

# Mitchell Charles Brown, OD, FAAO

317 C Avenue • Coronado, CA 92118 • (619) 437-4620 • buckeyedok@yahoo.com

## Education

1997 Southern Cal. College of Optometry, Post-Graduate Study in Ocular Therapeutics  
1989 Illinois College of Optometry, Post-graduate Study in Ocular Therapeutics  
1982 - 1986 The Ohio State University College of Optometry; Doctor of Optometry (OD)  
1979 - 1982 Wright State University; Pre-med

**State Optometric Licensure** California (T), Ohio (T)

## Professional Experience

**2006 - Director of Co-Management, Gordon Binder & Weiss Vision Institute, La Jolla, CA**

**2006 Deputy Program Director, United States Navy Refractive Surgery** - Consultant to the Surgeon General of the Navy. Responsible for oversight and coordination of seven Navy laser vision centers with an annual budget of ~\$8M. The centers collectively perform 17,000 surgical procedures and 75,000 outpatient visits annually. Contributes to Navy and DoD policy development for vision and CRS standards. *(Appointing letter pending)*

**2003 - 2006 Clinic Director, Refractive Surgery Center, Department of Ophthalmology, Naval Medical Center San Diego, CA** – Directs the mission of the San Diego based program, which include clinical, surgical, professional education and clinical trials activities. Directly supervises a staff of 30 and manages a \$3M budget.

2002 – 2003 Head, Optometry Department, Naval Hospital Pensacola, FL

1999 – 2001 Clinic Director, Refractive Surgery Center, Department of Ophthalmology, Naval Medical Center San Diego, CA

1996 - 1999 Assistant Department Head, Optometry, Naval Medical Center San Diego, CA

1998 Battle Group Optometrist, USS Abraham Lincoln CVN 72, WESTPAC '98 (six months additional duty)

1992 - 1996 Staff Optometrist, Academic and Clinical Instructor, Department of Ophthalmology, Naval Aerospace Medical Institute, Pensacola, FL

1991 - 1992 Head, Optometry Department, U.S. Naval Hospital Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines

1986 - 1991 Staff Optometrist, Naval Hospital San Diego, CA

## Military Training

2004 Fleet Hospital Orientation Training Command, Camp Pendleton, CA

2002 United States Navy Primary Flight Training, NAS Whiting Field, FL

1992 Naval Aerospace Physiology Training, NAS Pensacola, FL

1989 Combat Trauma Course, Okinawa, Japan

1988 Combat Casualty Care Course (C4), Field Medical Training, Fort Sam Houston, TX

1987 Navy Fleet (Field) Hospital Training, Camp Pendleton, CA

1987 Leadership Management Education and Training, Naval Hospital San Diego, CA

1987 – 2005 Naval Aviation Physiology and Water Survival Training (Initial and Recurrent x 5), Aviation Survival Training Centers, NAS Miramar, MCAS El Toro, NAS Pensacola,

## **Faculty Positions**

- 1996 – 1998 Adjunct Faculty, University of Houston College of Optometry  
Adjunct Faculty, Pacific University College of Optometry  
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Southern California College of Optometry
- 1992 – 1996 Clinical and Academic Instructor, Department of Ophthalmology, Naval Aerospace Medical Institute (NAMI), NAS Pensacola, FL
- 1992 – 1996 Advanced Cardiac Life Support Instructor, NAMI, NAS Pensacola, FL
- 1986 – 1991 Adjunct Faculty, Southern California College of Optometry

## **Clinical Research**

Dr. Brown has participated as either Principal or Associate Investigator in **28 clinical trials** involving refractive surgery. Four of them were Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) studies. One series of clinical trials is considered to be the definitive study of refractive surgery in military pilots, and was the basis for Department of Defense policy development regarding standards for Navy pilots.

## **Abstracts, Posters and Publications**

1. Hackman RJ, Brown MC. *Is There a Potential Military Pilot in your Practice?* American Optometric Association Multidisciplinary Practice Section, May 1995.
2. Brown MC. *Naval Aviation Contact Lens Program.* The Society of U. S. Naval Flight Surgeons, April 1995.
3. Tanzer DJ, Schallhorn SC, Brown M, Kaupp S. *The effects of altitude on visual performance following photorefractive keratectomy.* Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science 40:2807, 1999.
4. Brown MC. *PRK in Naval Aviation.* The Society of U. S. Naval Flight Surgeons, January 2000
5. Tanzer DJ, Schallhorn SC, Brown M. *Ejection From an Aircraft Following Photorefractive Keratectomy: A Case Report.* Aviat Space Environ Med 2000; 71:000-00
6. Schallhorn SC, Tanzer DJ, Tidwell J Brown M. (Poster) Refractive Accuracy and Repeatability of a Hartmann-Schack Wavefront Device. Association of Corneal and Refractive Surgeons, Boston 2000.
7. Schallhorn SC, Tanzer DJ, Tidwell J Brown M. (Poster) Wavefront Aberrations Among Eyes with Super-normal Vision Measured by the Visx WaveScan Device. Association of Corneal and Refractive Surgeons, Boston 2000.
8. JM Laurent, SC Spigelmire, SC Schallhorn, DJ Tanzer, JL Tidwell, MC Brown, SE Kaupp. (Poster) *Susceptibility to Injury of the LASIK Flap in Rabbit.* ARVO 2001.

