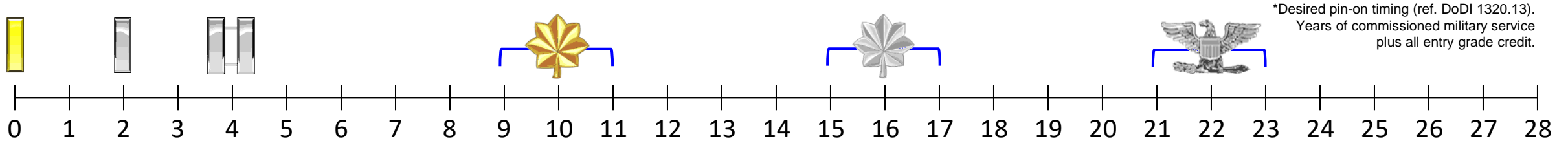




Band (35B) Career Progression



Functional Area Experiences (CGO):

- ❖ Regional or premier band flight commander
- ❖ CONUS or OCONUS band operations officer (2 opportunities)
- ❖ SAF/PA action officer (1 opportunity)
- ❖ Deployment

Formal Education/Training:

- ❖ Defense Information School (DINFOS) Public Affairs Communication and Strategy Qualification Course (PACS-Q)
- ❖ Professional seminars/workshops
- ❖ O-3 PME (PDE): Squadron Officer School

Special Experiences:

- ❖ Career broadening – ROTC/OTS/SOS instructor, recruiting, etc

Functional Area Experiences (FGO):

- ❖ Premier band operations officer (1 opportunity)
- ❖ Band squadron commander
- ❖ SAF/PA division chief
- ❖ Deployment

Formal Education/Training:

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

Special Experiences:

- ❖ N/A

Functional Area Experiences (O-6):

- ❖ Band Commander

Formal Education/Training:

- ❖ Advanced Academic Degree (AAD)

Special Experiences:

- ❖ N/A

Formal Instructor & Recruiting Duty:

- ❖ OI&RSD tour target is typically at the 4-6 year point, after two 35B assignments to develop core skills

35B – Band Officer Career Development Guidance

AFSC Description: This AFSC includes specialized officers, with a limited career path, who serve as trusted strategic communicators and advisors. Band officers develop strategies that leverage the power of music and information to build public trust and support, enhance Airman morale and readiness and exercise global influence and deterrence using soft power to affect the perceptions, attitudes and other drivers of behaviors of relevant actors.

Brief Developmental History: The career field has had some significant changes in career development over the past 7-12 years. The two most notable changes were related to duty titles and career broadening opportunities with career paths echoing many of the other LAF AFSCs in terms of command, DE and joint assignments.

Prior to Major: In the CGO grades, the foundational developmental milestone is in-core flight command and regional band operations officer. This produces sound leadership/management and effective tactical application. Subsequent SAF/PA action officer assignments and command opportunities, coupled with deployments, allow officers to develop a strategic perspective.

Prior to Lieutenant Colonel: At the FGO level, key milestones include premier band operations officer, regional band commander, and SAF/PA division chief. These assignments demonstrate enterprise/joint communication leadership, strategic vision and the ability to expertly communicate with and advise senior leaders. Deployment and OCONUS experience remains important.

Prior to Colonel: At this point, development focuses on honing a strong leader who has cultivated an operational warfighter mindset and commands OCONUS band operations, including while deployed. Success as SAF/PA division chief is also valued. The previous experiences, plus successful demonstration of superior musical and leadership abilities, create a strong enterprise-level leader who can lead all musical efforts as a trusted advisor to senior Air Force and joint leaders, whether as The Air Force Band commander or commander of the USAF Academy Band.

Career Broadening Expectations:

- Instructor, recruiting duty or other career broadening is valued at the 4-6 year point, following initial band officer experience/grounding to develop core skills.
- Most officers will not spend more than one assignment out of core unless selected for a special career broadening program such as FAO