



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
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From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Subj: CLASSES OF AVIATION PERSONNEL, CLASS V

Ref: (a) NAVMED P-117
(b) CNAF M-3710-7
(c) Aeromedical Reference Waiver Guide

1. Purpose. To establish a new class of aviation personnel, Class V, which will be included in the revision of reference (a), NAVMED P-117, Manual of the Medical Department, chapter 15, articles 15-62 through 15-101, currently in the routing process for publication. This update defines the flying class, as well as applicable medical standards, governing instructions, and forms.
2. Scope and Applicability. This notice applies when aeromedically evaluating, applying physical standards, and determining duty disposition for Class V personnel. Class V personnel are naval personnel who are required to fly as mission specialist (MS) aircrew, but who have not been designated as aviation personnel in a special duty flight status.
3. Background. Reference (b) identifies naval personnel engaged in duty involving flight who are not in a special duty flight status, as needing medical evaluation and clearance, per reference (a). However, the currently published reference (a) does not contain physical standards, administrative processes, or aeromedical clearance requirements for this new class of aviation personnel. This class includes naval personnel under review or in receipt of orders for:
 - a. Duty involving flying crewman (DIFCREW), duty involving flight as a technical advisor (DIFTECH), or temporary duty involving flight (DIFTEM) to perform MS duty while being airborne.
 - b. MS aircrew includes any mission essential non-career aircrew personnel who perform specific skills or provide capabilities that Class II personnel would not typically be expected to perform or do not have the training to perform. MS includes non-career aircrew ratings of Cryptologist, Mass Communication Specialist, and others for enlisted personnel, and en route care provider, aerial observer, intelligence, and others for officers and enlisted personnel. Personnel who have the rare opportunity to fly in naval aircraft for any reason, but who do not have orders stating duty involving flight or duty in a flight status, are not considered Class V personnel. They will continue to follow the requirements in reference (b) and obtain a selected passenger physical using a OPNAV 3710/18 Clearance for NonMilitary/NonAircrew Personnel To Fly In USN/USMC Aircraft.

4. Action

a. All Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Commands and Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Units will perform aviation medical examinations on Class V personnel through their aviation medicine clinics by privileged flight surgeons, aerospace medicine specialists, aerospace physician assistants, or aviation medicine examiners utilizing the following processes, forms, and physical standards.

(1) Class V personnel are required to initially receive a long form flight physical as described in reference (a) and every 5 years thereafter. After the initial long form, Class V personnel are only required to annually complete a NAVMED 6410/10 Abbreviated Aviation Medicine Examination, regardless of age, unless the provider determines a long form is indicated based on recent medical history or it has been 5 years since last completing a long form. The initial long form flight physical will be submitted to Naval Aerospace Medical Institute per reference (a). Waivers of Class V physical standards will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

(2) Class V personnel must meet the standards in subparagraphs 4a(2)(a) through 4a(2)(f) to be recommended for a flight duty status, by receiving an aeromedical clearance on a DD Form 2992 Medical Recommendation for Flying or Special Operational Duty. Class V personnel do not necessarily have to meet the standards for all aviation personnel in reference (a), article 15-84 of but the applicable general duty retention standards for all Service members do apply, as discussed in reference (a), article 15-83. The examining provider should consider individual assigned platform, flight environment, occupational duties, physical requirements, and mental and physical stressors. The examination requirements and physical standards for Class V aviation personnel are:

(a) Vision

1. Distant Visual Acuity (DVA). DVA will be tested using the Armed Forces Vision Tester (AFVT) or Snellen eye chart. The standard for DVA is 20/50-0 best corrected in one eye. There are no uncorrected DVA standards for Class V.

2. Near Visual Acuity (NVA). No standard for uncorrected, but must carry near vision correction if worse than 20/50-0. NVA that is not able to be corrected to 20/50-0 in each eye is considered disqualifying (CD). Test by using either the AFVT or the standard 16-inch Snellen letter near point cards. Bifocals are approved.

