TOP KNIFE
FIGHTER SURGEON COURSE

173 Fighter Wing
Kingsley Field Oregon

RSV-4A

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Criterion Referenced Objectives

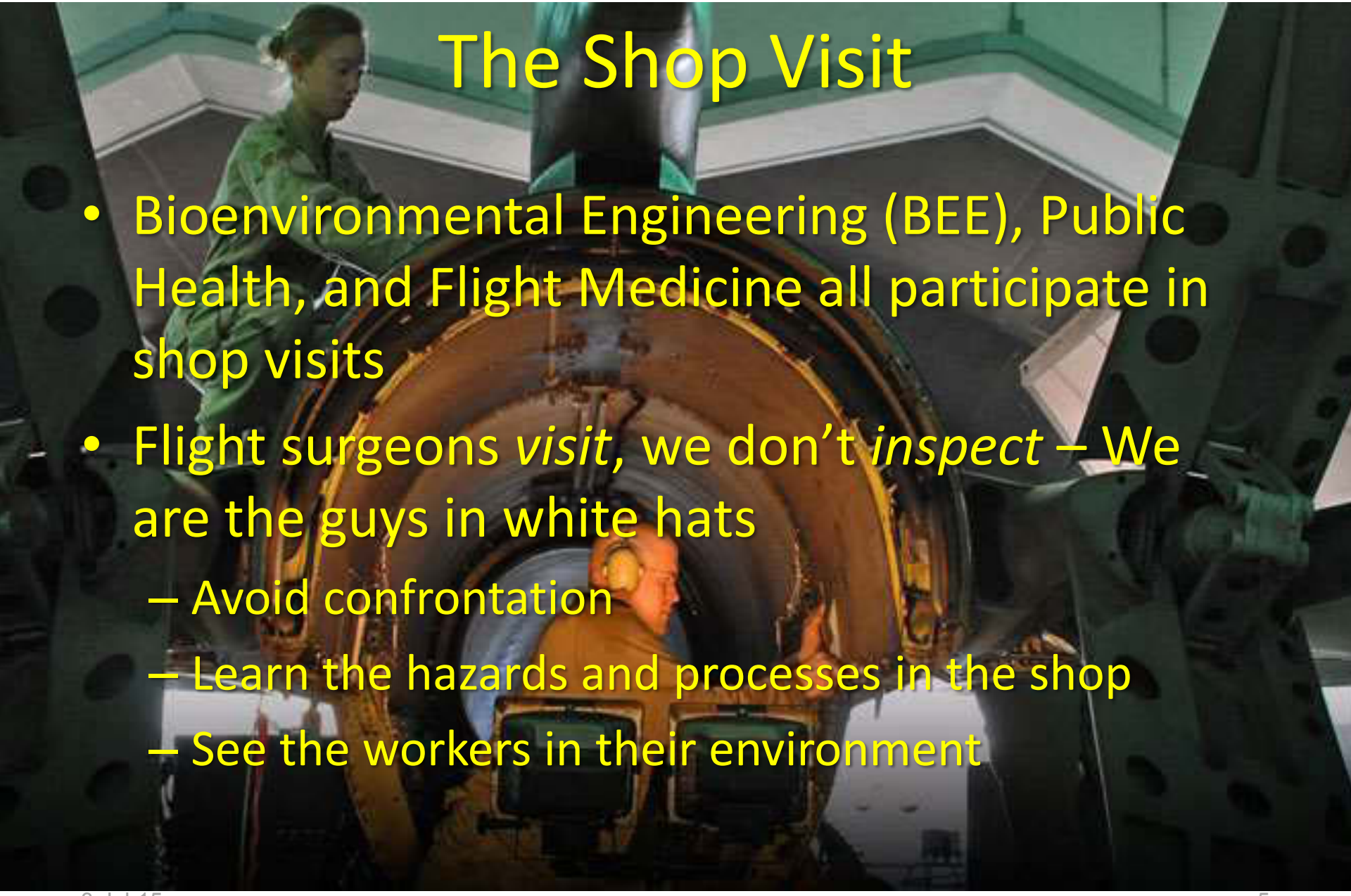
- Describe the components of the Air Force Occupational Health Program
- Describe how BE generates the Occupational and Environmental Health Exposure Data (old AF 2755)
- Describe the use of the Clinical Occupational Health Exam Requirement (old AF 2766)

Overview

- The Occupational Health Program
- Shop visits
- Occupational and Environmental Health Working Group (OEHWG)
- Clinical Occupational Health Exam Requirements (COHER)
- Medical Surveillance Exams (MSE)

The Occupational Health Program

- Governed by AFI 48-145 Occupational and Environmental Health Program
- Purpose: Protect human resources to maximize mission effectiveness and keep costs down
- Tools: Shop visits, OEHWG, Medical Surveillance Exams
- Players: BEE, Public Health, Flight Med



The Shop Visit

- Bioenvironmental Engineering (BEE), Public Health, and Flight Medicine all participate in shop visits
- Flight surgeons *visit*, we don't *inspect* – We are the guys in white hats
  - Avoid confrontation
  - Learn the hazards and processes in the shop
  - See the workers in their environment

Bioenvironmental Engineering Inspection

- BEE generates Occupational and Environmental Health Exposure Data (old AF 2755)
- Survey processes, look for changes
  - *A/C flight line launches aircraft*
  - *Part of the process is engine start*
- Document hazards and exposures
  - *Noise is a hazard present at engine start*
  - *Over 85 dB time weighted average is unacceptable, above occupational exposure limit (OEL)*

Public Health

- Public Health updates the Clinical Occupational Health Exam Requirement (COHER)
  - *Crew chiefs need annual audiograms*
- Administrative oversight to Medical Surveillance Examination (MSE) Program
  - *Send the crew chief to the flight surgeon*
- Manages Hearing Protection Program
  - *Do the crew chief's audiogram*
- Identifies trends
  - *"Everyone's" hearing is getting worse!!!!!!*

OEHWG

- Occupational and Environmental Health Working Group
  - Ordinarily includes BEE, PH, FM (FM/OEM)
  - Partial list of responsibilities
    - Reviews workplace categorization
    - Reviews/approves COHER (next slide) and therefore MSE requirements for each shop
    - Flight surgeon (usually SGP) signs off the COHER
    - Investigates/reports occupational and environmental health (OEH) – related injuries and illnesses
      - *If "everyone's" hearing is getting worse, we'll not only report those cases but recommend implementing change to protect workers' hearing*

Clinical Occupational Health Exam Requirement

- **COHER is the old AF 2766**
  - **Used by occ med provider (usually flight surgeon) to complete the MSE**
  - **Indicates the medical threats and organ systems targeted by processes and exposures in that member's particular shop**
    - ***Review audiogram, examine ears***
  - **Allows practitioner to focus the history and physical to those things which are occupationally-related**
    - ***Ask about work and recreational noise exposure***

Medical Surveillance Exams

- By the time the flight surgeon sees the member, he or she already knows:
  - Where the member works
  - What hazardous exposures the worker faces (OEHED – old 2755)
  - What history and physical should be done to evaluate for occupational illness or injury (COHER – old 2766)

Take Home Points

- Shop visits, OEHWG, and MSEs illustrate the concept of “Team Aerospace”
- BEE identifies and measures hazards (OEHED)
- PH gets the worker to the flight surgeon and ensures the FS evaluates appropriately (COHER)
- FS evaluates the worker
- OEHWG oversees the process
- Next slide for quiz instructions

- Go to quiz
- Enter your answers on the answer sheet
- Print only one answer sheet for entire course
- Press ESC to go back to main menu