Corneal Refractive Surgery (LASIK/PRK) Process at Seymour Johnson AFB

Guide for Submitting Your Application
Corneal Refractive Surgery
Introduction

Who
- All Active Duty and Reservists/Guardsmen on orders for > 6 months are eligible to apply

What
- Must meet program criteria (over 21 years old, stable glasses prescription and eye measurements, not have any chronic health conditions that are disqualifying).
- Must have at least 6 months retainability.
- Must not be deploying for at least 6 months.

Why
- Reduces your dependence on glasses and/or contact lenses.
Steps to Submit a Package for Surgery

1. Have a written glasses prescription that is 12 months old or older

   From a previous military or civilian provider

2. Have a routine eye exam at SJAFB Optometry

3. Complete all required paperwork
   - 1. Commanders Authorization
   - 2. Application
   - 3. Managed Care Agreement

4. Stop wearing your contact lenses for 14 days

   Schedule follow-up appointment with Optometry
Steps to Submit a Package for Surgery (cont)

5. Have a preoperative exam at SJAFB Optometry

6. Email all of your documents to the surgery center of your choice
FAQs

What if my prescription has changed?
- Your prescription can change a little bit, the doctor will check for that during your routine exam.

Where can I have the surgery?
- The following bases have surgery centers: Lackland, Air Force Academy, Andrews, Keesler, Travis, Wright-Patterson, Elmendorf-Richardson
- If you would like to have it done through a civilian surgeon of your choice, at an out of pocket cost, you still need to submit an application to be approved by the Air Force before you proceed with surgery.

How much does it cost?
- There is no cost to the Active Duty member for the procedure when it is done at a DoD facility. The member is responsible for travel and lodging to and from the surgery center.

How long after the surgery will I be able to deploy?
- Usually between 1-4 months after the surgery you will be eligible to deploy. Because there is a range of time based upon the procedure and the individual healing time, you are required to have 6 months after the surgery before you are scheduled or vulnerable to deploy.

How long do the results last?
- The surgery will not wear off but your prescription can continue to change after the surgery like it did before the surgery.
FAQs (continued)

- **Does the surgery correct for up close?**
  - The purpose of the surgery is to correct distance vision. Depending on your prescription the surgery could improve near vision or could make it more difficult to see up close.

- **Will I ever have to wear glasses again?**
  - Everyone eventually has to wear reading glasses sometime in their 40’s, this is true even after having the surgery. Your prescription might also continue to change after having the surgery and glasses might be required to achieve your best vision.

- **How do I schedule an appointment?**
  - Please call the appointment line at 919-722-1802 for a routine eye exam.
  - Please contact the Optometry clinic at 919-722-1869 for all other appointments.