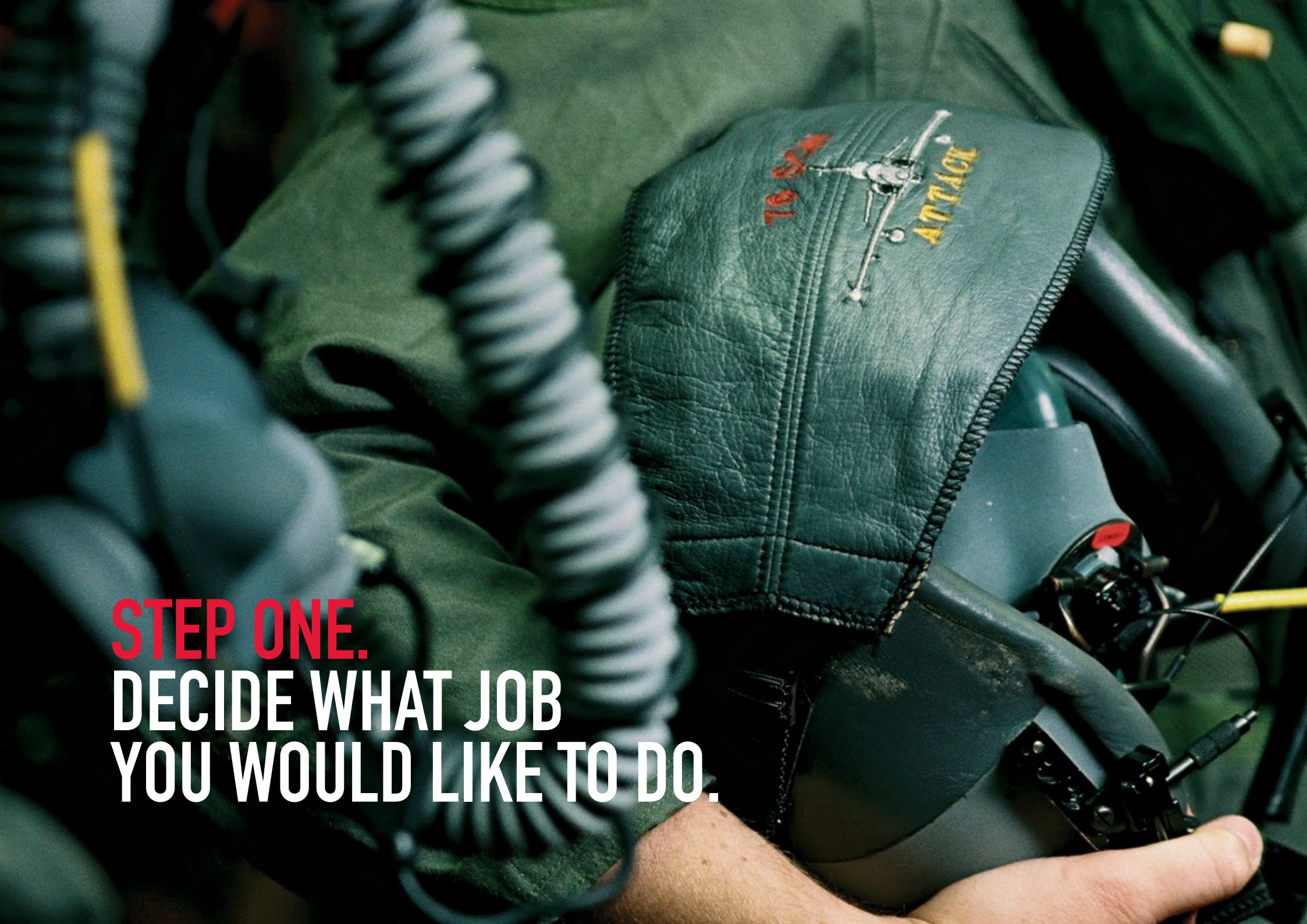


AIR FORCE OFFICER ACCOMPLISHED

WHAT IT TAKES TO BE AN AIR FORCE OFFICER IN 5 EASY STEPS.



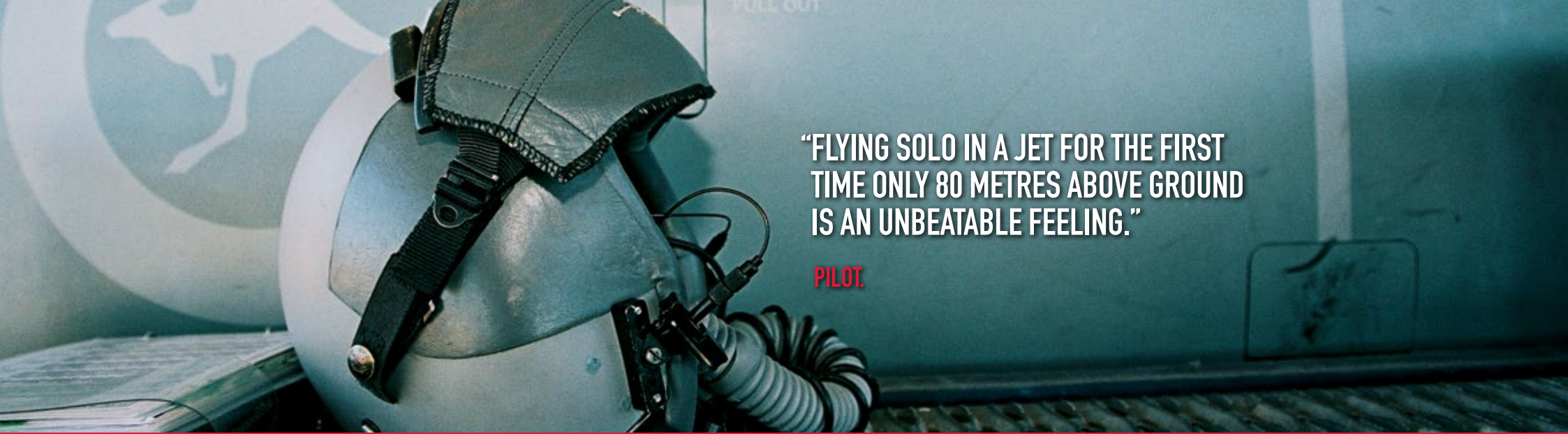


STEP ONE.
DECIDE WHAT JOB
YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO.



