



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
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OPNAVINST 1542.4E
N98
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OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1542.4E

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: AEROMEDICAL DUAL DESIGNATOR PROGRAM

Ref: (a) NAVPERS 15560D
(b) NAVPERS 15839I
(c) CNAF M-3710.7
(d) 37 U.S.C. §301a

1. Purpose. To provide information, policy, and procedures for the administration of the aeromedical dual designator (AMDD) program. This instruction is being reissued with a new date, updated version and signature authority to meet Chief of Naval Operation's age requirement for Office of the Chief of Naval Operations instructions.
2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 1542.4D.
3. Scope and Applicability. This instruction is applicable to Chief of Naval Operations N-codes; Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command; Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet; naval component commanders; type commanders; systems commands; Commander, Navy Installations Command; regional commanders; and all subordinate commands.
4. Background
 - a. Development of effective new air weapon systems in the past has been highly sensitive to human engineering factors. The unique demands of naval aviation and the multiplicity of aviation programs have required the support of a limited officer inventory skilled concurrently in the professional qualifications of a naval aviator and of a flight surgeon. To meet that requirement, selected individuals trained as medical officers have been cross-trained as naval aviators. Their assignments were selectively made to meet the identified requirements of billets or projects and programs requiring the skills of both disciplines in a single individual. The billets predominated in, but were not limited to, Navy research and development (R&D) activities. The number and complexity of emerging weapons systems have required dual designation of a naval aviator and flight surgeon Medical Corps in the past. An improved understanding of the roles and capabilities of dually-designated, aero-medically trained officers has now led to the more precise codification of the dual designator program, with the inclusion of naval flight officers (NFO), as well as aerospace physiologists, aerospace experimental psychologists, aerospace physician assistants, and aerospace optometrists.

b. AMDD assignments are voluntary. AMDDs perform all functions and responsibilities normally associated with their billeting as a flight surgeon, aerospace optometrist, aerospace experimental psychologist, aerospace physician assistant, or aerospace physiologist during their tours, in addition to their duties as an AMDD.

5. Discussion. Throughout this instruction, "aviator" must refer to designated naval aviator (pilot) or NFO. The term "aeromedical officer" may refer equally to flight surgeons Medical Corps, naval aerospace physiologists (Medical Service Corps (MSC)), aerospace experimental psychologists MSC, aerospace physician assistants MSC, and aerospace optometrists MSC.

6. Program Guidelines. The program should meet the guidelines in subparagraphs 5a and 5b:

a. Reference (a), section 1542-010 stipulates that trainees will incur the same minimum service obligation as that incurred for naval aviator training, to commence upon additional qualification designator (AQD) award as an AMDD. Previously designated aviators receiving refresher training only may incur the same minimum service obligation as all other naval aviators who undergo like training. Trainees who attrite from flight training must likewise incur the same minimum service obligation as all other student pilots or student NFOs who attrite from equivalent training.

b. Physical standards established for class I naval aviators and class II NFOs apply to those personnel entering the AMDD program. Selection of officers not previously designated as a naval aviator or NFO must be endorsed by the Surgeon General and approved by Commander, Naval Air Forces (COMNAVAIRFOR).

7. Administration. Procedures and criteria for the AMDD program are outlined in subparagraphs 7a through 7j.

a. Those aeromedical officers who were previously designated naval aviators and NFOs are primary candidates for this program. Those aeromedical officers not previously designated as an aviator, or who hold aeronautical ratings from other Military Services, are not primary candidates for the AMDD program.

b. Previously designated aviator applicants should submit OPNAV 1542/2 Naval Aeromedical Dual Designator Program Application to COMNAVAIRFOR via their local chain of command and the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED), Director of Aerospace Medicine.

c. For applicants who do not have prior designation as a naval aviator or NFO, COMNAVAIRFOR Force Surgeon (N01H) will convene and chair a formal AMDD selection board to consider program applicants as needed. The board will have representatives from

