



U.S.ARMY®



U.S. ARMY EXPERIMENTAL TEST PILOT PROGRAM

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Purpose

- To brief Pilots and Leaders about the Experimental Test Pilot Program in an effort to **inform** all eligible pilots about the opportunities available, with the ultimate goal of recruiting the best possible **candidates** into the test community.
- Selected personnel will test new and emerging technologies designed to enhance our warfighting capability, ensuring that we maintain the leading edge of that capability over our enemies around the world.

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Agenda

- What is an Experimental Test Pilot?
- Army flight test organizations
- Acquisition and the role of the XP
- XP program selection
- USNTPS Overview
- XP career progression
- Frequently asked questions
- How to apply

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Flight Test Video

RTC Flight Test video can be viewed at the following link:

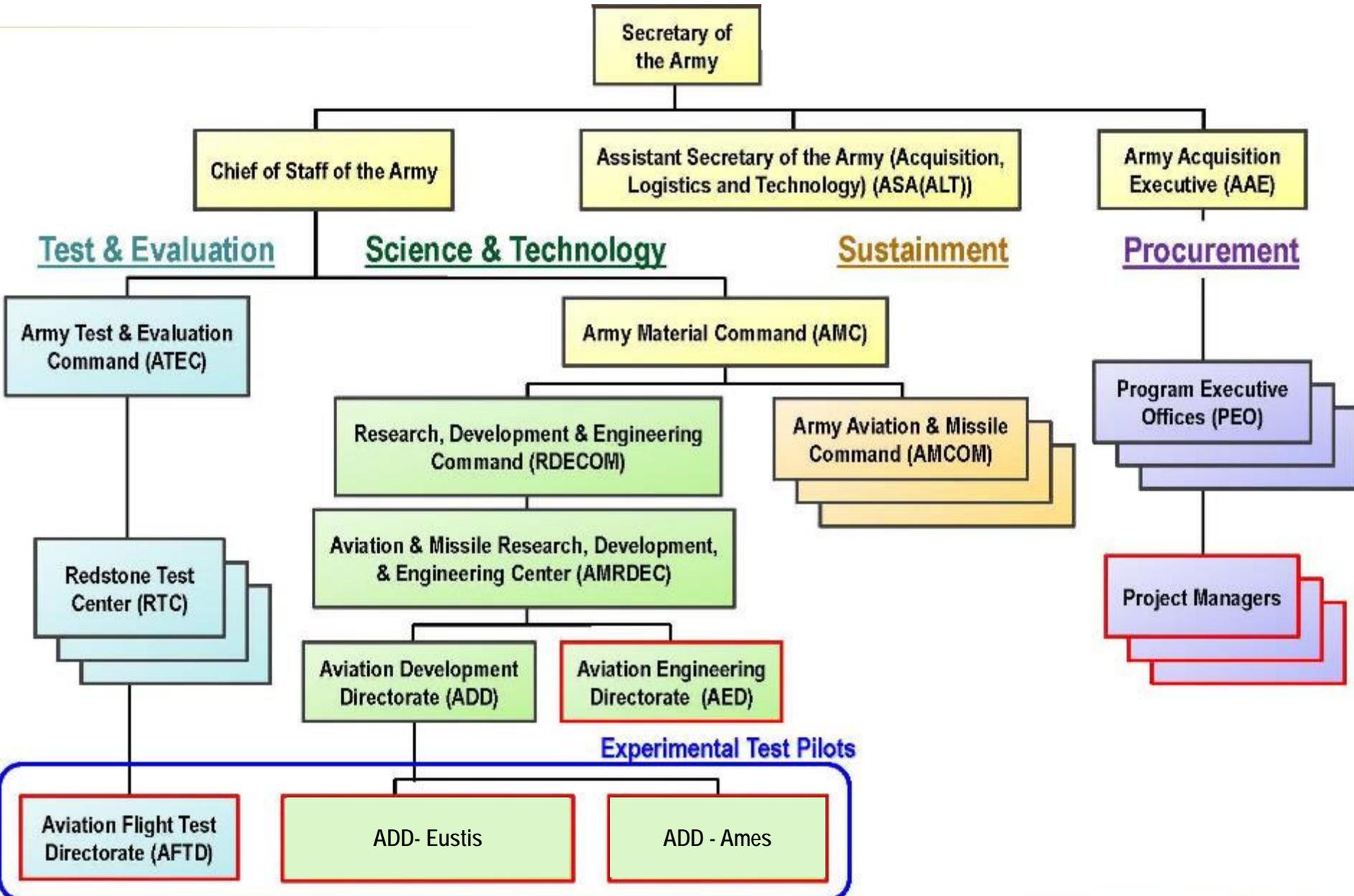
<https://www.milsuite.mil/video/15252>

This is
AFTD

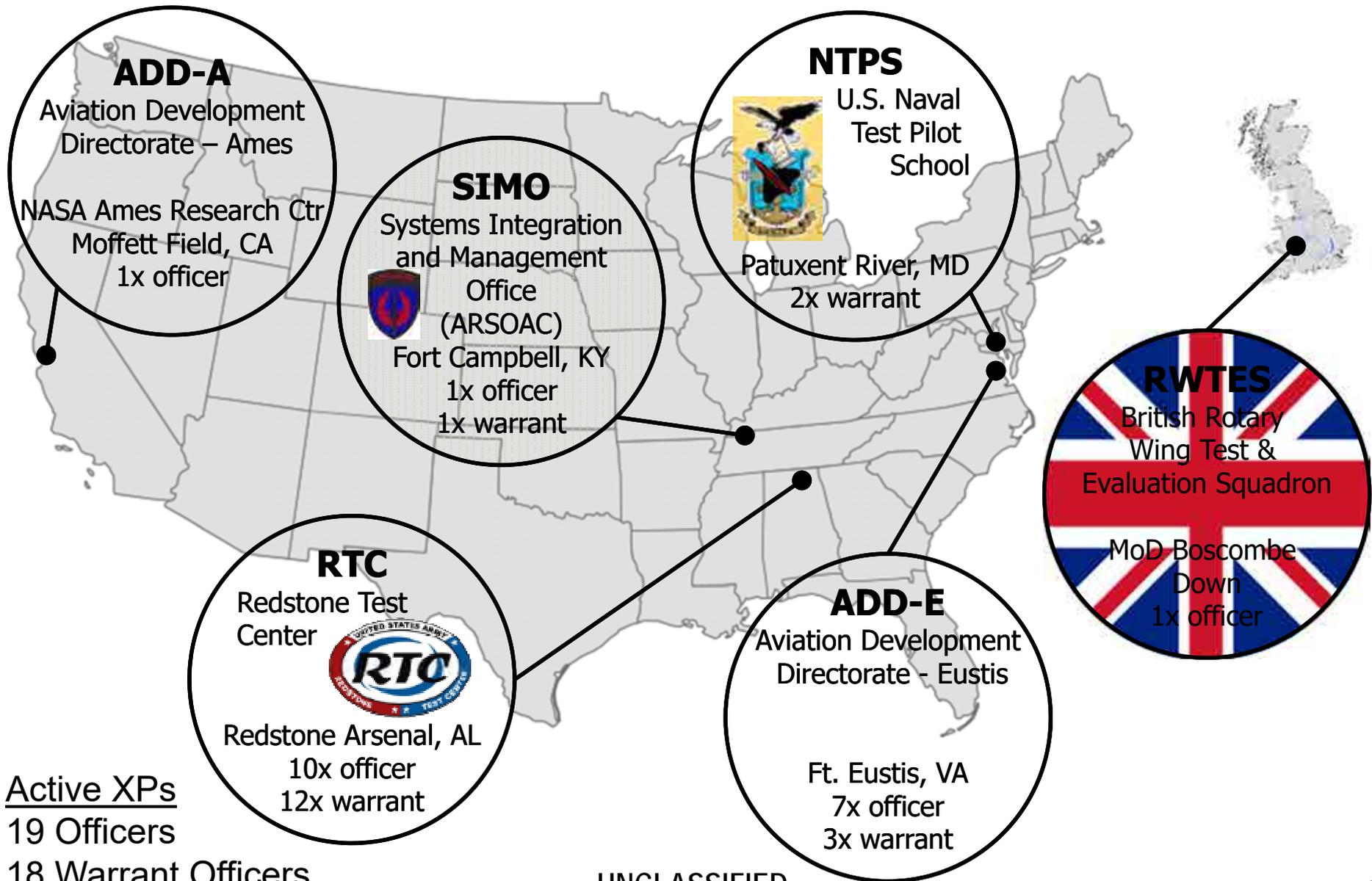
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Army Flight Test Organizations



Army XP Duty Locations



What is an XP? AR 95-1 says...

4-29. Experimental test pilot

The experimental test pilots (XP) are graduates of the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School or other accredited test pilot schools and are designated by the commander to perform experimental and engineering flight tests.

(AR 95-1 dated March 2018)



What is an XP?