THERE ARE A RANGE OF DIFFERENT OFFICER JOBS TO CHOOSE FROM IN THE AIR FORCE. ONCE YOU HAVE DECIDED WHICH ONES INTEREST YOU, SPEND THE REST OF YOUR TIME BROWSING THROUGH THIS GUIDE TO SEE IF LIFE IN THE AIR FORCE SUITS YOU.

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“FLYING SOLO IN A JET FOR THE FIRST TIME ONLY 80 METRES ABOVE GROUND IS AN UNBEATABLE FEELING.”

PILOT.

WHAT IS AN OFFICER IN THE AIR FORCE?

If you want a career that is challenging and rewarding and encourages you to lead and motivate a team, a career as an Air Force Officer may just be what you've been looking for. The Air Force is an incredibly diverse organisation that requires a huge number of skilled Officers such as Engineers, Logisticians, Doctors, Lawyers and Aircrew. That's where you come in. You'll learn effective communication and leadership skills and develop the ability to guide those under your command. There are a number of different methods of entry when applying to become an Air Force Officer.

DIRECT ENTRY OFFICER

A range of Air Force Officer employment specialisations are available to people with or without a degree qualification. As such, you will enter the Air Force as a Direct Entry Officer (DEO).

GRADUATE OFFICER

If you are a degree-qualified professional looking for a career offering satisfaction, excitement and challenges, the Air Force has a role for you. As a Graduate Officer with the Air Force you will get the opportunity to further expand your management, leadership and professional skills and utilise them in ways you never imagined.

ADFA

You may wish to study for a degree at the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) in Canberra, a campus of the University of NSW.

DEFENCE UNIVERSITY SPONSORSHIP

If you are currently studying a degree at a civilian university the Air Force may be able to sponsor your studies which includes you being paid to study and all your fees being paid.

RESERVES AND SPECIALIST RESERVES

If a full-time Air Force career doesn't suit your lifestyle, you might like to consider a part-time job in the Air Force Active Reserve or for selected professional services, an on-call basis in the Specialist Reserve. Specialist Reservists are professionals that are not otherwise retained permanently in the Air Force. Squadrons are located all over Australia, so there's sure to be one located near you.

Further details on the methods of entry open to you appear in Step Two of this brochure.



PERSONNEL CAPABILITY OFFICER (ADMINISTRATION OFFICER)

Leading and motivating a team is just one aspect of a career as an Air Force Personnel Capability Officer. You'll be exposed to a wide range of duties whilst leading a team of professionals in the day-to-day running of the Air Force, whether in Australia or on overseas deployments. Your job may include human resource management and planning, administration, strategic personnel management, recruitment, training, financial and information systems management.

TRAINING: Following initial Officer training, you'll commence full-time employment. After a period of time on the job, you'll do the Personnel Capability Officer Initial Course.

METHODS OF ENTRY: Australian Defence Force Academy, Direct Entry and Air Force Reserve.

AERONAUTICAL ENGINEER OFFICER

Like a job where you'll be at the cutting edge of aeronautics? As an Air Force Aeronautical Engineer, your job will be to ensure the Air Force has airworthy aircraft and associated ground support equipment is maintained to a high standard. It's a particularly challenging job given the constant technological changes in modern aviation.

TRAINING: After initial Officer training, you'll undertake the Aerospace Engineer Officer Initial Course, covering technical administration, management procedures and practices, followed by a Systems Familiarisation Course. Specialist category courses are normally completed within the first two years of your career.

METHODS OF ENTRY: Australian Defence Force Academy, Graduate and Undergraduate Sponsorship.

AIR COMBAT OFFICER

As an Air Combat Officer you will be a master of air combat missions and advanced electronic systems. You will make real time command and control decisions crucial to the overall success of the mission at hand. The Air Combat Officer role will see you as a crew member of either the F/A-18F Super Hornet, AP-3C Orion or Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft, involved with multi-mission Unmanned Aerial Systems or in the Air Battle Management ground environment.

TRAINING: After initial Officer training, you'll attend an Air Combat Officer (ACO) course at RAAF Base East Sale. Following your ACO course, graduates are streamed into one of the following roles: Air Battle Management, Maritime Patrol and Response or Air Combat. Each stream undertakes their specific training at RAAF Base East Sale.

METHODS OF ENTRY: Australian Defence Force Academy and Direct Entry.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER

If you'd like to be responsible for some of the most sophisticated aircraft in the sky, a career as a Joint Battlefield Airspace Controller might be just what you're looking for. Not only will you be responsible for the safe and expedient movement of Air Force, and at times civilian, aircraft in and around bases, you could also be controlling Air Force aircraft whilst on deployment in Australia or overseas.

TRAINING: After initial Officer training, you'll attend the Air Traffic Controller Course where you'll learn about surface movement control, tower control, approach coordination, approach control and area control. You'll then undergo on-the-job training to build upon your skills.

METHODS OF ENTRY: Australian Defence Force Academy and Direct Entry.



AIRFIELD ENGINEER OFFICER

As an Airfield Engineer Officer you will find yourself involved in the management, delivery, assessment, maintenance, repair, regeneration and operation of the Air Force infrastructure. This includes working with a wide and varied workforce from a range of trades.

TRAINING: After initial Officer training, you'll undertake the Royal Australian Engineers Regimental Officer Basic Course.

METHODS OF ENTRY: Australian Defence Force Academy, Graduate, Undergraduate Sponsorship and Reserve.

ARMAMENT ENGINEER OFFICER

If you're looking for a unique direction for your engineering career, you might like to consider armament engineering. Quite unlike anything in the civilian world, you'll find yourself responsible for weapons, weapons systems and associated test equipment on a range of Air Force aircraft from fighters to strike bombers, as well as bomb disposal.

TRAINING: After initial Officer training, you'll undertake the Engineer Officer Basic Course, which covers technical administration, management procedures and practices. The Engineer Officer Armament Specialist Course follows and is normally completed within the first two years of your career with the Air Force.

METHODS OF ENTRY: Australian Defence Force Academy, Graduate and Undergraduate Sponsorship.

CHAPLAIN

As an Air Force Chaplain you'll provide spiritual guidance to all members of the Air Force regardless of faith or denomination. Chaplains also provide counselling services and are actively involved with the individual development of Air Force personnel.

TRAINING: After initial Officer training, you will undertake Initial, Intermediate and Senior ADF Chaplain courses at various times during your Air Force career. The Initial course is designed to prepare you for your first appointment and deployment, giving you an understanding of ADF Chaplaincy processes, and training you in such areas as suicide awareness and post traumatic stress responses.

