

Space Briefing - Fall 2026



ALWAYS ABOVE

USAFA SPACE OVERVIEW

Delta 1 Detachment 1

Col Stephanie Silva, Commander
Sept 2026



UNITED STATES
SPACE FORCE





MISSION & ORGANIZATION



USSF Mission:

Secure our Nation's interests in, from and to space

Det 1's Mission:

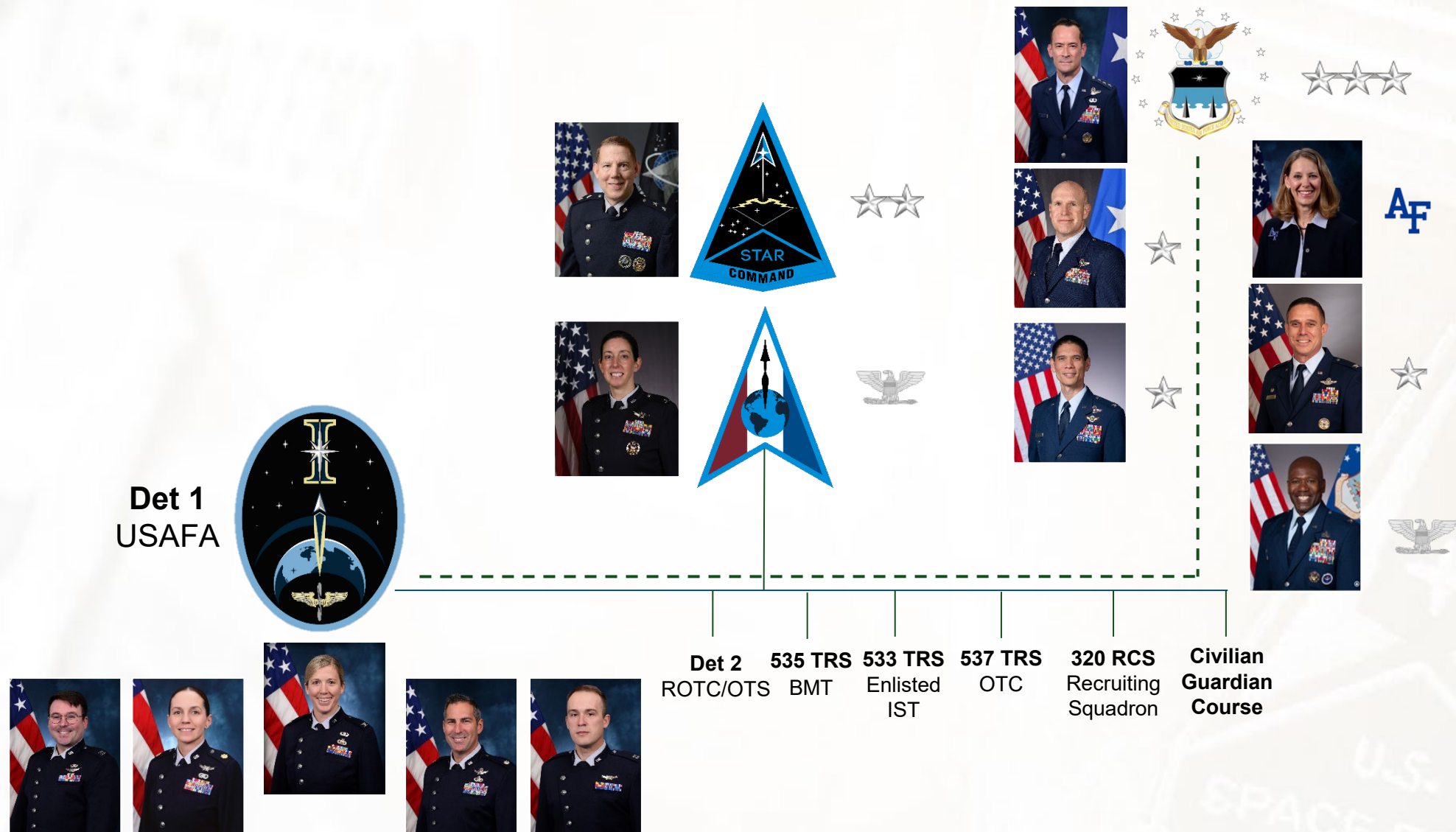
Motivate, inspire, educate, and train cadets to commission high-quality, space-minded Second Lieutenants into the U.S. Space Force and U.S. Air Force

Organization:

STARCOM's Space Delta 1 Detachment 1 executes Space Force initiatives across USAFA and serves in the role of Senior Space Force LNO to USAFA. USAFA has 40+ Active-Duty Guardians supporting across all USAFA major units.



