

# **SPECIAL OPERATIONS AIR LIAISON OFFICER APPLICATION—FY 2018**



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

Application Deadlines

Fall Assessment: 22 Dec 2017

Spring Assessment: 01 July 2018

Submit applications to: [24SOWSTTS.Assessments.RAS@us.af.mil](mailto:24SOWSTTS.Assessments.RAS@us.af.mil)

For general questions: [STO.Recruiter@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:STO.Recruiter@hurlburt.af.mil)

**XVII Special Tactics Squadron**

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# Special Operations Air Liaison Officer Assessment

## 1. INTRODUCTION.

Thank you for your interest in the Special Operations Air Liaison Officer (ALO) career field. This document outlines the application procedures to become a Special Operations ALO. The Special Tactics forces that a Special Operations ALO leads are organized under the 24th Special Operations Wing (SOW) of Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) and assigned to the 17th Special Tactics Squadron (STS). Applicants familiar with earlier versions of this package should review this document thoroughly, as it has undergone revision.

## 2. CAREER FIELD ELIGIBILITY.

Special Operations ALOs require high levels of physical fitness, mental agility, professionalism, leadership, interpersonal skills, initiative, psychological stability, motivation, and technical competency. Additional eligibility criteria are listed below:

- Male (per DOD policy)
- Security clearance: Secret (minimum), Top Secret (attainable)
- Volunteer for Hazardous Duty: Static-line Parachute
- Background: Outstanding resume and no negative personal or professional history
- Medical/Physical: IFC III Flying Physical authorizing ground based controller, static-line training, and static-line duties documented on a DD Form 2808
- Physical Fitness: At a minimum, candidates must satisfactorily complete the minimum scores on the PT Evaluation.

## 3. SPECIAL OPERATIONS ALO APPLICATION PROCEDURES.

Special Operations ALO assessments are conducted whenever it is determined a position will become vacant and needs to be filled. Each cycle has two phases: Phase I and Phase II. In Phase I, a panel of officers reviews and stratifies applications submitted by the deadline. The top applicants are invited to attend Phase II Selection. Phase II consists of a one-week evaluation conducted at Hurlburt Field, FL, approximately 30-60 days after Phase I. Candidates must attend Phase II in TDY status. AFSOC will normally fund Phase II attendance for candidates.

Upon completion of Phase II evaluated events, the 720 Special Tactics Group (STG) Commander makes his selection of new Special Operations ALOs. Applicants will be briefed on their select/non-select status at the completion of Phase II. If you desire to become a Special Operations ALO, but are unable to attend a Phase II selection, submit a Phase I package and inform the Special Operations ALO point of contact of your situation.

An invitation to Phase II means the Phase I selection board would like to take a closer look at your potential to become an ALO. Your decision to attend is voluntary and non-binding. Selection at Phase II means the selection board president has approved your entry into the career field and pipeline training. It is ultimately up to you to accept the challenge.

**Active Duty USAF:** The Special Operations ALO position is open to the following career fields: 11XX, 12XX, 13 BX, and 13LX. Eligible grades are O-2 through O-4. CONUS candidates must have at least 2 years Time on Station (TOS) prior to attending assessment and selection. OCONUS candidates must be within 1 year of their DEROS prior to attending assessment and selection.

It is highly recommended that candidates are:

- 1) CAS experts familiar with all components of fire support
- 2) Extremely fit (meeting the PT minimums is not extremely fit)
- 3) Ready to lead seasoned TACP operators autonomously
- 4) Experienced through combat deployment or a major joint exercise

\*\*The above items are only recommendations, not prerequisites.

**First-Time Non-Selects:** Candidates who attend Phase II, but are not selected, are not guaranteed a Phase II invitation in future selection cycles. If the cadre identify deficiencies/weaknesses that they would like to see corrected before accepting you into the Special Tactics community, you must submit an updated application that addresses those deficiencies. Do NOT submit the same application package. You must have updated letters of recommendation as well as accomplish a new PT test.

#### 4. **PHASE I**

Phase I applications are due by the date posted on the message accompanying the application package. The Assessment Director does an initial review of the applications for completeness. The Assessment Director convenes a review board consisting of the 17th Special Tactics Commander, Chief Enlisted Manager, and other Special Operations ALOs. The board ranks the applications, identifying the candidates most likely to succeed. Once invitations are sent, the Assessment Director contacts the individuals with Phase II reporting instructions.

