

## Training

The Navy's flight surgeon course consists of 27 weeks of instruction. Classes convene three times a year (in July, September, and November) at the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute (NAMI) at Naval Air Station Pensacola.

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 6-week Aviation Preflight Indoctrination 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 Wings FIVE and SIX at Naval Air Station Whiting Field and Pensacola 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 of training is 8 weeks spent in the classrooms and clinics of NAMI. This medical didactic phase includes instruction in the aeromedical aspects of internal medicine, neurology, psychiatry, otorhinolaryngology, and ophthalmology. Other subjects include environmental physiology and operational medicine topics pertinent to the military medical officer.

## 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.

## Application

For information on flight surgeon training and to apply please refer to BUMEDINST 1520.42. A copy of the instruction and additional required documents are available at:

[www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmotc/nami/academics/FSApply](http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmotc/nami/academics/FSApply).

For additional questions on applying or help arranging a flight physical please contact the Flight Surgeon Application Coordinator at (850)452-3345 or [usn.pensacola.navmedotnamefl.list.nami-fsappcoord@mail.mil](mailto:usn.pensacola.navmedotnamefl.list.nami-fsappcoord@mail.mil)

## 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 are also available at the NAMI Physical Examination Department/Aerospace Physical Qualification Department. For further information write to NAMI, Code 53 or call/ email Ms. Claudia Lee at (850) 452-4657 [claudia.j.lee4.civ@mail.mil](mailto:claudia.j.lee4.civ@mail.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. For further information, please call (850) 452-2292 or email Mr. James Seale at [james.e.seale4.civ@mail.mil](mailto:james.e.seale4.civ@mail.mil)



## Naval Aerospace Medical Institute

**340 Hulse Road  
Pensacola FL 32508-1092**

## U.S. Naval Flight Surgeon



## Why become a Flight Surgeon?

For the person who enjoys flying and wants adventure in their Navy career, aerospace medicine presents numerous opportunities. These include travel, individual practice and working with the operational forces of our Nation's Navy and Marine Corps. 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, teaching, 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 workplace.

To accomplish the job, the naval flight surgeon makes regular visits to the 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. A 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.

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
- Normal depth perception and color vision
- All other organ systems must be normal and not compromised by the flight environment
- Be comfortable in the flight environment where he/she will experience stresses of flight

### 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.