ORG CHART



ACADEMICS & TRAINING

- Space education spans nearly every academic department:
 - Astro, MSS, Physics, Bio, Comp Sci, Civil Engineering, Poli Sci
- Includes Space Warfighting Minors and Cadet Summer Research Programs (CSRPs)
- Space objectives executed in Wing Exercises
 - Building upon successful injects to expand space training within the academic year through electives and via “Silver Weekends”
- Azimuth – 300+ attend STARCOM’s joint (ROTC, USMA, USNA, USAFA) undergraduate space education and training summer program at USAFA each summer
 - Introduces space foundations and prepares for Officer Training Course (OTC) by executing Desired Learning Objectives



GUARDIANSHIP EXPERIENCES



Cadet Space Operations Squadron (CSOPS):
provides daily operations for the on-orbit FalconSATs



i5 Space:
Global cadet network advancing space leadership and research



Blue Horizon:
provides practical experience in rocket engineering

CADET SPACE OPERATIONS SQUADRON (CSOPS)



CSOPS provides cadets, of any year or major, the opportunity to “learn space by doing space.” Cadets operate two LEO satellites that host several research and development experiments supporting a multitude of space mission areas.

Mission: To provide cadets with real-world satellite operations experience and expose them to space operations through a cadet-led "Guardianship" program

Membership: CSOPS is a cadet-led organization open to cadets from all academic years and majors. Experienced cadets train new members.

Activities:

- **On-Orbit Operations:** members conduct daily operations for the on-orbit FalconSATs from a ground station at the Academy
- **Training Pipeline:** a six-month training program instructs members on basic space operations, joint space mission planning, and anomaly resolution
- **Real-World Experience:** cadets gain practical skills similar to those of young U.S. Space Force officers and engineers in the industry



i5 SPACE



i5 Space is an international student organization that provides education, training, and professional development resources to students interested in space-related careers.

Mission: To produce educated and inspired leaders who are prepared to define the character of warfighting in space

Membership: It has over 1,000 members in squadrons at dozens of universities and all three U.S. service academies, and includes both military cadets and civilian students. It also hosts cadet squadrons at US allied nations' defense academies, including in Australia, Canada, Japan, Romania and South Korea.

Activities: The organization offers various programs, including cyber training exercises and wargaming, a space education curriculum (the S.T.A.R. program), research partnerships with the Space Force and NATO, and mentorship opportunities



BLUE HORIZON

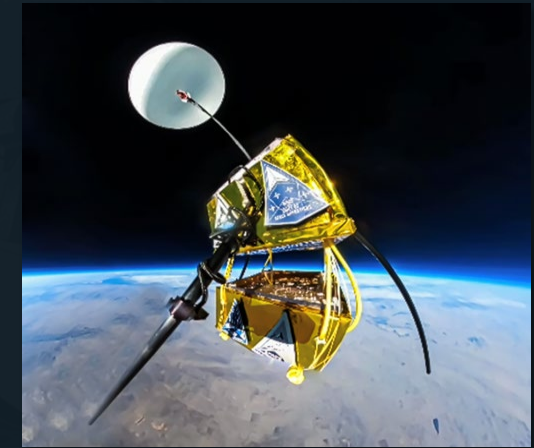


Blue Horizon is the rocketry club, where cadets gain practical experience in rocket engineering and participate in national competitions.

Mission: To provide hands-on engineering experience in building and launching high-power rockets and conducting related experiments

Activities: Designing, building, and launching high-power rockets, competing at the collegiate level, engaging in research, performing community outreach, and collaborating with external organizations and USAFA departments

Collegiate Competitions: The team actively competes in engineering challenges such as NASA's Student Launch Challenge



AZIMUTH PROGRAM



Azimuth is a three-week, joint undergraduate summer training program that exposes participants to the space domain through a blend of academics, hands-on activities, and operational experiences.

Mission: To prepare future leaders and officers to prevail in competition and conflict within the space domain

Membership: The program is designed for cadets from across USAFA, USNA, USMA, and ROTC programs. Some graduates return the following years as cadre, helping plan, develop, and execute the course while honing their leadership skills.

