

TRAINING

The Navy's flight surgeon training course is twenty-five weeks long. Classes convene three times a year (in July, September and November) at the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute (NAMI) at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida.

The curriculum is divided into four phases. The first week is dedicated to orienting students to NAMI and prepares them for their next two phases of training alongside actual Student Naval Aviators (SNAs).

The second phase of the course is a six-week flight orientation and ground school at the Naval Aviation Schools Command. Basic ground school topics include aerodynamics, engines and systems, navigation, and weather. Also included is basic water survival and aviation physiology training.

The third phase of instruction is with Training Air Wing FIVE at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, Florida for 10 weeks. Training is conducted in the fixed-wing Beechcraft T-6 Texan II and the Bell TH-57 (Sea Ranger) helicopter. The primary goal of flight training is to expose the student flight surgeon to the hazards and stressors of flight from the perspective of the aviator.

The fourth phase includes eight weeks are spent in the classrooms and clinics of NAMI. Instruction in environmental physiology exposes the student to the physiologic stresses associated with flying. An operational medicine overview covers topics that are pertinent to not only aviation but also to other military medical assignments, affording the flight surgeon a better understanding of the mission of Navy Medicine. Another portion of the didactic phase includes instruction in the aeromedical aspects of internal medicine, neurology, psychiatry, otorhinolaryngology, and ophthalmology. The physiologic and pathophysiologic effects associated with flight are studied as well.



ASSIGNMENTS

A two- to three-year utilization tour is required after training. This allows the new flight surgeon time to practice and perfect newly acquired skills. There are more than two hundred flight surgeon billets all over the United States as well as Cuba, Guam, Diego Garcia, Spain, Italy, Japan, Bahrain, and Greece. Normally, a list of available billets is announced about midway through the six-month course.

MEDICAL STUDENT CLERKSHIPS

General military medicine and flight surgery clerkships are available for medical students who are commissioned naval officers. Training is a minimum of four weeks and students are assigned to NAMI working at a base clinic in the Pensacola area under the supervision of local training air wing flight surgeons. Third and fourth year Clerkships also are available at the NAMI Physical Examination Department/Aerospace Physical Qualification Department. For further information write to NAMI, Code 35 or call DSN 922-4658, commercial (850) 452-4658 or e-mail NAMIeducSpec-nomi@med.navy.mil.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Applicants from other countries interested in this course must apply for the training through their military service and the Security Assistance Officer at the U.S. Embassy. A prospective student must be sponsored by their country's military or work for the country's federal government. He or she must also meet proficiency requirements in the English language and attend specialized English training which is offered several times a year. The course convenes three times a year with International students attending alongside the US Navy students. **MASL number is P175307**; specific information is contained in the Department of the Navy Security Assistance Training Programming Guide. For further information, please call **(850) 452-2659** or email: **"NAMI-IMSC-NOMI@med.navy.mil"**

**For more information, contact the
NAMI Academics Department at
(850) 452-2458**



**NAVAL AEROSPACE
MEDICAL INSTITUTE**

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**U.S. NAVAL
FLIGHT SURGEON**



WHY BE A FLIGHT SURGEON?

For the person who likes to fly and wants a bit of adventure, aerospace medicine presents numerous opportunities for new and unique experiences, travel, and individualism in the daily practice of medicine. Most important of all, the practice of medicine with the operational forces qualifies you to say that you are in the Navy! An operational tour gives you an understanding of sea power and the problems of Sailors and Marines that cannot be taught in the classroom.

Leadership, initiative, self-assurance, planning ability, foresight, teaching ability, and organizational skill are all required of the physician with the operating forces. After one tour in the naval aviation community, you will remember your association with this achievement-oriented, highly competitive group of individuals as one of the highlights of both your military and medical careers.

RESPONSIBILITY

The naval flight surgeon practices preventive medicine first and foremost. He or she promotes aviation safety, decreasing the potential for aircraft accidents. This is accomplished by a dedicated search for those problems—physical, mental, environmental, and man-made—which compromise safety in the air and in the work place.

To accomplish the job, the naval flight surgeon makes regular visits to squadron spaces, constantly assessing squadron esprit de corps, safety consciousness, and the mental health of the aircrew and critical support personnel. Additionally, the flight surgeon flies with the squadron as aircrew to observe in-flight stressors and crew coordination.

The process of promoting safety begins with the uncompromising selection of quality personnel. It extends through their training and into the fleet work place, including the ground support personnel who ready the planes for flight. The training of a naval flight surgeon, therefore, includes subjects ranging from the physiology of flight to industrial medicine, environmental hazards and the investigation of aircraft accidents.

The responsibilities of a naval flight surgeon in today's fast-moving, highly sophisticated operational forces are broad and ever changing. The naval flight surgeon recognizes that safety hazards do not come to the clinic for identification but must be sought out. Thus, the establishment of good rapport with operational personnel is essential to safe completion of the operational mission.

OPERATIONAL READINESS

The Naval Flight Surgeon Course is designed to prepare Navy physicians for duty with the operational forces of the Navy and Marine Corps aviation communities. The graduate of the program is expected to practice this aeromedical specialty in an operational setting with the purpose of ensuring combat readiness of the unit. Preventive medicine, primary care, contingency planning and medical administrative duties, whether ashore or afloat, are all important roles that the naval flight surgeon can expect to perform.



REQUIREMENTS

An applicant must hold a commission as a U.S. Navy medical officer or be sponsored by a foreign military service. Physical fitness is a must. Flight surgeon training demands good physical conditioning in order to meet the water survival and aviation physiology requirements. Swimming ability should exceed basic staying afloat skills. For those individuals whose swimming skills are weak, prior training should be considered. Waivers for lack of water survival skills are not approved.

The applicant must also be in good health with a benign medical history. He or she must be able to pass a flight physical, including:

- Eyesight correctable to 20/20 in both eyes.
- Depth perception and color vision must be normal.
- All other organ systems must be normal and not compromised by the flight environment.
- The prospective student must be comfortable in the flight environment where first-hand appreciation of the stresses of flight will be required.

CREDIBILITY

Each phase of the flight surgeon's training satisfies a need for knowledge and experience which assures his or her credibility in the line aviation community. It provides the background necessary to establish good rapport with squadron personnel, thereby increasing the effectiveness of the flight surgeon in his or her assignment.

