

**BY ORDER OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**

AIR FORCE INSTRUCTION 36-2301

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Personnel

DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION



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This Instruction implements AFPD 36-23, *Military Education*. This Instruction rescinds AFI 36-2025, *Air Force Intern Program*, and incorporates program guidance into this Instruction. Source and governing documents also include the DODI 1300.19, *DOD Joint Officer Management Program*; DODI 1322.06, *Fellowships, Scholarships, Training With Industry, and Grants for DOD Personnel*; the CJCSI 1800.01, *Officer Professional Military Education Policy – OPMEP*; and the CJCSI 1805.01, *Enlisted Professional Military Education Policy - EPMEP*. Developmental Education (DE) includes: Professional Military Education (PME), Joint PME (JPME), International PME, resident and distance learning programs, as well as AF-sponsored Advanced Academic Degree (AAD) programs, Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT), Naval Post-graduate School (NPS), National Defense Intelligence College (NDIC), Advanced Study of Air Mobility (ASAM), the AF Intern Program (AFIP) and the AF Fellows (AFF) Program for AF military and civilian employees. This AFI governs Developmental Education (DE) attendance, eligibility, selection, and removal criteria. It also provides procedures for inclusion of international officers in PME programs. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule (RDS) located at <https://www.my.af.mil/gcss-af61a/afirms/afirms/>.

Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) using the AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of a Publication*; route AF Forms 847 from the field through the appropriate functional's chain of command. Field activities publishing implementation guidance must route those to higher headquarters functional OPR for review and coordination before publishing. This publication applies to Air National Guard (ANG) and Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) as well as Air Force civilian

employees, and compliance with this publication is mandatory. SAF/MR coordination is required before this document is revised, rescinded, or reissued.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This document is substantially revised and must be completely reviewed. This revision incorporates Wing/CC/Senior Rater responsibility; inclusion of the definition and importance of diversity as it relates to Developmental Education (DE); the importance of completing DE by Distance Learning (DL); Fitness test requirements; terminology change to include the addition of Primary DE; eligibility/prerequisites/selection/declinations/deferments/waivers for officer, civilian and enlisted; non-resident/DL-opportunities for officer, civilian and enlisted; information on AU educational programs which have been added; Advanced Studies Group information; Enlisted PME ribbon and awards information; and descriptions of DE opportunities.

Section A—Purpose and Responsibilities	4
1. Purpose of DE.	4
2. Scope.	4
3. Responsibilities.	5
Section B—Officer DE	14
4. Architecture.	14
5. Attendance.	15
6. Eligibility and Prerequisites.	15
Table 1. Active Duty Officer1 Resident DE Eligibility Criteria.	17
Table 2. Air Force Reserve/Air National Guard Resident Officer1 DE Eligibility Criteria.	18
7. Selection.	18
8. Declinations, Deferments, and Removal.	19
9. Non-resident/DL Programs.	21
Table 3. Active Duty Officer Non-Resident/DL PME Eligibility Criteria.	23
10. DE Resident Equivalency Credit.	24
Table 4. Officer Programs Eligible for IDE or SDE Equivalency Credit1.	26
11. International Applicants.	26
12. Advanced Studies Group (ASG).	28
13. Air Force Intern (AFIP) and Air Force Fellows Program (AFF).	28
Section C—Civilian DE	30
14. Architecture.	30
15. Attendance.	31

	16.	Eligibility and Prerequisites.	31
Table	5.	DoD Civilian Resident DE Eligibility Criteria.	31
	17.	Selection.	33
	18.	Declinations, Deferments & Removal	34
	19.	Non-resident/DL Programs.	34
Table	6.	DoD Civilian Non-Resident/DL PME Eligibility Criteria.	35
	20.	DE Resident Equivalency Credit.	36
Table	7.	Civilian Programs Eligible for IDE or SDE Equivalency Credit.	36
	21.	International Applicants.	36
	22.	AF Fellow Program.	36
Section D—Enlisted DE			37
	23.	Architecture.	37
	24.	EPME Resident Eligibility and Prerequisites.	38
Table	8.	EPME1 Resident School Eligibility Criteria.	40
	25.	Selection.	41
	26.	Declinations, Deferments, and Waivers.	43
	27.	Non-resident/DL Programs.	46
Table	9.	EPME Non-resident/DL Eligibility Criteria.	46
	28.	EPME Graduate Ribbon.	46
	29.	EPME Achievement Awards.	46
	30.	EPME Triennial Review.	47
	40.	48
Attachment 1—GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION			49
Attachment 2—OFFICER/CIVILIAN DE INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAMS			53
Attachment 3—AIR FORCE INTERN PROGRAM (AFIP) & AIR FORCE FELLOW (AFF) PROGRAM OFFICER/CIVILIAN DESCRIPTIONS			55
Attachment 4—AIR FORCE OFFICER/CIVILIAN SDE FELLOWSHIP (AFF) PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS			59
Attachment 5—OFFICER/CIVILIAN PRIMARY DE (PDE) CREDIT			69
Attachment 6—DEGREES AWARDED BY AIR UNIVERSITY			70
Attachment 7—DE EQUIVALENCY FOR NON-AF PME SCHOOLS			71

Attachment 8—EQUIVALENCY/COMPARABILITY RECERTIFICATION GUIDANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL PME PROGRAMS	72
Attachment 9—MINIMUM INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CONDUCTING A PME EQUIVALENCY REVIEW	73
Attachment 10—APPLYING FOR MISSION ESSENTIAL OR HUMANITARIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM CDE	74

Section A—Purpose and Responsibilities

1. Purpose of DE. Air Force DE programs expand knowledge and increase understanding of the role of air, space and cyberspace power in times of peace and war. Air Force education programs prepare Air Force personnel to anticipate and successfully meet challenges across the range of military operations and build a professional corps. Further, they positively impact both recruitment and retention efforts. Education is one of three core concepts that make up the Continuum of Learning (CoL) which encompasses the deliberate developmental path over the course of an Air Force career. The other two core concepts of the CoL are training and experience. The CoL ensures the Air Force synchronizes force development efforts so personnel receive the right education at the right time throughout their careers. This Instruction establishes education guidance and procedures for all officer and enlisted, active duty, guard and reserve components, and civilians.

2. Scope. As a common taxonomy used to implement the CoL, the Institutional Competency List (ICL) which is found in AFPD 36-26, *Total Force Development*, identifies the competencies expected of all Airmen throughout their careers to operate successfully in constantly changing operational environments. The term “developmental education” refers to an array of educational opportunities. DE is comprised of professional and specialized education programs, research and doctrinal studies, fellowships, and graduate-level studies. DE spans a member’s entire career and provides the knowledge and abilities needed to develop, employ, and command air, space and cyberspace forces. Career field-specific officer and civilian Development Teams (DT) and enlisted Career Field Managers (CFM) oversee personnel development to meet functional and institutional, tactical, operational, and strategic leadership requirements. As such, they will evaluate developmental opportunities and provide input into the DE selection process.

2.1. A critical subset under the DE umbrella is Professional Military Education (PME). The objectives of PME programs are 1) provide the nation with personnel skilled in the employment of air, space and cyberspace power in the conduct of war and small scale contingencies; 2) provide Air Force personnel with the skills and knowledge to make strategic decisions in progressively more demanding leadership positions within the national security environment; 3) develop strategic thinkers, planners and warfighters; and 4) strengthen the ability and skill of AF personnel to lead, manage and supervise. These objectives shall be reflected in the AF Institutional Competency List and Air University Continuum of Education. PME includes resident and non-resident programs listed as follows: Air and Space Basic Course (ASBC), Squadron Officer School (SOS), Air Command and Staff College (ACSC), Service and Foreign Command and Staff Colleges, Air War College (AWC), Service and Foreign War Colleges, National Defense University

(NDU), Joint Forces Staff College, Airman Leadership School (ALS), Noncommissioned Officer Academy (NCOA), Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy (AFSNCOA) and the CMSgt Leadership Course (CLC). NOTE: Non-resident and Distance Learning (DL) are the same and will be used interchangeably within this Instruction. DL is considered any form of DE in which the learner/learning group is separate from the instructor(s)/course provider(s) and communication between the two is via correspondence and/or telecommunications/computer-networking systems.

3. Responsibilities. All commanders and leaders will encourage personnel to take advantage of resident and non-resident educational opportunities. Specific responsibilities include the following:

3.1. The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs (SAF/MR) serves as an agent of the Secretary and provides guidance, direction, and oversight for all matters pertaining to the formulation, review, and execution of plans, policies, programs, and budgets addressing developmental education.

3.2. The Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower, Personnel and Services (AF/A1)

3.2.1. Provides operational oversight and advocacy for Air Force DE programs.

3.2.2. Presents DE programs and concepts to the Force Management and Development Council (FMDC) for consideration.

3.2.3. Chairs the annual DE Designation Board (DEDB) at the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC).

3.2.4. Ensures appropriate diversity considerations are integrated in AF-level DE policies, guidance and programs. Diversity in the Air Force is broadly defined as a composite of individual characteristics, experiences, and abilities consistent with the Air Force Core Values and the Air Force Mission. Air Force diversity includes, but is not limited to, personal life experiences, geographic background, socioeconomic background, cultural knowledge, educational background, work background, language abilities, physical abilities, philosophical/spiritual perspectives, age, race, ethnicity and gender. The specific characteristics, experiences, and abilities that will be applied need to be tailored as specific circumstances and the law require.

3.2.5. Removal authority for officers and civilians identified on IDE/SDE designation lists.

3.3. The Directorate of Force Development (AF/A1D)

3.3.1. Provides implementation guidance, programs funds, and oversees DE programs.

3.3.2. Determines annual Air Force DE requirements, establishes Air Force attendance quotas at Air Force and non-Air Force schools, determines annual quotas and program guidance for the Air Force Intern Program (AFIP) and Air Force Fellow Program (AFF), and determines non-Air Force participation in Air Force PME programs.

3.3.3. Determines AF guidance on DE eligibility criteria, selection, and removal for resident and non-resident programs for lieutenant colonels and below, civilian employees, and enlisted personnel.

3.3.4. Allocates Air Force active duty and civilian resident DE quotas to AFPC and AF/DPO; allocates Air Force Reserve quotas to US Air Force Reserve (AF/RE); and allocates Air National Guard quotas to Air National Guard Readiness Center (NGB/A1DL).

3.3.5. Allocates Air Force officer and enlisted PME quotas to the other Services, the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs (SAF/IA), and appropriate governmental agencies.

3.3.6. Approves any increase or decrease to PME resident schools annual production capability. (Exception: MAJCOMs may authorize increase/decrease in production to ALS to accommodate MAJCOM EPME production requirements.)

3.3.7. Serves as the Air Force point of contact/liaison to the JCS/J-7 for Joint PME (JPME) issues.

3.3.8. Serves as the Strategic Policy Intern Support Office by coordinating Intern rotations with HAF, Joint Staff and OSD organizations.

3.3.9. Ensures a biennial review is conducted of all AF Fellowships and submits a final list to the AF/A1 for consideration.

3.3.10. Ensures CSAF DE opportunity rate guidance is followed for active duty LAF officers.

3.3.11. Acts as the waiver-approval authority for eligibility for non-resident PME programs.

3.4. Air Force Colonels Management (AF/DPO)

3.4.1. Implements Air Force guidance on DE eligibility, selection, and removal for active duty line and non-line colonels and colonel-selects.

3.4.2. Ensures line colonels (and selects) that have potential to be in key leadership positions are selected to attend resident Senior DE (SDE) programs.

3.4.3. Responsible for the line and non-line colonel (and selects) portion of the annual SDE selection/designation board to include working with AFPC to staff the results through AF/A1 for approval and release to the field.

3.4.4. Approves/disapproves colonels (and selects) for the following actions: individual declinations, requests for operational or humanitarian deferment, and removal from the select list.

3.4.4.1. Manages outplacement of all colonels (and selects) currently attending SDE. Coordinates with AFPC to manage out placement for all resident programs.

3.5. Air Force Chiefs Group (AF/DPE)

3.5.1. Coordinates with AF/A1DLE to project future CMSgt Leadership Course (CLC) quotas based on projected promotions, supplemental promotions, and previous-year CLC deferments.

3.5.2. Ensures CMSgts (and selects) are scheduled to attend the CLC within the first year of promotion selection (or subsequent year if deferred).

- 3.5.3. Sends confirmed CLC class rosters to AFSNCOA NLT 60 days prior to Class Start Date (CSD).
- 3.5.4. Notifies personnel selected for attendance through the base formal training office NLT 60 days prior to CSD.
- 3.5.5. Coordinates deferment requests for attendance with MAJCOM A1s and CCCs.
- 3.5.6. Selects/schedules CMSgts for Keystone Course with AF/CCC approval.
- 3.6. Air Force Personnel Center Commander (AFPC/CC)
- 3.6.1. Implements Air Force guidance on DE eligibility, selection (excluding SOS, ALS and OCONUS NCOAs), and removal for civilians and active duty officers below the rank of Colonel/Senior Executive Service (SES).
- 3.6.2. Announces programs, eligibility criteria and nomination procedures in annual Intermediate DE (IDE)/Senior Developmental Education (SDE) program message distributed AF-wide.
- 3.6.3. Ensures all officer “selects” are designated to attend resident IDE and SDE programs before the end of their eligibility window. Lieutenant colonels (and selects) and majors (and selects) will be nominated by their senior raters to their DTs to compete for DE consideration. See Tables 1, 6 and 7 for rank requirements for respective resident DE programs (PME schools, fellowships, etc). AF/DPO manages the DE selection process for all colonels (and selects). Civilians will be endorsed by their Wing/CC or the first SES/GO in the chain to their DTs and considered by the CDE Selection Board to compete for appropriate DE consideration.
- 3.6.4. Convenes the annual DEDB for active duty officers and civilians competing for resident IDE and SDE. Chaired by the AF/A1, the DEDB determines school assignments for selected active duty officers below the grade of colonel or colonel-select as well as for selected civilians in NSPS pay band 3 and below as well as for GS-15 and below. AF/JA will convene an annual selection board for judge advocate (LAF-J) officers competing for resident IDE and SDE. AF/JA will submit the officers identified for attendance to AF/A1 for approval during the DEDB.
- 3.6.4.1. Convenes Civilian DE (CDE) Selection Board prior to DEDB. The CDE Selection Board membership is made up of SES and GOs.
- 3.6.5. Publishes approved IDE and SDE selection and designation lists.
- 3.6.6. Approves individual declinations and requests for mission-essential and humanitarian removal from school lists for lieutenant colonels and below and civilians. If an officer is in his or her last year of eligibility and cannot attend IDE/SDE because of mission or humanitarian reasons, AFPC will prepare a letter stating the officer was selected for IDE/SDE but was unable to attend in his or her final year of eligibility. Reference paragraphs 8 and 18, concerning declinations, deferments, and removal, for additional information.
- 3.6.6.1. Permanently files deferment and declination letters in the officer’s HQ USAF selection folder with a copy sent to the member and Senior Rater. Requests for civilian IDE/SDE declinations, withdrawals or deferments must be submitted

through the individual's endorser to AFPC/DPI. The request will be staffed, determination provided and letters will be permanently filed in the civilian's official student folder with a copy sent to the member and the endorser.

3.6.7. Distributes SOS Line of the Air Force (LAF) officer quotas to MAJCOMs and other agencies. Unfilled quotas will be filled by the responsible MAJCOM.

3.6.7.1. Determines if officers attending SOS in conjunction with a PCS move will attend TDY enroute or TDY-and-return following PCS sign-in, based on cost analysis and concurrence of the gaining commander.

3.6.7.2. Centrally manages and distributes civilian SOS quotas through Air Force wide competition.

3.6.7.3. Non-line officer quotas will be distributed to the appropriate non-line functional community.

3.6.8. Ensures newly commissioned officers are scheduled for the Air and Space Basic Course (ASBC).

3.6.8.1. Should meet CSAF guidance of 100% attendance goal for all active duty LAF lieutenants.

3.6.8.2. Approves MAJCOM request for individual declinations and requests for mission-essential and humanitarian removal.

3.6.9. Ensure each civilian DE attendee meets eligibility criteria outlined in Air Force Education and Training Course Announcement (ETCA): <https://etca.randolph.af.mil> and Table 5.

3.6.9.1. Ensures DE course completion data is updated in the Civilian personnel data system.

3.6.10. Designates and schedules candidates to attend the CONUS NCOAs, AFSNCOA, and other equivalent non-Air Force schools.

3.6.10.1. Determines allocations and distributes training line numbers for AFSNCOA and all CONUS NCOAs.

3.6.10.2. Ensures SMSgts selects are scheduled to attend the AFSNCOA (or sister Service/international equivalent courses) before SMSgt promotion (or when available if deferred).

3.6.10.3. Monitors AFPC selection lists of AFSNCOA students and maintains list of AFSNCOA (and equivalent sister Service/international courses) eligibles to fill short-notice vacancies.

3.6.10.4. Programs and schedules annual EPME school production for CONUS NCOAs.

3.6.10.5. Notifies MAJCOM A1s quarterly of approved EPME promotion waivers.

3.6.10.6. Updates and corrects invalid, missing, or erroneous EPME information.

3.7. Office of the Air Force Reserve (AF/RE)

3.7.1. Establishes eligibility and selection criteria for Air Force Reserve personnel to attend in residence DE programs.

3.7.2. Convenes Reserve DEDB to designate Reserve officers for resident DE based upon the whole-person concept.

3.7.3. Publishes the resident school selection lists for Air Force Reserve personnel.

3.7.4. Ensures unused quotas for IDE/SDE opportunities are returned to AF/A1DL as suspended annually.

3.8. Director of the Air National Guard (NGB/CF).

3.8.1. Establishes eligibility and selection criteria for ANG personnel to attend resident DE programs.

3.8.2. Publishes the resident school selection lists for ANG personnel.

3.8.3. Ensures unused quotas for IDE/SDE opportunities are returned to AF/A1DL as suspended annually.

3.9. Headquarters Air Education and Training Command (AETC) executes this Instruction regarding DE; programs for and establishes academic and procedural guidance for executing academic programs to implement DE.

3.9.1. Air University (AU)

3.9.1.1. Develops, conducts, and evaluates DE resident and distance learning programs in accordance with the Air Force Instructional System Development (ISD) process [ISD guidance is provided in AFH36-2235v10, *Information for Designers of Instruction Systems*; AFMAN 26-2236, *Guidebook for Air Force Instructors*; and AFMAN 36-2234, *Instructional System Development*]; conducts professional development courses for selected joint, international, civilian and Air National Guard/Air Force Reserve personnel.

3.9.1.2. Maintains faculties, staff and facilities at the Spaatz Center for resident and non-resident officer DE programs and the Barnes Center, EPME, Academic Affairs (formerly the College for Enlisted Professional Military Education) for resident and non-resident enlisted PME programs; programs funds for DE programs.

3.9.1.3. Advises the Office on Educational Credit of the American Council on Education of all modifications to PME programs, except programs which result in Masters Degrees, to assist them in recommending academic credit for PME programs. For EPME, AU consults with the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) when making changes to resident and non-resident course curricula.

3.9.1.4. Ensures applicable AU programs meet Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) requirements as outlined in CJCSI 1800.01, *Officer Professional Military Education Policy (OPMEP)* and CJCSI 1805.01, *Enlisted Professional Military Education Policy (EPMEP)*.

