

# 720th SPECIAL TACTICS GROUP SERE APPLICATION



Application Deadline (\*Will be conducted for 720th STG assigned units only\*)

25-01 Assessment: 14-18 April 2025 // Packages due by COB 7 Mar 25

25-02 Assessment: 22-26 September 2025 // Packages due by COB 8 Aug 25

Submit applications to: [24SOWSTTS.ASSESSMENTS.RAS@US.AF.MIL](mailto:24SOWSTTS.ASSESSMENTS.RAS@US.AF.MIL)

For Application and general questions contact: 850-884-8094

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# Special Operations SERE Assessment

## 1. INTRODUCTION.

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Special Operations SERE Specialist. This document outlines the application procedures to become a SOF SERE Specialist. The Special Tactics forces that a SOF SERE Specialist can be assigned to are organized under the 720th Special Tactics Group (STG) of Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) and consist of the 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> Special Tactics Squadrons (STS). Applicants familiar with earlier versions of this package should review this document thoroughly, as it has undergone significant revision.

## 2. SPECIAL OPERATIONS SERE ELIGIBILITY.

Special Operations SERE Specialists 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:

- └ 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 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.
- └ Must have ability to complete required 5 Level JPRA courses prior to PCS/PCA
- └ Must be financially stable
- └ Must Have High Emotional Intelligence
- └ Guard Applicants must meet eligibility requirements to join Active duty

## 3. SPECIAL OPERATIONS SERE SPECIALIST APPLICATION PROCEDURES.

Special Operations SERE Specialist assessments are conducted no less than twice each year usually in the spring and fall. Each cycle has two phases: Phase I and Phase II. In Phase I, a panel reviews and stratifies applications submitted by the deadline. Selected applicants are invited to attend Phase II to take a closer look at the potential of becoming an AFSOC SERE Specialist. Phase II assessments consist of a one-week evaluation conducted at Hurlburt Field, FL, approximately 30 days after Phase I. Candidates must attend Phase II in TDY status and AFSOC will fund their attendance. Your decision to attend is voluntary and non-binding. Selection at Phase II means the selection board president, the 24 SOW/CCC 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 SERE position is open to the grades of E-3 through E-6. CONUS candidates must have at least 3 years of Time on Station (TOS) Or be eligible to PCA/PCS. OCONUS candidates must be within 1 year of their DEROS prior to attending assessment and selection.

It is recommended candidates are:

- 1) PR experts (this includes all means full spectrum PR, not just conventional.)
- 2) Physically fit
- 3) Proficient Marksmen (combat, not AFQC)

- 4) Proficient in TCCC
- 5) Proficient in combatives (with and without kit)
- 6) Proficient in defeat of personal restraints (highly desired)
- 7) Proficient in Land Navigation

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

Phase I applications are due by the date posted on the message accompanying the application package. The Recruiting Assessment and Selection (RAS) staff does an initial review of the applications for completeness and convenes a review board. Invitations are sent to selected individuals with Phase II reporting instructions.

The RAS staff designates the candidate team leader. 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 and enhancing everyone's chances to be selected. The team leader is the primary means of contacting the RAS staff for assessment-related matters. The RAS staff 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 RAS staff. If you do not hear from a member of the RAS staff within 45 days of submitting your application, contact them for details.

***Note: Guard applicants must annotate on the cover page of their Phase I application that they meet eligibility requirements. This includes identifying and securing eligibility for all waivers necessary to transition to active duty. Annotation on the Phase I package indicates to the reviewing authority that you have met all requirements.***

**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 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 team member and as an individual. The schedule is designed to stress you. The Special Operations SERE cadre will observe and take notes on everything you do. These observations will be the basis for a hiring recommendation made to the 24 SOW/CCC. 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 the assessment 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 to the best of your ability in all events.

Lodging will be coordinated for all candidates. Candidates will be lodged 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 meet and maintain PT standards for the duration of 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 consecutive warnings during an assessment event, for demonstrating lack of motivation to continue to perform at the required level of effort. 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 for any actions violating the UCMJ.

Candidates should be prepared for the following:

- └ Psychological testing and interviews
- └ Briefing and writing skills evaluations
- └ Problem solving events
- └ Leadership ability evaluations
- └ Ruck march with 50-70 lbs of weight at distances up to 12 miles
- └ Running for distances up to 5 miles at a time
- └ AFSOC SERE PT Test
- └ Calisthenics sessions of various exercises

Those candidates who successfully complete Phase II and are selected 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 SERE 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 a consideration for the board.

