WELCOME TO SOS, CLASS 24A!

You have been registered to participate in the SOS In-Residence course 24A from 8 NOV – 15 DEC.

*If you find this message to be an error, please contact your unit training manager to be removed from the course immediately.

This letter will outline your expectations and what you need to know to successfully complete the IR course. Please read the welcome letter in its entirety for detailed instructions.

You are expected to complete between 120-130 hours of instruction which includes self-paced readings and homework assignments, electives, and guest speakers.

1. To complete class assignments and participate in class discussions you will need:
   i. Internet access (provided by on-base lodging and SOS bldg.)
   ii. A personal laptop or computer with a webcam & microphone.
      *Smartphones and tablets are optional tools and can access our learning platform, but highly encourage the use of a laptop or computer. **DHA & Govt issued (CAC enabled) Laptops are not compatible with the Air University WIFI**
      iii. CAC reader
   iv. Access to the following apps (recommend they be downloaded to your device)
      a. Microsoft Teams
      b. Google Calendar
      c. Okta Verify App

2. All SOS lesson modules and assignments are located on AU Canvas (a1-ims.octa.com) You will be able to access SOS course material starting Day 1.

3. Education Day 1
   i. Your first event of the day will be at the Ritchey Center at 0800.
   ii. UOD:
      a. (Military): OCPs/ FDUs
      b. (Civilian): Professional and Casual business attire
   iii. USAF & Civilian Students: Last PT Scoresheet showing all passing components and current through graduation.
      a. USSF Students enrolled in the biometric watches must show proof of the device (PFA Score sheet not required).
      b. USSF Students not enrolled in the biometric program must show current and passing PFA sheets.
   iv. Air Force Reserves: Bring 2x copies of your orders.

**FAILURE TO SHOW CURRENT & PASSING PFA WILL RESULT IN BEING SENT HOME AT YOUR UNITS HOME EXPENSE**

4. Your Flight Commander will be contacting you NLT 1630 CST 3 November. Please check your .mil email as this is likely the only initial contact information your Flight Commander has for you. If you do not receive an initial contact from your instructor by Friday, 3 November, please email Student Services at sos.od.studentservices@us.af.mil.
5. If you have any issues with the Maxwell AFB University Inn, please inform your Flight Commander and talk to the front desk.

If you have further question, please visit our website at https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/SOS or contact SOS student services.

   Email sos.od.studentservices@us.af.mil - DSN 493-3231 - COMM (334) 953-3231

Follow us on social media for additional messages as your class date approaches.
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/squadronofficerschool
Instagram: Squadron Officer School (@squadron_officer_school) • Instagram photos and videos
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/squadron-officer-school/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/SOSUSAFT
Squadron Officer School Resident Program

Program Description:
The Squadron Officer School (SOS) resident program is a PME course targeting four-to-seven-year Air Force captains, select Department of the Air Force civilians of equivalent grade, and international officers. The post-baccalaureate PDE curriculum covers four core learning areas—Thinking, Warfighting, Leading and Communication. Throughout SOS, students team build and apply theories, principles, and practices from the core learning areas through experiential exercises, written assignments, briefings, and personal and collaborative reflection culminating in a capstone event for each core learning area.

Leader Prep:
Students will accomplish the readings and other preparation requirements ahead of the associated lesson. Check Canvas daily for required readings, activities, and videos. Please be prepared each day with a laptop/personal device with video and audio ON for each virtual lesson.

Squadron Officer School Electives

SOS Electives
SOS electives are sessions taught by SOS faculty on a variety of subject. Upon the start of SOS, students will have the opportunity to select from a list of electives they would like to participate in during the five-week course.

As an SOS student you will participate in one of three types of electives during the five-week course.
- Air University Advance Research (AUAR) elective
- Think Tank
- General Electives

Air University Advance Research
The Air University Advanced Research (AUAR) Elective is an opportunity for a selective group of students to conduct independent research on topics of strategic concern. This is a five-week elective requiring approximately 20-40 hours beyond SOS curriculum. Selected students are assigned mentor(s) who guide research efforts and define deliverables. Student researchers receive a bullet on their AF 475 Training Report. Student benefits include advanced study on exciting topics, networking with communities of interest throughout the research experience, briefing Department of the Air Force senior leaders & originations, publish research papers, and the opportunity to shape the Air Force's and Space Force's future.

