



SPECIAL WARFARE

WHAT IS AF SPECIAL WARFARE?

Air Force Special Warfare plans, leads, and conducts operations around the globe to engage and destroy the enemies of our country and stand ready to rescue personnel anytime, anywhere.

Every day, Special Warfare Airmen deploy around the world to project American military power through Global Access, to rescue friendly forces through Personnel Recovery, and to destroy the enemy through Precision Strike.

Air Force Special Warfare (AFSPECWAR) is the Air Force's solution to deliver tactical, sensitive and special operations across the Air, Land, Maritime and Space and Cyber environments. Equipped to deliver personnel recovery, global access and precision strike mission sets, Special Warfare is undoubtedly the Air Force's tip of the spear.

Encompassing Special Tactics, Guardian Angel, and the TACP Weapon Systems, AFSPECWAR is the Air Force's current and future generation solution to meet today and tomorrow's advanced human-based weapon system demands.



Careers

- **Pararescue (PJ)** – When an Airman needs saving, it's our duty to do everything we can to bring them home. As members of Air Force Special Operations, Pararescue specialists rescue and recover downed aircrews from hostile or otherwise unreachable areas. These highly trained experts perform rescues in every type of terrain and partake in every part of the mission, from search and rescue, to combat support to providing emergency medical treatment, in order to ensure that every mission is a successful one. The DoD's premier personnel recovery asset. Paramedics, Technical Recovery specialists, Rock Climbers, Divers, Swiftwater Specialists. If you need saved, they will find you. The Air Force Jack of All Trades. "That Others May Live"

- Pipeline Length: 47 weeks
- For more info on PJs, visit the [Pararescue Page](#)

- **Combat Control (CCT)** – It takes an incredible amount of skill, physical fitness and courage to carry out some of the Air Force's most difficult missions. As members of Air Force Special Operations, it's the job of Combat Control specialists to provide command and control and direct air traffic from remote and sometimes hostile areas. These highly specialized experts are trained in a wide range of skills, including scuba, parachuting, snowmobiling as well as being FAA-certified air traffic controllers in order to establish control and provide combat support on missions all over the globe. Delivering air power anytime, anywhere. Specialists capable of creating and maintaining airfields across the globe as FAA certified Air Traffic Controllers. Radio masters linking ground and air power in austere locations. First in to the fight and often last out. The Air Force's key to bringing the fight as far forward as possible. "First There".
 - Pipeline Length: 99 Weeks Advanced Skills Training: 46 Weeks
 - For more info on CCT, visit the [Combat Control Page](#)
- **Tactical Air Control Party (TACP)** - Precision Air Strike specialists, conducting close air support air strikes in the most demanding environments. Certified as Joint Terminal Air Controllers (JTACs), they are often the vital link to ground forces and their vital support from the air, to include ISR, bomber and fighter aircraft. Most often stationed and embedded with US Army units. United States military operations employ extensive coordination between the various branches to ensure optimal use of resources. It's the job of Air Liaison Officers to imbed with Army and Marine units to direct air and artillery strikes from ground locations. Some of the most skilled and courageous Airmen, these officers go through intense physical, mental and technical training in order to operate alongside some of the military's most elite special operations teams in order to defend our country.
 - Pipeline Length: 23 weeks
 - For more info on TACP, visit the [Tactical Air Control Party Page](#)
- **Special Reconnaissance (SR)** - Formerly Special Operations Weather. Qualified in advanced recon techniques, to include weather forecasting and cyber collecting for air & ground assets. Advanced infiltrators and data collectors, providing advanced Information, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) from the ground. In our joint effort to defend our country, select Airmen imbed with Army or Marine Special Forces units. As members of Air Force Special Operations, Special Reconnaissance Technicians provide the information their teams need to successfully complete their missions. Utilizing high-tech atmospheric instruments, these highly specialized experts retrieve data from radar and weather satellites to relay to the teams as they carry out high-risk missions in a variety of conditions all over the world. Special Reconnaissance Technicians are provided unique training to conduct multi-domain reconnaissance and surveillance across the spectrum of conflict and crisis.
 - Pipeline Length: TBD
 - For more info on SR, visit the [Special Reconnaissance Page](#)
- **Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)**- Air Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians are experts who identify, render safe, and dispose of explosive threats around the world. AF EOD specializes in a wide variety of fields, ranging 9 total mission areas. They are the quintessential "enabler," ready to be attached to a variety of conventional military, Special Operations Forces (SOF), and Civilian Law Enforcement (LEO) teams, helping them accomplish their missions safely-domestically and abroad. EOD stepped into the limelight early in the Global War on Terror (GWOT), when the enemy began using their most devastating weapon: the Improvised Explosive Device. Since then, EOD has become a necessity for any combat operation, providing our troops freedom of movement and the ability to mitigate any explosive threats hindering mission success. EOD and SERE specialists fall under "Combat Support," conventional career fields with unique specialties that enable both conventional and SOF missions. While we are typically conventional forces, we execute a mission far outside typical AF tasks, making us a middle ground between "Big AF" and "higher speed" forces. EOD specializes in Aircraft operations, but are just as ready as any of our Army, Marine, or Navy EOD comrades to fill the role of joint combat enabler,

whenever and wherever a unit needs us. Additionally, we have been a gender-neutral career field long before the Congressional mandate. Female EOD techs have been fighting right alongside male combat units since the GWOT began.

EOD SOF Support

AF EOD's primary mission is not SOF support. However, it is a mission we have executed in the past, and still currently execute. For those teams fortunate enough to be tasked with a SOF-support deployment, AF EOD is expected to be a paramount critical enabler. SOF teams are incredibly small, and typically undermanned, making do with what they have. That means that when EOD work isn't present, we have to help the team accomplish whatever task needs to be done: pull security, help drop mortars, drive trucks, build up defensive positions, do recon patrols, and even assist team medics triage mass casualty situations. EOD techs are heavily sought after for their reputation of readily working outside of their assigned roles. They are the ultimate force multiplier.

- Pipeline Length: 29 Weeks
- For more info on PJs, visit <https://beapj.com>

- **Survival Evasion Resistance Escape (SERE)**- Prepare U.S. military personnel, U.S. Department of Defense civilians, and private military contractors to survive and "return with honor" in varied survival scenarios. The curriculum includes survival skills, evading capture, application of the military code of conduct, and methods and techniques for escape from captivity. What you don't know can mean the difference between life and death. When you're a Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) Specialist, it's your job to possess the skills and knowledge to make the difference. You will be chartered with ensuring all high risk-of-capture/isolation personnel return with honor from any type of survival situation. The basic survival skills taught in SERE programs include common outdoor/wilderness survival skills such as firecraft, sheltercraft, first aid, water procurement and treatment, food procurement (traps, snares, and wild edibles), improvised equipment, self-defense (natural hazards), and navigation (map and compass, et al.). More advanced survival training adds focus on mental elements such as will to survive, attitude, and "survival thinking" (situational awareness, assessment, prioritization). Military survival schools also teach unique skills such as parachute landings, basic and specialized signaling, vectoring a helicopter, use of rescue devices (forest-tree penetrators, harnesses, etc.), rough terrain travel, and interaction with indigenous peoples.

SERE SOF Support

During personnel recovery operations, you're part of a close-knit team composed of Combat Rescue Officers and Pararescuemen who defend our nation's forces as a part of the Air Force's "Guardian Angel Weapon System."

- Pipeline Length: 23 Weeks
- For more info on PJs, visit