

# Air Force PFE Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

|                               |                                                        |                                                  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>80</b><br>Scored questions | —<br>Time limit                                        | <b>WAPS minimums: 40 per...</b><br>Passing score |
| —<br>Exam fee                 | <b>U.S. Air Force (Air Force ...</b><br>Governing body | —<br>Pass rate                                   |

## PFE at a glance

- 80 items, one point per correct response; final section is situational judgment (pick most and least effective action)
- Minimums: 40 on PFE, 40 on SKT, 90 combined; a 40 on one test requires a 50 on the other; PFE-only testers need 45
- SKT: 100 items, specific to your AFSC; sourced from CDCs and specialty references
- Source material: grade-specific Enlisted Promotion Study Guide derived from AFH 1; eligibility per DAFI 36-2502; compete within your AFSC; ties at the cutoff all promote

## Enlisted grades and tiers

| Tier            | Rank                                                             | Abbr.                | Key gate                                                     |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Junior enlisted | Airman Basic / Airman / Airman First Class / Senior Airman       | AB / Amn / A1C / SrA | 5-skill level typically at A1C; ALS before SSgt              |
| NCO             | Staff Sergeant / Technical Sergeant                              | SSgt / TSgt          | 7-skill level typically at SSgt; NCO Academy before MSgt     |
| SNCO            | Master Sergeant / Senior Master Sergeant / Chief Master Sergeant | MSgt / SMSgt / CMSgt | SNCO Academy before SMSgt; SNCO promotions via central board |

- CMSAF: senior enlisted leader of the USAF, precedence over all enlisted; position announced 1966, first held by Paul W. Airey (1967)
- First sergeant: SNCO special duty (diamond insignia), commander's advisor on the enlisted force
- Echelon ladder: MAJCOM -> NAF -> wing -> group -> squadron -> flight -> element; the squadron is the basic building block

## Saluting and customs quick rules

- Flag in procession: salute 6 paces before it passes, hold until 6 paces past; a folded (cased) flag gets no salute
- The U.S. flag is never dipped to any person or thing; union down only as a dire distress signal; never touches the ground
- Anthem outdoors in uniform: salute first note to last; indoors without headgear: attention, no salute; vehicles pull over and stop on base
- Pledge indoors in uniform: attention, silent, face the flag, no salute
- Junior member initiates the salute and greeting; Medal of Honor recipients are saluted as a mark of respect

## Military justice quick reference

- Article 15 (NJP): for minor offenses; consult SJA first; member has 72 hours to decide, may demand court-martial instead; proof standard is preponderance of the evidence; acceptance is a forum choice, not guilt
- Punishments: reduction in grade, forfeiture of pay, restriction, extra duties, correctional custody
- Summary court: one officer, non-criminal, member may object. Special: judge + 4 members or judge alone, confinement

up to 1 year. General: judge + 8 or more members (12 in capital cases), any lawful punishment

- Punitive articles: 77-134; Article 134 is the general article; jurisdiction = personal + subject-matter

### **Fitness assessment numbers**

- Composite 0-100: aerobic 60, muscular 20, core 20; order: body composition -> strength -> core -> cardio
- Excellent 90+ (retest 12 months if all components 90+); Satisfactory 75-89.99 (6 months); Unsatisfactory  $\leq 74.9$  or missed minimum (90 days)
- All events in a 3-hour same-day window; minimum 5-minute rest between; meeting bare minimums cannot reach 75

### **History timeline**

- Apr 1942 Doolittle Raid (B-25s off USS Hornet) · 26 Jul 1947 Truman signs National Security Act · 18 Sep 1947 USAF independent (first CSAF: Spaatz)
- 14 Oct 1947 Yeager breaks sound barrier (Bell X-1) · 8 Jul 1948 Esther Blake first woman in the USAF · 1948-49 Berlin Airlift (Operation Vittles)
- 1967 Airey first CMSAF · 1968 Etchberger's Medal of Honor action at Lima Site 85 · 1975 Red Flag begins at Nellis

### **Official sources**

- Department of the Air Force — Air Force Handbook 1, Airman (15 February 2025), Chapter 22 - Fitness and Readiness: [https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af\\_a1/publication/afh1/afh1.pdf](https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af_a1/publication/afh1/afh1.pdf)
- Department of the Air Force — Air Force Handbook 1, Airman (15 February 2025), Chapter 7 - Enlisted Force Development: [https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af\\_a1/publication/afh1/afh1.pdf](https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af_a1/publication/afh1/afh1.pdf)
- Department of the Air Force — Air Force Handbook 1, Airman (15 February 2025), Chapter 9 - Enlisted Promotions: [https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af\\_a1/publication/afh1/afh1.pdf](https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af_a1/publication/afh1/afh1.pdf)

---

Free practice questions for this exam: [www.everyexamprep.com/practice/exams/military/waps-pfe](http://www.everyexamprep.com/practice/exams/military/waps-pfe)