

## **Subject: FW: Medical info (for people who wore g-suits)**

Thought you might want to look at this info and be aware of the possibilities.

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Good info on G-Suits. Check behind your knees. See Below Info:

Interesting note from a former POW which may be of interest to all of us who may have worn g-suits.

On January 3, 2002, as I just turned age 67, I underwent a critical surgery for a popliteal aneurysm behind my left knee. My popliteal artery behind my left knee had blown up the size of tennis ball. The vascular surgeon had performed the by-pass surgery replacing the artery behind the knee with a vein just in time before I either died or lost my left leg. The same surgeon then performed the same by-pass operation on January 17, 2002 on the right leg.

After both surgeries and discussions with one of the three vascular surgeons involved, who happens to have been a Flight Surgeon, we discussed the following:

\* The Commanding Officer of VM0-2 (OV-10A Bronco Squadron) in which I flew combat missions in Vietnam in 1969 died in retirement at an early age of about 65 from associated problems that I just had a very, very close call with.

\* The Commanding Officer of VM0-2 who flew combat missions in the Bronco during 1971 was reported to have died from a vascular problem at about the age of 64.

\* My own Executive Officer of VMO-2, when I had been the Commanding Officer, died in retirement at about the age of 62 from an apparent vascular problem.

\* And, a friend of mine who is currently the Lockheed Martin consultant/rep to the Spanish Navy called me after my recent two vascular operations telling me that a close friend of his, an Admiral in the Spanish Navy and first Harrier pilot in the Spanish Navy just underwent the very same popliteal aneurysm surgery on one leg and he stated to my

friend he thinks it was due to weakening damage to his artery behind his knee years ago where there is no G-suit protection.

\* I reported this to my vascular surgeon who was a Flight Surgeon. He said he is looking into this since there is no protection in G-suits behind the knees.

The specific G-suit I wore in and out of combat was the: Coverall, Anti-G Cutaway Type Mark 2A, Mil Spec C-23955.

I mention this seemingly far-out theory to all fellow military pilots that I come across only to warn them that: If you have a bulge, particularly a pulsating bulge behind one or two of your knees get right in to see a Vascular Surgeon to have it checked out.

My first visit to my internal medicine doctor with that symptom resulted in him saying I had a Baker's Cyst that needed removing. Upon my getting an MRI and seeing an Orthopedic Surgeon three weeks later, resulted in the Orthopedic Surgeon telling me I had a severe aneurysm and he sent me immediately to a Vascular Surgeon who said it was the biggest he ever saw. He promptly sent me to the Naval Medical Center (Balboa) San Diego, where two vascular surgeons performed by-pass surgery of the popliteal artery on both legs...and, due to loss of time, I almost lost my life or left leg.

So please pass the above info on to any of your fine feathered flying friends you have contact with...it may save their lives, if they have any such symptom behind their knee or knees...whether caused by G-suits' design, extensive roller coaster riding, or maybe even simply flying as a commercial pilot for a lifetime, after a military flying period.