25 January 2022

Dear Future SOS Student

Welcome to the beginning of your Squadron Officer School (SOS) experience! SOS has a long heritage, dating back to the formative years of the Air Force. Founded in 1950 by Colonel Russell Ritchey, SOS was designed as a leadership development center for junior officers that blended graduate-level instruction with thrilling experiential activities to strengthen leadership, team building, and critical-thinking skills. Today’s SOS goes farther. We offer relevant, cutting-edge leadership instruction and experiential applications that you’ll find both challenging and rewarding.

SOS employs the LEAD to Prevail curriculum. LEAD - Leadership Experience and Attribute Development executes across three phases. The first phase challenges you to know yourself and your team. You will conduct deep introspection to grasp who you are and chart a course to become a better version of yourself. The second phase takes an in-depth look at solving problems. You’ll incorporate diverse perspectives to address a range of complex and complicated challenges through a dependable, repeatable process. The third phase will lead you through air and space power doctrine, international relations, and joint operations. During your capstone exercise, you’ll use the lessons learned in the first two phases and apply them to the execution of air and space power in a joint environment.

Now, I have a question for you as you prepare mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually. Are you ready to think, communicate, cooperate, and above all – be Better Together? As a member of our nation’s armed service, you will work in concert with other elements of national power and by, with, and through partners and allies to accomplish our mission. This will hold true in your experience here at SOS and in the decades that follow your graduation.

See you soon #SOS22C,

LANCE ROSA-MIRANDA, Colonel, USAF
Commandant