



Society of US Army Flight Surgeons

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President's Message, by COL Monica Gorbandt

"The engine is the heart of an airplane, but the pilot is its soul." ~Walter Raleigh

What are we called to do? All over the world, in a variety of environments, at every hour of the day the Army and Coast Guard are executing aviation missions. Our aeromedical community is on constant watch in support, ensuring execution of the mission with the most fit aviators and aircrew. This is a tremendous duty and responsibility and truly our privilege to contribute to the aviation mission. While many other professionals maintain the



machinery, the heart of our aircraft, we are entrusted with the soul, the aviator and crew. Our treatment of these soldiers and coast guardsmen must address not only the problems that they present but also preventive strategies, and those unseen, unreported issues. Stress and fatigue are often unseen and unreported but exist all around us. The sources can vary the aviation mission, the personal and professional. But the cumulative effects take a physical and mental toll. These effects and their impact relate to the human factors and errors that can hamper individual actions and lead to mission compromise. I encourage us all to take an extra moment in our medical encounters and on the flight line to address and assess these issues. This is a critical part of the contributions we make to the aviation team. It is our privilege to be part of two great communities aviation and medicine and to care for the soul of the aviation warfighter team.

It has been my privilege to serve as president of our Society. There has been change and some might say turbulence in the past two years but changes were made to provide a better value to you as a Society member. Remember that we will be preparing to honor outstanding flight surgeons and APAs so submit your colleagues for the 2007 awards soon. Wherever you are serving I hope you have a moment to enjoy the New Year. Thanks for all you do all around the globe and I hope to see you in Boston in May.



Secretary Notes, SoUSAFS

The Society regrettably must announce the cancellation of the 2008 MICE/OAP Conference that was planned for February 2008. A multitude of factors including a number of deployments of key personnel culminated in the decision to cancel. Although the Society Board had voted to change the conference to every 2 years. It is working on holding the 2008 planned conference in 2009 in Galveston and then return to the original plan of 2010, 2012, and so on. Details are still being worked out at the time of publication, and members are advised to periodically view the website for updated information. Once arrangements have been planned and confirmed, an e-mail announcement will be done from TRUE Research Foundation. In place of the 2008 OAP, the Society will be having additional break-out sessions, as well as, the Society Meeting at the 2008 Aerospace Medicine Association meeting in Boston in May 2008.

Due to the delay in revising the complete APL guide, the printing company has begun providing reprints of the 2006 APL guide, with the inclusion of revised chapters along with the current 2007 AR 40-501 and AR 40-8. APL Guides are available from the Society website for \$25. To compliment the guide for field use, hard plastic tabs and chapter separators are also available from the Society website. Cost is \$15.

AAMA Notes

The Aeromedical Activity has remained quite busy since the Spring newsletter. Deployments have hit the activity. With LTC Persson deployed for over 4-months, AMS processing slowed over the summer months, while several other key initiatives continued or were started and remain active. Hopefully this will be rectified in the near future with the only anticipated possible delay being COL Bernstein's 6-month deployment and how that might alter the flow (*good connectivity will help*). AAMA has appreciated the field's support and patience. It continues to appreciate current input on cases needing to move through because of deployments, schooling, selection, boards, and other actions. During the summer months, AAMA receives its bolus of ROTC physicals, and this year was no exception. The flight surgeon team at Warrior Forge worked overtime and submitted an outstanding record 745 encounters to include 110 aeromedical summaries. All were reviewed and processed by Labor Day. They are prepared for branch selection with HRC.

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DOD Mission Support (DDMS)

A unique opportunity available to interested flight surgeons is becoming an "AirDoc" to support the launches and landings for the current space shuttle and future space vehicles. In the wake of the Challenger and Columbia tragedies, the DoD was tasked to provide search-air rescue and MEDEVAC support to the overall Space Shuttle mission support in case of mishap on launch or landing. UH-60 MEDEVAC teams are propositioned at points along the path to provide such support. While the crews are Air Force, the flight surgeon may be from any of the DoD services.

To qualify to become an AirDoc, flight surgeons first must apply to the DDMS Surgeon's Office at Patrick AFB. Prerequisites include active flight status, currency on AF physiology training, currency on egress training, currency on water egress (dunker) qualifications, and ATLS certification. While some of the prerequisites are not part of the normal Army flight surgeon training, some can be accomplished through coordination with sister-service units or with DDMS office. Training is a weeklong course taught at Patrick AFB, accomplished annually (usually in October) and centrally funded. The course is also taught OCONUS and periodically at other locations. Refresher training is required every 3 years.

I have been fortunate to attend the course, first in the early 1990's while stationed in Germany. Following the training, I supported two missions (STS-56 and STS-62) with tasking to the then-Moroccan Transoceanic Abort Landing (TAL) site. Since 9/11, TAL sites have been in Spain and southern France as well as Edwards AFB, CA, and White Sands, NM. After recertifying training, I have been able to support more launches and landings, as well as participate in the practice exercise drills in case of a mishap. The last one was just this past week with the launch of STS-120. Despite the concerns in the months leading up to the October 23rd launch date, which culminated with a 40% chance of favorable weather, Discovery went off exactly on time and cue, taking off to orbit. It was (as usual) awesome.

If interested or for more information, contact MSgt Thomas Reisenberg, DDMS NCOIC, DDMS or LtCol Thomas Hoffman, DDMS Surgeon, at Patrick AFB, 321-494-5981 (DSN 854-5981), or via email at Thomas.riesenberg@patrick.af.mil or Thomas.hoffman@patrick.af.mil.

