



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND**

AFMAN11-2AC-130JV2_AETCSUP_AETCGM2026-01

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MEMORANDUM FOR AETC COMMANDERS

FROM: AETC A3/6
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JBSA-Randolph, TX 78150

SUBJECT: Air Education and Training Command Guidance Memorandum to AFMAN 11-2AC-130J, Volume 2, *AC-130J Aircrew Evaluation Criteria*

RELEASIBILITY: There are no releasability restrictions on this publication.

By Order of the Commander, Air Education and Training Command, this Guidance Memorandum (GM) is the second instance of a to-be published AETC supplement to AFMAN 11-2AC-130J, Volume 2, *AC-130J Aircrew Evaluation Criteria*. Compliance with this memorandum is mandatory. To the extent its directions are inconsistent with other AETC publications, the information herein prevails, in accordance with Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 90-160, *Publications and Forms Management*.

This guidance is applicable to all AETC AC-130J aircrew, standardization and evaluation liaison personnel, contractors, and flight examiners.

This AETC GM establishes aircrew evaluation areas and criteria for all AETC AC-130J aircrew flight evaluations in each of the four crew positions defined in the basic publication.

Ensure all records generated as a result of processes prescribed in this publication adhere to Air Force Instruction (AFI) 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, and are disposed in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule which is located in the Air Force Records Information Management System.

This memorandum becomes void after one year has elapsed from the date of this memorandum, or upon publishing of a new publication permanently establishing this guidance, whichever is earlier

JEFFREY W. NELSON
Brigadier General
Director of Operations and Communications

Attachment:
AETC AC-130J Aircrew Evaluation Criteria

Attachment 1

AETC AC-130J Aircrew Evaluation Criteria

1. These evaluation areas and criteria are based solely upon the areas and criteria published in AFMAN 11-2AC-130J Volume 2, dated 4 November 2019, as described below. AETC AC-130J flight examiners (FEs) should locally develop AF Form 3862, *Flight Evaluation Worksheet*, for all INIT, RQ, and periodic stand-alone and/or combined evaluations to align with this guidance.

1.1. **Note:** AFMAN 11-2AC-130J Volume 2, dated 4 November 2019, Table 2.1. area 4 is listed as a boldface graded area and area 5 is listed as an emergency procedures evaluation (EPE) graded area, both associated for inflight QUAL evaluations. To align with the higher precedence guidance in AFMAN 11-202 Volume 2, *Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation Program*, the requisite boldface and EPE are not to be considered individual graded areas for inflight examination. Rather, AETC FEs will consider the boldface and EPE as requisites associated with QUAL evaluation and document those requisites on the AF Form 8 as illustrated in AFMAN 11-202 Vol 2, *Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation Program*.

1.2. FEs will complete and process AF Forms 8 as prescribed here and IAW AFMAN 11-202 Volume 2_AETCSUP. A completed requisite examination (boldface, EPE, open book and closed book tests) that fulfills the requirements for a requisite examination on another evaluation may be annotated on multiple AF Forms 8 as long as that requisite was completed within the approved initial qualification training (IQT) or mission qualification training (MQT) syllabus for INIT or RQ evaluations or the requisite was completed in-phase for overlapping periodic evaluation phases.

2. Pilot evaluations (crew position = FP or MC or MP or IP) may be combined or stand-alone and will include boldface (QUAL only), EPE, and additional requisites, as follows. INIT and RQ candidates will accomplish their INSTM, QUAL, and MSN evaluations, including all requisites, in accordance with (IAW) the prescribed AETC syllabus with reference to this supplement for specific AFMAN 11-2AC-130J Vol 2 areas of evaluation on a given flight examination.

2.1. INSTM evaluation (crew position = FP or IP) includes completion of an Instrument Exam as a requisite, and evaluation of all areas listed in Table 2.1., except, areas 4, 5, and 15, and all areas marked with an "X" under the INSTM heading in Table 4.1.

