

BRIEF ON JHF MANEKSHAW PANEL

Institute of Aerospace Medicine was started as the School of Aviation Medicine on 29 May 1957. With its formation, the Aeromedical Unit and the Aeromedical Research Centre were amalgamated with the School. The three officers of the SAM during 1957 were Wg Cdr Arunachalam, OC, Sqn Ldr JHF Manekshaw and Flt Lt KK Majumdar. In 1971, the appointment of OC was upgraded to Air Commodore and Air Cmde JF Manekshaw became the first Air Officer Commanding of IAM.

AVM JHF Manekshaw PVSM AVSM joined the Army Medical Corps in February, 1943. He was posted to No. 4 Squadron, Air Force during World War II and actively served in Arakan. In 1946, he was the first Indian Officer to be posted as the Deputy Senior Medical Officer of a Group of Royal Air Force. He held a number of important administrative as well as specialist appointments creditably. He served as Senior Medical Officer of an operational Group of the Indian Air Force during the Kashmir Operations in 1948 and was the first to organise air transportation of sick and wounded on a regular basis from the forward areas. His suggestions regarding modification of Dakota aircraft by installation of portable oxygen equipment therein, helped in air evacuation of casualties at altitudes above 10,000 feet. In 1948, he was selected for training in Aviation Medicine at US Naval Aerospace Medical Institute. After completion of this advanced diploma course, he was further selected to undergo flight training where he won the Wings of a Flight Surgeon. In 1961, he was deputed as Deputy Air Adviser (Medical) to the High Commission of India in UK, where he helped to resolve many aeromedical problems, which were being experienced in the Air Force due to the induction of high performance aircraft in the service. In 1964, as Principal Medical Officer, Eastern Air Command, he displayed sound ability for proper planning, cooperation and distribution of medical facilities in that sector. He has more than 700 hours of flying experience, including solo flying, to his credit. In 1967, he was appointed as Commandant of Institute of Aviation Medicine, Bangalore. He brought about further improvement to suit the needs of the modern Air Force and indigenous aircraft industry. This Institute is one of the leading establishments of the Air Force today and plays an important operational role in day to day flying tasks. In recognition of his outstanding service, he was awarded 'Ati Vishisht Seva Medal' in 1971. He was appointed as Director of Medical Research at the office of the Director General Armed Forces Medical Services in March, 1973. During this appointment, his usual drive, professional acumen, determination, energy and tact, geared up medical research in Armed Forces to high pitch of efficiency. He has rendered service of the most exceptional order to the nation throughout his service life.

Every year during annual scientific conference of Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine, a special scientific session, named as 'JHF Manekshaw Panel' is being organised to commemorate the significant contribution made by AVM JHF Manekshaw PVSM AVSM in the field of Aerospace Medicine. Two eminent orators are invited for this special panel during the conference.