The Assessment Director designates the candidate team leader. At that time, the team is encouraged to begin team building via email and other means. The more cohesive the team is prior to arrival, the better the team interaction will be during Phase II, enhancing everyone's chances to be selected. The team leader is the primary means of contacting the Assessment Director for assessment-related matters. The Assessment Director is your definitive resource for all policy, continuity, and information on Phase II.

All non-invited applicants will receive feedback on their applications from the Assessment Director. If you do not hear from the Assessment Director within 45 days of submitting your application, contact him for details.

**Read through ANNEX A for complete instructions on constructing your Phase I package.**

#### 5. **PHASE II**

Phase II Selection is conducted at Hurlburt Field, FL. The purpose of Phase II is to assess each candidate in the nine STS attributes: Physical Fitness, Mental Agility, Professionalism, Leadership, Interpersonal Skills, Initiative, Psychological Stability, Motivation, and Technical Competency for the purpose of determining if you have the raw skills to operate in the Special Operations environment. Your performance will be evaluated as a team member and as an individual. The schedule is designed to stress you. The Special Operations ALO cadre will observe and take notes on everything you do. These observations will be the basis for a hiring recommendation made to the 720th STG Commander. The data will also be used to provide critical feedback to enhance your personal and professional growth.

Candidates must be prepared for a physically and mentally demanding week. You cannot trust your judgment of your physical and mental preparedness prior to coming to Phase II. Feedback from most candidates indicates that this week is more demanding than anything they anticipated. The cadre will push you physically and mentally beyond your comfort zone to assess those critical attributes in adverse situations. You will be expected to perform to the best

of your ability in all events.

Billeting will be coordinated for all candidates. Candidates will be billeted together for the duration of Phase II. The candidate team leader is responsible for passing travel and contact information for all candidates. When the candidate team leader arrives, he must check in with the Assessment Director for further instructions.

There are five ways to be dismissed during Phase II. Failure to pass the PT Evaluation during Phase II is grounds for immediate dismissal. Medical disqualification results from a medical assessment to determine your ability to safely continue Phase II. Self-Initiated Elimination (SIE) means that you no longer wish to continue in the assessment. Quitting by Action (QBA) is a Phase II policy that allows the Phase II cadre to give you three consecutive warnings during an assessment event, for demonstrating lack of motivation to continue or perform at the required level of effort. If a fourth warning is issued, you are subject to removal from the assessment. If a candidate SIE's or QBA's, he will not be considered again for assessment. Finally, the Phase II cadre retains the ability to remove a candidate at any time for not performing to standards.

Candidates should be prepared for the following:

- Extensive psychological testing and interviews
- Briefing and writing skills evaluations
- Problem solving events
- Leadership ability evaluations
- Ruckmarch with 50 – 70 lbs of weight at distances of 12 miles
- Running for distances up to 8 miles at a time
- Calisthenics sessions of various exercises
- Water confidence evaluations, to include:
  - o Under water swim intervals at 25 meters
  - o Treading water
  - o Surface swimming

Those candidates who successfully complete Phase II and are selected can expect to receive an assignment at Ft Benning, GA, Hunter Army Airfield, GA, or Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA. The location will be dictated by the 17th Special Tactics Squadron Commander based upon open positions. Applicants should be prepared to receive an assignment to any of the above locations and your order of assignment preference is not a consideration for the board.

## ANNEX A

### Phase I Application Instructions & Example

#### **PHASE I APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Proof read your application for accuracy, format, grammar, and spelling. In Phase I, the selection board relies solely on information and impressions made through your application. Incomplete or poorly crafted applications are a reflection of the applicant's professionalism. As a general rule, successful Phase I applications are concise, easy to understand, and are not filled with extra "fluff." Your success in the Special Tactics community begins with this application.

#### **The application will include the following in this order:**

1. Cover page – Use Times New Roman and Font size 10
2. Personal Narrative – One page in length (See example for format and specifics)
3. Copy of your personal SURF (Single Unit Retrieval Format) accessible via the AMS (Assignment Management System) webpage.
4. One signed recommendation letter from your commander, no more than one-page in length. The letter should comment on your leadership abilities including relevant examples.
5. Copies of your five most recent performance reports. Prior enlisted personnel should include their enlisted performance reports if applicable.
6. If you are currently a qualified JTAC, include copies all of your Form 8s.
7. Copy of a DD Form 2808 (obtained at base medical unit) dated within 60-days of application submission authorizing ground based controller, static-line training, and static-line duties.