2.2. QUAL evaluation (crew position = FP or IP) includes completion of AC-130J Pilot QUAL Open book and Pilot QUAL Closed book exams, boldface, and EPE requisites, and evaluation of all areas listed in Table 2.1, except, areas 4, 5, and 15, and all areas marked with an "X" under the QUAL heading in Table 4.1.

2.3. MSN evaluation (crew position = MC or MP or IP) includes completion of AC-130J Pilot MSN Open book and Pilot MSN Closed book requisite exams, and evaluation of all areas listed in Table 2.1 except, areas 4 and 5 and all areas in Table 4.2.

2.3.1. **Note:** Table 4.2 note 4 annotated to areas 54 and 61 stipulates that copilots perform "copilot duties only" for these events. However, area 54 evaluation criteria describes area 54 as not performed by copilots and distinct copilot Q/Q-/U criteria for area 61 is not provided. For the purposes of standardization, AETC AC-130J FEs will not evaluate area 54 for MC evaluations. AETC AC-130J FEs will consider area 61 as a required MSN

evaluation area for MC evaluations and will evaluate using the published pilot Q/Q-/U criteria. INIT, RQ, and periodic MC MSN examinees performing area 61 must be in the pilot flying (PF) role.

2.3.2. **Note:** For the purposes of standardization, Table 4.2 note 5 annotated to area 62 should read as follows: “For INIT and RQ MSN evaluations, evaluate this area IAW with the approved FTU MSN qualification syllabus. For all evaluations, when this area is evaluated on a separate flight or SIM flight prior to the other MSN areas or on a separate flight or SIM flight after the other MSN areas, annotate as a separate MSN or SIM MSN “Aircrew Evaluation” on the examinee’s AF Form 8, IAW AFMAN 11-202 Vol 2. SPOT evaluations are appropriate for examinees who are evaluated on this area outside of their periodic MSN eligibility period, or for BAQ pilots establishing qualification as air-to-air refueling pilots establishing an initial currency date.

3. The AC-130J Combat Systems Operator (CSO) and Weapons System Operator (WSO) crew positions are prescribed in Air Force policy as distinct crew positions and, thus, distinct qualifications. Air Force policy stipulates two separate crew positions requires two distinct AF Forms 8 with the “ACFT/CREW POSITION” annotating one crew position of the examinee and the examined qualifications for that MDS/crew position listed under the “AIRCREW EVALUATION.” A separate AF Form 8 is necessary for the second crew position and associated examined qualifications. While the AC-130J CSO and WSO evaluations and AF Forms 8 are distinct, they may be examined concurrently (same actual flight for the flight portions of the examinations and a single instance of a requisite completion) or examined independently. Similarly, multiple evaluations types (e.g. QUAL, MSN) may be combined (same actual flight for the flight portions of the examinations) or examined on separate flights. Thus, requisites may be combined (e.g. a single CSO-WSO QUAL Open book exam may be completed once with the same date completed appearing on both AF Forms 8 in lieu of two separate QUAL Open book exams). Similarly, a single boldface exam and a single EPE may be completed for both the CSO and WSO QUAL evaluations (including for a combined QUAL/MSN evaluation) and that same date will appear in the independent AF Forms 8 for each crew position. Each evaluation and AF Form 8 will include the necessary requisites for full documentation of meeting the crew position qualification requirements. INIT and RQ candidates will accomplish their QUAL and MSN evaluations, including all requisites, in accordance with the prescribed AETC syllabus, with reference to this supplement for specific AFMAN 11-2AC-130J Vol 2 graded areas on a given flight evaluation. CSO and WSO flight evaluations are as follows:

3.1. This GM adds AFMAN11-2AC-130JV2_AETCSUP_AETCGM2024-01 Table 6.1, WSO Grading Areas to guide AETC AC-130J FEs in applying Table 6.1. from AFMAN 11-2AC-130J Vol 2.

