



89th Airlift Wing Executive Mission Aviator (EMA)

INFORMATIONAL PACKET

The World's Most Elite Executive Airlift Team: Executive Mission Aviator

Are you seeking a career that blends prestige, purpose, and adventure? Are you self-motivated with exceptional talent? If so, then apply to become an Executive Mission Aviator (EMA) no matter what your AFSC! You will fly the Air Force's only blue and white aircraft transporting the Vice President, the First Lady, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War, the Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, along with other top government officials, and senior military leaders. Our missions advance national interests by delivering diplomacy and deterrence across the globe.



Why We Exist: Keep the Government Moving

Our mission maintains the heartbeat of government operations in ensuring leadership continuity, readiness, and security on a global scale. We enable:

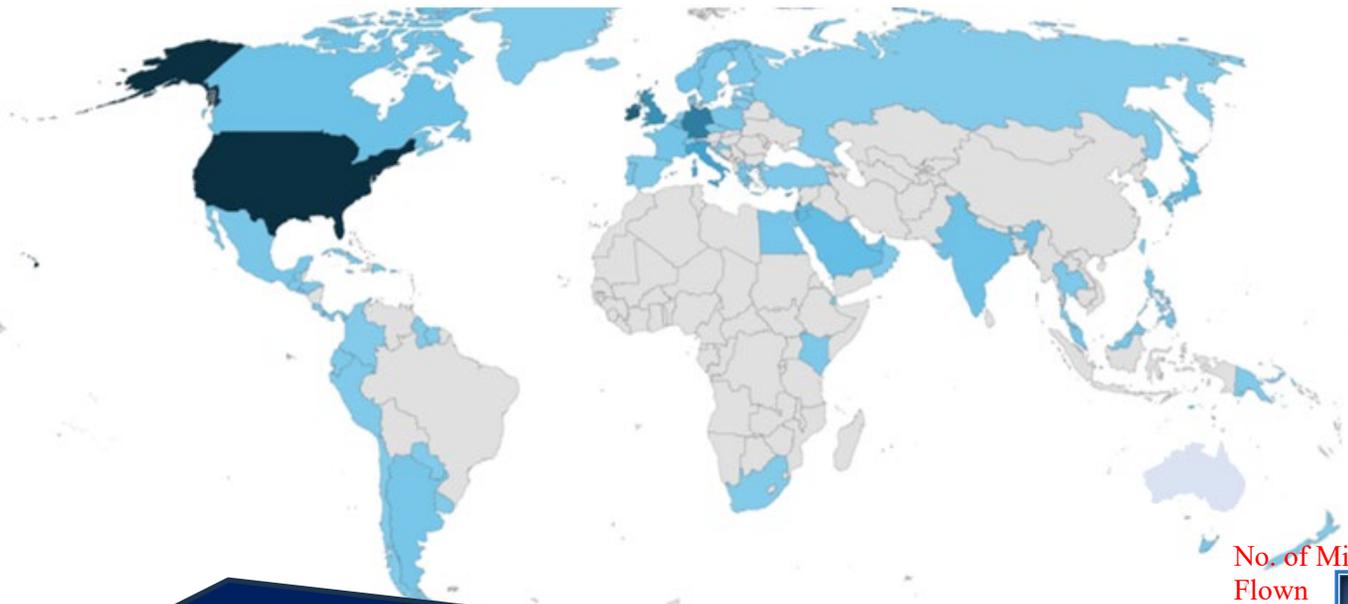
Continuity of Operations (COOP): Guarantees government agencies can operate through natural disasters, attacks, or emergencies.

Nuclear Command and Control Communications (NC3): Supports secure communication systems vital to national defense.

Continuity of Government (COG): Keeps leadership functional during crises.

Presidential Line of Succession: Ensures that the personnel in the Line of Succession can have power transferred to them even while flying (e.g., Lyndon B. Johnson's historic swearing-in aboard our aircraft).





WHERE WE OPERATE

While our home is out of America's Airfield at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, our presence is felt globally.

