



SCHOOL OF ADVANCED AIR AND SPACE STUDIES



SAASS Mission:

To deliver a strategic education that transforms thinking and communication, and increases the lethality of the Air Force, Space Force, and Joint Force.

 TERM: July-June 11-months	 DEGREE: Master of Philosophy in Military Strategy SACSOC accredited	 45 ENROLLMENT: high-performing, post-IDE/ILE officers, DoD & International	 17 PhD FACULTY: 11 Civilian, 6 Military 3 Professional Staff	 OVERSEAS FIELD PRACTICUM: deep-dive into historical and contemporary armed conflict	 POST GRAD: Advanced Studies Group, Special Experience Identifier
--	---	--	--	---	--

PROGRAM ELEMENTS:

- Book-based syllabi (+/-300pp/day)
- Socratic seminar (11-12 students)
- 10 course papers and briefings
- Overseas field practicum
- Experiential strategy practica
- Master's thesis (60-100pp)
- Comprehensive oral exams

AY2027 STUDENT COHORT:

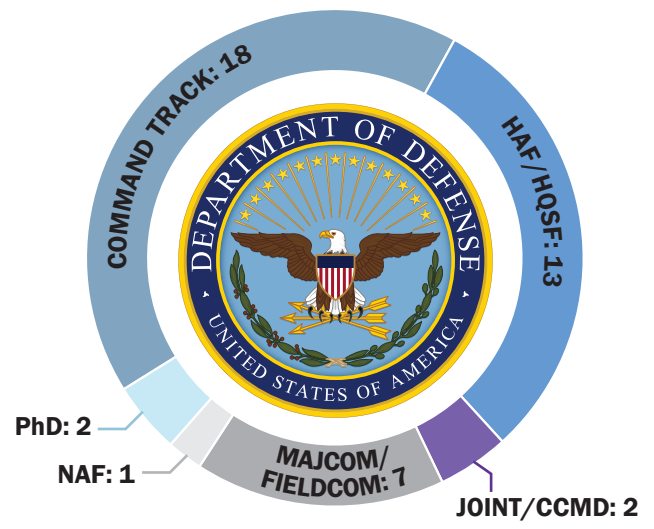
37 -

34 USAF / 3 USSF

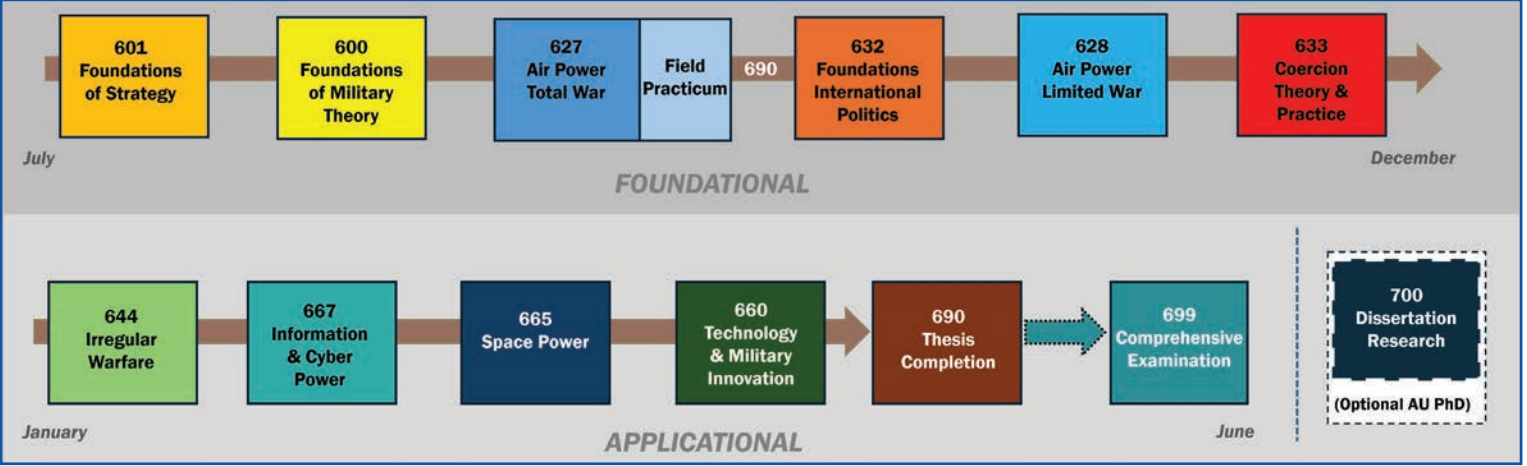
1-	1-
1-	1-
1-	

3- INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

AY26 COMBINED GRADUATE OUTPLACEMENT



SAASS ACADEMICS AT-A-GLANCE:



THE SCHOOL OF ADVANCED AIR AND SPACE STUDIES (SAASS)



The genesis of Air University’s School of Advanced Air and Space Studies (SAASS) can be traced to a question raised on the floor of the House of Representatives and subsequently asked to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF) more than three decades ago: where are the Armed Services producing their strategists? Since its chartering in 1988, SAASS has met this call, producing more than 1,400 graduates, including two Service chiefs (the Air Force and Space Force) and two combatant commanders (USSPACECOM and USTRANSCOM).

The basis for SAASS’ success rests on three pillars: selection in a competitive process of mid-career officers in the top tier of their peers; civilian and military subject matter experts who comprise the faculty; and, a curriculum centered on exploring ten core subjects along the tested formula of theory, application, and practice.

The SAASS curriculum, in turn, remains relevant for three reasons. First, SAASS works under the authority of the VCSAF as an Advanced Studies Group (ASG) program. As an ASG, SAASS complements its Sister Service counterparts. This designation removes joint and other requirements associated with professional military education. Second, the faculty are entrusted by the VCSAF to review, revise, and update the curriculum collaboratively. Third, and most importantly, the SAASS education is premised on developing five strategic competencies that guide curriculum design and delivery. These competencies are:

- **Theoretical Competency:** The skills to conceptualize and assess theoretical frameworks of cause and effect.
- **Empirical Competency:** The knowledge and ability to intuit historical patterns and apply analogies to understand the contemporary environment.
- **Critical Competency:** The ability to apply theory, supported with empirics, and absent bias to assess and characterize the contemporary environment.
- **Analytical Competency:** The ability to deconstruct concepts and problems into component parts to evaluate complex issues and interests that characterize the contemporary environment.
- **Rhetorical Competency:** The ability to articulate to myriad stakeholders the logic and reasoning that underpins a strategy’s design.

The net effect of SAASS competency development is strategic synthesis, or the ability to utilize all five competencies to develop strategy to mitigate or address problems in the contemporary environment. This connects directly to the School’s value proposition: *SAASS cultivates the strategic military mind. We equip graduates with the acumen to read widely, think deeply, and communicate powerfully to solve complex issues in air, space, and cyber.*

These competencies and value proposition are consistent with SAASS’ mission: **To deliver a strategic education that transforms thinking and communication, and increases the lethality of the Air Force, Space Force, and Joint Force.**



Join the conversation! Check out **Books to Battles**, the official podcast of SAASS — listen wherever you get your podcasts.

