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Flying Operations

AVIATION SERVICE



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OPR: HQ USAF/XOOT (Mr. Kyle W. Rensler)

Certified by: HQ USAF/XO
(Lt Gen Ronald E. Keys)

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This directive provides basic policy applicable to aviation service for active and reserve component units. It specifies responsibilities, defines key terms, and notes policy interfaces. Ensure that records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with AFD 37-1, *Information Management*, and AFMAN 37-123, *Management of Records*, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force *Records Disposition Schedule (RDS)* located at <https://webrims.amc.af.mil>.

The flying force is the heart of Air Force's combat capability. Sustaining the preeminence of this force requires rigorous training and professional standards. Aviation service programs must ensure aircrew members, and operational support fliers obtain and maintain the qualification and proficiency needed to perform their missions. Only highly qualified members are eligible to enter this force and to remain qualified for aviation duty.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

This document is substantially revised and must be completely reviewed.

This revision updates definitions of aircrew and operational support fliers, deletes parachutist references, deletes the term "Mission Crew," and provides for cadet participation in US Air Force Academy flying programs. The format has been updated to include a glossary of references and supporting information. The former **Attachment 1**, "Measuring and Displaying Compliance with Policy," is now covered in AFD 10-2, *Readiness*.

1. General. The Air Force will maintain sufficient qualified flying personnel to accomplish its mission. Every level of flying training must contribute to establishing and maintaining a force of unequalled quality.

1.1. Initial entry training screens and qualifies candidates for the high standards of flying duty.

1.2. Mission qualification and continuation training sustain the aircrew readiness levels required to accomplish the mission.

2. Responsibilities.

2.1. The Air Force Director of Operations and Training (HQ USAF/XOO) establishes and oversees the Air Force's flying programs.

2.2. Commanders of Major Commands provide subordinate units the guidance, criteria, and supervision required to accomplish training requirements.

2.3. Subordinate commanders ensure assigned personnel comply with published policies and procedures.

2.4. Individual aircrew members safely and effectively use the flying resources available to them. Training for flying duties is voluntary, but once trained, individuals must treat these duties as military requirements.

3. Terms

3.1. **Aircrew.** The total complement of rated (pilots, navigators, air battle managers, and flight surgeons), career enlisted aviators (1AXXX Air Force Specialty Codes), and nonrated aircrew (K-, Q-, or X-prefixed Air Force Specialty Code) personnel responsible for the safe ground and flight operation of the aircraft and onboard systems, or for airborne duties essential to accomplishment of the aircraft's mission. Includes members in initial formal training for immediate assignment to an authorized operational flying position. Individuals must be on aeronautical orders and assigned to an authorized position according to AFI 65-503, *US Air Force Cost and Planning Factors*, or nonrated aircrew not in an aircraft's basic crew complement, but required for the mission. Aircrew members perform their principal duties inflight and their presence is required for the aircraft to accomplish its primary tasked mission. Duties must be essential to operating the aircraft or mission systems and equipment used for completing a mission, or other duties essential to the aircraft's mission.

3.2. US Air Force Academy (USAFA)/Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) cadets enrolled in approved USAFA flying programs are accorded aircrew status while actively participating in such programs. Cadets will be placed on aeronautical orders authorizing USAFA Airmanship Program flying status and will not be added in the operational ARMS database. An Aviation Service Code (ASC) will not be assigned and an Aviation Service Date (ASD) will not be established. Neither flying incentive pay nor flying duty credit are authorized.

3.3. **Operational Support Flier.** An individual whose primary, full-time duty does not require flying. The Air Force may require these individuals to fly on an occasional basis to perform a specific, essential inflight duty that cannot be performed by an assigned aircrew member. Duties may include, but are not limited to inflight test, operation, or inflight maintenance of specific aircraft systems or installed equipment. Operational support fliers must be placed on aeronautical orders and complete prescribed flying hour requirements in order for them to receive non-crew hazardous duty pay; authorized man-months are required prior to issuance of aeronautical orders.

4. **Aviation Resource Management System (ARMS).** ARMS is the designated Air Force management system for aviation actions. All active and inactive aircrew members will be entered into ARMS. ARMS will be used to manage flying qualification, operational training, and entitlements to flying incentive pay.

An operational ARMS database will not be used to enter or track contract fliers or USAFA/AFROTC cadets. An alternative training database may be employed.

5. Publications Interface. See [Attachment 1](#) for publications that interface with this policy directive.

JAMES G. ROCHE
Secretary of the Air Force

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References and Interfacing Publications***

AFPD 10-2, *Readiness*

AFPD 11-2, *Aircraft Rules and Procedures*

AFPD 36-22, *Military Training*

AFPD 37-1, *Information Management*

AFI 65-503, *US Air Force Cost and Planning Factors*

AFMAN 37-123, *Management of Records*

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ARMS—Aviation Resource Management System

ASC—Aviation Service Code

ASD—Aviation Service Date