

# 61C/61D Scientist Officers: Chemists and Physicists

## MISSION

Cost effectively modernize to deliver capability to the warfighter when needed

## VISION

Deliver enduring world class capabilities to assure air, space, and cyberspace dominance for the nation and our allies

### USAF ACQUISITION ENTERPRISE

Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center  
Air Force Life Cycle Management Center  
Air Force Materiel Command  
Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center  
Air Force Research Laboratory  
Air Force Sustainment Center  
Air Force Technical Applications Center  
Air Force Test Center  
Defense Contract Management Agency  
DoD Agencies  
Green Door Assignments  
National Air and Space Intelligence Center  
National Reconnaissance Office  
Non-DoD Agencies  
Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for AT&L  
Space Operations Command  
Space Systems Center

### FUNDAMENTAL PART OF ACQUISITION COMMUNITY

Assignment opportunities throughout the lifecycle of Air Force systems, which includes early research and development of new technologies, design, testing, and fielding of new systems, and support for fielded systems engaged in day-to-day operations.



### DOMAINS/CAPABILITY AREAS

Air  
Space  
Cyberspace  
Weapons  
Nuclear  
Software

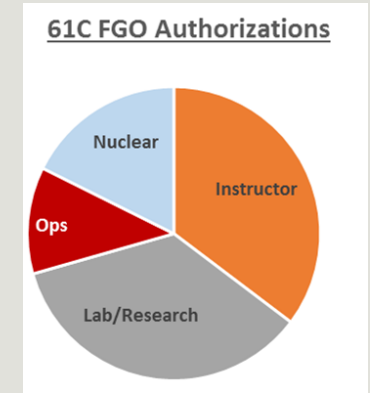
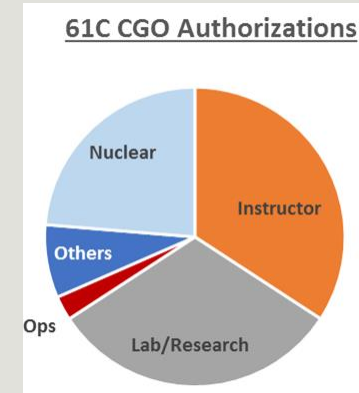
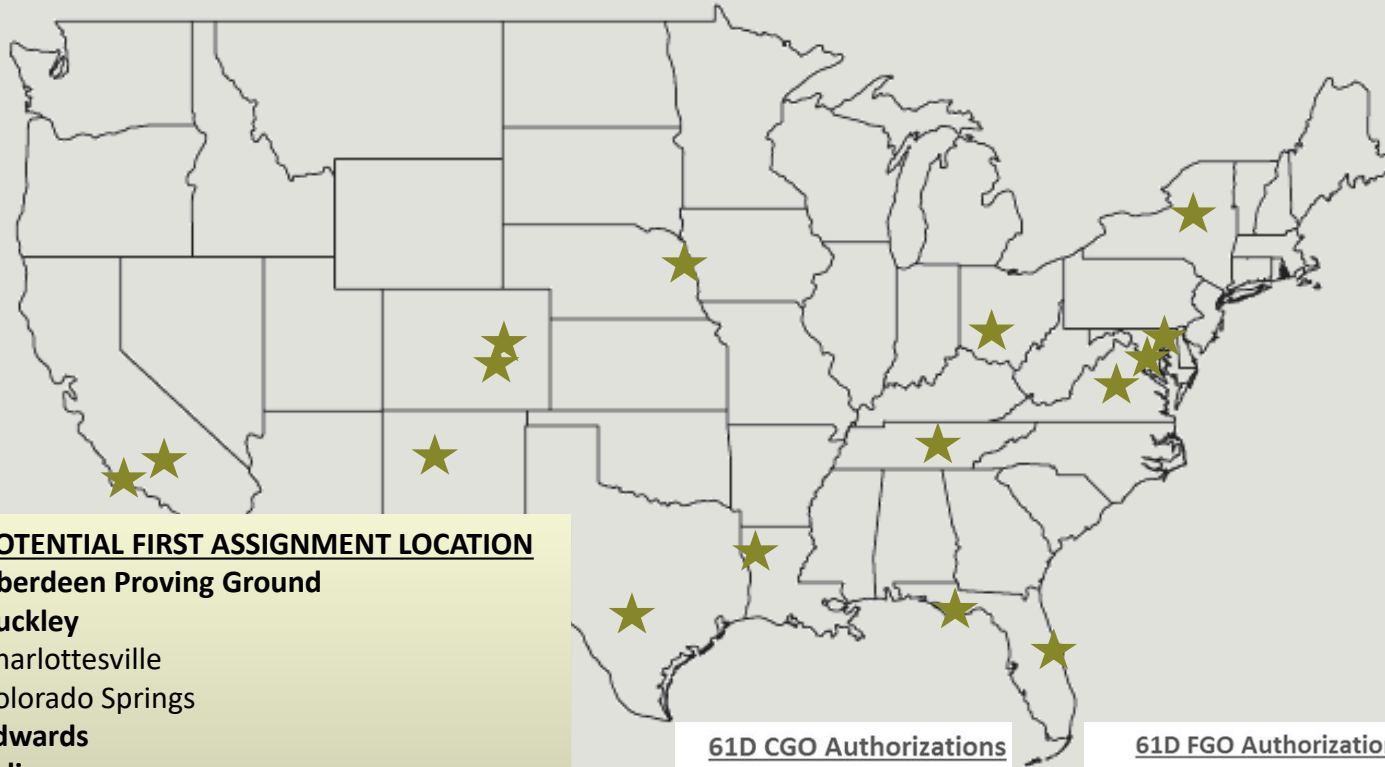
### DEVELOPMENT / EDUCATION / CAREER BROADENING OPPORTUNITIES

