

# AIR FORCE SPECIAL WARFARE (AFSPECWAR)



Scout, recruit, develop & guide future warriors to their combat calling

## SW Officer Career Fields (19Z)

- **Special Tactics Officer (STO)**
- **Combat Rescue Officer (CRO)**
- **Tactical Air Control Party Officer (TACPO)**

## WHAT IS AFSPECWAR AND WHAT IS A STO, CRO, AND TACPO?

**Air Force Special Warfare (AFSPECWAR)** forces plan, lead, and execute operations around the globe to engage and destroy the enemies of our country and rescue friendly personnel anytime, anywhere.

Special Warfare Airmen are ground combat forces that deploy worldwide to project American military power through **Global Access**, to destroy the enemy through **Precision Strike**, and to rescue friendly forces through **Personnel Recovery**. The Airmen who make up Air Force Special Warfare are the most specialized warriors on the planet.

**AFSPECWAR Officers (19Z)** command and lead forces in strike, access, and recovery missions to deliver air, space, and cyber power to the joint force command-

er. Their responsibilities include leading, mission planning, and managing day-to-day operations of their teams.

**Special Tactics Officers (STO)** lead, manage, and support special operations missions. STOs deploy as team leaders or mission commanders in combat, seize and control airstrips, conduct combat search and rescue, and guide airstrikes and fire support using air assets.

**Combat Rescue Officers (CRO)** provide command and control (C2) for GA teams to assault, secure, and control the rescue objective area to provide a rapid response capability in all environments. CROs also control terminal area operations during mission execution, including the coordination

of trauma care, technical rescue, the conduct of supporting fires, and the evacuation of isolated personnel.

**Tactical Air Control Party Officers (TACPO)** provide precision terminal attack guidance of US and coalition aircraft, artillery, and gunfire. They establish, and maintain, C2 and advise ground commanders on the best use of air power. Most commonly, they serve as the principal AF liaison element to the Army by providing expertise on the planning and executing of air power.

**AFSPECWAR Officers** are problem solvers across the spectrum of conflict and crisis. They are assigned to Special Tactics units within AFSOC or to Rescue and Air Support Operations units within Air Combat Command.



*SW Operators rappel the flag*



*A Developer works with SW candidates on treading*

## CAREER FIELD ELIGIBILITY

1. Clearance Requirements: Able to obtain SECRET, TOP SECRET attainable
2. Retention: 6 yrs ADSC upon training completion
3. Volunteer for Hazardous Duty  
-- Parachute Duty (JTAC/SL/MFF)  
-- Combat Dive Duty (SCUBA)
4. Outstanding resume/no negative personal history
5. Individual Special Warfare Airman (SWA) Physical  
-- Requirements codified in AFI 48-123  
-- Vision: Acuity, Color Vision, Depth Perception  
-- **Must meet medical clearance standards of required training fulfilled by other joint schools**

## ASSESSMENT AND SELECTION SNAPSHOT— ARE YOU SUITABLE, TRAINABLE, AND DURABLE?

You must be self-motivated. The golden traits of successful candidates are 1) paying attention to detail, 2) having a sense of urgency, 3) putting the team before themselves.

Additional traits consistently observed are: confidence, optimism, resilience, grit, enthusiasm, and integrity.

Phase I is the initial application process. This process consists of multiple require-

ments including a personal narrative, resume, recommendation letter, performance reports, medical records and fitness test. The formal application, along with many other preparation resources can be found at [www.afspecwar.com](http://www.afspecwar.com)

TACPO's and CRO's attend initial selection at separate Phase IIs (one week) while STO's attend A&S (26 days). Both are strenuous evalua-

tions consisting of extensive psychological testing and interviews, briefing and writing skill evaluations, leadership evaluations and problem solving events. There is also a series of physically challenging events such as ruck marches, runs, extensive calisthenics, and water confidence evaluations such as underwater swim intervals, mask/snorkel recovery, buddy-breathing, treading, and drown-proofing.