COMNAVAIRFOR (N01H), BUMED, and chair of the AMDD Advisory Group. These applicants will submit OPNAV 1542/2 to COMNAVAIRFOR (N01H) via BUMED, Director of Aerospace Medicine.

d. The AMDD Advisory Group will be established. Membership will be open to all AMDD communities, i.e., aerospace medicine, aerospace physiology, and aerospace optometry, and aerospace experimental psychology and aerospace physician assistants, as available. Other advisors, as deemed appropriate, may also be appointed as members. The chair may be a senior AMDD. This group may have members added or subtracted so as to perform its function as an advisory group. Membership is at the discretion of COMNAVAIRFOR (N01H). The Dual Designator Advisory Group primary function is to advise COMNAVAIRFOR, and, when necessary, BUMED, Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC), and Chief of Naval Personnel (CHNAVPERS), in all matters concerning the AMDD program. Other functions will include development and maintenance of program strategic and business plans; review and recommendation of prioritization of AMDD applicants for selection consideration; review and endorse other applications as they arise; and other such functions as may be determined necessary to facilitate program coordination.

e. COMNAVAIRFOR (N01H), upon recommendation by the Dual Designator Advisory Group, may authorize the medical program detailer of the Navy Personnel Command, Staff and Restricted Line Officer Distribution Division (PERS-44), to award the 6AE or 6AC AQDS per the requirements set forth in this instruction and reference (b), part D. This AQD award does not guarantee training or assignment in an AMDD billet.

f. The Dual Designator Advisory Group must recommend from the available AQD qualified officers, for assignments to billets identified as needing or benefiting from dual qualified AMDD officers. The Dual Designator Advisory Group will advise and recommend the medical program detailers (PERS-44) to selectively assign AMDD officers to billets identified by the Dual Designator Advisory Group in the AMDD business plan, and approved by COMNAVAIRFOR (N01H) in order to support the programs' stated goals.

g. The Dual Designator Advisory Group should be tasked with the recruitment of prospective officers from the pool of previously designated aviators from all available sources. These sources include, but are not limited to, Health Professions Scholarship Program, Navy Medicine Operational Training Center, Naval Aerospace Medical Institute (NAMI), and physician in training programs. Previously designated aviator applicants currently enrolled in the flight surgeon, aerospace physiologist, aerospace experimental psychologist, aerospace physician assistant, or aerospace optometrist course at NAMI may be conditionally accepted into the program. The acceptance is conditional upon the applicant successfully completing the NAMI course of instruction.

h. The host command of the AMDD billet should bear all costs associated with the training and maintenance of flight qualifications required per reference (c), to earn or maintain any aeronautical designation beyond those of the AMDD program, in a manner per other assigned pilots or NFOs within their command.

i. Once the AMDD designation is awarded and the AQD is assigned to the officer, it is considered permanent unless specifically removed by disciplinary action or failed flight performance, per requirements in reference (c).

j. The AQD itself does not need to be renewed with subsequent billet assignments in either the United States Navy or United States Marine Corps (USMC). However, flying in an AMDD status is addressed in paragraph 10.

8. Training. Initial and follow-on training requirements for the AMDD program are outlined in subparagraphs 8a through 8c.

a. Initial flight refresher training (or as appropriate) for candidates previously designated as naval aviators.

b. A tailored syllabus in the intermediate and advanced phases of the appropriate pipeline, as necessary, followed by an appropriate syllabus in a fleet replacement squadron (FRS) for those acceptable candidates holding previous aeronautical (pilot or navigator) ratings from another Military Service. To preclude unnecessary training, Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) will determine training requirements on an individual basis as is required.

c. Training for non-designated applicants who have been approved will consist of that training normally associated with student naval aviator (or NFO) pipelines.

