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.

ALOs Lead the TACP

**Initial Training**

**ALO Screening Course:** ALOSC will screen 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 Air Operations Command and Control Course:** The JAOC2C will provide the 13L ALO an overview of the Operational Command and Control (C2) relationships pertinent to the ALOs role in C2 of airpower within the Theater Air Control System/Army Air-Ground System.

**Fire Support Coordinator Course:** The Army FSCOORD course will be the 13L ALO’s introduction to how the Army’s Fire Support planning processes function. This knowledge will be critical to the ALO’s function of integrating airpower into the Army’s combat maneuver planning.

**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.

**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 Duty IAW AFI 48-123 for 13LX Air Liaison Officer
- Have no speech impediment
- Have a valid driver’s license
- Obtain a Secret security clearance
- Be eligible for TS/SCI security clearance
- Be male (current DoD policy)
- Be a volunteer for hazardous duty

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.
ALOs lead from day-one!

He leads the enlisted TACP Airmen of his squadron, represents the Air Force to the Army, and is 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.

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

The ALO is expected to know about every system the Air Force has, and how to use them. His 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 thru Corps echelons in a coalition, joint, or interagency force. He provides 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. Manages 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).

Physical Requirements

Initial ALO training involves a highly demanding physical and mental training program of over four months that includes regular physical training events, obstacle course completion, and marching with 25-40 lb packs. Prior to being accepted you must successfully complete the TACP Physical Ability and Stamina Test. All candidates must meet the following minimum standards:

- Run: 1.5 miles in under 11:41
- Push-Ups: 39 push-ups in 1 minute
- Crunches: 45 crunches in 1 minute
- Pull-Ups: 2 pull-ups in 1 minute

Assignment Locations

Baumholder-Germany       Fort Benning-GA
Camp Casey-Korea          Fort Bliss-TX
Camp Humphries-Korea      Fort Bragg-NC
Camp Red Cloud-Korea      Fort Campbell-KY
Camp Ederle-Italy         Fort Carson-CO
Heidelberg-Germany        Fort Drum-NY
Hohenfels-Germany         Fort Hood-TX
Mannheim-Germany          Fort Irwin-CA
Vilseck-Germany           Fort Knox-KY
Wiesbaden-Germany         Fort Lewis-WA
Aviano AB-Italy           Fort Polk-LA
Osan AB-Korea             Fort Riley-KS
Ramstein AB-Germany       Fort Stewart-GA
Elmendorf AFB-AK          Fort Wainwright-AK
Hickam AFB-HI             Hunter AAF-GA
Hurlburt Field-FL         Wheeler AAF-HI
Langley AFB-VA
Moody AFB-GA
Nellis AFB-NV
Pentagon-DC
Shaw AFB-SC