An Experimental Test Pilot is:

- An experienced officer
- A proficient aviator
- A technical writer
- An articulate communicator

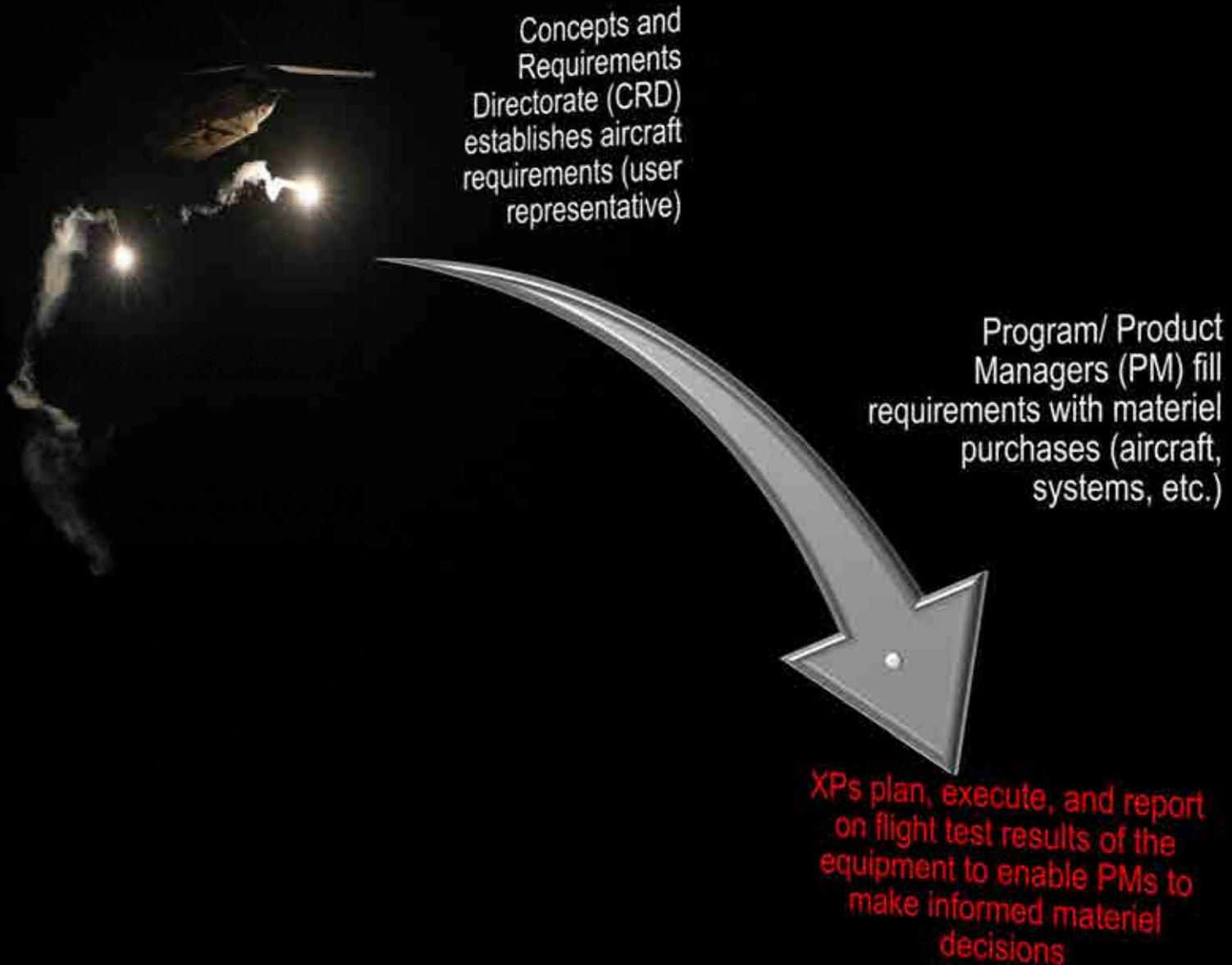
The delivery to the field of a useful piece of aviation equipment depends on the XP's ability to relate its **performance in test to the mission** of the aircraft.

It involves a different way of thinking!

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The XP's role in Acquisition



Concepts and
Requirements
Directorate (CRD)
establishes aircraft
requirements (user
representative)

Program/ Product
Managers (PM) fill
requirements with materiel
purchases (aircraft,
systems, etc.)

XP's plan, execute, and report
on flight test results of the
equipment to enable PMs to
make informed materiel
decisions

XP General Selection Criteria

- HRC Announcement (latest message: MILPER 19-084)
 - Annual release late-Fall/early Winter (3MAR19)
 - Spring Packets (15MAY19) and Board (26JUN19)
 - Phase II Summer-Fall
 - Results end-Fall
- General Criteria
 - Active Duty Aviation officer in career status
 - Have demonstrated performance indicative of continued selection for promotion.
 - Ability to pass Naval Swim Test and Flight Physical
 - Have 500 rotary wing aircraft flight hours, not including Simulator Flight Time (SFT), and be a Pilot In Command (PIC).
 - 4 year ADSO regardless of completion

