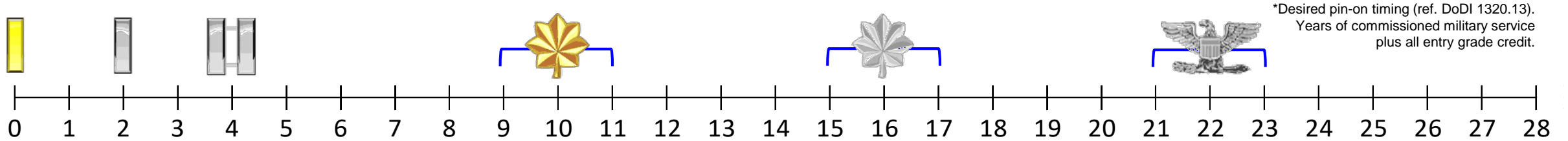




Space Operations Officer (13S) Career Progression



Functional Area Experiences (CGO):

- ❖ Tactical operations depth in specific Major Warfighting Function (MWF): space crew member, Crew Commander, Instructor and/or Evaluator, Flight Commander, Assistant Operations Officer

Formal Education/Training:

- ❖ UST / IQT / MQT
- ❖ 319th Combat Training Squadron
- ❖ Space 200
- ❖ O-3 PME (PDE): Squadron Officer School

Special Experiences:

- ❖ Weapons School, Schriever Wargame
- ❖ Test/Eval, UST instructor
- ❖ Space Education & Assignment Program (SEAP)
- ❖ AFSPC Scholars Masters Degree or AFIT

Functional Area Experiences (FGO):

- ❖ MDC2: CSpOC, NSDC, Dir of Space Forces
- ❖ Det/CC, DO, Gp/CD
- ❖ Warfighting breadth: HQ Staff positions, MAJCOM, HAF, CCMDs, JCS
- ❖ Squadron Commander

Formal Education/Training:

- ❖ O-4 PME (IDE): ACSC/equiv (DL or residence)
- ❖ O-5 PME (SDE): AWC/equiv (DL or residence)
- ❖ Targeted Fellowships (Academia/Think Tanks)
- ❖ Space 300

Special Experiences:

- ❖ Test/Eval, OGV, Wing Safety/IG
- ❖ Education/partnering with industry
- ❖ International/Interagency Assignments
- ❖ Force Generation
- ❖ Schriever Scholars, ASG (SAASS, SAMS)
- ❖ Operational Planning

Functional Area Experiences (O-6):

- ❖ Group Commander
- ❖ Wing Commander
- ❖ Joint strategic leadership: HHQ positions: such as: NAF, MAJCOM, HAF, CCMDs, JCS, OSD

Formal Education/Training:

- ❖ Advanced Academic Degree (AAD)
- ❖ CC Courses

Special Experiences:

- ❖ Director of Space Forces (DS4)
- ❖ International/Interagency Assignments

Formal Instructor & Recruiting Duty:

- ❖ OI&RSD or T-prefix functional instructor assignments typically following second ops tour (~8 year point)

13S – Space Operations Career Development Guidance

AFSC Description: Leads, operates and manages space warfighting systems in a contested, degraded and operationally-limited environment to establish and maintain Space Superiority, defend national interests and to create effects in the space domain to achieve Service, Combatant Command, and national objectives. These systems include four major warfighting functions; Orbital Warfare (OW), Space Electronic Warfare (SEW), Space Battle Management (SBM), and Space Access and Sustainment (S&AS)).

Brief Developmental History: As space operators posture for warfighting in, through and from the space domain, development will shift to depth of experience in the four major warfighting functions. Previously, Airmen responsible for space operations have gone through developmental transformations that emphasized breadth versus depth, producing generalist space officers. Space operators served in multiple operations assignments across diverse mission areas of the AFSC (e.g., satellite ops, spacelift, etc) and many space operators served missile operations tours during the period 1994 to 2013 when these two career fields were combined. The majority of 13S Sq/DO positions are filled by MajS, but prior to 2013 Lt Cols filled the majority of DO positions.

Prior to Major: 13Ss are expected to fulfill specific education, training, qualifications, or certifications: Undergraduate Space Training, Initial Qualification Training/Mission Qualification Training, Space Warfighting Follow-on courses, Space 200, and Space 300. Optional valued courses include Weapons School, and courses offered at 319th Training Squadron. 13Ss develop tactical operational depth in the following positions: space crew member, Crew Commander, Instructor and/or Evaluator, tactician, Flight Commander, and Assistant Operations Officer.

Prior to Lieutenant Colonel: 13Ss are expected to obtain specific additional education, training, qualifications, or certifications to include: Optional valued courses include courses offered at 319th Training Squadron, Space Warfighter Planners Course, ASG (SAASS, SAMS). 13Ss are expected to further develop warfighting breadth through HQ Staff positions at NAFs, MAJCOMs, HAF, Combatant Commands, Joint Staff and Director of Space Forces (DS4).

Prior to Colonel: 13Ss are expected to obtain specific additional education, training, qualifications, or certifications. 13Ss will further develop as a leader and operational/strategic advisor on matters across the core areas. 13Ss are also expected to develop operational depth through assignments which include Ops Squadron Command, Ops Group Deputy (OG/CD), Wing Inspector General, staff duty within USSPACECOM focusing on CCMD Strategy, Plans or Operations and leadership tours at NDSC or CSpOC.

Career Broadening Expectations:

- Given the focus on depth during the CGO years, space operators are encouraged to wait until becoming FGOs before serving career broadening or instructor and recruiting special duty tours
- The target window for formal functional instructor assignments (e.g. AETC, or T-prefix positions) is normally immediate following the initial operations tour