

NAVY MEDICINE FAST FACTS

Special Edition 24 2025







Capt. Mary F. Keener (1920-2004), a native of Attalia, Ala., served as an aerospace physiologist (now known as an aerospace and operational physiologist).

In the 1950s, Keener helped inaugurate programs for high altitude training and initiated the first ejection seat training in the Navy.

In 1965, upon promotion to captain,
Keener had purportedly trained
more aviation personnel in night
vision, ejector seat procedures, and
low-pressure chambers than any
other aerospace physiologist in
naval history.

In April 1967, the U.S. Navy Uniform Regulations granted designated naval aerospace physiologists the permission to wear aviation wings breast insignia. Keener was the first to wear wings and was designated Aerospace Physiologist # 1.