The 47th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine (ISAM) was conducted at the Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM), IAF, Bangalore from 31 Oct 07 to 02 Nov 07. The theme of the conference was ‘Operational Aerospace Medicine’ and the deliberations covered following operational areas in military and civil aviation:-

(a) Aeromedical aspects of long duration flight
(b) Spatial disorientation: Strategies for prevention
(c) Aeromedical challenges: Night ops
(d) Lessons in medical support from ops and disaster
(e) Operational aerospace medicine – Psychological factors
(f) Military aerospace medicine – Thermal stress and interesting case histories
(g) Civil aviation medicine – Medical assessment and stress coping in civil aircrew
(h) Panel discussions:–
   (i) Aeromedical concerns for aircrew fitness with musculoskeletal and orthopaedic disabilities
   (ii) Aeromedical decision making (ADM) in practice of civil aviation medicine

A large number of delegates participated in the proceedings of the conference and many high profile guests attended the inaugural session. The proceedings of the conference were inaugurated by Air Chief Marshal FH Major PVSM AVSM SC VM ADC, Chief of the Air Staff, Indian Air Force. Air Marshal JK Gupta PVSM A VSM PHS, DGMS (Air) and President of the Society outlined the focus of the conference and its relevance for aviation safety. The Scientific Exhibition was inaugurated by Mrs Zareen Major, President AFWWA, immediately after the conclusion of the inaugural ceremony. The delegates who attended the conference were medical officers from the three services, IAF aircrew, DRDO scientists and other civil aviation medicine practitioners. In addition to this, there was representation of aviation medicine practitioners from abroad. The aim of having such gatherings in a scientific forum is to share the views of professionals who are working in the field of aviation medicine but in different set ups. Apart from this, it is a great opportunity for the young service doctors who are posted in peripheral units and are MOs in flying bases to come and interact with these specialists.

AVM Srinagesh Memorial Oration was delivered by Dr CA Varghese, an eminent scientist and retired Director DEBEL. The oration was on “Five Decades of Aeromedical Research and Development in India – A ring side view”. Air Mshl Subroto Mukherjee Memorial Oration – 2007 was delivered by Capt GR Gopinath, Executive Chairman, Air Deccan. The oration was about the making of Air Deccan - the airline.

Apart from learning about problems associated with military flying it was a platform to know more and more about civil aviation and commercial flying as well. This knowledge was imparted by our civilian counterparts who are working with various commercial airlines.

Obituary: A VM Peter Howard

The society announces the sad demise of AVM Peter Howard who was an honorary fellow of ISAM. He was an eminent aviation medicine specialist of RAF working in IAM, Farnborough with immense contribution to the aviation medicine field. He had delivered the Subroto Mukherjee Memorial oration during the ISAM conference in 1974 on “Current research in aviation medicine in the RAF”. He will be fondly remembered by members of the society.

NVG Workshop:– NVG Revisited (EAC)

Command Medical Branch of EAC organized a one day workshop titled “NVG Revisited” at Air Force station Mohanbari on 27th September 2007. The training team was headed by Gp G Capt Gomez, Senior Advisor Av Med and Dy PMO of EAC. The work shop encompassed helicopter crew from units flying with NVGs. In addition a few transport pilots and a large number of flight engineers / gunners also participated.

The workshop was inaugurated by Air Marshal SC Kochar AVSM VM, SASO, EAC, IAF. The Air Marshal subsequently released training booklet titled “NVG- A Ready Reckoner” authored by Gp Capt G Gomez. The workshop was refresher for the experienced NVG operators and the step wise guide to the uniniated aircrew. Material covered in the workshop incorporated wide range of issues and consideration as related to NVGs and their usage. Post workshop, an early feedback revealed that the participants were pleased with the conduct, duration and the contents of the workshop.

Society News

47TH Annual Conference of ISAM
Glimpses of 47th ISAM Conference

Air Chief Marshal FH Major PVSM AVSM SO VM ADC Chief of Air Staff, inaugurating the conference

Air Marshal JK Gupta PVSM AVSM PHS DGMS (Air), delivering the Presidential address

The distinguished guests at the conference

Mrs Zareen Major inaugurating the scientific exhibition

Capt GR Gopinath, Executive Chairman, Air Deccan, delivering the Air Marshal Subroto Mukerjee memorial oration

The invitees and the delegates during the inaugural function