In 2025 the 89th Airlift Wing:
 Flew 948 Diplomatic Missions.
 Visited 86 Countries.
 Flew over 3.36 Million Miles.
 Logged over 8,900 Flight Hours.

Other notable missions from 2022 to 2025:

- Flew the President of Ukraine under the cover of darkness to the United States
- Flew the Secretary of State to Israel four days after the terror attacks
- Repatriated several Americans from numerous countries
- Flew an alert mission to Moscow
- Flew a C-40B across the North Pole
- Flew the 49th Vice President during her presidential campaign
- Flew former Presidents for President Carter's funeral
- Flew former Presidents for the Presidential Inauguration
- Flew the Vice President who escorted a high visibility dignified transfer with national implications
- Flew missions directly supporting the peace agreement between Israel and Hamas



OUR FLYING SQUADRONS

The 89th Operations Group contains two premier flying organizations.



99th Airlift Squadron (99 AS)
C-37A/B aircraft



1st Airlift Squadron (1 AS)
C-32A and C-40B aircraft



At the 89th, crews operate under the intense glare of the national and international media while maintaining safe, comfortable, and reliable transportation for our VIPs. There are few symbols that represent American diplomacy better than the blue and whites of the United States Air Force. It's a flying national monument.

What is an Executive Mission Aviator (EMA)?

An EMA is a multi-skilled, highly trained professional who ensures that every flight supporting our nation's leaders is safe, secure, and seamless. EMAs are the professionals who make the impossible possible. They combine expertise, discipline, and composure to execute high-stakes missions flawlessly. This elite role combines three Air Force specialties into one integrated position under AFSC 1A1X8: **Flight Engineer (FE)**, **Communication Systems Operator (CSO)**, and **Flight Attendant (FA)**.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1st Airlift Squadron (C-32A / C-40B): 1A1X8A and 1A1X8B

99th Airlift Squadron (C-37): 1A1X8C, 1A1X8D, and 1A1X8F

Suffix	Primary Aircraft
A	C-32/C-40 Flight Attendant
B	C-32/C-40 Communications Systems Operator
C	C-37 Flight Attendant
D	C-37 Flight Engineer
F	C-37 Communications Systems Operator

INITIAL TRAINING PIPELINE:

Aircrew Fundamentals.....Lackland AFB (33 academic days)
 EMA Center of Excellence (COE).....Lackland AFB (23 academic days)
 Survival, Evasion, Resistance & Escape (SERE).....Fairchild AFB (2 weeks)
 FTU Course.....Joint Base Andrews (depends on shred)

EMA FOLLOW-ON LOCATIONS:

JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii

Ramstein Air Base, Germany

The 89th Operations Group at JB Andrews is typically the first assignment location with potential follow-on locations:

*Scott AFB is exclusively for Flight Attendants.
 **Offutt Air Force Base falls under Air Force Global Strike Command and has a separate hiring process.



Scott AFB, Illinois*

Offutt AFB, Nebraska **

The Air National Guard Unit and the Reserve Unit have their own hiring process.

201st Airlift Squadron: DC ANG – JB Andrews

73rd Airlift Squadron: AFRC unit – Scott AFB



EMA SPECIALTIES

Roles and Responsibilities

Communications Systems Operator (CSO): 1A1X8B & 1A1X8F



RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide real-time communication
- Operate and maintain Communication Suite
- Coordinate with external agencies including the White House switch board
- Ensure constant, reliable connectivity
 - Phone calls (secure/unsecure)
 - Radio
 - Video Teleconferencing (VTC)
 - Wi-Fi
 - Entertainment
- Manage classified information flow and materials
- Maintain M18 Weapons Qualification
- Secure crew lodging and transportation
- Guarantee seamless communication under ANY conditions



Flight Attendant (FA): 1A1X8A and 1A1X8C



RESPONSIBILITIES

Safety

- Emergency Procedures
- In-Flight Emergencies
- Fire Fighting
- First Aid

Baggage Loading/Handling

- Customs Forms and Processing
- Plan/Prep In-Flight Meals
- Passenger Comfort & Hospitality
- Ensure the DV is ready to take on diplomacy upon landing

