

**BY ORDER OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
POLICY DIRECTIVE 11-4**



16 JULY 2024

FLYING OPERATIONS

AVIATION SERVICE

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

ACCESSIBILITY: Publications and forms are available on the e-Publishing web site at www.e-publishing.af.mil for downloading or ordering.

RELEASABILITY: There are no releasability restrictions on this publication.

OPR: AF/A3T

Certified by: AF/A3
(Lt Gen Adrian L. Spain)

Supersedes: AFPD11-4, 12 April 2019

Pages: 4

This directive establishes policy applicable to aviation service consistent with Department of Defense Instruction 7730.67, *Aviation Incentive Pays and Bonus Program*. This policy directive applies to the United States Space Force, Regular Air Force, the Air Force Reserve, the Air National Guard, all DAF civilian employees, those with contractual obligation to abide by the terms of DAF issuances, and aircrew personnel, commanders, and supervisors of aircrew personnel. Ensure all records generated as a result of processes prescribed in this publication adhere to Air Force Instruction 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, and are disposed in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule, which is located in the Air Force Records Information Management System. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the office of primary responsibility (OPR) using the DAF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route DAF Forms 847 from the field through the appropriate functional chain of command. This DAFPD may not be supplemented.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This document has been revised and should be completely reviewed. Changes include those made for readability, clarity, and to reflect organizational changes.

1. Policy. The Department of the Air Force will maintain a sufficient number of qualified flying personnel to accomplish the mission. Every level of flying training must contribute to establishing and maintaining a lethal force.

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

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

2. Roles and Responsibilities.

2.1. **Oversight.** The Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations (AF/A3), through the Air Force Director, Training and Readiness (AF/A3T) establishes and oversees the Department of the Air Force's flying programs.

2.2. **Subordinate guidance.** Commanders of major commands provide subordinate units the guidance, criteria, and supervision required to accomplish training requirements.

3. Management.

3.1. **The Aviation Resource Management System (ARMS).** ARMS is the designated Department of the Air Force management system for aviation actions and all active and inactive aircrew members will be entered into this system. It will be used to manage flying qualification, operational training, and entitlements to flying incentive pay in accordance with DoDI 7730.67.

3.2. **Aircrew.** The term "aircrew" as used in this directive and applicable for all implementing publications, indicates 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. It includes the total complement of rated pilots (manned/unmanned), navigators, combat systems operators, air battle managers, and flight surgeons, as well as career enlisted aviators (1AXXX/1UXXX Air Force Specialty Codes), and nonrated aircrew (K-, Q-, or X-prefixed Air Force Specialty Codes). Members in initial formal training for immediate assignment to an authorized operational flying position are also included. Individuals must be on aeronautical orders and assigned to an authorized position according to Air Force Instruction 65-503, *US Air Force Cost and Planning Factors*, or be 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. Reference Air Force Manual 11-402, *Aviation and Parachutist Service* for additional information.

3.3. **United States Air Force Academy (USAFA)/Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC).** USAFA and AFROTC cadets enrolled in approved Air Force Academy flying programs are accorded aircrew status while actively participating in such programs. Additionally, previously qualified cadet instructors, who have been commissioned and are on casual status awaiting follow-on training, are accorded the same aircrew status while actively participating in such programs. These individuals will be placed on aeronautical orders authorizing Air Force Academy Airmanship Program flying status, but will not be added in the operational Aviation Resource Management System database. An alternative training database may be employed. An aviation service code will not be assigned and an aviation service date will not be established. Neither flying incentive pay nor flying duty credit are authorized.

3.4. Operational Support Fliers. Operational Support Fliers are individuals 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.

FRANK KENDALL
Secretary of the Air Force

Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

DoDI 7730.67, *Aviation Incentive Pays and Bonus Program*, 20 October 2016

DAFI 90-160, *Publications and Forms Management*, 14 April 2022

AFI 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, 23 March 2020

AFI 65-503, *US Air Force Cost and Planning Factors*, 13 July 2018

AFMAN 11-402, *Aviation and Parachutist Service*, 24 January 2019

Adopted Forms

DAF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFMAN—Air Force manual

DAF—Department of the Air Force

DAFPD—Department of the Air Force Policy Directive

DoDI—Department of Defense instruction

Office Symbols

AF/A3—Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations

AF/A3T—Air Force Director, Training and Readiness

Terms

Air Reserve Components—comprised of the Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard.

Aviation Service—service that requires the knowledge, skills, or ability to fly or operate flight capable machines (see DoDI 7730.67).

Aviation Service Code—two-character codes used in Aviation Resource Management System that indicate incentive pay entitlement and flying status.

Aviation Service Date—the effective date of the first aeronautical order to perform flight duties (see DoDI 7730.67).

Rated—An Air Force officer who completes Air Force formal undergraduate flying training or Air Force designated equivalent training is eligible for a United States Air Force rating (see AFMAN 11-402).