

AFSC 46F4, Staff
 AFSC 46F3, Qualified
 AFSC 46F1, Entry

★ FLIGHT NURSE
(Changed 31 Oct 23)

1. Specialty Summary: Provides professional medical-surgical nursing care within scope of practice, established standards of care and federal/state law. Provides comprehensive nursing care for patients during aeromedical evacuation (AE) flights. Coordinates with and makes recommendations to staff agencies concerning clinical care requirements, medical supplies, and equipment required for patient care, AE policies, plans and programs. Supports clinical and operational research activities. Related DoD Occupational Group: 260506.

2. Duties and Responsibilities:

2.1. Member of the AE crew. Functions as the senior medical member leading both AE crew clinical and aircrew operations during intra-theater, and inter-theater flights. Collaborates with appropriate agencies and personnel to ensure appropriate clinical hand-offs, patient care, planning, and mission success. Directs medical specialty teams in the in-flight environment.

2.1.1. Plans and prepares for AE missions. Coordinates clinical operations with operational aircrew during mission pre-planning. Prepares patient positioning plan and supervises patient enplaning/deplaning, nursing care, comfort, and safety. Evaluates individual patient's in-flight needs and requests appropriate medications, supplies, and equipment. Prepares and maintains patient evacuation plan from aircraft in case of an aircraft emergency.

2.1.2. Provides in-flight patient care. Monitors and evaluates patient condition, responses to stresses of flight and initiates appropriate interventions as needed. Maintains and documents in-flight care in patient records. Acts as liaison between medical and operational aircrews and support personnel in order to promote patient safety, clinical care and comfort and to accomplish the mission. Maintains and completes data on forms relative to the mission. Supervises patient hand-off, deplaning of patients and off-loading of patient baggage, supplies, and equipment. Briefs medical personnel at receiving medical facility on continuing nursing care and requirements. Accompanies patient to receiving medical facility when appropriate.

2.1.3. Provides emergency care. Initiates emergency interventions for in-flight medical emergencies. Safely egress patients in the event of an aircraft emergency.

2.1.4. Participates in administration activities. Participates in the instruction and evaluation of in-flight nursing care/practice and aircrew procedures.

2.2. Patient Movement Clinical Coordinator & Aeromedical Liaison Officer. Coordinates clinical aspects of patient movement for all patients. Clinically validates routine patients for flight. Manages clinical aspects of patient movement within and between operational theaters. Nursing authority at Patient Movement Requirements Center; collaborates with the Theater Validating Flight Surgeon to provide clinical oversight for patient movement requests. Direct liaison between the AE crew and the Command-and-Control entity for the operational mission. As an Aeromedical Liaison Officer, directly supports Joint MTFs and Patient Evacuation Control Centers (PECCs) with casualty movement solutions, aerospace physiology and environmental considerations, and interface into the aeromedical evacuation system.

2.3. Air Operations Center (AOC): Provides clinical knowledge and expertise in aerospace medicine/AE and operational experience to the AE Cell of the AOC. AE expert consultant matches organic lift/civilian air ambulance/AE crews to patient clinical requirements to ensure safe, quality care during the transport phase of the AE system. Ensures operational decisions consider the patients' clinical conditions and the risk of the transportation is mitigated to the greatest extent possible.

2.4. R46F4 Aeromedical Planner. Provides operational level aeromedical evacuation (AE) expertise to Geographic & Functional Combatant Commands utilizing Joint & Service casualty evacuation doctrine and operational art. Implements knowledge and experience from operational AE assignments to assist in developing strategic doctrine, policies, plans, and publications for Total Force AE. Utilizes the Joint Planning Process to synchronize casualty evacuation planning factors, assumptions, TPFDD build, and AE clinical capabilities in continual OPLAN review. Coordinates with HAF/AMC Surgeon Generals, Aircrew Training, & Standards-Evaluations to identify aeromedical capability gaps, improvements, and training objective inputs to meet OPLAN requirements. Builds and performs analysis on casualty evacuation networks utilizing the Joint Medical Planners Tool (JMPT). Attends OPLAN planning cycle conferences and provides BOS-I surveys for each AE hub and assists with mitigation of gaps and deficiencies identified during Joint planning. Pivots to global crisis planning to include but not limited to: Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA), Humanitarian Assistance-Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO), and global pandemic response. Provides SME support to Special Operations compartmented plans. Responsible for providing MAJCOM input during review of HAF and MAJCOM casualty evacuation policies. Training Requirements: Completion of AMC Aeromedical Planner Fellowship program validated by AF 475 Training Report.

3. ★Specialty Qualifications:

3.1. Knowledge. Combines aeromedical nursing expertise in altitude physiology and medical aircrew operations to provide the safe, quality nursing care required in the inflight environment. Possesses knowledge of in-flight clinical emergency management, unique aerospace medical supplies/equipment and patient comfort and safety measures in the aeromedical environment.

3.2. Education. For entry into this specialty, meet the entry level education requirements for appointment to the Nurse Corps for Active Duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. Must be a graduate of a baccalaureate degree program in nursing (BSN) accredited by a national nursing accrediting agency recognized by the US Department of Education. Registered nurses who are graduates of an associate's degree in nursing (ADN) and do not have a BSN are not eligible for accession unless they also have post-baccalaureate

(masters or doctorate) degree in nursing that is also nationally accredited and recognized by the US Department of Education <https://www.ed.gov/accreditation>.

3.3. Training. The following is mandatory:

3.3.1. For award of AFSC 46F1, completion of the AF Flight Nurse Course.

3.3.2. For award of AFSC 46F3, completion of Aeromedical Evacuation Formal Training Unit or upgrade/qualification training.

3.3.2.1. Completion of Readiness Skills Verification Program as defined in AFI 41-106, *Unit Level Management of Medical Readiness Program*.

3.3.3. A newly appointed 46F Chief Nurse Regular Air Force Nurse Corps officers must complete the Intermediate Executive Skills (IES) course, Air Force Reserve (AFR) Nurse Corps officers must complete the IES course, or the AFR Chief Nurse Course and Air National Guard (ANG) Nurse Corps officers must complete the IES course, or a course determined equivalent by the National Guard Bureau, ANG/SG.

3.4. Experience. For award of AFSC 46F3, six months experience as a flight nurse is mandatory.

3.5. Other. For entry, award and retention of these AFSCs, the following are mandatory.

3.5.1. A valid and current license to practice nursing from a state, U.S. territory, or District of Columbia.

3.5.2. ★ Unrestricted practice (excludes temporary restrictions) IAW DHA-PM 6025.13 Vol 4 and/or AFI 44-119, *Medical Quality Operations*.

3.5.3. Physical qualification for a Flying Class III physical according to DAFMAN 48-123, Medical Examinations and Standards.

3.5.4. For entry into 46F1 training, nurses must meet all requirements to qualify as a 46N3 and have approval of the Chief Nurse.

3.5.5. A valid and current license to practice nursing from a state, U.S. territory, or the District of Columbia.

3.5.6. ★ Unrestricted practice (excludes temporary restrictions) IAW DHA-PM 6025.13 Vol 4 and/or AFI 44-119, Medical Quality Operations.

3.5.7. Physical qualification for Flying Class III physical according to DAFMAN 48-123, Medical Examinations and Standards.

3.5.8. For entry into 46F1 training, nurses must meet all requirements to qualify as a 46N3 and have approval of the Chief Nurse.