



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE AIR UNIVERSITY (AETC)

DEC 23 2015

Dear ACSC Class of 2017,

On behalf of Air Command and Staff College, welcome, and congratulations on your selection to attend the U.S. Air Force's most historic professional military education program. You are joined by approximately 500 fellow officers and civilian leaders who represent every branch of service, each total force component, several government agencies, and more than 60 nations. I look forward to sharing a rigorous and rewarding academic year with you and your classmates, filled with numerous opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Speaking of the opportunities here at ACSC, I would like to share some information on program concentrations and electives that are available to you. The information below is intended to provide an initial synopsis and you will receive further details and requests to apply for programs in the upcoming months.

The **Blue Horizons** program is chartered by the Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF) to provide rigorously researched strategies, concepts of operation, and technology applications to gain and maintain a competitive advantage for the Air Force and the nation in the year 2040. The program includes intensive academics, classified research, wargaming, and travel to answer a specific research question posed by the CSAF. The 10-month fellowship culminates with a final group report and outbrief to the CSAF. Blue Horizons selects 5 Fellows from the incoming AWC class and 11 Fellows from the incoming ACSC class. The fellowship is not an elective, but rather an alternative IDE/SDE experience in lieu of participation in AWC or ACSC. Blue Horizons faculty will send email invitations to select members of the incoming ACSC class inviting them to apply. Fellows will be selected from the available volunteers to achieve a mix of professional backgrounds best suited to answering the specific research question posed by the CSAF. Reporting and graduation dates for Blue Horizons are the same as published for ACSC. A current TS/SCI clearance is required.

Multi-Domain Operational Strategist (MDOS) concentration is a selective yearlong advanced concentration specializing in developing leaders who understand the employment of multi-domain operational maneuver to counter future A2/AD threats during the period 2025-2035. This concentration focuses on improving critical thinking and problem solving skills at the operational level of war. It prepares selected students for future operational and command assignments requiring advanced knowledge of the capabilities, methods, and challenges associated with operations within and across six domains (electromagnetic spectrum, space, air, land, maritime, and human). MDOS is based on student potential to contribute to their seminars and the overall goals of the concentration.

The **Gathering of Eagles (GOE)** is a year-long elective that capstones the ACSC curriculum. Each year, people who have made a significant contribution to Airpower receive invitations to a weeklong event to share their personal stories of courage, perseverance and innovation to the ACSC class and local community. GOE has been an annual event since 1982 and has honored over 450 Eagles including Neil Armstrong, Jimmy Doolittle, Bea Haydu, John Glenn, Curtis LeMay, and Chuck Yeager. Students in the GOE are responsible for researching and selecting Eagles, as well as planning and executing the GOE program. Selection to the GOE team is a two-part process: a resume application followed by a faculty interview. For more information about GOE, visit www.goefoundation.org.

The **Political-Military Affairs Strategist (PAS)** program is designed and executed by the Air Command and Staff College in accordance with AFI 16-109 for students identified for development in AFSC 16P. Students will hone their critical thinking abilities, habits of mind, and patterns of inquiry to become part of a cadre of Airmen with a broad and diverse range of political-military insights and skills to execute the full range of DoD and USAF missions.

Elective courses cover an enormous range of academic subjects that complement the ACSC experience. While attending ACSC, you will take two elective courses. These are in addition to, and completely outside of, the core curriculum. You have the opportunity to choose your preferred courses before reaching ACSC. You will receive an invitation to a website that hosts all of the elective syllabi and instructions for submitting their elective choices. Choices should be made by 22 July 2016, as some of the electives begin the first week of classes.

Instructions on how to submit your application to MDOS and GOE will follow in subsequent correspondence. Feel free to contact Major Jason Baggett at jason.baggett@us.af.mil or Major Stargell Mosley at stargell.mosley@us.af.mil if you have any questions. Again, welcome to ACSC. I wish you all the best, and look forward to learning with you!

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BEH', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

BRIAN E. HASTINGS, Colonel, USAF
Commandant