When complete, your application should be scanned into a PDF file as ONE DOCUMENT and emailed to [24SOWSTTS.Assessments.RAS@us.af.mil](mailto:24SOWSTTS.Assessments.RAS@us.af.mil). Put your last name and "ALO Application" in the subject line of the email, such as "Johnson-ALO Application".

#### **Additional Notes:**

- The format on the next few pages is not an option. Follow the example. Do not include the footer you see below that says: "Current as of DATE".
- If the header or section does not apply to your situation, simply delete that section.
- Be sure that all signature blocks are hand signed with wet ink.

**Name/Rank:** 1Lt John B. Doe

**SSN:** 123-45-6789

**Work Address:** 123 Main Street, Hurlburt Field, FL 32544

**Work Email:** john.doe@hurlburt.af.mil

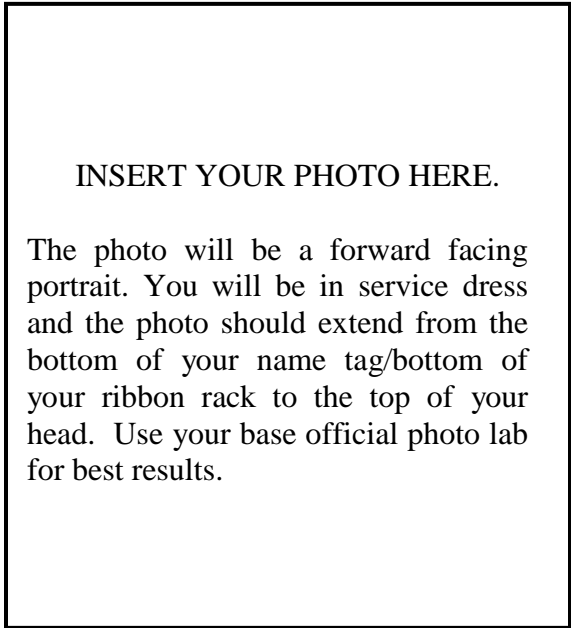
**Work Phone:** 850-555-1234

**Current Duty Station:** Hurlburt Field, FL

**Current Unit:** 1st Special Operations Wing

**AFSC/Current Position:** Flight Commander

**Marital Status:** Married



**Attended Phase II / SOCOM Training:** Yes / No      **If yes, when:** (Month, Year)    CRO, STO, SOWT, Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Commander Name/Rank:** Major John Smith

**Email/Phone:** john.smith@hurlburt.af.mil / 850-678-1234

**Functional Manager Name/Rank:** Capt Mike Johnson

**Email/Phone:** michael.johnson@hurlburt.af.mil / 850-789-3456

**PT Test Results**

**PT Test Date:**

**Pull-ups**\_\_\_**Sit-ups**\_\_\_**Push-ups**\_\_\_

**5 Mile run**\_\_\_**mins**\_\_\_**secs**

**25 meter underwater swim ( Pass / Fail )**

**200 meter swim**\_\_\_**mins**\_\_\_**secs**

**12 Mile Ruck March**\_\_\_**hours**\_\_\_**mins**\_\_\_**secs**

**Administrator Name/Rank:**

**Email/Phone:**

**Administrator Signature**\_\_\_\_\_

Candidate acknowledgment statement: "I, (Insert Name Here), hereby apply to become a Special Operations ALO and volunteer to perform the hazardous duties inherent to Special Tactics. I acknowledge that I can be removed from further assessment for any of the following reasons: 1) quitting through words or actions, 2) becoming a medical or safety risk, 3) committing an integrity violation such as lying, cheating, or stealing, or 4) failing to meet specified standards.

**Candidate Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



MEMORANDUM FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS ALO SELECTION BOARD

FROM: 16EMS/MXMG

SUBJECT: Personal Narrative

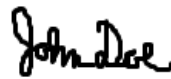
1. This document is provided to give the selection board an overall understanding of your character and personality. It should be clear, concise, and free of extra “fluff” statements.