3.2. CSO QUAL evaluation (crew position = FN or IN) includes completion of AC-130J CSO-WSO QUAL Open book and CSO-WSO QUAL Closed book exams, boldface, and EPE requisites, and examination of all areas listed in Table 2.1 except areas 4, 5, and 15, and all areas marked with Note 3 in Table 5.1 (required QUAL areas). **Note:** CSO Air-to-Air Refueling Procedures (“AAR Procedures” in Table 5.1. areas 108 and 112 and in paragraph 5.4.3.13.) are variously described as required for either the QUAL evaluation or the MSN evaluation and variously noted, or not, as “required in-flight or WST certified for this event.” For the purposes of standardization, AAR Procedures (area 108) and Air-to-Air Refueling Procedures (area 112) are both “optional – evaluate, if observed” for the completion of either

a CSO QUAL or MSN evaluation or a combined QUAL/MSN evaluation and may be completed in any simulator certified for this event. Air-to-air refueling areas may be evaluated on a separate aircraft flight (MSN) or simulator flight (SIM MSN) and included as a second sortie on the same AF Form 8.

3.3. CSO MSN evaluation (crew position = MN or IN) includes completion of the AC-130J CSO-WSO MSN Open book and CSO-WSO MSN Closed book exams, and examination of all areas listed in Table 2.1 except areas 4 and 5, and all areas marked with an “X” under the MSN heading in Table 5.1.

3.4. WSO QUAL (crew position = FW or IW) evaluation includes completion of AC-130J CSO-WSO QUAL Open book and CSO-WSO QUAL Closed book exams, boldface, and EPE requisites, and examination of all areas listed in Table 2.1 except areas 4, 5, and 15, all areas marked with Note 3 in Table 5.1 (required QUAL areas), and all areas marked with an “X” in the QUAL column of AFMAN11-2AC-130JV2_AETCSUP_AETCGM2024-01 Table 6.1, WSO Grading Areas.

3.5. WSO MSN (crew position = MW or IW) evaluation includes completion of AC-130J CSO-WSO MSN Open book and CSO-WSO MSN Closed book exams and examination of all areas listed in Table 2.1 except areas 4 and 5 and all areas marked with an “X” in the MSN column of AFMAN11-2AC-130JV2_AETCSUP_AETCGM2024-01 Table 6.1, WSO Grading Areas.

AFMAN11-2AC-130JV2_AETCSUP_AETCGM2024-01 Table 6.1, WSO Grading Areas.

Area	Notes	Area Name	QUAL	MSN
150	2	System(s) Knowledge	X	X
151	2	System(s) Operation	X	X
152	2	Target Acquisition, Identification, and Reacquisition		X
153	2	Tweak Procedures		X
154	2	Strike Procedures (PGM)		X
155	2	Strike Procedures (Gun)		X
156	2	Close Air Support/ Troops in Contact		X
157	2	Tactical Navigation		X
158	2	Reconnaissance/Search		X
159	2	Force Protection		X
160	2	Degraded Procedures		X
161	2	Communication Procedures/Radio Transmission	X	X
162	1	Local Range/Aerodrome Procedures and Restrictions	X	
163	1	Defensive Procedures		X
164	1	Mission Management	X	X
Notes:				
1. Required in-flight for INIT and RQ evaluations. May be conducted in a simulator certified for this event for periodic and SPOT evaluations.				
2. Required in-flight or simulator certified for this event				

4. Aerial gunner evaluations may be combined (QUAL/MSN) or stand-alone and will include additional requisites, as follows. Similarly, QUAL and MSN Open and Closed book testing requisites may be completed using a combined QUAL/MSN examination or conducted as distinct QUAL and MSN tests. INIT and RQ candidates will accomplish their QUAL and MSN evaluations, including all requisites, IAW the prescribed AETC syllabus and reference to this supplement for specific AFMAN 11-2AC-130J Vol 2 areas of evaluation on a given flight examination. Table 7.1. area 310 (Air-to-air Refueling Systems/Procedures) and area 317 (Common Launch Tube Loading/Unloading Procedures), are not annotated by Notes 1 or 2 defining them as either QUAL or MSN events. For the purposes of standardization, AETC AC-130J FEs will consider area 310 and area 317 required MSN evaluation areas and may be evaluated in-flight, in a separate SIM MSN sortie in a simulator/weapons system trainer (WST) certified for this event, or through alternate method.