Activities:

- **Academics and Labs:** classroom and laboratory instruction covering a broad range of space topics
- **Hands-on Training:** activities such as building and launching rockets and conducting experiments in micro- and zero gravity via parabolic flights
- **Operational Exposure:** briefings from operational space units and tours of key military installations like Peterson Space Force Base, Cheyenne Mountain Space Force Station, Schriever Space Force Base, and Buckley Space Force Base



USSF OFFICER JOB OPPORTUNITIES

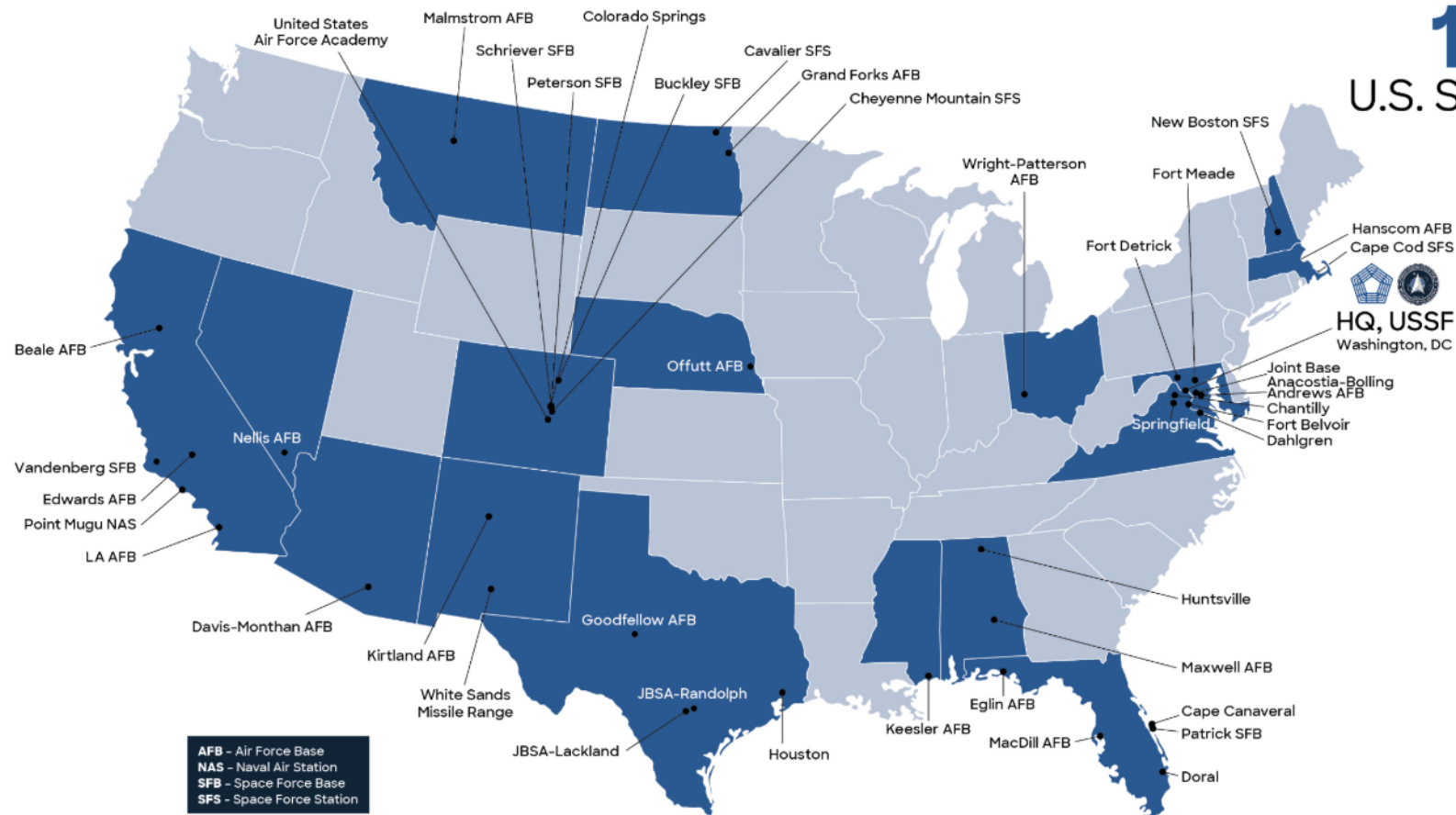


Space Operator (13S)	Intelligence Officer (14N)	CyberSpace Officer (17X)	Engineering (62E)	Acquisition (63A)

USSF LOCATIONS



While the Space Force's headquarters are in Washington, D.C., the rest of the service is spread across the United States and abroad. ▲



USSF COMMISSIONING OPPORTUNITIES



Commissioning Sources:

USAFA, ROTC, USNA, USMA, OTS

USAFA SPACE

Class of 2021 Core + Common SFSCs		
Career-Field (SFSC)	PGL Target	Result
SPACE OPS	60	61
INTELLIGENCE	2	7
CYBERSPACE	4	6
ENGINEER	14	19
ACQUISITION	18	25
Total	98	118

Class of 2022 Core + Common SFSCs		
Career-Field (SFSC)	PGL Target	Result
SPACE OPS	55	55
INTELLIGENCE	4	4
CYBERSPACE	4	4
ENGINEER	16	16
ACQUISITION	17	21
Total	96	100

Class of 2023 Core + Common SFSCs		
Career-Field (SFSC)	PGL Target	Result
SPACE OPS	48	50
INTELLIGENCE	6	6
CYBERSPACE	4	4
ENGINEER	18	17
ACQUISITION	20	23
Total	96	100

Class of 2024 Core + Common SFSCs		
Career-Field (SFSC)	PGL Target	Result
SPACE OPS	48	22
INTELLIGENCE	6	6
CYBERSPACE	4	1
ENGINEER	18	24
ACQUISITION	20	43
Total	96	96

Class of 2025 SFSC Agnostic		
Career-Field (SFSC)	PGL Target	Result
Total	100	97

Class of 2026 SFSC Agnostic		
Career-Field (SFSC)	PGL Target	Result
Total	100	97

All Guardian Officer Accessions attend a 12-month Officer Training Course (OTC) at Peterson SFB, CO. All officers will graduate as multi-domain officers and receive their SFSC job upon Graduation.

No institution commissions more U.S. Space Force officers than the United States Air Force Academy

SPACE FORCE SELECTION CRITERIA



General Order of Merit

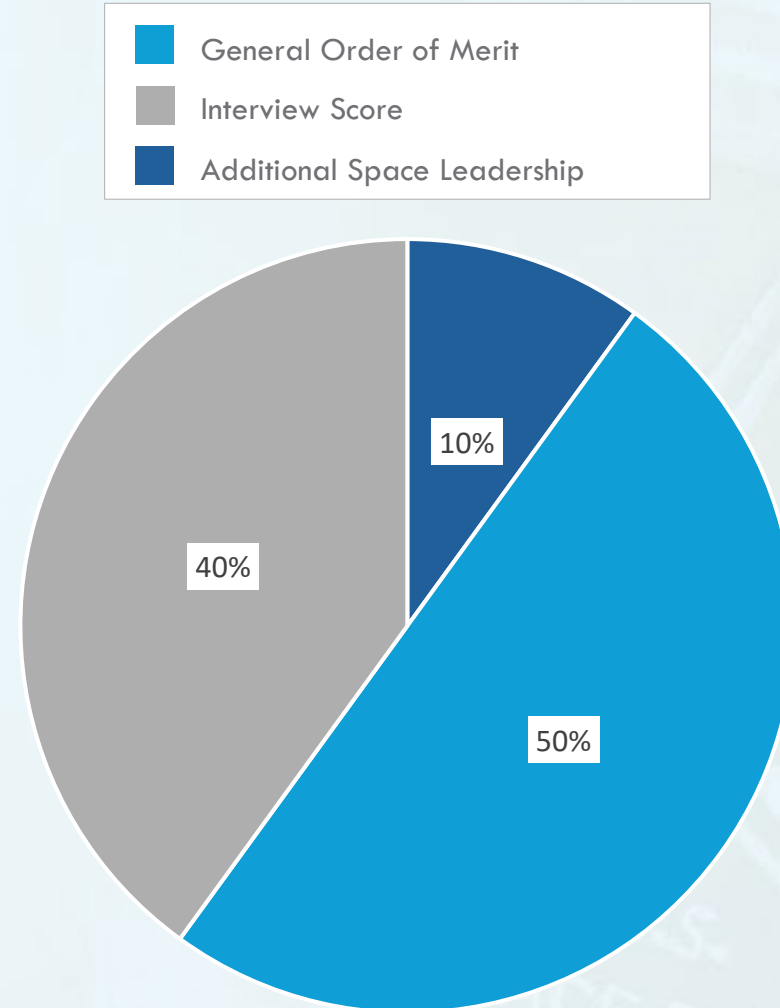
- Factors in Fitness, Military, and GPA
- IC leadership is factored into MPA

Interview Score

- HireVue application
- 5 questions

Additional Space Leadership

- Members who took the Space Warfighting Minor
- Leaders in USAFA Space voluntary organizations including:
 - CSOPS
 - i5
 - Blue Horizon



QUESTIONS?