It should include:

1. Your personal background, such as where you grew up, significant jobs/positions held, and/or an explanation of your experiences and involvements before and during military service
2. An identification and explanation of your perceived strengths and weaknesses
3. A discussion on what attracts you to become a Special Operations ALO
4. Why Special Operations ALO is the right career for you

2. The narrative will be formatted with 1 inch margins on the left and right sides. The top margin will be between 1 inch and 1.5 inches depending on the heading you establish. The bottom will be 1 inch.

3. The heading format you see above should be followed with your own information entered in the FROM portion. The document may not exceed more than one page in length. Use Times New Roman with font size 12. Include a crest in the upper left hand corner of your header similar to an official memorandum for record. See AFH 33-337 *The Tongue and Quill* or sister service equivalent for examples of an Official Memorandum for Record.



JOHN A. DOE, 1st Lieutenant, USAF  
Logistics Training Flight Commander

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

DATE

MEMORANDUM FOR SPECIAL TACTICS ALO SELECTION BOARD

FROM: X ASOS/CC  
XXX. Whatever St  
Ft Xxxxx AIN, ST XXXXX

SUBJECT: Special Operations ALO Recommendation Letter (EXAMPLE)

1. Captain John A. Doe is my number one recommendation for the newly opened Special Operations ALO positions. Capt Doe possesses an exceptionally strong duty concept, as evidenced by the motivated and professional way he addresses his daily work, as evidenced by his recent selection as PACAF CGO of the Year. His service leading our TAC Team has been - and continues to be - impeccable. I've personally called upon him to instruct me on various ALO skills and physical training concepts. His decision making ability and clear judgment underscore his unselfish sense of duty. Capt Doe is highly dedicated to his work as a Terminal Attack Control and Command Specialist and he exercises every opportunity to better himself and expand his knowledge both on and off duty.
2. Capt Doe's physical and personal skills, his adaptability and willingness to learn all attribute to his superb ability as a team player. He will be a valued asset to the Special Tactics community. I am confident in my decision for his recommendation. If you have any questions you may contact me at DSN: XXX-XXXX or by email at:
3. To be blunt, Captain Doe succeeds magnificently at everything he undertakes. He is a sincere, articulate young officer who is made of just the right decisive "stuff" we're looking for in our leaders. I am confident he would make an excellent Special Operations ALO and recommend his selection on your next board.

JOHN B. HANCOCK, Lt Col, USAF  
Commander

**NOTE: Letter of Recommendation will be formatted according to AFH 33-337 *The Tongue and Quill***

## ANNEX B

### **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ALO PT EVALUATION STANDARDS**

**General.** Special Operations ALO applicants shall complete the physical training test in accordance with these procedures as part of the Special Operations ALO application.

**Standards.** You must complete the minimum number of exercises, run, and swim within the times specified below. Special Operations ALO selection is extremely competitive; you should give your very best effort, which should be well beyond the minimums. Your PT Evaluation should have been accomplished within three months of the Phase I due date and as close to Phase I as possible to reflect your current level of fitness.

CALISTHENICS: pull-ups, sit-ups, and push-ups -- exercise to time limit or until muscle failure

- Minimums:
  - 10 pull-ups in 1 minute
  - 70 sit-ups in 2 minutes
  - 60 push-ups in 2 minutes

RUN: 5 miles non-stop

- Minimums:
  - 5 miles completed within 40 minutes (40:00)

UNDERWATER SWIM: swim and remain underwater for 25 meters

- Minimums:
  - Successful completion

SWIM: 200 meters non-stop -- any stroke except backstroke (without fins)

- Minimums:
  - 200 m completed within 7 minutes (7:00)

RUCKMARCH: 12 miles non-stop

- Minimums:
  - 12 miles completed within 3 hours (3:00:00)
  - Does not have to occur on same day as other PT events, but within 7 days

**Administration.** The PT test must be given in the order listed and completed within a three-hour timeframe. If you are unable to meet any of the minimums, you have failed the test. The PT test should be administered by your supervisor. Other test administrators will be considered on a case-by-case basis, following coordination with the Assessment Director. If you fail to execute the proper form, the test administrator will correct you, and the incorrect repetition will not be counted. The test administrator will document the results on the cover sheet of your application and sign the appropriate space. Each candidate and administrator should watch the instructional video posted at:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zdKD0VMKWg&feature=plcp&context=C3f31946UDOEg\\_sToPDskJY7F3h01Zie\\_0ZF9I15EP11](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zdKD0VMKWg&feature=plcp&context=C3f31946UDOEg_sToPDskJY7F3h01Zie_0ZF9I15EP11). The video should be used as a guide for exercise form ONLY, the repetition and time standards referenced do not apply to Special Operations ALO candidates.

