

FY 2018 PFTC 20-day Sessions Selection Process

PFTC receives hundreds of applications for the sessions. This year we are planning on 18 modules, which correspond to 108 slots. Ideally, each module would have 2 RXB2t, 2 FIRBt, and 2 other trainees. However we often have modules with 3-4 FIRB trainees, due to the scarcity of other trainee applicants. We attempt to limit RXB2t to 2 per module so that each participant has more opportunities for assignments.

RXB2t is the most numerous application we receive. With 18 modules, we will have 36 slots for RXB2 trainees this year. Because we are an interagency center, we work hard to guarantee that all of our modules have a diverse representation, both agency and geographically. FIRBt will have at least 36 slots but may have as many as 50 depending on how many applicants we receive for other trainee positions, particularly ENGB, FEMO, and FFT1.

Once the application deadline has passed we submit a list, by taskbook, to each Geographic Area Training Representative (GATR) for prioritization. Some GATRs cover all the agencies in their region, some cover only FS and BLM, and some cover only FS. Some regions have a high number of applicants and we may not be able to choose someone below the fifth priority in a Region. It is important for all applicants to talk with their unit training person and have that person communicate the importance of attending to the GATR. This helps the GATR make the best prioritization for the workforce.

Once we receive all the priorities back for each region, plus the DOI prioritizations by agency, as well as the international, private, and local government applications, the staff spends a day filling the slots based on the position, month of availability, and GATR/agency priority. Please keep in mind that we are trying to populate each module with participants from different agencies and geographic areas.