Guard selectees must contact an active-duty recruiter and begin the process to transition through guard accessions onto active duty. Once the SERE CFM has provided a slot for the guard selectee, AFPC will generate a "place holder" assignment until the AFSOC FAM designates a Special Tactics Squadron for the individual to be assigned to based on the needs of the force. Guard selectees can expect to lose rank when they transition to active duty. Guard applicants must be between the rank of SrA and MSgt when they submit their application to attend the AFSOC SERE selection. There is no age restriction on guard applicants.

# ANNEX A

## Phase I Application Instructions & Example

### **PHASE I APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

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. As a 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. ANG members will submit a copy of their Personal Data Brief
4. One signed recommendation letter from your commander, and squadron superintendent no more than one-page in length. The letter should comment on demonstrated leadership ability, job performance and teamwork including relevant examples.
5. Copies of your three most recent performance reports.
6. Copy of a DD Form 2808 (obtained at base medical unit) dated within 60-days of application submission authorizing static-line training, and static-line duties.

Access formal application process by clicking the AFSOC SERE Application link under the AFSOC SERE Opportunities banner at <https://www.airforcespecialtactics.af.mil/Join/Apply/> 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 "SERE Application" in the subject line of the email, such as "Johnson-SERE 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.

**Rank:** SSgt 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 Squadron**AFSC/Current Position:** NCOIC SERE Specialist**Marital Status:** Married**INSERT YOUR PHOTO HERE.**

The photo will be a forward facing portrait. You will be in service dress and the photo should extend from the bottom of your name tag/bottom of your ribbon rack to the top of your head. Use your base official photo lab for best results.

**Attended an AFSOC Assessment:** Yes/ No**If yes, when/what:** (Month, Year, 24 SOW, 6 SOS, etc.):

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**Commander Name/Rank:** Major John Smith**Email/Phone:** john.smith@hurlburt.af.mil / 850-678-1234**Functional Manager Name/Rank:** SMSgt Mike Johnson**Email/Phone:** michael.johnson@hurlburt.af.mil/ 850-789-3456

PT Test Results

PT Test Date:

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

3 Mile run\_\_\_\_\_ mins\_\_\_\_\_ secs 200m swim\_\_\_\_\_ mins\_\_\_\_\_ secs

\*1 min for Pull-ups, 2 mins for Sit-ups and Push-ups

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 SERE Specialist 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 SERE SELECTION BOARD

FROM: 720th STG

SUBJECT: Personal Narrative

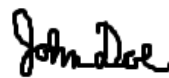
1. This document is provided to give the selection board an overall understanding of your character and personality. It should be clear, concise, and free of extra “fluff” statements.

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 SERE Specialist
4. Why Special Operations SERE 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, SSgt, USAF Logistics  
2-27 Bn JTAC



## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

DATE

### MEMORANDUM FOR SPECIAL TACTICS SERE SELECTION

BOARD FROM: X 720th/CC

XXX. Whatever St

Ft Xxxxx AIN, ST XXXXX

SUBJECT: Special Operations SERE Recommendation Letter (EXAMPLE)

1. SSgt John A. Doe is my number one recommendation for a Special Operations SERE position. SSgt 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 NCO of the Year. His service conducting SERE duties for one of our Squadron has been - and continues to be - impeccable. I've personally called upon him to instruct me on various SERE skills and physical training concepts. His decision making ability and clear judgment underscore his unselfish sense of duty. SSgt Doe is highly dedicated to his work as a Joint Terminal Attack Controller and he exercises every opportunity to better himself and expand his knowledge both on and off duty.
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 SERE Specialist 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

## Selection PT Test Standards

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

**Standards:** General. Special Operations SERE applicants shall complete the physical training test in accordance with these procedures as part of the Special Operations SERE application. You must complete the minimum number of exercises, run, and swim within the times specified below. Special Operations SERE 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:

- 8 pull-ups in 1 minute
- 60 sit-ups in 2 minutes
- 48 push-ups in 2 minutes

RUN: 3 miles non-stop

- Minimums:  
3 miles completed within 24 minutes (24:00)

RUCK: 12 miles non-stop (50lb Ruck)

- Minimums:  
12 miles completed within 3 hours

SWIM: 200 meters within 8 minutes (08:00)