

Warfighter Eye Center - Refractive Surgery and Research Program
Malcolm Grow Medical Clinics and Surgery Center
Joint Base Andrews

Mission: Provide a combat edge in vision! True to sight, ready to fight!

Vision: Deliver performance enhancing vision to fine tune the human weapons system.

The Warfighter Eye Center Refractive Surgery and Research Program provides state of the art refractive surgery procedures to our aviators and warfighters. Our center offers photorefractive keratectomy (PRK) and laser in-situ keratomileusis (LASIK). Both procedures aim to sharpen uncorrected vision and support optimal readiness to serve our Nation's needs.

What is refractive eye surgery?

Refractive surgery is a procedure to correct refractive error (nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism) by reshaping the cornea – the clear outermost layer of the eye that functions like a window and focuses light.

Click [here](#) to learn more about refractive surgery:

LASIK vs PRK

Photorefractive keratectomy (PRK) and laser in-situ keratomileusis (LASIK) are both outpatient surgical procedures.

With LASIK, a thin flap in the cornea is created by a femtosecond laser. The surgeon then folds back the flap and an excimer laser reshapes the cornea to correct the patient's refractive error. The flap is then placed back in its original position and allowed to heal in place.

Click [here](#) to learn more about LASIK:

With PRK, the surface layer of the cornea is gently removed. The cornea is then reshaped by an excimer laser. A bandage contact lens is placed and the eye is allowed to heal.

Click [here](#) to learn more about PRK:

Is Refractive Surgery Right for Me?

Click [here](#) to read A Patient's Guide to Refractive Surgery.

Eligibility

- Eligible members include active duty service members in the USAF, USMC, USA, USN, USPHS, NOAA, and any Allied Forces. National Guard and Reserve service members on active duty may be eligible.
- Members must complete a refractive surgery application package, which includes a commander's authorization signed by their squadron commander with a rank of O-3 or above.
<http://www.airforcemedicine.af.mil/Portals/1/Documents/MTFs/prk-packet-andrews.pdf>

- Air Force and Army members are required to have 6 months of active duty retainability; Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard members are required to have 12 months of active duty retainability.
- Members must be at least 21 years of age.
- Stable glasses or contact lens prescription for greater than 12 months.
- Willing and capable of complying with postoperative examinations for 12 months after surgery.
- Before applying for corneal refractive surgery (CRS), Air Force members must be aware there are two management groups, **Aviation and Aviation Related Special Duty (AASD) Program** and the **Warfighter Program**. In accordance with AF policy, prior to any CRS treatment (DOD or civilian), the application and receipt of "Permission to Proceed" authorization must be accomplished.

Note: An ophthalmologist will determine a member's eligibility to proceed with refractive surgery.

Note: Dependents and retirees are not eligible for refractive surgery.

Clinic information

Hours

Weekday: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.; closed weekends, federal holidays, and the second Thursday of every month for training days

Phone

(240) 612-1730

Location

Malcom Grow Medical Clinics and Surgery Center
1060 West Perimeter Road
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