



SOST CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS

Just like other elite special operations forces, joining a Special Operations Surgical Team (SOST) isn't as simple as signing up. It's earned. Candidates must endure a rigorous selection process designed to push them to their physical and mental limits. The mission is clear: find the few who can stay sharp, calm and collected when lives hang in the balance.

If you meet the Air Force qualifications for your career field, your recruiter will guide you through the next steps. Make the cut, and you'll head to Hurlburt Field, Florida, where the real evaluation begins. This is where warriors are forged, and only the best move forward.

EVALUATIONS

SOST candidates are evaluated on:

- Oral and written communication skills
- Critical thinking skills
- Leadership and followership ability
- Tactical/field medical care scenarios
- Psychological testing and interviews
- Weighted ruck marching
- Distance running
- Vigorous calisthenics sessions
- Weightlifting-Patient transport via litter



CIVILIAN TRAUMA CENTERS

As a SOST member, your assigned duty location will be a civilian Level 1 trauma center. Training together stateside in the operation rooms, ICUs, and Emergency department is essential to building the clinical expertise and team cohesion required to execute the downrange mission in complex resource limited environments. This setting allows teams to develop lasting professional relationships, strengthening trust, communication, and the ability to anticipate one another's actions during high stress environments.

Your team will work and train together continuously. This deliberate cycle enables you to sustain and advance your skills through both advanced medical and tactical training, sharpening your trauma and special operations capabilities. Operating within a small, highly specialized team reinforces the trust and accountability necessary to make sound decisions and deliver the highest standard of patient care in any operational environment.



EDUCATION PATHWAY TO ENTRY

OFFICER

General Surgeon

10-12 years of school & residency

Anesthesiologist

10-12 years of school & residency

Nurse Anesthetist

6-8 years of school

Emergency Physician

8-10 years of school & residency

Critical Care or Emergency Room Nurse

4 years of school

2-3 years of experience

ENLISTED

Surgical Technician

Basic Training

Tech School (12 Weeks)

5 level upgrade (1 Year)

Min Grade for Application E4

Respiratory Care Practitioner

Basic Training

Tech School (2 Years)

Min Grade for Application E4

CIVILIAN PATHWAY TO ENTRY

Civilian career medical professionals can apply if they meet the requirements outlined in the application and qualify for entrance into the Air Force. This is limited to the Officer positions currently. Physicians can apply in their second to last year of residency (same for physicians in Air Force residency programs).

MEDICAL CAPABILITIES

SOSTs provide four unique medical capabilities:

- Trauma resuscitation
- Damage control surgery
- Critical care evacuation
- Post-op critical care stabilization

ADVANCED TRAINING

If you successfully pass the SOST assessment and selection, you will undergo 6 months of advanced training that includes: Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) courses, operational medical training and Special Operation Forces (SOF) - specific operational and tactical training. Finally, you will participate in full mission exercises with Special Tactics and SOF units from other military branches.

BENEFITS

As a SOST member, you'll enjoy Air Force benefits including:

- An excellent starting salary with regular pay raises with the possibility of accession/retention bonuses and special pay
- Continuing medical education opportunities
- 30 days of vacation with pay each year
- Free comprehensive medical and dental care
- Generous retirement system with the Thrift Savings Plan similar to a 401(k) plan



SPECIAL OPERATIONS SURGICAL TEAM

Special Operations Surgical Teams (SOSTs) are the battlefield's last line of defense. These elite medical warriors bring the trauma bay straight to the fight. Any time. Any place. Anywhere. From war-torn streets to remote enemy territory, they deliver life-saving care in hostile environments.

Trained to operate under fire and improvise with minimal resources, SOSTs redefine the limits of battlefield medicine. Whether it's boots on the ground or mid-air in a blacked-out cargo compartment, these surgical commandos deploy with U.S. and allied special operations forces and save lives where no one else can.

SIX-MEMBER TEAM

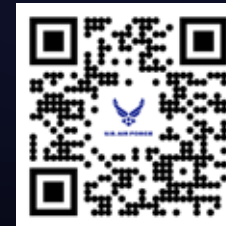
General Surgeon
Anesthesiologist or Nurse Anesthetist
Emergency Physician
Critical Care or Emergency Room Nurse
Surgical Technician
Respiratory Care Practitioner

FIND OUT IF YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO JOIN THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS SURGICAL TEAM

Should SOF warriors fall, a SOST will be there to provide the critical care required to save lives. This pledge is reflected in the SOST motto: "Quis Illos Bellatores Custodiet," which means, "Those Who Care for the Warriors."



LEARN MORE ABOUT
SPECIAL OPS SURGICAL TEAM



CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AIR FORCE
HEALTH PROFESSIONS RECRUITER



AFSOC SPEC OPS SURGICAL TEAM

Those Who Care for the Warriors