- 3.9.1.4.1. Advises the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) of all substantive changes to AU educational programs for the purpose of assessing the need to reaffirm the institution's accreditation status.
- 3.9.1.5. Advertises eligibility, enrollment, academic, and graduation criteria for resident and non-resident programs for each level of DE in AU catalogs, and ETCAs located at <https://etca.randolph.af.mil>. Ensures students meet resident and non-resident eligibility requirements.
- 3.9.1.6. Completes training reports for officers and transcripts for civilians upon graduation from ASBC, SOS, ACSC, AWC, AF Fellowships, and AF Intern Program as required. Provides administrative control of all Interns and Fellows to include responsibility for leave and TDY management (may be delegated to local program workplace supervisors); ensures rotational LOEs are completed; hosts the AF Fellows/Intern Orientation at programs' start; and acts as liaison with host organizations to ensure understanding of roles/responsibilities.
- 3.9.1.7. Recommends to AF/A1D the level (BDE, PDE, IDE, or SDE) of officer DE credit awarded for comparable resident course work completed at other institutions to include sister service and foreign PME schools.
- 3.9.1.8. Acts as the waiver-approval authority for all AF DL PME completion restrictions and limitations.
- 3.9.1.9. Periodically conducts re-certification reviews of international PME programs in accordance with this Instruction on recertification of international PME programs (Attachment 8).
- 3.9.1.10. Assists AF/A1D with biennial review of AF Fellowships by providing objectives and evaluations of current fellowships, participant feedback, recommendations for continuance or non-continuance of fellowships and other supporting documentation as needed.
- 3.9.1.11. AU Registrar maintains course completion data for AU PME programs; updates DE completion data for Air Force officers; maintains AU student records and transcript data; issues AU diplomas and transcripts; publishes/maintains AU Academic Year catalog; corrects invalid, missing, or erroneously updated DE information; updates foreign, joint, fellows, and other Service school officer DE. For AWC only, Guard and Reserve officers must submit verification to their servicing points credit branch in order to receive point credit.
- 3.9.1.12. AU A4/6 develops, publishes and distributes distance learning courses and examinations. Also responsible for publishing and maintaining AU A4/6 (formerly AFIADL) catalog.
- 3.9.1.13. AU tracks DE and PME production for AF/A1D, to include non-AU schools (JFSC, Foreign, etc).
- 3.9.1.14. Administers and employs the Barnes Center, EPME, Academic Affairs to:
- 3.9.1.14.1. Develop EPME curricula and program procedures, evaluation and survey requirements; conduct analysis, faculty development and training; and manage curricula requirements in accordance with the ISD process.

3.9.1.14.2. Develop and maintains the AF EPME Procedural Guidance (PG), a document internal to AU that applies to all schools implementing USAF EPME curricula. It is published under the authority of this Instruction and prescribes guidance and procedures for the administration and management of AF EPME programs.

3.9.1.14.3. Enforce adherence to AF EPME PG to ensure program effectiveness and standardization throughout the Air Force.

3.9.1.15. Ensure non-resident programs are equivalent to the corresponding resident school program in terms of content and required learning levels as identified in the ICL.

3.9.1.16. Provide administrative support to non-resident enrollees to include counseling on AU and individual school requirements.

3.10. Major Command (MAJCOM), Direct Reporting Unit (DRU), and Field Operating Agency (FOA) Commanders.

3.10.1. Allocate quotas to the bases for SOS active duty line officers.

3.10.1.1. Allocate quotas to overseas NCOAs.

3.10.2. Program, manage, and schedule annual EPME school production for their respective ALSs and OCONUS NCOAs. ALS's must report production to AU. Base school production goals on providing sufficient resident EPME opportunities at specific career points as defined in paragraph 24. Annual class schedule supports seven classes minimum (ALS and NCOA); by exception, commands may allow schools to schedule fewer classes provided they do so without a negative impact to production requirements. Overall class size may vary depending on production requirements, promotions and seat availability; however, in order to balance quality instruction with cost effective programs, the classroom size standard is 12 students. Schools may flex to a maximum of 16 students per flight with MAJCOM/A1 approval.

3.10.3. Ensure bases operating ALSs or OCONUS NCOAs have the required personnel, facilities, equipment, and resources necessary to operate and meet annual production requirements. Ensure the support for NCOAs is documented in support agreements.

3.10.4. Ensure schools follow operating procedures set forth in the *USAF EPME Procedural Guidance* and *CCAF, Campus Relations: Policies, Procedures and Guidance* where applicable.

3.11. Directorate of Manpower, Personnel and Services, Headquarters Air Mobility Command (AMC/A1).

3.11.1. Serves as the AMC AFIP Administrative Support Office; coordinates Joint Mobility Intern rotations with AMC Staff and USTRANSCOM Staff and informs rotation supervisors of their intern responsibilities.

3.12. Wing Commander (WG/CC)/Senior Rater (SR)

3.12.1. The WG/CC, SR or first SES member or general/flag officer (GO) in the chain-of-command will nominate officer and endorse civilian DE candidates/selects applying for IDE/SDE programs to AFPC in accordance with annual nomination guidance.

Organizations that do not meet the above criteria will designate an SES member or GO in the chain of command. Judge advocate officer candidates will be nominated in accordance with the annual guidance provided by AF/JA.

- 3.12.1.1. Civilians applying for SOS require two supervision levels of approval.
- 3.12.2. Request removal of officers and civilians identified on IDE/SDE designation lists through AFPC/DPA and AFPC/DPI respectively.
 - 3.12.2.1. When the officer's or civilian's duty performance declines to an unacceptable level, or an officer receives disciplinary action.
 - 3.12.2.2. When the officer establishes a voluntary date of separation or the civilian tenders his or her resignation.
 - 3.12.2.3. When the officer or civilian's temporary medical condition precludes officer's or civilian's ability to successfully complete the course.
 - 3.12.2.4. Officers/civilians who decline attendance after selection to Squadron Officer School for other than humanitarian or mission essential reasons do so with prejudice and the officer/civilian should be counseled by his/her commander.
- 3.12.3. Officers who are identified by their promotion board as DE "selects" are assured of attending some form of DE program in-residence, as long as their performance continues to meet standards, whether or not they have completed PME through DL. That said, all officers, including "selects," are eligible to enroll in PME by DL programs.
- 3.12.4. Removes enlisted Airmen selected to attend all PME levels for the reasons listed below (forward removal to AF/DPE for CMSgts and selects; AFPC/DPS for SMSgts and below):
 - 3.12.4.1. When the individual's duty performance declines to an unacceptable level, or the individual receives disciplinary action.
 - 3.12.4.2. When the individual has an approved date of separation.
- 3.12.5. Acts as approval authority for deferment or removal requests for resident EPME courses.
- 3.12.6. Ensures promotion waivers for Airmen who cannot attend PME are processed in a timely manner to ensure on time promotions.
- 3.12.7. Ensures enlisted Airmen promoted via promotion waivers attend applicable EPME within established timeframes (Refer to AFI 36-2502, *Airman Promotion/Demotion Programs*).
- 3.12.8. Ensures the assignment of additional duties and details for EPME faculty will not impede the program requirement for uninterrupted academic instruction, student/instructor preparation activities, faculty evaluation of student performance, and class preparation and closeout procedures. Faculty and students will be considered unavailable for additional duties and/or exercise participation (as if TDY away from home station) throughout the course from start date to graduation. When class is not in session, the assignment of additional duties and details for EPME faculty will be tempered with AU program requirements to evaluate the effectiveness of instruction and

curriculum, conduct in-service training, complete and implement professional development. EPME faculty will support unit and wing activities and perform additional duties when not conflicted with the aforementioned restrictions. NOTE: For CONUS ALS faculty, these responsibilities typically fall under the Force Support Squadron (FSS) Commander (FSS/CC); however, for OCONUS PME Centers this responsibility typically falls under the local WG/CV or Director of Staff. EPME faculty will be assigned to an Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) cycle in Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) 8T000 and may be deployed with an AFSC 8T000 unit type code (UTC) tasking with prior approval of their MAJCOM/A1.

3.12.9. Ensure all nominations for officer and civilian DE opportunities reflect individual, lawful, fair, and equal consideration.

3.13. Force Support Squadron Commander (FSS/CC)

3.13.1. Ensures EPME students are selected to attend resident schools based on seniority (rank, TIG, then TIS), priority and other considerations (deployments, retraining, mission, humanitarian, medical, etc) IAW this Instruction and the ETCA website.

3.13.2. Ensures individual names are entered and confirmed against established Training Line Numbers (TLNs) in Oracle Training Administration System (OTAS) MILPDS for resident PME schools no later than 45 days before the CSD unless managed by AFPC/DPS. Provides school websites, orders, and reporting instructions to selectees. (NOTE: For civilians, AFPC/DPI will enter and confirm the names in MILPDS.)

3.13.3. Notifies individuals of selection and date of school attendance and immediately notifies AFPC for officers, civilians and enlisted members who are ineligible or unable to attend.

3.13.4. Ensures DE students have commander's recommendation for ASBC and SOS and meet eligibility criteria outlined in the Air Force ETCA: <https://etca.randolph.af.mil>.

3.13.5. Provides the ALS Commandant a monthly or bi-monthly listing of eligible ALS members by unit of assignment.

3.13.6. Provides enrollment information and testing support for non-resident DE programs.

3.13.7. Disseminates annual DE nomination announcement published by AFPC.

3.13.8. Ensures MILPDS is updated for members who decline PME attendance to identify them as ineligible for reenlistment, PCS (except mandatory moves), extension of enlistment, promotion, and special duty assignment.

3.13.9. Processes waiver and deferment requests.

3.14. Unit Commander

3.14.1. Ensures each officer/civilian/enlisted DE attendee meets eligibility criteria outlined in Air Force ETCA: <https://etca.randolph.af.mil>.

3.14.2. Advises officer, civilian, and enlisted members of fitness requirements to attend resident PME. They will appoint a unit representative (if other than the unit first sergeant) to verify fitness test scores. Officer and enlisted members must have a passing current AF Fitness Test prior to attending any resident PME. For officer and enlisted members attending any resident PME course that is less than 6 months in duration, a passing AF Fitness Assessment must be current through course completion. (Exceptions: members medically exempt, deployed and unable to complete a Fitness Assessment prior to attendance as approved by the Commandant of the school the officer falls under).

3.14.3. Counsels all individuals who are considering declination of resident DE attendance. Commanders will emphasize the positive benefit completing DE and implications of declining.

3.14.4. Processes deferment requests in accordance with AF and ETCA procedures.

3.15. Superintendents/supervisors: Actively and deliberately plan subordinates' activities (i.e., deployments, TDYs, training, leave, etc.) to ensure the earliest PME attendance for eligible military airmen.

3.16. Selected Individuals

3.16.1. Immediately identify mission-related, medical, or personal hardship circumstances, which may require deferment or student change action.

3.16.2. Initiate paperwork to obtain (or renew) a Secret, Top Secret, or SCI security clearance, as appropriate, upon notification of selection to attend a resident DE course. See ETCA for the applicable security clearance required (applies to US military and US civilians only).

3.16.3. Comply with DE school prerequisites and guidelines for school attendance.

3.16.4. Coordinate appropriate medical profile documentation to their respective wing training manager and obtain approval to attend EPME school NLT 35 days prior to CSD. Provide the appropriate fitness or medical profile documentation to respective EPME school upon arrival.

Section B—Officer DE

4. Architecture. The Air Force officer DE Program is central to the CoL that spans an officer's professional career. Beyond pre-commissioning education, which constitutes the first level of the CoL, there are four subsequent levels of officer DE: Basic, Primary, Intermediate and Senior. The Air University Catalog and ETCA online catalog (<https://etca.randolph.af.mil>) provides additional details on DE programs. Changes to AU catalog and AU courses listed in the ETCA must be processed through the AU Office of the Registrar. DE programs are listed by level (BDE, PDE, IDE, and SDE) in Attachment 2.

5. Attendance. Under the Force Development construct, some officers will be deeply, functionally developed so as to be the experts in their field. Others will be developed more broadly for specific leadership and command responsibilities. Limited resources may restrict DE attendance. Resident PDE/IDE/SDE attendance is further limited to the "best qualified". Non-resident PME programs for SOS, ACSC and AWC are available to all eligible officers, including those officers who will not attend resident IDE/SDE at a military service school (i.e., NPS, AFIT, NDIC, ASAM, Fellowships, etc.).

5.1. BDE is ASBC. By CSAF direction, there should be 100% attendance goal for ASBC for all LAF lieutenants.

5.2. PDE programs are SOS and SOS-equivalent Inter-American Air Forces Academy (IAAFA) course.

5.3. IDE programs are specified as Intermediate-Level Colleges (in the joint community and identified foreign schools) and/or Command & Staff Colleges, internships and fellowships, as well as certain graduate degree programs through AFIT, NPS, ASAM and NDIC. Command & Staff Colleges include: ACSC, sister service and JPME I equivalent IDE-level foreign schools. AFIP descriptions are listed at Attachment 3.

5.3.1. Resident IDE at all Service schools and the ACSC-DL programs are JPME Phase I awarding. Officers selected for IDE at non-JPME I awarding programs (AF Intern Program, AF Fellow Program, AFIT, NPS, etc.) are required to complete ACSC-DL to receive both JPME-I and IDE in-residence credit. Officers can elect to enroll in ACSC by DL/seminar. Officers who are selected to attend a non-Masters degree granting program, and/or do not hold a Masters degree may enroll in the AU Online Masters Program.

5.4. SDE programs are categorized as Senior-Level Colleges (in the joint community and identified foreign schools) and/or each Service's War College, National Defense University (NDU) programs (National War College and Industrial College of the Armed Forces), and certain fellowships (complete listing of AF Fellowships is at Attachment 4). Resident programs at the Service's War Colleges and NDU programs award JPME Phase II credit. (NOTE: Most NDU programs award both JPME Phase I and Phase II.)

6. Eligibility and Prerequisites. (NOTE: Active duty officer eligibility criteria is listed in Table 1).

6.1. Colonels (and selects). To attend resident SDE, Line of the Air Force (LAF) colonel-selects must be designated by the promotion selection board as SDE "selects". If a LAF officer is selected for promotion to O-6/colonel below-the-zone and has not attended resident SDE, the officer will automatically become a SDE "select". A LAF officer promoted to colonel in-the-zone, who was promoted below-the-zone to lieutenant colonel and has not attended resident SDE, is also designated as an SDE "select". Once designated as a SDE "select", an officer will attend SDE as long as their performance continues to meet standards. Officers will not attend if they have an approved retirement, are operationally deferred or no longer meet the eligibility criteria for attendance.

6.1.1. Health Professions officers are no longer designated as SDE selects by the promotion selection board. However, in order for health professions officers to be designated as SDE selects they must meet all eligibility criteria listed in Table 1. AF/DPO conducts the health professions SDE selection process in conjunction with the Line of the Air Force officer SDE selection process, which is approved by the AF/A1.

6.1.2. Judge advocate officers (LAF-J) are not designated as IDE or SDE selects by the promotion selection board. AF/JA conducts the LAF-J IDE and SDE selection process and presents the LAF-J officers identified for attendance to AF/A1 for approval during the DEDB.

6.2. Lieutenant colonels (and selects). To attend resident SDE, a pre-determined percentage of LAF lieutenant colonels (and selects) will be identified as SDE selects from their promotion selection board. If not identified as a “select” from the promotion board, officers are considered a SDE “candidate” and can be nominated by their senior rater to their Development Team (DT) to attend resident SDE. The DT will competitively consider “candidates” for SDE selection, then vector those selected to the appropriate SDE opportunity. Final approval of SDE designation will occur at the annual DEDB. DT-nominated “candidates” must re-compete annually for SDE consideration. SDE “selects,” to include lieutenant colonels, colonel (selects), and colonels must graduate school no later than their 23rd year of commissioned service.

6.2.1. Board-identified SDE “selects” will attend resident SDE during their eligibility window as long as their performance continues to meet standards.

6.3. Majors (and selects). To attend resident IDE, a pre-determined percentage of LAF majors (and selects) will be identified as IDE “selects” from their promotion selection board. If not identified as a “select” from the promotion board, officers are considered an IDE “candidate” and can be nominated by their senior rater to their DT to attend resident IDE. The DT will competitively consider candidates for IDE selection, then vector those selected to the appropriate IDE opportunity. DT-nominated “candidates” must re-compete annually for IDE consideration. Final approval of IDE designations will occur at the annual DEDB.

6.3.1. Board-identified IDE “selects” will attend resident IDE during their eligibility window as long as their performance continues to meet standards. IDE “selects” must complete ACSC-DL if it is determined that their designated IDE program is not JPME Phase I awarding.

6.4. Preference Statement. Lieutenant colonel (and select) and major (and select) DE selects may indicate their preference for resident DE programs on the web-based Airmen Development Plan (ADP). The ADP is used to communicate officer and senior rater DE recommendations to the respective DT in accordance with annual nomination guidance published by AFPC. Colonels (and selects) must consult their MAJCOM senior leader management office for guidance on submitting preferences. AF/DPO provides guidance to the field and to the eligible Colonels (and selects) on the SDE selection process each year.

6.5. Effective from the date of their promotion (pin on), Captains are eligible to attend SOS with a TAFCS of greater than 4 years but no more than 7 years TAFCS at class start date.

6.6. LAF lieutenants must graduate from ASBC prior to 23 months of commissioned service. However, LAF officers in long pipelines (Initial Skills Training that requires a PCS

or pipeline training extends beyond 18 months) have until 36 months of TAFCS to complete ASBC.

6.7. Retainability. Officers attending IDE/SDE must have enough retainability to serve at least 3 years following school attendance in order to satisfy the resulting active duty service commitment.

6.8. Decorations. Officers attending BDE, PDE, IDE or SDE in-residence are not authorized to be nominated for, nor receive, any individual tour completion or meritorious service decorations or badges. This is consistent with Air Force guidance for officers in student status.

Table 1. Active Duty Officer1 Resident DE Eligibility Criteria.

School	Rank	TAFCS	ADSC	Time On Station (TOS) ²
ASBC	Second and First Lieutenants	Must graduate with no more than 23 months TAFCS ³	None	N/A
SOS	Captain ⁴ (must be pinned-on Captain to attend)	More than 4 to no more than 7 years TAFCS at class start ⁹	None	N/A
IDE	Major ⁵	N/A ⁶	3 Yrs	2 years as of projected departure date (except in last year of eligibility or in a “must move” status)
SDE	Lt Col ⁷ Select thru Col ⁸	No more than 23 years at graduation	3 Yrs	2 years as of projected departure date (except in last year of eligibility or in a “must-move” status)

NOTES:

1. Officers must have a current passing AF Fitness Test prior to attending any resident PME. For officers attending any resident PME course that is less than 6 months in duration, a passing AF Fitness Assessment must be current through course completion. (Exceptions: members medically exempt, deployed and unable to complete a Fitness Test prior to attendance as approved by the commandant of the school the officer will attend).

2. TOS is N/A for colonels/colonel selects

3. Exception: LAF officers in long pipelines (Initial Skills Training that requires a PCS) must graduate from ASBC with no more than 36 months TAFCS.

4. Ineligible to attend if captain has approved date of separation.

5. Until considered In-the-Promotion-Zone for lieutenant colonel.

6. Must be a pinned on major to attend IDE.

7. Until considered In-the-Promotion-Zone for colonel.

8. For LAF colonels, resident attendance requires at least one Below-the-Promotion-Zone selection.

9. Exclude LAF-J officers from 4 year TAFCS requirement to attend SOS.

6.9. Air Force Reserve/Air National Guard. An ANG officer is eligible for resident PME if the officer has the proper grade and falls within the eligibility criteria as shown in Table 2. Air Force Reserve (USAFR) officers in pay category A or B are eligible to apply for resident PME provided they meet eligibility criteria outlined in Table 2 and are not deferred as defined in Title 10 U.S.C. 8368(a). Air Force Reserve Technicians (ARTs), regardless of method of training, either resident/non-resident, must meet military grade requirements to apply for PME. Accordingly, ARTs will attend schools and training courses in civilian status, except as otherwise noted. Waiver authority for resident IDE and SDE eligibility criteria rests with AF/REP and NGB/A1, respectively.

