

## MILPERSMAN 1321-020

### OFFICER FLIGHT ORDERS (NON-AERONAUTICALLY DESIGNATED)

<b>Responsible Office</b>	NAVPERSCOM (PERS-435)	Phone:	DSN	882-3947
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#### 1. Policy

a. Non-aeronautically designated officers assigned to duty involving flying will be issued DIFTECH orders by Navy Personnel Command (NAVPERSCOM).

b. Officers, except Naval Aviators, may be detailed to duty involving flying to perform essential in-flight duties. A commanding officer (CO) may request NAVPERSCOM to detail officers to perform in-flight duties when the duties

(1) are essential in the execution of the command's mission or in maintaining operational readiness.

(2) cannot be performed by any other member, officer or enlisted, available in the command who is already under orders to duty involving flying.

(3) require the member to participate in frequent and regular flights. For pay purposes, the member shall meet the flight time requirements of a crew member.

c. Officers shall be certified by a flight surgeon as being physically qualified, temperamentally suited, and aeronautically adapted for duty involving flying in connection with indicated flight duties.

2. Request Procedures. Requests shall be submitted via the type commander and such other commands as may be directed by competent authority. Addressees in the chain of command shall familiarize themselves with the respective command needs and make positive comments. Recommendations from the type commander are required for NAVPERSCOM, Aviation Captain Assignment Division (PERS-43) approval.

### 3. DIFTECH Orders

a. Orders become effective on the day the member reports to the member's CO for duty involving flying and cannot be made retroactive.

b. Orders for non-aeronautically designated officers detailed to duty involving flying shall be requested for a specified period of time necessary to complete a special project of flight evaluation. Such a period of time should be held to an absolute minimum. In any case, all DIFTECH orders shall terminate upon detachment from the command to which assigned.

c. Non-aeronautically designated officers detailed to duty involving flying shall be identified as crew members on all flight reports and certificates.

d. Commands having non-aeronautically designated officers detailed to duty involving flying shall institute procedures to ensure personal supervision of in-flight duties, submission of required reports, and termination of orders to duty involving flying when the justification of such orders is changed or no longer exists.

e. Failure of commands to follow the provisions set forth here will result in termination of orders to duty involving flying as Technical Observer unless sufficient justification is made by the command concerned to warrant continuation of such orders.

### 4. Termination of Orders to Duty Involving Flying

a. Orders to duty involving flying DIFTECH will be terminated by

(1) change of duty.

(2) change of billet from that upon which orders were justified, even though within the same command.

(3) where the special project for which the orders were issued is terminated.

b. In those cases where an officer requests termination of orders to duty involving flying, or a CO deems it necessary or desirable to terminate an officer's detail to duty involving

flying because of loss of motivation, anxiety, unsatisfactory performance, or similar reasons, the CO shall immediately suspend the member from further flight duties and submit a detailed report, including flight surgeon's comments and recommendations, together with recommendations to NAVPERSCOM via the type commander. Since the correspondence will be made a part of the officer's jacket, a statement by the officer shall be affixed, where appropriate.

5. **Contents of DIFTECH Order Letter**

a. The following sample "DIFTECH Order Letter" provides information on the contents to be used for requesting orders detailing a non-aeronautically designated officer to duty involving flying.

b. A request for orders detailing a non-aeronautically designated officer to duty involving flying shall be made the subject of a message only when circumstances clearly justify such expeditious handling. All messages shall be confirmed by a letter request as outlined above, including a comprehensive description of the in-flight duties involved. Orders, if approved, shall be subject to termination and contingent upon review of the letter request.

6. DIFTECH Order Letter (Use the proper letter format containing the following.)

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commander, Navy Personnel Command (PERS-43)  
Via: [Type Commander]  
  
Subj: REQUEST FOR ORDERS TO DUTY INVOLVING FLYING (DIFTECH)  
  
Ref: (a) MILPERSMAN 1321-020  
  
Encl: (1) Statement of Flight Surgeon

1. We request that the below named officer be detailed to duty involving flying DIFTECH:

[Grade, full name, branch of service, social security number/designator.]

2. This officer will perform the following in-flight duties:  
[Describe in detail, to permit comprehensive review, including specific flying billet the member will occupy.]

3. We request that these orders be effected for the period  
[fill-in].

4. We certify that these in-flight duties are essential in the execution of this command's mission and cannot be performed by any other member, officer or enlisted, available in this command who is already under orders to duty involving flying.

5. In the execution of these essential duties, it is certified that this officer will be required to perform regular and frequent in-flight duties.

6. This officer is physically qualified, temperamentally suited, and aeronautically adapted for duty involving flying in connection with indicated flight duties as evidenced by enclosure (1).

[Signature of commanding officer] (This authority shall not be delegated.)