



## **119<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron**

### **The Fighter Pilot Training Process**



#### **Introduction**

If you are selected for Undergraduate Pilot Training, you can plan on spending approximately 3 years in some sort of formal military training, beginning approximately 1-2 years after your selection. Successful completion of this training requires dedication and strong support from your family. Your family should be fully aware of (and prepared for) this demanding period.

#### **Before Attending Training**

If selected, you will work with Air Force recruiters to onboard. Once you “swear in” to the Air Force and the New Jersey Air National Guard, you will maintain Drill-Status Guardsman (DSG) status until you attend training. During this time, you will be required to attend monthly Regularly Scheduled Drills (RSDs) unless an excusal is coordinated and granted in advance.

#### **Training**

The table below lists the schools you will attend, their duration and their location(s). Except for TFOT, we attempt to schedule all the schools back-to-back. However, because of class schedules, you may have a break between periods of active duty while waiting for a school date. The time between schools could vary from a few days to a few weeks. Additionally, the training pipeline is extremely fluid. This is driven by varying production rates at the UPT and B-Course bases. Be prepared for the possibility of continually changing class start and class graduation dates.

<b>School</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Total Force Officer Training (TFOT)	Basic military training	Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, AL	8 weeks
Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT)	Get your wings! Fly approximately 90 hours in the T-6 and 110 hours in the T-38	<i>Options:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Vance AFB, Enid, OK</li><li>- Columbus AFB, Columbus, MS</li><li>- Laughlin AFB, Del Rio, TX</li><li>- Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, TX</li></ul>	~54 weeks
Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals (IFF)	Learn the fundamentals of tactical aviation in the T-38	<i>Options:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, TX</li><li>- Columbus AFB, Columbus, MS</li></ul>	6 weeks
Formal Training Unit (FTU)	Learn to fly and fight in the F-16	<i>Options:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Holloman AFB, Alamogordo, NM</li><li>- Luke AFB, Phoenix, AZ</li><li>- Kelly ANGB, San Antonio, TX</li><li>- Tucson ANG Base, Tucson AZ</li></ul>	~8 months
Survival School – Water	Learn the basics of water survival	Fairchild AFB, Spokane, WA	4 days
Survival School – Land	Learn the basics of land survival	Fairchild AFB, Spokane, WA	17 days

## **After Training and Returning to the 119<sup>th</sup> FS**

After returning to Atlantic City, significant resources will be expended to qualify you in associated missions tasked to the 119<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron. To fully prepare you will take 2-3 years of additional training. During this time, you will be expected to be a full-time member of the Air National Guard (*i.e. not going part-time to fly for the airlines as soon as you return from training*). Additionally, your service commitment to the Air Force and the Air National Guard is ten years from the date you graduate from UPT.

*A day in the life of a pilot in the 119 FS...* after returning home from training, you will enter Mission Qualification Training (MQT). During this 3–6-month period, you will be trained by 119 FS Instructor Pilots. Your only job is to embrace life as a brand-new F-16 pilot and LEARN. As a fighter pilot, you will be required to complete two checkrides, each on a 17-month cycle – instrument and mission. During the B-course, you'll receive your first instrument checkride. The second, the mission checkride, will be accomplished at the end of MQT. Barring any caveats or restrictions, once MQT complete you will be a full-up round in the 119 FS. Pilots fly approximately 5-8 times per month and receive about 110 hours annually.

In addition to home station training, we deploy on a continuous cycle (approximately every 2 years). These deployments span the globe and may incorporate every mission to which we are qualified. You will be expected to deploy on pre-deployment training events (typically 2-3 weeks). Additionally, when the unit deploys, all pilots are expected to be on full-time orders (all hands-on deck mentality). You will either deploy with the squadron or remain home-station and support homeland defense requirements. For newly assigned pilots, the expectation is you will deploy with the squadron during your first deployment cycle.

## **Pay and Benefits**

This information can be checked each year at

<https://www.dfas.mil/militarymembers/payentitlements/military-pay-charts.html>

- TFOT – current rank or Staff Sergeant (SSgt), whichever is higher. Monthly base pay IAW Military Pay Tables
- Formal Training (as a 2nd Lieutenant)
  - Monthly Base Pay
  - Basic Allowance for Housing
  - Basic Allowance for Subsistence

During your training, you and your dependents will be covered by the military's health insurance (TRICARE); you will have the option to enroll, at your own expense, in a low-cost program that provides dental coverage for your dependents.

## **Medical Clearance**

An Appointment Physical must be completed if you are selected. This physical must be administered by the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) and approved by the State Air Surgeon (SAS). All pilot candidates must subsequently pass the Air Force Flying Class 1 (FC1) physical. This physical will be administered by an Air Force Flight Surgeon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

## **Websites**

The following sites may provide you with more information about the training schools and their communities.

- Lackland AFB <http://www.lackland.af.mil/Home/>
- Columbus AFB [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil)
- Laughlin AFB [www.laughlin.af.mil](http://www.laughlin.af.mil)
- Sheppard AFB [www.sheppard.af.mil](http://www.sheppard.af.mil)
- Vance AFB [www.vance.af.mil](http://www.vance.af.mil)
- Randolph AFB [www.randolph.af.mil/sitemap.htm](http://www.randolph.af.mil/sitemap.htm)
- Luke AFB <http://www.luke.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=5047>
- Maxwell, AFB [www.maxwell.af.mil](http://www.maxwell.af.mil)