Acquisition Instructor Course  
Advanced Academic Degree  
CSAF Prestigious PhD Program  
Developing Airmen We Need – Education  
Dr. Heather Wilson STEM PhD Program  
Education with Industry  
Engineer and Scientist Exchange Program  
Faculty Pipeline  
Officer Instructor & Recruiting Special Duty  
Operational Experience  
Special Experience Exchange Duty Programs  
Test Pilot School  
T-Prefix Direct Hire  
USSOCOM Ghost Program  
180/365-Day Deployments  
63A (Program Manager) Assignments

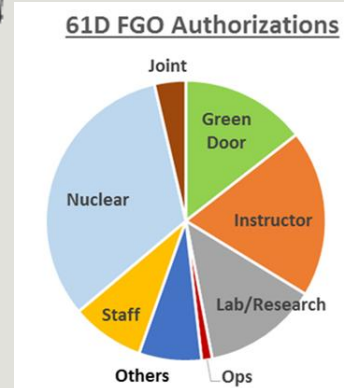
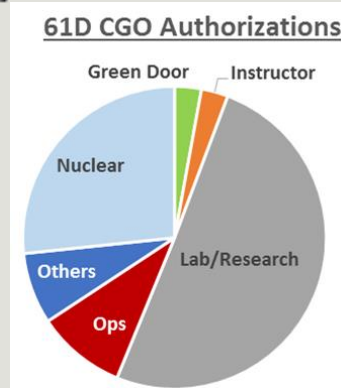
### FUNCTIONAL AREAS

Program Management  
Engineering  
Test and Evaluation  
Production, Quality, and Manufacturing  
Basic Research and Laboratory Operations  
Academia

# 61X-Coded Position Locations



**OCONUS**  
 Germany  
 Hawaii  
 Japan  
 United Kingdom



- POTENTIAL FIRST ASSIGNMENT LOCATION**
- Aberdeen Proving Ground**
  - Buckley**
  - Charlottesville
  - Colorado Springs
  - Edwards**
  - Eglin**
  - Fort Belvoir
  - Fort Sam Houston
  - Kirtland**
  - Los Angeles**
  - Maui Island
  - Offutt
  - Patrick**
  - Rome Laboratory**
  - Wright-Patterson**
- \*\*Bold indicates higher-density location\*\***

**OCONUS OPPORTUNITIES ARE VERY LIMITED**

62E Technical SME Track																								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			PDE 1	PDE 2	PDE 3	PDE 4					IDE 1	IDE 2	IDE 3				SDE 1	SDE 2	SDE 3	SDE 4				
AAD	Assignment 1		Assignment 2				Test Assignment 2				IDE & SAF/PBM			62E ML/TechLead			SDE & Dep Div/Staff				Labor BN Dep			
	EN L1	EN L2						EN L3																

### Assignments 1-3

- At least one lab
- One PO or other acq (e.g., lab, test)
- One academia
  - PhD student
  - Instructor

### Experience

- Technical expertise
- Variety of programs throughout the acq life cycle (concept/requirements development, system development, production, sustainment)
- Strong performance in all jobs

### \*Plus experience

- Technical expertise and acknowledged leader in a given field
- Programs of varying sizes and platforms (multi-domain)
- Exec/CAG/Staff

### Education

- PhD in a technical field
- Masters degree in technical field or systems engineering
- SOS in-residence (Capt)

### Training & Certifications

- APDP Engineering Level 1 (CGO)
- APDP Engineering Level 2 (CGO)

### Maj & Lt Col Experience

- SAF/HAF/HQ SF/MAJCOM tour(s)
- Exec/CAG/Staff
- Successful ML/tech lead or Sq/CC tour
- Joint experience (OSD, Jt Staff, COCOM, or JPO)
- Strong performance in all jobs

