

# **Special Operations Tactical Air Control Party Application 2026**



**OPR: 720th Special Tactics Group (AFSOC)**  
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**850-884-8094 or 8119**  
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## CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

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

## CHAPTER 2 - ELIGIBILITY

2.1. Special Operations TACPs require 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 E4-E7
- 2.1.2. CONUS candidates must have at least 2 years' Time on Station
- 2.1.3. OCONUS candidates must be within 1 year of their DEROs prior to attending selection
- 2.1.4. Must have SEI 914 (JTAC qualification)
- 2.1.5. Security clearance: Secret (minimum), Top Secret(attainable)
- 2.1.6. Volunteer for Hazardous Duty: Static-line & freefall Parachuting
- 2.1.7. Background: Outstanding resume and no negative personal or professional history
- 2.1.8. Medical/Physical: IFC III Flying Physical authorizing ground-based controller, static-line training, and static-line duties documented on a DD Form 2808
- 2.1.9. Physical Fitness: At a minimum, candidates must satisfactorily complete the minimum scores on the PT Evaluation.
- 2.1.10. Guard Applicants must meet eligibility requirements to join Active duty
  - 2.1.9.1 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.

2.2. Candidates are recommended to be the following:

- 2.2.1. JTAC Experts (including all means of fire support, not just CAS)
- 2.2.2. Physically Fit
- 2.2.3. Expert Marksmen (combat, not AFQC)
- 2.2.4. At least combat lifesavers, and should be familiar with performing IVs
- 2.2.5. Proficient in combatives (with and without kit)
- 2.2.6. Ranger qualified (highly desired)
- 2.2.7. Proficient in land navigation

## 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 team member 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 or 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 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 TACP 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.

5.2. Guard selectees must contact an active-duty recruiter and begin the process to transition through guard accessions onto active duty. Once the TACP 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 TACP selection. There is no age restriction on guard applicants.

## CHAPTER 6 – SUMMARY OF SUSPENSES

### 6.1. Fall 2025 (25-02)

- 6.1.1. 25 July 2025 – Application Deadline
- 6.1.2. 21 September 2025 – Travel to PHASE II
- 6.1.3. 27 September 2025 – Return from PHASE II
- 6.1.4. 06 October 2025 – DTS Vouchers Completed

### 6.2. Spring 2026 (26-01)

- 6.2.1. 06 March 2026 – Application Deadline
- 6.2.2. 26 April 2026 – Travel to PHASE II
- 6.2.3. 02 May 2026 – Return from PHASE II
- 6.2.4. 11 May 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: [720stg.ras.distro@us.af.mil](mailto:720stg.ras.distro@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. ANG members will submit a copy of their Personal Data Brief
  - 1.2.4. 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.
  - 1.2.5. Copies of your three most recent performance reports.
  - 1.2.6. Copy of your last three Form 8s
  - 1.2.7. 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.
- 1.3. Your application will be a PDF document, and the document will be named "**LASTNAME – TACP APPLICATION**".
- 1.4. To submit your application, email it to [720stg.ras.distro@us.af.mil](mailto:720stg.ras.distro@us.af.mil).



# Special Operations TACP Application



<p>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.</p> <p>If deployed, wear the appropriate uniform of the day.</p> <p>Civilians wear appropriate professional attire.</p>	<b>Rank/Name:</b> <i>(Last, First, MI)</i> <b>Full SSN:</b> <b>Age:</b> <b>Email Address:</b> <b>Cell Phone:</b> <b>Duty Station:</b> <b>Current Position:</b>	
<b>Marital Status:</b>		
<b>Attended an AFSOC Selection Prior (If yes, what selection &amp; when):</b>		
<b><u>PT Test Results</u></b>		<b>Test Date:</b>
<b>3.0 Mile Run:</b>	<b>Pullups:</b>	<b>Situps:</b>
<b>12.0 Mile Ruck:</b>	<b>Pushups:</b>	
<b>Administrator Rank/Name:</b>	<b>Administrator Email/Phone:</b>	
<b>Administrator Signature:</b>		

<b>Commander Rank/Name:</b>	<b>Functional Manager Rank/Name:</b>
<b>Contact (Email &amp; Phone):</b>	<b>Contact (Email &amp; Phone):</b>
<b>Candidate acknowledgment statement:</b> I hereby apply to become a Special Operations TACP 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.	
<b>Date:</b> <i>(dd/mmm/yy)</i>	<b>Candidate Signature:</b>

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 TACP SELECTION BOARD

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

SUBJECT: Special Operations TACP Recommendation Letter (EXAMPLE)

1. SSgt John A. Doe is my number one recommendation for a Special Operations TACP 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 JTAC duties for one of our Army battalions has been - and continues to be - impeccable. I've personally called upon him to instruct me on various TACP 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 they will make an excellent Special Operations TACP 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 TACP PT TEST

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

**Standards:** You must complete the minimum number of exercises, run, and ruck within the times specified below. Special Operations TACP 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

*(5 minutes rest before next event maximum)*

60 sit-ups in 2 minutes

*(5 minutes rest before next event maximum)*

48 push-ups in 2 minutes

*(10 minutes rest before next event maximum)*

**Run:** 3 miles non-stop

Minimums:

3 miles completed within 24 minutes (24:00)

*(30 minutes rest before next event maximum)*

**Ruck:** 12 miles non-stop (50lb Ruck - dry)

Minimums:

12 miles completed within 3 hours