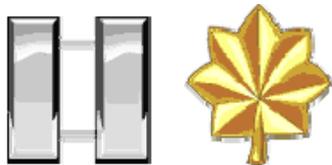


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XP Selection Criteria

Commissioned Officers

- Year group specific - per MILPER message (19-084 YG 11-14)
- May forfeit or have restrictions imposed on GRADSO
- Have completed, or currently in one of the key developmental operational assignments specified as goals in DA PAM 600-3 paragraph 11-3C.(2) [company command or equivalent]



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XP Selection Criteria

Warrant Officers

- Grade W2 or higher (un-biased)
- Military Education Level appropriate for grade
- Sufficient time remaining on active duty after training to complete 4 year ADSO



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XP Desirable Selection Criteria

Highly Desirable:

- Degree in an engineering, mathematical, or science discipline
 - Desirable Courses: calculus, statistics, differential equations, aircraft stability and control, thermodynamics, strength of materials, fluid mechanics, propulsion, vibration analysis, aerodynamics and performance
 - Experience with MS Excel or Matlab
- IP, IE, MP, ME
- 200 hours PC and 1000 hours total time
- Robust operations background

Selections are made on a *best-qualified* basis – IF YOU DON'T APPLY, YOU WON'T BE SELECTED!

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XP Program Selection

Two-phase selection process:

- **PHASE I:** DA selection panel determines candidates best suited for Phase II
- ***PHASE II:** Approximately one week long; conducted at Redstone Arsenal, AL
 - Academics
 - Technical writing and data reduction assignments
 - Hands-on flight test (both FW & RW)
 - Board interview

***Two-Way Look**

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XP Program Post Selection

Commissioned officers are career field designated into FA51, Acquisition Corps (Force Sustainment)

- Managed by Acquisition Branch (Acq. KD)



Warrant officers remain in Aviation Branch

- Managed by XP career manager's office



FWMEQC (C-12) course (10 weeks, Dothan, AL)

Acquisition Basic Course
(8 weeks; Huntsville, AL)

CGSC (ILE) Satellite Course
(15 weeks, Redstone Arsenal, AL)

Professional Military Education (if required)

(O) Additional aircraft qualifications (timeline dependent)
(O) Advanced Civil Schooling (timeline and availability dependent)



United States Test Pilot School (12 months, NAS Patuxent River)

USNTPS Overview (1 of 5)

- U.S. Naval Test Pilot Course conducted at NAS Patuxent River, MD
- 12 Months duration, with two class starts per year
- USNTPS is like nothing else you've ever done, and will test your limitations
 - Outstanding Technical Program
(not fondly remembered by some)
 - Not a course of attrition



USNTPS Overview (2 of 5)

- Classes comprised of 30+ USA, USMC, USN, USAF, USCG, and international pilots and engineers
- Curriculum divided into Rotary Wing, Fixed Wing, and Systems programs
- Daily work breakdown:
 - + 50% academic instruction*
 - + 50% flying*
 - + 50% report writing/classwork**

150%



-
- * Rotary wing program includes more academic instruction and flying (+25%) than the fixed wing or systems programs
 - ** Night and weekend work

USNTPS Overview (3 of 5)

- UH-72A and UH-60A/L training at Western ARNG Aviation Training Site (WAATS) in Marana, AZ. Two weeks of training for each airframe. Approximately 6 simulator hours and 8 flight hours each.
- Rotary wing syllabus includes flights 3-4 days per week
 - Five primary aircraft (UH-60A/L*, UH-72A*, OH-58C, C-12, UH-60 VSS)
 - Additional aircraft (Learjet VS, U-1 Otter, U-6 Beaver, X-26 Glider, T-38 Jet Trainer, T-6 Texan II, F/A-18 Hornet)
 - Qualitative evaluations (i.e. MD-500C, MD-530F, S-55T, OH-6, H-3, NOTAR)



* **BIG BOY RULES:** You are PC/single pilot (with FTE) after only 10 hours of training and evaluation. At 20 hours you will strap on a parachute and oxygen, and will take the aircraft to 18,000' MSL.

USNTPS Overview (4 of 5)

Rotary Wing Syllabus

- First Half: Performance:
 - Rotary wing
 - Fixed Wing "Intro/Demo"
- Second Half: Handling Qualities:
 - RW
 - FW "Intro/Demo"
- Cycled in:
 - Systems (FLIR, radar, digital communication)
 - UAV Program expanding
 - Human factors, pilot-vehicle interface
 - Variable stability labs and flights (4x Calspan Learjet, 2x UH-60 VSS)
 - Advanced Flight control systems
 - Autorotation and H-V diagram assessments (OH-58C)
 - High lift/drag (X-26 glider)
 - Qualitative evaluations



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USNTPS Overview (5 of 5)

DT-IIA Capstone Exercise (approximately 1 month)

