

RATED OFFICERS

At the heart of the Air Force is an elite group of officers dedicated to accomplishing some of the most challenging and demanding missions in the world.

In the heat of combat they're capable of pulling 9 Gs at Mach 2 in an F-35 Lightning II. They can locate and lock on to enemy targets from 30,000 feet in the air. And they're called upon to make crucial split second decisions on air combat operations.

Known as rated officers, they are the pilots, combat systems officers and air battle managers of the Air Force. Their job is to protect the United States and its allies and to maintain the superiority of the No. 1 air, space and cyberspace force.

PILOT

The Air Force has over 5,000 aircraft based around the globe. They include fighters, bombers, cargo/ transports, helicopters, tankers, trainers and the most recent addition — remotely piloted aircraft (RPAs).

RPAs are the future of the Air Force and piloting them requires extraordinary skill and precision. From half way around the globe, pilots can maneuver RPAs to attack enemy targets. The aircraft can also provide real-time intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance information to the warfighter.

Air Force pilots are leaders. Aircrew members rely on them for their guidance and leadership expertise. Pilots train aircrews, serve as instructor pilots and command operational flying organizations.

COMBAT SYSTEMS OFFICER

It's the job of combat systems officers (CSO) to manage in-flight air operations. As the technical experts of their specific aircraft, their training and precision in high-tech navigation, communications and weapon systems equipment is vital to air defense against adversaries and for the elimination of enemy targets.

The number of CSOs onboard depends on the type and mission of the aircraft. An F-15 has one CSO who's responsible for the navigation and weapons system. Whereas a bomber may have several CSOs responsible for navigation, air defense and weapons delivery.

CSOs are also leaders. Aircrews depend on them for direction and mentorship. They may serve in a variety of leadership positions including commanding operational flying organizations in the Air Force.



AIR BATTLE MANAGER

When planning and carrying out air combat missions, every piece of the puzzle has to fit perfectly. There's no room for error or second chances. To ensure that doesn't happen, the Air Force relies on air battle managers (ABM) to make the right decisions. Their knowledge of aircraft, weapons systems and surveillance plays a critical role in the successful day-to-day air operations.

ABMs are responsible for command and control of the entire air operation including air defense and tactical missions. Flying on E-3 Sentry AWACS and E-8C Joint STARS aircraft, ABMs are in constant communication with commanders and ground forces to ensure enemy targets are identified, disrupted or destroyed.

As officers, ABMs may serve as instructors and evaluators for aircrews and also command various flight operations.



JOIN OUR TEAM

The Air Force needs more leaders of the sky — those who can outwit and out-maneuver America's adversaries.

To join our team as an officer, you must have earned a bachelor's degree from an approved college/university and successfully complete the Air Force Officer Training School, or you must be a graduate of the Air Force Academy or Air Force ROTC.

To learn more about Air Force opportunities and what it takes to be a rated officer, contact your local Air Force recruiter or call **1-800-423-USAF**. Also, visit **AIRFORCE.COM**.

AIM HIGH



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LEADERS OF THE SKY

