



# FA 57

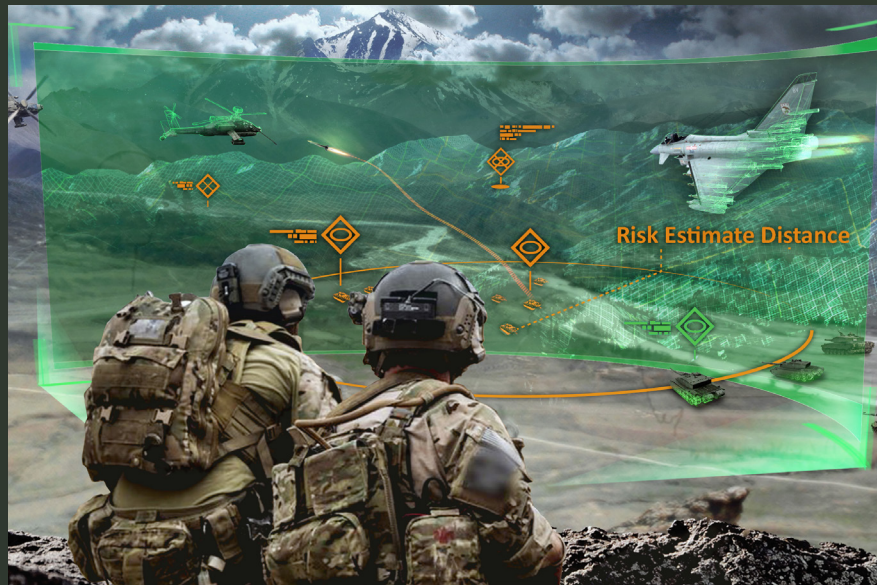
## Simulation Operations

A GUIDE FOR OFFICERS



FA57 Officers specialize in creating realistic simulation environments in support of Readiness, Modernization, and Enhanced Decision Support.

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# Leverage Your Experience

FA57s are the Army's experts at translating complex concepts into viable readiness and modernization solutions by leveraging new and emerging modeling & simulation technologies.

## What is Modeling and Simulation?

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A model is a simplification of reality

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A simulation is a method for implementing a model over time

## CORE COMPETENCIES

### Readiness

**Applying the Art and Science of modeling and simulation technologies in support of training, exercises, and wargaming.**

As expert exercise planners and technical integrators, FA57s design diverse, challenging, and realistic simulation events that enhance readiness and lethality.

### Modernization

**Applying modeling and simulation technologies in support of concept development, research and analysis, and experimentation.**

FA57s create simulation environments that allow for the rapid prototyping and experimentation of existing and future capabilities and concepts throughout the various phases of research, development, testing, experimentation, analysis, and capability development.

### Enhanced Decision Support

**Assess, design, develop, and implement systems and procedures to improve efficiency, shared understanding, and decision making.**

FA57s assist commanders in generating real time situational awareness, creating faster decision making cycles, and increasing the level of confidence in knowledge sharing. FA57s provide leaders with the right information, in the right format, at the right time to drive enhanced decision making.



## What does the Army use modeling and simulations for?

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Improve capabilities and enhance decision making and readiness

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Allow warfighters and military planners to rehearse joint missions

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Provide training to execute in complex operational environments

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Allow capability developers to create realistic developmental and operational test scenarios

## Why pursue a career as an FA57?

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We are looking for officers with operational experience who are highly effective at planning, preparing, communicating, and who have the aptitude for executing simulation support at the tactical, operational, and strategic level.

# Learn Unique Skills



### KEY BENEFITS

Your expertise and abilities will be highly sought after by commanders at all levels, which would translate to a career path with unique benefits

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Gain valuable experience in challenging positions both CONUS and OCONUS in ranks from Captain to Colonel in a skillset that is highly regarded in the civilian sector

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Apply for Advanced Civil Schooling opportunities for Masters and PhD programs

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Move from a pool of thousands in your basic branch to a pool of hundreds in the FA57 community

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Have direct impact on Army readiness and modernization efforts

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Compete for Key Nominative Billet opportunities

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Benefit from promotion rates historically above the Army average

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Your ability to apply the procedures and concepts necessary to integrate models and simulations into the operational environment is what will make you a critical asset to your command.



