

FACT SHEET

711TH HUMAN PERFORMANCE WING/USAF SCHOOL OF AEROSPACE MEDICINE

The 711th Human Performance Wing's USAF School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM) is the premier institute for research, education, and worldwide operational consultation in Aerospace Medicine. It is the oldest continually operating institution of its kind. It also is host to the largest aeromedical library in the world. USAFSAM has guided the advancement of aerospace medicine and human performance from the beginnings of aviation through the onset of the space age and into the present.



In 2008, USAFSAM merged with the Air Force Institute for Operational Health to create a fully integrated team of researchers, educators, and some of the world's top consultants across 15 worldwide locations to form the powerful nexus of a new Center of Excellence for Aerospace Medicine. By joining forces with the Air Force and Navy Research Laboratories, USAFSAM fully leverages aeromedical art, science and technology to optimize performance, health and survival of normal humans in abnormal or extreme environments, including combat, air, space and cyberspace.

Commander

Colonel Christian R. Benjamin

Vision

USAFSAM's vision is to be the international center of excellence for aerospace medicine consultation, research, education and training.

Mission

As first-call consultants in aerospace medicine, we find solutions to operational needs of today and tomorrow and prepare new aeromedical experts for future global challenges.

Departments

- Office of the Dean – Distributed Learning, Academic Affairs, Registrar, Student Operations, Faculty Qualification and Development, Course Development/Management, Community College of the Air Force, Course Evaluation/Accreditation
- Aerospace Medicine – Aerospace Medicine Consultation (via telecommunications) and Evaluation (on-site using a world-class service), Aerospace Medicine/Physiology Education, Aerospace Medicine Research, Dental Evaluation, Medical Flight Screening, Medical/Aeromedical Standards
- International and Expeditionary Education and Training – International Engagement via Defense Institute for Medical Operations (DIMO) and Advanced Aerospace Medicine for International Medical Officers (AAMIMO), Expeditionary Training to include International Health Specialist, Air Force Expeditionary Skills Institute (AFEMSI), Contingency Operations, Clinical Immersion at select civilian centers
- Occupational and Environmental Health – Occupational/Environmental Health Education, Environmental/Workplace Hazard Assessment/Mitigation ranging from industrial chemicals to radiation
- Preventive Medicine and Public Health – Public Health Education, Epidemiology Laboratory Service, (Department of Defense premier advanced diagnostics lab), Worldwide Epidemiology Consultative Service, Applied Technology Center

Organizational Mission

- Education and Training – USAFSAM conducts initial and advanced officer and enlisted professional training for bioenvironmental engineers, public health, aerospace physiology and aerospace medicine. The school hosts four Accreditation Counsel for Graduate Medical Education accredited medical training programs: residencies in Aerospace Medicine, Occupational Health, Preventive Medicine and the Department of Defense's only Hyperbaric Medicine Fellowship. USAFSAM educates and trains approximately 6,000 Air Force, Department of Defense and international students annually, and confers 16,000 Community College of the Air Force credit hours. As the Air Force's premier training platform for combat medical training and aeromedical evacuation, USAFSAM utilizes state-of-the-art simulators, live subjects and rigorous in-residence training at three of the nation's top trauma centers to prepare Air Force medics for contingency operations and rapid evacuation anywhere in the world.
- Research and Technology Development – USAFSAM researchers continue to define new frontiers in aerospace medicine and health hazard assessment. The aerospace medicine teams study and expand the world's knowledge of ophthalmology, cardiology, pulmonology and human cognitive performance under rigorous conditions, improving human performance well beyond previous boundaries. USAFSAM's extensive ultra-high technology laboratories process more than 45,000 lab samples per week, conducting complex virology and bacteriology studies from around the globe as a crucial part of our nation's epidemiological surveillance activity. Researchers enhance, appraise and field microminiaturized detection technology for human health hazards from chemicals, biological and radiological sources, and develop the tools, tactics and procedures for use worldwide.
- Consultation – USAFSAM provides around-the-clock response and consultative capability for aeromedical, chemical, biological and radiological health hazard needs. The experienced staff advises health and medical officials on sample collection, epidemiologic surveillance, aeromedical treatment and hazard assessment. In every facet of aerospace medicine, from aviator health and hyperbaric medicine to advanced molecular detection and epidemiology, a USAFSAM expert is only a phone call away.

History

USAFSAM was instituted by Dr. Theodore Lyster in 1918 at Hazelhurst Field, N.Y., as the Medical Research Laboratory of the Air Service, U.S. Army Signal Corps. In 1922, it was redesignated the School of Aviation Medicine and four years later it moved to Brooks Field, Texas. In 1931, the school relocated to Randolph Field, Texas, where on February 9, 1949, Brig. Gen. Harry G. Armstrong established the Department of Space Medicine. The school's mission expanded, resulting in its move back to Brooks Air Force Base in 1959 and its redesignation as the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine. On March 25, 2008, USAFSAM joined the Air Force Research Laboratory as part of the 711th Human Performance Wing and relocated to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Point of Contact

USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, 2947 Fifth Street, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433-7212, DSN 798-2716 or 937-938-2716. www.wpafb.af.mil/afrl/711hpw/usafsam.asp