Refractive Surgery for Non-Aviation Military Personnel:

Eligibility: All active duty personnel are eligible for refractive LASIK/PRK unless specifically excluded. To be considered for LASIK/PRK, the service member must:

1. Seek consultation with a military treatment facility eye care provider.

2. Obtain written approval from his or her command.

3. Provide informed consent to the refractive surgeon.

Because the primary purpose of the program is readiness and performance enhancement, LASIK will usually not be offered to members who anticipate separation or retirement within the 12 months following surgery.

The following is a list of specific conditions that disqualify one for LASIK/PRK:

* Concurrent topical or systemic medications that may impair healing, including corticosteroids, antimetabolites, isotretinoin (Accutane®), amiodarone hydrochloride (Cordarone®), and sumatriptan (Imitrex®)
* Medical conditions that may impair healing, including, but not limited to: collagen vascular disease, autoimmune disease, and immunodeficiency diseases
* Active ophthalmic disease or significant crystalline lens opacity
* Evidence of glaucoma
* Evidence of keratoconus, corneal irregularity, or abnormal videokeratography in either eye
* Known sensitivity or inappropriate responsiveness to any of the medications used in the postoperative care

Females who are pregnant, breast-feeding or intend to become pregnant within three months following the procedure are not eligible for LASIK. The refractive surgeon will make the final decision regarding eligibility and medical appropriateness.