### Education

- IDE (in-residence preferred)  
(PhD may be able to fulfill IDE in-residence)
- SDE (in-residence preferred)

### Training & Certifications

- APDP Engineering Level 3 (Maj or Lt Col)
- APDP certification in another career field

### Interpersonal Skills

- Critical thinking, strategic vision
- Effective communication
- Conflict resolution
- Effective negotiating
- Team building
- Management and organization

62E Program Leadership/SML or DCMA Commander Track																								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			PDE 1	PDE 2	PDE 3	PDE 4					IDE 1	IDE 2	IDE 3				SDE 1	SDE 2	SDE 3	SDE 4				
Assignment 1			Assignment 2				Assignment 3				IDE & SAF/PEM			ML or DCMA Sq/CC			SDE & Dep Div/Staff				SML or DCMA Gp/CC			
BN L1	BN L2		BN L3					PM L1	PM L2					PM L3										

### Assignments 1-3

- At least one Program Office (PO) with 62E and 63A time
- One other
  - Career broadening (e.g., OPEX, SPEED, EWI)
  - Institutional requirement (e.g., ROTC, recruiting, OTS instructor)
- Another PO or other acq org (e.g., lab, test, DCMA)

### Experience

- Variety of programs throughout acq life cycle (basic research, requirements development, system development, production, product support)
- Programs of varying sizes and platforms across domains
- Operational experience and/or deployment
- Technical experience
- Strong performance in all jobs

### \*Plus experience

- Competitively-selected for acq programs (e.g., EWI, Ghost)
- Competitively-selected operational experience (e.g., SPEED)
- Green Door assignment
- Exec/CAG/Staff
- "Innovation" assignment (e.g., AFWERX, Software Factory)

### Education

- Masters degree in a technical field
- SOS in-residence (Capt)

### Training & Certifications

- APDP Engineering Level 1 (CGO)

### Maj & Lt Col Experience

- SAF/HAF/HQ SF/MAJCOM tour(s) (PEM preferred)
- Exec/CAG/Staff
- Successful 62S ML, 63S ML, or Sq/CC tour (DCMA or non-acq)
- Joint experience (OSD, Jt Staff, COCOM, or JPO)
- Strong performance in all jobs

### Education

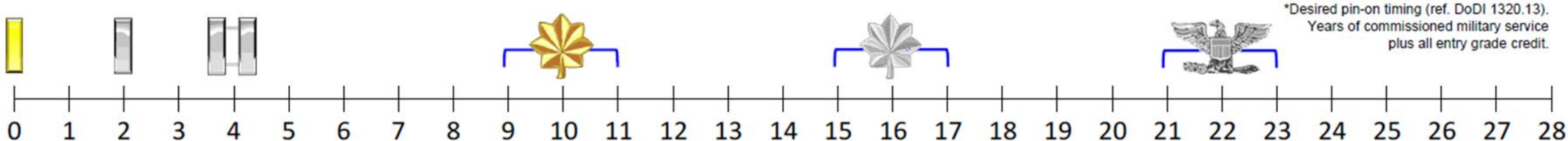
- IDE (in-residence preferred)
- SDE (in-residence preferred)

### Training & Certifications

- APDP PM Level 3 (Lt Col)
- PMT 401 (Lt Col)
- PMT 402 (Col)

### Interpersonal Skills

- Business acumen
- Critical thinking, strategic vision
- Effective communication
- Conflict resolution
- Effective negotiating
- Team building
- Management and organization



**Functional Area Experiences (CGO):**

- ❖ Air Force Research Labs, Air Force Technical Applications Center, Air Force Drug Testing Laboratory, Defense Threat Reduction Agency
- ❖ Lead Scientist, Test Manager, Mission Manager

**Formal Education/Training:**

- ❖ Initial/Advanced Skills Training
- ❖ APDP – STM/EN/Test Level I & II
- ❖ O-3 PME (PDE): Squadron Officer School

**Special Experiences:**

- ❖ Career Broadening: EWI, OPEX, SPEED
- ❖ Innovation: AFWERX, DIU, Kessel Run, Kobayashi Maru/SpaceCAMP, LevelUp
- ❖ Instructor: PME, ROTC, OTS, USAFA, AFIT
- ❖ Executive Officer
- ❖ Traditional Program Office
- ❖ Deployment, Air Advisor, ABDAR
- ❖ Flight Test Engineer (TPS)

**Functional Area Experiences (FGO):**

- ❖ Lab, Center and Agency Staff, Air Staff (SAF/AQ)
- ❖ Materiel Leader, Sq/CC, Det/CC, Branch Chief, PEM