- Consists of a tailored, comprehensive plan, test, and report on an unfamiliar aircraft at an unfamiliar location (i.e. France, Brazil, Germany, Sweden, England)



V-22 Osprey



AW-101 Merlin



EC-665 Tiger



SA330 Puma



MD Explorer



AW-159 Wildcat

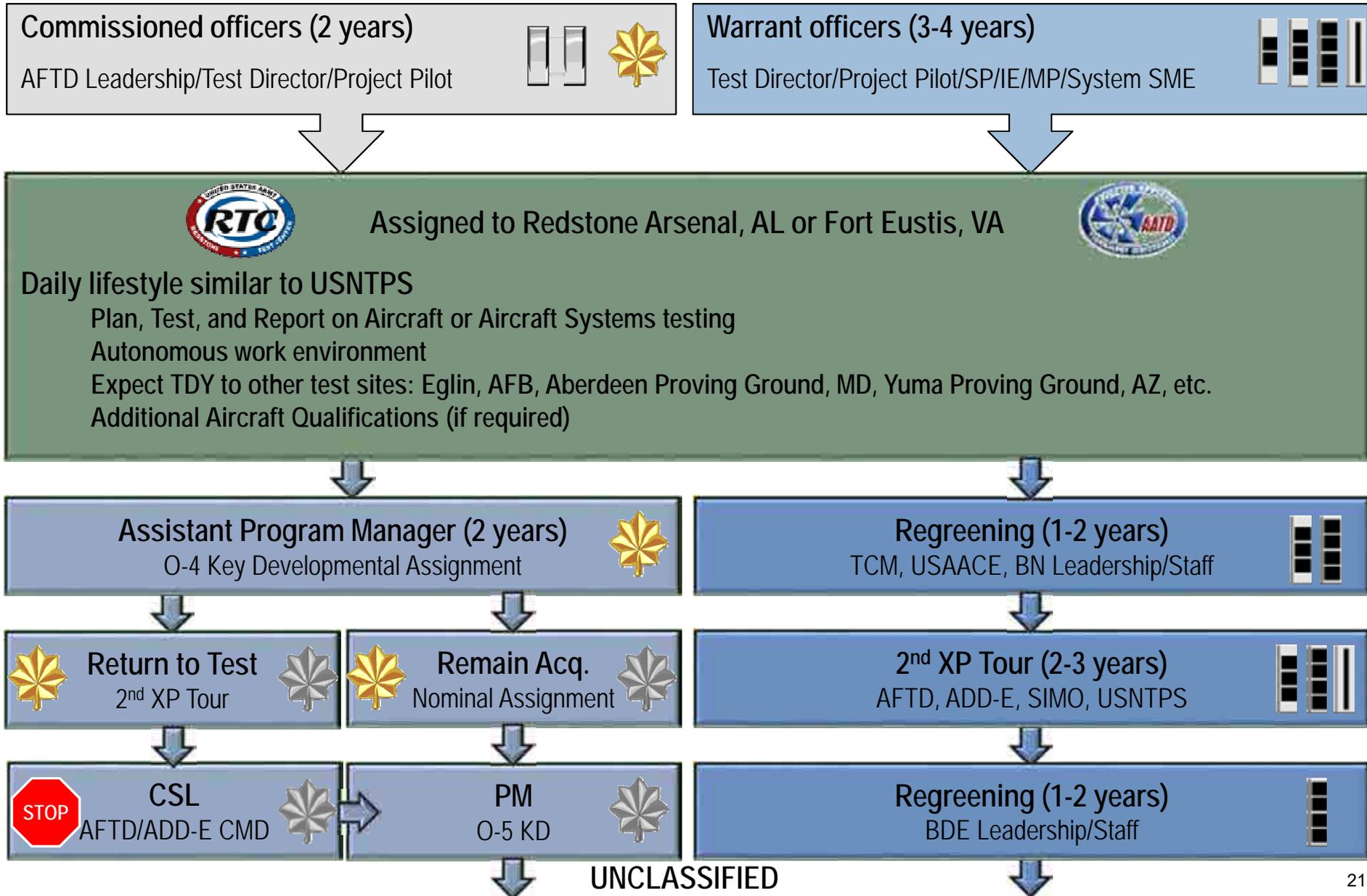


HH-65 Dolphin



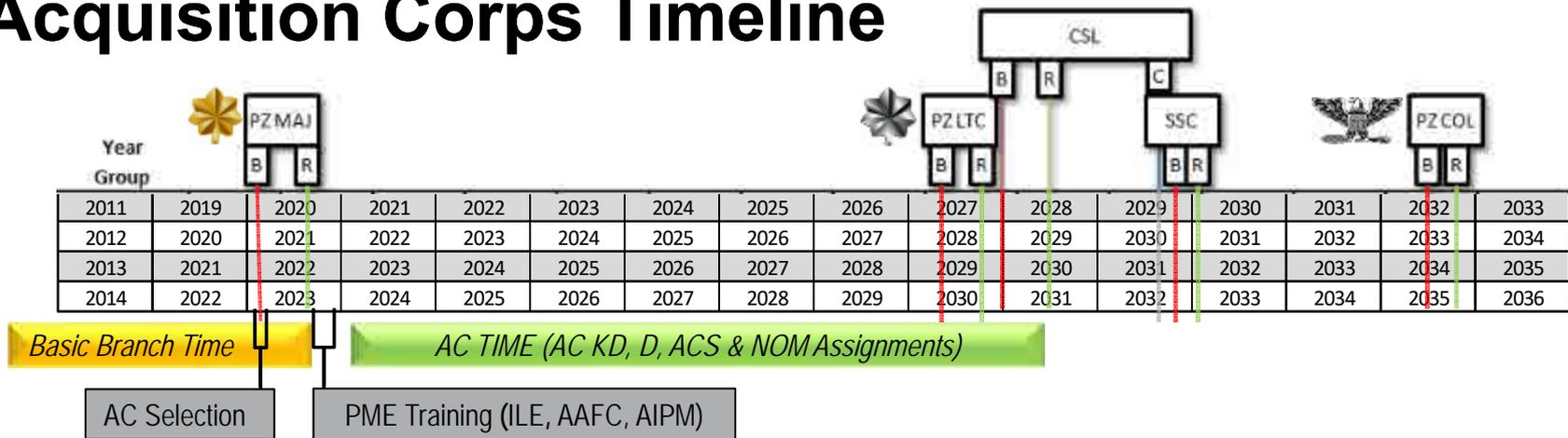
CH-53 Sea
Stallion

XP Program Post USNTPS

