



# 185<sup>TH</sup> SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON

## ROAD TO WINGS



# **FORWARD**

Will Rogers Air National Guard Base in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma is the home of the 185th Special Operations Squadron and the 137th Special Operations Wing. The 137 SOW is composed of the 137th Special Operations Group, the 137th Special Operations Mission Support Group, the 137th Special Operations Medical Group, as well as the 137th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, the 146th Air Support Operations Squadron, and the 205th Engineering and Installation Squadron. The 137 SOW is a force provider for geographic combatant commanders, US Special Operations Command, theater special operations commanders, and task force commanders with manned intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, close air support, agile combat support, cyber, space and aeromedical evacuation.

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**THIS BOOKLET IS DESIGNED SOLELY AS AN AID TO APPLICANTS IN THE 185TH PILOT AND WEAPON SYSTEM OFFICER (WSO) SELECTION PROCESS. IT DOES NOT SUPERCEDE INSTRUCTIONS OR PUBLICATIONS SET FORTH BY THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE OR THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD.**

**REGARDLESS OF IF YOU ARE A UPT/UCT APPLICANT OR PRIOR-RATED APPLICANT, PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.**

### **185 SOS POC INFORMATION**

Please direct all questions/inquiries primarily to [185SOS.Accessions.org@us.af.mil](mailto:185SOS.Accessions.org@us.af.mil) or (405) 684-5048 as secondary.

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# **185 SOS UNIT INFORMATION**

## **UNIT AIRCRAFT ASSIGNMENT**

HOMEBASE: 137th Special Operations Wing, Will Rogers Air National Guard Base, Oklahoma City, OK

AIRCRAFT: MC-12W & OA-1K (Air Force Special Operations Command's ISR / Armed Overwatch Program)

MISSION: Train, staff, equip and deploy highly trained air crews capable of conducting manned tactical Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance missions on a global scale in support of SOF missions in austere expeditionary environments.

## **MC-12W SPECIFICATIONS**

EMPLOYMENT: World-wide support of Air Force Special Operations Command and United States Special Operations Command

DESCRIPTION: Modified Beechcraft King Air 350ER used for medium altitude Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance

PROPULSION: 2x Pratt & Whitney PT6A-60A Turbo Prop Engines

DEMINSIONS: Wingspan: 57' 11"  
Length 46' 8"  
Speed: 240 Knots  
Max Takeoff Weight: 16,500lbs

CREW: 4x (2x Pilots, 1x Combat System Officer, 1x Tactical System Operator)



## OA-1K SPECIFICATIONS

- EMPLOYMENT: World-wide support of Air Force Special Operations Command and United States Special Operations Command
- DESCRIPTION: Modified AT-802U Sky Warden Air Tractor; Fixed-Wing, Armored, Single-Engine aircraft used for Armed Overwatch/ Light Attack, Close Air Support, and Precision Strike; built by L3Harris and Air Tractor
- PROPULSION: 1x Pratt & Whitney PT6A-67F Turbo-Prop Engine
- DIMENSIONS: Wingspan: 59' 3"  
Length 37' 6"  
Height: 13'
- CREW: 2x (1x Pilot, 1x Weapon System Officer)



# **THE SELECTION PROCESS**

## **UPT/UCT QUALIFICATIONS**

- U.S. Citizen.
- Graduate of a four-year college program with a bachelor's degree.
- Current 137 SOW members may visit 1 year prior and interview 6 months prior from bachelor's degree.
- Must not be beyond their 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday by the date specified in the unit's Undergraduate Flying Training Selection Board announcement message.
- Currently only considering age waivers for Weapon Systems Officer applicants.
- No previous criminal history; currently not accepting Moral Waivers for Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) or UCT (i.e. previous alcohol-related incidents, criminal convictions, etc.).
- Ability to pass a USAF Flying Class 1/1A Physical (administered after candidate selection).
- Be able to obtain a Top Secret/SCI security clearance at a later date.
- Must have qualifying Air Force Officer Qualifying Test (AFOQT), Test of Basic Aviation Skills (TBAS), and Pilot Candidate Selection Method (PCSM) scores to apply.
- Private Pilot Certificate is highly desired for UPT applicants.

