

# A Comparison Study of MMPI-2 Profiles Between Young Civilian & Air Force Trainee Pilots in the Greek Population



- Our job at the **Aviation Psychology Department** of the Hellenic Air Force Aviation Medicine Center, is the psychological screening of candidate pilots & aircrew members of varying experience, as part of their Medical Certification process.
- Major role in the above procedure plays the MMPI-2, a psychometric tool which provides us with personality evidence, both in the negative (diagnosis) and in the positive (occupational assessment) sense.
- Our aim, in the present study, is to investigate the possible differences in personality parameters, as measured by the MMPI-2, between young, Greek, civilian and Air Force trainee pilots.



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## Sample Composition

Gender	Aviation Group		Age	
Total=220	Civilian	50	AVERAGE=	20,40
Male=211	Military	170	MAX=	25
Fem.=9			MIN=	16
			MEDIAN=	21
			MODE=	21
			ST. DEV.=	2,06

## Significant Statistical Results

	L	Mf	Ma	CYN	Re	O-H	GF
Civilian Average	7,86	22,38	20,52	9,84	23,56	15,08	29,66
Air Force Average	6,77	20,11	19,15	8,29	21,84	13,77	27,40
Civilian Variance	10,04	13,87	10,99	23,97	9,60	7,05	18,11
Air Force Variance	11,65	25,78	21,45	28,47	34,10	13,60	45,74
df	218	218	218	218	218	218	218
t	2,02	2,93	1,95	1,84	2,00	2,34	2,23
P(2 tailed)	0,05	0,00	0,05	0,06	0,05	0,02	0,03

\* None of the variables showed any correlation with age.

## MMPI-2 Profiles of Greek Civilian vs Air Force Trainee Pilots

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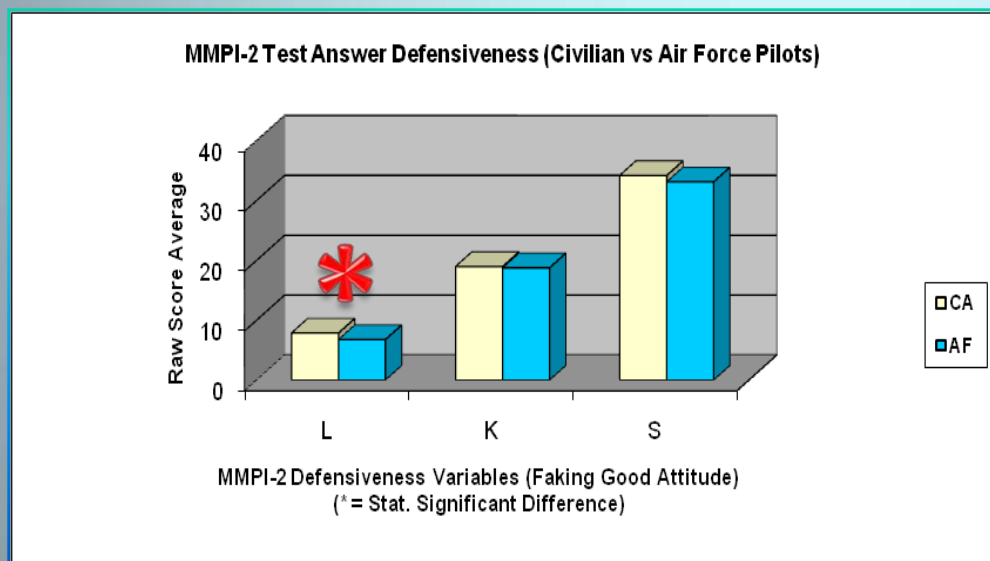
Greece



## Test – Taking Attitude (Defensiveness)

The manner in which people try to manipulate test results to their advantage, tells the test administrator a lot about a subject's “hidden agenda” as far as test – taking goes.

In an assessment situation, such as a Medical & Psychological fitness examination, “Faking Good” is the type of defense to be expected. Pilots are no exception to the rule, but answer truthfully in most cases. The only difference (low in any case) appears below.

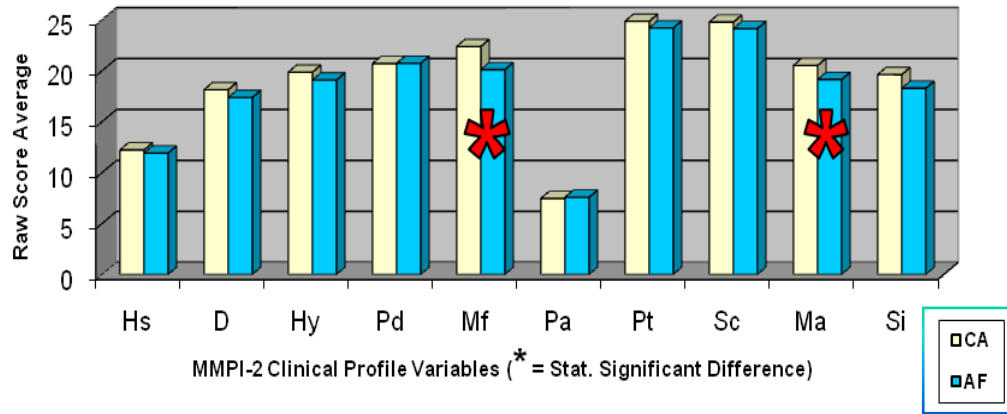


Generally speaking, civilians tend to present themselves in a more favorable light ( $L\uparrow$ ), at a more conscious (deliberate) rather than unconscious level.