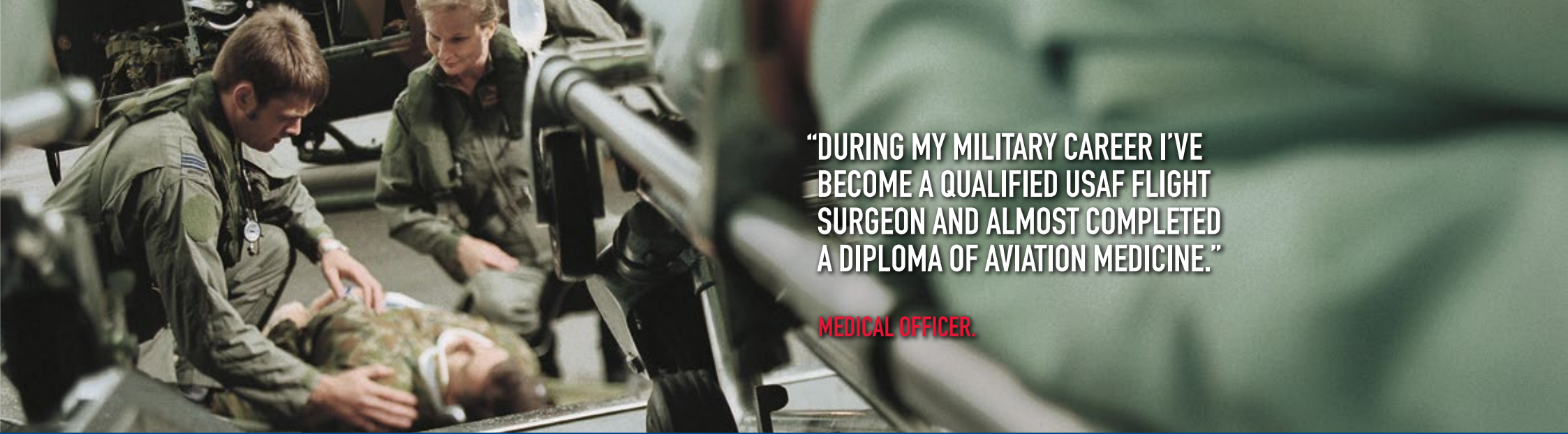
METHOD OF ENTRY: Graduate and Reserve.

DENTAL OFFICER

As a Dentist in the Air Force, you'll be exposed to a wide range of working environments. You'll be working in surgeries equipped to extremely high standards, to ensure the oral health of service personnel both on-base and whilst on deployment within Australia and, at times, overseas.

TRAINING: After initial Officer training, you'll attend a Dental Officer Initial Course conducted by the ADF Dental School. This course includes training in administration and clinical policy relating to Dental Services in the Australian Defence Force.

METHODS OF ENTRY: Graduate, Undergraduate Sponsorship, Reserve and Specialist Reserve.



**“DURING MY MILITARY CAREER I’VE
BECOME A QUALIFIED USAF FLIGHT
SURGEON AND ALMOST COMPLETED
A DIPLOMA OF AVIATION MEDICINE.”**

MEDICAL OFFICER.

TRAINING SYSTEMS OFFICER

As a Training Systems Officer in the Air Force, your primary role is to analyse, design, develop and manage the conduct and evaluation of training. As such, you may be required to consult and coordinate training with military/civilian training staff, outside contractors and students. In addition, you could also be identifying training needs and conducting analysis; designing training courses; facilitating development and conduct of training; and providing advice on appropriate training technology, including e-learning and/or other computer-based training methods.

TRAINING: After initial Officer training, you’ll be posted to an Air Force base and complete the Training Systems Officer Initial Course.

METHODS OF ENTRY: Direct Entry, Graduate and Reserve.

ELECTRONICS ENGINEER OFFICER

As an Electronics Engineer, you may find yourself responsible for airborne power generation and distribution, electronic/electrical control systems and instrument and navigation systems. You’ll also be trained in communications, radar and sonar equipment on a range of aircraft.

TRAINING: After initial Officer training, you’ll attend the Engineer Officer Basic Course which covers technical administration, management procedures and practices. Specialist category courses follow and are normally completed within the first 12 months of your career with the Air Force.

METHODS OF ENTRY: Australian Defence Force Academy, Graduate and Undergraduate Sponsorship.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER

As an Environmental Health Officer, you’ll be responsible for planning, coordinating and implementing strategies that minimise and control the adverse health impact of the environment and workplace on personnel. Managing the impact of military operations and activities on the environment will also be your responsibility.

TRAINING: After initial Officer training, you’ll be posted to an Air Force base where you will complete a number of specialist training courses such as Nuclear, Biological Chemical Defence Training and Operational Field Hygiene.

METHODS OF ENTRY: Undergraduate Sponsorship, Graduate, Reserve and Specialist Reserve.

GROUND DEFENCE OFFICER

As an Air Force Ground Defence Officer, you and your team are responsible for defending airfields and aircraft from attack. You’ll also be involved in ground defence policy and weapons training and coordination.

TRAINING: After initial Officer training, you’ll attend the Royal Military College (RMC) Duntroon, Regimental Officer Basic Course, and Ground Defence Basic Operations Course. You’ll learn combat leadership, tactical, administration and logistics skills while acquiring field firing range qualifications.

METHOD OF ENTRY: Direct Entry and Reserve.



INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

As an Air Force Intelligence Officer, you will be responsible for preparing and presenting intelligence briefs as well as analysing and preparing assessments on air-related activities. This may involve interpreting intelligence data and analysing electronic weapons systems information. You may carry out your role on an Air Force base or Defence establishment, or whilst on deployment during operations and exercises.

TRAINING: After initial Officer training, you'll undertake intelligence training in air operations intelligence, research, analysis and leadership, before undertaking focus periods and a major exercise to consolidate learning outcomes. Further training may involve you in electronic warfare, weapon systems and languages.

METHODS OF ENTRY: Australian Defence Force Academy, Direct Entry, Graduate and Reserve.

LEGAL OFFICER

As a Legal Officer, you'll be involved with a wide variety of legal matters ranging from operations law to military, disciplinary, civil and administrative law. You may also be involved in civil law issues including common law claims, equal opportunity and anti-discrimination matters, copyright and government contracts.