Table 2. Air Force Reserve/Air National Guard Resident Officer1 DE Eligibility Criteria.

School ⁵	Grade	TYCS: USAFR ^{2,3} /ANG	Service Commitment
ASBC	Second Lieutenants	Less than 3 Years	1 Year
SOS	Captain	Less than 11 Years	1 Year
IDE	Major or Major Select ⁴	Less than 18/16 Years	3 Years
SDE	Lt Col or Colonel ⁴	Less than 26/25 Years	3 Years

NOTES:

- Officers must have a current passing AF Fitness Test prior to attending any resident PME. For officers attending any resident PME course that is less than 6 months in duration, a passing AF Fitness Assessment must be current through course completion. (Exceptions: members medically exempt, deployed and unable to complete a Fitness Test prior to attendance as approved by the commandant of the school the officer will attend).
- Chaplain, legal and health profession officers who apply for IDE or SDE are allowed to exceed the maximum TYCS by the number of years of constructive service credited. Minimum retainability is still required.
- Air Reserve Technician (ART) eligibility will be stated in remarks section of AF Form 1941 or on vPC-GR application.
- Major selects (IDE) and Lt Col selects (SDE) may apply if promotion pin-on occurs by the first day of school.

6.10. All non-Air Force attendees must meet the eligibility criteria of their Air Force military counterparts unless exempted elsewhere in this Instruction.

7. Selection.

7.1. PDE. LAF SOS designation is determined at base-level. Non-line SOS designation is determined by the functional community.

7.2. IDE. For majors (and selects) the annual DE Designation Board (DEDB) is convened to designate active duty line and non-line officers for resident IDE programs. The DEDB will use the officer selection record, the Airmen Development Plan (ADP) and DT

recommendation to designate officers to a specific IDE program. Selection for IDE overrides other pending assignments.

7.2.1. AF/JA will convene an annual selection board for judge advocate (LAF-J) officers competing for resident IDE. AF/JA will submit the officers identified for IDE attendance and their designated program to AF/A1 for approval during the DEDB.

7.3. SDE. For colonels (and selects), AF/DPO conducts an annual selection process, approved by the AF/A1, to designate a particular DE program for the eligible SDE selects. The board will review the officer's personnel record, personnel brief, and MAJCOM recommendation. For lieutenant colonels (and selects) the annual DEDB is convened at AFPC to designate active duty line and non-line officers for resident SDE. Selection for SDE overrides other pending assignments.

7.3.1. AF/JA will convene an annual selection board for judge advocate (LAF-J) officers competing for resident SDE. AF/JA will submit the officers selected for SDE attendance and their designated school to AF/A1 for approval during the DEDB.

7.4. Due to the deliberate nature of the DE selection process, IDE and SDE attendance takes precedence over deployment when the individual has been selected for school prior to selection for deployment. Furthermore, DE attendance will take priority over deployments for all officers in their last year of eligibility. All other individuals will be evaluated on a case by case basis with requests from the SR, routed through the DT, and sent to AFPC/CC for approval.

7.5. For Air Force Reserve, refer to AFMAN 36-8001 and for ANG, refer to ANGI 36-2301.

8. Declinations, Deferments, and Removal.

8.1. IDE/SDE. Officers designated as IDE or SDE "selects" from the promotion board may decline select status at any time prior to being designated for attendance. The declination results in the loss of select status and replacement of AA or AB codes with the DM code (PME declination with prejudice), with an indefinite expiration date, on the officers SURF, Duty Qualification History Brief (DQHB), and OSB. The declination will be visible to future promotion boards. It will also result in ineligibility for any future IDE/SDE opportunity. The officer shall be counseled by his/her commander and shall submit the declination in writing, with the commander's counseling statement attached, endorsed by the senior rater, to either HQ AFPC/DPA or AF/DPO, as appropriate. For lieutenant colonels and below, the AFPC/CC will send a letter to the member and Senior Rater informing them that the declination letter and counseling statement will be retained permanently in the officers OSR (cc sent to MAJCOM A1) along with the letter from the AFPC/CC to the member and Senior Rater. For Colonels (and selects), AF/DPO will send a letter to the member, the Senior Rater, and the Management Level to inform them of the permanent declination. The notification letter and the counseling statement will be retained permanently in the officer's OSR.

8.2. Assignment implications. Officers designated to attend DE will receive an Assignment Selection Date (ASD) effective the date of release of the DEDB results message. Officers who decline DE post DEDB message release are subject to the provisions contained in AFI 36-2110, *Assignments, Table 2.9, Seven-Day Option Separation and Retirement Dates*. Officers with an indefinite DOS selected for education and training, an ADSC-incurring

event, who do not want to participate in the event and/or do not want the associated ADSC must sign AF Form 63 to decline the ADSC and submit a request for separation in accordance with AFI 36-3207, *Separating Commissioned Officers*, or request for retirement in accordance with AFI 36-3203, *Service Retirements*. AF/JA may waive this paragraph for LAF-J officers.

8.3. Alternates. IDE and SDE alternates who are designated to attend DE will receive an ASD effective upon notification of attendance. If notification is made more than 120 days prior to the Report Not Later than Date the provisions contained in AFI 36-2110, *Assignments* apply. Officers notified of attendance with 120 or less days of notice may decline attendance without prejudice.

8.4. Removal for non-prejudicial reasons. AFPC/CC approves individual declinations and requests for mission-essential and humanitarian removal from the DE designation list for lieutenant colonels and below. If an officer is in his or her last year of eligibility and cannot attend IDE/SDE because of mission reasons or an approved Humanitarian or Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) deferment IAW AFI 36-2110, attachment 25, AFPC/DPAPF will prepare a letter stating the officer was selected for IDE/SDE but was not made available to attend in his or her final year of eligibility. This letter is to be permanently filed in the officer's selection record and the officer will have (QQ QR) code placed in MilPDS. A copy of the letter will be sent to the member and Senior Rater.

8.4.1. IDE and SDE (lieutenant colonels and below), "selects" who are delayed or removed from DE designation lists for mission essential, humanitarian, or other non-prejudicial reasons will be scheduled for attendance in the second or subsequent year following the deferment, once the DT and DEDB re-validate the select's designation as long as they continue to perform. IDE/SDE "selects" will only re-compete for a specific IDE/SDE program, as they are guaranteed a seat. IDE and SDE "candidates" deferred from school attendance with IDE/SDE eligibility remaining will be required to re-compete for designation during the following year's DEDB. "Candidates" will have to re-compete for both designation and for a specific program, as they are no longer guaranteed either from one year to the next. The Senior Rater will need to re-recommend a deferred candidate to school during the annual call for IDE/SDE nominations, and the nomination will be evaluated by the DT. Lieutenant colonels that were designated a SDE "select" but have not yet attended, and are then designated as a colonel or colonel-select, might not attend the SDE they were designated for as a lieutenant colonel. AF/DPO will designate officers in this situation as best meets Air Force strategic requirements and developmental requirements for the officer as a colonel.

8.5. Removal for cause. When a request from the Senior Rater, management level, or DT to remove an officer from a DE designation list is approved by AF/A1, the officer will be permanently removed from the nomination list. This results in the loss of select status which will appear on the officers SURF, DQHB, and OSB. A letter will be permanently filed in the Officer Selection Record (OSR) and officers will be permanently ineligible for any future resident DE. It is the commander's and Senior Rater's responsibility to monitor the performance and standards of DE selects and alternates. Should the propriety of any designee's attendance become questionable, the Senior Rater should notify appropriate management level A1 (e.g., MAJCOM, DRU, FOA) and HQ AFPC/DPAPF immediately.

8.6. ASBC eligibility waiver authority for TAFCS requirements rests with MAJCOM A1s.

8.6.1. When an officer is selected to attend ASBC but unable to do so, they remain eligible for attendance as long as the officer has not exceeded their window of eligibility.

8.6.2. TAFCS waiver procedures are:

8.6.2.1. The unit commander or supervisor initiates a waiver request for an officer to attend ASBC in writing, including full justification as to why they did not attend during their window of eligibility. This should be addressed on appropriate squadron letterhead to the Wing Commander or Senior Rater for endorsement. The letter is then forwarded to MAJCOM A1s for approval/disapproval.

8.6.2.2. The final letter with endorsements should be forwarded to AFPC/DPSIP via their ASBC General mailbox (asbc.cot@randolph.af.mil).

8.6.2.3. If favorable approval is granted, the officer will be placed in the next ASBC class with an available quota.

8.7. ASBC reclama approval/disapproval rests with AFPC/CC.

8.7.1. Reclama procedures are:

8.7.1.1. The organization training entity will send a reclama with a named replacement, when possible, to the WG/CC or SR for endorsement with full justification indicating why the selected officer is unable to attend.

8.7.2. Rationales such as “attending off-duty education”, “indispensable to an inspection”, “was not notified early enough”, “mission essential”, has a “personal conflict”, or “participating in a special project/local exercise” are not acceptable for reclamas. WG/CC has disapproval authority.

8.7.3. Reclama requests endorsed by the WG/CC must be forwarded to AFPC/DPSIP via their ASBC General mailbox (asbc.cot@randolph.af.mil) for approval/disapproval.

8.8. Eligibility SOS Waiver Procedures. Waiver authority for SOS is the MAJCOM A1, who may delegate to the wing commander or equivalent.

8.9. To be eligible to attend SOS in residence, a LAF officer (Active, Guard or Reserve) must be a pinned-on captain with more than 4 years commissioned service but not more than 7 years TAFCS (i.e., 6 years, 11 months, and 30 days of TAFCS) at start of SOS class.

8.10. Intervening service between IDE/SDE residence attendance. To be eligible to attend SDE, officers should have at least 3 years of service since their last PCS resident education assignment (e.g., ACSC, AFIT, etc.) as of the CSD. DTs may elect to send an officer earlier, but only in the best interest of the AF so as to preclude back-to-back school programs.

8.11. Air National Guard/Air Force Reserve. For the Air Force Reserve, refer to AFMAN 36-8001 and for the Air National Guard, ANGI 36-2301.

9. Non-resident/DL Programs. The purpose of non-resident DE programs (SOS, ACSC and AWC) is to provide DE opportunities to those individuals who cannot complete the resident program appropriate to their rank/grade or to supplement the available DE opportunities. All officers, including DE "selects" are eligible to enroll in PME by DL programs, thereby enhancing their leadership and knowledge of air, space, and cyberspace power. While some

officers may attend an Air Force resident PME program, a number of officers selected for in-residence IDE or SDE will still need to complete PME by DL in order to receive JPME I credit.

Completion of AF PME is required before an individual can receive credit for completing other non-resident DE (for example, sister-Service non-resident DE). AF/A1DL is the waiver authority for all non-resident PME eligibility. HQ AU is the waiver authority for all non-resident AF PME completion restrictions and limitations.

9.1. Air Force policy emphasizes taking the right DE at the right time and at the right grade. The non-resident sequence is SOS, ACSC, then AWC. Officers may enroll in non-resident programs as detailed in Table 3.

9.2. Officers enrolled in IDE programs that are not JPME Phase I awarding (NDIC, AFIT, NPS, ASAM, Fellowships/Internships, etc.) must complete ACSC-DL in order to be awarded JPME Phase I credit and be granted IDE in-residence completion.

9.3. Officers crossflowing into the AF from another Service will receive credit for the appropriate PME completed while serving in the sister-Service, subject to the following limitations.

9.3.1. All crossflow officers will receive credit for PME completed before their promotion to their current rank/grade. For instance, an Army Major transferring into the Air Force would receive credit for having completed CGO PME in the Army.

9.3.2. For PME in the currently held grade, the following applies: If the officer has more than three years TIG at the time of transfer, the officer will receive credit for the grade-specific PME completed in the sister-Service. If officers crossflow into the AF with less than three years TIG (as captains, majors or lieutenant colonels), they will not receive credit for their sister-Service PME specific to their current grade, however, they will have the opportunity to complete AF PME commensurate with their current rank/grade. AF/A1D is the waiver authority for this requirement.

Table 3. Active Duty Officer Non-Resident/DL PME Eligibility Criteria.

Program	Military	TAFCS
SOS	Captain or Captain-select	When selected to Captain
AU Online Master's	Captains only ¹	Must have 6 years TAFCS to enroll
AU Online Master's (w/Joint Warfare Concentration - ACSC)²	Major or Major Select	When selected to Major
ACSC	Major ³ or Major Select	When selected to Major
AWC	Lt Col Select thru Col	When selected to Lt Col
<p>NOTES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Must have SOS-DL complete to be eligible. 2. AU Online Master's (w/Joint Warfare Concentration) is only available to Majors/Major Selects. JPME I credit will be awarded upon completion. 3. Until selected for Lt Col. 		

9.4. AU Online Master's. The AU Online master's program was a CSAF initiative designed to offer qualified officers an additional opportunity to earn a master's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning. Originally targeted to Majors, the Joint Warfighting concentration ensures its graduates also earn JPME Phase I and AF IDE credit. In 2010, the program was expanded to open a concentration in Leadership for qualified Captains. Other concentrations are projected in the future. Although graduates from these concentrations do not earn AF IDE or JPME Phase I credit, they receive an accredited educational experience specifically tailored to the needs of the Air Force.

9.5. Optional DE opportunities via DL. In addition to the opportunities listed above, officers may also elect to complete courses from the Leadership Development Programs (LDP). These self-paced optional courses are offered through Squadron Officer College's distance learning program (SOC-DL). These courses are applicable across the force and include such

topics as foundational, expeditionary and organizational leadership. Students do not receive any PME or DE credits for completion. Also, these credits cannot be transferred into AU degree programs.

9.5.1. Officers may enroll in LDP courses via a self-enrollment DL process. Enrollees will have 6 months in which to complete a course or they will be disenrolled. Completion will not appear anywhere in a member's record but will appear on the member's AU transcript.

9.5.2. AF Reserves, Air National Guard and AF Civilians may enroll in LDP courses via the self-enrollment process.

10. DE Resident Equivalency Credit.

10.1. Officers who have attended, are currently attending, or who have been selected to attend programs where they were competitively selected by the AF (Table 4), may be considered for IDE/SDE Equivalency credit. DE requests for equivalency credit will be made via the ADP during the annual nomination call from AFPC. Senior Raters must nominate the officer for equivalency credit. DTs will evaluate the quality of the requesting member to determine if members' records are of commensurate quality with those being forwarded for DE attendance to the DEDB. If requesting members meet the DT quality review, they then must be approved by the DEDB. To receive resident DE credit, officers must also complete the appropriate level of AF PME by DL or seminar. JPME I credit can be earned by completing ACSC via DL, seminar or through the online master's degree program. JPME I credit is required for officers in order to continue towards obtaining Joint Qualification Officer status. Once members are approved for resident IDE or SDE credit, they are not eligible to compete for another DE program at the same level. Furthermore, if a member receives IDE equivalency credit, that same program cannot be applied to SDE credit.

10.1.1. If an officer is outside the annual DE nomination timeline but still in their eligibility window, they may request credit by forwarding their request through their senior rater, to AFPC/DPA, who will forward to the respective DT, then to AF/A1D for approval. Out of cycle requests are for extenuating circumstances only and/or will only be considered for those officers that were unable to compete during the normal DE Nomination cycle. Out of cycle credit requests are not designed for an additional "look".

10.1.2. Because officers must also complete ACSC via DL, seminar or the online master's degree program in order to earn JPME I credit, the completion date for resident credit will reflect in the system to show the later completion date of the two programs. If credit is awarded for a program completed in 2005, however JPME I is not completed until 2010, then in residence completion will reflect a 2010 date in the system.

10.1.3. In order to obtain SDE equivalency credit, officers must complete AWC by DL or seminar. If credit is awarded for a program completed in 2008, however AWC by DL or seminar is not completed until 2012, then resident completion will reflect a 2012 date in the system. Please note, JPME II credit can only be earned by resident attendance at JFSC, other National Defense University schools, and accredited senior-level Service colleges.

- 10.1.3.1. School of Advanced Air and Space Studies (SAASS) graduates who are AFIT-sponsored faculty-development PhD candidates (all but dissertation) may request SDE credit for SAASS PhD completion. These officers are not required to complete AWC by DL to receive SDE equivalency credit but must follow the same request process outlined in paragraphs 10.1. and 10.1.1.
- 10.1.3.2. AF/JA may convene an annual selection board to identify judge advocate (LAF-J) officers who have completed, or will complete, the AFIT Masters of Laws (LL.M.) program and who are of the requisite quality to be awarded IDE equivalency credit. AF/JA will submit the LAF-J officers identified for award of equivalency credit to AF/A1 for approval during the DEDB process.
- 10.2. DTs may recommend credit for IDE/SDE to the DEDB for nominees requesting equivalency credit as listed in Table 4. Furthermore, DTs have the latitude to recommend equivalency credit to nominees in the primary ceiling, even if the member did not request equivalency credit. The DT has the knowledge and functional expertise to determine the needed development of each officer. This includes determining that the member does not need to attend an IDE/SDE resident program, when they have previously completed a developmental experience the DT determines is sufficient. DTs/CFMs are encouraged to discuss this action with the nominating senior rater prior to recommending the credit to ensure there are no extenuating circumstances or any unintended consequences.
- 10.3. Air Force officers may also participate in other Service, Joint, DoD, and non-DoD (international and civilian) PME-equivalent programs. For details on what constitutes joint programs, see CJCSI 1800.01. Other Services, US Government agencies, and foreign countries participate in Air Force PME programs.
- 10.4. DE Equivalency programs listed in Table 4 have been identified because of the operational and/or strategic development that each program provides. Tactical and functionally focused programs do not demonstrate operational and strategic elements of development required by AF institutional education.
- 10.5. White House Fellows, Washington DC. This program is not managed by the AF; however, details on the program follow. The White house Fellows program is one of the nation's most prestigious opportunities in the areas of leadership and public service. Founded in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson, the Fellowship offers exceptional young men and women first-hand experience working at the highest levels of the Federal government. Selection as a White House Fellow is highly competitive and the program has fostered national leaders in many fields including senior military officers, Cabinet Secretaries, legislators and CEOs. White House Fellows typically spend one year, running from 1 Sept to 31 Aug, working as full-time, paid special assistants to senior White House Staff, the Vice President, Cabinet Secretaries and other top-ranking government officials. Fellows also participate in an education program consisting of roundtable discussions with leaders from the private and public sectors and trips to study U.S. policy in action both domestically and abroad. Beginning with Academic Year (AY)2005 starts, White House Fellows were granted resident IDE/SDE credit provided they complete a pre-approved program.

Table 4. Officer Programs Eligible for IDE or SDE Equivalency Credit1.

IDE	SDE (Applies to lieutenant colonels only)
AFIT PhD Program ²	AFIT PhD Program ²
AFIT Master's Degree Program	AFIT - Civilian Institution (CI) (PhD only) ²
AFIT – Civilian Institution (CI)	AF Medical Service (AFMS) Executive Development Programs
AF Medical Service (AFMS) Advanced Development Program	Director National Security Agency (DIRNSA) Fellowship
Fletcher School Global Master of Arts Program (GMAP)	Information Assurance Scholarship Program (IASP)
Information Assurance Scholarship Program (IASP)	NPS PhD program ²
Mansfield Fellow	White House Fellow
Naval Postgraduate School (NPS)	Faculty Development SAASS PhD Candidate ³
Olmsted Scholar	
Test Pilot School (USAF TPS, US Naval TPS, Empire TPS in Great Britain, EPNER in France)	
White House Fellow	
National Defense Intelligence College (formerly JMIC)	
NOTES:	
1. All programs within the table require completion of ACSC/DL or AWC/DL accordingly.	
2. With the exception of SAASS PhD candidates, for all PhD programs, officers must complete PhD. All but dissertation and PhD candidates cannot receive equivalency credit.	
3. Faculty Development SAASS PhD Candidates are not required to complete AWC by DL to receive SDE equivalency credit.	

