

Air Force Reserve Pilot Opportunities

The Reserve has its own process for taking a civilian pilot (less than 28 years of age) and allowing them to compete for a pilot slot. We host one interview each year and historically have hired/trained one new pilot every year for the last 10 years. To be competitive, the applicants who apply are competitive if they have the following scores:

Private Pilot (SEL): 100+ hrs

AFOQT: Pilot 90+

TBAS: 90+

Age: 28 or less

GPA: 3.0+

BS or BA required

Live Locally

No Medical Waiver Required

No Drugs, Arrests, etc. (skeletons)

There are 4 Reserve flying units located at Travis AFB in what is known as an associate wing which means that Reserve flying units borrow the Active Duty aircraft to accomplish our mission. The four units are: 70 Air Refueling Squadron (ARS)-KC-10's; 79 ARS-KC-10's; 301 Airlift Squadron (AS)-C-17's; and 312 AS-C-5's. Each of the four squadrons hosts their own interview process and have also sent one person through OTS & pilot training per year. Upon graduation, the new pilot returns to Travis to begin approximately 1-2 years of full-time flying orders after which, they are eligible to remain a Traditional Reservist, or continue on long term orders if available. Currently, the 70 ARS (my squadron) has one Lt at Columbus AFB who will graduate in the summer of 2012, and another who will attend OTS in 2012 and pilot training in 2013.

How does a civilian, usually college age, go from being a civilian to an officer/pilot in the Reserve? The individual works with an officer accessions recruiter to complete the necessary paperwork to become an officer. Once they have been hired by a flying unit, the recruiter and gaining unit work together to prepare the individual for a competitive review at Headquarters. If the individual passes the paper-only board at HQ, they are assigned an OTS class & pilot slot through the typical pipeline process. Effectively, it is the ROTC competitive process on a much smaller scale.