9. Career Pattern

a. Upon completion of appropriate training, officers awarded the AMDD AQD will remain members of the Navy Medical Corps and MSC. Once awarded the AMDD AQD, officers may be assigned duty via detailing as described in subparagraph 7f, maximizing their dual designator qualifications and, where appropriate, follow-on dual designator tours. This assignment strategy will sustain the highest measure of flight skill currency and safety, and assure a broadly based and current cadre of dual designation experience from which to draw for senior management assignments requiring such background and qualification. AMDD is a voluntary non-traditional medical career path, which is a vital multi-service program that directly supports United States Department of Defense Joint Strategy by providing an elite cadre of highly trained officers whose primary responsibility is to train for and perform as dual designated aeromedical experts and naval aviators and NFOs. AMDDs are expected to perform all functions and responsibilities normally associated with billeting as a flight surgeon, naval aerospace physiologists, aerospace

experimental psychologist, aerospace physician assistant, or aerospace optometrist during their tours, in addition to their duties as an AMDD. AMDD assignment should be considered as an additional duty in most aviation commands.

b. AMDDs Medical Corps are strongly encouraged to apply for additional medical specialty training, such as, but not limited to, the residency in aerospace medicine. Once approved and awarded the AQD, AMDDs may stay in the AMDD program though assigned to non-operational settings, such as military treatment facilities.

c. The duty assignment categories in subparagraphs 9c(1) through 9c(6) provide maximum career and program development potential. These assignments support the requirement for sufficient AMDDs to meet R&D program personnel requirements.

(1) Assignment to an R&D type squadron or activity for at least one tour in a flight surgeon, aerospace physiologist, aerospace experimental psychologist, aerospace physician assistant, or aerospace optometrist operational flying billet.

(2) Residency training Medical Corps and appropriate additional professional training is most strongly recommended to preserve ability to promote and establish a core of specialists within the cadre.

(3) Assignment to an aeromedical safety; operation or fleet staff billet; or selected research, development, test and evaluation (or operational test) management billet.

(4) Assignment to an FRS or training wing for a normal tour in a flight surgeon, aerospace physiologist, aerospace experimental psychologist, aerospace physician assistant, or aerospace optometrist operational flying billet.

(5) Assignment as senior medical officer aboard an aircraft carrier Medical Corps.

(6) Assignment to further management and military training and command billets (major command and joint).

10. Billet Identification. The Dual Designator Advisory Group will periodically review billet and billet assignments and make recommendations to COMNAVAIRFOR (N01H).

11. Program Implementation

a. Aeromedical officers formerly designated as pilots are not authorized to fly as pilots unless in training for, or awarded, the AMDD AQD. They may, however, fly in actual control of any dual controlled aircraft, and log pilot time, per the provisions of reference (c) for aeromedical officers.

b. AMDDs assigned as such under the provisions of this instruction, for duty in a flying status involving operational or training flights (duty involving flying-operation orders), must comply with, but are not limited to, the annual minimum flight hour requirements specified for naval aviators and the aviation qualification and currency requirements outlined in reference (c). Such AMDDs who are pilots are authorized to pilot naval aircraft, in all phases of flight, commensurate with their qualifications.

c. Per the statutory provisions of reference (d), AMDDs are entitled to conditional aviation career incentive pay when assigned to operational flying status, provided flight hour and performance requirements are met.

12. Responsibilities

a. COMNAVAIRFOR (N01H)

- (1) Oversight for the program.
- (2) Direct specific pilot and NFO training requirements to support the AMDD program.
- (3) Appoint an AMDD Advisory Group with representation consistent with AMDD program activities.
- (4) Authorize PERS-44 to award AQDs as AMDD to successful applicants.
- (5) Coordinate with COMNAVAIRFOR, CMC, and CHNAVPERS in joint areas of program management.
- (6) Identify aeromedical officers available to receive training or be assigned as an active AMDD based on existing naval aviation needs in coordination with BUMED and CHNAVPERS Aviation Officer Assignment Branch (PERS-43) and PERS-44.
- (7) Receive and track all applications for the AMDD program.
- (8) Coordinate special detailing with PERS-44 and BUMED, Director of Aerospace Medicine.
- (9) Periodically review the AMDD program in conjunction with BUMED, Director of Aerospace Medicine.
- (10) When required, convene and chair a board for the selection of applicants for initial training (not previously designated) as an AMDD.