*To qualify for
an AirDoc,
flight surgeons
apply to the
DDMS
Surgeon's
Office at
Patrick AFB.*





Society Notes from USASAM, LTC Eric Olins, Dean:

The link below is for the USASAM AKO Portal. This link has useful info including the required powerpoints, lesson plans, and student handouts for the annual aeromedical training required at the unit level IAW FM 3.04-301, change I. USASAM is always adding to this site, and welcomes suggestions for items the field would like to have available. Send requested changes to eric.olins@us.army.mil.

<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/385506>

Aerospace Medicine Association - Break Out Sessions & Society Meeting

Date: May 2008

Location: Boston, MA

Information as it becomes available will be posted on the society's website:

<http://www.trueresearch.org/sousafsl>

Medicine in Challenging Environments (MICE) Conference

Date: February 2009

Location: Hilton Galveston Island Resort
Galveston, Texas

Information as it becomes available will be posted on the society's website:



NEW

→ DON'T FORGET!

Status of Awarding Wings to Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners at Graduation

Please be advised that the USA School of Aviation Medicine can no longer award the Basic Aviation Badge to Physician Assistants or Nurse Practitioners upon graduation from the Army Flight Surgeon Primary Course.

AR 600-8-22 has gone through numerous changes over the years. Prior to 29 February 2000, the Aeromedical Physician Assistants were awarded the Basic Aircraft Crewmember Badge upon graduation from the Flight Surgeon Course.

When the regulation was revised in 2000, the badge changed to the Basic Aviation Badge and the Physician Assistants were removed from the list of individuals authorized to wear the badge upon graduation. This occurred with MILPER Message 00-138. The most current MILPER Message is 176 (30 Mar 2007) and further changed the criteria to the awarding of this badge IAW AR 600-8-22. The current criteria to be awarded the Basic Aviation Badge requires: The individual be on flying status IAW AR 600-106 or be granted waiver by HQ, USA HRC (AHRC-PLP-I); be on flight status no less than 12 months and log at least 48 hours of flight time. This also requires the individual to be serving in a valid flight position as coded in The Army Authorization Documents (TAADS),

which is the unit's MTOE or TDA. Once you meet all of these criteria, you can submit a DA Form 4187 requesting the permanent award of this badge.

The Flight Medics were also effected by the regulation changes and must also meet the criteria as above. Their issue is being worked by the OTSG Consultant for Medical Evacuation.

Unfortunately, MEDCOM does not own any of the badges that are related to aviation, to include the Flight Surgeon Badge. All of the badges are owned by Aviation Proponency at Fort Rucker. The Dean at the USA School of Aviation Medicine is working this issue for the OTSG Consultant for Aviation Medicine. The plan is to either change the criteria to award the Flight Surgeon Badge to all graduates of the Flight Surgeon Course or to change the criteria to allow the awarding of the Basic Aviation Badge upon graduation.

Each course of action has its pros and cons, and there are many regulation POCs that will need to be involved with either proposed change leading to a long and slow process. Updates will be posted in this newsletter until resolution of the issue.



The Flight Surgeon Oath

I will at all times remember my responsibility as a guardian of the skies.

I will uphold the sacred charge to promote the health and well-being of those aviators entrusted to me.

My studies will be unending.

My efforts ceaseless.

Those who place their lives and the lives of their loved ones in my hands will not be disappointed.

My obligation as a flight surgeon is to move ever forward in the mastery of my skill.

I promise to practice the medical arts with forthrightness and honor.

My skills must remain sharp, my mind quick – Lest I fail those whom I've sworn to protect.

My insight and knowledge can turn the tide of battle.

The skies of tomorrow await the discoveries of today.

As a soldier, I dedicate my efforts to the well being of the United States of America.

As an officer, I will always live the Army values and remain devoted to Duty, Honor, Country.

As a healer, I dedicate my efforts to the well being of mankind.

I wear the sacred wings of my profession with the pride and understanding that I carry the legacy of brave men and women who have given their lives so that I might better protect my fellow Americans.

From the skies above, aviators are not separated by mountain and sea- they are joined by a common sky.

I will bring all of them home, my word is my bond, these wings my manifesto.

I do solemnly swear these things by the heavens in which we fly.

**I am an
Army Flight Surgeon**

SOCIETY OF US ARMY FLIGHT SURGEONS

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Membership in the Society shall be open to all current or former Officers or Non-commissioned Officers involved in the practice of Aviation Medicine in the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Defense, or Allied Nations' Military Service. Members have the obligation of service to and financial support of the Society.

If you are interested in joining the SoUSAFS or need to renew your membership, please visit our website at:

<http://www.trueresearch.org/sousafs/membership.aspx>

Army Flight Surgeon Refresher Course

USASAM hosts the Army's Flight Surgeon Refresher Course. This is geared towards those flight surgeons or APAs who have not practiced aviation medicine in 5 years or longer. The training is on the distance-learning tab of the USASAM Public website: <http://usasam.amedd.army.mil/index/index.htm>. This course has been certified for 23 hours of CME. To register for the CME after completion of the course go to <https://apps.mods.army.mil/CMEWeb/Secured/>. Register under the CME user tab. The POC for this course is LTC Eric Olins at eric.olins@us.army.mil.

Upcoming Events

27 Feb 1800 hrs
AsMA/Society of US Army FS Social (at Mellow Mushroom - Enterprise)

19 Mar 1200 hrs
Society of US Army FS Luncheon (at Mellow Mushroom - Enterprise)

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