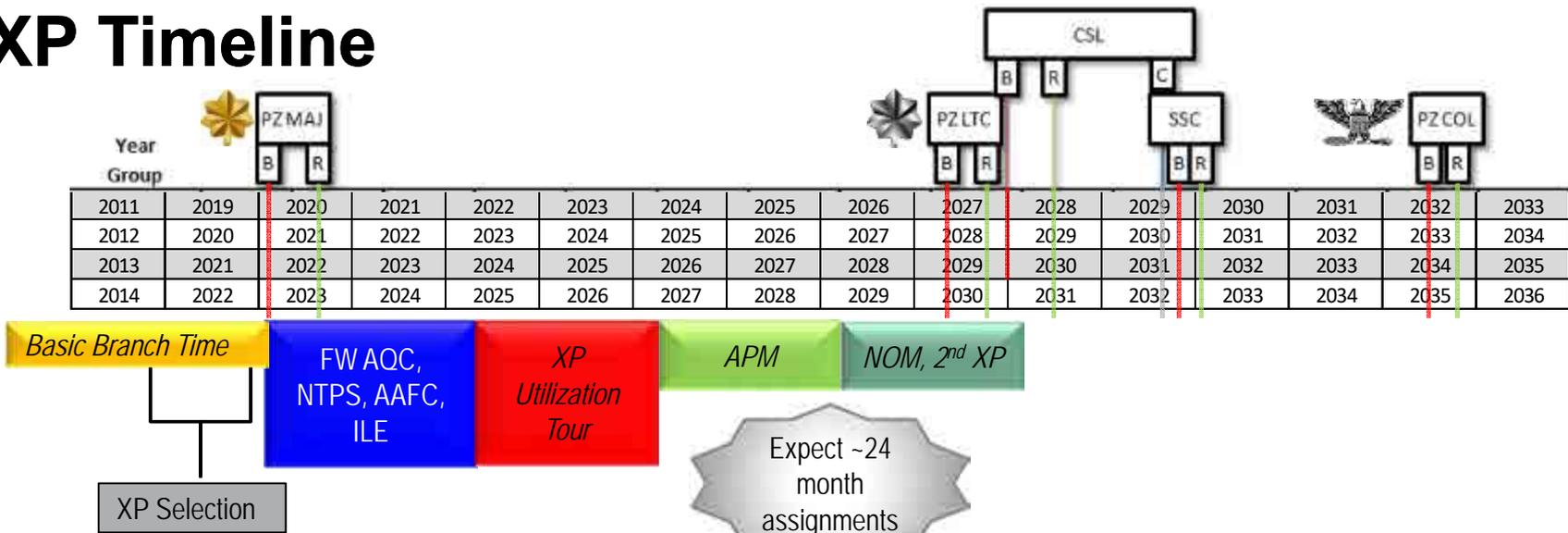


XP Career Progression - Officer

Acquisition Corps Timeline



XP Timeline



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XP Career Progression - Warrant



Standard WO Timeline



XP WO Career Path



**Think of XP as a second track
after your primary track**

Opportunities:

- Graduate School
- Multiple Transitions
- Broadening Assignments (HRC, TCM, PM, USAACE, etc.)

