

Former Gothenburg doctor has new duties

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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Dr. Larry Wilson, a former Gothenburg physician who is now a Federal Aviation Administration Central Region flight surgeon, has a new job.

The flight surgeon, who lives with his wife Joan in Excelsior Springs, MO, has been assigned to the Aeromedical Specialties Division at FAA Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Previously, Wilson dealt with pilot and air traffic controller certifications in the four-state central region that included Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri.

Now, he said the bulk of his responsibilities involve reviewing and revising aeromedical policies, rules and regulations as they relate to pilot and air traffic controller medical qualifications and certifications.

“Many of our rules and regulations are outdated or conflicting and we are presently certifying pilots and controllers with complex medical problems that require intense monitoring,” he explained. “We are considering certifications with even more complex medical conditions and medications that are currently disqualifying and unacceptable.”

Wilson said changes must be based on researching current practice guidelines and the effects of the disease processes.

Officials should also take into consideration associated medications or treatments on the unique environments experienced in aviation medicine.

“The safety of our national airspace remains our primary consideration,” he said.

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Wilson said the federal air surgeon felt Wilson's experience working with controllers as flight surgeon at the Air Route Traffic Control Center in Miami, FL, his pilot certification work with the Aeromedical Certification Division in Oklahoma City, OK, and his service as the Central Region flight surgeon qualified him to assume new responsibilities.

In his new job, Wilson reviews documents from many sources and frequently consults with the Aeromedical Certification Division, FAA Regional Medical Offices and FAA Medical Headquarters.

Wilson, who will continue to live in Excelsior Springs, travels to FAA Medical Headquarters in Washington, D.C., on a regular basis and also to other locations.

He said he can do most of his work on-line and by telephone.