FA57s have positions in brigade and above level organizations in the ranks of CPT through COL for the Active Component and the USAR, and CPT through LTC in the National Guard.

# Boost Your Career Trajectory

FA57 officers often find themselves advising senior leaders to draw training objectives, conducting cross staff coordination, and fully engaging with government civilians and contract support personnel.

## Where can I serve as a FA57

In posts across the globe including duty stations in CONUS, Hawaii, Germany, Africa, Australia, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom, and the Pacific.

At any division and above-level organization both CONUS and OCONUS.

in Institutional organizations such as Mission Training Centers, Battle Labs, USMA, CGSC, AWC, OTC, AFC both CONUS and OCONUS

## FA57 DUTY POSITIONS BY RANK

### Captain

Simulation Operations Officer planning exercises and simulation integration

Knowledge Managers enhancing the commander's ability to make critical decisions

CTC Battle Command Officer

Sim Ops Analyst at the National Simulation Center

Assistant KMO

### Major

Assistant S3 / Sim Ops Officer for multi-function brigades creating simulation environments to increase readiness

Division Sim Ops Officer planning division-level exercises

ESC/TSC Knowledge Manager

COCOM/Joint Sim Ops Officer

ASCC Exercise Planner

Joint Simulation Ops Officer

Foreign Exchange Officer

Battle Lab Sim Ops Analyst

### Lieutenant Colonel

ASCC Exercise Planner

Corp level Knowledge Manager

Director of Instrumentation at a CTC

NATO Chief of Training

Joint Exercise Planner

JMSC Ops Officer

Division and Corps KMO

HQDA Staff Officer

TPO Director

Deputy Brigade Commander

### Colonel

ASCC Chief of Training

National Simulation Center Director

Joint Multinational Simulation Center Director

Deputy Division Commander

AMSO Deputy Directory

JS J7 Division Chief

NATO Chief of M&S

AFC Chief of M&S



FA57 provides the Army with officers who specialize in increasing human and organizational performance by creating realistic simulation environments where leaders plan, train, test, and experiment.

# Build Your Career Satisfaction

## Education Requirements and Opportunities

**Simulation Operations Course (SOC)** | This 8-week resident course at Ft Belvoir, VA is the qualification course to become an FA57. This course provides an understanding of the roles, responsibilities, practices, procedures, and concepts necessary to apply models and simulations and operational knowledge management into the operational environment.

**Intermediate Simulation Operations Course (ISOC)** | Attend this 2-week course after your first completed position as a Major

**Advanced Simulation Course (ASC)** | Available for senior FA57s to continue the professional education in the career field of modeling and simulations.

**Advanced Civil Schooling (ACS) Program** | FA57s who have completed their key development time at their current grade, have a 2.5 undergraduate GPA and less than 17 years active federal service, are able to compete for Masters degree and a PhD slot each year at the Naval Postgraduate School or the University of Central Florida. These are completely funded degree programs and are no cost to the Soldier or the unit.

**Life-Long Learning and Development** | FA57s have access to Coursera, an on-demand learning program that is self-paced and available at no cost. Courses are available in Modeling & Simulation, Data Science and Analytics, Programming and Coding, Project Management, and many more subjects.

