

388th Training Instructions

388th Virtual Fighter Squadron

Instructions

132nd Virtual Wing



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388th Training Instructions

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# Introduction

Scope: This document describes necessary information for new 388th pilots. The document prescribes training required to ensure all 388th pilots attain and maintain the established training qualifications. The purpose of the document is to ensure that all pilots adhere to the same standards to improve realism during events and give all new pilots the necessary information to be successful through the training program.

Content: This document contains information about the requirements to join the 388th. Details regarding the training program. Expectations of standards while being a part of the squadron.

Pilot responsibility: Read these instructions closely. If you do not want to be a part of the squadron on these terms, please let any of the IP’s know. By starting training, you accept these instructions and are part of the squadron on these terms.

Deviations: 132nd Command Staff and 388th Instructor Pilots/Squadron Commander may approve deviations from this regulation, provided that the integrity of the training program is not compromised.

Recommended changes: Improvements and recommended changes to the training program (TRP) should be addressed to 388th Instructor Pilots or Squadron Commander.

# Abbreviations

**ACT:** Air Combat Tactics

**COMAO:** Composite Air Operations

**CT:** Continuation Training

**FLUG:** Flight Lead Upgrade

**IP:** Instructor Pilot

**IQT:** Initial Qualification Training

**MC:** Mission Commander

**MQT:** Mission Qualification Training

**P:** Pilot

**SAT:** Surface Attack Tactics

**SP:** Student Pilot

**TR:** Trainee

**TRP:** Training Program

**UP:** Upgrade pilot

# Definitions

**ACT:** Air Combat Tactics. Air-to-Air<(A-A) combat and tactics as part of a flight

**COMAO:** Composite Air Operations is the term used when dissimilar types of aircraft interact in coordinated actions to achieve defined military objectives within a given time and geographical area. It normally involves: 6-30 aircraft. Also see package.

**Conversion course:** A conversion course for 132nd F/A-18C pilots.

**FLUG:** Flight Lead Upgrade. Either an upgrade, or part of an official upgrade,

**MC: Mission Commander**: A commander leading a COMAO with delegated execution authority to make on-scene decisions that exploit opportunities in complex rapidly changing or fluid situations.

**Opposed SAT:** A-G attacks with a A-A aspect.

**Package:** A group of two or more flights with the same overall mission and commanded by a Package Commander, also known as Mission Commander. (For example, a Strike flight supported by SEAD and Sweep flights.)

**SAT:** Surface Attack Tactics. Air-to-Ground (A-G) attacks and tactics as part of a flight.

**Student Pilot:** An MQT graduated pilot going through continuation training. Is used to show who the primary training audience is for in a lesson in the CT TRP.

**Trainee:** A new 388th pilot going through IQT and MQT.

# Requirements to start training in the 388th

## New trainees

All trainees must:

* Be able to conduct Air-to-Air refuelling without issues:
  + Navigating to the tanker using TACAN.
  + Communicate with the tanker.
  + Fly formation with the tanker.
  + Take fuel, a minimum of 8000Ibs.
* Dedicate appropriate time to conduct their training.
* Demonstrate a willingness to self-study for the appropriate lessons in the training program.
* Commit to regularly (but not always) prepare for and participate in weekly sessions held on Wednesdays and Sundays at 1800z.

## 494th Pilots

Only MQ pilots from the 494th will be accepted into the conversion course, provided that they meet the hours requirement to join another squadron.

It should be noted that if a converting pilot is not deemed to meet the standard required by the 388th, they may be asked to revisit certain other lessons from the 388th TRP until such a time that they are able to demonstrate the required competence in the F-16C.

# General regulations

## Self Qualification (SQ)

‘Self Qualification’ or SQ lessons are intended to be conducted without an Instructor Pilot. For Initial Qualification Training (IQT), all SQ lessons are to be conducted offline, not connected to the 132nd Virtual Wing Server. Once a student pilot achieves IQT status by completing the required lessons and check-rides, they may begin to conduct SQ lessons connected to the server in a multiplayer environment.

SQ lessons may be flown alone, or they can be flown with other pilots in the MQT phase. Items from SQ lessons will be assessed in future lessons with an Instructor Pilot.

Trainees joining the 388th must ensure that all required SQ lessons are completed before signing up for an IP mandatory flight. Failure to demonstrate the required level of knowledge when attending an IP mandatory flight may result in being asked to re-fly a SQ lesson or being removed from the training program.

## IP Lessons

All lessons listed as “IP” are mandatory to be flown with an IP. These lessons will teach you everything you need to know and operate safely on the 132nd MP server and give you the basics to continue training without an instructor.

Instructor time is one of the scarcest resources we have, and everyone attending IP lessons needs to be prepared and this will include an element of self-study and self-briefing. IP lessons will also be used to verify that the pilot has the correct knowledge from the self-qualification lessons.

