DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC

JUL 1 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

FROM: AFMOA/CV
110 Luke Avenue, Room 405
Bolling AFB, DC 20332-7050

SUBJECT: Clarification of Qualifying Aviators Under the USAF Aviation and Special Duty Photorefractive Keratectomy (PRK) Waiver and Surveillance Program

References: (a) HQ USAF/SG Policy Ltr #00-005, 2 Aug 00

(b) HQ USAF/SG Policy Ltr #01-004, 11 Dec 01

The USAF Chief of Staff established policies that permit USAF members to undergo PRK at USAF facilities. This memorandum clarifies eligibility and selection criteria for current and former aviation and special operational personnel within the USAF Aviation and Special Duty PRK Waiver and Surveillance Program and the USAF "Warfighter" PRK Program.

SG Policy Letter #00-005 specifically outlines criteria to be applied to Aviation and Special Duty Personnel. For the purposes of the USAF Aviation and Special Duty PRK Waiver and Surveillance Program, these members are defined as the following:

a. Rated Officers including Pilots, Navigators, Flight Surgeons (except those in Aviation Service Code 7J and those otherwise disqualified IAW AFI 11-402, Aviation and Parachutists Service Aeronautical Ratings and Badges).

b. Non-Rated Crew members whose *current* duties include flying or special operational duty.

c. In-Flight Refuelers (primary AFSC 1A0X).

These members must comply with guidance in SG Policy Letter 00-005 and attachments and are considered "priority one" for "Warfighter" centers as outlined in SG Policy Letter 01-004.

Current Air Traffic Controllers, Air Vehicle Operators, Space and Missile Operations Crew, Operational Support Flyers, and former aviators (including those with Aviation Service Code 7J) who through disqualification, cross-training, or personnel actions will no longer carry an active Aviation Service Code or aviation or special operational duty primary AFSC, will be

managed under "Warfighter" guidance as outlined in SG Policy Letter 01-004. Their "Warfighter" PRK Program priority will be that required for their current non-aviation related assignment AFSC. MAJCOM/SGPs will make the final determination of categorization for current, former and inactive aviators and special duty operators for the purpose of designating and applying respective PRK Program criteria.

AFI 48-123. Medical Examinations and Standards, para 5.5.4 directs a minimum of six months of retainability for elective surgery such as PRK. The "Warfigher" Program policy stipulates a six-month retainability is mandatory, one year is advised. Members included in the Aviation PRK Program must have at least one-year retainability to allow for optimum follow-up evaluation and to ensure adequate stabilization.

The POCs for this matter are Col L. Dan Eldredge and Lt Col Dave Rhodes, AFMOA/SGZA, 110 Luke Avenue, Room 405, Bolling AFB, DC 20332-7050, DSN 297-4200, e-mail: louis.eldredge@pentagon.af.mil or david.rhodes@pentagon.af.mil.

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