

SPECIAL FORCES (SF/18)
OFFICER CAREER DEVELOPMENT MODEL

A Special Forces (SF) officer must first successfully serve in their basic branch to be eligible for SF. Upon graduation from the SFQC, the officer serves in a KD position as a SF CPT, followed by other developmental positions described below. SF CPTs should successfully command an SFOD-A, minimally for 24 months. SF MAJs require a Master's degree and will be prioritized for assignment to an 18A coded billet. Officers in this grade should successfully serve for a minimum of 24 months in any of the KD positions listed below or a combination of these position. Promotion to LTC constitutes success, and subsequent assignments focus on developing the officer for broader contributions to the branch, the Army, and special operations in general. Key developmental assignments for a SF LTC include successful service as a SF tactical, SF training, or Immaterial battalion commander. SF COLs continue to serve the branch, special operations, and the Army through service in any SF-coded Colonel position or combination of positions within the key organizations listed below.

Years of Service:	0 1 2 3 4	5 6 7 8 9	10 11 12 13 14	15 16 17 18 19	20+
Rank:	2LT - 1LT	CPT	MAJ	LTC	COL
OPERATIONAL DOMAIN					
Key Development (KD) Assignments	• Typical Assignments	• SFODA CDR • SFODG CDR*	• SF CO CDR • Battalion XO* • Battalion S3* • Group XO* • Group S3* • SOF Plans Officer (SOD) • SOF Operations Officer (SOD)	• SF Battalion Commander* • TOE / TDA Battalion Commander	• SF Group Commander* • TOE / TDA Group CDR (SOD)
Development / Broadening Assignments (Post KD)	• Typical Assignments	• SF CO/XO • IA Ops Officer* • SF HHC / HSC CDR* • BN / GRP Staff* • TRP CMD Assistant Ops Officer • Aide de Camp • RTI Asst Ops Officer • OCS Instructor	• USASOC / 1st SFC Staff* • USSOCOM / TSOC Staff* • JSOTF/ JTF /Joint Staff* • USAJFKSWCS Staff*	• SF Group XO* • USASOC / 1st SFC Staff* • USSOCOM / TSOC Staff* • JSOTF/ JTF /Joint Staff* • USAJFKSWCS Staff*	• SF Group DCO* • USASOC / 1st SFC Staff* • USSOCOM / TSOC Staff* • JSOTF/ JTF /Joint Staff* • USAJFKSWCS Staff* • RI Primary ARNG Staff • RING Staff (Joint Staff)
INSTITUTIONAL DOMAIN					
Professional Military Education (PME)	• (BOLC)	• ARSOF Captains Career Course (SOFCCC) REQUIRED	• Command and General Staff College • Advanced Operations Course (JPME I) • Joint, Interagency, and Multinational Planner's Course • Defense Strategy Course	• Senior Service College • Joint and Combined Warfighting School (JPME II) • Defense strategy Course • Pre-Command Course	• Senior Service College • Pre-Command Course
Functional Training	• Typical Training	• Airborne • Jumpmaster • Ranger • SF Language • SERE High Risk • SF Detachment CDR's Course • 1st SFC(A) REG 350-1 school requirements	• 1st SFC(A) REG 350-1 school requirements • USASOC REG 350-1 school requirements		
SELF DEVELOPMENT					
Civilian Education	• Bachelor's Degree	• Bachelor's Degree • Master's Degree (Recommended) • Fellowships • Naval Post Grad School • Interagency Study Program	• Master's Degree (Required) • Fellowships • Naval Post Grad School • Interagency Study Program	• Master's Degree (Required) • Fellowships • Naval Post Grad School • Interagency Study Program	• Master's Degree (Required) • Fellowships • Naval Post Grad School • Interagency Study Program
ADMINISTRATIVE					
*UV Promotion:	*2LTs are promoted via NGB 78 at 18M TIG	2 Years TIG as 1LT	4 Years TIG as CPT	4 Years TIG as MAJ	3 Years TIG as LTC

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DA Board:	N/A	1LT-CPT DA Board (APL/ AMEDD/ CH) after 4 years TIG as 1LT	CPT-MAJ DA Board (APL/ AMEDD/ CH) after 6 Years TIG as CPT	MAJ-LTC DA Board (APL/ AMEDD/ CH) after 6 Years TIG as MAJ	LTC-COL DA Board (APL/ AMEDD/ CH) after 6 Years TIG as LTC
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