## TECHNOLOGY AND SKILLS

Obtain knowledge to include but not limited to the following Live, Virtual and Constructive simulations

Joint Conflict and Tactical Simulation (JCATS)

Joint Land Component Constructive Training Capability (JLCCTC)

Warfighters Simulation (WARSIM)

WARSIM Intelligence Module (WIM)

Intelligence & Electronic Warfare Tactical Proficiency Trainer (IEWTPT)

Joint Deployment Logistics Model (JDLM)

Multiple Unified Simulation Environment (MUSE)

Division Exercise Training and Review System (DXTRS)

Home station Instrumentation Training System (HITS)

Deployable Instrumentation System Europe (DISE)

Squad Advanced Marksmanship Trainer (SAMT)

Engagement Skills Trainer II (ESTII)

Reconfigurable Vehicle Tactical Trainer (RVTT)

Call for Fire Training III (CFTIII)

Close Combat Tactical Trainer (CCTT)

Virtual Battle Space III (VBSIII)

Synthetic Training Environment (STE)





As a Simulation Operations Officer you will be the expert in creating live, virtual and constructive training environments that will support Readiness, Modernization and Enhanced Decision Support across the Army.

# Be an Influencer, Become a Leader

## FA57 officers come from all basic branches in the Army

Active duty officers can apply to FA57 either before or after they have completed their Key Development time as a CPT through the VTIP process. CPTs must complete their Captains Career Course prior to being accepted.

National Guard and USAR officers can apply to FA57 at the rank of CPT through LTC by talking to their branch manager.

## HOW TO BECOME AN FA57

### Active Duty

**Voluntary Transfer Incentive Program (VTIP)** | offered twice a year

**Talent Based Career Alignment (TBCA)** | an opportunity will be provided during your Captains Career Course (CCC) that will provide you a direct path starting at CCC, thru your Key Development (KD) position and into your first FA57 position.

### National Guard

**Branch Transfer Process** | National Guard officers will go through the normal branch transfer process in their state after talking to the branch mentor in their state that manages FA57s.

### USAR

**Submit Request** | USAR officers will submit their request thru their local S1 after talking with the current leadership. They can reach out to the Career Manager for functional areas at USARC for more information.

Contact the FA57 proponent office to optimize your Army career by becoming an FA57 officer today

703.403.9854 | [www.ms.army.mil](http://www.ms.army.mil)  
[usarmy.belvoir.hqda-dcs-g-8.mbx.amso-fa57-proponent-office@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.belvoir.hqda-dcs-g-8.mbx.amso-fa57-proponent-office@mail.mil)





# What Senior Leaders Have to Say About FA57

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“The Army’s FA57 officers provide critical skills to commanders at all echelons. Their unique capabilities are the linchpin for our ability to generate readiness, support modernization, and enable decisions at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels.”

**Dr. Steven Stoddard**  
Director of the Army Modeling and Simulation Office

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“Let no Soldier’s soul ever cry out, “if only I had the proper training” has guided me throughout my career and has never been more true than today. Simulation Operations Officers are experts of Army training at echelon and directly impact unit readiness. Modernization efforts across our force are heavily reliant on simulations to provide adaptive, iterative, realistic training that is less resource intensive. **Nothing is more impactful than giving Army leaders the ability to train their formation.”**

**Brigadier General William R. Glaser,**  
Director Synthetic Training Environment Cross Functional Team

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“FA57 Officers are similar to the Gamemakers in the movie Hunger Games, with one critical difference. Like the movie, FA57s design and control the arena, the combatants, and the challenges they face. Unlike the movie, the goal is not to crown a single winner, but to make all participants better and more effective warfighters.”

**COL Damon Durall**

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“Being a Simulation Operations Officer for the Army has been a highlight of my career. It has allowed me to satisfy my technical interests while still supporting units in the training and execution of real-world operations. I can’t recommend it enough for those interested in making the Army a more effective fighting force!”

**COL Jeffrey Erickson**

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“FA57s enable multi-echelon training by thinking bigger, sooner.”

**COL John Barry**

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“We want our leaders at all levels, at all echelons to make thousands of simulated combat tactical decisions against a thinking and adaptive enemy, in order to gain confidence and skill, and to learn from their mistakes,”

**GEN Mark A. Milley**  
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

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**FA57**  
**SIMULATION OPERATIONS**  
READINESS ★ MODERNIZATION ★ DECISION SUPPORT

## Army Simulation Proponent and School

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