



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC 20032

APR 4 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION LIST

FROM: HQ USAF/SG  
110 Luke Avenue, Room 400  
Bolling AFB, DC 20032-7050

SUBJECT: Updates to the USAF Corneal Refractive Surgery Policies

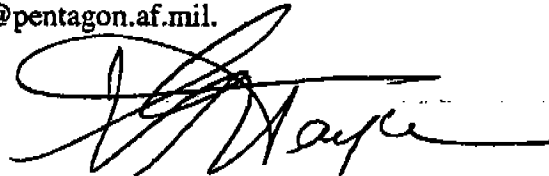
The AF Surgeon General, in conjunction with the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, has determined that corneal refractive surgery (CRS) can provide a directly demonstrable "operational readiness enhancement" for AF personnel engaged in certain occupational specialties. It is the official business of the AF to provide for the safe and efficient performance of military duties wherever possible. Therefore, CRS can be provided at government expense (including travel) at a DoD Laser Center, for members who request and are appropriate candidates for this surgery. If any associated travel is funded, it is the responsibility of the commander authorizing the surgery. Except for aviation and special duty personnel who must be funded as directed in previous policy, the commander determines if the individual's duties meet the threshold for funded TDY. Personnel who do not meet the criteria for funding may travel to the laser centers at their own expense with their commander's authorization.

Aviation and special duty personnel are required to remain on active duty for one year after refractive surgery. It is strongly recommended that commanders use one year as a retention target before authorizing this surgery for all other personnel; however, they are required to have a minimum of six months left on active duty after refractive surgery at a DoD Laser Center IAW AFI 48-123, paragraph 5.5.4.

Personnel are not deployable while on steroid eye drops after any refractive surgery. Individuals who have had LASIK are not deployable for at least one month after surgery, even if steroid eye drops have been discontinued. LASIK remains disqualifying for aviation and special duty personnel. All personnel undergoing CRS must be evaluated by a DoD eye care provider in order to be cleared to resume unrestricted duties.

AF Laser Centers are open at Lackland, Wright-Patterson, Travis, and Keesler AFBs, and the US Air Force Academy. Candidates seeking treatment must contact the eye care provider at their nearest military medical treatment facility. Treatment is now available for all categories of eligible military personnel with their commander's clearance.

More information can be obtained through your nearest AF eye care provider and at <https://www.afms.mil/warfightereyes>. My POC for further questions or concerns is Lt Col Joseph Legan, Chief Consultant for Surgical Services, who can be reached at 202 767-4071, DSN 297-4071, or email: [joseph.legan@pentagon.af.mil](mailto:joseph.legan@pentagon.af.mil).



GEORGE PEACH TAYLOR, JR.  
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Surgeon General

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