3. Refraction. Refractions will be recorded using minus cylinder notation. No standard applies unless determined by the examining provider.

4. Depth Perception. No standard. No exam or documentation required.

5. Oculomotor Balance. Any obvious strabismus on clinical exam (esotropia, exotropia, or heterotropia) or symptomatic phoria is CD. In the absence of these findings, examiner can document “No obvious heterotropia or symptomatic heterophoria” (NOTOSP, historically NOHOSH).

6. Color Vision. No standard. No exam or documentation required.

7. Intraocular Pressure. Tested by non-contact tonometry or applanation tonometer (Goldmann). A pressure reading of greater than 22 mm Hg in either eye, or a difference of greater than 4 mm Hg between both eyes, requires an ophthalmology or optometry consult to assess.

(b) Hearing. Evaluation is performed yearly by screening audiogram. If screening results in hearing outside of the standards, a conventional pure-tone audiogram is needed to confirm. The physical standard is based on three frequencies (Hz) with decibel (dB) limits for the better and worse ear: at 500 Hz, no worse than 35dB in either ear; at 1000 Hz, no worse than 30 dB in either ear; at 2000 Hz, no worse than 50dB in one ear and 30 dB in the other. Hearing outside of these values is CD.

(c) Tympanic Membrane (TM). Direct visualization of the TM with otoscope and documentation of normal Eustachian tube function is required. Current perforation of the TM is CD.

(d) Electrocardiogram (ECG). A 12-lead ECG is required for all comprehensive aviation medical examinations, along with documentation of a same day pulse and blood pressure. An ECG interpreted as normal sinus rhythm, or another accepted variant identified in reference (c) is not considered disqualifying. Reference (c) is available at: www.med.navy.mil/Navy-Medicine-Operational-Training-Command/Naval-Aerospace-Medical-Institute/Aeromedical-Reference-and-Waiver-Guide/.

(e) Dental. Dental defects and disease are CD if the condition would react adversely to changes in barometric pressure and the member performs duties in a flight environment where this applies. Class V personnel should have an up-to-date type II dental exam prior to their aviation medical examination, but dental class alone is not disqualifying for flight status and does not prohibit issuing a DD 2992 Medical Recommendation for Flying or Special Operational Duty.

(f) Weight. Weight is to be measured by calibrated scale with clothing on. Individual MS platform assignment determines weight standards. Class V personnel must be able to board, perform duties, and emergency egress through all hatches to be considered physically qualified. Since this physical standard is for safety based on aircraft platform, waiver authority resides with the squadron’s commanding officer.

b. Naval Aerospace Medical Institute is directed to update reference (c) and the Aeromedical Electronic Resource Office with the inclusion of NAVMED 6410/10, Class V aviation personnel, and Class V physical standards.

5. Records Management

a. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned per the records disposition schedules located on the DON Assistant for Administration, Directives and Records Management Division portal page at <https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-InformationManagement/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

b. For questions concerning the management of records related to this instruction or the records disposition schedules, please contact the local records manager or the OPNAV Records Management Program (DNS-16).

6. Forms and Information Management Control

a. Forms

(1) DD 2992 Medical Recommendation for Flying or Special Operational Duty is available at: https://www.esd.whs.mil/Directives/forms/dd2500_2999/DD2992/.

(2) OPNAV 3710/18 Clearance for NonMilitary/NonAircrew Personnel To Fly In USN/USMC Aircraft is available at: <https://forms.documentservices.dla.mil/order/>.

(3) NAVMED 6410/10 Abbreviated Aviation Medicine Examination is available at: <https://www.med.navy.mil/Directives/>.

b. Information Management Control. Reports required in paragraph 4 of this instruction are exempt from reports control per Secretary of the Navy Manual 5214.1 of December 2005, part IV, subparagraph 7k.



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Releasability and distribution:

This notice is cleared for public release and is available electronically only via the Navy Medicine Web site, <http://www.med.navy.mil/Directives/>