## **Public Speaking**

Dr. Brown has lectured extensively on Aerospace Medicine (vision) and Refractive Surgery topics at national and international meetings.

## **Professional Affiliations**

- American Academy of Optometry
- American Optometric Association
- Armed Forces Optometric Society
- San Diego County Optometric Society

## **Military Awards:**

- Meritorious Service Medal
- Navy Commendation Medal
- Navy Achievement Medal
- Navy Unit Commendation
- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Sea Service Ribbon
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Ribbon
- Rep. Philippines Presidential Unit Citation
- Overseas Service Ribbon
- National Defense Medal (Star)

## **Honors and Achievements**

**1991** – Awarded the **Navy Achievement Medal** for providing care to more than 10,000 patients and for his leadership in ophthalmic fabrication of more than 100,000 pairs of spectacles.

**1992** – Awarded **Republic of the Philippines Presidential Unit Citation and the Navy Unit Commendation** for his leadership as Optometry Department Head and as the only U.S.-trained eye care provider within 500 miles - responsible for the care of all military forces as well as the local Philippine population, on-call 24/7 for a year; and for his involvement in multiple humanitarian missions.

**1993** – Became only the second optometrist to successfully complete the Naval Aerospace Optometry curriculum and become designated as a Naval Aerospace Optometrist. He was the only member of his class to complete solo flight in Primary Flight Training.

**1994** – Awarded the prestigious “Golden Apple” for teaching excellence, the highest distinction for clinical and academic instructors at the Naval Aerospace Medicine Institute.

**1996** – Awarded the **Navy Commendation Medal** for his pioneering achievements in aerospace medicine and his unwavering commitment to the education of over 300 student Naval flight surgeons.

**1998** – Conceived and spearheaded a landmark pilot program in which he became the first optometrist to deploy for a six-month operational cruise aboard a Naval warship. He was assigned to the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN battle group in support of Operation Southern Watch. The battle group initiated a coordinated missile strike against two terrorist training facilities in retaliation for the US Embassy bombings. This demonstration project addressed a long-standing deficiency in vision care to the 9,000+ members of the deployed Battle Group, which includes carrier-based fighter pilots. He treated over 900 patients, 17 of whom presented with potentially sight-threatening conditions. The impact of this demonstration project was immediate and profound. The Commanding Officer of the ship wrote:

***“I am completely convinced that having a dedicated, aeromedically trained optometrist permanently assigned to an aircraft carrier significantly improves readiness, safety and quality of life for the entire battle group. I would not want to deploy again without optometry as a part of my medical team.”***

**1999** – Selected as a Navy candidate for the NASA Astronaut / Mission Specialist Program.

**1999** – Selected by Director, Naval Air Warfare (N78) to lead a team tasked with assessing operational viability of laser eye surgery in Naval aviation. He assembled a 135-member team from 39 ashore and afloat commands, and coordinated a study considered the definitive evaluation of photo-refractive keratectomy (PRK) in military aviation. The project budget was \$5M. The compelling results of the study became the basis for future approval of PRK in Navy pilots.

**2000** – Became the first Navy Medical Service Corps Officer to be selected for pilot training as part of the Aeromedical Dual Designator Program.

**2001** – Aerospace Optometry, the program co-developed by Dr. Brown, was officially recognized as a Navy aeromedical designation.

**2002** – Awarded the **Meritorious Service Medal** for his accomplishments as Clinic Director, Navy Refractive Surgery Center, Naval Medical Center San Diego, CA

### **2002 – Armed Forces Optometrist of the Year**

**2002** – “Commodore’s List with Distinction” for finishing first in his Primary Flight Training Class and 97<sup>th</sup> percentile of all Primary completers - was selected for Jet/Strike/Fighter pipeline.

**2004** – PRK approved (waiverable) for all classes and categories of Naval aviation personnel based on the work of Dr. Brown and his colleagues.

**2005** – Authored and presented a proposal to the Commander, Naval Air Forces (CNAF) to evaluate advanced technology LASIK in Navy and Marine Corps aviators. The proposal was approved and funded for \$5M.

**2006** – Awarded second **Meritorious Service Medal** for 20 years of distinguished service to the United States of America.