

AFSC 13M4, Staff
AFSC 13M3, Qualified
AFSC 13M1, Entry

AIRFIELD OPERATIONS
(Changed 30 Apr 22)

1. Specialty Summary. Performs and leads airfield operations (AO) functions of, air traffic control (ATC), airfield management (AM), Air Traffic Control and Landing Systems (ATCALS), and airspace management within the National Airspace System (NAS), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and combat environments. Advises commanders on the effective use of AO assets. Provides AO staff leadership, supervision and technical assistance. Develops, formulates, and implements plans, policies and programs for executing Air Force (AF) AO responsibilities and activities. Supports civil aviation responsibilities in compliance with Public Law 85-726. Related DOD Occupational Group: 220700.

2. Duties and Responsibilities:

- 2.1. Trains, establishes standards, and conducts operational evaluations in order to manage unit training and performance standards to ensure airfield operations personnel possess required job skills. Oversees Program Element Code (PEC) funding account and submits Program Objective Memorandum (POM) requests for funds when required.
- 2.2. Performs ATC tasks and functions and provides oversight of ATC services. Services include radar approach control, ground control approach, radar final control, and control tower operations. Develops operational procedures and monitors their implementation for improving operations and/or maintaining a safe flying environment. Develops agreements between facilities and with other local agencies to define standards of performance. Maintains close liaison with lateral Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), ICAO, or host nation officials to negotiate and coordinate changes affecting ATC services and operations. Coordinates with FAA and military flight inspection agencies, ATC and ATCALS maintenance, flying units, and other affected agencies concerning flight inspection activities. Trains, establishes standards, and conducts operational evaluations in order to manage unit training and performance standards to ensure airfield operations personnel possess required job skills.
- 2.3. Performs AM tasks and functions and provides oversight of AM and airfield management operations (AMOPS). Makes recommendations and takes action on matters that affect the content and character of policy statements and instructions involving airfield environment. Conducts analysis to determine optimum siting of equipment and facilities within the airfield environment or those equipment and/or facilities that may present hazards to aviation safety. Performs airfield inspections and collaborates on contracts to ensure optimal airfield and runway status. Ensures flight planning and airfield advisory services adequately support military and civil airfield users. Provides functional expertise and input for activating, employing or deactivating airfield systems including AO facilities and navigational aids.
- 2.4. Performs RAWS tasks and functions and provides oversight of RAWS maintenance operations. Ensures home-based and deployable NAVAIDS, radar(s), weather, and radio equipment are mission capable. Guarantees a safe working environment, provides job safety training, and equips personnel with proper safety gear. Ensures RAWS equipment is tested to technical order standards and is fixed when off the minimum tolerance levels. Tracks RAWS outages and prioritizes repairs based on mission demands and priorities. Develops procedures for RAWS restoral and recommends restoral priorities. Coordinates with higher headquarters for Engineering & Installation (E&I) support.
- 2.5. Performs oversight of civil and military airspace utilization to review, redesign, and optimize airspace leveraging new technologies, equipage, infrastructure, and procedural development to maximize benefits and system efficiencies within the NAS, ICAO, and host nation airspace structure. Works to ensure all supported airspace redesign, both enroute and terminal airspace, is conducted in a manner that reflects optimal benefits to the widest variety of aviation stakeholders, conforming with environmental and safety requirements. Authors airspace management agreements with sister services, allied forces, and civil authorities to ensure the safe and effective operation of civil and military air traffic. Provides technical expertise to increase combat effectiveness by promoting the safe, efficient, and flexible use of airspace in a combat environment to reduce the risk of friendly fire, enhance air defense operations, and permit greater flexibility of operations. Uses current US national military objectives and assigned missions to develop procedures supporting multinational operations ensuring compatibility and interoperability of support systems.

3. Specialty Qualifications:

- 3.1. Knowledge. Knowledge is mandatory of: ATC procedures and techniques; AO planning and programming; aircraft accident and incident reporting and investigation procedures; hazardous air traffic report procedures (HATR); airspace management utilization and planning principles; federal and international rule-making actions; environmental requirements which apply to AO management; management of mobile assets and unit type code taskings for AO; AMPOS functions; AM functions; RAWS maintenance structure, operations, and sustainment; principles of meteorology; airfield and airspace criteria; radio interference reporting procedures; flight inspection of navigational aids and AO facilities procedures; theater air control system functions and operations and combat airspace management; and ICAO, FAA, and notice-to-airman (NOTAM) procedures.

3.2. Education. For entry education requirements see [Appendix A, 13M CIP Education Matrix](#).

3.3. Training. For award of AFSC 13M3, completion of the Airfield Operations Officer Initial Skills Training (IST) course (E3OBR13M1 XXXX).

3.4. Staff (13M4): Is awarded to officers in planning and policy making positions above the wing level. Staff positions require the same skills as those for the Qualified AFSC, but applied to developing broad policies, plans, and procedures.

3.5. Other.

3.5.1. For entry and retention of this specialty, physical qualification for Ground Based Control (Air Traffic Control) duty according to AFI 48-123, *Medical Examinations and Standards*, is mandatory.

3.5.2. For award of AFSC 13M3, completion of Mission Qualification Training (MQT) IAW Airfield Operations Officer Training Program (AFI 13-204, Volume 1, *Airfield Operations Career Field Development*) is mandatory.

3.5.3. Award Experience Set Landing Zone (LZ): The Landing Zone course provides advanced training for individuals filling, or selected to fill, deployment positions where they are required to perform landing zone duties. Students who graduate this course will operate in contested & non-contested environments. The Exp Set LZ will be awarded based on completion of formal training and experience performing specific duties. The Landing Zone course is designed for US Airfield Operations Personnel with 13M-Airfield Operations Officers, along with Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve personnel. In order to obtain the Exp Set LZ, Airmen shall complete the following criteria and proficiency: a. Certification of training from CCT/AMLO. b. Certification of training from the 435th TRS, Scott AFB. c. Certification of training from the 435th CRS, Ramstein LZSO course prior to 1 July 2021 and has conducted LZSO operations in the last three (3) years.

NOTE: For training outside of 435th TRS Scott AFB, final approval authority for SEI award will reside with the 13M Career Field Manager; CFM will determine if trained individuals met the appropriate requirements. d. LZSO certification letter signed by a squadron commander or higher.