

FA50 Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find information about FA50? You can find information about FA50 in DA PAM 600-3 Chapter 30 and at <http://www.fa50.army.mil/>. If you have an AKO account, you can also check out <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/194547> and the FA50 Forum on milSuite at <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/fa50>. Log in using your CAC. We are also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/army.fa50.

I am interested in using the Voluntary Transfer Incentive Program (VTIP) to get into FA50. How should I proceed?

The Voluntary Transfer Incentive Program (VTIP) is a means for eligible Officers to apply to transfer to a different branch or functional area. The VTIP panels are held quarterly and the eligibility and application requirements can be found in the latest VTIP MILPER message. Eligibility is primarily based on Branch/Functional Area Year Group strength. Our Career Manager at HRC can also help. The number for that office is: (502) 613-6681.

What qualifications are recommended to put on the VTIP request to ensure that I am selected for FA50?

If you have Force Management experience or you are filling a Force Management related position or you have staff experience at brigade level or higher, you'll want to include that information. Any education or training that you have received or experience related to equipment fielding, capabilities development or budgeting, is also useful information to include on your VTIP application.

Where is FA50 training conducted, and is it considered a PCS?

All newly accessed Active Duty FA50 officers attend the 14 week FA50 Qualification Course taught at the Army Force Management School, Building 247/Humphreys Hall, Ft. Belvoir, Va. There are several ways to attend the Q -Course. If you are being assigned to the Army Staff or another organization in the National Capital Region, you will attend after completing your PCS move. If you're PCSing elsewhere, you may attend TDY en-route to your next duty location. Or, you may attend in a TDY-and-

return status from and to your current duty location. Our career manager at HRC can assist in getting you set up for a course.

What if I have not completed CCC or had a Company Command?

FA50 requires officers to be branch qualified before beginning your Force Management career – however your branch defines “branch qualified”. Usually, that means you must have completed CCC and have some sort of “command” or “key developmental assignment” OER in your file. In addition, based on the current VTIP process, you cannot be considered for VTIP if you have not completed CCC and have completed command or a key developmental assignment in your basic branch.

Where are FA50s assigned? Do they deploy?

FA50 Force Management Officers are assigned throughout the Army at Division and Corps headquarters; at Theater Army and Army Service Component Command HQs such as ARCENT/3A, USAREUR/7A, USARPAC, Eighth Army and Army Space and Missile Defense Command; at Combatant Command HQs such as CENTCOM, PACOM, AFRICOM and US Forces Korea. Almost half of the Active Component FA50s and most Title 10 AGR FA50s are in the Pentagon, either in the Army G-8, G-357, OSD or the Joint Staff. Besides normal unit deployments, we also get several requirements on a regular basis where FA50 officers are tasked to support the Worldwide Individual Augmentee System (WIAS) in Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, and other possible locations.

What kinds of things do FA50s do?

In this era of transformation and modularity, FA50 Force Management Officers consider themselves to be the “Architects of the Army.” We ensure Army forces are organized and equipped to support the missions of the Combatant Commanders. FA50s design new organizations and build force structure in the Total Army Analysis process; allocate Army manpower and equipment; Conduct Planning, Programming, and Budget Execution; coordinate unit activations, inactivations, reorganizations. FA50s build Army-level investment strategies through the POM process; and most visibly, manage equipment distribution and new equipment training (NET) throughout the Army. FA50s at Joint Staff or COCOM levels are the commanders’ experts on Army force structure, capabilities and readiness.

Do FA50's get the opportunity to go to graduate school?

Advanced Civil Schooling (ACS) is a Human Resources Command (HRC) Program. Generally, FA50 is allocated 6 slots per year for officers to attend ACS. Selected officers may attend any program that they are accepted to as long as it is approved by the Proponent. In the ACS program, you will be in a fully funded status for the duration of your studies (usually 18 months), attending in resident status and receiving all pay and allowances for that location while earning a Masters degree.

Does FA50 have other broadening opportunities?

Yes. FA50 officers can compete to attend two other opportunities – Fellowships and Training with Industry (TWI). Our fellowships are a twelve month opportunity to conduct research and analysis. In addition, officers observe and learn state-of-the-art organizational and management skills useful to the Army, and to represent the Army to industry. We currently have fellowship opportunities at The MITRE Corporation and at The RAND Corporation. Our TWI program is also a twelve month opportunity to gain insights on the management techniques and technology of a major corporation. We have TWI opportunities with FEDEX and Amazon.

Where and when do FA50s attend ILE?

Operations Support Career Field officers, which includes FA50, attend resident ILE at one of the satellite locations – Fort Belvoir, Fort Lee, Fort Gordon or Redstone Arsenal. The curriculum is identical to ILE at Fort Leavenworth. If you are being assigned to the NCR, we will normally try to get you into ILE at Fort Belvoir during your assignment here. ILE includes the “core” course, which results in the officer being awarded Military Education Level (MEL) 4 and Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) I, and the appropriate functional area qualification course. Either course may be done first, but both parts must be completed by the end of your 15th year of service.

If I become an FA50 will I ever command again?

There are currently no command positions designated specifically for Force Managers. However, FA50 does have several LTC and COL level

Centralized Selection List (CSL) positions. Officers competing for these positions are selected by a DA command and CSL board and are considered comparable to unit commanders at the same rank.

Where can I find more information about FA50s in the USAR or the ARNG?

Please contact those components at the following numbers:

ARNG Officers: MAJ John A. Davis, Jr., (703) 607-7808

USAR Officers: MAJ Tony Torres, (502) 613-6625