## **UPT APPLICATION**

Applications must be submitted on the job announcement via MilRecruiter.com and must also be sent electronically to [185SOS.Accessions.org@us.af.mil](mailto:185SOS.Accessions.org@us.af.mil). Submissions must be in a **single PDF file**. Incomplete/Partial applications will not be reviewed. If failure to submit via both methods, applications will not be accepted.

## **UCT APPLICATION**

Applications must be submitted electronically via email to [185SOS.Accessions.org@us.af.mil](mailto:185SOS.Accessions.org@us.af.mil). Submissions must be in a **single PDF file**. Incomplete/Partial applications will not be reviewed. In your application, please also send a photo/headshot and include your current DOB in your resume.

### ***UPT/UCT Application Package:***

- **Cover Letter**
- **Resume**
- **College Transcripts:** For all educational institutions attended after High School
- **EPRs / OPRs (prior-service only):** Last 5 EPRs / OPRs.
- **Letters of Recommendation:** 3 minimum
- **Pilot Certificate (UPT only):** Include a copy of your certificate(s) to include all ratings held.
- **Flight Time (UPT only):** Include documentation of any flight training and time you have accomplished. Copies of the last entries made into your Flight Log, to include flight totals, are suitable.
- **AFOQT:** 185 SOS Minimums required – Pilot: 50, CSO: 50, Verbal: 25, Quantitative: 25
- **TBAS & PCSM:** 185 SOS Minimums required – PCSM (UPT only): 55 (Go to <https://access.afpc.af.mil/pcsm/mz/index.html> for more information)

## **VISITING THE 185 SOS**

Due to the highly competitive nature of the selection process, rushing the 185 SOS is an integral part of the selection process and is highly encouraged. It not only allows the squadron to learn about the candidate but allows the candidate to learn about the 185 SOS and its mission and culture. Visits are recommended on Saturdays of a scheduled Drill Weekend for UPT/UCT. For prior-rated applicants, visits during the week are not discouraged, but scheduled drill weekends are preferred. Applicants must reach out to recruiting POCs to schedule a squadron visit. Contact the POCs for scheduled drill dates.

## **THE SELECTION BOARD**

The Pilot/WSO Selection Board is composed of officers and senior enlisted members assigned to the 137 SOW. Selections for interview are based on a total person concept, not just the perception on paper. The board expects applicants to be honest and professional, and likewise the board is interested in you, your interests, hobbies, and most importantly your plans for the future.

### ***UPT/UCT:***

Interview boards for UPT/UCT selection are held at the discretion of the squadron based on hiring needs. After the application deadline, a select number of applicants will be invited to visit the squadron on a specific day over a Drill Weekend. After visiting the unit, a select number of applicants will be invited to interview on another specific day scheduled over a Drill Weekend. Dress is business attire for civilians or Service Dress uniform for military unless otherwise specified by the recruiting POC. All correspondence will be via email or phone after every stage in the process.

### ***Prior-Rated:***

Interview boards for Prior-Rated applicants are held at the discretion of the squadron, based on current hiring needs. Typically, this is 2x a year but can be adjusted as needed. An interview is not guaranteed; the squadron will determine which applicants receive interviews. If selected to interview, an interview board date will be set for a specific day over a scheduled Drill Weekend, and applicants will be notified. If selected, you will receive a call and/or email notifying you. Dress is business attire for current civilians or Flight Suit / OCPs for military.

