INITIAL SCREENING

The USAF conducts 13L ALO screening three times per year. Those candidates interested in a 13L career submit an application package to ACC/A3FC for an initial Phase I board review and scoring. Successful Phase I candidates are invited to Phase II, the ALO Aptitude Assessment (AAA), a rigorous five day test of fitness, teamwork and leadership under stress. Candidates who successfully complete AAA are assigned the 13L AFSC and are subsequently scheduled for their training courses, as available.

INITIAL TRAINING

ALO Prep Course: ALO Prep will prepare candidates for entry into the 13L career field.

ALO Basic Course: Still in-development. Until completed, the 13L ALOs will attend the enlisted TACP apprentice course where they will have their first leadership opportunities.

ALO Qualification Course: The ALOQC will provide 13L ALOs advanced knowledge of mission planning and the Military Decision Making Process needed to function as an ALO.

Joint Fires Observer Course: The JFO course will provide the 13L ALO with knowledge and skills of how the Army directs artillery fires.

Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape: Air Force TACPs are among the most forward deployed Air Force personnel. SERE will provide 13L ALOs the training they need to “Return With Honor”.

ADVANCED TRAINING

Throughout their career, 13L ALOs may have the opportunity to attend advanced training, such as: Joint Terminal Attack Controller Qualification Course, Airborne, Pathfinder, Air Assault, Ranger School, the Joint Operational Fires and Effects Course, and others.

ALOs LEAD THE TACP

A Tactical Air Control Party, commonly abbreviated TACP (pronounced “Tac P”), is a team of AF officer and enlisted personnel, which is aligned to a U.S. Army combat maneuver unit, supporting either conventional or special operations. The TACP mission is to advise ground commanders on the appropriate use of Air, Space and Cyber power; establish and maintain command and control of air support missions; and act as an inter-service liaison.

Air Liaison Officers have been assigned to coordinate air and ground operations since World War I. The importance of ALOs was identified early in the preparations for World War II, and that importance continues in today’s overseas contingency operations. ALOs have been working side-by-side with their Army counterparts through every conflict to ensure air support was integrated with ground combat operations.

TACPs live, train and deploy with U.S. Army combat units worldwide under some of the most difficult conditions. Along with being assigned to all conventional Army combat units, TACP Airmen also support US Army Rangers, and potentially Joint Special Operations Command units and multi-national task forces.

ALO career paths may include the opportunity to command at the Squadron, Group, and Wing level, and achieve the rank of Colonel, all within their mission area.

CAREER FIELD REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must be highly motivated, capable officers, ready for the challenges of TACP leadership in the demanding environment of Joint operations
- Meet medical standards for Ground Based Controller
- Have no speech impediment
- Have a valid driver’s license
- Obtain a Secret security clearance
- Eligible for TS/SCI security clearance
- Be a volunteer for hazardous duty

Leads Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) and Air Support Operations Center (ASOC) operations.

Provides Command and Control, and Execution of Air, Space, and Cyber power.

Primary advisor and advocate to the Ground Force Commander ensuring effective Air, Space, and Cyber power integration with US and coalition Army combat maneuver units.
MISSION: LEADERSHIP OF THE TACP

Historically, ALOs were drawn from CAS aircrews and only spent 1-3 years in the community. The 13L ALO was created as a corps TACP officer dedicated to leadership and development in the career field.

13Ls lead from day one!

13Ls lead the enlisted TACP Airmen of their squadron, represent the Air Force to the Army, and are often the only Air Force officer that Army troops ever meet or work with. There is great responsibility in an ALO career, and the opportunity to make a real difference to the outcome of military operations from major combat to peacekeeping operations.

The US Air Force ALO is the Air, Space, and Cyber power expert for the Army commander they support.

The ALO is expected to know about every system the Air Force has, and how to use them. Their expertise is not limited to putting bombs on target, it also includes surveillance from unmanned aircraft and even the utilization of space-based assets and cyber warfare. ALOs will train throughout their career to keep current on the latest in tactics and technology.

ALO DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The ALO represents the Joint/Combined Forces Air Component Commander as a member of the Army Commander’s staff at the Battalion through Corps echelons in a coalition, joint, or interagency force. They provide subject matter expertise to lead, plan, and manage Command-and-Control and terminal execution of Air, Space, and Cyber operations in direct support of land component forces.

The ALO develops fire support coordination plans to include Close Air Support (CAS), Air Interdiction (AI), Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), Electronic Warfare (EW), and Suppression/Destruction of Enemy Air Defenses (SEAD/DEAD).

The ALO deploys to battlefield forward areas, maintains proficiency with TACP weapons, field equipment, and signaling devices. They manage operations and servicing of TACP vehicles, radios, and field and support equipment.

The ALO is trained for all types of warfare, enabling the Combat Air Forces to eliminate enemy forces through the integration of kinetic and non-kinetic joint fires and effects with the ground maneuver force.

The ALO may engage enemy forces using advanced technologies and weapon systems to direct lethal and non-lethal fires and effects in close proximity to friendly forces as a Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC).

REQUIREMENTS

Initial ALO training involves a highly demanding physical and mental training program of over six months that includes regular physical training events, obstacle course completion, and marching with 25-40 pound packs. Prior to being accepted for 13L training you must successfully complete the ALO Aptitude Assessment.

Contact ACC/A3FC for more information: 757-764-8384, acc3dc.jid@langley.af.mil

ASSIGNMENT LOCATIONS

Camp Red Cloud-Korea
Einsiedlerhof-Germany
Hohenfels-Germany
Ramstein-Germany
Vilseck-Germany
Wiesbaden-Germany

Staff Assignments:
Elmendorf AFB-AK
Hickam AFB-HI
Hurlburt Field-FL
Langley AFB-VA
Moody AFB-GA
Nellis AFB-NV
Osan AB-Korea
Pentagon-DC
Shaw AFB-SC

Fort Benning-GA
Fort Bliss-TX
Fort Bragg-NC
Fort Campbell-KY
Fort Carson-CO
Fort Drum-NY
Fort Hood-TX
Fort Irwin-CA
Fort Knox-KY
Fort Lewis-WA
Fort Polk-LA
Fort Riley-KS
Fort Stewart-GA
Fort Wainwright-AK
Wheeler AAF-HI