



South Carolina Air National Guard
157th Fighter Squadron
1325 South Carolina Road
McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina 29044



FY26 UPT Applicant Questionnaire

Please answer the following application questions and submit with your initial application. Aim for clear, specific answers. You don't need to write essays – just give us enough detail to understand your perspective and how you think. 250 words is generally sufficient. Responses should reflect your own experience and voice. Be honest. If you haven't faced a particular situation don't force it, explain how you'd approach it instead.

1. Tell us about a time where a peer, not a supervisor, criticized your performance. How did you respond in the moment, and what did you do afterward to improve?

2. Success as a fighter pilot comes from years of consistent study and preparation to refine your craft. Tell us about a goal you've accomplished or skill you've developed over a multi-year timeline. What preparation was critical to your success, and how did you stay disciplined when you were tempted to cut corners?

3. Tactical aviation is dynamic. No two missions are the same, and fighter pilots constantly assess, prioritize, and make decisions in unexpected environments. Describe an unfamiliar situation where you faced multiple competing tasks or priorities. How did you decide what to do first, and what guided your decision-making?

4. Becoming an F-16 pilot is a demanding process that requires determination to overcome obstacles. Successful military officers work through roadblocks to ensure mission accomplishment. Please share a situation where achieving a goal required overcoming multiple unexpected obstacles or setbacks. How did you specifically keep yourself moving forward when the situation got challenging?

5. Tell us about a time when you made a mistake but were the only one to notice. Why did you step forward, and what did you do to make things right?

6. List and define your three core values in order of personal importance. For one of them, describe a specific time you lived that value under pressure, then explain how the same value fuels your desire to fly fighters in the Air National Guard.

7. Our squadron is made up of full- and part-time pilots. Clearly describe your professional goals over the next 4 - 7 years and then beyond 7 years. Why do you see yourself pursuing those goals with our unit?