

**Special Operations
Explosive Ordnance Disposal
Application CY 2026**



OPR: 720th Special Tactics Group (AFSOC)
24SOWSTTS.ASSESSMENTS.RAS@us.af.mil

850-884-8094 or 8119

CAO: 11 August 2025

Table of Contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION	3
CHAPTER 2 – ELIGIBILITY	3
CHAPTER 3 – APPLICATION PROCESS (PHASE I)	4
CHAPTER 4 – ASSESSMENT & SELECTION (PHASE II)	4
CHAPTER 5 – POST ASSESSMENT	5
CHAPTER 6 – SUMMARY OF SUSPENSES	6
CHAPTER 7 – POINT OF CONTACT	6
ATTACHMENT	
ATTACHMENT 1 – APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS	6
ATTACHMENT 2 – APPLICATION COVER SHEET	7
ATTACHMENT 3 – INITIAL FITNESS TEST (IFT) EVALUATION WORKSHEET	8
ATTACHMENT 4 – PERSONAL NARRATIVE EXAMPLE	10
ATTACHMENT 5 – PERSONAL RESUME EXAMPLE	11

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1. Thank you for your interest in becoming a Special Operations EOD Technician. This document outlines the application procedures for becoming a Special Operations EOD Technician. Selected candidates will join Special Tactics (ST) units that are organized under the 720th Special Tactics Group (STG) of Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) and assigned to the 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 26th Special Tactics Squadron (STS). You will train and deploy alongside the Air Force's elite Combat Controllers, Pararescuemen, Special Reconnaissance, and Tactical Air Control Party members to accomplish Precision Strike, Combat Search and Rescue, and Global Access missions in support of Special Operations Command (SOCOM).

CHAPTER 2 - ELIGIBILITY

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

- 2.1.1. Must be grade E5(or E-5 select)-E6 or O2-O3.
- 2.1.2. Enlisted must have their 5-level, while Officers are preferred to be 5-levels but not required.
- 2.1.3. Must satisfactorily complete the minimum scores on the SOF EOD PT Evaluation.
- 2.1.4. CONUS candidates must have at least 2 years Time on Station
- 2.1.5. OCONUS candidates must be within 1 year of their DEROS
- 2.1.6. Volunteer for Hazardous Duty: Static-line & freefall Parachuting
- 2.1.7. Background: Outstanding resume and no negative personal or professional history

CHAPTER 3 – APPLICATION PROCESS (PHASE I)

3.1. Candidates interested must complete an application and are only able to apply when all requirements and eligibility criteria are met. Applications must be submitted by the suspense date (see chapter 6).

3.2. Applications will be reviewed (Phase I) by the ST (Special Tactics) Assessment Director and a board of current officer and enlisted ST Airmen.

3.3. Applicants who are approved will be notified via email and invited to attend the 1-week assessment & selection at Hurlburt Field, Florida (Phase II). Active-Duty candidates must attend this assessment in TDY status and funding is provided for all candidates to cover travel costs.

3.4. Receiving an invitation to Phase II means the Phase I selection board would like to take a closer look at your potential to join Special Operations. Your decision to attend is voluntary and non-binding. Being selected at Phase II means the board president has approved your entry into the unit. It is ultimately up to you to accept the challenge.

CHAPTER 4 – ASSESSMENT & SELECTION (PHASE II)

4.1. The objective of Phase II is to assess each candidate on the ST attributes 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 member of a team and as an individual. The schedule is designed to stress you. The cadre will observe and take notes on everything you do. These observations, along with those from psychologists and your peers, will be the basis for a hiring recommendation. The data will also be used to provide critical feedback to enhance your personal and professional growth.

4.2. 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 to assess those critical attributes in adverse situations. You will be expected to perform and meet specific standards in all events.

4.3. There are five ways to be dismissed during Phase II:

4.3.1. Failure to meet minimum physical fitness standard: Member did not meet the minimum fitness standards required for entrance into Special Operations and complete the assessment.

4.3.2. Medical DQ: disqualification based on recommendation of medical personnel or failure to complete a major event due to medical evaluation or treatment.

4.3.3. Quit by Action (QBA): Failure to Train (FTT) occurs when an instructor tells the candidate to train at an event or perform some action and he/she refuses. Three FTTs given by Cadre will result in elimination from assessment as QBA. When FTT is given, the candidate is pulled from training and provided individualized counseling to discuss the deficiency with the Cadre lead before returning to the training event.

4.3.4. Self-Initiated Elimination: defined as candidate verbalizing to the cadre “I quit,” “I no longer want to be here,” or any statement/action indicating that a candidate is unwilling to continue. Candidates will confirm their decision by verbalizing it to a Cadre member.

4.3.5. Committing any offense punishable under the UCMJ or violation of assessment policies demonstrating inability to uphold the standards of excellence required by the Air Force and the Department of Defense. This includes integrity and safety violations.