**Procedures.** Calisthenics events will be tested one right after the other with approximately a 2-minute time lapse between events. Upon completion of all the calisthenics events, a 10-minute rest period is given prior to starting the 5-mile run. Upon completion of the 5-mile run, a 20-minute rest period is given prior to starting the underwater swim. Within 10 minutes after the underwater swim, begin the 200 meter swim.

- Pull-ups (one minute time limit).** This exercise is executed on a pull-up bar. The individual grasps the bar with the hands about shoulder width apart. Hands can be facing toward the candidate (chin up) or away from the candidate (pull up). This is a two-count exercise. The exercise begins in the “dead hang” position. Count one: pull the body directly upward until the chin is over the bar. Count two: lower the body until the body is again in the “dead hang” position. Repeat as many times as possible. Individuals will not swing excessively or bicycle feet as the chin is pulled over the bar. Legs are allowed to bend, but must not be kicked or manipulated to aid upward movement. If the candidate falls off or releases the bar, the exercise is terminated. Designed to measure strength and endurance in the back, triceps, and biceps muscles used when performing specific mission tasks. A two-minute rest follows this event.
- Sit-ups (two minute time limit).** Starting position: back flat on the ground, hands behind the head, fingers interlocked, head off the ground and knees bent at approximately a 90 degree angle. Another individual during the exercise holds the feet (optional). This is a two-count exercise. Count one: sit up until the back is vertical, breaking a 90 degree plane with the ground. Count two: return to the starting position. There is no authorized rest position during this exercise. If the candidate rests, the exercise is terminated. If an individual raises buttocks from ground, removes hands from behind the head during a repetition, or the fingers are not interlocked, the repetition is not counted. Designed to measure strength and endurance in abdominal and hip flexor muscle groups used when performing specific mission tasks. A two-minute rest follows this event.
- Push-ups (two minute time limit).** This exercise starts from the front leaning rest position. The body must be maintained straight from head to heels with knees together. This is a two-count exercise. Count one: flex the elbows, lowering the body until the arm is bent at least 90 degrees at the elbow and the upper arm breaks a parallel plane with the ground. Count two: raise the body until the elbows are straight and locked. Repeat this exercise as many times as possible. The candidate will not raise his buttocks in the air, sag his middle to the ground, or raise any hand or foot from their starting position. If a hand or foot is raised, the exercise is terminated. The only authorized rest position is the starting position. Designed to measure the strength and endurance of the chest and triceps muscles used when performing mission tasks. A two-minute rest follows this event.
- Five Mile Run.** Performed with running shoes and running shorts. This run must be continuous (non-stop). If a candidate stops anytime during the run, the test will be stopped and considered a failure for the entire test. The test should be conducted on a measured running track. Designed to measure aerobic endurance used when performing mission tasks, specifically employment or evasion situations. This event is followed by a 20-minute rest period prior to the underwater swim.
- Underwater Swim.** Perform one 25-meter underwater swim utilizing a lap swimming pool. If the candidate’s head breaks the water surface in order to take a breath of air, the test will be stopped and considered a failure for the entire test. Swimsuits and mask or swim goggles are the only equipment items allowed. Allow a 10-minute rest period prior to the 200 meter swim.

- 200 Meter Swim.** The swim will be performed with swimsuits and mask or swim goggles, without fins, in a lap swimming pool. This swim must be continuous (non-stop). If you stop anytime during the swim, the test will be stopped and considered a failure for the entire test. Designed to measure aerobic endurance in a maritime environment.
  
- Twelve Mile Ruck March.** Performed in ABU or Multi-cam uniform and field boots. Use a rucksack with a total weight of 40 lbs. The ruck march must be completed within 3 hours. The test should be conducted on a measured flat surface with minimal incline/decline of elevation. Designed to measure aerobic endurance used when performing mission tasks, specifically employment or evasion situations. This event does not have to be conducted the same day as the other PT events, but should be conducted within 7-days of the PT event. If selected for Phase II, you will accomplish the PT test and ruck march within 24 hours of each other. Prepare yourself now.