



COMMANDER'S CALL TOPICS

NOTE: This product has embedded hyperlinks and is best viewed online.

17—21 July 2017

Priority Topic
of the
Week

Squadron Officer School
Redesigned

Redesigned Squadron Officer School

- Squadron Officer School was redesigned to meet the direction of Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein to produce a better-equipped force according to his three Focus Areas: Revitalizing Squadrons – The Heartbeat of the Air Force; Strengthening Joint Leaders and Teams; and Enhancing Multi-domain Command and Control.
- The course length has been extended from five weeks to six and a half weeks to better address the need for AF leaders to be prepared for fighting in the joint and coalition environment.
- The school's foundation is built upon joint warfare and remains the primary leadership school to develop solution-minded Airmen ready to overcome today's and tomorrow's challenges.
- The level of education provided by SOS will challenge students to think deeply and critically about their jobs.

Curriculum changes

- The new SOS course is scheduled to begin July 31, 2017 with Class 18A.
- The new curriculum includes three new courses to enable student-centered learning.
- Two of the new courses are multi-domain joint warfare and team construction, involving collaborative thinking and innovation.
- SOS students can also expect to be challenged with three types of thinking in the curriculum—convergent, divergent, and reflective—which are components of critical thinking. Convergent thinking deals with structured, analytical processes to resolve on the “right” answer, while divergent thinking explores creative and innovative thinking using diverse perspectives. Reflective thinking engages one in analysis and judgement of events that have occurred.

How Squadron Officer College prepped to launch the new course

- Class 17G was cancelled due to the course redesign.
- The total number of annual classes decreases from seven to six; however, class sizes will increase from 600 to 700.
- Those previously scheduled to attend Class 17G will have the opportunity to attend future classes.
- HAF/A1D provided a blanket waiver to any captain previously scheduled to attend SOS in Class 17G that required a Total Active Federal Commissioned Service (active duty officers), Total Years Commissioned Service (Air Reserve Component officers) or an approved exception to policy waiver for physical fitness, medical profile, etc.
- SOC requested Air Force Personnel Center and training managers ensure all captains meeting upcoming promotion boards have priority placement in Classes 18A and 18B.

**Squadron Officer
School Redesigned
(Cont.)**

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. Why was the SOS course redesigned?

A1: The SOS course was redesigned to better align with the needs of the Air Force and to meet the direction of CSAF's Focus Areas.

Q2. What does the new curriculum involve?

A2: SOS instructors will use the new curriculum to help develop effective behaviors necessary for Air Force captains. Their role is to ensure all Airmen, regardless of Air Force specialty or function, can articulate how they integrate into the larger mission of the Air Force throughout the range of military operations and the spectrum of joint warfare.

Q3. Why will the class size increase?

A3: The increase in class size from 600 to 700 allows SOS to maintain the same annual production requirements set by the Air Force.

Q4. How will this affect students?

A4: Although the class size increased, individual flight sizes remain the same with approximately 14 students to ensure diversity of thought within the flight room, while keeping the smaller instructor-to-student ratio.

Q5. What if my promotion board meets soon?

A5: If your promotion board meets soon you must receive priority placement in Classes 18A or 18B, so see your unit training manager ASAP or contact AFPC for additional information.

Q6. What sort of leaders does SOS hope to graduate?

A6: In the end, the redesigned SOS program is for captains to explore who they are as courageous individuals, valued Airmen, bold leaders and respectful team members so they can perform within the range of military operations.

For more information, visit AF.MIL and SOC's webpage <http://www.airuniversity.af.mil/SOC/Display/Article/1042972/squadron-officer-school-sos-in-residence-program/>.

**Personnel Topics
of Interest**

- CCs to have more say in developmental educational opportunities (AF.MIL)
- Technical Sergeant promotion list available 20 Jul 17 (AF.MIL)
- Air Force releases first-term Airman retraining quotas for FY18 (AFPC)

Other Topics of Interest

- Air Force officials announce 12 OAY award winners for 2017 (AF.MIL)
- New AF health mobile application available (AF.MIL)

Commander's Call Topic Archive: <http://www.af.mil/AboutUs/CommandersCallTopics.aspx>

Commander's Call Topics is published weekly by SAF/PA to ensure leaders at all levels remain current on issues concerning Airmen and families. Requests for information to be included in future editions should be sent to SAF/PAX via [email](mailto:).

Submissions should include:

- 1) 1-2 sentence synopsis of the issue
- 2) hyperlink to further details
- 3) a POC name and contact information.

*Only submissions pertaining to the majority of Airmen or specifically to command leadership teams will be considered. Local or limited-interest items will not be included.