

Aerospace Medical Association



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The Honorable Michael Wynne
OSD-ATL
Acting Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology & Logistics
3015 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-3015

Dear Mr. Wynne:

The Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) is an organization of approximately 3,300 members (Many are military flight surgeons.) engaged in clinical aerospace medicine and related research. We have an Annual Scientific Meeting during which papers are presented to keep our members abreast of current issues, particularly in aeromedical support of military aviation. By virtue of our meetings over the past several years, we discern a disturbing, decreasing trend in aerospace medicine research, particularly from military laboratories at Ft. Rucker, Alabama, Pensacola Naval Air Station, Wright-Patterson AFB, and Brooks City-Base.

Our members are concerned because of future operational needs such as fatigue countermeasures, night vision goggles, chemical – biological defense as well as the yet to be solved problems of G-loss of consciousness (GLOC) and spatial disorientation.

We believe our observations are well founded. According to our information, funding for the Army has been reduced 33% in the 1990s with continuing annual losses of 1–3 % per year; the Navy has seen a 53% decrease over the past 2 years; and USAF has been reduced between 20–34% annually over the past 4 years.

Consequently, the Aerospace Medical Association would urge you to take notice of our concerns and ensure adequate funding for these and related programs in order to ensure the best possible protection of our aviators during the coming decades. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Russell B. Rayman, M.D.
Executive Director