10.6. All graduates of AFIP, when it was a Captain level program, will be awarded In-residence IDE credit upon completion of ACSC-DL. Captain AFIP graduates will not attend another IDE in-resident experience. ACSC DL must be complete in order to obtain JPME I credit.

11. International Applicants.

11.1. Before attending a resident PME school, all International Officers (IO) must attend the International Officer School (IOS) preparatory course at Spaatz Center for Officer Education, Maxwell AFB, AL. IOS is designed to increase the officer's ability to communicate and participate in the PME schools and to familiarize the IO with US culture and the US Air

Force. See ETCA <https://etca.randolph.af.mil> and AU Catalog for details. The applicant's military or civilian grade must be equivalent to the US Air Force grades eligibility criteria found in Table 1 & 6.

11.2. International applicants for non-resident PME programs must be military members or civilian employees of the military department of a country or international organization eligible for Foreign Military Sales (FMS) training program sponsorship and hold the equivalent rank or grade required. (see ETCA).

11.2.1. A US military officer or US civilian employee in the country, or with the organization concerned, must accept responsibility to monitor student progress and to serve as a contact between HQ AU and the student. Applicants must be proficient in the English language (English Competency Level of 80) to complete the program successfully.

11.2.2. International applicants should send application for enrollment to the in-country US representative who will sponsor the applicant and verify, in writing, they have met the criteria in paragraphs 11.1 and 11.2. A letter from the applicant's government must accompany the application, agreeing to the enrollment and identifying an existing FMS publications case against which charges may be applied or International Military Education & Training (IMET) to fund the course. If no publications case exists, the letter will cite the date of request to Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC), AFSAC/CV, 1822 Van Patton Drive, Wright-Patterson AFB OH 45433-5337, to establish a case.

11.2.3. The US sponsor endorsing the application must send it to Air Force Security Assistance Training Squadron, Training Support (AFSAT), 315 J Street West, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4354. AFSAT will program the training, after coordinating approval from Security Cooperation Officer (SCO), and program against an FMS or IMET case. SCO must verify that the sponsor will monitor student progress and testing facilities are available. AFSAT Country Manager will advise the sponsor if application is disapproved or funding is not available. AFSAT Country Manager will forward student application to the ACSC or AWC staff via e-mail ensuring application is attached. AFSAT will advise SCO if an application is approved. AFSAT will program the Distance Learning course in TRACS and apply appropriate charges against the applicable training case or charge to IMET and notify HQ AU to enroll the applicant in the proper program. If a training case does not exist that the course can be programmed against, AFSAT will require a Letter of Request (LOR) from the country requesting a Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) for a new case to program the training against. This process can take up to six months. Students may not be enrolled or training programmed against the new case until country has deposited funds on the case and it is implemented.

11.3. International officers/civilians applying for a non-resident program must send their application to the FSS Force Development (FD) Flight Chief at the member's location. The FD Flight Chief will verify, in writing, the criteria in paragraphs 11.1.1, 11.1.2, or 11.1.3. are met. The applicant's government must provide a letter agreeing to enrollment and identify an existing FMS training case against which charges may be applied. If no blanket order training case exists, the letter will cite the date of a request to the AFSAT to establish a case. The FD Flight Chief will endorse the application and send it to AFSAT, who will advise if an application is approved or disapproved. If approved, AFSAT will apply charges against the

applicable FMS training case and notify HQ AU to enroll the applicant in the proper program after case implementation.

12. Advanced Studies Group (ASG). The ASG programs are advanced level education programs that are not considered as IDE/SDE credit-awarding programs but fill an important role in educating the AF's senior officers. ASG programs include: SAASS, Maritime Advanced Warfighting School (MAWS), School of Advanced Warfighting Studies (SAWS), and School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS). Each school competitively selects a small number of officers each year to participate in its respective program. While the DEDB does not select officers for these programs; eligible officers, senior raters and DTs must be actively engaged in the nomination and selection process. AFPC may solicit volunteer from former interns who are in the window of eligibility as determined by their DTs. Sister Service programs vary, interested officers may contact AFPC/DPAFP for additional information. ASG assignments should be synchronized with other leadership and educational opportunities to provide the best development path for each officer.

13. Air Force Intern (AFIP) and Air Force Fellows Program (AFF). IDE programs comprised of multiple internships and fellowships designed to develop leadership and broaden perspectives through observation and interaction with senior DoD, legislative, political, and academic leaders making strategy and policy decisions. AFIP employs a combination of hands-on experience working in OSD or Joint Staff, Secretariat or Air Staff, MAJCOM or USTRANSCOM staff through participation in fellowships or advanced degree programs. The overall program intent is to further develop the following institutional competencies in future Air Force senior leaders: Employing Military Capabilities, Enterprise Perspective, Strategic Thinking, and Fostering Collaborative Relationships through education, experience and participation. AF/AIDL manages the list of programs included in AFIP.

13.1. Both LAF and non-LAF officers are eligible to compete for AFIP. AF/AIDL manages the seat allocation for all programs.

13.2. Small Schools Board. AFIP designees will be selected during the second phase of the DEDB which selects officers to attend small schools/programs. In addition to AFIP, these programs include foreign schools, specialty schools (e.g., JAWS), other AF Fellowships and some sister Service schools. Officers must be vectored by their DTs to compete during this phase of the DEDB. This ensures the most competitive officers, regardless of functional community, are designated to these schools. Officers vectored to more than one small school program will, in most cases, be reviewed for each program.

13.3. All AFIP designees must initiate a Top Secret clearance immediately upon designation notification and attend an orientation at the Pentagon prior to program start.

13.4. AFIP participants will receive an AF Form 475, *Education/Training Report*, annually and upon program completion. AFIP Strategic Policy and Joint Mobility Interns will also receive letters of evaluation (LOEs) after each rotation, signed by the rotation Senior Rater of the Intern, normally a HAF two-letter. The final Education/Training Report will be signed by the respective director/commander of the primary offices designated to provide program management: AU for the Fellows Programs, Strategic Policy Interns, and Advanced Degree Program participants; SAF/LL for all Legislative Fellows; AMC for all Joint Mobility Interns.

13.4.1. Training reports will reflect intern/fellow duty titles with IDE Student, Program Name. Reference Attachment 3 for program name information.

13.4.2. PME Information on the SURF will reflect IDE, Air Force Intern or IDE, Air Force Fellow based on program name. Reference Attachment 3 for program name information.

13.5. AFIP participants will not be nominated for, nor receive, any individual tour completion or meritorious service decorations or badges for this program. This is consistent with Air Force guidance for officers in a training status. Interns/Fellows are not authorized permanent wear of OSD, Joint Staff, or Air Staff badges; however, they may wear the applicable badge during rotations. No exceptions will be granted.

13.6. AFIP course work varies depending on the program. The following is a summary of required course work according to program.

13.6.1. AFIP Strategic Policy and Joint Mobility Rotations. Interns who do not have a master's degree will complete the AU Online Master's Degree. Officers who have not completed ACSC but have a master's degree will be required to complete ACSC by correspondence or seminar. AFIP Strategic Policy and Joint Mobility programs are a year-long, emphasizing professional growth and active participation. Throughout the program, Interns attend (at a minimum) monthly meetings and professional development seminars/tours and should not be performing in typical Action Officer capacity. The program consists of two six-month rotations, in the OSD or Joint Staff and HAF for the Strategic Policy Interns and AMC staff or USTRANSCOM staff for the Joint Mobility. Rotation plans will align each intern to areas outside of their core AFSC to obtain the greatest enterprise perspective opportunity. These programs will include AU academic requirements.

13.6.2. NLTFP, DARPA, POLAD, McConn Public Policy, SOLA, CSAF Masters and Strategic Communication Fellows will not participate in the AU Online Master's Degree Program, but will be required to complete ACSC by correspondence or seminar.

13.6.3. CSAF Scholar Interns who have not completed ACSC will be required to complete ACSC by distance learning or seminar.

13.6.4. Legislative Fellows program length is 17-months (w/out AU Online Master's Degree) or 20 months (with AU Online Master's Degree). The program includes the following: SAF/LL immersion, OSD training, Georgetown University seminar, and 1-year assigned duties on Capitol Hill. Military fellows who do not have a Master's Degree will complete the AU Online Master's Degree. Military fellows who have not completed ACSC but have a master's degree, will be required to complete ACSC by correspondence or seminar.

13.6.4.1. Civilian Legislative Fellow program length varies but is typically a 2-year program where the first year is spent with the assigned Congressional Representative or Senator and the second year is in the legislative office.

13.7. AFPC/DPA is the assignment authority for all active duty officer AFIP & AFF participants and will work post-program assignments. Normal tour length for AFIP & AFF will not exceed 4 total years (this is inclusive of course work, internship, completion of AU

Online Master's Degree and post program assignment). Release due to command selection will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Any exceptions to post-program assignments will be coordinated through AFPC/DPA, with AF/A1D as the final approval authority for all exceptions.

13.7.1. Strategic Policy/Joint Mobility Interns, and Legislative Fellows will be assigned to permanent staff positions within the National Capital Region (NCR) or AMC/USTRANSCOM locations at the completion of their program course work.

13.7.2. NLTFP Fellows are eligible to PCS upon completion of the academic program. Fellows at Sandia, Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore Labs must be assigned to a nuclear-related position upon program completion. Fellows at Idaho Lab must be assigned to a cyber-related position upon program completion.

13.7.3. DARPA requires a mandatory follow-on to any technical/systems agency, such as ESC or Systems Communication Center (consider TOS if from Washington DC, return-to-fly boards, command candidacy, etc.).

13.7.4. POLAD requires a mandatory follow-on to a Political Advisor position at the MAJCOM or NAF-level.

13.7.5. Strategic Communication Fellows will be assigned to staff positions in SAF/PA upon completion of their degree program.

13.7.6. SOLA Fellows will be assigned to USSOCOM SOLA Office in DC upon completion of their degree program.

13.7.7. McConn Public Policy Fellows will be assigned to a OSD, JCS, or HAF office in a legislative related position.

13.7.8. DOE Fellows require a mandatory follow-on to a nuclear related position in NCR upon completion of fellowship.

Section C—Civilian DE

14. Architecture. The Air Force Civilian DE Program is central to the CoL that spans a civilian's professional career. There are three levels of civilian DE: Primary, Intermediate, and Senior. For PDE, Career Field Teams (CFT) provide oversight of personnel development. For IDE/SDE, the CFTs and DTs provide oversight of personnel development to meet both functional and institutional strategic leadership requirements. As such the DTs recommend the right person, at the right time for the right training to the CDE Selection Board. Specific course descriptions are posted on the AFPC homepage.

14.1. PDE: Squadron Officer School (SOS).

14.2. IDE: Air Command and Staff College (ACSC), Air Force National Laboratories Technical Fellows program (NLTFP), Academic programs, Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP), and Legislative Fellows.

14.3. SDE: Defense Senior Leader Development Program (DSLDP), Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF), Air War College, Academic programs, Excellence in Government (EIG and E-GOV), RAND, and NLTFP.

14.4. Civilian DE (CDE) Selection Board: The purpose of the CDE Selection Board is to select employees who clearly possess the greatest leadership potential and who are most likely to be assigned follow-on positions of increasingly greater responsibility.

15. Attendance. Under the Force Development construct, some civilians will be deeply, functionally developed so as to be the expert in their field. Others will be developed more broadly for specific leadership responsibilities. Limited resources restrict resident DE attendance to the "best qualified." Non-resident or distance learning PME programs for SOS, ACSC and AWC are available to all eligible civilians, including those civilians who will not attend resident PDE/IDE/SDE at a military Service school (i.e., Air University).

15.1. PDE. All AF civilians who meet eligibility requirements can apply for SOS. See Table 5.

16. Eligibility and Prerequisites. (NOTE: Civilian eligibility criteria is listed in Table 5).

16.1. Civilians attending resident DE or enrolling in non-resident DE must have an accredited bachelor's degree as the minimum prerequisite for DE programs.

16.2. AF-wide, nomination and selection criteria: Performance (overall performance ratings for current and prior years as documented in the employee record), follow-on assignment, and appropriateness of education program at this stage of a civilian's career as depicted on the framework for the Civilian Institutional Leadership Continuum are all factors.

16.2.1. Civilians must have a minimum performance appraisal rating of fully successful or NSPS-3 rating to compete for and participate in DE programs.

16.2.2. Follow-on Assignment: Expect a reassignment to a position as described in the framework for the Civilian Institutional Leadership Continuum or Career Field Team career paths and master development plans which provides progressive breadth, depth, or broadening experience appropriate to the development activity.

16.3. Endorsing Official: Wing Commander or first SES member or GO in the chain-of-command is required for IDE/SDE. Two levels of supervision are required for nomination to attend SOS.

16.4. Developmental Team (DT): Responsible for functional review and ranking of nomination packages, vectoring programs and follow-on assignments.

Table 5. DoD Civilian Resident DE Eligibility Criteria.

Program^{2,7}	GS/GM	NSPS Pay Band (PB)	DCIPS	Time in Service⁶	Vector Required³	Mobility
Developmental Education						
PDE (SOS)	GS 9-12	PB 2	PB 2	2 yrs AF Civil Service	N/A	N/A
IDE (ACSC, Legis Fellow ⁵ , NLTFP ⁵)	GS 12 & 13	PB 2	PB 3	2 yrs AF Civil Service	DT must validate	Must have signed mobility agreement
SDE (AWC, ICAF, ICAF-SAC, RAND Fellow ⁵ , DSLDP, NLTFP ⁵)	GS/GM 14 & 15	PB 3	PB 4 & 5	2 yrs AF Civil Service	DT must validate	Must have signed mobility agreement
Academic⁴						
Intermediate	GS-12 & 13	PB 2	PB 3	2 yrs AF Civil Service	DT must validate	Must have signed mobility agreement
Senior	GS/GM 14 & 15	PB 3	PB 4 & 5	2 yrs AF Civil Service	DT must validate	Must have signed mobility agreement
Experiential						
ELDP	GS-12 & 13	PB 2	PB 3	2 yrs AF Civil Service	DT must validate	N/A
EIG & E-Gov Fellows ⁵	GS/GM 14 & 15	PB 3	PB 4 & 5	2 yrs AF Civil Service	DT must validate	N/A
Strategic Education						
Level 1	GS 14&15	PB 3	PB 4 & 5	2 yrs AF Civil Service	DT will select	N/A
Level II & III	GS 15	PB 3	PB 4 & 5	2 yrs AF Civil Service	DT must validate	N/A

NOTES:

1. As a minimum, all civilians must have an accredited bachelor's degree to attend in residence DE.
2. Once designated for attendance, completion of a declination statement will result in no further opportunity for attendance at that same level.
3. The DT can make specific school recommendations to the CDE selection board for IDE & SDE in residence.
4. GRE scores are required for intermediate programs and must be w/in the last 5 years while GRE and/or GMAT scores are required for senior programs and must be w/in the last 5 years.
5. A Master's Degree is required for RAND, Legislative Fellow, NLTFP, EIG & E-Gov Fellows.
6. Time in service must be as of nomination due date.
7. Civilians must have 12 months minimum time in current position to apply for IDE/SDE as of 1 May (to include Academic and Experiential programs) and Strategic Education, Level III. Exceptions will be considered for situations such as expeditionary workforce positions and personnel in career broadener status.

16.5. PME Completion. IDE/SDE PME completion is a requirement to be eligible for SDE in-residence. IDE/SDE PME completion is also a requirement to be eligible for all Strategic Education Course Levels.

16.6. Preference Statement. Civilians list their program preference in their Development Plan located in Secure AFPC webpage or on an AF Form 4059, *Air Force Civilian Competitive Development Nomination Form*, as prescribed in AFI 36-401, *Employee Training and Development*.

16.7. Eligibility waiver authority. Waiver authority for civilians applying for residence CDE programs rests with AFPC/CC. AF/A1DL is the waiver authority for all non-resident PME eligibility. HQ AU is the waiver authority for non-resident PME completion restrictions and limitations.

16.7.1. All non-Air Force attendees must meet the eligibility criteria of their Air Force civilian counterparts unless exempted elsewhere in this Instruction.

16.8. Retainability. Civilians will serve at least 3 times the length of courses attended following completion. For example, a 6 week SOS course will result in at least 18 weeks of follow on service.

16.8.1. AFPC/DPI will ensure paperwork is completed to move employees into and out of authorized Central Salary Account (CSA) positions. Fellows will be assigned to CSA positions concurrent with their permanent change of station (PCS) move. Participants will be removed from CSA positions when follow-on assignments terminate, and graduates transition into permanent positions.

17. Selection. The annual CDE Selection Board convenes to review personnel records and designate nominees to attend a particular DE program. They consider endorser statements and DT recommendations. The CDE Selection Board designations are forwarded to the DEDB for final approval.

18. Declinations, Deferments & Removal

18.1. CDE Declination. All declinations must be reported to AFPC/DPI immediately. If a member declines once designated for DE attendance by the DEDB, there is no further opportunity to compete for resident CDE at the same level. Exceptions for hardship and deferment requests will be approved/disapproved by the AFPC/CC.

18.2. Declination Justification. Management and/or individual declinations for mission essential or humanitarian removal from a program must be supported with reasonable justification. Declining selection for any program covered under CDE must be **approved** by the nominating organization (Wing Commander or first SES/GO in the chain of command).

18.2.1. Mission Essential. AFPC/CC will serve as approval authority for mission essential considerations. The approval authority will normally approve a mission essential removal if the employee's program participation would have an adverse mission impact. Removal, if granted, will be without prejudice.

18.2.2. Humanitarian. AFPC/CC will serve as approval authority for humanitarian considerations. The approval authority will normally approve a humanitarian withdrawal under the conditions below. Withdrawal, if granted, will be without prejudice.

18.2.2.1. The recent death (within 6 months of course start date) of a spouse or child or stepchild under the age of 18 who is living in the home at the time of death.

18.2.2.2. The terminal illness of a family member when death is imminent within the window after employee's selection and preceding school start date. A doctor must support his or her prognosis of a terminal illness by clinical data.

18.2.2.3. A serious financial problem that is **not** the result of over extension of employee's personal income or bankruptcy (e.g. loss of home or possessions through fire, theft, or natural disaster) and employee will suffer a substantial financial loss unless present. (This applies to employees who must go TDY or PCS to participate in a selected program.) Employee must show he/she could not solve the problem by leave, correspondence, power of attorney, or by any other person or means.

18.3. Deferral Justification. AFPC/CC will serve as the approval authority for deferral considerations. Management and/or individual deferrals for mission essential or humanitarian reasons must be supported with reasonable justification. Deferrals for any program must be approved by the nominating organization (Wing Commander or first SES/GO in the chain of command). The deferral must be for the same program for which selected for the following year only. Employees who do not attend the year following an approved deferral will be subject to the appropriate withdrawal or declination policies.

18.4. Removal for cause. When a request from the Senior Rater, management level, DT, or institution to remove a civilian from the selected program for just cause, that request must be approved by AFPC/CC. A letter will be permanently filed in the individual's official personnel file and the employee will be permanently ineligible for any future resident DE.

19. Non-resident/DL Programs. The purpose of DE non-resident programs (SOS, ACSC and AWC) is to provide individuals who have not completed resident DE an opportunity to complete it via correspondence, seminar, or other approved method. To the extent reasonably possible, DE non-resident programs mirror the resident school curriculum. See Table 6 for non-residence

eligibility criteria. AF/AIDL is the waiver authority for all non-resident PME eligibility. HQ AU is the waiver authority for completion restrictions and limitations.

