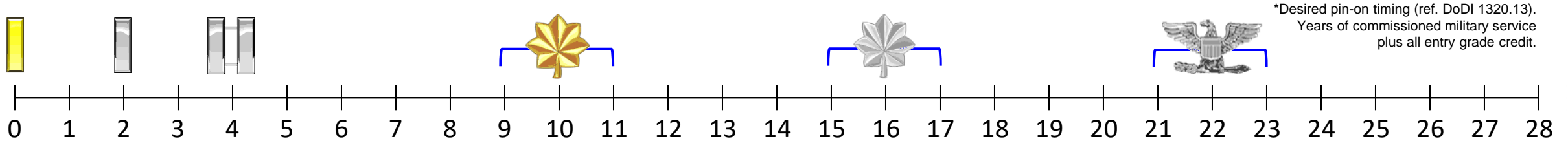




Chemist/Nuclear Chemist (61C) Career Progression



Functional Area Experiences (CGO):

- ❖ Air Force Research Labs, Air Force Technical Applications Center, Air Force Drug Testing Laboratory, Defense Threat Reduction Agency
- ❖ Lead Scientist, Test Manager, Mission Manager

Formal Education/Training:

- ❖ Initial/Advanced Skills Training
- ❖ APDP – STM/EN/Test Level I & II
- ❖ O-3 PME (PDE): Squadron Officer School

Special Experiences:

- ❖ Career Broadening: EWI, OPEX, SPEED
- ❖ Innovation: AFWERX, DIU, Kessel Run, Kobayashi Maru/SpaceCAMP, LevelUp
- ❖ Instructor: PME, ROTC, OTS, USAFA, AFIT
- ❖ Executive Officer
- ❖ Traditional Program Office
- ❖ Deployment, Air Advisor, ABDAR
- ❖ Flight Test Engineer (TPS)

Functional Area Experiences (FGO):

- ❖ Lab, Center and Agency Staff, Air Staff (SAF/AQ)
- ❖ Materiel Leader, Sq/CC, Det/CC, Branch Chief, PEM

Formal Education/Training:

- ❖ O-4 PME (IDE): ACSC/equiv (DL or residence)
- ❖ O-5 PME (SDE): AWC/equiv (DL or residence)
- ❖ APDP - STM/EN/Test/PM Level II & III

Special Experiences:

- ❖ Instructor: PME, ROTC, OTS, USAFA, AFIT
- ❖ Recruiting & Training/CC
- ❖ AFDTL/CC
- ❖ Executive Officer
- ❖ Deployment, Air Advisor, ABDAR
- ❖ AFPC Assignment Officer

Functional Area Experiences (O-6):

- ❖ HAF(Office of the Chief Scientist), MAJCOM, Agency, Center Chief Scientist Offices, Chief Developmental Tester
- ❖ Senior Materiel Leader, Gp/CC, Director, Dep Director, Division Chief, Dep Division Chief

Formal Education/Training:

- ❖ Advanced Academic Degree (MS or PhD)
- ❖ APDP - STM/EN/Test/PM Level III

Special Experiences:

- ❖ USAFA/AFIT Permanent Professor/Dept Head
- ❖ Deployment

Formal Instructor & Recruiting Duty:

- ❖ Career broadening tour target is typically the 2nd or 3rd assignment. Instructor and recruiting tour target is between promotion milestones.

61C – Chemist/Nuclear Chemist Officer Career Development Guidance

AFSC Description: A Chemist/Nuclear Chemist conducts or manages programs, projects, and activities to perform research/operational assessments, and support highly technical operations and intelligence. Chemists/Nuclear Chemists are assigned across the acquisitions enterprise.

Brief Developmental History: In 2010, the 61S Scientist Air Force Specialty Code split into four different career fields: 61A Operations Research Analyst, 61B Behavioral Scientist, 61C Chemist/Nuclear Chemist, and 61D Physicist/Nuclear Engineer.

Prior to Major: 61C CGOs develop experience throughout the acquisition lifecycle in support of an array of mission requirements across the Air Force enterprise. In addition to developing expertise and gaining mission relevant education, junior officers often career broaden into intelligence, logistics, space, cyberspace, and personnel positions through various operational experience programs. These programs include the Operational Experience program in their initial tour and the Special Experience Exchange Duty programs in their second or third tour. A select few Chemists/Nuclear Chemists become Flight Test Engineers through completion of Test Pilot School. 61C CGOs are also expected to have Level I or Level II Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act certifications; likely in Science and Technology Management, Engineering, or Test and Evaluation.

Prior to Lieutenant Colonel: 61Cs should be technically-competent leaders in their mission areas. Some will transition to common leadership roles such as Chief or Senior Scientist, Program Element Monitor, or Headquarters Air Force staff. Additionally, a portion of officers serve as instructors at the United States Air Force Academy for a single tour or as part of the permanent professor faculty. 61Cs are also expected to have Level II or Level III Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act certifications; likely in Science and Technology Management, Engineering, Test and Evaluation, or Program Management.

Prior to Colonel: 61Cs fill Materiel Leader or Command positions within each of the acquisition functional areas, serve in key technical or acquisition staff positions—often within SAF/AQ.

Career Broadening Expectations:

- Career broadening tour target timeframe is typically the second or third assignment, including instructor and recruiting special duty.
- Most officers will not spend more than one assignment outside of the Acquisitions Air Force Specialty Codes unless selected for special career broadening programs.