



# AIR FORCE EXPLORERS

## 396<sup>th</sup> Aircrew Training Squadron

3200 E. Old Tower Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85034-7263, Phone: (480) 970-8485



## QUALIFICATIONS & ADMISSION PROCEDURES

### **Qualifications for Admission:**

Our Program is open to young men and women ages 14 –21 (13-year-olds may apply for a Waiver). Prospective Candidates should have one of the following:

- (1) a strong interest in Military or Civilian Aviation, Military Spec Ops, Intelligence Career Fields
- (2) a desire to enter one of the Military Service Academies
- (3) a desire to enter a College ROTC Program
- (4) a desire to Enlist into one of the Military Branches

Other Requirements include Possess good or above average academic grades, and be of good moral character.

### **Step 1: Come to a Unit Orientation Briefing**

The first step is to talk to our Recruiting Officer, RSVP and attend a Unit Orientation, and bring at least one of your Parent(s) or Guardian(s) with you. This is mandatory and they are regularly scheduled in August and January just prior to the start of our Officer Candidate School (held twice a year). **RSVP IS MANDATORY, DUE TO SECURITY MEASURES COMING ONTO A FEDERAL BASE OR INSTALLATION.**

At the Unit Orientation, you will meet some of the Cadet Staff and hear about their experiences. You will also learn about our courses and curriculum and how we prepare you for a possible career in the Air Force or Military Aviation, Special Forces, Intelligence Field or other Military Positions.

Parents will meet other Cadet parents and hear the Program details (Schedules, Transportation, Costs, Parents Involvement), and how this Program will prepare you for acceptance to a U.S Military Academy or ROTC Scholarship.

### **Step 2: Pick up Application Packet & Schedule an Interview Board**

At the end of the Unit Orientation, should you decide to join, you can pick up an Application Packet and reserve an appointment at the next Interview Board. You can ONLY schedule a Board Interview at a Unit Orientation. Boards typically are held on Wednesday evenings or Saturday after Unit Orientation Meetings. *(If you think you want to postpone your joining until next class, we still recommend you get your Board Interview out of the way).*

### **Step 3: Complete an Application Packet & Submit Deposit**

Your Application Packet includes several forms that need to be filled out in its entirety along with your \$ \_\_\_ Deposit (Non-Refundable). You must bring these to the Board Interview at your scheduled date and time. Checks can be made out to: "U.S. Air Force Explorers." Deposit is for: BSA Membership, Explorer Air Command Dues, USAF Explorer paperwork processing, Unit Membership, Initial Dues Insurance, and Membership dues through first 4 months.

### **Step 4: Complete a Board Interview**

Show up at your scheduled Board Interview, along with your completed Application Packet and Deposit. Pass a rigorous screening process very similar to the process used by the American Military Service Academies (including two board interviews by Officers of the Squadron). These two interviews should take about 1 1/2 hours, and you should consider this similar to a Job Interview. Parents can drop off and pick up or wait. You will also be sized up for Uniforms at this time.

### **Step 5: Acceptance**

After a positive review of your completed Application, background and successful Board Interviews, receipt of your deposit, upon Acceptance, you will receive:

- a. An Acceptance Letter with Set of Orders
- b. Official assignment to one of the next two Officer Training Flights

(Officer Training Flights start ONLY twice per year, either JANUARY OR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER). Prospective Officer Candidates will be informed of the results by the unit commander the following Monday evening NLT 2100hrs (9PM).

### **Step 6: Induction Day**

Show up on Induction Day at 0830 in proper PT Uniform. At the end of the day, Parent(s), Guardian(s), and Family Members can come and observe you taking the Oath of Office, as well as take pictures. This will start your Officer Candidate School which will end 17 weeks later with a Commissioning Ceremony.