19.1. Sequence. Air Force policy emphasizes taking the right DE at the right time and at the right grade. The non-resident sequence is SOS, ACSC, then AWC. Civilians who enter the Air Force at a more senior rank may complete a lower DL PME, if desired, prior to enrolling in the rank appropriate DL PME. Civilians may enroll in non-resident programs as detailed in Table 6.

19.2. Civilians must be boarded and selected to complete an AU Online Master's Degree with Joint Warfare concentration (ACSC) through formal AFPC/DPI channels.

19.3. Optional DE opportunities via DL. In addition to the opportunities listed above, civilians may also elect to complete courses from the Leadership Development Programs (LDP). These self-paced optional courses are offered through SOC-DL. These courses are applicable across the force and include such topics as foundational, expeditionary and organizational leadership.

19.3.1. Civilians may enroll in LDP courses via a self-enrollment DL process. Enrollees will have 6 months in which to complete their courses or they will be disenrolled. Completion will not appear anywhere in a member's record but will appear on the member's AU transcript. Civilian's must have an accredited bachelor's degree to self-enroll in LDP.

Table 6. DoD Civilian Non-Resident/DL PME Eligibility Criteria.

Program	GS/GM	NSPS	DCIPS	NAF
SOS	GS-9 to GS-12	PB 1 PB 2	PB 2	3/4
ACSC	GS-12 & 13	PB 2	PB 3	4/5
AU Online Master's (w/Joint Warfare Concentration - ACSC)	GS-12 & 13	PB 2	PB 3	N/A ²
AWC	GS/GM 14 & 15	PB 3	PB 4 & 5	5/6
NOTES:				
1. All civilians, to include NAF employees, must have an accredited bachelor's degree to enroll in non-resident programs.				
2. Based on limited capacity, NAF employees may not enroll in the AU Online Master's Degree.				

20. DE Resident Equivalency Credit. Civilians who have attended, are currently attending, or who have been selected to attend one of the programs listed at Table 7 may request resident DE credit. DE requests for equivalency credit will be made via the CDP during the annual nomination call from AFPC. Senior Raters must nominate the civilian for equivalency credit. DTs will evaluate the quality of the requesting member to determine if members' records are of commensurate quality with those being forwarded for DE attendance to the DEDB. If requesting members meet the DT quality review, they then must be approved by the DEDB. To receive resident DE credit, civilians must also complete the appropriate level of AF PME DL/seminar. Out of cycle requests for DE credit follow the same procedure described in paragraph 10.1.1 of this Instruction.

20.1. Civilians who have completed AF Advanced Academic Degrees, are attending, or who have been selected to attend an AAD program may request resident DE credit while eligible to attend IDE or SDE, respectively.

20.2. Civilians may also participate in other Service, Joint, DoD, and non-DoD (international and civilian) PME-equivalent programs. For details on what constitutes joint programs, see CJCSI 1800.01.

Table 7. Civilian Programs Eligible for IDE or SDE Equivalency Credit.

IDE	SDE
AFIT PhD Program	AFIT PhD Program
AFIT Master's Degree Program	AFIT - Civilian Institution (CI) (PhD only)
AFIT – Civilian Institution (CI)	Excellence in Government Fellows Program (EIG)
Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP)	E-Government Fellows (E-GOV)
White House Fellow	White House Fellow
Fletcher School Global Master of Arts Program (GMAP)	
NOTE:	
1. Civilians have 24 months from completion of the equivalency programs listed in Table 7 to complete the appropriate DL course (ACSC DL or AWC DL) in order to be granted equivalency credit.	

21. International Applicants. Reference paragraph 11 for civilian rules of engagement.

22. AF Fellow Program. Unlike other CDE programs, civilians completing the Legislative Fellowship program must complete ACSC by correspondence if not already complete and are not eligible for the AU Online Master's Degree just because of acceptance to this program. Reference paragraph 13 for additional rules of engagement. Civilian Legislative Fellow program length varies but is typically a 2-year program where the first year is spent with the assigned Congressional Representative or Senator and the second year is in the legislative office.

22.1. Civilian functional points of contact will work with participants, to identify follow-on assignments in the Secretariat or Air Staff. It is the responsibility of respective functional

community points of contact for civilians to identify permanent positions for fellowship participants to fill 6 months before follow-on assignments terminate.

Section D— Enlisted DE

23. Architecture. The Air Force enlisted DE program is central to the CoL that spans an enlisted Airman's career. The Continuum of Education (CoE) is a subset of the CoL and is the foundation for the development of all enlisted education programs. Education complements training and experience to prepare professional warfighting Airmen to perform in progressively more demanding supervisor, leader, and manager positions in dynamic operational environments. More specifically, enlisted DE develops Air Force Institutional Competencies and subcompetencies vital to the knowledge and skills required for sound decision making and strategic thinking to provide the Air Force with Agile Combat Support. Additionally, enlisted DE also develops critical and analytical thinking skills which enable innovative and creative leadership solutions and skilled employment of air, space, and cyberspace power in the conduct of war and contingency operations. There are four levels of enlisted DE.

23.1. Enlisted DE levels:

23.1.1. Basic DE (BDE): For grades E1-E3. Basic Military Training (BMT).

23.1.2. Primary DE (PDE): For grades E4-E6. Airman Leadership School (ALS), Noncommissioned Officer Academy (NCOA), equivalent sister Service, and comparable international courses, Senior Enlisted Joint PME (SEJPME) and Enlisted to Air Force Institute of Technology (Enlisted-to-AFIT).

23.1.3. Intermediate DE (IDE): For grade E7 (E6 for US Marine Corps). Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy (AFSNCOA) and equivalent sister Service courses which include the US Army Sergeant Major Academy (USASMA), the US Navy Senior Enlisted Academy (USNSEA), US Marine Corps Staff NCO Academy (USMCSNCOA), and the Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Academy (CGCPOA); and comparable international courses; SEJPME; Enlisted-to-AFIT.

23.1.4. Senior DE (SDE): For grades E8-E9. CMSgt Leadership Course (CLC), SEJPME, and Enlisted-to-AFIT.

23.2. USAF Enlisted Professional Military Education (EPME): Consists of resident and non-resident/distance learning (DL) courses for ALS, NCOA, AFSNCOA, and resident CLC to prepare Airmen for increased responsibilities associated with promotion. Air Force enlisted personnel (AD & ARC) will complete the appropriate level of resident or DL EPME as prescribed in tables 8 and 9 prior to promotion. The *Air University Catalog and Education and Training Course Announcement (ETCA)* online catalog (<https://etca.randolph.af.mil>) provides course descriptions and additional details on DE programs.

23.3. Enlisted Joint PME (EJPME): Progressively develops the knowledge, skills, perspectives, and values essential for enlisted personnel to function effectively in joint, interagency, and multinational operations and organizations. Refer to CJCSI 1805.01, *Enlisted Professional Military Education Policy (EPMEP)*.

23.3.1. Basic EJPME: Addresses the progressive educational guidelines that should be completed before promotion to grade E6.

23.3.2. Career EJPME: Addresses educational guidelines for personnel in grades E6/7 and above.

23.3.3. Senior EJPME: Includes CJCS-sponsored assignment oriented educational courses beginning at the Senior Enlisted Leader (SEL) level.

23.3.3.1. Senior Enlisted Joint PME (SEJPME) course: A stand alone web-based course that educates SELs serving in or slated to serve in joint organizations. The course is designed to expose enlisted personnel to joint education and prepare them to succeed by improving their ability to operate effectively as part of a future joint force and supervise multiple service members. The course is open to all components' (active duty, reserves, Guard) enlisted E6 to E9. Although not a requirement, members should complete their grade required Service EPME prior to completing this course. The SEJPME course is located at: http://www.jfsc.ndu.edu/SCHOOLS_PROGRAMS/se_ipme/default.asp.

23.4. Enlisted-to-AFIT: In conjunction with other training and education programs, resident AFIT sponsored science, engineering, and management graduate degree opportunities further develop NCOs' technical education and skills. This program enhances combat capability through career field core competency augmentation and provides the Air Force with a source of highly proficient NCOs, technically experienced in their career field and highly educated through AFIT graduate degree programs. Refer to AFI 36-2302, *Professional Development (Advanced Academic Degrees and Professional Continuing Education)* for more information about advanced academic degrees (AAD). For information regarding the Enlisted-to-AFIT degree program, eligibility criteria, and nomination procedures visit the following link: <http://www.afit.edu/EN/ADMISSIONS/Default.cfm?l=enl>.

24. EPME Resident Eligibility and Prerequisites.

24.1. Active Duty. See ETCA, AU Catalog, ECI AU A4/6 Catalog and Table 8 and Table 9 for eligibility requirements. Members possessing an AF Form 422, *Physical Profile Serial Report* identifying temporary physical restrictions (such as not being able to run, march or stand at attention for extended periods of time) to EPME program requirements (i.e., physical fitness, drill and ceremonies, and Project X) are ineligible to attend without EPME Commandant approval or an approved waiver from AF/A1D.

24.1.1. ALS: Completion of resident ALS is required for SrA selected for SSgt before their promotion increment month, all eligible SrA before PCS to short-tour locations without an ALS or departing to extended deployments (90 days or more), all non-prior service and prior sister Service members accessed as a SSgt (on or after 1 Oct 08), and all SrA within the first three years from their initial date of eligibility (48 months TIS). All SrA/SSgts must complete ALS before they are assigned as a reporting official (supervisor). Support ARC SrA, AF civilians, sister Service, DoD, and international personnel with resident ALS attendance opportunities as space allows based on the PRD. Local police department, fire department, and other non-DoD or US Departments are authorized to attend with AF/A1DL approval.

24.1.2. NCOA: Completion of resident NCOA (or equivalent sister Service/comparable international courses) is required for promotion to MSgt, all non-prior service and prior sister Service members accessed as a TSgt, and all TSgts within two years after TSgt

promotion. Support ARC SSgts/TSgts, AF civilians, sister Service, and international students with resident NCOA attendance opportunities as space allows based on the PRD.

24.1.3. AFSNCOA: Completion of resident AFSNCOA (or equivalent sister Service/comparable international courses) is required for promotion to SMSgt. MSgts are designated to attend AFSNCOA each year as prioritized according to paragraph 25.3.1. Support ARC MSgts/SMSgts with resident AFSNCOA attendance opportunity as space allows based on the PRD. Also, AF civilians, sister Service and international SNCOs may attend the AFSNCOA. AF SNCOs may apply to attend the resident US Army Sergeant Major Academy (USASMA), the US Navy Senior Enlisted Academy (USNSEA), US Marine Corps Staff NCO Academy (USMCSNCOA) or the Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Academy (CGCPOA) and comparable international PME courses in lieu of the AFSNCOA. NOTE: SNCOs who complete a resident sister Service or comparable international PME course will receive PME credit for completing resident AFSNCOA.

24.1.4. CLC: Completion of resident CLC is required for all CMSgt selects within one year of promotion selection (or subsequent year if deferred). Support ARC with resident CLC opportunities as space allows based on the PRD. Also, a limited number of sister Service and international CMSgt equivalents may also attend CLC, with quotas determined by formal agreement.

Table 8. EPME1 Resident School Eligibility Criteria.

School	Grade	Time In Grade	Time in Service	Retainability
ALS	SSgt (and selects), SrA	N/A	48 months ²	6 months ³
NCOA (ARC only)	SSgt	N/A	96 months	1 year ³
NCOA	MSgt (and selects), TSgt	N/A	N/A	1 year ³
AFSNCOA ⁴	SMSgt (and selects), MSgt	N/A	N/A	1 year ³
CLC	CMSgt (and selects)	N/A	N/A	N/A

NOTES:

1. Enlisted Airmen must have a passing AF Fitness Test current through course completion to attend resident EPME. (Exceptions: members medically exempt, deployed and unable to complete a fitness test prior to attendance as approved by the commandant of the school they will attend).
2. Exception: TIS may be earlier for SrA who receive a promotion line number to SSgt. Other exceptions must be submitted to AF/A1DL for approval.
3. For personnel with the required retainability as of class graduation date (CGD), once selected attendance is mandatory (exception: declination guidance for NCOA and AFSNCOA). For personnel who reenlist/extend beyond one year, attendance becomes mandatory. HQ ANG and USAFR determine separate retainability requirements for their members. All active duty personnel are eligible to reenlist/extend for the purpose of attending EPME. NCOs and SNCOs eligible to attend resident NCOA or AFSNCOA with an approved retirement or separation date within one year will not be scheduled to attend (except when required for promotion). SrA with an approved PALACE CHASE or PALACE FRONT may attend ALS with four months retainability as of CGD.
4. Member must complete the SNCO PME Distance Learning (DL) course to be eligible to attend an equivalent sister Service or comparable international EPME course.

24.2. ARC.

24.2.1. See Table 8 and Table 9 and A4/6 Catalog for eligibility criteria. In addition, follow applicable ANG and USAFR directives in sending ANG and USAFR applications through the individual's unit training office for resident EPME. Base Individual Mobilization Augmentation Advisors send Individual Mobilization Augmentee, AFRC enlisted candidate, and statutory tour applications to HQ ARPC/DRMP, 6760 East Irvington Place, 3200, Denver CO 80280-3200, through the member's gaining MAJCOM Reserve Affairs Office. USAFR NCOs may attend resident PME schools in Air Reserve Technician status.

24.2.2. While resident EPME completion is similarly required for promotion, ARC members may complete PME promotion requirements via resident or DL courses, or any other approved method. AFI 36-2502, *Airman Promotion Program*, Table 4.1, contains EPME requirements for Air Force Reserve enlisted personnel. Completion of DL EPME does not preclude eligibility to attend a comparable or lower level resident EPME course.

24.3. Prior Service

24.3.1. US Air Force. ARC members entering USAF active duty enlisted service who have previously completed USAF resident or DL EPME courses receive full credit for their active duty grade requirement. Although not required, these members are highly encouraged to complete grade appropriate resident EPME courses to benefit themselves and the other students.

24.3.2. Non-US Air Force.

24.3.2.1. Sister Service resident SNCO courses are comparable to the resident AFSNCOA and thus meet the SNCOA resident requirement. However, the E6 and below sister Service resident EPME courses are not comparable to AF EPME resident courses and thus do not meet AF resident EPME requirements. Therefore, prior sister Service NCOs who enter the Air Force on or after 1 Oct 08, as either SSgt or TSgt will complete the appropriate AF EPME according to Table 8 or Table 9 (which ever is applicable) at the earliest opportunity. These Airmen will have priority for resident EPME attendance ahead of their peers.

24.3.2.2. Sister Service DL EPME courses are not comparable to AF DL (or resident) EPME courses and thus do not meet the Air Force EPME requirements. Therefore, prior sister Service NCOs who enter the AF on or after 1 Oct 08 will complete the grade appropriate AF EPME according to Table 8 or Table 9 (which ever is applicable) at the earliest opportunity.

25. Selection. Selection for active duty members for resident EPME attendance is based on grade (seniority based on TIG, TIS), promotion line number, priority, eligibility, and availability. Commanders, supervisors, and individuals must closely track EPME requirements and coordinate scheduling to avoid promotion delays. NOTE: Individuals selected for resident EPME will formally accept, decline, or request deferment within five duty days of notification.

25.1. ALS: Selection and scheduling for ALS attendance is accomplished by the local ALS and is driven by the SSgt promotion release. Selection and scheduling is done in accordance with this Instruction and ALS ETCA based on grade, promotion line number, priority, and availability. Below is the order of priority for SrA attending resident ALS. NOTE: ALS commandants may train lower priority Airmen before higher priority Airmen on a case-by-case basis in extenuating circumstances if it does not result in promotion withhold for higher priority Airmen.

25.1.1. Priority 1: SSgts without ALS complete (this includes non-prior service and prior sister Service SSgts) and SrA in promotion withhold status.

25.1.2. Priority 2: SrA selected for promotion to SSgt and selected for a 365-day TDY tasking or PCS assignment to a location without an ALS.

25.1.3. Priority 3: SrA selected for promotion to SSgt and selected for a TDY tasking of 90 days or more.

25.1.4. Priority 4: SrA selected for promotion to SSgt (seniority based according to promotion line number).

25.1.5. Priority 5: SrA with 48 months TIS or more (at time of assignment notification) and selected for PCS assignment or 365 day deployment to a location without an ALS.

25.1.6. Priority 6: SrA with 48 months TIS or more and selected for a TDY tasking of 90 days or more.

25.1.7. Priority 7: SrA with 48 months TIS.

25.1.8. Priority 8: ARC SrA on a space-available basis.

25.1.9. Priority 9: Eligible Air Force and DoD civilians, sister Service, and international students on a space available basis.

25.2. NCOA: Selection and scheduling is done by AFPC/DPS for stateside NCOAs and by MAJCOM/A1s for overseas NCOAs in accordance with this Instruction and the NCOA ETCA based on member's grade, promotion line number, priority, and availability. Below is the order of priority for Airmen attending resident NCOA. NOTE: AFPC/DPS or MAJCOM/A1 may schedule a lower priority Airman before higher priority Airmen on a case-by-case basis in extenuating circumstances if doing so does not result in promotion withhold for higher priority Airmen.

25.2.1. Priority 1: MSgts or MSgt selects in promotion withhold status.

25.2.2. Priority 2: TSgt selected for promotion to MSgt (seniority based on promotion line number).

25.2.3. Priority 3: Non-prior service or prior sister Service TSgt without ALS/NCOA complete.

25.2.4. Priority 4: TSgts by seniority (based on date of rank, total active federal military service, pay date, date of birth).

25.2.5. Priority 5: ARC TSgts on a space-available basis.

25.2.6. Priority 6: Eligible Air Force and DoD civilians, sister Service, and international students on a space available basis.

25.3. AFSNCOA: Selection and scheduling for AFSNCOA is done by AFPC/DPS and is driven by the SMSgt promotion release. Selection and scheduling is done in accordance with this Instruction and the AFSNCOA ETCA based on grade, promotion line number, priority, and availability. In addition to SMSgts, and SMSgt (selects) who will attend prior to SMSgt promotion, MSgts (non-selects) are selected to attend the SNCOA each fiscal year based on their combined USAF Supervisory Examination score and promotion board score within their AFSC. AFPC/DPS selects members based on scheduling priority below, reviews each member's MilPDS record to ensure prerequisites are met, and inputs each member into each class seat using MilPDS.

25.3.1. Below is the order of priority for Air Force SNCOs attending resident SNCOA. NOTE: AFPC/DPS may schedule lower priority Airmen before higher priority Airmen on a case-by-case basis in extenuating circumstances if doing so does not result in promotion withhold for higher priority Airmen.

25.3.1.1. Priority 1: SMSgts without SNCOA complete (based on DOR-lowest to highest) or SMSgt selects in promotion withhold status.

25.3.1.2. Priority 2: MSgt selected for promotion to SMSgt (seniority based on promotion line number—lowest to highest).

25.3.1.3. Priority 3: MSgt (non-select) alternates in order of their alternate sequence number based on combined score of Board Score and Promotion Test (lowest to highest).

25.3.1.4. Priority 4: ARC SMSgts on a space-available basis

25.3.1.5. Priority 5: Eligible Air Force and DoD civilians, sister Service, and international students on a space available basis.

25.4. CLC. Selection and scheduling for the CLC is done by AF/DPE and is driven by the CMSgt promotion release. Selection and scheduling is done in accordance with this Instruction and the CLC ETCA based on grade and availability.

25.4.1. AF/DPE forwards confirmed CLC TLNs to the appropriate MAJCOM/A1 (or equivalent) with a courtesy copy to the appropriate MAJCOM/CCC.

