

A CAREER FOR THE DOCTORS IN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Conditions of Eligibility

Candidate must be a citizen of India or Bhutan. Subjects of Nepal and persons of Indian origin, migrated from specified countries with intention of permanently settling in India, are also eligible, subject to their having obtained a certificate from the Government of India.

Age

1. Permanent Commission - Maximum age limit is 30, 31 and 32 years for MBBS graduates, Post graduate diploma holders and Post graduate degree holders respectively as on 31 December of the calendar year of application.
2. Short Service Commission - Maximum age limit 45 years as on 31 December of the calendar year of application

Qualification

Applicants must possess a medical qualification of an Indian University or a foreign medical qualification recognised by the Medical Council of India. They must also be registered with any of the State Medical Councils or equivalent registering authority.

An antedate of 2 years seniority for post graduate degree and 1 year for post graduate diploma recognised by the MCI and 6 months for a house job, done at a recognised hospital is given to fresh entrants. The list of recognised institutions and hospitals can be obtained from the office of the DGAFMS.

A doctor who has done a house job and also has a post graduate qualification will be eligible for a maximum antedate of 2 ½ year

Medical Fitness

Applicants must be medically fit as per prescribed standards for the Army (Refer to Appendix 'A').

Rank on Entry

The rank granted on first appointment in the AMC will be as follows:-

(a) Capt (Equivalent rank in Navy and Air Force) - Where candidate is in possession of full Medical Registration certificate.

(b) Lt (Equivalent rank in Navy and Air Force) - If the candidate possesses provisional Medical Registration Certificate & has not completed compulsory pre-registration internship.

Promotion

Promotion to next higher rank is subject to satisfactory service and fitness for the higher rank. The eligibility for such promotion is as under:-

(a) To Captain - from the date of eligibility for Permanent Registration after completion of prescribed internship partly or wholly in Armed Forces or from the date of commission whichever is later.

(b) To Major - After four years of reckonable service as Captain.

(c) To Lt. Colonel - On completion of 13 years reckonable service or on completion of 13 years service from the date of eligibility for permanent Registration whichever is later and satisfactory completion of junior officers command course.

(d) To Colonel and above upto Lt General - By Selection At present the number of posts authorised in different ranks from Col to Lt Gen are as under:- Rank Authorised Cadre

i) Lt Gen 07

ii) Maj Gen 25

iii) Brig 96

iv) Col 373

Retirement Ages

The ages of retirement are as under: _

(a) Lt Col and below - 56 years

(b) Col - 58 years

(c) Brig - 59 years

(d) Maj Gen - 60 years

(e) Lt Gen - 61 years or two years tenure which ever is earlier

(f) DGAFMS - 62 years or three years tenure which ever is earlier

Retirement Benefits

The minimum period of qualifying service actually required for earning retiring pension should be 20 years. The pension will be calculated at 50% of average reckonable emoluments (i.e. Basic Pay + Rank Pay + Non-Practicing allowances) drawn during the last 10 months of service for a maximum service of 33 years. SSC officers are not eligible for pension.

Encashment of leave

An officer can accumulate upto 300 days of his annual leave entitlement in service which he can encash at the time of his retirement.

Retirement Gratuity

This is admissible on retirement or invalidment, but after having rendered a minimum service of 5 years. A weightage of 5 years is also added to the actual service rendered, subject to the total not exceeding 33 years. The rate is 1/4 month's pay for every completed six-month service. The maximum ceiling is Rs.3.50 lakhs.

Ordinary Family Pension

Ordinary family pension is admissible to the widow or children of an officer whose death is neither attributable to nor aggravated by the conditions of service. This is admissible irrespective of whether an officer dies in service or after retirement with pension. The rate of family pension is 30% of last pay drawn subject to a minimum of Rs.1275/- p.m.

Special Family Pensionary Awards

Liberalised concessions and compensations are given to families of officers dying in battle or due to diseases attributable to service conditions. These are :-

- a) Special Family Pension.
- b) Children's Allowances and
- c) Death Gratuity.

Disability Pension

15. Provisions exist for grant of disability pension to officers invalidated from service on account of disability attributable to or aggravated by service conditions. The amount varies according to percentage of disability suffered by the individual. Maximum amount of disability pension is Rs. 750/- per month.

Invalid Pension/Gratuity

16. When the cause of invalidation is neither attributable to nor aggravated by service, the officers are granted invalid pension/gratuity depending upon their length of service.

Leave

Officers are entitled to two months annual leave and 20 days casual leave during a calendar year. Officers are also eligible for grant of two months of furlough at half pay once in three years.