## **FLIGHT PHYSICAL**

An initial medical screening form will be sent to applicants selected for rush/interview prior to visiting. In-depth flight physicals are required after an applicant's selection. Air Force regulations demand the highest physical standards of its aviators. All standards set for Pilots and WSOs must be met by each applicant selected for a position. Currently, the 185 SOS is not considering candidates requiring medical waivers.

## **SECURITY CLEARANCE INVESTIGATION**

Board selected applicants will be subject to an initial background screening prior to rush/interview. After selection, a Top-Secret/SCI security clearance investigation will be conducted. There are several areas of the investigation that can cause delays in processing and/or clearance denial, so it's important that applicants be open and honest on all forms.

# **MILITARY TRAINING**

## **TRAINING OVERVIEW/ TIMELINE**

Applicants selected for UPT/UCT can expect a significant wait before they start training. In some cases, the process can take 18 – 24 months *before a candidate can start formal flying training*. Applicants will be required to perform full time duties for up to two and a half years after starting the Pilot/WSO training pipeline. The Pilot/WSO training pipeline consists of the following courses:

- Officer Training School/Total Force Officer Training (OTS/TFOT) – 8 weeks
- Introductory Flight Training (IFT) (Not required for those with Private Pilots Certificate) – 5 weeks
- **Pilot:** Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) - 52 weeks
- **WSO:** Undergraduate Combat System Officer Training (UCT) – 52 weeks
- Combat Survival School – 3 weeks
- Water Survival School – 1 week
- MC-12W Initial/Mission Qualification Training – 16 weeks
- Seasoning Orders (MEST) – 24 weeks

## **MILITARY OBLIGATION**

- Pilots will incur a ten-year service commitment from completion of UPT.
- WSOs will incur a six-year service commitment from the completion of UCT.

## **ANNUAL HOME STATION REQUIREMENTS**

- 12 Unit Training Assemblies (UTA) – One weekend per month (24 days per year)
- 15 days Annual Training
- 1 exercise per quarter (generally 5-7 day TDY)
- Deployments IAW 1/5 Dwell Ratio:
  - 1x month deployed per 5x months home
  - Estimated 90-120 days deployed every 2 years
- Optional: 24 Additional Flying Training Periods per quarter (AFTP)

## **UPT/UCT ELIMINATION**

We strive to select individuals that will fit well into our organization and who have very high potential of completing all the prescribed training requirements. However, if for any reason a student quits or is eliminated from UPT/UCT, he or she will have 60 days to either out process from the 137 SOW or find an officer vacancy to remain in the Air National Guard or transfer to another military component.

# **PRIOR-RATED PILOTS/ WSOs/CSOs**

## **PRIOR-RATED PILOT/WSO PREFERRED EXPERIENCE**

- Military flight time & experience
- Fixed-Wing Tactical ISR
- Previous AFSOC experience highly desirable
- Close Air Support experience highly desirable
- FTU Instructor/Evaluator time highly desirable
- Appropriate Professional Military Education (PME) complete
- Current passing Fitness Assessment Score
- No Unfavorable Information File

## **APPLICATION**

**Prior-Rated Pilots:** A full application package is required and must be submitted both on the job announcement on MilRecruiter.com and electronically via email to [185SOS.Accessions.org@us.af.mil](mailto:185SOS.Accessions.org@us.af.mil). Submissions must be in a **single PDF file**. Incomplete/Partial applications will not be reviewed.

**Prior-Rated WSOs/CSOs:** A full application package is required and can be submitted anytime via email to [185SOS.Accessions.org@us.af.mil](mailto:185SOS.Accessions.org@us.af.mil). Submissions must be in a **single PDF file**. Incomplete/Partial applications will not be reviewed.

### ***Prior-Rated Application Package:***

- **Cover Letter**
- **Resume**
- **Last 5 OPRs**
- **Current Fitness Assessment Report**
- **Career Data Brief (CDB) / RIP**
- **Flying Hours Report (FHR)**
- **AF 942**
- **All AF Forms 8**
- **3x Letters Of Recommendation**