*RTC XP, Test Director,
SP/IE/MP, System SME
(24-36 months)*

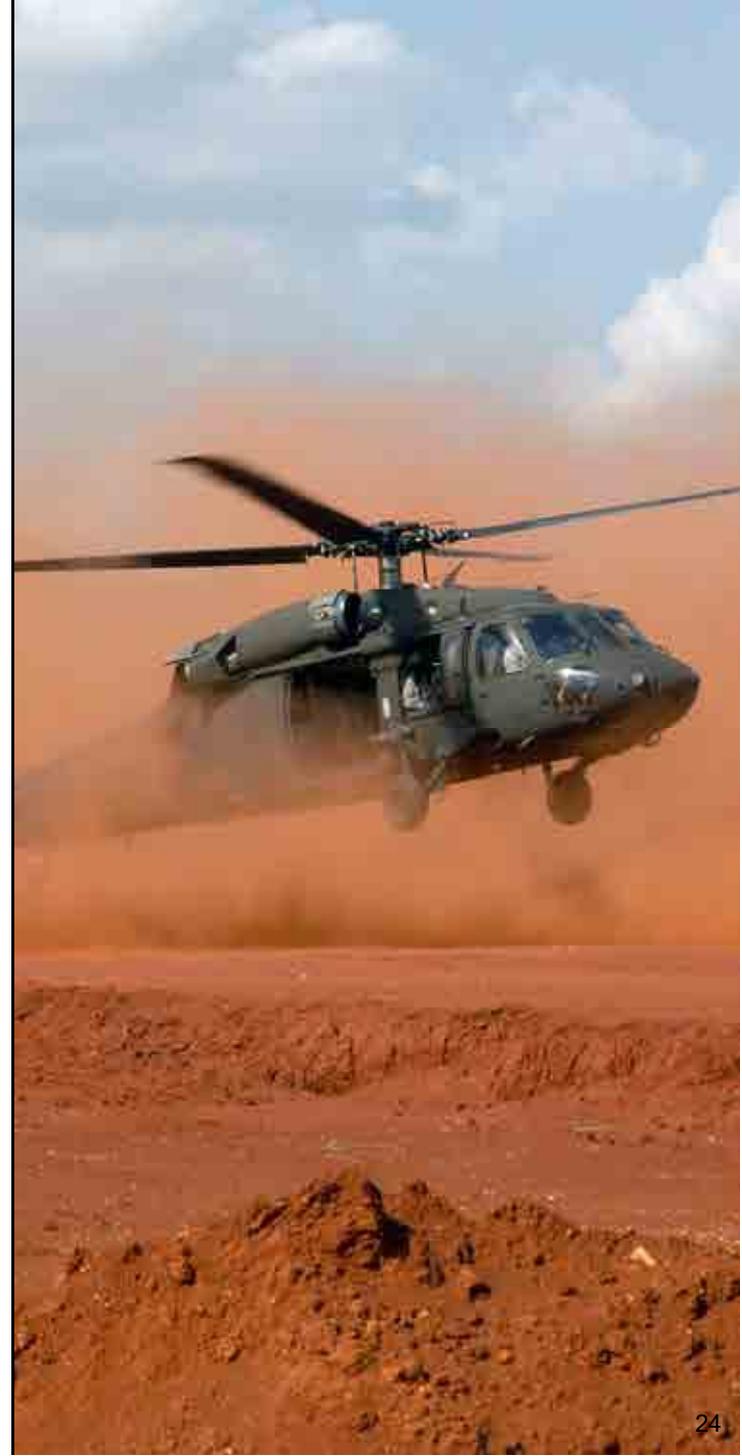
*"Regreening" Opportunities
CO/BN level and above:
SP/IE, ME, TACOPS,
Safety, BAMO, Master
Gunner, Staff Positions,
TCM, USAACE Positions
(12-24 months)*

*2nd XP Tour:
RTC, ADD-E,
USNTPS,
SIMO (24-36
months)*

*"Regreening" Opportunities
BDE level and above:
SP/IE, ME, TACOPS,
Safety, BAMO, Master
Gunner, Staff Positions (12-
24 months)*