25.4.2. The member will acknowledge (in writing) receipt of training date within five duty days of notification.

25.4.3. The member coordinates changes or adjustment of class dates through the appropriate MAJCOM/CCC not later than 20 days prior to CSD. A change or an adjustment of a class date within 20 days of CSD is considered a “request” and will be submitted directly to AF/DPE.

25.4.4. AF/DPE forwards confirmed class rosters to AFSNCOA not later than 60 days prior to CSD.

25.4.5. Eligible civilian, sister Service and international CMSgt equivalent students may attend the CLC on a space available basis.

26. Declinations, Deferments, and Waivers.

26.1. Declinations. Completing resident EPME courses is an important and necessary step in enlisted professional development. As such, the choice to decline resident EPME is restricted to personnel selected for NCOA and AFSNCOA with more than 19 years active service as of CSD. NOTE: Members selected for ALS or CLC may not decline attendance. Declinations are done with prejudice and signed declination statements must be submitted within 5 duty days of notification. Eligible NCOs declining resident EPME must retire upon reaching 20 years active service or the first day of the seventh month following declination, whichever is later. NOTE: Personnel with Active Duty Service Commitments (ADSC) that extend beyond 20 years TIS are ineligible to decline EPME. Eligible personnel declining resident EPME are ineligible for promotion, reenlistment, and participation in the High Year Tenure Extension Program.

26.1.1. Eligible personnel who intend to decline PME attendance may request an extension of the 5 duty day time period if needed. Provide justification and the calendar date of additional time required. Forward extension requests to: AFPC/DPS via email, fax, or memorandum. Unnecessary delay or failure in submitting this request and/or the statement below will result in loss of declination opportunity.

26.1.2. Eligible personnel who decline EPME will sign the following statement: *“I decline to attend the (NCOA or AFSNCOA) class starting on (class start date), for which I have been selected/scheduled. I have, or will have, 19 or more years of active service as of class start date. I understand that this declination renders me ineligible for promotion and reenlistment, and that I must retire upon reaching 20 years in service or the first day of the seventh month following the date of this declination, whichever is later. I further acknowledge that this declination renders me ineligible to participate in the High Year Tenure Extension Program.”* After updating AAC 9 in MilPDS, forward the signed statement along with the signed AF Form 964, PCS, TDY or Training Declination Statement to AFPC IAW established procedures for including miscellaneous documents in member’s Personnel Records Display Action (PRDA).

26.2. Deferments. Airmen selected for resident EPME may be deferred for compelling non-routine mission, humanitarian, medical, or other reasons (as described below) without prejudice upon approval of the member’s wing commander (or equivalent). Deferment requests will be kept to the absolute minimum. EPME deferment requests require solid justification, wing command chief coordination/concurrence, and wing commander (or equivalent) approval. In all cases, resident attendance remains mandatory for enlisted personnel as outlined in this Instruction.

26.2.1. Commanders, first sergeants, and supervisors should make their people available as scheduled for EPME and hold deferment requests strictly to the following criteria.

26.2.1.1. Mission: The individual scheduled to attend is indispensable to the mission; in short, the mission will fail without their presence. No other individual could stand in or temporarily replace the selected individual. Mission deferments must contain the verbiage “...the mission will fail.”

26.2.1.2. Humanitarian: The individual scheduled to attend has an unusually stressful family or personal situation or an emergency situation with an immediate family member as similarly defined under humanitarian reassignment guidance.

26.2.1.3. Medical: The individual scheduled to attend has a medical condition (including some pregnancies) that renders him/her ineligible for course attendance or requires on-going treatment (including Mental Health counseling and ADAPT program) that would be detrimental if interrupted. EPME commandants will determine the member’s eligibility based on the school’s ability to accommodate the member’s medical condition and an overall assessment of the member’s ability to meet course objectives.

26.2.1.4. Other: Unit commanders may request deferment/non-recommend individuals for EPME attendance based on extenuating circumstances not covered above. Examples may include member's poor duty performance (not covered under control roster actions but detrimental to the academic environment), pending disciplinary action, under investigation, etc.

26.2.2. Personnel serving overseas tours of 15 months or less will be deferred from the AFSNCOA attendance until tour completion. Members serving overseas tours of 16 months or longer may attend the AFSNCOA from the overseas assignment if they have at least one year remaining in the overseas area upon graduation and meet all other eligibility criteria. AFPC/DPS may waive this requirement to 120 days remaining in the overseas area upon graduation, if the unit commander and MAJCOM approve. (Exception: EPME attendance is mandatory due to promotion selection.)

26.2.3. Deferment Procedures

26.2.3.1. ALS: Process unit/CC approved deferment requests through the respective chain of command to the ALS commandant for coordination, wing command chief (WG/CCC) for coordination and WG/CC approval. Send WG/CC approved deferments to the ALS NLT 30 days prior to CSD for action. The ALS will file approved deferments and notify the member's unit of the approved deferment.

26.2.3.2. NCOA/AFSNCOA: Process unit/CC approved deferment requests through the respective chain of command to the member's WG/CCC for coordination and WG/CC (senior rater (or equivalent) for approval. Send WG/CC approved deferments for CONUS NCOAs and AFSNCOA (and sister Service equivalents) through AFPC/DPS (with a copy to member's MAJCOM A1) as close to receipt of training allocation as possible, but not less than 45 days prior to CSD for action. For overseas NCOAs, process WG/CC approved deferment through the wing formal training office/appropriate MAJCOM.

26.2.3.3. CLC: Process deferment requests via the member's wing command chief for coordination and senior rater (or equivalent) approval prior to forwarding to the MAJCOM FOA, DRU A1 or J1 (or equivalent) with an information copy to the MAJCOM CCM. MAJCOM, FOA, DRU forward approved deferment requests to AF/DPE no later than 35 days prior to class start date. Because of required pre-course work, it is imperative deferment requests are forwarded in a timely manner since AF/DPE will be required to notify an alternate.

26.3. Waivers: Resident EPME completion may be waived (by exception) in accordance with AFI 36-2502, *Airmen Promotion Program* for Airmen who cannot complete required EPME before promotion due to circumstances beyond their control (i.e., remote tours, deployments, medical issues, personal hardship, EFMP, etc.)

26.3.1. Commanders and supervisors will make every effort to ensure Airmen selected for promotion complete required EPME prior to departure for remote tours, deployments, extended TDYs (45 days or more), lengthy formal training/retraining, etc. However, if EPME completion is not possible prior to departure, commanders are required to seek a promotion waiver.

26.3.2. Airmen with approved waivers must attend EPME (in the next higher grade) as soon as possible without negatively impacting the mission or member. Airmen with approved waivers serving on remote tours or extended deployments, or attending lengthy formal training/retraining will attend EPME within 120 days of completing the remote tour, deployment, or training and NLT 60 days prior to subsequent re-deployment, training, or PCS.

27. Non-resident/DL Programs. The purpose of EPME DL programs is to enhance an individual's professional development with challenging course study through distance learning courses appropriate to their grade and experience. The Barnes Center's, EPME, Academic Affairs is the OPR for all EPME DL courses. The AU A4/6 Catalog contains definitive guidance for DL courses and is located at: <http://www.maxwell.af.mil/au/afiadl/>.

Table 9. EPME Non-resident/DL Eligibility Criteria.

Course	Grade	Time in Service	Retainability
ALS (ARC only)	SrA	48 months	N/A
NCOA (ARC only)	TSgt (and selects)	N/A	N/A
AFSNCOA	TSgt or higher ¹	N/A	N/A
SEJPME ²	TSgt or higher	N/A	N/A
NOTE:			
1. TSgts must have completed NCOA and have 2 years Time in Grade to enroll.			
2. Completion of SEJPME DL course is highly recommended prior to assignment to joint duty billets. If not possible due to a short notice assignment, completion within 60 days of arrival is highly recommended.			

28. EPME Graduate Ribbon. Graduates from each level of resident EPME (including sister-Service senior-level academies) earn the Air Force EPME Graduate Ribbon. An oak leaf cluster is added to the basic ribbon for completion of each additional resident level of EPME (i.e., NCOA, SNCOA, and CLC). This is retroactive for completion of all resident EPME including the NCO Preparatory Course, NCO Leadership School, and the CLC.

29. EPME Achievement Awards.

29.1. EPME courses are authorized the following four mandatory awards. NOTE: The CLC and all DL courses do not have these awards.

29.1.1. John L. Levitow Award is the highest honor and is presented to the top graduate of each class. Only one John L. Levitow Award is presented per class. Recipients of this award are excluded from both the Academic Achievement and Commandant/Leadership Award.

29.1.2. Distinguished Graduate (DG) Award is presented to the top 10 percent of each class. The John L. Levitow Award recipient as the class “top” Distinguished Graduate is included in this group. Ties are permitted for DG awards (except the John L. Levitow Award).

29.1.3. Academic Achievement Award is presented for scholastic excellence. Ties are permitted for the Academic Achievement Award.

29.1.4. Commandant/Leadership Award is presented to the student who, in the commandant’s judgment made the most significant contribution to the overall success of their class.

29.2. AF/A1DL is approval authority for the establishment of additional EPME awards or changing the name/criteria for existing EPME awards. Staff requests for additional EPME awards or changes to existing EPME awards through the chain of command to AF/A1DL for approval.

29.3. The Air University, through the Barnes Center, publishes specific award criteria in the USAF EPME Procedural Guidance.

30. EPME Triennial Review.

30.1. Objective: Ensure AF EPME is aligned with Air Force priorities and force development strategies and EPME courses have relevant curricula, appropriate educational technologies, and required resources to inculcate institutional competencies in warfighting Airmen to meet future mission challenges in joint and coalition environments.

30.2. Steering Committee. Consists of AF/CCC, AF/A1D, AU/CC, and AF/A1DL. Subject matter experts (SME) invited, as required. Convene not less than once every three years to review the EPME strategic plan (mission, vision, strategic themes and objectives, and key initiatives), EPME policies, curricula, resources, and processes. Meets at the discretion of any primary member and, if agreed to by AF/CCC and AF/A1D, prior to the Review. Reviews proposed issues and determines dates for the Review. Upon completion of the Review, determines which items will be presented to the AF/A1 and Enlisted Force Development Panel (EFDP) for action.

30.3. Committee. Consists of AF/CCC, AF/A1D, AF/A1DL, AF/A1DI, AETC/CCC, AU/CCC, AU/CF representative MAJCOM/CCCs, ARC/CCCs, Barnes Center/CV and key leaders, and MAJCOM A1/PME representatives, and other SMEs as appropriate. Reviews the agenda items, determines the nature of the problems, and identifies issues for further investigation/study. Based on their findings, they will identify the appropriate OPR for further research/action and out-brief the steering committee with their findings and recommendations.

30.4. Specific Responsibilities:

30.4.1. AF/CCC: Co-chairs the Review with AF/A1D, approves proposed the agenda, and signs the Report.

30.4.2. AF/A1D: Co-chairs the Review with the AF/CCC, approves proposed agenda, and signs the Report. Upon AF/A1 approval of the Review Report, staffs applicable issues through the AF/A1DL and AF/CCC. Closes HAF action items.

30.4.3. AF/A1DL:

30.4.3.1. Provides agenda for the Review, prepares the Review Report, and coordinates the report through attendees. The report should address EPME initiatives/proposals, sister Service best practices and near-term and long-term improvement plans. Forwards the final report to AF/A1D and AF/CCC for approval.

30.4.3.2. Staffs approved items from the Review Report through appropriate agencies; distributes approved report to review participants; provides semi-annual update to each member of the Committee on action item status, and closes HAF action items.

30.4.3.3. Deconflicts any potential manpower decreases/increases due to future DE courses/production levels or notifies appropriate MAJCOM/A1s to POM for additional resources as required to conduct future DE courses/production levels.

40. Adopted Forms.

AF Form 63, *Active Duty Service Commitment (ADSC) Acknowledgement Statement*

AF Form 422, *Physical Profile Serial Report*

AF Form 475, *Education/Training Report*

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

AF Form 964, *PCS, TDY or Training Declination Statement*

AF Form 1941, *Application for DE (In-Residence)*

AF Form 4059, *Air Force Civilian Competitive Development Nomination Form*

RICHARD Y. NEWTON III, Lt General, USAF
DCS, Manpower and Personnel

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

Title 10, United States Code, Section 9315, *Community College of the Air Force: Associate Degrees*, December 12, 1980

Title 10, United States Code, Sections 406d and 663, *Education*, December 5, 1991

Title 10, United States Code, Section 2007, *Payment of Tuition for Off-duty Training or Education*, January 2, 2006

Title 10, United States Code, Section 9317, *Air University: Conferral of Degrees*, October 5, 1999

DoDI 1322.6, *Fellowships, Scholarships, Training With Industry (TWI) and Grants for DoD Personnel*, November 15, 2007

DoDD 1400.25, *DoD Civilian Personnel Management System*, November 25, 1996

DoDD 1400.5, *DoD Policy for Civilian Personnel*, January 12, 2005

DoDD 1322.08E, *Voluntary Education Programs for Military Personnel*, January 3, 2005

DoDI 1322.10, *Policy on Graduate Education for Military Officers*, August 26, 2004

DoDI 1322.19, *Voluntary Education Programs in Overseas Locations*, May 9, 1988

AFPD 36-26, *Total Force Development*, August 27, 2008

AFPD 36-23, *Military Education*, September 27, 1993

AFPD 36-22, *Air Force Military Training*, March 22, 2004

AFPD 36-13, *Civilian Supervisory, Management and Leadership Development*, May 1, 1997

AFPD 36-4, *Air Force Civilian Training, Education and Development*, February 12, 2004

AFI 36-2502, *Airman Promotion/Demotion Programs*, December 31, 2009

AFI 36-3604, *Community College of the Air Force*, September 1, 1999

AFI 36-2302, *Professional Development (Advanced Academic Degrees and Professional Continuing Education)*, July 11, 2001

AFI 36-2110, *Assignments*, April 20, 2005

AFI 36-401, *Employee Training and Development*, June 28, 2002

AFI 36-2905, *Fitness Program*, July 1, 2010

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACSC—Air Command and Staff College

ADP—Airman Developmental Plan

AFIP—Air Force Intern Program

AFIT—Air Force Institute of Technology
AFPC—Air Force Personnel Center
AFR—Air Force Reserve
AFSNCOA—Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy
ALS—Airman Leadership School
ANG—Air National Guard
ANGRC—Air National Guard Readiness Center
ARC—Air Reserve Component (Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve)
ARPC—Air Reserve Personnel Center
ASBC—Air and Space Basic Course
AU—Air University
AWC—Air War College
BDE—Basic Developmental Education
CCAF—Community College of the Air Force
CDE—Civilian Developmental Education
The Barnes Center—formerly “The College for Enlisted Professional Military Education”
CJCSI—Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction
CLC—CMSgt Leadership Course
CoL—Continuum of Learning
CoE—Continuum of Education
CONUS—Continental US
CSB—Central Selection Board
CSEL—Command Senior Enlisted Leader
DE—Developmental Education (Basic, Primary, Intermediate, Senior)
DL—Distance Learning (i.e., non-resident)
DoD—Department of Defense
DRU—Direct Reporting Unit
DSLDP—Defense Senior Leadership Development Program
DT—Development Team
ECI—Extension Course Institute
EPME—Enlisted Professional Military Education
EPMEP—Enlisted Professional Military Education Policy, CJCSI 1805.01

ERB—Executive Resources Board
ETCA—Education and Training Course Announcement
FD—Force Development
FMS—Foreign Military Sales
FOA—Field Operating Agency
GS—General Schedule
GM—General Manager
IAAFA—Inter-American Air Forces Academy
IDE—Intermediate Developmental Education
IO—International Officer
IOS—International Officer School
JPME—Joint Professional Military Education
LDP—Leadership Development Program
MAJCOM—Major Command
NCOA—Noncommissioned Officer Academy
NLT—No Later Than
NSPS—National Security Personnel System
OPMEP—Officer Professional Military Education Policy, CJCSI 1800.01
OPR—Office of Primary Responsibility
PB—Pay Band
PCS—Permanent Change of Station
PDE—Primary Developmental Education
PME—Professional Military Education
POC—Point of Contact
PGL—Program Guidance Letter
RAND—Rand Corporation
SAASS—School of Advanced Air and Space Studies
SDE—Senior Developmental Education
SEJPME—Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education
SEL—Senior Enlisted Leader
SOC—DL—Squadron Officer College – Distance Learning
SOS—Squadron Officer School

SURF—Single Unit Retrievable Format

TAFCS—Total Active Federal Commissioned Service

TDY—Temporary Duty

TYCS—Total Years Commissioned Service

USAFR—US Air Force Reserve

WG—Wage Grade

Attachment 2

OFFICER/CIVILIAN DE INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAMS

BDE—Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell AFB, AL (Officers Only)

PDE—Squadron Officer School, Maxwell, AFB, AL

Inter-American Air Forces Academy (IAAFA), Lackland AFB, TX (Spanish Language required; Officers Only)

IDE—Most institutions/programs have a summer to spring academic year (i.e., Aug-Jun) except as indicated. Quotas are allocated yearly, except for Foreign PME opportunities which vary yearly and can be found in the Officer Developmental Education IDE/SDE Program Guide updated annually by AFPC.

Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL

SOS instructor (2-yrs) w/ACSC Follow on, Maxwell AFB, AL

Army Command and General Staff College, Ft Leavenworth, KS

Naval Command and Staff College, Newport, RI

Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Quantico, VA

Air Force Intern Program (AFIP) / Air Force Fellow Program (AFFP) – Reference Attachment 3

Lean Aerospace Initiative, MIT Cambridge, MA

USAF Academy AOC, Colorado Springs, CO

National Defense Intelligence College, Bolling AFB

Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT), Wright Patterson AFB, OH (also various civilian institutions)

Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), Monterey, CA

Advanced Study of Air Mobility (ASAM), McGuire AFB, NJ

Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, Fort Benning, GA (Spanish required)

Executive Leadership Development Program (Civilians only)

SDE—Most institutions/programs have a summer to spring academic year (i.e., Aug-Jun) except as indicated. Quotas are allocated yearly, except for Foreign PME opportunities which vary yearly and can be found in the Officer DE IDE/SDE Program Guide updated annually by AFPC.

Air War College, Maxwell AFB, AL

National War College, Ft McNair, Wash DC

Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Ft McNair, Wash DC

Army War College, Carlisle, PA

Naval War College, Newport, RI

Marine War College, Quantico, VA

Joint Advanced Warfighting School, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA

USAF Academy Group AOC in Colorado Springs, CO for 2 yrs w/AWC follow on to Maxwell AFB, AL

ACSC Instructor for 2 yrs w/AWC follow on, Maxwell AFB, AL

Air Force Fellowships, various locations (see Attachment 4 for listing and brief description)

Inter-American Defense College, Ft McNair, Wash DC (Spanish required)

Army Advanced Operational Studies Fellowship, Ft. Leavenworth, KS

Defense Senior Leader Development Program (Civilians only)

Attachment 3

AIR FORCE INTERN PROGRAM (AFIP) & AIR FORCE FELLOW (AFF) PROGRAM OFFICER/CIVILIAN DESCRIPTIONS

Strategic Policy Internship: To develop officers' understanding of air, space, and cyberspace power and to broaden their perspectives through personal observation of senior DoD, Air Force, legislative, political, and academic leaders making strategy and policy decisions. All AFSCs are eligible to compete. Required follow-on assignment to OSD, JCS, SAF or Air Staff.