Medical Treatment

Officers in the Armed Forces are authorised free medical attendance for themselves and their families including wholly dependant parents. Hospitalisation beyond 30 days is adjusted against unavailed annual leave of the calendar year. If annual leave for the year has not been availed of, hospitalisation beyond 30 days and upto 06 months is treated as sick leave on full pay upto six months and half pay thereafter for another two months. There is provision to reimburse the cost of certain specialised treatments, which are not available in service hospitals but carried out in recognised civil hospitals.

Travelling Concessions

Broadly the concessions are:-

(a) Once in a block of two years, officers and their dependant family members are entitled to travel on warrant from their duty station to the home station and back. Officers posted in field areas are however entitled to free conveyance every year on warrant to the home station / selected place of residence.

(b) In the year in which the officer is not availing LTC under (a) above, the officer his wife and dependant children are eligible to avail LTC to any station subject to the journey not exceeding 1450 Kms each way. Alternatively, officer, his wife and dependant children are permitted, once in each calendar year free conveyance to/from the leave station subject to the journey not exceeding 1450 Kms.

(c) Officer, his wife and children are authorised free conveyance by road to/from hill station on LTC from/to the railway station nearest to the selected hill station. Hill station LTC can be combined with LTC under (b) above and as a result free conveyance can be provided beyond 1450 Kms.

(d) Officers and their family members are authorised six one-way Form 'D' from anywhere within Indian limits every year. Form 'D' enables them to travel by entitled class or lower class on payment of only 60% of the rail fare of class travelled

(e) Service personnel are authorised encashment of Earned Leave upto 10 days alongwith LTC to the extent of a total 60 days in a career span to cover incidental expenses incurred on travel.

(f) In addition, Indian Airlines Ltd. extends 50% concession in basic fare in their flights to officers and their families travelling on leave at their own expense. Indian Airlines, as also Indian Railways, offer concessional travel facility to Gallantry awardees/ War-widows/ disabled Service personnel.

Transfer

Following transfer entitlements are authorised:-

Composite Transfer Grant at the rate of one month's basic pay or 80% of one month's basic pay depending on marital status, moving with family/ singly: -

(a) Free transportation of personal effects- 6000 kg by rail/ road or Full four-wheeler wagon or one double or single container.

(b) Free transportation of private conveyance by rail/ road.

(c) Free conveyance of dependant family members by entitled classes viz. Air/ AC-1 for Col & above, AC-II for other officers.

Accommodation and Free Ration

(a) Authorised accommodation with allied facilities are provided at 50% of the flat rate of standard licence fee fixed for the various types of accommodation, which ranges between Rs.250 to Rs.500/- per month. The accommodation is reasonably furnished as per authorised scale of furniture for which nominal licence fee is charged. Electricity and water are provided at subsidised rates, Single accommodation is available in Officer's messes in all units/establishments. Free accommodation is provided in field areas.

(b) Free rations are provided to all officers at the scale as prescribed by the Government for self only.

Some of the other facilities available are:

(a) Canteen Facility

Service canteens supplying varied items at special rates are available in all stations and units.

(b) Adventure Activities

Adventure enthusiasts and those with a yen for the outdoors will find ample opportunities to take part in activities like para jumping, mountaineering expeditions, river rafting, motor cycle and car rallies which are conducted regularly.

(c) Sports facilities

To maintain mental and physical fitness and to provide adequate recreation during leisure, the officer's messes and clubs provide facilities for both indoor and outdoor recreation/games. Adequate facilities are available in the units for outdoor games, participation in requirement. In the past AMC officers have represented the country and brought laurels to the Corps and the Nation.

(d) Messes

There are Officers Messes at all stations to provide food and beverages at very economical rates.

(e) Clubs

A chain of clubs known as 'Defence Institutes' exist in the country for exclusive use of Defence Officers and their families.

Welfare Measures

a) Army Group Insurance Scheme

Army Group Insurance Scheme provides insurance cover of Rs. 8,00,000/- at a monthly premium of Rs. 610/-. The premium is deducted at source from monthly pay and allowances. Post retirement insurance cover is Rs. 3,00,000/- for 20 years after retirement or till age of 72 years whichever is earlier. Disability

benefits in case of officers is 50%(Rs. 04 Lacs) of the insurance amount for 100% disability, with amounts proportionately

reduced upto 20% disability (Rs. 80,000) as per the eligibility conditions. In addition, AGI provides post retirement lifelong Medical Benefit cover in respect of specified diseases for member and spouse. During service, AGIF provides concessional loans for purchase of Car and House.

