



711TH HUMAN PERFORMANCE WING U.S. AIR FORCE SCHOOL OF AEROSPACE MEDICINE FACT SHEET



The 711th Human Performance Wing (711 HPW) U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM) is the premier institute for research, education, and worldwide operational consultation in Aerospace Medicine. USAFSAM has guided the advancement of aerospace medicine and human performance from the beginnings of aviation through the onset of the space age and into the present, and is the oldest continually operating institution of its kind. It is also host to the largest aeromedical library in the world.

In 2008, USAFSAM merged with the Air Force Institute for Operational Health to create a fully integrated team of researchers, educators, and some of the world's leading consultants across nine worldwide locations to form a new Center of Excellence for Aerospace Medicine. By joining forces with the Air Force and Navy Research Laboratories, USAFSAM fully leverages aeromedical art, science, and technology to optimize performance, health, and survival of normal humans in abnormal or extreme environments, including combat, air, space, and cyberspace.

COMMANDER

Colonel Christian R. Benjamin

VISION

Global Leaders in Aerospace Medicine.

MISSION

Advance Aerospace Medicine to enhance the health and performance of those we serve through education, research, and consultation.

DEPARTMENTS

- **Office of the Dean** – academic development and management of in-residence and distance learning courses; faculty development and training; graduate medical education; registrar; student resource center; Franzello Aeromedical Library; academic evaluation; student academic support; training assistance program; Community College of the Air Force (CCAF)-affiliated school
- **International and Expeditionary Education and Training** – international engagement via the Advanced Aerospace Medicine for International Medical Officers (AAMIMO) course; expeditionary training to include the Flight Nurse (FN), Aeromedical Evacuation Technician (AET), and Critical Care Air Transport Team (CCATT) courses
- **Occupational and Environmental Health** – occupational and environmental health education; full-spectrum health risk assessment consultation; research; chemistry, radioanalytical and dosimetry laboratory services
- **Public Health and Preventive Medicine** – Public health education offers the full continuum of training for the Basic Public Health Officer and Apprentice through seasoned officers and senior noncommissioned officers; Epidemiology Laboratory Service is the Air Force and Department of Defense's (DoD) premier clinical reference laboratory and applied laboratory research; Epidemiology Consult Service provides worldwide consultation and health surveillance to meet Air Force and Defense Health Agency needs
- **Aeromedical Research** – builds the strategic investment roadmap for USAFSAM Commander; provides statistical, epidemiological, technical writing expertise for the 711 HPW; provides scientific support and program management to assist departments and researchers for all Defense Health Program (DHP) initiatives; ensures dissemination of 711 HPW research findings into the body of science, the practice of aerospace medicine, and the operational mission; serves as aeromedical consultants in the areas of directed energy, en route care, altitude, and acceleration research

ORGANIZATIONAL MISSION

- **Education and Training** – USAFSAM delivers initial and advanced officer and enlisted education courses, workshops, and symposiums in the fields of aerospace medicine, preventative medicine, public health, occupational and environmental health, and en route care. As a CCAF-affiliated school, students earn college credit for some, but not all, USAFSAM courses. USAFSAM hosts four Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education-accredited medical training programs – the Aerospace Medicine residency, and the only Hyperbaric Medicine Fellowship within the DoD. Each year, USAFSAM educates approximately 4,500 Air Force, DoD, and international students, and confers more than 10,000 CCAF credit hours. As the premier sustainment training platform for Air Force combat medical training and en route care, USAFSAM employs academic instruction, state-of-the-art medical simulation, and direct patient care at three leading U.S. trauma centers to prepare Air Force medics for contingency operations and rapid aeromedical evacuation anywhere in the world.
- **Research and Technology Development** – USAFSAM researchers continue to define new frontiers in aerospace medicine and health hazard assessment. The aerospace medicine teams study and expand the world’s knowledge of ophthalmology, cardiology, pulmonology, and human cognitive performance under rigorous conditions, improving human performance well beyond previous boundaries. USAFSAM’s extensive ultra-high technology laboratories process more than 45,000 lab samples per week, conducting complex virology and bacteriology studies from around the globe as a crucial part of the Nation’s epidemiological surveillance activity. Researchers enhance, appraise, and field microminiaturized detection technology for human health hazards from chemicals, biological, and radiological sources, and develop the tools, tactics, and procedures for worldwide use.
- **Consultation** – USAFSAM provides around-the-clock response and consultative capability for aeromedical, hyperbaric medicine, chemical, biological, and radiological health hazard needs. The experienced staff advises health and medical officials on sample collection, epidemiologic surveillance, disease outbreak investigation, occupational morbidity and mortality analysis, aeromedical treatment, hyperbaric medicine treatment and hazard assessment. In every facet of aerospace medicine—from aviator health and hyperbaric medicine to advanced molecular detection and epidemiology—a USAFSAM expert is only a phone call away.
- **Aeromedical Research** – USAFSAM oversees Wing DHP research and development mission, and liaisons and interfaces with Major Command modernization directorates and Headquarters of the Air Force Surgeon General’s Office of Acquisitions to ensure proposed research roadmaps, such as discovery and technology development, respond to operational needs and capability gaps. USAFSAM also provides strategic oversight and research program management of the 711 HPW’s DHP Research, Studies, and Analysis portfolio. Additionally, USAFSAM assists principal investigators and develops research and technology roadmaps and research technical base for the 711 HPW DHP Core Research Competencies.

HISTORY

USAFSAM was instituted by Dr. Theodore Lyster in 1918 at Hazelhurst Field, New York, as the Medical Research Laboratory of the Air Service, U.S. Army Signal Corps. In 1922, it was redesignated the School of Aviation Medicine and four years later it moved to Brooks Field, Texas. In 1931, the school relocated to Randolph Field, Texas, where on February 9, 1949, Brigadier General Harry G. Armstrong established the Department of Space Medicine. The school’s mission expanded, resulting in its move back to Brooks Air Force Base in 1959 and its redesignation as the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. In May 2011, USAFSAM relocated to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio as part of the 711 HPW.

POINT OF CONTACT

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