4.1. QUAL evaluation includes completion of AC-130J Aerial Gunner QUAL Open book and QUAL Closed book exams, boldface and EPE requisites, and evaluation of all areas listed in Table 2.1 except areas 4, 5, and 15, and all of the Note 1 areas in Table 7.1.

4.2. MSN evaluation includes completion of AC-130J Aerial Gunner MSN Open book and MSN Closed book requisite exams, and evaluation of all areas listed in Table 2.1 except areas 4 and 5 and the Note 2 areas listed in Table 7.1.

4.3. The following subparagraphs contains grading criteria that are required for AETC aerial gunner evaluations but are not included in AFMAN 11-2AC-130JV2.

4.3.1. **Area 320.** Aircraft Systems Knowledge.

Q. Demonstrated/explored a complete knowledge of aircraft systems operations/limitations and proper procedural use of systems.

Q- Marginal knowledge of aircraft systems operations and limitations in some areas. Used individual technique instead of established procedures and was unaware of differences.

U. Unsatisfactory systems knowledge. Failed to demonstrate/explain the procedures for aircraft system operations.

4.3.2. **Area 321.** Weapon Systems Knowledge.

Q. Demonstrated a thorough knowledge of gun weapon system components, nomenclature, cycle of operations, limitation, and munitions IAW technical orders, checklists, and instructions.

Q-. The examinee had difficulty explaining some portions of the gun weapon system components, nomenclature, cycle of operations, limitations, and munitions IAW technical orders, checklists, and instructions.

U. Knowledge of aircraft gun weapon systems was inadequate. Examinee failed to explain gun weapon system components, nomenclature, cycle of operations. Limitations, and munitions IAW technical orders, checklists, and instructions.

4.3.3. **Area 322.** Defensive Systems Knowledge and Threat Reactions.

Q. Had thorough knowledge of necessary aircraft defensive systems/tactics applicable to the mission. Applied appropriate tactics to avoid threats. Made timely input and appropriate inputs to the crew during mission.

Q-. Limited knowledge of aircraft defensive systems. Minor errors in defensive systems operations. Was unfamiliar with the appropriate tactic for a given scenario. Did not make timely inputs to crew during mission.

U. Knowledge of aircraft defensive systems was unsatisfactory. Inputs were missing or inaccurate. Major errors in defensive systems operations. Failed to ensure mission effectiveness by not adequately identifying or reacting to threat(s).

5. Instructor Evaluations: In addition to the areas annotated above, evaluate instructors on areas listed in Table 3.1. during periodic QUAL and MSN evaluations or combined QUAL/MSN evaluations. INIT and RQ INSTR candidates will accomplish their Table 3.1. areas during the prescribed AETC syllabus flow.

5.1. AETC AC-130J WSO instructors require multiple qualification designation as a CSO IAW AFMAN 11-202, Volume 2, and completion and documentation on an AF Form 8 of all periodic CSO and WSO QUAL and MSN requirements to instruct both crew positions.

5.2. FEs must specifically and clearly articulate on the AF Form 8 within the mission description under the examiner's remarks when Table 3.1. areas were evaluated during the flight phase of the evaluation. It is acceptable to state that the Table 3.1. areas were evaluated throughout the flight(s) as long as the mission description substantiates the need for the instructor/candidate to instruct throughout the flight(s). It is equally permissible to state when, specifically, the Table 3.1. areas were evaluated on a given evaluation flight(s), again, as long as the mission description substantiates the need for the instructor/candidate to perform instructor duties during the specific portion of the sortie(s).