

ComancheZOOM Thursday, January 16, 2025

Topic: Changes in Aeromedical Examination protocols

with Dr Tom Wasser, AME and former USAF flight surgeon.

Dr Wasser is a 50-year FAA AME and fellow aviator. Tom shares general information about new FAA aeromedical program areas designed to help aviators avoid unnecessary deferrals. These changes help the FAA Aeromedical and aviators to work together to reduce the Class-3 medical backlog.

This FAA aeromedical joint effort is beneficial in many ways:

- Reduces time and expense to both the FAA and aviators
- Avoids the safety implications of aviators losing currency, and aircraft sitting, while pilots are out of medical,
- Avoids economic impacts of these backlog delays.

Tom plans to discuss and provide information to aviators in three FAA aeromedical areas:

- the CACI program,
- new color vision testing requirements (new applicants only),
- new status reports program that may simplify Special Issuance medicals if you have already qualified and your condition has not changed.

CACI - stands for Conditions for which an AME Can Issue. The CACI program lists 26 conditions that used to be an automatic medical deferral, each with an associated worksheet to help aviators and their doctors prepare for the FAA medical exam. This program can allow an Aviator to bring information to the FAA AME's medical exam appointment and walk out with a medical that same day!

New color vision testing requirements (for new applicants only) - this is a new requirement for applicants that their color vision be tested in a new way. This change was implemented following a related fatal crash.

FAA Aeromedical Status Reports - this is a new program, only a few months old, for Special Issuance medical holders: the FAA has invoked and empowered the judgement and training of your AME and / or family physician to certify that your condition relative to the special issuance is unchanged. This can positively alter the prior expensive and time-consuming process of submitting an annual battery of tests and documents to continue a special medical issuance. If your condition is unchanged, you can now submit a checklist of boxes your doctor or AME can fill out to certify your status is unchanged.

Tom went on to discuss the advantages of using BasicMed, responding to a number of questions and comments. He also mentioned the resources available through AOPA and EAA.

To see/hear the Jan 16 recordings click on a link below:

- <http://meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2025-01-16/video.mp4>
- <http://meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2025-01-16/audio.m4a>

To read the Chat text click on this link:

- <http://meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2025-01-16/chat.txt>

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