b) Army Welfare Housing Organisation Scheme

Army Welfare Housing Organisation (AWHO) schemes provide housing for Army Personnel (Service/retired) and widows of Army personnel at selected stations all over India. The schemes are on self-financing system and on 'No Profit No Loss' basis. Those who join the schemes at an appropriate time can look forward to owning a house before retirement/release without the problem of acquiring land and construction thereon. The schemes are announced from time to time, and can be applied for by interested individuals.

c) Army Officers Contributory Education Fund(AOCEF)

All Army Officers are required to contribute Rs.60/- half yearly to this fund irrespective of rank. Children of officers including legally adopted children studying in school/colleges are granted scholarship for a period of 08 years commencing from the date a child attains the age of 10 years at the rate of Rs.600/- per child per annum. Scholarship is restricted to two eldest children. Apart from the two children, scholarships are paid to mentally retarded, physically handicapped children between the age of 05 to 20 years.

d) Army Officers Benevolent Fund(AOBF)

Subscription towards AOBF is mandatory for all officers. The present rate of subscription is Rs.60/- per month. All officers who have subscribed towards the AOBF during their service are eligible to received the platinum or Demise Grant. The Platinum Grant is paid to the officer on attaining the age of 75 years. The Demise Grant is paid to the NOK of the officer when the officer passes away, either while in service or after retirement. There is a sliding scale for both Platinum as well as Demise grant dependant upon the length of commissioned service.

Medical Treatment and Attendance

a) Officers - Officers are entitled to free medical attendance as out patients or at their quarters. In patient treatment is also admissible in well-equipped service hospitals.

a) Families - The families of officers including wife/dependant husband (as the case may be) dependant unmarried children, wholly dependant parents and officers servant are entitled to free out patient treatment and investigation. In patient treatment is also provided to the families on payment of nominal hospital stoppages which ranges from Rs.1.65/- to Rs.5/ per diem depending upon the status of the dependant.

b) Pensioners Officers and their families - Pensioner officers and their families are entitled to free out-patient and in-patient treatment from service hospitals subject to facilities available locally. For in-patient treatment hospital stoppages @ Rs.6/- per diem are charged. However, re-employed pensioner officers are not entitled for medical facilities from service hospitals in case they are in receipt of free treatment facilities from the new employer.

c) Specialist Treatment - Specialist treatment like Cardio-vascular treatment, Renal transplant etc. is admissible in case of service officers. The cases for treatment abroad on Govt expenses are also considered on merit. Similar Welfare Schemes are available in Navy and Air Force also.

Professional Work

Nearly 43,816 hospital beds distributed in 127 service hospitals provide a clinical workload, in addition to opportunities for practicing in out-patient facilities. All medicines, investigations and diets which a doctor considers necessary for treatment of his patients, are available from service without any extra charges to the Armed Forces, considerable stress is placed on preventive medicine, maternity and child health, school health, industrial health etc. In short, Armed Forces provide total Community Health Care at the cost of the State and adequate opportunities for practicing honest medicine divorced from other consideration. Clients include both sexes and all age groups thus providing a wide spectrum of clinical material. A regular modernisation programme operates in a large number of Armed Forces hospitals

with latest medical equipment. Every facility is provided for specialisation and advancement of professional knowledge. A series of professional courses are conducted in the Armed Forces at various stages of the career to ensure high professional standards at all times.

Medical Research in Armed Forces

Several advanced research institutes like Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences, Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences, Defence Institute of Psychological Research, Institute of Aviation Medicine, Institute of Aerospace Medicine, Institute of Naval Medicine, High Altitude Medical Research Centre and other establishments are with the Armed Forces for research and teaching in addition Armed Forces Medical College and various hospitals are engaged in research in all disciplines of medical sciences. More than 100 medical dental/nursing research projects are being conducted with an annual budget exceeding Rs.100 lakhs. Therefore, if you are inclined towards medical research, every facility would be provided commensurate with your talent and efficiency.

Scientific papers are regularly published in the quarterly Armed Forces Medical Journal. Permission is also accorded for publication in various scientific journals in the country and abroad.

Post Graduate Medical Education

Plenty of opportunities exist in AMC for post graduation and super-specialisation. Almost half of the permanent cadre of the corps consist of specialists (A list of specialists is attached as Appendix 'B'). Even non-specialists are given opportunity to do post graduation in subjects like Hospital Administration, Community Health Administration, Sports Medicine and Hospital Informatics.

PC Officers with four years of service are eligible for selection for advanced specialist course conducted at Armed Forces Medical College which are recognised for MD/MS/MCh degree of the Maharashtra University of Health Science, Nashik and the Medical Council of India. Such trainees get full pay during the training period and are eligible for becoming specialists and getting specialists pay on successful completion of studies for holding specialist's appointments.