**How to request IP lessons:**

Simply make sure you have self-qualified in the required training missions for the IP lesson you wish to fly and sign up on any training event. When signed up, write in the event chatter/state intentions that you are looking for an IP flight within the 388th. The event host will then assign you an IP (if IPs are available) to a flight, and you will get instructions and additional information from the IP in the flight chatter (available by clicking on your assigned flight’s tasking number in the event page, typically “TR” and a four digit number).

## Progress / pace through training program

The 132nd normally hosts a minimum of 8 multiplayer events per month. It is expected that any new pilot in the 388th is available for a minimum of 4 multiplayer training events in a month. In addition, it is also expected that any new 388th pilot is available to conduct several self-qualification and practice flights offline to gain the necessary skills needed to progress through the training program.

We understand that real life has priority and pilots might have unanticipated real-life obligations that prevent attendance in the training program for a shorter or longer term. If the trainee understands that he is not able to achieve the expected rate of progress, he should immediately let the IPs of the squadron know and give a best assessment of his availability for the next months. IPs may be able to conduct events at times other than official 132nd training events to mitigate for the real-life incursion. In any case the 388th IPs will decide if the expected and experienced activity level is sufficient for continuing through the training based on demand for training places in the 388th and IP availability.

Failure to notify IPs of drop of activity will lead to removal from the squadron.

The activity level requirement is required to ensure that pilots that intend to fly the F-16C as their primary module are given priority, and that the squadron get pilots through the training program in a reasonable pace.

The activity requirement is active from the start of the training until graduating as a 2ship Flight Lead.

There is a total of 12 multiplayer events that need to be conducted as part of the training program, 6 of them with an instructor. The various lessons are broken down like this:

* 5 events in Initial Qualification Training and Mission Qualification Training. All lessons are flown with an IP.
* 7 events in Continuation Training:
  + 3x ACT (ACT-3 DCA CAP, ACT-4 OCA SWEEP, ACT-5 OCA Escort)
  + 3x SAT (SAT- 3 FL training, SAT-4 Armed Reconnaissance, SAT-5 Close Air Support)
  + ACT and SAT lessons can be flown with another MQ pilot or an IP as described in the lesson.
  + 2ship FLUG (SAT-7 Opposed SAT) Flown with an IP.

Expected time from starting training until graduating as a 2ship flight lead: **3 months.** It is possible to graduate a lot sooner based on availability and initiative from pilots.

## Standards

The 388th expect pilots to adhere to the following:

1. Flight leads will always to submit a flight-plan on the event page on the 132nd website.
2. Flight lead will ensure that an MDC (Mission Data Card) is produced for the flight.
3. Pilots will demonstrate initiative to conduct self-qualification training during the continuation training phase.
4. Pilots will demonstrate initiative to conduct training, particularly when no organised training is setup by the event host, or from 388th IPs.
5. All pilots starting training will, where possible, complete the training program including 2ship FLUG within the timeframe stated in section 2.3.
6. All pilots are expected to progress the training toward 4ship FLUG and Mission Commander.
7. The goal for all 388th pilots is to become 4ship FL and Mission Commander qualified.

## Failure to follow standards or expected progress

Pilots failing to demonstrate the standards or achieve the progress described in section 2.3 and 2.4 will be removed from the 388th and will not be able to fly the F-16C on events hosted by the 132nd. Prior to a decision for removal from the squadron a formal warning will be given by one of the squadron IPs.

The decision to give a warning and decision to remove someone from the squadron will be coordinated and agreed upon by the squadron IPs by a majority voting. NOTE: receiving Q- is **not** regarded as a failure of the pilot to follow the progress needed in the training program. Only a U is regarded as a failure to meet the required standard, and the pilot will need to obtain at least a Q- before being able to proceed.

## Qualification levels

The 388th have 5 qualification levels for F-16C pilots:

* **Trainee (TR):** Pilot going through IQT and MQT
* **Mission Qualified (MQ):** Pilot graduated from MQT and cleared to fly as wingman on combat missions. During training missions any MQ pilot can fly as Fligh Lead, as this is part of the continuation training towards becoming qualified as a FL on combat missions.
* **Flight Lead (FL):** Pilot graduated FLUG and cleared to fly 2-ship or 4-ship formation lead during combat missions.
* **Mission Commander (MC):** Pilot graduated MC upgrade and cleared to lead COMAO (packages)
* **Instructor Pilot (IP):** Pilot cleared to teach any 388th pilot any part of the 388th Training Program.

In addition, the 388th has two additional roles that can be qualified for:

* Aggressor Pilot
* Forward Air Controller (Airborne), FAC(A)

# Grading

For each lesson the IP will fill out an overall grade together with comments on how the lesson went and areas of improvement.

The overall grades should be understood as follows:

* **BLANK:** Lesson not flown.
* **(U) Unqualified:** Unsatisfactory performance. The pilot is either dangerous or well below program standards and requires additional training. The IP will fill in the instructor feedback and provide details on what the pilot needs to work on.
* **(Q-) Qualified minus:** Fair performance. The pilot is below program standards. The pilot can progress the training program, but there are elements that the pilot needs to train and focus extra on. The IP will fill in the instructor feedback and provide details on what the pilot needs to work on.
* **(Q) Qualified:** Good performance. The pilot is progressing according to standards, or exceeding standards.

