhere, Anytime*. Every day, AFMS personnel are treating the adverse and costly health effects of tobacco use among our healthcare beneficiaries. We need to lead by example and implement evidence-based, effective policies that promote health.

### **What are the benefits of a tobacco-free MTF campus?**

The tobacco-free MTF campus protects the health of our staff, patients, and visitors while providing a supportive environment for tobacco users who are trying to quit or cut back on their use of tobacco. The benefits of a tobacco-free MTF campus are diverse and include:

- Increased mission readiness
- Increased productivity
- Increased physical endurance
- Decreased absenteeism
- Lower costs of medical expenditures associated with tobacco use
- Lower consumption rates among non-quitters
- Improved success in long-range tobacco cessation

- Reduced safety hazards from secondhand tobacco smoke
- Increased cost savings for employers, including costs associated with the risk of fire, property damage, maintenance, and employee benefits (Worker's Compensation, Disability, Retirement, Injury and Insurance)
- Leading by example to the rest of DoD and workplaces everywhere

In addition, Wounded Warriors who use tobacco suffer from impaired wound healing and greater post-operative complications.

## **MDG LEADERSHIP AND STAFF**

**We're ready to start the transition to a tobacco-free MTF campus. Where should we start?**  
The Air Force already has 19 MTFs that have transitioned to a tobacco-free MTF campus, and they can be resources to provide lessons learned.

## **LABOR ORGANIZATIONS**

**How does the tobacco-free MTF campus policy apply to bargaining unit employees?**  
The Air Force will implement this policy consistent with collective bargaining agreements and all labor laws, rules, or regulations, in a spirit of transparency, dialogue, and mutual respect. Bargaining unit employees who have specific questions about how this policy applies to their MTF should contact their Military Department Labor Relations Officer and Union Representative. We encourage DoD Civilians to inform their Union Representatives that they support the tobacco-free MTF campus policy; Tobacco Free Living will improve worker health and safety.

**Will employees who use tobacco get longer breaks than non-user employees?**  
No.

## **INSTALLATION LEADERSHIP**

**How should the tobacco-free MTF campus policy be enforced?**  
Commanders are authorized to publish enforcement measures appropriate for their populations. But installation leadership should communicate that everyone shares responsibility to remind violators of the tobacco-free campus policy. In general, we recommend disciplinary measures should be reserved only for violators of the policy who willfully and flagrantly persist in using tobacco on the MTF campus despite repeated reminders of the policy. The intent of the tobacco-free MTF campus policy is not to "catch" every tobacco user who violates the policy; the intent rather is to change the social norms surrounding tobacco use.

## **TOBACCO USERS**

**I use tobacco; why am I being singled out?**  
The intent of this policy is not to be punitive to tobacco users. As stated above, the purpose of the tobacco-free MTF campus policy is to promote the mission readiness of our Total Force; protect the health of our staff, patients, and visitors; help tobacco users to quit and maintain

abstinence; and demonstrate Air Force commitment to healthy workplaces and set an example for other work sites to follow.

**Aren't smokeless tobacco products safe to use?**

Smokeless tobacco use hurts mission readiness and health. Smokeless tobacco is associated with delayed wound healing, poor night vision, oral cancers, dental problems, decreased sperm count, and nicotine addiction. Fourteen percent of our active duty force uses smokeless tobacco, which is 4 times greater than the civilian population.

**What tobacco cessation resources are available?**

The tobacco-free MTF campus is a great opportunity to stop using tobacco. The time to plan and execute your quit attempt is before the policy takes effect. All employees can discuss quitting with their health care providers and enlist their friends and family as support. We encourage servicemembers and other beneficiaries who use tobacco to review resources at DoD's tobacco cessation website, [www.ucanquit2.org](http://www.ucanquit2.org), which is specifically oriented to DoD servicemembers, veterans, and families.

Our Health Promotion lead tobacco cessation classes can also provide tobacco cessation resources. We can be reached at *247-5590*