TRAINING: After initial Officer training, you'll begin your legal training specialising in one of three core fields of law—military justice, administrative or operations law. This will lead to a Graduate Diploma (Grad Dip) and then a Masters degree in Military Law (LLM). Your Grad Dip (or equivalent) is a requirement for advancement to the next level, and similarly your LLM is also required to advance to the following level.

METHODS OF ENTRY: Graduate, Undergraduate and Specialist Reserve.

LOGISTICS OFFICER

As a Logistics Officer, you're responsible for the acquisition, control and support of modern and valuable equipment. You will also be responsible for the management and welfare of military and civilian staff. You'll receive specialist training to provide you with the skills necessary for procurement, integrated logistics support, project management, as well as personnel and equipment movements.

TRAINING: After initial Officer training, you'll spend 30 days at Wagga Wagga, NSW learning about logistics in defence, inventory and account management, finance and procurement, warehousing and distribution, and operational logistics.

METHODS OF ENTRY: Australian Defence Force Academy, Direct Entry, Graduate, Undergraduate Sponsorship and Reserve.

MEDICAL OFFICER

As an Air Force Medical Officer, your primary job will be to look after the health and fitness of military personnel. You'll be involved in general practice care and occupational and preventative medicine, including physical fitness at a wide variety of locations around Australia and on deployments overseas.

TRAINING: After initial Officer training, you'll undertake a five-week RAAF Aviation Medical Officer course at RAAF Edinburgh, SA, covering areas such as trauma management, aeromedical evacuation, operational health support and occupational medicine.

METHODS OF ENTRY: Graduate, Graduate Medical Program, Undergraduate Sponsorship and Specialist Reserve.



NURSING OFFICER

Despite what you might think, not all nursing is the same. In the Air Force, your job will involve regular nursing duties and outpatient care, however you may also find yourself involved in aeromedical evacuations, operational deployments and exercises, in addition to supporting medical assistant training.

TRAINING: After initial Officer training, you'll attend the Nursing Officer Initial Course. During your first year of appointment you'll also complete the Aeromedical Evacuation Course, Aviation Nursing Officer Course and the Operational Health Support Course which relates to aeromedical evacuation duties and operational deployments.

METHODS OF ENTRY: Graduate, Undergraduate Sponsorship, Reserve and Specialist Reserve.

PHARMACIST

Pharmacists perform a vital role in the Air Force. Unlike their civilian counterparts, Air Force Pharmacists get the opportunity to work as a 'career pharmacist' without the stresses of operating a small business. You will find yourself dispensing medication, providing information on drugs and ordering, storing and supplying pharmaceuticals.

TRAINING: After initial Officer training, you'll attend a Logistics Officer Initial Course and later undertake the Operational Health Support Course.

METHODS OF ENTRY: Graduate, Undergraduate Sponsorship and Specialist Reserve.

PILOT

Upgrade your flying ambition right now and within just a few years, you could be taking control of one of the fastest and most manoeuvrable aircraft in the skies; or transporting troops and supplies to the scene of a natural disaster overseas; or carrying out a search and rescue mission or covert surveillance. In the Air Force you'll enjoy amazing variety and unique flying experiences.

TRAINING: After initial Officer training you'll learn to fly, and in contrast to other flying schools you'll get paid as you train. Within as little as four years you'll graduate from an Airtrainer to a full set of wings, as you are streamed into a pilot category that could see you flying a C-17A Globemaster III heavy transport, a KC-30A tanker, an E-7A Wedgetail surveillance and control aircraft, or even a state of the art F/A-18F Super Hornet fighter.

METHODS OF ENTRY: Australian Defence Force Academy, Direct Entry and Female Graduate Pilot Scheme.



**“THE TRAINING WE GET IS UNSURPASSED.
WE GET TRAINED BY THE WORLD
EXPERTS IN THEIR FIELD.”**

ELECTRONICS ENGINEER OFFICER.



RADIOGRAPHER

Here's your chance to apply your radiography skills to challenging new situations in diverse locations. The X-ray, ultrasound and image intensifier equipment you use will be amongst the most technically-advanced available; but where you operate it will vary from well-equipped hospitals to deployed situations supporting disaster-relief or humanitarian missions.

TRAINING: After initial Officer training, you'll undertake a two-week Operational Health Support Course to acquire an introduction to deployable health capability and equipment; followed by a one-week Combat Survivability Course. Opportunities for postgraduate specialist training may also be offered.

METHODS OF ENTRY: Graduate, Undergraduate Sponsorship and Specialist Reserve.

SECURITY POLICE OFFICER

As a member of the Air Force Security Police you'll find yourself managing and planning for security risk management, security operations, law enforcement and investigation. You will also be responsible for the command, leadership and management of Security Police under your command.

TRAINING: After initial Officer training, you'll undertake the 10-week Service Police Basic Course to learn about legal procedures, initial action at crime scenes, defensive tactics, operational safety and Service Police administration.

METHODS OF ENTRY: Direct Entry and Reserve.

STEP TWO. CHOOSE YOUR METHOD OF ENTRY.



AVENUES OF ENTRY.

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE ACADEMY

The Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) is part of the University of New South Wales, located in Canberra. Graduates will receive a world class degree from the highly regarded University of New South Wales.

ADFA offers degrees in Arts, Business, Engineering (Aeronautical, Civil, Electronics and Mechanical), Information Technology, Science & Technology (Aviation and Aeronautical). ADFA maintains a very high standard of teaching with lecturers and tutors at the top of their relevant fields. You'll enjoy one of the best teacher-to-student ratios in the country and have access to fantastic campus resources and facilities. The study facilities at ADFA include a well-resourced library, modern labs, lecture theatres, and the latest computer equipment. The facilities are comparable to any university in the country. ADFA also offers opportunities for post-graduate research and study, leading to Graduate Diplomas, Masters and Doctoral degrees.

Your academic studies are just one part of life at ADFA. There are also military studies, physical training as well as leadership and management skills you'll develop that will have you graduating with the finest academic and military qualifications possible.

The ADFA campus has around 23 hectares of sporting fields and an indoor sports centre, providing you with access to just about any sport that you can imagine. Plus you'll find your accommodation on campus comfortable with private rooms, lounge and common areas.

Your Air Force Officer training commences with Academy Military Education and Training (AMET) conducted by the staff at ADFA. This will teach you general military and Officer knowledge as well as the general skills and attitudes required of all Officers in the Australian Defence Force. Following AMET, you will complete specific Air Force Officer training.