EGRESS TRAINING

1 AS: Atlas Air in Miami, FL

99 AS: Flight Safety International in Savannah, GA

CULINARY TRAINING

1 AS: In-House Training with Executive Chefs

99 AS: Davinci Inflight Training Institute in Miami, FL

Flight Engineer (FE) 1A1X8D

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Pre and Post Flight Inspections
- Airfield Analysis
- Normal and Emergency Checklists
- Takeoff and Landing Data
- Enroute Maintenance / Servicing
- Aircraft Systems Expert

TRAINING

GV/G550 Training at Flight Safety International
 Savannah, GA Long Beach, CA
 Dallas, TX Wilmington, DE

****Pilot & Maintenance Course where FEs can earn Gulfstream Master Tech Qualification****



BENEFITS OF BEING AN EMA ... A CAREER LIKE NO OTHER

Becoming an EMA offers unparalleled experiences, privileges, and opportunities for both personal and professional growth

CCAF Credits:

Aviation Operations



EMPLOYED IN PLACE:

No deployments.
Voluntary deployments, if requested.
Deployed countries are visited for overnights or short stay due to mission requirements

TRAVEL:

Our aircraft are modified to business-class jets for *comfortability and connectivity*. We travel all over the US & over the world reaching countries the 89 AW only has access to.
Unlike the airline industry, no seniority is required to start flying overseas
We primarily fly to international airports or their country's premier airports.

HOTELS:

You will stay at highly-vetted hotels overseas to ensure adequate security and support.
You will enjoy the various locations and their local amenities while the DV is executing diplomacy which may span multiple days.

LEADERS:

You will fly high-level leaders that most only see on the news.
You may be recognized and receive appreciation on challenging missions.

FLIGHT PAY:

Starts at \$225 per month with a cap of \$600/month.
Per diem earned during our missions.
Tax free during applicable missions.

HISTORICAL EVENTS:

Every mission you fly is making world history.
You are directly affecting world politics.
Your aircraft will be routinely used as the backdrop for planeside press conferences.



Requirements:

We're searching for motivated, professional Airmen ready to step into one of the Air Force's most prestigious and visible roles.

Open to ANY AFSC

Within your retrain window

Minimum ASVAB Scores: Mechanical 60 **AND** Administrative 50

Must meet **1A1X8** entry requirements outlined in the Department of the Air Force Enlisted Classification Directory (DAFECD)

Must be able to obtain (or already possess) a Single Scope Background Investigation (SSBI) T5 security clearance

No record of emotional instability, personality disorder, or **unresolved** mental health problems

Must have 36-months retainability following qualification in an EMA airframe

No record of substance/child abuse, domestic violence

Never been convicted by general, special or summary courts-martial



Joining the 89th Airlift Wing as an Executive Mission Aviator is not just a career move — it's a commitment to excellence and history. If you are ready to elevate your career, serve your nation's highest offices, and see the world from a perspective few ever experience — apply today! Your professionalism could help shape the course of global history.



Follow these steps to start your path toward one of the most elite missions in the U.S. Air Force:

Step 1: From the Air Force Portal, access myFSS

Step 2: Click on Career Management

Step 3: Click on RegAF Retraining

Step 4: Select the appropriate category, either First Term Retraining or FY25 Non-Commission Officer Retraining Program

Note: For more information about which AFSC shred-out to apply for:

Under “Tools” select “On-line Retraining Advisory”

Then look for “1A158A (AMC/Andrews)”



Retraining Advisory Data									
Click > next to a row to see the Notes for that AFSC.									
Fiscal Year	AFSC	Type	FTA	SSGT	TSGT	MSGT	SMSGT		
2025	-1A158A	OBJ IN	50	12	4	0	0		
Notes									
Code	Note								
971	Applicants must understand when requesting to retrain into 1A158A AFSC, you are applying for 1A1X8A, 1A1X8B, 1A1X8C, 1A1X8D & 1A1X8F								

For assistance with the retraining process, contact your local/base Developmental Advisor (DA).

For more specific inquiries, contact the 89th OG Director of Personnel Office at: 89og.Enlisted.EMA@us.af.mil