

**AFSC 48A4, Staff**  
**AFSC 48A3, Qualified**  
**AFSC 48A1, Entry**

**★AEROSPACE MEDICINE PHYSICIAN SPECIALIST**  
**(Changed 31 Oct 23)**

**1. Specialty Summary.** A flight surgeon who develops and administers the aerospace operational medicine enterprise; supervises, conducts medical examinations, and provides medical care for aircrew, missile crews, special duty operators and others with special standards of medical qualification and readiness functions. Directs evaluations of living and working environments within the Air Force community to detect and control health hazards and prevent disease and injury. Related DoD Occupational Group: 260123.

**2. Duties and Responsibilities:**

- 2.1. Supervises the aerospace medicine program. Develops policies and procedures and prepares directives governing flight medicine, physical exams and standards, preventive medicine, and occupational medicine. Serves as the principal liaison with federal, state, and local agencies in matters related to aerospace medicine, preventive medicine, and occupational medicine. Establishes medical standards for aircrew and special operational personnel. Serves as subject matter expert for medical and retention standards determinations. Develops and directs training programs for aeromedical personnel.
- 2.2. Directs preventive medicine activities. Directs health education and control measures for preventable diseases and injuries. Assesses living and work environments to ensure healthy communities. Develops and implements research projects to control communicable and preventable diseases. Directs health promotion and fitness programs. Provides guidance on nutrition, food service sanitation, water supply safety, sewage and waste disposal, immunizations, and other community health issues. Conducts or provides consultation for disease outbreak investigations and health services research.
- 2.3. Advises medical staff. Advises and educates medical and dental staff on treatment of aircrew and special operational personnel and preparation of patients for aeromedical evacuation. Provides medical oversight and guidance to bioenvironmental engineering, military public health, physiological training, and other organizations. Provides epidemiological expertise for population-based services and evidence-based medical practice.
- 2.4. Directs occupational medicine support. Evaluates, assesses, and fully characterize aerospace worker health in relation to aerospace operations, including selection and retention standards to maximize the ability to perform safely and efficiently. Determines frequency and scope of occupational medicine exams required by federal regulations and workplace exposures. Conducts and supervises placement and periodic health exams for employees. Establishes procedures to identify occupational hazards, to notify appropriate agencies of occupational diseases or injuries, and to investigate job related injuries or illness.
- 2.5. Directs the operational medicine or physical examination section program. Examines personnel to determine fitness for aircrew and special duty operators, or to recommend continuance, removal, or return to flying/controlling status and aviation service.
- 2.6. Provides primary medical care for flyers, to include preventive medicine, counseling, and family unit support. Manages disorders and injuries unique to flight. Serves as liaison between flying squadrons and other medical services. Provides aeromedical consultation to commanders at all levels. May provide dependent care, within the scope of their privileges, as determined by assignment location or to maintain currency in other AFSCs they possess.
- 2.7. Directs medical support to the operational mission. Regularly participates in the flying mission. In-flight duties include evaluation of aircrew, aircraft, environment, and mission to provide feedback and guidance to line and medical staff. Develops and manages a mission-oriented preventive medicine program. Fully characterizes the operational environment as it relates to health and performance, providing recommendations to decrease risk, prevent mishaps, increase health, and enhance performance. Integrates medical and aviation knowledge to identify aeromedical research needs. Establishes policies and procedures for aircraft mishap and disaster response and managing casualties in aviation accidents and other disasters. Provides advice on air rescue and aeromedical evacuation. Develops the aeromedical component of flying safety performance enhancement programs.
- 2.8. Serves on aircraft mishap investigation boards.
- 2.9. Directs medical support of contingency operations. Directs the planning and implementation of medical prevention, intervention, and evacuation during contingency operations. Applies medical intelligence and uses available intelligence to optimize the effectiveness of deploying forces. Integrates their primary medical specialty with an understanding of aviation and contingency medicine to identify research needs in support of Air Force operations.
- 2.10. Functions as the advocate for the human operator in aerospace weapon systems. Fosters the identification of science, technology, and engineering needs and solutions. Directs the insertion of these needs and solution concepts into mission area and mission support plans to improve operator performance and mission capability.

**3. ★Specialty Qualifications:**

- 3.1. Knowledge. Fulfillment of education, board eligibility, and experience requirements satisfies this requirement.
- 3.2. Education. For entry into this specialty, it is mandatory to possess a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree or a doctor of osteopathy (DO) degree from an approved school of medicine or osteopathy, a Master's degree in public health (or equivalent), and completion of a residency in Aerospace Medicine (RAM) at a program acceptable to the Surgeon General, HQ USAF. Must have successfully completed a tour as a flight surgeon prior (min 18 months) to initiating a residency in aerospace medicine.
- 3.3. Training. The following are mandatory as indicated:

- 3.3.1. For entry and award of AFSC 48A1, completion of a primary course in aerospace medicine and possession of an aeronautical rating of Flight Surgeon, Senior Flight Surgeon, or Chief Flight Surgeon, as outlined in AFMAN11-402, *Aviation and Parachutist Service, Aeronautical Ratings and Aviation Badges*.
- 3.3.2. Enrollment in an approved residency in aerospace medicine program acceptable to the Surgeon General, HQ USAF.
- 3.4. For award of AFSC 48A3:
- 3.4.1. Experience. Successful completion of an approved residency in Aerospace Medicine (RAM) program. Designated Fully Mission Capable (FMC) IAW AFI 48-149 as outlined in Mission Qualification Training (MQT).
- 3.4.2. Mandatory to be board eligible in Aerospace Medicine.
- 3.4.3. A state license to practice medicine.
- 3.4.4. ★Must obtain and maintain clinical privileges IAW DHA-PM 6025.13 Vol 4 and/or AFI 44-119, when applicable (or be immediately eligible for said privileges if assigned to a non-clinical position)
- 3.5. For award of AFSC 48A4:
- 3.5.1. Mandatory to be board certified in Aerospace Medicine.
- 3.5.2. Must successfully complete a base level leadership position in Aerospace Medicine.
- 3.5.3. Must serve in a MAJCOM level or higher Staff position.
- 3.5.4. Must maintain 48A3 requirement as noted in 3.4.
- 3.6. ★Retention. For retention of AFSCs 48A3/4, must not have a revocation of privileges or permanent and substantial reduction, restriction, or denial of privileges IAW DHA-PM 6025.13 Vol 4 and/or AFI 44-119, when applicable. Members may be disqualified from flying duties (DNIF or disqualified from flying) and maintain their AFSC and clinical AFSC and clinical privileges to practice within 48A3/4 as long as they maintain unrestricted privileges to practice as an independent provider.
- 3.7★ Specialty requires routine access to Tier 5 (T5) information, systems, or similar classified environments. For award and retention of AFSC, 48AX, completion of a current T5 Investigation IAW DoDM 5200.02\_AFMAN 16-1405, Air Force Personnel Security Program.

NOTE: Award of the entry level without a completed T5 Investigation is authorized provided an interim Top Secret security clearance has been granted according to DoDM 5200.02\_AFMAN 16 -1405.