One of the big advantages of studying at ADFA is that, unlike attending a regular university, you'll be paid a salary while you study. You'll also receive a textbook and uniform allowance, get free healthcare, and have your tuition fees paid by the Air Force. Better still, you're guaranteed a job as an Officer in the Air Force when you graduate. All Officers sponsored through ADFA have to complete a minimum length of service, which guarantees employment for a period of time in the Air Force.

ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible for admission to ADFA, you will need to be at least 17 years of age on your date of entry. To qualify for entry into the University of New South Wales, you will need to be studying or have completed Year 12 (including English and three other subjects) and have results that are acceptable for entry to your chosen career. First year study at another university may also qualify you for entry into ADFA. In addition to the academic entry requirements, you'll go through a selection process to determine whether you have the physical and mental attributes suitable to become an Air Force Officer.

ADFA EDUCATION AWARD: If you are currently studying Year 11, you could be eligible to apply for the ADFA Education Award. In recognition of leadership potential, and academic and sporting achievements, the top applicants will be awarded a laptop computer. To be eligible you must be in Year 11 and be studying subjects which meet the educational requirements of the University of New South Wales and the Air Force. Talk to your ADF Careers Counsellor for more specific information or visit defencejobs.gov.au/ADFA

DIRECT ENTRY OFFICER

There are several Officer careers (Administration Officer, Logistics Officer, Pilot, Air Traffic Controller, Security Police Officer, Training Systems Officer and Ground Defence Officer) that don't require a degree and offer the opportunity to pursue an executive career.

ELIGIBILITY: To qualify you must have relevant work experience and/or have completed Year 12 with passes in English and at least three other subjects approved by the Air Force. Requirements can vary between jobs. Speak to a Defence Career Counsellor or visit defencejobs.gov.au for more information.

GRADUATE OFFICER

If you already have a degree and wish to further your professional, management and leadership skills, the Air Force is the perfect place to do so. Your professional and technical expertise is much sought-after, and the Air Force offers attractive salaries and packages comparable to those in the civilian workforce.

ELIGIBILITY: You will typically have obtained your degree from an Australian university, institute or college approved by the Air Force. Where applicable you should be registered for your profession. However, degrees from overseas universities may be acceptable and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Some degrees may not qualify you for Graduate entry, but may still be recognised upon entry as a Direct Entry Officer.

DEFENCE UNIVERSITY SPONSORSHIP

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Air Force Undergraduate Sponsorship is available for a variety of careers in the Air Force. This program enables you to complete your degree at your current university. The Air Force will pay you to study; provide you with free healthcare; cover the cost of some of your books and equipment; provide an accommodation allowance; and pay your tuition fees.

ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible to apply for the Air Force University Sponsorship, you must have successfully enrolled or be currently completing a degree suitable to Air Force requirements for the chosen Officer role. You must also meet the Air Force's entry requirements for Officer entry. Air Force medical undergraduates may be sponsored for up to four years. Further information can be found at defencejobs.gov.au/unisponsorship

GRADUATE MEDICAL PROGRAM

If you already hold an appropriate degree qualification, you could be sponsored by the Air Force to qualify as a Medical Practitioner. If you're accepted into the program, you'll do a four year degree course at any Australian university that offers a graduate medical program. After completing two years residency at a teaching hospital, you'll begin your career as a Medical Officer in the Air Force. While studying for your medical degree, you'll receive a generous base salary as well as having all of your tuition fees paid for. In addition, all reasonable costs related to gaining admission to the course, including application fees and travel costs, will be reimbursed. When you graduate from the program, you'll incur an Initial Minimum Period of Service which includes your sponsored study at university, residency training and period of service at an Australian Defence Force establishment.

AIR FORCE RESERVE

Air Force Reservists are the part-time component of the Air Force. The Air Force Reserve allows you to get involved in a strong team atmosphere; train on high-tech equipment; build upon your existing personal and professional skills, as well as have fun and improve your fitness while you do it. The Air Force Reserve trains and works right alongside the permanent Air Force and in most cases, your job will mirror that of the permanent Air Force. The only real difference is that Air Force Reserve members are required to attend for a minimum number of days per annum. There is normally a work arrangement to fit in with the rest of your life, and because it's locally based, you can experience Air Force life without working far from home. You can choose from many different roles in the Air Force Reserve, ranging from human resources to security and through to healthcare and operations planning. Selection standards for the Air Force Reserve are the same as those for joining the permanent Air Force.

SPECIALIST RESERVE

The role of the Specialist Reserve is unique. Specialist Reservists are engaged to provide on an on-call basis, selected professional services that are not otherwise retained permanently in the Air Force. Entry into the Specialist Reserve is by selection to fill available vacancies. Officer entry into all elements of the Air Force Specialist Reserve is by competitive selection.

When you work in the Air Force Reserve or Specialist Reserve your pay is tax-free. You'll also get free accommodation and food whenever you're out training or on military exercise. Your uniform and equipment are free and any travel you need to do for initial training or employment training is paid for.

Further information about any of the jobs available in the Air Force as well as the avenues of entry and training requirements can be found at defencejobs.gov.au/airforce

INITIAL OFFICER TRAINING

Upon entering the Air Force as a Direct Entry Officer, you'll undergo the 17-week Initial Officer Training Course (IOC) at RAAF Base East Sale in Victoria. Most Reserve Officers undergo the part-time version of the course. You will cover the same topics as full-time Officers, just over a longer period of time. You should complete your IOC within two years of entering. Alternatively, you may complete the IOC on a full-time basis as a Reserve Officer. The course is a culmination of theory and practical training which teaches you the leadership skills you'll need to become an accomplished Air Force Officer. Leadership forms the core of your training at Initial Officer Course, however other major elements of the course are designed to introduce you to military life.

This school has an excellent reputation for transforming Officer trainees into leaders with integrity, professionalism, loyalty, determination, pride and dedication to the Air Force. Leadership forms the core of your training but you'll also receive instruction in ground defence, management, operations, communication, Air Force values, and military law. The school is a place of constant excitement and change, with a range of social and sporting activities to help you relax or enjoy with your mates. You'll need a good level of fitness to gain entry, however any active person who spends time exercising or playing competitive sport should not have difficulty meeting the standards. If you attend ADFA you will undergo your initial Officer training in conjunction with your ADFA military training.