Officers with four years of service as graded specialist are also eligible to be selected for study leave with full pay upto two years in India or abroad for advances training. In addition, they get additional study allowance for 1 year out of the two years.

Officers are also sent on deputation abroad for specialised training of short duration at Government expenses based on service requirement.

10 of our hospitals are recognised by the National Board of Examination for major specialties for appearing in the DNB Examinations conducted by the Board.

24 of our major hospitals are recognised by Medical Council of India for housemanship. 5 years service in Armed Forces is also equivalent to 1 year housemanship.

Medical Education in AMC is a continuing process. This is done by organising various in service courses like MOBC, MOJC, MOSC. Besides officers are also encouraged to participate in various workshops/seminars/conferences in India as well as abroad at Government expense.

There is a full-fledged Medical College at Pune for the Armed Forces. This College provides under-graduate and post graduate medical education. In 1964, a College of Nursing was added to prepare students for B.SC(Nursing). The Armed Forces Medical College Pune is also affiliated to Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nasik for under-mentioned Postgraduate Degrees/Diplomas:-

(a) Ph. D.

In Medicine, Surgery, Preventive & Social Medicine, Pathology, Obst & Gynecology, Anaesthesia, Radiology and Physiology.

(b) M. Ch.

In Plastic Surgery, Neuro-Surgery and Cardio-Thoracic Surgery, DM Cardiology.

(c) M. D.

In General Medicine, Pathology, Microbiology, Preventive and Social Medicine, Midwifery and Gynecology, Paediatrics, Radiodiagnosis, Anaesthesia, Dermatology, Venereology, and Leprosy, Tuberculosis, and Chest diseases, Psychiatry, Pharmacology, Physiology, Biochemistry, Aviation Medicine and Hospital Administration.

(d) M. S.

In General Surgery, Orthopaedics, Otorhinolaryngology, Ophthalmology and Anatomy.

(e) M. Sc. In Physiology.

(f) Diploma in Hospital Administration and DPH, DCP, DA, DRD, DCH, DLO, DVD, DIH DPM, DCD, DGO DOMS.

Specialists are required to work as graded specialist, classified Specialist, Advisers & Consultants. The opportunities for professional advancement and fulfilment are many and varied.

Medical officers in Air Force and Navy

A number of medical officers are seconded to the Air Force and Navy for service in respective uniforms in equivalent ranks. Air force and Naval Medical Officers are imparted specialised training in Aviation Medicine and Naval/Submarine Medicine to equip them with the necessary know-how to deal with specific medical problems encountered in respective services.

Aviation Medicine deals with human factors (both physiological and psychological) encountered in modern day aviation including supersonic flying. Air Force medical officers play a very vital role in aircrew care and flight safety besides looking after the health of personnel and families. Adequate opportunities for medical research and specialization in field of Aviation Medicine exist at the Institute of Aviation Medicine, Bangalore.

Medical Officers serving with the Navy are trained to tackle special problems encountered on board ships at sea, Submarines and in Naval Aviation. They get ample opportunities for service on Board various types of ships and submarines and to see various foreign countries when Naval ships go on goodwill visits.

Prospects to Lady Medical Officers

Lady Medical Officers have equal professional opportunities as other male doctors for a regular career in the Armed Forces. In cases where both the spouses are in the Army efforts are made to post the couple to the same station. Women are treated at par with male doctors for all purposes and some have achieved the rank of Brigadier and

Major General. They can take up a speciality of their choice if they qualify by merit. The terms and conditions of service are the same for male and lady Medical Officers.

Prospects for Short Service Commissioned Officers

Short Service Commissioned Officers are allowed three chances to appear in departmental interviews for grant of Permanent Commission. Once they are granted Permanent Commission, they are treated at par with other Permanent Commissioned Officers and their seniority is fixed according to the original date of their Short Service. Terms and conditions of service and pay and allowances are the same as applicable to Permanent Commissioned Officers except that instead of pension, the Short Service Commissioned Officers are only eligible for a gratuity of Rs. 1200/- for each completed year of service. The short service provides an opportunity to civilian doctors to judge for themselves whether a career in the Armed Forces suits them before they decide to opt for a permanent career in the Armed Forces. After release from service Short Service Commissioned officers are provided facilities to undertake Post-graduate studies at AFMC, Pune and nominated Service Hospitals.

Benefits for Ex-serviceman

A permanent commissioned officer in the Armed Forces, after his superannuation from service, continues to enjoy the following facilities:-

- (a) Medical treatment for self & family at Service Hospitals
- (b) Canteen facility
- (c) Drawal of rations and petrol from Defence outlets.