



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY AVIATION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
2218 6th Avenue
FORT RUCKER ALABAMA 36362-5105

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

ATZQ-CDF-P

27 November 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD.

SUBJECT: Policy Memorandum for the Selection Instrument for Flight Training (SIFT).

1. Purpose. This memorandum is intended to give general information about the SIFT, and will be utilized as the regulatory reference regarding testing policies and procedures until such time as the DA PAM 611-256-2 "SIFT Information Pamphlet", now in development, is published.

2. Discussion.

a. Army Aviation requires candidates with special abilities, high motivation, good coordination, leadership skills, and excellent physical condition. It is necessary to screen aviation applicants to insure selection panels accept only those persons with the capabilities and aptitude to succeed in flight school.

b. The SIFT is not an intelligence test. Instead, it measures those special aptitudes and personality/background characteristics that are predictive of success in Army helicopter flight training. The SIFT assesses familiarity with mechanical concepts and simple machines, and the ability to determine the orientation of an aircraft in 3-dimensional space. The SIFT also measures an examinee's knowledge of aircraft components and functions, knowledge of basic aerodynamic principles, and a grasp of basic flight rules and regulations. These concepts have proven to be excellent predictors of training performance. Examinees that enter the flight program with some level of basic knowledge in these areas are more likely to succeed as aviators.

c. Your application for flight training will be given further consideration only if your SIFT score is equal to or higher than the cut score. Once you meet the cut score (qualifying score) *you may not* retest. It is to your advantage to score as high as you can on this test. If you fail to achieve a qualifying score, you must wait six (6) months before your commander can authorize a retest. If you fail to achieve a qualifying score on the retest, you *will not* be authorized to take the test again.

d. The SIFT is administered at Military Entrance Processing Stations (MEPS), U.S. Army Education Centers, ROTC units at major universities, and other select Army personnel testing centers.

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The test is administered in a web-based format using the Automated Pilot Exam (APEX) test delivery platform. When you go in to take the SIFT, you will take the test on an authorized computer workstation. You will receive detailed instructions on selecting your answers for each test section.

e. The SIFT features a mix of fixed and adaptive test questions depending on the subtest and examinees are expected to complete all questions within the allotted time. Examinees are encouraged to work as rapidly as possible without losing accuracy. If time is expiring, examinees are advised to rule out poor answer choices on a given question and make educated guesses, as answers left blank will be scored as incorrect. The SIFT exam takes approximately 2.5 hours to administer in its entirety. This timeframe includes Examinee registration and a 15-minute break. The individual time limits for each subtest are as follows:

- Simple Drawings – 2 minutes
- Hidden Figures – 5 minutes
- Army Aviation Information – 30 minutes
- Spatial Apperception – 10 minutes
- Reading Comprehension Test – 30 minutes
- Math Skills Test – 40 minutes
- Mechanical Comprehension Test – 15 minutes

3. This policy memorandum will remain in effect until the DA PAM for SIFT is published. Frequently asked questions regarding the SIFT can be answered at the U.S. Army Recruiting Command (USAREC) Warrant Officer Recruiting website, at www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant/sift.

4. The Proponent for SIFT/point of contact is Organization and Personnel Force Development (ATZQ-CDF-P), ATTN: CW5 Richard Ayers (334) 255-1419, DSN: 558-1419; email: richard.b.ayers2.mil@mail.mil



JOHN F. BOWD
COL, AV

Director, Organization & Personnel
Force Development Directorate