



# FACT SHEET

## U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet

### Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps

#### Mission

**Develop Quality Leaders for the Air Force.**

#### Personnel and Resources

Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) includes four Region Headquarters, 144 Detachments and over 900 cross-town universities. In 2010, ROTC commissioned 1,796 new Second Lieutenants who entered active duty in the United States Air Force.



#### Organization

Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps is the largest and oldest source of commissioned officers for the Air Force. Its headquarters is located at Maxwell Air Force Base (AFB), Montgomery, AL. The Air Force ROTC Program is designed to recruit, educate and commission officer candidates through college campus programs based on Air Force requirements. Students can attend classes through host or cross-town enrollment programs or consortium agreements. Cadet enrollments have ranged from a high of 23,605 in 1986 to a low of 10,231 in 1993.

#### History

ROTC was established with passage of the National Defense Act of 1916. The first Air Force ROTC units were established between 1920 and 1923 at the University of California at Berkeley, Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Illinois, the University of Washington, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College.

After World War II, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Chief of Staff of the War Department, signed General Order No. 124, establishing Air ROTC units at 77 colleges and universities throughout the nation. Eligible Air Force enlisted men and women pursuing a college degree who were interested in becoming commissioned officers were given that opportunity through competition in the Air Force ROTC Airman Scholarship and Commissioning Program, established in 1973.

In 1978, Air Training Command assumed responsibility for Air Force ROTC programs. On 1 July 1993, Air Training Command merged with Air University to form Air Education and Training Command. Air University became a direct reporting unit under Air Education and Training Command and Air Force ROTC realigned under Air University.

In February 1997, Air Force ROTC and Officer Training School merged under the newly created parent organization, HQ Air Force Officer and Accession Training School (AFOATS). This restructuring placed oversight for three-quarters of Air Force officer production under one command and facilitated the sharing of manpower and expertise with minimum effect on the day-to-day operations of either organization. In June 2008, HQ AFOATS was redesignated as the Jeanne M. Holm Center for Officer Accessions and Citizen Development.

#### Senior ROTC Program

The four-year Air Force ROTC program is the primary path for college students to receive a commission in the Air Force. Students attend Air Force ROTC classes along with other college courses and normally receive elective academic credit.

After earning their degree and successfully completing all Air Force ROTC requirements, the cadets are commissioned as Air Force officers with a four-year active duty service commitment. Pilots, combat systems officers and air battle managers have longer commitments upon completion of specialized training.

The first two years of the program, the General Military Course (GMC), consist of one hour of classroom work, two hours of leadership laboratory, and two hours of organized physical conditioning each week. Upon completion of GMC requirements, cadets who wish to compete for entry into the last two years of the program, the Professional Officer Course (POC), must do so under the requirements of the POC selection system. This system uses both quantitative and qualitative factors, such as grade-point average, unit commander's evaluation, aptitude test scores and physical fitness test scores to determine a student's officer potential. After selection, students must successfully complete a four-week summer field training program at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, AL before entering the POC.

In the POC, cadets attend class three hours a week, participate in a weekly leadership laboratory lasting two hours, and perform two hours of organized physical conditioning per week. Cadets apply what they have learned in the GMC and at field training. POC cadets conduct the leadership laboratories and manage the unit's cadet corps. Each unit has a cadet corps based on the Air Force organizational pattern of flight, squadron, group, and wing. POC classes are small, with emphasis on group discussions and cadet presentations. Classroom topics include leadership, communication skills and national defense policy. Once enrolled in the POC, all cadets are enlisted in the Air Force Reserve and assigned to the Obligated Reserve Section.

### **Scholarships**

Current emphasis in the Air Force ROTC College Scholarship Program is to award scholarships to candidates pursuing undergraduate engineering or other scientific and technical disciplines. More than 70% of Air Force ROTC scholarships are awarded to students in these disciplines. However, students in every degree program enjoy scholarship opportunities, as the Air Force seeks to engage students who excel both academically and militarily.

Scholarships are awarded in increments of two, three, and four years. Air Force ROTC offers several types of scholarships. Type 1 covers full tuition and most required fees. Type 2 covers tuition and fees, but is capped at \$18,000 annually. Type 3 pays up to \$9,000 annually and can be used at any university that offers Air Force ROTC. Type 7 scholarships are normally designated for in-state tuition-level institutions. All types of awards provide an allowance for books, most required fees and a monthly nontaxable stipend.

