

Attachment 1:

USAF Aviation and Special Duty Photorefractive Keratectomy (PRK) Waiver Program

II. APPLICANTS FOR AVIATION AND SPECIAL DUTY WHO HAVE HAD PRK

(Note: this section applies to applicants from all sources including AD, USAFA, ROTC, OTS, Reserve/Guard units, all enlisted sources. These individuals must have had PRK prior to applying for waiver)

A. Clinical Waiver Criteria:

1. Pre-PRK cycloplegic refraction (cyclopentolate):
 - 1.1. Myopia -1.00 to - 5.50 diopters
 - 1.2. Astigmatism 0.75 to 3.00 diopters
 - 1.3. Anisometropia no greater than 3.50 diopters
 - 1.4. Must not have hyperopia AND astigmatism (cannot be treated with current technology outside of protocols in certain centers)
 - 1.5. Demonstrated refractive stability post-op (no more than 0.50 diopter shift in sphere or cylinder in 2 post-op cyclopentolate refractions at least 6 months apart)
2. The other ocular history disqualifications in paragraph I.A.3. above apply
3. All other applicable accession and flying/special duty training standards apply (note: this requires a period of 12 months post-PRK for accession). Applicable visual acuity standards, uncorrected and corrected, must be met
4. No subjective complaints pertaining to glare, haze, halos, diplopia, or night vision difficulty
5. Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training (JSUPT) applicants (who have had PRK):
 - 5.1. JSUPT applicants may apply for Flying Class I PRK waiver as soon as 3 months post-PRK; in this case post-op refractive stability exams will be at least 3 months apart (note this is an exception to the 12 month post-PRK requirement in paragraph 3 above)
 - 5.2. If waived and selected for JSUPT:
 - 5.2.1. The candidate will undergo initial ACS PRK evaluation in conjunction with Medical Flight Screening (MFS) prior to reporting to their JSUPT base
 - 5.2.2. The student pilot with PRK waiver must be at least 12 months post-PRK and have completed initial ACS PRK evaluation at MFS before beginning the flying portion of JSUPT
 - 5.2.3. The student pilot must have repeat ACS PRK evaluation upon completion of UPT and before reporting to Formal Training Unit (FTU).
 - 5.2.4. These two evaluations (at MFS and upon UPT graduation but before FTU) will fulfill the mandatory 12 & 24-month ACS PRK evaluation requirements even though they will not actually be done at the 12 & 24-month point for many of these student pilots. This difference is allowed to avoid undesirable interruptions in the UPT training pipeline.

B. Waiver Process:

1. HQ AETC/SGPS is waiver and certification authority for these initial PRK waivers for all aviation and special duty applicants; owning MAJCOM is waiver certification authority for renewals. Terms of validity in Section 1, para 2.3 apply.
2. Aeromedical summary accompanying the initial flying exam must include documentation that all clinical criteria are met
3. A copy of the aeromedical summary with required documentation must be forwarded to the Air Force Aviation and Special Duty PRK Registry at the ACS
4. All those who are selected for Aviation/Special Duty must comply with required follow-up evaluations
 - 4.1. All must undergo initial ACS evaluation prior to reporting for aviation/special duty training
 - 4.2. All must undergo required follow-up evaluations remaining at time of their initial ACS evaluation
 - 4.3. All follow-up evaluation documentation must be forwarded to the USAF Aviation and Special Duty PRK Registry at the ACS