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MMPI-2 Clinical Profile Variables (Civilian vs Air Force Pilots)



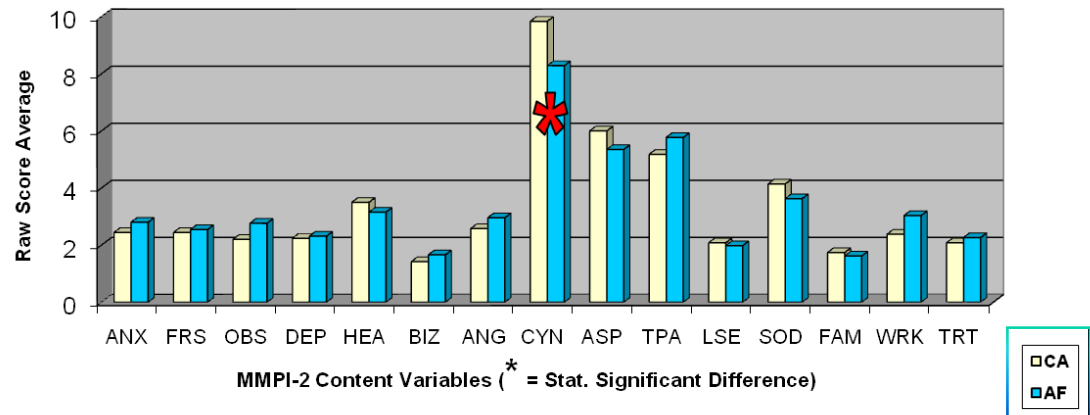
➤ Civilians tend to assert themselves through Status & overt behaviour (Ma↑)



➤ On the other hand, Military pilots tend to present a culturally based “Masculine” picture of themselves (Mf↓), stressing Self Control (low impulsiveness) as a merit (Ma↓)

➤ Civilians tend to hide any overt aggressive or antisocial feelings by intellectualizing (CYN↑)

MMPI-2 Content Variables (Civilian vs Air Force Pilots)

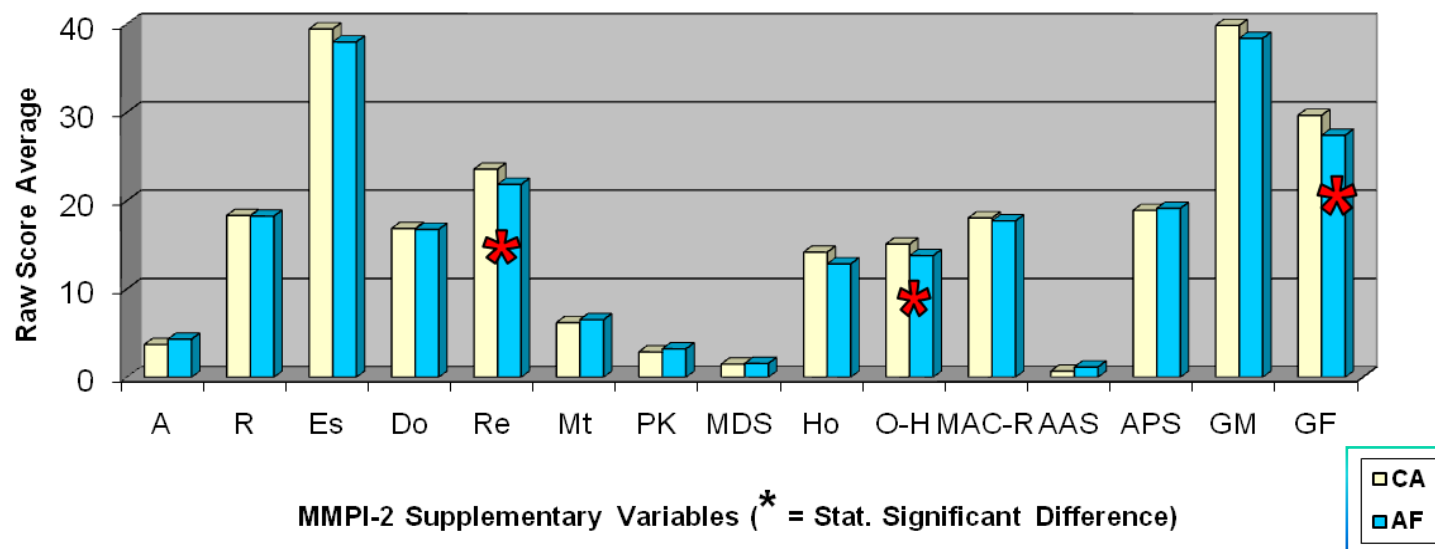


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### MMPI-2 Supplementary Variables (Civilian vs Air Force Pilots)



- Civilian pilots tend to present themselves in a more favorable light by masking aggressive feelings (O-H↑) and focusing on social responsibility (Re↑)
- Military pilots present a more stable & “accepted” [approved by significant others] picture of themselves (GF↓), but tend to be more overt in their “aggressive” behaviour than their civilian counterparts (O-H↓)

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## Conclusions

Generally speaking, civilians tend to present themselves in a more favorable light ( $L\uparrow$ ), focusing on social responsibility ( $Re\uparrow$ ) and hiding any aggressive or antisocial feelings by intellectualizing and status seeking ( $CYN\uparrow$ ,  $Ma\uparrow$ ,  $O-H\uparrow$ ,  $GF\uparrow$ ). On the other hand, military pilots tend to present a more masculine picture of themselves ( $Mf\downarrow$ ,  $GF\downarrow$ ) and come out as less impulsive but more overtly aggressive than their civilian counterparts ( $Ma\downarrow$ ,  $O-H\downarrow$ ).



### **MMPI-2 Profiles of Greek Civilian vs Air Force Trainee Pilots**

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