Pilot-Physician Program

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Historical Background

• Have existed since before WWI
• Operational “war fighter”
• Operational mission support medical officer

Major Ralph N. Greene

First U.S. military physician to become a pilot. (1916-1917)
General practitioner turned neuropsychiatrist, from a Florida Army National Guard Unit

April 25, 1919: Surgeon General published a letter requesting volunteers from among the current medical officers to serve as flight surgeons. Inducements included an opportunity to become pilots themselves, with a 25% bonus in salary as flight pay
Historical Background

Establishment of the Flight Surgeon

- American innovation - young medical corps physicians studying in Europe on Allied medical facilities just prior to WWI.
  - special assistant to commander
  - trusted advisor
  - friend
  - aircrew to understand flying environment

Dr. Harry G. Armstrong,

1949 - USAF Surgeon General and father of the modern Pilot-Physician Program

"One must participate in activities firsthand to fully understand the associated risks and problems."

- Our Purpose – understand the risks of the flying environment firsthand to improve human performance
Purpose of PPP

- Governed by AFI 11-405

- Four Main Objectives
  - Expert Guidance
  - Research
  - Teaching
  - Analysis

The Pilot-Physician Program (PPP) is governed by AFI 11-405. It has four main objectives: expert guidance, research, teaching, and analysis. The diagram illustrates the integration of various expertise and goals within the program.
What We’ve Done

Humanitarian

B-52

T-38IFF

F-15C/F-22

A-10
Pathways to the PPP

**Flight Surgeon to Undergraduate Flying Training (UFT)**
- How old? 30 at the UFT class start date
  - Exception to Policy (ETP) opportunity?
- 1 year as a flight doc
- Civilian flying experience?
- Line support!
- AFOQT and BAT completed

**Pilot to Medical School**
- Serve at least 2 operational tours before AFPC release
- No guarantee for medical school acceptance
- Must work pre-requisites individually
- Commissioned at previous rank upon graduation (2 Lt during Med School)
- HPSP or Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences