



# 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, 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) 686-5048 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.
- Bachelor's degree or greater.
- Must not be beyond 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday prior to receiving a hire letter.
- Age waivers only considered for Weapon Systems Officer applicants.
- Moral Waivers will not be considered (i.e. alcohol-related incidents, criminal convictions, etc.).
- Ability to pass an USAF Flying Class 1/1A Physical.
- Must be able to obtain a Top Secret/SCI security clearance.
- Must have qualifying Air Force Officer Qualifying Test (AFOQT), Test of Basic Aviation Skills (TBAS), and Pilot Candidate Selection Method (PCSM) scores.
- Private Pilot Certificate is highly desired for UPT applicants.

## **UPT APPLICATION (OA-1K)**

Applications must be submitted on MilRecruiter.com AND sent 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. If failure to submit via both methods, applications will not be accepted. \*UPT applicants will NOT fly in the MC12\*

## **UCT APPLICATION (OA-1K)**

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. Your application must include a photo/headshot and your DOB in your resume. \*WSO applicants will NOT fly in the MC12\*

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

- **Cover Letter**
- **Resume**
- **College Transcripts:** For all educational institutions attended after High School
- **Career Data Brief (CBD)/RIP:** Prior service only
- **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)

**\*\*RUSHEES MUST HAVE SUBMITTED A CURRENT AND COMPLETE APPLICATION PRIOR TO ANY VISIT\*\***

## **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 applicants. For prior-rated applicants, visits during the week are not discouraged, but scheduled drill weekends are preferred. Applicants must reach out to recruiting POCs prior to ANY visit. \*A government-issued ID, Real ID or PASSPORT is required for base entry\*

## **THE SELECTION BOARD**

The Pilot/WSO Selection Board is composed of officers and senior enlisted members assigned to the 137 SOW. Selections for interviews are based on a total person concept, not just the perception on paper. The board expects honesty and professionalism. Additionally, the board is interested in you, your interests, hobbies, and your plans for the future. So come prepared to discuss these topics.

### ***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, and 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 after a visit. 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. Expected attire for the interview is Flight Suit / OCPs.

## **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 two and a half to three 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
- OA-1K Initial/Mission Qualification Training – ~26 weeks
- Seasoning Orders (MEST) – ~48 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)
- 180-day deployments with a 1/5 Dwell Ratio:
  - 1 month deployed = 5 months home
  - Estimated 180 days deployed every 2.5 years
- Potentially ~6 days per month to maintain currency requirements
- 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**

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

## **APPLICATION**

**Prior-Rated Pilots:** Applications are required and must be submitted on MilRecruiter.com AND sent 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 applicants will NOT fly in the MC12\*

**Prior-Rated WSOs/CSOs:** Applications are required and must be submitted on MilRecruiter.com AND also sent 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. Your application must include a **photo/headshot** and your DOB in your resume. \*Prior-rated applicants will NOT fly in the MC12\*

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

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