4.4. Candidates should be prepared for the following:

4.4.1 Extensive psychological testing and interviews, briefing and writing skills evaluations, problem solving events and leadership ability evaluations. Physically you will be required to conduct ruck marches with 50 – 70 lbs of weight at distances up to 12 miles, running for distances up to 5 miles, and calisthenics sessions of various exercises.

CHAPTER 5 – POST ASSESSMENT

5.1. Those candidates who successfully complete Phase II and are selected can expect to receive a class date for the next available Marine Special Operations Forces Explosive Ordnance Disposal Level 1 Course (MEODL-1). During the twelve-week SOFEOD1 course, the student will receive training in: Advance Diagnostic Techniques, Assault Support, Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE), Foreign Internal defense

(FID), IED Electronics, Nonstandard Tools and Equipment, Photography, Sensitive Site Exploitation (SSE), Target Analysis, and Threat Assessment.

5.2. Upon graduating MEODL-1, you can expect to receive an assignment at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA, Pope AFB, NC, Hurlburt Field, FL, or Cannon AFB, NM. The location will be dictated by the 720th STG/CEM and AFSOC EOD FAM based upon operational necessity. Applicants should be prepared to receive an assignment to any of the above locations, and your order of assignment preference is not considered by the board.

5.3. Graduation of MEODL-1 is a requirement to join Special Tactics. Failure to graduate MEODL-1 will result in you being removed from consideration for Special Operations and immediate integration with your current unit.

CHAPTER 6 – SUMMARY OF SUSPENSES

6.1. Winter 2026 (26-01)

- 6.1.1. 01 December 2025 – Application Deadline
- 6.1.2. 25 January 2026 – Travel to PHASE II
- 6.1.3. 31 January 2026 – Return from PHASE II
- 6.1.4. 09 February 2026 – DTS Vouchers Completed

6.2. Fall 2026 (27-01)

- 6.2.1. 10 August 2026 – Application Deadline
- 6.2.2. 11 October 2026 – Travel to PHASE II
- 6.2.3. 17 October 2026 – Return from PHASE II
- 6.2.4. 26 October 2026 – DTS Vouchers Completed

CHAPTER 7 – POINT OF CONTACT

UNIT: 720th Special Tactics Group / Recruit, Assess, & Select (RAS)

DSN: 579-6500

COMMERCIAL: (850) 884 6500 or 8119

EMAIL: 24SOWSTTS.ASSESSMENTS.RAS@us.af.mil

WEBSITE: <http://www.24sow.af.mil>

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1.1. Proofread 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 reflect the applicant's professionalism. Successful Phase I applications are concise, easy to understand, and are not filled with extra "fluff." Your success in the ST community begins with this application.

1.2. The application will include the following in this order, and will ONLY include these pages:

1.2.1. Cover page – Typed

1.2.2. Personal Narrative – One page in length (See example for format and specifics)

1.2.3. Copy of your personal SURF (Single Unit Retrieval Format) accessible via the AMS (Assignment Management System) webpage.

1.2.4. One signed recommendation letter from your commander, no more than one page in length. The letter should comment on demonstrated leadership ability, job performance and teamwork, including relevant examples.

1.2.5. Copies of your three most recent performance reports.

1.3. Your application will be a PDF document, and the document will be named "**LASTNAME – EOD APPLICATION**".

1.4. To submit your application, email it to 24SOWSTTS.Assessments.RAS@us.af.mil.



Special Operations EOD Application



Insert a forward facing portrait against a solid colored background. Be in service dress and crop the photo from the bottom of your ribbon rack to the top of your head.

If deployed, wear the appropriate uniform of the day.

Civilians wear appropriate professional attire.

Rank/Name:
(Last, First, MI)

Full SSN:

Age:

Email Address:

Cell Phone:

Duty Station:

Current Position:

Skill Level:

Attended an AFSOC Selection Prior (If yes, what selection & when):

PT Test Results

Test Date:

3.0 Mile Run:

Pullups:

Situps:

8.0 Mile Ruck:

Pushups:

**Administrator
Rank/Name:**

**Administrator
Email/Phone:**

Administrator Signature:

**EOD Flight
Commander
Rank/Name:**

**Functional Manager
Rank/Name:**

**Contact (Email &
Phone):**

**Contact (Email &
Phone):**

Candidate acknowledgment statement: *I hereby apply to become a Special Operations EOD and volunteer to perform the duties inherent to Special Operations. 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 fitness standards. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application is true.*

Date:
(dd/mm/yy)

Candidate Signature:

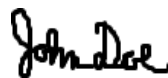
Date

MEMORANDUM FOR SPECIAL TACTICS ASSESSMENT BOARD

FROM: 1SOMXG/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 your personal background, such as where you grew up, significant jobs/positions held, an explanation of your experiences and involvements before and during military service, an explanation of your perceived strengths and weaknesses, a discussion on what attracts you to become a Special Tactics Officer and why this is the right career for you.
2. The narrative will be formatted with 1 inch margins on the bottom, left, and right sides. The top margin will be between 1 inch and 1.5 inches depending on the heading you establish.
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, SSgt, USAF
Logistics 2-27 Bn JTAC

