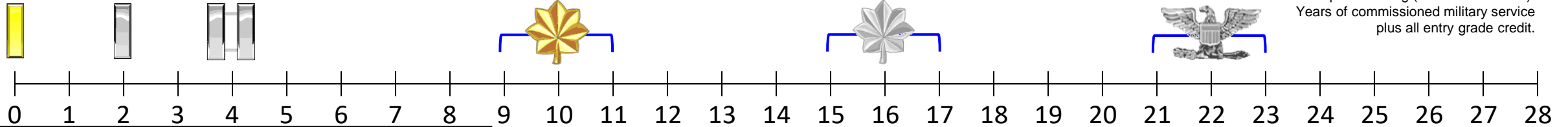




Cyberspace Operations (17X)

Career Progression



Functional Area Experiences (CGO):

- ❖ Flight/CC, OIC, Crew/CC, T17X Instructor, Watch Officer, CMF Element Lead, NC3, ISR, Capability / Software Developer, T&E, Space
- ❖ Operational Deployment (JTF, CJTF, etc)
- ❖ Operation Experience (RED FLAG, Pacific Sentry, Terminal Fury, Cyber Flag)

Formal Education/Training:

- ❖ Undergraduate Cyber Trng (6 mo), Cyber 200
- ❖ AFIT/NPS, DOD Cyber Certifications (Ex. Network+, Sec+, Cloud+, ITIL, CCNP, etc.), AOC, Joint C4 Planners Course (JC4PC), Acquisition Level 1, Weapons Instructors Course
- ❖ O-3 PME (PDE): Squadron Officer School

Special Experiences:

- ❖ Career Enhancement (5-9 yr): EWI, Airborne, Service/Foreign Partner exchange, Flight Test Engineer, Expeditionary Warfare School, Computer Network Ops Development Program (CNODP)

Functional Area Experiences (FGO):

- ❖ Boarded Cyber Leadership:
 - ❖ O-4: Det/CC, Sq/CC, DO, (~75 Yearly)
 - ❖ O-5: Cyber Sq/CC (~50 Yearly)
- ❖ Cyber Mission Force Team Lead, T&E, Intel/Space, Branch Chief, NC3, AO, Watch Officer, Program Element Manager,
- ❖ Operational Experience/Deployments

Formal Education/Training:

- ❖ O-4 PME (IDE): ACSC/equiv (DL or residence)
- ❖ O-5 PME (SDE): AWC/equiv (DL or residence)
- ❖ Cyber 300, Joint Planning (JCWS), Strategy, Acquisition, Planning, PPBE/JCIDS, AOC, PhD, DOD Cyber Certifications (CISSP, CISM, GSLC, etc.), CIO/CISO Certificate, Acq Level 2,
- ❖ ASG (SAASS, SAMS, MAWS, ASP, SAW, JAWS)

Special Experiences:

- ❖ FAO, PAS, Spectrum, Joint Interface Control Officer (JICO), Artificial Intelligence, Air Advisor

Functional Area Experiences (O-6):

- ❖ Milestone positions: MAJCOM A6, CCMD J6, Gp/CC, Wing CC/CV
- ❖ Staff: HAF/JS Div Chief, MAJCOM/CCMD Director, Deputy Dir/Div Chief, Cyber Ops Integrated Planning Element
- ❖ Operational Experience/Deployments: CAOC, JTF, JSOTF, AETF, AFFOR

Formal Education/Training:

- ❖ Advanced Academic Degree (AAD)
- ❖ Cyber 400, JCWS, Acquisition, PPBE/JCIDS, CIO, CISO, Risk Mgt, DOD Cyber Certifications, Acq Level 3

Special Experiences:

- ❖ Defense Attaché, Cross Functional

Formal Instructor & Recruiting Duty:

- ❖ Target is typically at the 5-8 year point, after two 17X assignments to develop core skills, while realizing there are opportunities at FGO rank

17X – Cyberspace Operations Officer Career Development Guidance

AFSC Description: 17X officers operate, secure, defend, extend, and engage our nation's adversaries, in and through the cyberspace domain in support of Air Component and Joint Force Commander's objectives worldwide. These activities are conducted along three mission types: 1) Department of Defense Information Network Operations (DoDIN Ops) – operating, maintaining, and assuring both the networks and mission systems required to project precision airpower in contested environments. This is the largest mission type. 2) Defensive Cyberspace Operations (DCO) – hunting and responding to adversary activity in/on DoD and mission partner information networks in order to prevent effects of critical consequence. 3) Offensive Cyberspace Operations (OCO) – engaging the adversary and functions in support of Combatant Command and National objectives.

Brief Developmental History: In 2008, as the operational environment evolved, the 33S Communications AFSC transitioned into the 17D Cyberspace Operations AFSC in an effort to bring about a more deliberate focus on the multiple disciplines within cyberspace operations in the warfighting environment. In 2019, the 17X Functional Authority approved the transition to the Cyberspace Warfare Operations career field with two AFSCs, Warfighter Communications Operations (17D) and Cyberspace Effects Operations (17S). This change is another step toward the continued maturation of the career field in order to meet operational demands of a dynamic warfighting environment.

Prior to Major: 17Xs are expected to develop as a leader, tactician, and operator. Given the transformation, officers will operate across multiple mission types. They serve in several types of foundational leadership opportunities including OIC, Crew CC, Flight CC, Cyber Mission Force Team Lead, etc. Most 17X CGOs deploy at least once.

Prior to Lieutenant Colonel: 17Xs are expected to further develop operational and strategic competence, planning, and communication skills through experience in various 17X staff-level positions. Typically, demonstrated leadership and performance as an Operations Officer or O-4 Commander is an indicator of readiness for O-5 command.

Prior to Colonel: Squadron Command is a milestone experience as an organizational leader and tactical/operational advisor. Some officers may command more than once depending upon their mission area and career timing. 17Xs will further develop as a leader and their operational/strategic level decision making on matters in one or more mission types to inform budget, strategy, planning decisions towards integration of air, space, cyber, land, and maritime domains. Most 17X FGOs deploy at least once.

Career Broadening Expectations:

- Formal instructor or recruiting special duty is a valued assignment for personal development and enterprise perspective.
- Typically, 17Xs will not spend more than one assignment (~3 years) out of core unless selected for special career broadening programs, such as FAO, PAS, or academic programs.