



INSIDER TIPS TO KNOW

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES
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- What aircraft should I put on my dream sheet in pilot training? My advice is to look beyond the cool new aircraft and the shiny new things. It's my experience that the allure of the new aircraft wears off soon (like that new car that you may have spent your loan on). What quickly becomes important are the people that you work with, the mission that you're doing, and the lifestyle that you want to lead. I would ask all of your pilot training instructors and anyone else that you can about what life is really like in the airframes that you're considering. The things that will keep you excited are going to work with people that you like, doing a mission that you're passionate about while maintaining a work life balance that you can sustain. There are people in every airframe, from the oldest to the newest that are doing incredible things.
- How do I get the aircraft that I want out of pilot training? Be humble, be prepared, be a team player. Pilot training, as will be the rest of your career, is a team event. You will not do anything on your own. Your buddies, peers, and mentors will help you and shape your life in incredible ways. There will be things in pilot training that you will struggle with and things that you will strive through. If you help those around you with what you're good at, they will turn around and help you when you need it. In the end everyone will be stronger and better for it. Also, your peers and leadership have a say in your overall ranking. Your overall ranking directly affects what airframe you get. Plus, the friends that you make in pilot training may stick with you for the rest of your career.
- What if I get sick when I fly? Don't worry about it. I got sick for a long time. People kept telling me that it would just go away one day. Well, they have programs and treatments to get you through some motion sickness in the beginning stages of pilot training. Then, like they said, one day my body got used to it and I no longer got sick.

- What should I do if I want to be an astronaut? I know that this may seem random, but I just applied for the next astronaut class and here's what advice I've received: 1. Do some research and make sure that you meet the minimums. Specifically make sure that you have a bachelors (already done) and Masters in a STEM field 2. Pick something in your career that you are passionate about and do your best. When they look for people they look for well-rounded people that are pursuing things with passion.
- Why did I choose to fly HH-60Gs? I really love the mission. I have no problem pointing the business end of a missile or bomb at an enemy and pulling the trigger, but I'm much more excited about being the mission that is tasked with bringing everyone home. I also think that the flying is unique and pure. We're down low (about 50-100 feet above the ground) and we don't have fly-by-wire systems. So, when I'm on the controls, I'm controlling the aircraft as I watch the world flyby up close.