Joint Mobility Internship: Located at Scott AFB IL, a key Joint base, the Joint Mobility Interns work in USTRANSCOM, in key positions throughout the AMC staff and 618th Tanker Airlift Control Center, focusing on the development of selected officers' understanding of air, space and cyberspace power in addition to broadening their perspectives through personal observation of senior DoD, Air Force, legislative, political and academic leaders making strategy and policy decisions. These positions are rotated every 4 months to give the most exposure without losing productivity of the learning process. This challenging and productive year exposes these officers to unique leadership opportunities in multiple levels of development. Interns attend quarterly meetings and professional development seminars and tours. There are three four-month rotations on the AMC staff or USTRANSCOM staff – one rotation per intern in each of these two program options. After completion, Interns leave with a senior perspective that will pay dividends to the Air Force for years to come. Only MAF officers are eligible to compete: 11XX, 12XX. Required follow-on assignment to AMC or TRANSCOM staff.

Strategic Communications Internship: To develop officers' understanding of air, space, and cyberspace power and to broaden their perspectives through personal observation of senior DoD, Air Force, legislative, political, and academic leaders making strategy and policy decisions. Officers will obtain a Master's degree in Strategic Communications in the NCR. All AFSCs are eligible to compete except for 35PX. Required follow-on assignment to SAF/PA.

Special Operations Legislative Affairs (SOLA) Internship: Officer will obtain a Master's degree in International Public Policy, in the areas of international relations, international economics or a combination of these sub-fields, from Johns Hopkins University. Tuition, books and fees funded by USSOCOM. Officers with the following AFSCs are eligible to compete: 11SX, 12SX, 13DX. Required follow-on assignment to USSOCOM approved billet in Washington DC.

CSAF Scholar Internship: Broad, strategic Master's degrees intended to develop future AF and Joint leaders. Programs targeted may include: 1) JFK School of Government at Harvard, master's of Public Administration; 2) Princeton's School of Public & International Affairs, Master's of Public Policy; 3) Stanford University (Sloan Program), Master's in Science & Management. All AFSCs are eligible to compete.

McConn Public Policy Internship: Sponsor US Air Force Academy graduate for a one-year graduate degree at the Georgetown Public Policy Institute. Selected officers will learn both the art and science of policy management and leadership. Students develop leadership and communications skills in a curriculum that emphasizes analytical rigor to advance policy agendas. Graduates receive a Master of Policy Management degree. Required follow-on assignment to OSD, JCS, SAF or Air Staff office with legislative branch interaction.

Project on National Security Reform Fellowship: Air Force Fellow assists the Project on National Security Reform (PNSR) on implementing specific reforms of national security focused on interagency planning and teaming. They participate in major case studies/working groups and produce products used within the executive branch and Congress to develop mechanisms to reform legislative proposals, executive orders, and amendments to House and Senate rules.

AF Legislative Fellows: The Air Force Legislative Fellows receive instruction and hands-on experience on Capitol Hill through education and development activities consisting of an intensive orientation of Congress; a full time assignment to the staff of a Member, committee, or support agency of Congress in Washington D.C. in addition to periodic seminars throughout the fellowship year. The AF Legislative Fellowship program provides an outstanding opportunity to write, develop research for potential legislation issues of immediate or ongoing concern of the Air Force and the nation. The officer/civilian will develop an enhanced perspective of the legislative process on a wide range of issues. AF Legislative Fellows work under the auspices of HQ SAF/LL throughout the year-long AF Legislative Fellowship cycle. Required follow-on assignment to OSD, JCS, SAF or Air Staff in a legislative related position.

National Laboratory Technical Fellowship Program (NLTFP): Meet AF nuclear and future technologies experience requirements by developing a cadre of nuclear and cutting-edge energy-experienced personnel to shape and influence a flexible and responsible nuclear force as well as the way ahead to meet the 21st century energy and fuel needs of the AF. One aspect focuses on understanding the historical development of nuclear weapons technologies with an emphasis on applying knowledge to current/future stockpile activities and applications and developing knowledge of US nuclear community for use in issue resolution on behalf of AF. Other aspects focus on future fuel development, cyber, and energy conservation. Fellowships are available at Sandia National Lab NM; Argonne National Lab IL; Oak Ridge National Lab TN; Idaho National Laboratory ID; Lawrence Livermore National Lab CA. Participation is open to applicable AFSCs and qualified AF Medical Service (AFMS) officers. Required follow on assignment to nuclear-related position for Fellows at Sandia and Lawrence Livermore Labs. Required follow-on assignment to cyber-related position for Fellows at Idaho National Lab.

a. The Sandia National Laboratories' Weapon Intern Program provides a broad-based education about nuclear weapons. The goal of the program is to accelerate the development of engineers and scientists in their understanding of the enduring nuclear stockpile and the science-based stockpile stewardship tools, processes, and techniques to keep the stockpile safe, secure, and reliable in the absence of underground nuclear testing. Prepare future generation of experts for critical positions in nuclear weapons stewardship program and maintain a corps of expertise to ensure the U.S. remains the preeminent nuclear superpower. The Sandia Weapons Intern Program uses a combination of on-the-job learning and education course work. Program of study includes historical development, current stockpile activities and lessons learned, as well as modeling and simulation, validation and advanced manufacturing processes and techniques. AF Nat'l Lab Tech Fellows learn in both the classroom and in the laboratory gaining experience with current and future nuclear stockpile programs, surety principles, nuclear subsystems and components and modeling and simulation. Importantly, the program also focuses on the management of nuclear weapons programs, including laboratory Technical Business Practices, nuclear weapons information and knowledge management and the roles and responsibilities in the U.S. nuclear weapons complex and community.

b. Argonne National Laboratory's mission is to serve the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and national security by advancing the frontiers of knowledge, by creating and operating forefront scientific user facilities, and by providing innovative and effective approaches and solutions to energy, environmental, and security challenges to national and global well-being, in the near and long term, as a contributing member of the DOE laboratory system. They contribute significantly to DOE's mission in science, energy resources, environmental stewardship, and national security, with lead roles in the areas of science, operation of scientific facilities, and energy. In accomplishing their mission, they partner with DOE, other federal laboratories and agencies, the academic community, and the private sector.

c. Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) is the Department of Energy's largest multi-program science and technology laboratory and is managed by UT-Battelle, LLC. Scientists and engineers at ORNL conduct basic and applied research and development to create scientific knowledge and technological solutions that strengthen the nation's leadership in key areas of science; increase the availability of clean, abundant energy; restore and protect the environment; and contribute to national security. ORNL also performs other work for the Department of Energy, including isotope production, information management, and technical program management, and provides research and technical assistance to other organizations.

d. Idaho National Laboratory (INL) is operated by the Department of Energy researching areas such as Supervisory Control & Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems and wireless communications infrastructure programs. Additional insight into developing leading-edge capabilities for network defense, network exploitation, network attack and information operations through a variety of communications.

e. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) is a premier research and development institution for science and technology applied to national security. We are responsible for ensuring that the nation's nuclear weapons remain safe, secure, and reliable. LLNL also applies its expertise to prevent the spread and use of weapons of mass destruction and strengthen homeland security. Their national security mission requires special multidisciplinary capabilities that are also used to pursue programs in advanced defense technologies, energy, environment, biosciences, and basic science to meet important national needs. These activities enhance the competencies needed for their defining national security mission.

POLAD: The goal is to increase Pol/Mil capability within the AF by training mid-level officers and fielding qualified advisors for Senior Leaders. Under the auspices of the Office of the Foreign Policy Advisor (CC-POLAD) to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF), the POLAD Fellows focus of study is in two major areas. One area of study is regional focused (e.g., the Middle East, Europe, Asia, South Asia, Latin America) aimed at preparing the candidate for their follow-on assignment. The other area of study is functional in focus (e.g., counterterrorism, international space policy, arms control, peacekeeping, humanitarian aid) to provide exposure to dealing with issues global in nature. Direct experience working outside of the Pentagon on these issues is also offered during the fellowship. Candidates should possess a deep interest in and working knowledge of U.S. foreign policy and international events. Academic background in international relations is desirable. Required follow-on assignment to a Political Advisor position at a MAJCOM, NAF or unified command.

DOE Fellowship: Through DOE and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), the fellow works to enhance national security through the military application of nuclear energy. The NNSA maintains and enhances the safety, reliability, and performance of the United States nuclear weapons stockpile, including the ability to design, produce, and test, in order to meet national security requirements. Rotations may include Defense Programs Division--ensures that the U.S. nuclear arsenal meets the country's national security requirements and continues to serve its essential deterrence role; Nuclear Non-proliferation Division--works closely with a wide range of international partners, key U.S. federal agencies, the U.S. national laboratories, and the private sector to detect, secure, and dispose of dangerous nuclear and radiological material, and related WMD technology and expertise; Nuclear Security--responsible for securing thousands of nuclear weapons and components, and hundreds of tons of special nuclear material in all forms, shapes and sizes. Required follow-on assignment to a Nuclear-related billet in the NCR.

DARPA: Mission is to assure the U.S. maintains a lead in applying state-of-the-art technology for military capabilities and to prevent technological surprise from adversaries. The DARPA Fellowship gives a talented officer an expert, insider understanding of significant impending technological changes which the CSAF views as likely to revolutionize air and space as well as joint warfighting capabilities. Following their DARPA fellowship, the officer becomes the 'expert' who can articulate and explain the revolutionary technological advances underway, and provide advice to leadership as to how to best take advantage of these advances. Officers should primarily come from operational warfighting communities. Required follow-on assignment to a technical/systems agency (such as ESC or Systems Communication Center).

Attachment 4**AIR FORCE OFFICER/CIVILIAN SDE FELLOWSHIP (AFF) PROGRAM
DESCRIPTIONS**

The Air Force assigns a small number of carefully chosen, experienced officers to serve one-year tours at distinguished civilian institutions and think tanks studying national security policy and strategy. These programs are equivalent to resident SDE for eligible officers. There are three programs sponsored by the AF: AF National Defense Fellows (NDF) Program, National Security Fellows (NSF), and the RAND Fellows Program. Additionally, eligible officers may also serve as Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) Fellows. NOTE: lieutenant colonel-selects are eligible for all SDE equivalent fellowships (unless otherwise noted), but **must** be pinned-on by the class start date.

All AF Fellowships are reviewed biannually to ensure continued suitability, cost efficiency and program objectives are in concert with AF DE goals and guiding philosophy.

A list of all AF Fellows programs is below with a more detailed description of each fellowship following the listing.

AF Fellowship Programs**National Defense Fellows (SDE)**

1. Air Force Special Ops and Low Intensity Conflict (SOLIC) Fellow, Department of Defense Analysis (DDA), Navy Postgraduate School, Monterey CA
2. Atlantic Council of the United States (ACUS), Washington DC
3. Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge MA
4. Center for New American Security (CNAS), Washington DC
5. Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Washington DC (**must be a colonel**)
6. Congressional Research Service (CRS), Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division (FDT), Library of Congress, Washington DC
7. Department of State, Washington DC
8. Foreign Policy Studies, Brookings Institution, Washington DC (**must be a colonel**)
9. Hoover Institute on War, Revolution & Peace, Stanford University Stanford CA
10. International Security Studies Program, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Medford MA
11. Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA), Strategy, Forces and Resources Division, Washington DC
12. Institute for the Study of Conflict, Ideology and Policy (ISCIP), Boston University, Boston MA
13. Institute for the Study of Diplomacy (ISD), Georgetown University, Washington DC
14. Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), Washington DC

15. Security Studies Program (SSP) Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge MA
16. The Washington Institute (TWI), Washington DC
17. Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (WCFIA), Harvard University, Cambridge MA **(must be a colonel)**
18. Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington DC **(must be a colonel)**
19. Freeman Spogli Institute (FSI), Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), Stanford University
20. Stimson Center, Washington DC
21. Air Force National Laboratories Technologies Fellows (AFNLTF) at Los Alamos NM, Argonne Labs IL, Idaho National Laboratory, and Oak Ridge Labs TN
22. National Security Fellows, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University Cambridge MA (SDE)
23. RAND Fellows (SDE), Santa Monica CA
24. Lean Aerospace Initiative (LAI) Fellowship at MIT, MA
25. Secretary of Defense Corporate Fellows (Fortune 500 Companies CONUS and abroad) **(must be two colonels in addition to a lieutenant colonel)**
26. Air University Research Fellowship

Description of AF Fellows Programs

National Defense Fellowships (NDF)

1. Air Force Special Ops and Low Intensity Conflict (SOLIC) Fellow, Department of Defense Analysis (DDA), Navy Postgraduate School, Monterey CA provides a member of the special operations community the opportunity for study and analysis of special interest to the Air Force Special Operational Command (AFSOC) and Special Operations Command (SOCOM). The AF Fellow centers on issues and challenges of immediate concern to AFSOC and SOCOM. Of special interest for this fellowship is a program of study in the areas of political violence, irregular warfare and the role of special operations forces in US foreign and defense policy. The fellowship is designed to reflect the rapidly changing nature of the international conflict environment, which is increasingly characterized by the proliferation of locally driven communal and political wars.
2. The Atlantic Council of the United States is a non-profit organization which promotes constructive U.S. leadership and engagement in international affairs based on the central role of the Atlantic community in meeting the international challenges of the 21st century. The Council embodies a non-partisan network of leaders whose aim is to stimulate dialogue and discussion about critical international issues with a view to enriching public debate and promoting consensus on appropriate responses in the Administration, the Congress, the corporate and nonprofit sectors and the media in the United States and among leaders in Europe, Asia and the Americas. Through its diverse networks, the Council builds broad constituencies to support constructive U.S. leadership and policies. Its program offices publish informational analyses, convene conferences among current and/or future leaders and contribute to the public debate in order to integrate the views of knowledgeable individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds,

interests and experiences. The AF National Defense Fellow is one of 4-10 Senior fellows from military, foreign and other national departments organized to assist in the many goals of the Atlantic Council.

3. Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge MA is the hub of the John F. Kennedy School of Government's research, teaching, and training in international security affairs, environmental and resource issues, and science and technology policy. Its mission is to provide leadership advancing policy-relevant knowledge about issues where science, technology, environmental policy, and international affairs intersect. National Defense Fellows are assigned to the center's International Security Program which addresses the most pressing threats to U.S. national interests and international security. The program also sponsors and edits the quarterly journal *International Security*, a leading peer-reviewed journal of security affairs that provides sophisticated analyses of contemporary security issues and discusses their conceptual and historical foundations.

4. Center for New American Security (CNAS), Washington DC is an independent and nonpartisan research institution leading efforts to help inform and prepare the national security leaders of today and tomorrow. It facilitates the development of strong, pragmatic and principled national security and defense policies that promote and protect American interests and values. Building on the deep expertise and broad experience of its staff and advisors, CNAS engages policymakers, experts and the public with innovative fact-based research, ideas and analysis to shape and elevate the national security debate. The organization is small enough to allow AF Fellows to be directly involved with far-reaching strategic policy development to include personal discussions and relationships with Washington influencers. Past CNAS areas of study & publications include "Iran: Assessing U.S. Strategic Options," "Strategic Leadership," "Shaping the Iraq Inheritance," "Power of Balance: America in Asia," "A Strategy for American Power," energy security, building partner capacity and the QDR. AF Fellows will have the freedom to pursue any national security topic of interest that suits their interests and will have access to many subject matter experts. CNAS hosts at least one fellow from each Service annually.

5. Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Political Military Studies, Washington DC is an independent institution for public policy research in foreign and national security affairs. Its mission is to advance the understanding of emerging world issues in the areas of international security, economics, politics and government. Since its establishment in 1962, CSIS has become one of the country's largest multi-discipline think tanks for strategic and international issues. It provides research and sponsors conferences for members of Congress, other senior US government officials, private sector leaders and their staffs. AF Fellows are instrumental in providing CSIS with Service specific expertise for its U.S. foreign policy and national security programs and spearheading the organization's activities designed to promote airpower within the Washington DC, policy community.

6. Congressional Research Service (CRS), Library of Congress, Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division (FDT), Washington DC works exclusively and directly for the members and committees of Congress in support of their legislative, oversight and representational functions. Its analyses and information services are required to be timely, objective, nonpartisan and confidential. Many CRS general distribution products do, however, find audiences throughout the government and public. CRS offices are located within the Library of Congress on Capitol Hill. Analysts within the Foreign Affairs and National Defense Division conduct research, write

reports, lead seminars and consult with congressional staff and members on the range of national security issues currently confronting the nation. During his/her year with CRS, the AF Fellow is expected to represent CRS within the Congress and the national security community while adding a current, accurate and personal understanding of defense issues to the debate. AF Fellows will be expected to author reports and memoranda for Congress, as well as answer specific requests of members of Congress on certain national defense issues.

7. Department of State, Washington DC, advances freedom for the benefit of the American people and the international community by helping to build and sustain a more democratic, secure, and prosperous world composed of well-governed states that respond to the needs of their people, reduce widespread poverty, and act responsibly within the international system. Security is a necessary precursor to the worthy goals of promoting peace, liberty, and prosperity for all people. The Department directly confronts threats to national and international security from terrorism, weapons proliferation, failed or failing states, and political violence. It strengthens the capability of the U.S. Government and of international partners to prevent or mitigate conflict, stabilize countries in crisis, promote regional stability, protect civilians, and promote just application of government and law. An AF Fellow assigned to the Department of State will be assigned to one or more Bureaus to gain an appreciation of the development and conduct of U.S. foreign policy and to seek a better understanding of cooperation and coordination within the Interagency. The Department of State provides the fellows an outstanding opportunity to enhance their leadership and executive skills in preparation for top-level assignments abroad and in the United States.

8. Foreign Policy Studies, Brookings Institution, Washington DC is a private, nonprofit organization devoted to research, education and publication on important issues of domestic and foreign policy. Brookings functions as an independent analyst and critic, publishing its research findings for public dissemination. AF Fellows are normally designated a Federal Executive Fellow with Foreign Policy Studies, Brookings Institution. They participate in the development and conduct of high-level conferences, seminars and programs for senior government and business executives covering a wide spectrum of major policy issues. The NDF is immersed in the Foreign Policy Studies program and has full access to the large multi-disciplinary research resources of the institution.

9. Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace, Stanford University, Stanford CA, is one of the nation's most prestigious centers for advanced study in domestic and international affairs. Through its programs in National Security Affairs, International Studies and Domestic Studies, its distinguished security experts, economists, political scientists, sociologists, educators, and historians publish analyses of public policy and current research. The Hoover Institution also focuses its intellectual resources on key national security, economic development, and terrorism topics, with scholars collectively researching issues through directed task forces. Designated as a National Security Affairs Fellow while at the Hoover Institution, Air Force officers provide a "real world" military perspective for resident and visiting scholars, as well as Stanford graduate students pursuing defense and national security-related studies. Fellows conduct independent research, lead research seminars, and discuss military-related issues at Hoover Institution functions. Additionally, Air Force Fellows are invited to speak to their "real world" experiences with graduate-level classes, and both university and student-led organizations.

10. Institute for Defense Analysis (IDA), Strategy, Forces and Resources Division (SF&RD), Washington DC performs inter-disciplinary studies and analyses of national security strategy, the

structure and capabilities of US and foreign forces and defense infrastructure. In support of this work the division develops analytical methodologies, quantitative models and simulations. Areas emphasized in SF & RD's current research portfolio include: preparation for the Quadrennial Defense Review; politico-military assessments pertaining to countries of the FSU and East Asia; international armaments cooperation and interoperability; skill-technology interaction in determining military force effectiveness; counter-proliferation of WMD; chemical and biological defense of military forces and civilian populations; and training and readiness of US Forces. The mission of IDA is to assist OSD, the Joint Staff, the Unified Commands and Defense Agencies in addressing important national security issues, particularly those requiring scientific and technical expertise. The Institute operates two Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC) for the Department of Defense -- one focusing on studies and analyses, the other on communications and computing.