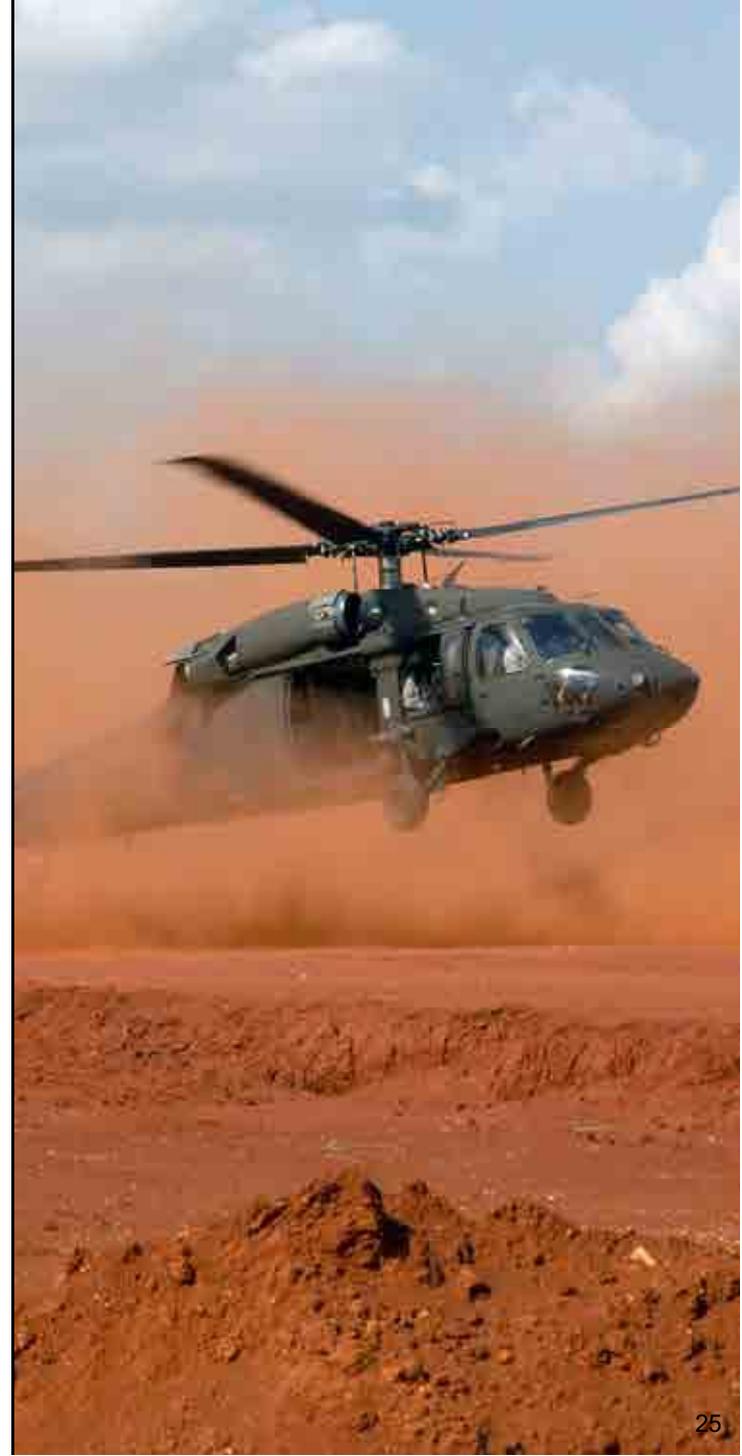
Frequently Asked Questions

- What is the recommended timeline to pursue “competing” career opportunities (160th SOAR, grad school, etc.)?
It depends...
- Can Medical Service officers apply?
Yes
- Can NG/USAR apply?
Current MILPER - No, you must be active
- Do UAS Operators qualify?
Must be or have been a rated aviator to apply; UAS testing is covered by RCMs
- Will I remain airframe pure?
Testing typically stays within experience/background
Multiple categories and series for test support



Frequently Asked Questions (cont.)

- Graduate Civilian Education Opportunities
 - ACS – unlikely for RLO; recommendations possible from USNTPS
 - NPS – structured partnership with USNTPS for both WO and RLO (MS in SE/ES)
 - No ADSO; does not count as TA or other military benefits
 - No out of pocket (books for WO) WO funded by AFTD; RLO by AMB
 - 8 classes, 2 years
 - Credits granted and DTII accepted as master's thesis



How to Apply

- Read the MILPER message:
<https://www.hrc.army.mil/Milper/19-084>
- Continue to do great things at your unit
- Attend professional military education commensurate with grade
- Pursue civilian education if necessary (i.e. degree completion or brushing up old skills; math & physics)
- Submit a packet!



Web Links

MILPER 19-084

<https://www.hrc.army.mil/Milper/18-004>

USNTPS

<http://www.navair.navy.mil/nawcad/usntps>

Society of Experimental Test Pilots

<https://www.setp.org/>

Redstone Test Center

www.rtc.army.mil/

USNTPS Videos

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_0ZIEY8T4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFkyYYH6Zgc>



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