

Special Tactics Officer



OVERVIEW

One of the most exciting and challenging opportunities open to Air Force ROTC cadets is a career as a Special Tactics Officer (STO). STOs command special operations forces behind enemy lines to conduct the nation's most demanding missions. Decisive and determined, they lead Special Tactics teams in combat, seizing and controlling airstrips, guiding deadly airstrikes, and rescuing US personnel in harm's way. These disciplined warriors never quit. Their motto: "First There... That Others May Live".

Being a STO means working in the harshest environments, often without sleep or support from other forces. Because this job demands the best, only top performing cadets will be selected to become STOs. Applicants must endure a rigorous two phase selection process. Selected individuals will attend two and a half years of the most intense training available. Upon graduation, you'll be awarded the coveted scarlet beret and black jump boots signifying your entry into the Special Tactics brotherhood.

TRAINING

All STOs are required to attend the following schools:

- Combat Control Selection Course
- Air Traffic Control School
- SERE School
- Army Airborne School
- Combat Control School
- Combat Diver Qualification Course
- Military Freefall School (HALO)

The training doesn't end there. After completion of these formal courses, each STO must complete advanced skills training in weapons, small unit tactics, communications, parachuting, and tactical vehicles while maintaining outstanding physical fitness through our "Combat Athlete" program.

CAREER INFORMATION

Upon graduating from the Special Tactics training pipeline, STOs are assigned to an operational Special Tactics Squadron (STS) in Air Force Special Operations Command. Life in an STS is all about maintaining a high state of combat readiness. STS units are either at war, or preparing for war. You will be expected to deploy at a moment's notice. In 2010 alone, Special Tactics sent personnel on missions in 46 different countries. Although our work requires secrecy, it doesn't go unnoticed. Special Tactics forces have been highly decorated for combat operations. Additionally, being a STO makes you very competitive for promotion and command positions.

If you think you've got what it takes, join Air Force ROTC and try out to become a Special Tactics Officer. You won't be disappointed!

ELIGIBILITY

In addition to meeting the requirements for Air Force ROTC, to be eligible to apply for Special Tactics, you must:

- Be a male United States citizen
- Be able to obtain a "Secret" security clearance
- Have normal color vision
- Have vision of 20/70 or better, correctible to 20/20
- Have no speech impediment
- Be able to obtain a Class III Flight Physical (Special Warfare Initial Clearance)
- Achieve passing fitness scores*
- Be a top performer in ROTC

ASSESSMENT

Each application will be thoroughly reviewed to determine a candidate's suitability. Candidates selected for additional screening will be invited to attend Phase II of the assessment process. This is a very strenuous one-week program that measures applicants against the Special Tactics attributes: leadership, physical fitness, motivation, initiative, interpersonal skills, psychological stability, mental agility, and professionalism. At the end of the assessment, each candidate is notified of their selection status.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To find out more about being a Special Tactics Officer, talk to an ROTC Unit Admissions Officer. To learn more, and download the current application guidelines, visit the following sites:

- www.Facebook.com/SpecialTacticsOfficer
- www.afsoc.af.mil/specialtactics

*See the STO application for fitness test details.