# 4. Training programs

## 4.1 Initial Qualification Training (IQT)

Training to qualify pilots in basic aircraft flying duties without specific regard to 388th missions:

* The goal of IQT is aircraft familiarization, basic flight and systems training, enabling the trainee to operate the aircraft and its’ systems independently. IQT provides a basis for further solo practice.
* This phase consists of several self-qualification lessons that need to be completed before the first flight with an IP. In IQT there is only 1 flight with an instructor (COM-01), which will give the pilot the skills needed to operate on the 132nd server in a safe way. This means that an IQ pilot can sign up and fly in training events to practice their skills and fly SQ lessons as required.



## Mission Qualification Training (MQT)

Training required to achieve a basic level of competence as wingman in the 388th:

* The goal of MQT is to train skills that enable the pilot to more effectively support his squadron during operations, e.g. proper communications, lead/wing tactical maneuvering, weapons employment, joint operations and tactics. MQT provides the minimum skill needed to operate in a combat mission and gives the foundation to continue training in CT.
* This phase consists of 4 IP mandatory flights, covering tactical formations and turns, within visual range combat and beyond visual range combat, in addition to the MQT checkout. In addition to the IP mandatory flight, there is one SAT lesson that is to be flown with another MQ pilot or IP, covering Surface Attack Tactics.

## Continuation Training

Additional training to improve capability while preparing for check-out as 2ship Flight Lead:

* This phase is about undertaking additional training in tactics and weapon employment, while building flight hours to gain experience both in combat missions as a WM, and on training as a FL or WM. The aim of the continuation training is to build confidence and experience in the various missions in the 388th and progress through the training to become a qualified flight lead, 4ship flight lead and mission commander.
* Continuation training is separated into 4 parts. The first part is a self-qualification phase for weapons, avionics, sensors and items not covered during the IQT and MQT.
* The next parts are Air Combat Tactics (ACT) and Surface Attack Tactics (SAT). They can be flown in either order. The last part is Suppression of Enemy Air Defences (SEAD). In order to conduct SEAD training, a pilot in the 388th needs to have completed 2ship Flight Lead Upgrade (2 ship FLUG).
* Air Combat Tactics (ACT) contains 4 different lessons placing the student pilot in various A-A mission types: CAP, Sweep, Escort, QRA.
* Surface Attack Tactics (SAT) contains 4 different lessons placing the student pilot in various A-G mission types: CAS, AR, SCAR.
* SEAD will be developed later.

## Upgrades

Various checkouts flown with IPs to verify that a student pilot has the required knowledge to fill additional functions in the 388th.

### 2Ship Flight Lead Upgrade (2FLUG)

The 2ship flight lead upgrade is flown as a single event and is labelled as SAT-7: Opposed SAT:

* The mission is flown as a strike mission, where potential threats are A-A and A-G and the flight lead (Student pilot) will plan and conduct a strike, where the target potentially is protected by enemy air and/or SAMs.
* In order to qualify as a flight lead, a student pilot needs to have completed ACT-3, -4 and -5 and SAT-3, -4 and -5 prior to conducting SAT-7.

Once SAT-7 is conducted and passed, the student pilot will be a qualified 2ship flight lead in the 388th.

### 4.4.2. 4ship Flight Lead Upgrade (4FLUG)

The 4ship flight lead upgrade is conducted over two separate events:

* **Event 1 is SAT-8:** Opposed SAT with a 4 ship. A strike with potential threats of both A-A and A-G, where the student pilot as flight lead will plan and execute a strike which are protected by enemy air and /or SAMs.
* **Event 2: is ACT 7:** DCA CAP with a 4ship. A Combat Air Patrol in a designated area using 4 ship tactics.

Once both events are completed and passed (can be taken in any order), the student pilot is qualified as a 4ship flight lead in the 388th.

### 4.4.3. FAC(A)

The FAC(A) upgrade is for pilots wanting to be able to support CAS operations doing FAC(A) duty:

* The checkout is conducted flying SAT-10 Forward Air Controller (Airborne).

Once SAT-10 is conducted and passed, the student pilot will be a qualified FAC(A) in the 388th, and can support CAS operations for any squadrons in the 132nd.

### 4.4.4. Aggressor Pilot

To be developed later.

### 4.4.5. Mission Commander

The Mission Commander upgrade is the highest qualification a 388th pilot have, and is conducted over two separate events:

* **Event 1:** SAT 9, which is an Air Interdiction strike package with minimum 3 flights (Strike, SEAD and Escort/Sweep) into enemy territory. The package will consist of different types of aircrafts.
* **Event 2:** ACT-8, which is a DCA CAP mission, where the CAP package is tasked to protect 2 different Fighter Areas of Responsibility (FAOR). The package consists of 3 DCA CAP flights supported by an AAR tanker.

Once both events are completed and passed (can be taken in any order), the student pilot is qualified as a Mission Commander in the 388th.

### 4.4.6. Instructor Pilot

To be developed later.