



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

APR 26 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR AFSPC/CC

FROM: HQ USAF/SG
110 Luke Avenue, Room 400
Bolling AFB, DC 20332-7050


SUBJECT: Exception to Surgeon General's Policy Regarding Aviation and Special Duty
Photorefractive Keratectomy (PRK) Waiver and Surveillance Program (SG Policy #00-005)

I have reviewed your memorandum dated 23 March 2001 requesting an exception to our attached policy, that would allow ground-based Space and Missile Operations Duty (SMOD) personnel vision correction by PRK or Laser-in-situ-Keratomileusis (LASIK). After further deliberation on the matter, I agree that your request is both reasonable and appropriate. We anticipate an official amendment to this policy extending application to most, if not all special duty personnel who are strictly ground-based.

Effective immediately, you are granted exception to allow your ground-based SMOD personnel to submit for PRK through DoD Warfighter Centers or PRK or LASIK at their own expense through civilian sources. All candidates will be required to obtain commander's permission and comply with the other current provisions of the policy, including pre-surgical screening criteria and post-treatment follow-up protocols.

It must be clearly understood and acknowledged by those SMOD personnel electing to pursue LASIK that this will disqualify them from any future flying duties. Likewise, all candidates opting surgical vision correction must maintain applicable vision standards IAW AFI 48-123, *Medical Examinations and Standards*, or face Medical Evaluation Board action and/or risk disqualification from special duty.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my POCs, Col L. Dan Eldredge or SMSgt Tony Labonte, AFMOA/SGZA, 110 Luke Avenue, Room 405, Bolling AFB, DC 20332-7050, DSN 297-4200.


PAUL K. CARLTON, JR
Lieutenant General, USAF, MC, CFS
Surgeon General

Attachment:
SG Policy # 00-005, 2 Aug 00

cc:
ALMAJCOM/SGP

cc:

HQ AFMC/SGP

HQ AETC/SGP

HQ AFSPC/SG

ANG/SGP

AFMSA/CC

11 MDG/CC

HQ USAFE/SGPA

HQ AIA/SG

HQ ACC/SGPA

HQ AFSOC/SGPA

HQ AFPC/DPAM

HQ AFRC/SGP

HQ AMC/SGPA

HQ PACAF/SGPA

HQ USAFA/SGP

HQ ARPC/SGP

USAFSAM/CC/FEC

311 HSW/CC

HQ AFIA/SGP