“THE AMOUNT OF RESPONSIBILITY THAT A YOUNG PERSON CAN HAVE IS CHALLENGING AND VERY EXCITING.”

STEP THREE.
SEE IF LIFE IN THE AIR FORCE
IS FOR YOU.





Now that you know more about the range of interesting careers available and the various methods of entry, the next few sections will give you some idea as to what to expect from life in the Air Force.

For even more detailed information visit defencejobs.gov.au/airforce

THE ROLE OF THE AIR FORCE.

The Air Force is an organisation that not only looks after the security of Australia but, in times of need, performs a vital role with humanitarian work both here and overseas. Some of the high profile engagements of the Air Force include disease control in relief camps following the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami which involved over 70 aeromedical evacuations and 3,700 medical treatments on the island of Sumatra.

LIFE ON BASE.

IT'S NOT ALL MARCHING AND TRAINING

Once you've completed your initial Officer training, you'll be posted to an Australian Defence Force base or establishment for your specialist training, or to commence your employment. But don't think that life on base means lectures and theory all day. You'll find the bases are places of excitement and change, with a range of social and sporting facilities to help you relax and enjoy your life outside of working hours.

OFFICERS' MESS

The Officers' Mess is the place that hosts everything from formal functions to everyday get-togethers with your friends.

SPORTING LIFE

Whatever your sport or pastime, you're sure to find plenty of people with similar interests on-base. You'll find most bases have fully-equipped gyms, swimming pools and tennis, squash and basketball courts. Sports approved by the Air Force include:

Alpine Snow Sports	Running & Athletics
Aussie Rules	Sailing
Basketball	Scuba Diving
Cricket	Soccer
Cycling	Softball
Gliding	Squash
Golf	Tenpin Bowling
Hockey	Touch Football
Lawn Bowls	Triathlon
Netball	Volleyball
Nordic Skiing & Biathlon	Water Skiing
Rugby League	Water Polo
Rugby Union	

FOOD

Despite what you might think, Air Force food is very good. You'll find the kitchen open three times a day, seven days a week. If you need a snack between meals, you can always drop into the base shop and purchase anything from a chocolate bar or a packet of chips to fruit juices, health bars and salads. If you have any special dietary needs, these can also be catered for.

FRIENDS

Given that so much of Air Force life is based upon working closely in a team environment, when you join the Air Force you'll find you'll be making a lot of new friends. That will become even more apparent when you're posted to a base, where you'll probably socialise with your work friends just like you would in any job. Given that your working hours are similar to those anywhere else, you can still catch up with your friends outside of the Air Force as well.

DISCIPLINE

Just like any other job, the Air Force has certain disciplinary standards that need to be maintained, especially where people's lives are on the line. As an Officer, you'll need to be able to give and take orders throughout your Air Force career. You will find, however, that discipline is based on reason and co-operation.



LIFE AS AN AIR FORCE OFFICER.

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE AIR FORCE?

Ever since I was a kid I was interested in aviation and the Defence Force looked interesting to me.

WHAT IS AN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

There's four different positions within air traffic control. There are Planners who give clearances into or out of our airspace. Then there are Approach Controllers who control all the aircraft inside the airspace. Up in the tower you've got the Surface Movement Controllers who control all the aircraft on the ground. The last person is the Tower Controller who controls the runways and airspace sometimes out to five miles, and they're the ones who say "clear to land" and "clear to take off". So there's a lot of coordination and interaction between each of the controllers as they hand off aircraft between each other.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER?

You need to be good at multi-tasking—you could have up to five aircraft talking to you at one time along with the other controllers. We call it reacting to multiple inputs, so being able to multi-task and prioritise are very important and at the same time keep a cool head.

IS THE JOB CHALLENGING?

Yes, definitely. I learn one or two new things every day. You're constantly learning on the job.

DESCRIBE A USUAL DAY?

We work shift work which is a bit different to a lot of people, so work begins at around 5:30am. We work for an hour and a half to two hours and then take a break. Then we start controlling again. Because you're concentrating solely on your job, you can only work for a maximum of four hours in a row—so we knock off at 1:00pm.

WHAT ABOUT THE SOCIAL SIDE OF THINGS?

The team I'm in work similar hours and are pretty social so we go out quite a bit together and have barbecues or we might see a film.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT YOUR JOB AND BEING IN THE AIR FORCE?

I think it's probably the challenges you face. Every day is different with a variety of civil and military aircraft coming and going all the time. Everything from super-fast military jets to trainee pilots in Cessnas. The other great thing about the Air Force is the stability and other benefits such as your healthcare is paid for, your accommodation is subsidised and you get the chance to travel overseas on deployments.

DO YOU GET ANY SPECIAL TRAINING?

You get plenty of opportunities for training. You can do a Training Officers' Course, a Supervisors' Course and even a Battlefield Operations Course.

WHAT HAS THE AIR FORCE TAUGHT YOU ABOUT YOURSELF?

I guess it's taught me that I'm able to deal with just about anything that is thrown at me and my ability to handle stress.

WHAT DO YOUR FRIENDS THINK ABOUT YOU BEING IN THE AIR FORCE?

My friends are always curious about what I'm doing. They can't believe how much money I'm earning. One of my friends was going to work in a chemist and leaving before me and getting home after me and I was earning three times what she was earning. She couldn't believe it.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I enjoy playing hockey and touch football. I've also got a dog who is currently going through obedience training and he's also being trained to go into old people's homes.

DO YOU BELIEVE THERE IS AN EQUIVALENT CIVILIAN JOB?

There is, but it's very different. In the military you get to experience all four of the areas of air traffic control, whereas in civilian air traffic control you specialise in just one of them. So I enjoy the variety of the Air Force job.

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND YOUR JOB TO ANYONE THINKING OF JOINING THE AIR FORCE?

Definitely. In air traffic, you've got the best view in the world. You see some beautiful sunsets and sunrises and we build up some great friendships between each other whilst we're in the tower. So if we're working well as a team, it makes things a lot safer.

BENEFITS.

ACCOMMODATION

Comfortable living quarters, subsidised by the Air Force, are available on most bases, although in most cases you have the choice to live off-base. You can either buy your own home or live in subsidised accommodation (subject to marital status and availability). If you're single, you may also be eligible to receive rental assistance from the Air Force.

