



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
SQUADRON OFFICER SCHOOL (AETC)
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE ALABAMA**



"Around the world, the need for American leadership is as great as it has ever been. We are in the midst of a strategic competition to shape the future of the international order."

-2022 National Security Strategy

Welcome to Air University's premier Professional Military Education course. Squadron Officer School has been deliberately crafted to develop air and space leaders primed to prevail in competitive environments. With emphasis on warfighting, leadership, thinking, and communicating, Squadron Officer School is timed for this critical inflection point that necessitates broadening your perspective from the tactical to the operational level to enable joint warfighting for the Department of the Air Force. SOS remains the only shared experience for all USAF and USSF officers, and includes opportunities for highly competitive civilian equivalents, Reservists, Air National Guardsmen, and vital international partners.

You are the decisive advantage. Your leadership, commitment, and perseverance are critical to our nation's strategic opportunity because "what we do in the next few years is going to set conditions for victory or defeat in the next war...if deterrence fails" (2022 National Military Strategy). Both the People's Republic of China and Russia have demonstrated an intent to reshape the international order and there are multiple ongoing conflicts around the globe that are actively degrading the security of the international order. The effort you put into your learning will determine the degree to which you are able to understand and apply these lessons in your own life and career. I challenge you to take this opportunity to push past those boundaries and broaden your perspective both personally and professionally.

To ensure you have the most up to date information as it pertains to your upcoming class, please visit <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/SOS/Student-Experience/> early and often. We approach our mission to educate you very seriously and look forward to your arrival and the opportunity to learn from and with you as we continue to grow the world's greatest Air and Space Forces. You are the leader we need to carry the next fight to our nation's adversaries.

Sincerely,

STEVEN J. AYRE, Colonel, USAF
Commandant