

HOW TO GET A PILOT, CSO or ABM SLOT IN AFROTC

The first and foremost before any of the below can happen is you need to qualify for a rated position with the AFOQT and that is as follows:

- Minimum of 15 on Verbal and 10 on Quantitative
- For Pilot must have a Minimum of 25 on Pilot and 10 on Navigator
- For Navigator must have a Minimum of 25 on Navigator and 10 on Pilot
- You NEED a combined score of 50+ to qualify for Pilot or Navigator
- Only 2 shots to take, but can be waived in certain circumstances

GPA's is a big factor, but not the only criteria. All cadets meet a national categorization board at HQ AFROTC (Maxwell AFB, AL) the first week in March. They use the following information below to assign an Order of Merit to each cadet:

- 50% is Commander's Ranking (see Det CC ranking section below)
- 15 % Cumulative GPA
- 10% Physical Fitness Assessment
- 10% Field Training
- 15% AFOQT-N (wanting to be a Combat Systems Officer (formerly Navigator))
- 15% PCSM (wanting to be a Pilot)
- 15% AFOQT-AA (wanting to be a Air Battle Manager)

Yes, the Det CC's ranking is the biggest piece of the pie. So to be fair as humanly possible with this, I try to use a "whole person" concept to assign my own ranking. By the way....this is a personal technique and I can't guarantee the next PAS will do this (although I plan to try to talk him/her into it....and besides... the other cadre will be here to encourage it too):

- Average cadre ranking - each cadre member (NCO and officer) rank orders you ...assigned x50 weight
- Field Training ranking x30
- CGPA ranking x20
- Cadet jobs and awards ranking x20
- PFA ranking x10
- Extracurricular activities ranking (participation in cadet activities, intercollegiate/intramural sports, clubs, civilian jobs, honor fraternity/sororities, etc.) x10

Each criteria comes from "objective" measurements but is assigned a "subjective" ranking. Some are straight forward...either you had a higher PFA than another cadet or you didn't, but some are more subjective like the cadet jobs/awards and the extracurricular activities ranking. The CGPA rank demands some subjectivity too.... High CGPAs are more difficult to achieve in some of the technical majors for instance. And I know....if you do the math it doesn't equal 100

...I'm not a math major (I'm sure there are smarter ways).....but the weights assign more or less importance to each factor.

Is your head swimming yet? If this looks like a lot of effort, that's because IT IS!! But this makes the process as fair as I can make it.....We also try to track all this information on you, but obviously, we don't see you 24 hours a day.....That is why your cadet bio (biography) is so important. Keep them updated, it helps us fill in the missing pieces (especially activities outside the Det).

Bottom line: categorization is very competitive. **The higher your national Order of Merit, the more likely you are to get your first choice for job and location** when these national selections occur. Rated selection occurs at the categorization board. Non-rated selections are based solely on your national order of merit...i.e. when your names comes up, if the job (or base) is still on the list, you get it. If it isn't, they go to your next choice, and so on.

My best advice to you is to do well at everything you can control. Remember this....**the difference last year between the last person on the order of merit list that got a pilot slot and the top person on the list that did not...equated to only ONE PUSH UP ON THE PFA!!** Give everything your best effort.....remember "Excellence in ALL you do!"

Here are some interesting averages for the 2008 board:

Overall for Class of 2008:

CGPA: 3.19

PFA: 89.8

Overall for all Current Cadets:

CGPA: 3.11

PFA: 90.89

Other interesting numbers:

Pilots	CGPA: 3.27	PFA: 91.72
NAV/CSO	CGPA: 2.95	PFA: 88.47
ABM	CGPA: 3.12	PFA: 89.61
Pre-Health	CGPA: 3.7	PFA: 91.72
Nurse	CGPA: 3.42	PFA: 88.34
Tech	CGPA: 3.09	PFA: 91.06
Non-Tech	CGPA: 3.15	PFA: 90.43