

AIR FORCE

**CAREER
PATHS**



Gregory L. Gross Col USAF (Ret) - Jeff Zeter



Express Publishing

Table of Contents

1

Chapter 1 – Aircraft Basics	Unit 1 – Parts of an Airplane	4-5
	Unit 2 – Parts of a Helicopter	6-7
	Unit 3 – Spatial Relationships	8-9
	Unit 4 – Radio Communication	10-11
Chapter 2 – On Base	Unit 5 – Rank Structure	12-13
	Unit 6 – Base Structures	14
	Unit 7 – NATO Organization	15-16
	Unit 8 – Military Organization	17-18
	Unit 9 – Training	19
	Unit 10 – Uniforms	20
Chapter 3 – Jobs	Unit 11 – Pilot	21-22
	Unit 12 – Air Traffic Control	23
	Unit 13 – Maintenance	24
	Unit 14 – Pararescue	25-26
	Unit 15 – Weather	27-28
Appendix	Glossary	29

2

Chapter 1 – Aircraft	Unit 1 – The Fighter Jet	4-5
	Unit 2 – UAVs	6-7
	Unit 3 – The Bomber	8-9
	Unit 4 – Cargo Airplanes	10-11
	Unit 5 – Gunships	12-13
	Unit 6 – Tankers	14-15
	Unit 7 – Reconnaissance Aircraft	16-17
	Unit 8 – Helicopters	18-19
	Unit 9 – Cruise Missiles	20-21
Chapter 2 – Operations	Unit 10 – Suppression of Enemy Air Defense	22-23
	Unit 11 – Humanitarian Operations	24-25
	Unit 12 – Counterterrorism Operations	26-27
	Unit 13 – Counter-drug Operations	29-29
	Unit 14 – Small Scale Contingencies	30-31
	Unit 15 – Close Air Support	32-33
Appendix	Glossary	34-37

3

Chapter 1 – Famous Units	Unit 1 – Fighter Unit	4-5
	Unit 2 – Bomber Unit	6-7
	Unit 3 – Search and Rescue	8-9
Chapter 2 – Targeting the Enemy	Unit 4 – Targets	10-11
	Unit 5 – Air-to-Air Missiles	12-13
	Unit 6 – Air-to-Surface Missiles	14-15
	Unit 7 – Surface-to-Air Missiles	16-17
	Unit 8 – Cannons	18-19
	Unit 9 – Anti-Ship and Anti-Submarine	20-21
Chapter 3 – Attack	Unit 10 – Centers of Gravity	22-23
	Unit 11 – Surprise Attack	24-25
	Unit 12 – Strategic Attack	26-27
	Unit 13 – Psychological Effects	29-29
	Unit 14 – Joint Air Attack Team	30-31
	Unit 15 – Phases of Attack	32-33
Appendix	Glossary	34-37

5 On Base: Rank Structure



The Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (left) talks to a Senior Airman

A recruit may hope to become a **general** someday, but he or she will start at the lowest **rank**. All enlisted airmen begin duty in the **airmen** tier. Eventually, they can work their way up to the **Noncommissioned Officer Tier**. Such a move requires more leadership and responsibility. Exceptional airmen can reach the highest level for enlisted airmen, the **Senior Noncommissioned Officer Tier**.

On the other hand, **officers** are commissioned, based on their education, experience and qualifications. They begin as **company grade officers**, who are either **lieutenants** or **captains**. Like airmen, officers also have potential to increase their rank. Officers who show the most promise become **field grade officers**, such as majors and colonels. A very select few become **flag officers**, or generals.

Comprehension

1 Read, listen, and mark the statements as true (T) or false (F). Correct the false statements.

- 1 Airmen start in the Noncommissioned Officer Tier.
.....
- 2 A captain is a senior noncommissioned officer.
.....
.....
- 3 Company grade officers are lower in rank than field grade officers.
.....

Vocabulary

2 List the types of rank, from highest to lowest.

Noncommissioned Officers
Senior Noncommissioned Officers
Company Grade Officer Flag Officers
Field Grade Officers Enlisted Airmen

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

INSIGNIA: Enlisted Ranks

Airman

(No insignia)

Airman Basic



Airman



Airman First Class

Noncommissioned Officers



Senior Airman



Staff Sergeant



Technical Sergeant

Senior Noncommissioned Officers



Master Sergeant



Senior Master Sergeant



Chief Master Sergeant



Command Chief Master Sergeant



Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

INSIGNIA: Officer Ranks

Company grade Officers



Second Lieutenant



First Lieutenant



Captain

Field grade Officers



Major



Lieutenant Colonel



Colonel

General Officers



Brigadier General



Major General



Lieutenant General



General

3 Label each insignia.



1



2



3



4



5

Listening

4 Listen to a conversation between an officer and an airman, and answer the questions.

1 What is the airman's new rank?

.....

2 Where will the airman transfer to?

.....

3 Why must the airman transfer?

.....

.....

Speaking

5 You are speaking to new recruits. Explain the difference between NCOs and commissioned officers.