b. CMC, Aviation Manpower Support Branch. CMC, Aviation Manpower Support Branch should coordinate recommendation of USMC billets for AMDD.

c. BUMED, Director of Aerospace Medicine

(1) Act as the medical specialty advisor for flight surgeons Medical Corps, and liaise with specialty leaders of aerospace physiologists MSC, aerospace optometrists MSC, aerospace physician assistants MSC, and aerospace experimental psychologists MSC regarding their personnel designated as AMDDs.

(2) Monitor career paths of individuals designated AMDD.

(3) Coordinate special detailing with PERS-44 and COMNAVAIRFOR (N01H).

d. CHNAVPERS (PERS-43 and PERS-44)

(1) When requested by COMNAVAIRFOR (N01H), enter AMDD AQD of 6AE or 6AC to approved officers' service records.

(2) Coordinate with and advise the Dual Designator Advisory Group chair and COMNAVAIRFOR (N01H) to enable special detailing of AMDD officers to maximize the AMDD's aviation, scientific, and operational backgrounds.

e. CNATRA. CNATRA will determine training requirements for non-designated applicants when required.

f. The Dual Designator Advisory Group. The Dual Designator Advisory Group may periodically review the AMDD program and assist in the recruitment, application process, selection, billet identification, and assignment of AMDDs as directed by COMNAVAIRFOR (N01H) and BUMED, Director of Aerospace Medicine.

g. AMDD Designates

(1) Work with COMNAVAIRFOR (N01H), CHNAVPERS, and the Dual Designator Advisory Group in determining a career path and assignments which will provide both enhanced mission capabilities for naval aviation and career progression for the AMDD officer.

(2) Perform all functions and responsibilities normally associated with billeting as a flight surgeon, aerospace physiologist, aerospace experimental psychologist, aerospace physician assistant, or aerospace optometrist during their tours, in addition to their duties as an AMDD. AMDD assignment should be considered as an additional duty in most aviation commands.

(3) Meet operational flying requirements per this instruction, reference (c), and as indicated by other authority (e.g., type wing, Naval Air Training and Operations Procedures Standardization, Marine aircraft wing).

h. Previously Designated Applicants. Previously designated applicants must submit OPNAV 1542/2 to COMNAVAIRFOR via local command endorsement.

i. Candidate AMDD Applicants. Candidate AMDD applicants should submit OPNAV 1542/2 to COMNAVAIRFOR after receipt of appropriate message announcement.

14. Records Management. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and format, must be managed per Secretary of the Navy Manual (SECNAV) 5210.1 of January 2012.

15. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, Director, Air Warfare (OPNAV N98) will review this instruction annually on the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, DoD, SECNAV, and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 Review of Instruction. This instruction will be in effect for 5 years, unless revised or cancelled in the interim, and will be reissued by the 5-year anniversary date if it is still required, unless it meets one of the exceptions in OPNAVINST 5215.17A, paragraph 9. Otherwise, if the instruction is no longer required, it will be processed for cancellation as soon as the cancellation is known following the guidance in OPNAV Manual 5215.1.

16. Form. OPNAV 1542/2 Naval Aeromedical Dual Designator Program Application is available for download via Naval Forms Online Web site:

<https://navalforms.documentservices.dla.mil/web/public/home>.


S. D. CONN
Director, Air Warfare

Releasability and distribution:

This instruction is cleared for public release and is available electronically only via Department of the Navy Issuances Web site, <https://doni.documentservices.dla.mil/>