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

DATE

MEMORANDUM FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS EOD SELECTION BOARD

FROM: X CES/CC

XXX. Whatever St

Xxxxx, XXXXX

SUBJECT: Special Operations EOD Recommendation Letter (EXAMPLE)

1. SSgt John A. Doe is my unequivocal top choice for a role in direct support of special operations as an EOD Technician. SSgt Doe embodies an exceptional sense of duty, showcased through his relentless professionalism and motivation in every task he undertakes, a caliber recognized by his recent selection as X CES NCO of the Year. His flawless execution of joint operations alongside one of our —often in high-threat environments requiring precise coordination with joint partners—sets him apart as a leader and warfighter. I’ve sought his expertise to enhance my proficiency in tactical integration, CIED skillsets, and physical resilience. SSgt Doe’s keen decision-making, unflinching judgment, and selfless commitment to mission success are evident in his pursuit of excellence, whether mentoring his junior EOD Technicians or refining his skills off-duty. His dedication to mastering all skills pertinent to being a professional EOD Technician makes him a perfect addition to this effort.
2. SSgt 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, SSgt Doe succeeds magnificently at everything he undertakes. He is a sincere, articulate young NCO 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 EOD Technician 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*

SPECIAL OPERATIONS EOD PT TEST INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction: Special Operations EOD applicants shall complete the physical training test in accordance with these procedures as part of the Special Operations EOD application. To be competitive, applicants should seek to exceed the minimums posted below. Any candidate that does not meet the minimums is not eligible to apply.

Pullups (Minimum Repetitions - 8): Maximum number of pull-ups in 1 minute (with 2 minutes rest before the next event).

Instructions: Pull-ups are a two-count exercise. The starting position is hanging from a bar, palms facing away from the candidate with no bend in elbows and the head in the neutral position (dead-hang with eyes facing forward). Hand spread is approx shoulder width apart. Count one; pull the body up until the chin is above the highest point of the horizontal plane of the bar, maintaining the neutral position. Count two; return to starting position. Legs are allowed to bend but must not be kicked or manipulated to aid upward movement. The starting position is the only authorized rest position. Adjustment of the hands is permitted; however, if the candidate falls off, releases from the bar or the candidate uses the ground to rest or assist, the exercise is terminated. If the candidate's feet inadvertently touch the ground, the repetition will not be counted. If the exercise is terminated, the repetitions performed prior to termination will be recorded.

Situps (Minimum Repetitions - 60): Maximum number of sit-ups in 2 minutes (with 2 minutes rest before the next event).

Sit-ups are a two-count exercise. Starting position is back flat on the ground or mat, fingers interlocked behind the head, head off the surface, and knees bent at approximately a 90-degree angle. Candidate's feet will be placed under a "toehold" bar or held by another individual. Count one; raise the upper torso until the back is perpendicular to the surface. Count two; return to the starting position. The exercise is continuous, if the candidate's buttocks rise from the surface or fingers are not interlocked behind the head during the repetition, the repetition will not be counted, and feedback will be provided. There is no authorized rest position, so if the candidate stops, the exercise is terminated. If the exercise is terminated, the repetitions performed prior to termination will be recorded.

Push-ups (Minimum Repetitions- 48): Maximum number of push-ups in 2 minutes (with 10 minutes rest before the next event).

Push-ups are a two-count exercise. Starting position is the up position; hands approximately shoulder width apart, arms, back, and legs must remain locked straight with feet together. Count one; lower the body to the ground until the elbows are bent at a 90-degree or lower angle and parallel (shoulder to elbow) to the ground. Count two; return to the starting position. The only authorized rest position is the starting position. If the knees touch the ground the exercise is terminated. The exercise will also be terminated if the candidate raises their buttocks in the air, sags their middle to the surface, or raise any hand or foot from their starting position. If the exercise is terminated, the repetitions performed prior to termination will be recorded.

3-Mile Run (Minimum passing time – less than 22 minutes): Fastest 3-mile run (with 30 minutes of rest before the next event). PT clothes and running shoes are the only required clothing items. The run must be conducted on an accurately measured course that is as level and even as possible, preferably a maintained running track. The test administrator will start the timing device upon instructing the candidates to begin and will record the elapsed time as the candidate reaches 3 miles.

8.-Mile Ruck (Minimum passing time – less than 2 hrs 0 mins): Fastest 8-mile ruck. Ruck will be conducted in field uniform (OCP tops/bottoms and boots). Rucks will weigh 50 lbs dry (not including any water). Ruck should be conducted on a relatively flat route with a minimum number of hills as possible. It can be conducted on a track if necessary.