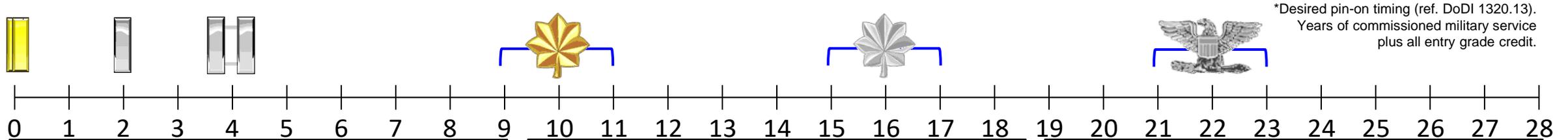




Operations Research Analyst (15A) Career Progression



Functional Area Experiences (CGO):

- ❖ Operations Analyst across multiple msn areas
- ❖ Functional analysis (Intel, Space, Cyber, Manpwr/Pers, Finance, Nuclear)
- ❖ At all levels (Ctr, NAF, MAJCOM, HAF)
- ❖ Significant Test & Evaluation Rqmts
- ❖ AOC Ops Assessment Team
- ❖ HQ Combat & Campaign Assessment
- ❖ Deployment opportunities and Major Exercises

Formal Education/Training:

- ❖ IST (ORSA MAC) & AOC Initial Qual Trng
 - ❖ *IST (Eff FY20, AFIT MS or Online Cert)*
- ❖ O-3 PME (PDE) Squadron Officer School

Special Experiences:

- ❖ Career Broadening through SPEED & EWI
- ❖ Test Pilot School (Flt Test Engineer)
- ❖ Innovation Ctrs (DIU, AFWERX, MIT AI Acceltr)
- ❖ Flight CC/CAG/Exec/Aide Opportunities
- ❖ Pardee RAND Fellowship (*PhD*)
- ❖ *AFIT 4 yr PhD*

Functional Area Experiences (FGO):

- ❖ Lead Staff HQ Decision Support/Analytics
- ❖ Leadership as Ctr/DRU/MAJCOM Div Chief, MAJCOM Dep A9, HAF, CCMD, OSD/JCS (A9/J9, A5/J5, A8/J8)
- ❖ Leads HQ Combat & Campaign Assessment
- ❖ O-5 CAOC Ops Assessment Team Chief
- ❖ Command (Only 2x O-5 C15A billets)
 - ❖ Command in other functional areas
- ❖ Deployment requirements (CAOC, JTF, IA)

Formal Education/Training:

- ❖ O-4 PME (IDE) ACSC/equiv (DL or residence)
- ❖ O-5 PME (SDE): AWC/equiv (DL or residence)

Special Experiences:

- ❖ 16R Strategic or FAO Opportunities
- ❖ SQ/ADO and SQ/DO Opportunities
- ❖ CAG Director/Exec/Aide-de-Camp
- ❖ ASG (SAASS, Blue Horizons)

Functional Area Experiences (O-6):

- ❖ AF Chief Analyst
- ❖ AOC Strat Div Ch, MAJCOM/DRU A9 Directors, HAF/A9 Dep Dir
- ❖ CCMD, JCS/J5/8, OSD (CAPE)
- ❖ NRO, AFRL Div Chiefs
- ❖ O-6 Deployments (Strategy, Staff Dir, etc)

Formal Education/Training:

- ❖ *Advanced Academic Degree (MS or PhD)*

Special Experiences:

- ❖ Gp/CD & CC, Wg/CV
- ❖ USAFA/AFIT Permanent Professor/Dept Head

Formal Instructor & Recruiting Duty:

- ❖ OI&RSD at any eligible career point for 2-3 yrs
- ❖ T15A at the 5 to 15 year point for 3-year AAD payback

15A – Operations Research Analyst Career Development Guidance

AFSC Description: 15A Operations Research Analysts apply advanced analytical methods to provide commanders and decision makers with relevant, accurate, and timely data-driven decision support on current and future operations. 15As are experts in data science but generally apply advanced analytical methods and models to understand complex systems and situations. 15As are assigned mostly on staffs to support to decision making at all levels, as well as across a wide-range of functional areas.

Brief Developmental History: 15As were formerly 61As and 61SXX (Scientists) which included chemists and physicists. In 2010, the 61S AFSC converted the former shreds into separate AFSCs, with the operations analysts designated as 61As. The initial skills training changed from an acquisition course (FAM 103) to the Operations Research Systems Analysis – Military Application Course (ORSA-MAC) or a qualifying master’s degree (usually from AFIT). In 2020, the 61A AFSC converted to 15A. The initial skills training changed to a qualifying master’s degree (usually from AFIT as a first assignment) or the AFIT distance-learning mini-master’s certification.

Prior to Major: 15As are expected to develop depth and breadth as an operations analyst across three overarching areas--operational analyses and assessments, functional domains, and academics. Analyses and assessments are gained via assignments in analytical organizations, Air Operations Centers (AOCs) or deployments. There are few CGO deployment requirements but major exercises provide operations experience. 15As develop functional domain knowledge as an analyst assigned to a functional area (i.e. test analyst, cyber analyst, mobility analyst) or via broadening programs such as the Special Experience Exchange Duty (SPEED) program. Since there is no enlisted counterpart AFSC, the chance to lead/supervise enlisted as a CGO usually comes from the SPEED assignments. AF experience programs such as Education with Industry (EWI), Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), AFWERX, and MIT Strategic Partnerships provide additional breadth to the analytic skill set. Academically, a portion of 15As are sent for advanced academic degrees, and some are expected to payback their degree with an instructor tour at AFIT or USAFA.

Prior to Lieutenant Colonel: 15As are expected to develop as analytical leaders and cross-functional leaders. They serve as HQ Combat and Campaign Assessment Team leaders and various staff decision support leadership roles at Joint, HAF, MAJCOM, or NAF/Center levels. Most O-4s will deploy in their tasked band due to O-4 requirements. The career field does not have a weapon’s school, nor core opportunities for DO or command as a Major.

Prior to Colonel: 15As are expected to develop a broad leadership perspective. There are only two C15A squadron commands, but many qualify for other functional or institutional requirement commands which provide breadth. Leadership is also gained via key roles (MAJCOM/A9 Deputy, HAF/Joint Staff Division Chief). The deployed CAOC Ops Assessment Team Chief is a key expeditionary O-5 leadership role.

Career Broadening Expectations:

- CGOs encouraged to apply for Education with Industry (EWI), Special Experience Exchange Duty (SPEED), CSAF/SecAF Fellowships, Test Pilot School (TPS), and other opportunities. 15As have multiple broadening assignments (AAD, executive officer, SPEED, CAG, instructor and recruiting special duty) and provide related breadth to complement their analytical skill set.