11. Institute for the Study of Conflict, Ideology and Policy, Boston University, Boston MA was chartered in 1988 to focus on conflict-prone societies in crisis, particularly Russia and the other post-Soviet republics. Working as an integral member of the Institute's research team, AF Fellows have an excellent opportunity to participate in all university activities and interact with faculty and graduate students. The Institute addresses the full spectrum of security issues, including studies of international alliances, treaties, military balance, defense strategy, low intensity conflict and Soviet/post-Soviet affairs. The primary research effort is the continued development of a current on-line database concerning the institutions and personalities in the post-Soviet states and Eastern Europe, with the AF Fellow focusing on current military events, institutions and doctrines and their potential impact on US security policy. AF Fellows also play a key role in organizing the biannual crisis management simulation exercises sponsored by the Institute and in arranging guest speakers for the Institute's Distinguished Speakers Program.

12. Institute for the Study of Diplomacy (ISD), School of Foreign Service (SFS), Georgetown University, Washington DC is the oldest school of international affairs in the United States and the largest of its type in the world. The Institute for the Study of Diplomacy is the school's primary window on the world of the foreign affairs practitioner. ISD studies the practitioner's craft: how diplomats and other foreign affairs professionals succeed and the lessons to be learned from their successes and failures. Institute programs focus on the foreign policy process, how decisions are made and implemented. The School of Foreign Service and the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy provide a distinguished forum for Air Force Fellows to interact with eminent faculty members and graduate students preparing for careers in government or Foreign Service.

13. International Security Studies Program (ISSP), the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Medford MA is the oldest graduate school of diplomacy in the US. The ISSP addresses the full spectrum of security issues, including studies of international alliances, especially NATO, treaties, military balance, defense strategy, low intensity conflict and Soviet affairs. AF Fellows are fully involved in planning and conducting ISSP courses, seminars, conferences and oral history programs. AF Fellows traditionally organize and conduct a crisis management exercise for graduate students and faculty, simulating decision-making processes by civil-military leadership.

14. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) Fellowship, Washington DC was created in 2005 to increase collaboration across the sixteen federal intelligence organizations. Its creation followed the release of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United

States (better known as the 9/11 Commission). While establishing objectives and priorities for collection, analysis, production and dissemination of national intelligence, the ODNI ensures that timely and objective national intelligence is provided to the President, the heads of departments and agencies of the executive branch; the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and senior military commanders; and the Congress. The Air Force Fellow at ODNI is involved in a three-part program including taking classes/seminars within the sixteen intelligence organizations and in Washington, engaging in experiential opportunities to learn more about the intelligence and national security communities and conducting research designed to produce papers of interest to the Director and/or intelligence leaders.

15. Security Studies Program (SSP), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge MA is a graduate research institution whose focus is in international affairs and comparative studies that will contribute to both a basic understanding and possible solution to some of the long-term problems, which confront today's decision makers. The emphasis at SSP is strategy, technology and bureaucratic political issues to include among others: international security issues, nuclear weapons and arms control policy, defense environmental problems and the impact of casualties on US foreign policy. The program's prime task is educating those young men and women who will be the next generation of scholars and practitioners in international security policy making.

16. The Washington Institute (TWI), Washington DC is a prestigious institute centering on research and analysis of Middle East issues and security policy challenges. Experience, operational and/or academic, in Middle East studies will assist the individual in this institute's programs. A significant strength of this institute rests with the direct interaction between the NDF and Middle East policy makers and analysts. The center is well placed in the network of leading Middle East scholars and diplomats.

17. Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (WCFA), Harvard University Cambridge MA provides a multidisciplinary environment for policy-relevant research on international issues that is both academically rigorous and tied to contemporary problems. The Weatherhead Center is structured to encourage the highest practical level of personal and intellectual interaction around a diverse community of scholars and practitioners. The Weatherhead Center sponsors a wide array of seminars, research programs, workshops and conferences. These activities not only encourage interaction among resident affiliates but also serve to involve a wide variety of scholars, government officials, representatives of the private sector and others from around the world. Air Force Fellows may have many opportunities to articulate defense policy and capability through contributions to these activities, both in the Weatherhead Center and in other university forums. The fruits of Weatherhead Center research are made available to the public policy community through books, articles, reports, seminars and lectures, as well as through the personal participation of Weatherhead Center members in policy planning and decision-making in governments and institutions outside the university. The Weatherhead Center for International Affairs is an integral component of Harvard University's Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

18. Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington DC was created by the Congress in 1968, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars is the official and living memorial to the 28th President. The Center seeks to commemorate both the scholarly depth and the public concerns of Woodrow Wilson through its program of advanced research. The Center emphasizes breadth of representation in its international company of scholars and an active life of dialogue within the Center and within Washington. The Center offers a forum for

the widest diversity of views and encourages free and lively debate among them. At its core, the Center remains a place where top scholars, exceptional thinkers and outstanding leaders in a variety of fields, from across the country and around the world, come to reflect, to write and to exchange ideas with others. As a practitioner of policy, the single authorized Air Force scholar provides practical insights to the Center's research and discourse on international security studies. Additionally, the Air Force scholar remains "plugged in" to current strategy projects on the Air Staff and Joint Staff and provides inputs and research as necessary.

19. Freeman Spogli Institute (FSI), Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) at Stanford University allows fellows to conduct independent research, lead research seminars, and discuss military-related issues at Hoover Institution functions that are nuclear related. Additionally, Air Force Fellows are invited to speak to their "real world" experiences with graduate-level classes, and both university and student-led organizations.

20. Stimson Center in Washington DC allows Fellows to be instrumental in providing CSIS with Service specific expertise for its U.S. foreign policy and national security programs in relation to nuclear deterrence and non-proliferation issues as well as spearheading the organization's activities designed to promote airpower and nuclear related issues within the Washington DC policy community.

21. Air Force National Laboratories Technologies Fellows (AFNLTF): Meet AF nuclear and future technologies experience requirements by developing a cadre of nuclear and cutting-edge energy-experienced personnel to shape and influence a flexible and responsible nuclear force as well as the way ahead to meet the 21st century energy and fuel needs of the AF. One aspect focuses on understanding the historical development of nuclear weapons technologies with an emphasis on applying knowledge to current/future stockpile activities and applications and developing knowledge of US nuclear community for use in issue resolution on behalf of AF. Other aspects focus on future fuel development and energy conservation. Fellowships are available at Los Alamos NM, Argonne National Lab IL; Idaho National Laboratory ID; Oak Ridge National Lab TN. Participation is open to applicable AFSCs and qualified AF Medical Service (AFMS) officers. Required follow on assignment to nuclear-related position for Fellows assigned to Los Alamos. Required follow on assignment to cyber-related position for Fellows assigned to Idaho Labs.

a. Los Alamos National Laboratory is operated by the University of California for the National Nuclear Security Administration of the U.S. Department of Energy and works in partnership with NNSA's Sandia and Lawrence Livermore national laboratories to support NNSA in its mission. Los Alamos enhances global security by ensuring the safety and reliability of the U.S. nuclear deterrent, developing technologies to reduce threats from weapons of mass destruction, and solving problems related to defense, energy, environment, infrastructure, health and national security concerns.

b. Argonne National Laboratory's mission is to serve the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and national security by advancing the frontiers of knowledge, by creating and operating forefront scientific user facilities, and by providing innovative and effective approaches and solutions to energy, environmental, and security challenges to national and global well-being, in the near and long term, as a contributing member of the DOE laboratory system. They contribute significantly to DOE's mission in science, energy resources, environmental stewardship, and national security, with lead roles in the areas of science, operation of

scientific facilities, and energy. In accomplishing their mission, they partner with DOE, other federal laboratories and agencies, the academic community, and the private sector.

c. Idaho National Laboratory (INL) is operated by the Department of Energy researching areas such as Supervisory Control & Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems and wireless communications infrastructure programs. Additional insight into developing leading-edge capabilities for network defense, network exploitation, network attack and information operations through a variety of communications.

d. Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) is the Department of Energy's largest multi-program science and technology laboratory and is managed by UT-Battelle, LLC. Scientists and engineers at ORNL conduct basic and applied research and development to create scientific knowledge and technological solutions that strengthen the nation's leadership in key areas of science; increase the availability of clean, abundant energy; restore and protect the environment; and contribute to national security. ORNL also performs other work for the Department of Energy, including isotope production, information management, and technical program management, and provides research and technical assistance to other organizations.

22. National Security Fellows (NSF). Five lieutenant colonels and/or lieutenant colonel-selects, three active-duty and one each Reserve and Air National Guard, are named to the National Security Fellows Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge MA. The selection criteria and program requirements are identical to the National Defense Fellows (NDF) program. This program provides the fellows an outstanding opportunity to research, write and speak on issues of immediate or ongoing concern of the Air Force and the nation. The officer will develop an enhanced perspective of the wide range of issues encompassed by the broader spectrum of the national security arena. While intellectual enrichment is the fundamental purpose of the program, the officer's position offers an excellent environment to represent the Air Force and DoD before well-known scholars, foreign dignitaries and leading policy analysts. The AF Fellow serves as a liaison between the Air Force and the civilian defense and national security academic communities.

23. RAND Fellows, Santa Monica CA. The RAND Fellowship Program selects several officers/civilians each year. Officers/civilians selected for RAND Fellowships employ advanced research techniques while working on AF sponsored research. The program provides an important cross flow of information between the AF and a major research institution. A HAF two-letter/digit sponsors each officer. The general areas of interest and HAF two-letter/digit requirements include:

a. AF/A2: Strong background in intelligence analysis, applications and/or training. Recent operational Intel experience is usually desirable. A Master's of Arts degree in a subject related to intelligence (area studies for example) is required. A second language is desirable.

b. AF/A1: Candidate must have manpower/personnel/services experience and technical/analytical capabilities. An MA, MS, or MBA is required.

c. AF/A3: Candidates must be rated officers with strong operational backgrounds. The officer must be capable of conducting serious research and possess a graduate degree.

d. AF/A4-7: Candidates must have a graduate degree; an emphasis in logistics management is preferred. The officer must have a broad knowledge of logistics with previous assignments at base and MAJCOM level.

e. AF/SG: Candidates must have a Master's degree or higher; strong record; significant operations and staff experience; interest in healthcare policy and management. The candidate must have a broad working knowledge of the various aspects of healthcare management with previous experience at MAJCOM, NAF, Air Staff or Health Affairs desirable.

f. AF/A10: Candidate must have a technical degree; an emphasis in nuclear management is required. Work with classified projects inside policy research in conjunction with Air Staff nuclear policy offices.

24. Lean Aerospace Initiative (LAI) Fellowship at MIT, MA. Security Studies Program is a graduate research institution whose focus is in international affairs and comparative studies that will contribute to both a basic understanding and possible solution to some of the long-term problems which confront today's decision makers. The emphasis with LAI is strategy, technology and bureaucratic political issues to include among others: international security issues, nuclear weapons and arms control policy, defense environment problems, the impact of casualties on US foreign policy. The program's prime task is educating those young men and women who will be the next generation of scholars and practitioners international security policy making.

25. Secretary of Defense Corporate Fellows Program (SDCFP). The SDCFP was established by the Secretary of Defense in 1994, to become a long-term investment in transforming U.S. forces and capabilities and, as such, is a key part of the Department of Defense (DoD) strategy to achieve its transformational goals. Officers from each military Service are selected each year to receive their military senior DE credit by training with sponsoring institutions, i.e., corporations, companies, commercial enterprises, etc., who have earned a reputation for insightful long-range planning, organizational and management innovation, and implementation of new information and other technologies. SDCFP Fellows form a cadre of future leaders made knowledgeable in the organizational and operational opportunities made possible by their training throughout the year. At the conclusion of the assignment, each member of the SDCFP provides group/individual briefings to the Secretary of Defense/Deputy Secretary of Defense, Service Secretaries and Chiefs, and over three dozen other senior OSD and Service leaders on private industry best practices and the Fellow's assessment as to their applicability to transform the Department of Defense. Recent Fellows have spent a year at Booz Allen Hamilton, FedEx Corporation, Johnson & Johnson, Northrop Grumman Corporation, Raytheon Company, Sarnoff Corporation, Southern Company, Sun Microsystems, Inc., and United Technologies Corporation.

26. AU Research Fellowship. Air University is in the process of accrediting a PhD program in Military Strategic Art. When this program is accredited (anticipated December 2010), select students of the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies who achieve all-but-dissertation status at graduation will be given the opportunity for a one-year research fellowship to complete a book-length dissertation that makes an original contribution to the field of strategy or security studies. Upon completion of the dissertation, candidates will be awarded a Doctorate of Philosophy in Military Strategic Art. The location of the fellowship will be conducive to researching the subject at hand and perhaps a follow-on assignment. Fellows may attend Joint Forces Staff College for Phase II JPME.

Attachment 5**OFFICER/CIVILIAN PRIMARY DE (PDE) CREDIT**

Officers and civilians from sister-Services who have transferred into the Air Force will be granted resident PDE credit for the completion of the following courses under the following conditions: 1) if the officer transferring to the AF is at least a captain and outside the SOS eligibility window but attended one of the resident courses below; 2) if the officer transferring to the AF has attended one of the resident courses below and is still SOS eligible, SOS must be completed by correspondence before resident PDE credit will be awarded.

An AF officer who wishes to attend a sister Service resident PDE equivalent course must complete resident or DL SOS prior to attending to receive resident PDE credit.

Army

US Army Captains Career Courses: Adjutant General, Air Defense Artillery, Finance, Chaplain, Armor, Infantry, Judge Advocate, Quartermaster, Signal, Transportation, and Engineer

Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Captains Career Course

Combined Arms & Services Staff School

US Army Aviation Captains Career Course

Navy

Sea, Air, and Land Course (SEAL LT Career Course)

Surface Warfare Officer Department Head Course

Submarine Officer Advanced Course

Marines

USMC Expeditionary Warfare School

Attachment 6**DEGREES AWARDED BY AIR UNIVERSITY**

Master of Strategic Studies: Air War College

Master of Military Operational Art and Science: Air Command and Staff College

Master of Airpower Art and Science: School of Advanced Air and Space Studies

Master of Science in Test Flight Engineering: USAF Test Pilot School

Associate in Applied Science: Community College of the Air Force

Attachment 7

DE EQUIVALENCY FOR NON-AF PME SCHOOLS

DE Equivalency for international Service schools. DE equivalency for international Service schools is granted by AF/A1DL upon formal AU/CF recommendation based upon a full review of the program (Attachments 9).

A program is considered equivalent to an AF PME program when its curriculum, in terms of educational level, content, and academic rigor, is the same as or very similar to the PME program to which it is being compared. For example, comparing respective sister Service schools.

Another military school program may be considered comparable, but not equivalent, if the curriculum meets the educational level, academic rigor, and most major content areas, but not all the key content of the AF PME program. For example, a program comparable to AWC may be similar in most areas, but lacking in one or more of the major subject areas.

The term “academic rigor” in the above paragraphs relates to a variety of curriculum and instructional issues. To ensure a relatively consistent application of standards of academic rigor in equivalency/comparability evaluations, AU focuses on several categories, such as the instructional program, faculty, students, and curriculum content. Attachment 8 provides a set of categories used by AU for equivalency/comparability evaluations.

Attachment 8

EQUIVALENCY/COMPARABILITY RECERTIFICATION GUIDANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL PME PROGRAMS

The US Air Force provides for the evaluation of international PME programs to determine their equivalence/comparability with AF PME programs. Equivalency certification benefits AF officers by ensuring they receive the appropriate level of PME at the schools they attend. The Air University (AU) is the AF agent for determining educational equivalence/comparability of international PME programs.

Because PME programs change over time, it is imperative that equivalent/comparable international PME programs be reviewed periodically to ensure their continued equivalence/comparability with AF PME programs. This, in turn, ensures AF officers continue to receive the best possible education from cooperating international programs.

Following initial determination of equivalence/comparability with an AF PME program, international PME programs must be re-certified to continue that status every five years thereafter. In December of each year, AU provides AF/A1DL a list of international PME schools requiring recertification the following calendar year. AF/A1DL requests SAF/IA acquire the necessary curriculum documents, in English, from the international schools and forward them to AU for review. The minimum information needed by AU for conducting a review is listed in Attachment 9 of this Instruction.

International PME programs that are determined not to be equivalent or comparable, or that do not submit their curriculum for recertification, are recommended to be placed on probationary status for one year. The following year, the program will be reviewed again. If that review still shows the program is not equivalent or comparable, then a recommendation for removal from the "Equivalent Schools" list may be made to AF/A1DL. Final approval authority is the AF/A1.

If a school is approved for removal from the Equivalent Schools list, AF personnel currently in the pipeline to attend the school will be authorized to attend the school and will receive the appropriate DE credit for completion of the program. However, no new personnel will enter into the pipeline (to include language training, etc) for that specific school.

A school that has been removed from the Equivalent Schools list may resubmit their curriculum for another equivalency review at any time, and may, upon determination of equivalency/comparability, be reinstated on the list. Once a school has been reinstated to the list, AF personnel may again be entered into the pipeline for school attendance.

The requestor must complete Attachment 9 and send to AU/CF.

Attachment 9**MINIMUM INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CONDUCTING A PME
EQUIVALENCY REVIEW**

The following categories of data comprise the minimum essential information for a conclusive determination of program equivalency/comparability with AF PME Programs. Complete below and submit to AU/CF.

1. Instructional Program

- a. Purpose
- b. Mission
- c. Duration (Calendar Weeks/Months)
- d. Class Military Rank and Years of Military Service
- e. Degree or Diploma Awarded
- f. Exercises, Field Trips, Research Required

2. Faculty

- a. Number of Teaching Faculty (Military and Civilian)
- b. Typical Credentials of Military/Civilian Faculty (Rank, Service Affiliation, Prior Education, Service Experience)
- c. Do Faculty teach all Courses? Do External Personnel Teach in the Program? Are Any Classes Student Led? Explain.

3. Curriculum

- a. Total Academic Hours (contact hours, research, field trips, other)
- b. Description of Course (Courses should cover all core courses in the PME program being compared to; content should be the same or very similar)
- c. Military Exercises (Should be similar in scope, breadth, realism, and rigor as the exercises used in the PME school being compared to)
- d. Complete Course Syllabus Should Contain Course and Lesson Objectives, Lists of Assigned Readings, and Description of Oral and Written Assignments (If a complete course syllabus is not readily available in English, countries should provide a narrative description of the level of learning each major instructional area is designed to achieve)
- e. Description of Student Evaluations (tests, papers, thesis, briefings, etc.)
- f. Description of Graduation Requirements.

Attachment 10

APPLYING FOR MISSION ESSENTIAL OR HUMANITARIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM CDE

The following format should be used to request withdrawal, and should flow through the chain of command for approval by the nominating organization.

Appropriate Letterhead

MEMORANDUM FOR NOMINATING ORGANIZATION/ (Date)

FUNCTIONAL MANAGER

FROM: (Individual/Functional Address Symbol)

SUBJECT: Request for Mission Essential/Humanitarian Withdrawal from (name of CDE Program and course dates)

1. Request a mission essential/humanitarian withdrawal from the (selected program) for the following reasons: (Give all relevant information available to support your request.)
2. I became aware of the need to decline selection for the (give name of program) on (date) when (discuss details of the situation that prompted this request).
3. I have taken the following actions or steps to resolve the situation:
4. I submit the following supporting information:
 - a. Organization and location (current and projected), E-mail address, data fax phone number, and phone number where you can reach me.
 - b. Information on mission-related emergency that makes withdrawal crucial or information on family member concerned (e.g. home address, death certificate, doctor's statement).
 - c. Verification of serious financial problem due to loss (e.g. police report, statement from insurance company, photographs).
5. I have (not) previously requested withdrawal from a CDE program for humanitarian reasons. If so, indicate date and reason.
6. I understand if my situation is resolved before school begins, I cannot resume my status in the selected program for the current school year.
7. I also understand that if my request is not approved and I decline attendance in the selected course, I have no further opportunity to compete for in resident CDE at the same level.