PAY

Your salary is made up of your basic salary plus a Service Allowance and a Uniform Maintenance Allowance. It's paid directly into your bank, credit union or building society account, and tax and superannuation are automatically deducted. How much you are paid obviously depends upon your rank, length of service and your chosen career. However, you will find your pay is very competitive when compared to salaries paid in similar fields outside the Air Force. Our Defence Career Counsellors will be able to provide you with salary details.

SUPERANNUATION

The Air Force has its own generous superannuation scheme, which covers you for your super, as well as invalidity and death benefits.

HEALTHCARE

The Air Force looks after your medical and dental needs, providing doctors, dentists and specialist care should you need it.

ONGOING TRAINING

The Air Force wants you to maximise your potential. So throughout your career, you'll be given the opportunity to undertake further training in your chosen field, or perhaps even train in another field that will help you enhance your skills. The Air Force wants to ensure that you're getting the most out of your career and, more importantly, your personal and professional development is given adequate attention.

LEAVE

You'll be given 20 days of Annual Leave for every year of completed service. However, the Air Force recognises that from time to time you may need to take leave for other reasons. This may include Remote Locality Leave, Maternity Leave, Compassionate Leave, Carers Leave, Long Service Leave or Examination Leave. You'll also find that, in most cases, weekends and public holidays are your own, unless of course you're rostered on duty. As an added bonus, if you're single, the Air Force can also pay for your trip home once a year, no matter where you're stationed in Australia.

UNIFORMS

Upon joining the Air Force, you will initially be issued with a free set of uniforms. Following this, you will receive an annual allowance to ensure your uniform is kept in top shape.

Further information regarding pay and benefits can be found at defencejobs.gov.au/airforce



AIRCRAFT.





F/A-18A/B HORNET

Role	Multi-role fighter
Engines	Two low-bypass F404-GE-400 turbofans (7,258kg thrust each)
Airframe	Length: 17.1m Height: 4.7m
Wingspan	12.4m
Weight	10,660kg basic, 20,412kg maximum
Speed	Mach 1.8 (2,200km/h)
Range	Combat radius 740km
Ceiling	Above 45,000 feet
Weapons	AIM-120 AMRAAM active radar guided missiles AIM-9 Sidewinder infra-red missiles Harpoon anti-ship missiles Conventional and laser-guided bombs Nose-mounted cannon
Avionics	Hughes APG73 multi-mode radar GPS, inertial navigation system, mission computers, head-up cockpit display
Crew	Pilot

F/A-18F SUPER HORNET

Role	Multi-role fighter
Engines	Two low-bypass F414-GE-400 turbofans (9,800kg thrust each)
Airframe	Length: 18.3m Height: 4.9m
Wingspan	13.6m
Weight	13,387kg basic, 29,900kg maximum take off weight
Speed	Mach 1.6 (1,960km/h)
Range	Ferrying 2,700km (without refuelling) Interdiction over 1,000km Combat radius 740km
Ceiling	Above 50,000 feet
Weapons	AIM-120 AMRAAM active radar guided missiles AIM-7 Sparrow radar-guided long-range missiles AIM-9 Sidewinder infra-red seeking missiles Harpoon anti-ship missiles Conventional and laser-guided bombs
Crew	Pilot and Air Combat Officer



HAWK 127

Role	Lead-in fighter trainer
Engine	Single Rolls-Royce Turbomeca Adour Mk 871
Airframe	Length: 11.95m Height: 4.08m
Wingspan	9.39m
Weight	5443kg
Speed	1000km/h
Range	2400km
Ceiling	50,000 feet
Crew	Pilot (Instructor) and student



PC9/A

Role	Primary trainer/forward air control and aerobatics
Engine	Pratt and Whitney PT6A-62 turboprop - 950 shaft horsepower
Airframe	Length: 10.18m Height: 3.28m
Wingspan	10.24m
Weight	2,250kg basic, 2,710kg maximum
Range	(with two underwing tanks) 1,850km, combat radius 650km
Ceiling	25,000 feet
Weapons	Two underwing smoke grenade launchers
Crew	Pilot and Observer/Instructor



CL-604 CHALLENGER

Role	Special purpose passenger and VIP transport
Engines	Two General Electric DF34-3B turboprops (9,220lbs thrust each)
Airframe	Length: 20.86m Height: 6.3m
Wingspan	19.61m (including winglets)
Weight	21,863kg (max take off), 17,236kg (max landing)
Speed	870km/h normal operations
Range	5,600km (with max fuel and reserves)
Ceiling	41,000 feet
Crew	Two Pilots and one Crew Attendant



C-130J HERCULES

Role	Medium tactical and multi-role transport
Engines	Four Allison AE2100DE turboprops - each 4,590 shaft horsepower driving 6 blade variable pitch propellers
Airframe	Length: 34.37m Height: 10.1m
Wingspan	40.4m
Weight	79,380kg maximum
Payload	19,500kg
Speed	625km/h normal operations
Range	5,100km with 18,155kg payload
Ceiling	35,000 feet
Crew	Two Pilots, Loadmaster



E-7A WEDGETAIL

Role	Airborne early warning and control
Engines	Two CFM International CFM56-7 turbofans (118.4kN (27,300lb) thrust each)
Airframe	Length: 33.6m Height: 12.6m
Wingspan	34.3m
Weight	Maximum take off weight 77,565kg, maximum landing weight 60,782kg
Speed	Maximum 870km/h, cruise 760km/h
Endurance	10 hours (without air-to-air refuelling)
Ceiling	12,500m (41,000 feet)
Crew	Pilot, Co-Pilot, Airborne Electronics Analysts and mission specialists (10 mission consoles)



KA350 KING AIR

Role	Multi-role transport, low-level tactical and maritime navigation trainer
Engines	Two Pratt and Whitney PT6A-60A turboprops driving 4-blade propellers (1050 horsepower each)
Airframe	Length: 14.22m Height: 4.40m
Wingspan	17.65m
Weight	6849kg (basic operations), 1600kg payload
Speed	570km/h normal operations
Range	3,400km
Ceiling	35,000 feet
Crew	Two Pilots, or Pilot and Navigator/Observer, or various crews in training roles

B737-BBJ

Role	Special purpose passenger and VIP transport
Engines	Two CFM International CFM56-7 turbofans, each rated at 118.4kN (27,300lbs)
Airframe	Length: 33.6m Height: 12.5m (top of tail)
Wingspan	35.8m (including winglets)
Weight	77,565kg (max take off), 60,780kg (max landing)
Payload	Standard seating for 36 passengers, or 30 VIP configuration
Speed	850km/h normal operations
Range	11,390km (Canberra direct to Honolulu, Hong Kong or Tokyo)
Ceiling	41,000 feet
Crew	Two Pilots and four Crew Attendants

