

AFSC 12U4\*, Staff  
 AFSC 12U3\*, Qualified  
 AFSC 12U1\*, Entry/Student

**REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT (RPA)**  
**(Changed 31 Oct 12, Effective 27 Aug 12)**

**1. Specialty Summary.** Operates specialized mission aircraft and commands flight crews to accomplish reconnaissance, surveillance, combat, training, and other missions. Related DoD Occupational Group: 220100.

**2. Duties and Responsibilities:**

- 2.1. Plans and prepares for mission. Reviews mission tasking, intelligence, and weather information. Supervises mission planning, equipment configuration, and crew briefing. Ensures ground station and aircraft are preflighted, inspected, loaded, and equipped for mission.
- 2.2. Operates aircraft and commands the crew. Operates aircraft controls and equipment. Performs, supervises, or directs navigation, surveillance, reconnaissance, and weapons employment operations.
- 2.3. Conducts or supervises training of crewmembers. Ensures operational readiness of crew by conducting or supervising mission specific training.
- 2.4. Develops plans and policies, monitors operations, and advises commanders. Assists commanders and performs staff functions related to this specialty.

**3. Specialty Qualifications:**

- 3.1. Knowledge. Knowledge is mandatory of theory of flight, air navigation, meteorology, flying directives, aircraft operating procedures, and mission tactics.
- 3.2. Education. For entry into this specialty, an undergraduate degree specializing in physical sciences, mathematics, administration, or management is desirable.
- 3.3. Training. For award of AFSC 12U3X, completion of transition and operational training in the suffix specific aircraft is mandatory.
- 3.4. Experience. For upgrade to AFSC 12U3X, unit commander determines proficiency based on performance, experience, and completion of minimum training requirements.
- 3.5. Other. The following are mandatory as indicated:
  - 3.5.1. For award and retention of this AFSC:
    - 3.5.1.1. Qualification for air vehicle operator duty according to AFI 48-123, *Medical Examinations and Standards*.
    - 3.5.1.2. Current aeronautical rating and no permanent disqualification for aviation service as CSO.
  - 3.5.2. For award of AFSC 12U3X, certification of aircraft commander qualification by appropriate operations authority.

**4. \*Specialty Shredouts:**

<i>Suffix</i>	<i>Portion of AFS to Which Related</i>
A	MQ-1
B	MQ-9
C	RQ-4
E	RQ-170
S	Special Operations
U	Air Liaison Officer
Y	General
Z	Other