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74021. Gibson, R. S., Moseley, W. F. A Limited Review of the Effect of Cigarette Smoking on Performance With Emphasis on Aviation. NAMI-Special Report 72-2, Naval Aerospace Medical Institute, Naval Aerospace Medical Center, Pensacola, Florida, November 22, 1972, 8 pp.

Increased knowledge concerning the detrimental effects of cigarette smoking has created the desire to identify any adverse effects that smoking might have on air crew performance. A limited review of the literature was undertaken to provide some perspective on the problem. Relevant studies may be divided into 3 groups: (1) studies employing refined measures of sensory motor performance, (2) studies employing complex and real-world oriented tasks such as driving simulators, (3) studies concerned with the clinical effects of blood carboxyhemoglobin levels. The results indicate that although cigarettes do significantly affect various sensory thresholds, the significance of these effects appear to be of little practical importance. However, it should be noted that withdrawal does produce significant performance decrements. Research support in the area of carbon monoxide and nicotine effects in an aviation environment at altitude is recommended. In particular, smoking-induced reduction in visual field at altitude merits consideration.

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