All scholarship cadets are required to meet certain academic, military, and physical fitness standards to earn and maintain scholarship benefits. Also, scholarship recipients must be younger than 31 as of December 31 of the calendar year during which commissioning is scheduled.

### **Field Training**

Field Training, in many cases, is a cadet's first exposure to a working Air Force environment and the Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) concept. The program develops military leadership and discipline, and provides Air Force officer familiarization, orientation and motivation. At the same time, the Air Force can evaluate each cadet's potential as an officer and for entry into the POC.

Field training provides Air Force leadership opportunities, professional development, marksmanship training, team building, physical fitness, and AEF orientation. Lodging, meals and transportation (from the cadet's home of record or school) are provided at no cost.

### **Medical Professions**

Nursing majors may apply for an AFROTC scholarship and graduates agree to accept a commission in the Air Force Nurse Corps and serve four years on active duty after successfully completing their licensing examination. Cadet premedical scholarship recipients who are accepted to medical school within one year of graduating may be sponsored in their pursuit of medical degrees.

### **Legal Professions**

Both first-year and second-year law students can apply for ROTC scholarships. Students complete either a one-year or two-year ROTC program while attending law school.

Additionally, second-year law students can pursue an Air Force commission through Air Force ROTC's graduate law program. This program guarantees judge advocate duty after a student completes all Air Force ROTC, law school, and bar requirements. After graduating from an American Bar Association-

accredited law school, the student must be admitted to practice law before the highest state court of any state or a federal court. The new lawyer is then commissioned into the Air Force in the grade determined by the laws and directives in effect at the time of call to active duty.

### **Airman Commissioning Opportunities**

Air Force ROTC has four programs in which Air Force enlisted personnel may pursue a commission. **Scholarships for Outstanding Airmen to ROTC (SOAR)** allows commanders to recognize outstanding airmen by nominating them for an Air Force ROTC scholarship in any major. The **Airman Scholarship and Commissioning Program (ASCP)** lets airmen compete for Air Force ROTC scholarships while coordinating their application package with the Air Force ROTC unit they are interested in attending. Although any major may be selected, technical and nursing are usually considered more favorably. Both scholarship programs are available in two- to four-year lengths. To be eligible for a scholarship, airmen must be working on their first bachelor's degree and cannot exceed age limits as prescribed by public law. The **Professional Officer Course Early Release Program (POC-ERP)** is available to airmen who may not be eligible or competitive for a scholarship due to age, degree program or grade point average. Individuals compete for allocations while coordinating their application package with the Air Force ROTC unit they are interested in attending. These three Air Force ROTC programs require the selected airmen to leave active duty to complete their degree and Air Force requirements necessary to earn a commission.

Air Force ROTC also manages the **Airmen Education and Commissioning Program (AECP)**. AECP allows selected airmen to remain on active duty while pursuing a baccalaureate degree at a college or university affiliated with AFROTC.

In addition, enlisted personnel interested in becoming a registered nurse can apply for the **Nurse Enlisted Commissioning Program (NECP)**. NECP provides an advancement pathway for enlisted Airmen to receive an active commission through the Nurse Corps. NECP is a wonderful opportunity for enlisted airmen to complete a full-time BSN at an accredited university while on active duty. Contact the Chief Nurse at the nearest active duty, guard or reserve Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) for more information and guidance. Upon graduation, they will attend Officer Training School (OTS) and commission as a Second Lieutenant upon completion of OTS.

You can learn more about these programs by visiting your base Education Office, your local AFROTC Detachment, or <http://www.au.af.mil/au/holmcenter/AFROTC/EnlistedComm/EnlistedCommissioning.asp>.

### **For More Information**

The Air Force is seeking talented and motivated high school and college students with solid character and demonstrated leadership potential. In the Air Force ROTC program, cadets are students first and spend an average of four to six contact hours weekly as freshmen/sophomores. As juniors and seniors, cadets spend six to ten hours of contact time weekly as they work to build and refine their leadership skills. Successful completion of a four-year accredited degree program and Air Force ROTC leads to a commission as a second lieutenant in the best Air Force in the world. If you have ever considered serving your country in any capacity and joining a world class winning team, contact Air Force ROTC for more information: Air Force ROTC, Recruiting Branch, 551 East Maxwell Boulevard, Maxwell AFB, AL, 36112-6106, call toll-free, 1-866-4AFROTC (1-866-423-7682) or go to <http://www.afrotc.com>.

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