

Raytheon Polar Services Company

7400 S. Tucson Way, Centennial, CO 80112-3938
(303) 790-8606 (800) 688-8606 FAX (303) 649-9275

Dear Doctor:

This person is applying for a position with the United States Antarctic Program (USAP). Due to the remoteness of the area, medical facilities have limited diagnostic and therapeutic modalities. The clinics in Antarctica can comfortably manage primary care problems. Emergency situations requiring hospitalization or sophisticated diagnostic procedures require evacuation to New Zealand or the South American continent. Under optimal conditions, medical evacuation can be performed in no less than twelve hours. At Palmer Station evacuation is only available by sea and may take several days. At McMurdo and the South Pole Stations, weather conditions can delay flights in and out of Antarctica for several days in the summer. Winter evacuations are virtually impossible. Consequently, common clinical situations in urban communities such as evaluating atypical chest pain, acute abdominal pain or treating renal calculi can present a major dilemma.

Antarctica is the highest, driest and coldest continent on earth. Temperatures at McMurdo Station are frequently well below freezing in the summer. South Pole temperatures on average are -30F degrees in the summer with wind chills commonly -60F degrees. Employees live in a confined space during the unrelenting six-month summer daylight or winter darkness. The South Pole is at a physiological altitude greater than 10,000 feet and has virtually no humidity. Altitude sickness is very common and must be differentiated from other serious causes of dyspnea, dizziness and chest pain. Accordingly, it is vitally important to thoroughly screen individuals to identify risk factors for cardiopulmonary and psychological conditions. Your comments on the overall health of the applicant are valuable in contributing to the success of the Program and the safety of the participant. The USAP has medical examination requirements for summer and winter deployment as discussed below:

Summer Deployment (August-February)

Medical Examination/Testing:

All tests and labs to be performed on this candidate can be found on the “**Medical/Dental Checklist for Deployment Clearance to Antarctica.**” Additional tests and exams may be required based on this information. Please review the candidate’s checklist, eight-page Medical History Form, and perform a physical examination. **A comment on all positive findings in the history and examination is required to help in expediting the medical clearance process. All sections of the medical exam must be performed.** The lab testing must be done within 6 months of deployment.

Blood typing is required for all applicants. Personnel are requested to contribute to the USAP’s walking blood bank. You may ask the participant if they are able to contribute blood. If the candidate indicates his/her willingness, please note the answer next to the blood type on the Physical Examination Form. This is not a requirement of you or the candidate and will not affect deployment clearance. **If the applicant does not wish to be a participant of the walking blood bank, please identify in the COMMENTS section of the exam – otherwise consent is implied.**

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Summer Deployment (October to February)

All tests required for summer deployment – see Medical and Dental checklist

Winter Deployment (February to October)

All tests required for summer deployment, plus the following:

- TSH
- HIV Testing
- Chest X-ray – send report only
- Psychological testing for McMurdo and South Pole stations

Administrative Information

1. Lab Results: Labs to be completed no earlier than 6 months prior to deployment.

Please follow the instructions in the Medical Deployment E-mail and Medical Deployment Packet for completing laboratory requirements. Additionally, the requirements are listed on the individual medical/dental checklist.

Visit www.labcorp.com for the nearest patient service center to your location; bring with you the LabCorp requisition sent to you via email. If a LabCorp center is not near your location, contact RPSC Medical to request a LabCorp Lab Kit, which will be mailed to your attention. Your personal physician or other lab facility can follow the instructions for collecting the samples and forwarding them to LabCorp in Colorado for processing. Please ensure the lab kit instructions are closely followed.

Should you be completing your laboratory requirements outside the United States, please refer to form ME-DT-A-109 (titled “Required Laboratory Tests”) in the Medical Deployment Packet. Lab results are to be forwarded to RPSC Medical.

2. Return of Examination/Tests: Please send the completed original medical history and physical examination forms, including requested test results, to RPSC Medical.

3. Other Requirements: Prescription medications (type and quantity) are limited at all Antarctic medical facilities. Candidates are required to bring a sufficient supply of their own medication for the duration of their deployment. Please refer to form ME-A-121 in the deployment packet. RPSC Medical can assist candidates in obtaining sufficient medications if their prescription plans limit the quantity allowed at each refill.

Payment for this Examination: The candidate is responsible for payment! This includes insurance deductible(s), payment of all charges incurred by this exam if no insurance is available, or insurance payment is denied. RPSC WILL NOT REIMBURSE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION WITH THIS
MEDICAL EXAMINATION.**