Think Tank
Think Tank is an opportunity for a select group of students to tackle a major issue and present creative solutions to current and active stakeholders. It is physically, mentally, and emotionally challenging and students are expected to work well beyond the SOS curriculum. Students present the fruit of that labor, live, to USAF/USSF decision makers. Team members receive intensive coaching on design principles adapted from the best practices in industry, academia, and militaries from across the world. You will learn and practice strategic thinking skills that are directly applicable and highly valuable to leaders of all levels. Join us for our open house on ED1 to learn more! On Welcome Day is when students will receive the 24A topic.
United States Space Force at Squadron Officer School

**Spacepower Education and Advanced Readiness (SPEAR) Track**

**Who:** All Guardians and Total Force Airman supporting space operations

Welcome to the future of Guardian education! With the standup of the United States Space Force (USSF), Squadron Officer School (SOS) has created the Spacepower Education and Advanced Readiness (SPEAR) track for USSF officers and Total Force Airmen supporting space operations. SPEAR is a Guardian centric program designed to teach our junior officers to lead Guardians and deliver combined arms effects in support of combatant commanders. Unlike the mainline SOS program, SPEAR is a predominantly warfighting track which replaces airpower-focused curriculum with a spacepower-centric program.

All Guardians enrolled in SOS will take part in the SPEAR Track, and will have the opportunity to experience the best that the USSF has to offer. Our team of Guardians has developed a culture built around the four C’s – Character, Courage, Commitment, and Connection – and integrated it throughout the curriculum.

Students will be exposed to several topics previously limited to more senior officers in Air Command and Staff College, in addition to the most current Space Force doctrine and a custom space focused wargame. Additionally, students will be given lessons that incorporate lessons learned from other schools such as the Army Captains Career Course, and will be introduced to the Space Force’s warfighting competencies. Our students experience a distinctly space operations focused take on SOS. The SPEAR track is academically rigorous – students will have approximately 10 hours more curriculum than mainline SOS students, and students will be expected to perform around two hours of reading per night.

Unlike the rest of SOS, SGR offers one classified briefing for students and the opportunity to have discussions in classified spaces. So we can ensure you can have the discussions, all Guardians are required to send their security clearance to the Lemay Center prior to attending. Students will need to send a visit request to the Lemay Center for TS-SCI. **Students must have SI/TK/HCS-P/G caveats to attend the space threats briefing.**

For any questions regarding clearance processing, reach out to the Lemay Center SSO, Ms. Octavia Satterwhite at octavia.satterwhite.1@us.af.mil. **NOTE: YOUR CLEARANCE/INVESTIGATION DATE MUST BE CURRENT WITHIN 5 YEARS AND BE LOADED INTO DISS. WE CANNOT ACCEPT CLEARANCES LISTED IN SCATTERED CASTLES.**

Please use the following information to send your clearance information:

SCI access: SSO AU-SSO AU-1  
POC Name: Maj Joe Calidonna  
Event Title: SOS class ###  
Dates: (Put the dates for the duration of the SOS class starting on Day 1- Day 25)

Semper Supra!
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Do we need to bring blues/service dress?
- No, blues or service dress are not required for SOS.

What does the average day look like at SOS?
- Students can expect to be in class from 0800-1630, with some variation depending on the events of the day. You are afforded an hour for lunch.

I’m overseas and I’m arriving Saturday night, will my room be available?
- Yes, please call the University Inn prior to your arrival so they can adjust your reservation. Contact your Flight Commander if there are any issues.

Will we have holidays off?
- Yes, SOS observes all Federal holidays and AETC family days.

Are there facilities for laundry in lodging and how much do they cost?
- Yes, there is a laundry room in each of the buildings in lodging. The machines are free, but you need to bring/purchase your own detergent and dryer sheets.

How much of the course is dedicated to USSF curriculum for USSF personnel?
- All USSF Guardians are organized in their own flight, following a USSF curriculum, separate from the USAF curriculum received by the Airmen. All students will participate in the same experientials and team leadership exercises.

Are we allowed to travel on the weekends? How far can we travel?
- Yes, you are allowed to travel on the weekends. You will need to get all travel plans approved through your Flight Commander/Squadron Commander. Each squadron will go over their travel policy and weekend locator requirements.

I’m flying in and my unit won’t issue me a rental car. Will I be able to walk to get where I need to go?
- University Inn is across the street from the SOS building, the Maxwell Fitness Center is also nearby, and the DFAC is about a third of a mile walk. The BX and commissary are about a 1-mile walk.

I’m working DTS, but I have not received my LOA, can you help me?
- SOS does not handle the LOAs, that is an AETC TDY-to-School function. They can be contacted DSN 487-2971/COMM 210-652-2971 or tdy.school@us.af.mil. They should cross-org you the LOA a few days after you have signed and returned your RIP.

Do we book lodging through DTS?
- SOS reserves the lodging for students so you do not need to book it through DTS. Any Non-Availability letter or notification of no lodging available received through DTS should be ignored.

How do we get from the airport to Maxwell?
- SOS does not offer transportation services. There are several Taxi companies that can get on base. Some Uber/Lyft can also get on base, but you would have to make sure the driver has access. Uber/Lyft driver that do not have base access will be required to drop you off at the front gate.