KC-30A MRTT

Role	Multi Role Tanker Transport used for troop transport and air-to-air refuelling
Engines	Two General Electric CF6-80E1A3
Airframe	Length: 59.0m Height: 17.4m
Wingspan	60.3m
Weight	233,000kg (max take off), 180,000kg (max landing)
Payload	Up to 270 passengers, or 34,000kg cargo, or 111 tonnes of fuel
Speed	870km/h cruising
Range	14,800km
Ceiling	41,000 feet
Crew	Pilot, Co-Pilot, Air Refuelling Officer, Mission Coordinator, up to eight Crew Attendants



C-17A GLOBEMASTER III

Role	Heavy multi-role transport and strategic airlift
Engines	Four Pratt and Whitney PW2040 turbofans (40,440lbs thrust each)
Airframe	Length: 53m Height: 16.79m
Wingspan	51.7m
Weight	72,500kg payload
Speed	800km/h cruise
Range	4,500km
Ceiling	45,000 feet
Crew	Two Pilots, Loadmaster
Accommodation	Depending on configuration: 102 troops; 90 stretcher patients; tanks, helicopters, infantry vehicles




AP-3C ORION

Role	Maritime patrol/anti-submarine warfare/strike
Engines	Four Allison T56A-14 - each 4,600 shaft horsepower
Airframe	Length: 35.6m Height: 10.44m
Wingspan	30.8m
Weight	61,200kg maximum
Speed	750km/h maximum, 650km/h cruise, 370km/h loiter
Range	Mission radius 3,720km
Ceiling	30,000 feet
Endurance	15hrs
Weapons	Mk 46 torpedoes, AGM84 Harpoon anti-ship missiles
Crew	Two Pilots, two Flight Engineers, three Air Combat Officers and six Airborne Electronic Analysts

STEP FOUR.
WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN YOU APPLY?





There are six basic steps in applying to join the Air Force. These are: Enquiry, Your Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) Session, Interviews, Pre-enlistment Fitness Assessment (PFA), Officer Selection Board and Appointment.

1. ENQUIRY

By calling **13 19 01** you will be connected to your Defence Career Counsellor at the Defence Force Recruiting Call Centre who can help you with any information you may require. You can then either complete an application over the phone or complete an online application at **defencejobs.gov.au/airforce** - after which you will be contacted to organise the next step in applying.

2. YOU SESSION

The second stage of the joining process is Your Opportunities Unlimited Session, or YOU Session. This session begins with an assessment to determine what particular job roles and avenues of entry you are best suited for. You will be provided with information on the range of jobs that are available to you, and discuss career opportunities with a Defence Career Counsellor.

3. INTERVIEWS

After the YOU Session, you will be booked into an assessment day based on the availability of positions for your preferred job. During the assessment day you will undergo a psychological interview, a medical assessment and a Defence Interview. Any additional testing requirements relevant to your particular career will also be conducted on this day. The purpose of this stage is to ensure that you have the knowledge required and are fully prepared for your career within the ADF.

4. PRE-ENLISTMENT FITNESS ASSESSMENT

If you have been recommended for appointment you must undergo a Pre-enlistment Fitness Assessment (PFA) prior to entry including the Multistage Fitness Test (or shuttle run) to measure your aerobic capacity. The aim of the PFA is to determine if you are at a sufficient level of fitness to safely commence training. This assessment must be passed at some time during the four weeks prior to enlistment. The required level to pass the shuttle run for the Air Force PFA is 6.5.

5. OFFICER SELECTION BOARD

If you are pursuing an Officer career or another specialist position, you will be required to attend an Officer Selection Board or Flight Screening Program (Pilots).

6. APPOINTMENT

Having made it through the selection process, you'll either be sent a letter of offer to join the Air Force, or advised that your application was unsuccessful. If you have been unsuccessful, our Defence Career Counsellor can speak to you about other ADF career options.

STEP FIVE.
**WHAT ELSE DO YOU
NEED TO KNOW?**



Congratulations, you're now just a step away from realising your career as an Officer in the Air Force. But before you can commit, there are a few other things you should know.

NATIONALITY

To be eligible for any full-time or part-time Air Force job, you must be an Australian Citizen or hold Permanent Residency Status with the intention of gaining Australian citizenship once you are eligible.

AGE

The minimum age to join the Air Force is 17 on the day of appointment. However, additional age requirements apply to certain jobs. Check with a Defence Career Counsellor before making an application.

IDENTITY

As proof of your identity, date and place of birth, you are required to provide copies of your original full birth and marriage certificates.

MARITAL STATUS

When you join the Air Force, you can be single, married or living in an interdependent relationship. Married benefits are also extended to those in military-recognised interdependent relationships.

INITIAL MINIMUM PERIOD OF SERVICE

As an Air Force Officer, you will initially sign up for a period that is predetermined by your chosen job. More information on specific lengths of service can be found at

defencejobs.gov.au/airforce

If you go through ADFA or are sponsored through a civilian university, you will be required to commit to a minimum period of service.

This ensures the Air Force gains a return on the investment it will make in training you.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Your initial minimum period of service will depend upon your chosen job and the scheme through which you are appointed (i.e. ADFA, Direct Entry, Undergraduate etc.). There is no requirement to remain in the Air Force beyond the completion of your minimum period of service. However, when you discontinue active Air Force service, you will be transferred to the inactive element of the Reserve for a minimum of five years.

WHAT IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT?

It is unlikely that you will be released by the Air Force in advance of completing your initial minimum period of service unless you apply to leave within an initial amnesty period [first 90 days (Direct Entry Officers)] and before 1st December in your second year for ADFA Entry Officers. If you seek release after the initial amnesty period and there are significant compelling reasons why you should be released early, you may be released subject to meeting a financial condition that recompenses the Commonwealth for the cost of training you.

GOT ANY QUESTIONS?

By this stage, you will probably have a few questions you'd like answered regarding a career in the Air Force. The best place to start is a Defence Force Recruiting Centre. You can find out the location of your nearest Defence Force Recruiting Centre by calling **13 19 01** or alternatively via the web at **defencejobs.gov.au/airforce**

THE LAST STEP
CALL 13 19 01
DEFENCEJOBS.GOV.AU/AIRFORCE