

Col Robert Ireland, USAF, MC, CFS (Retired)

Bob Ireland was assigned to Health Affairs from June 2005 through August 2009 as Program Director for Mental Health Policy. Prior to entering military service and completing his Air Force-sponsored M.D., he received masters and doctoral degrees in religion at Claremont, CA, and served as a community leader for several years. Over his 24+ years of active duty in the Air Force he was a physician in family, flight, hyperbaric, and psychiatric medicine. He led a 62-bed inpatient psychiatry service in San Antonio, a 42-member mental health staff in Alaska, and was the Chief, Aerospace Neuropsychiatry Function at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine's Aeromedical Consultation Service. He wrote policy endorsed by the national and international Aerospace Medical Associations and recently adapted by the FAA to allow pilots to continue maintenance medical therapy for resolved major depression while resuming flight duties. He served as the consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General for military psychiatry facilitating with personnel psychiatrist assignments and was instrumental transforming several AF psychiatric regulations.

Dr. Ireland deployed to 13 countries as a flight surgeon in operational settings and has >1,100 flight hours, with most sorties in the F15 while stationed at Okinawa, where he received 2 Sikorsky awards for life-saving helicopter night rescues in the China Sea, and was chosen as Pacific Air Force's Flight Surgeon of the Year. He provided medical services when 20,000 American evacuees of the Mount Pinatubo explosion were evacuated to Cebu, Philippines, and rotated to Landstuhl to treat casualties of Fallujah I and the Mosel mess tent bombing. He has provided psychiatric and aerospace medical training in South Africa, UK, Canada, Spain, Australia, and New Zealand as well as in multiple national venues.

Dr. Ireland retired 1 October 2009 and lives in Canyon Lake, California, with his wife, Terri, and near his daughter and extended family.