**Formal Education/Training:**

- ❖ O-4 PME (IDE): ACSC/equiv (DL or residence)
- ❖ O-5 PME (SDE): AWC/equiv (DL or residence)
- ❖ APDP - STM/EN/Test/PM Level II & III

**Special Experiences:**

- ❖ Instructor: PME, ROTC, OTS, USAFA, AFIT
- ❖ Recruiting & Training/CC
- ❖ AFDTL/CC
- ❖ Executive Officer
- ❖ Deployment, Air Advisor, ABDAR
- ❖ AFPC Assignment Officer

**Functional Area Experiences (O-6):**

- ❖ HAF(Office of the Chief Scientist), MAJCOM, Agency, Center Chief Scientist Offices, Chief Developmental Tester
- ❖ Senior Materiel Leader, Gp/CC, Director, Dep Director, Division Chief, Dep Division Chief

**Formal Education/Training:**

- ❖ Advanced Academic Degree (MS or PhD)
- ❖ APDP - STM/EN/Test/PM Level III

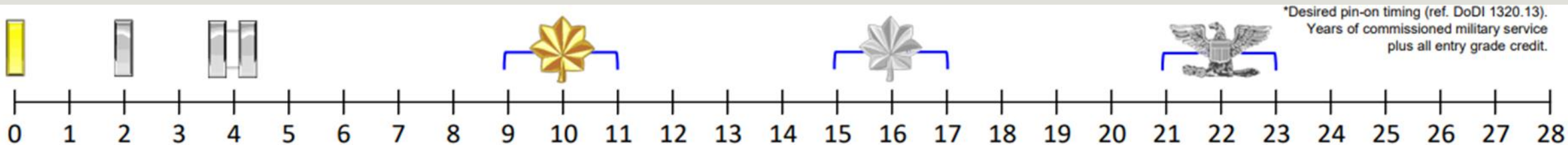
**Special Experiences:**

- ❖ USAFA/AFIT Permanent Professor/Dept Head
- ❖ Deployment

**Formal Instructor & Recruiting Duty:**

- ❖ Career broadening tour target is typically the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> assignment. Instructor and recruiting tour target is between promotion milestones.

# OVERALL 61C CAREER PROGRESSION



**Functional Area Experiences (CGO):**

- ❖ Program Office, Agency, Lab, Center, Test
- ❖ Lead Scientist/Engineer, Test Manager, Mission Manager
- ❖ Experience in multiple domains
- ❖ Operational Experience

**Formal Education/Training:**

- ❖ Initial/Advanced Skills Training
- ❖ APDP – STM/EN/Test Level I & II
- ❖ O-3 PME (PDE): Squadron Officer School

**Special Experiences:**

- ❖ Career Broadening: EWI, OPEX, SPEED
- ❖ Innovation: AFWERX, DIU, Kessel Run, Kobayashi Maru/SpaceCAMP, LevelUp
- ❖ Instructor: PME, ROTC, OTS, USAFA, AFIT
- ❖ Flight Test Engineer (TPS)
- ❖ Executive Officer
- ❖ Deployment, Air Advisor, ABDAR

**Functional Area Experiences (FGO):**

- ❖ Program Office, Agency, NAF/Center, Lab
- ❖ Air Staff, MAJCOM Staff, NAF/Center Staff
- ❖ Materiel Leader, Sq/CC, Det/CC, DO, ADO, PEM, Branch Chief
- ❖ Experience in multiple domains
- ❖ Operational Experience

**Formal Education/Training:**

- ❖ O-4 PME (IDE): ACSC/equiv (DL or residence)
- ❖ O-5 PME (SDE): AWC/equiv (DL or residence)
- ❖ APDP - STM/EN/Test/PM Level II & III

**Special Experiences:**

- ❖ Instructor: PME, ROTC, OTS, USAFA, AFIT
- ❖ Recruiting & Training/CC
- ❖ AFTAC Sq/CC
- ❖ Executive Officer
- ❖ Deployment, Air Advisor, ABDAR
- ❖ AFPC Assignment Officer

**Functional Area Experiences (O-6):**

- ❖ HAF(Office of the Chief Scientist), MAJCOM, Agency, Center Chief Scientist
- ❖ Senior Materiel Leader, Gp/CC, Director, Dep Director, Division Chief, Dep Division Chief
- ❖ Experience in multiple domains
- ❖ Operational Experience

**Formal Education/Training:**

- ❖ Advanced Academic Degree (MS or PhD)
- ❖ APDP - STM/EN/Test/PM Level III

**Special Experiences:**

- ❖ Deployment

**Formal Instructor & Recruiting Duty:**

- ❖ Career broadening tour target is typically the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> assignment. Instructor and recruiting tour target is between promotion milestones.

# OVERALL 61D CAREER PROGRESSION