



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH TEXAS

27 May 2025
PSDM 25-66

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL FSSs, J1s, USSF/S1s, A1s

FROM: USSF Enterprise Talent Management Office (ETMO)
555 E. Street West, Suite 2
JBSA-Randolph TX 78150

SUBJECT: USSF 2026-B/2027-A USAF Test Pilot School (TPS) Space Test Course (STC) Selection Board Announcement

Vigilance must be taken to protect Personally Identifying Information (PII) when submitting or sending nominations, applications or other documents to DoD agencies through government Internet, software applications, systems, e-mail, postal, faxing or scanning.

*****OFFICIAL RELEASE DATE IS 27 May 2025, 1400Z*****

NOTE: Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) for this memorandum is the USSF Enterprise Talent Management Office (ETMO) Talent Operations Division (TOD). Official release is 1400Z on 27 May 2025. At that time, ensure widest dissemination possible.

*****COMPLETED APPLICATION SUSPENSE: 07 JUL 2025*****
*****ENDORSER COMMENTS SUSPENSE: 21 JUL 2025*****

1. PURPOSE: The 2026-B/2027-A USAF TPS/STC Selection Board will convene late July 2025 to select candidates for the 12-month program. Class 26B arrives in Jun 2026 and starts Jul 2026 and Class 27A arrives in Dec 2026 and starts Jan 2027.

The 2026-B/2027-A Board will be accomplished in the following timeline (fixed dates are in **BOLD**):

07 Jul 25: Deadline for Applications
21 Jul 25: Deadline for Endorser Inputs
July 25: USSF STC Selection Board
Members selected during the USSF STC board will move forward to complete the Comprehensive Candidate Evaluation Program (CCEP)
Aug 25: Applicants notified whether they have been selected for CCEP
Oct 25: CCEP conducted at Edwards AFB
Dec 25: Final results of CCEP announced via PSDM

Candidates selected by the TPS Space Test Course Selection Board for continued evaluation will participate in the in-person CCEP at Edwards AFB. Staff from USAF TPS will provide program details to those selected for CCEP. The member's unit will fund all CCEP travel costs associated IAW DAFI 99-107, *Test Pilot School*.

The information herein must be protected under the Freedom of Information Act of 1966 and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended. Unauthorized disclosure or misuse of this PERSONAL INFORMATION may result in criminal and/or civil penalties.

The TPS Missions is “to create highly adaptive critical-thinking test leaders to accelerate multidomain capabilities to the warfighter.” The TPS Vision is “impassioned leaders advancing war-winning capabilities.”

The focus of the STC is to produce adaptive, critical thinking test leaders to conduct full-spectrum test and evaluation of space-domain systems. The curriculum is designed to provide students with tailored education covering test planning, test execution, analysis, and reporting. In addition to test-foundational material, students will receive instruction and practical experience covering mission systems, as well as domain science topics such as orbital mechanics, electromagnetic spectrum, sensor sciences, and space environment. This is intended to provide the student with a broad base of technical knowledge to prepare them for future Test and Evaluation (T&E) projects that span a variety of technical areas.

Training will include test processes applicable to both developmental and operational space test, and will include classroom, laboratory, open-air, and on-orbit events. Oral and/or written reports will be included in each module. Field trips are taken to organizations engaged in developing, testing, and producing aerospace vehicles and equipment.

Graduates of STC will receive Graduate Certificates in Space Test Engineering, with an associated transcript maintained by Air University.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION: The 2026-B/STC-A STC Selection Board process has been migrated to MyVECTOR (<https://MyVECTOR.us.af.mil/MyVECTOR>). The instructions in this PSDM supersedes all other instructions for applying to STC. Please read all the instructions carefully.

The Schoolhouse will publish information, updates, and announcements related to the 2026-B STC Board at <https://www.edwards.af.mil/Units/USAFTPS/>. Direct all questions to USAF TPS and/or USSF ETMO using the contact information provided in Section 6.

STC applicants outside of their core career fields selected to attend TPS can expect to complete one USSF test assignment immediately upon graduation. They will maintain their core SFSC and will return to their core community following their initial space test assignment. Through coordination with their respective assignment teams, these graduates may be eligible to serve additional assignments in Space Test leadership positions later in their careers.

3. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

- a. Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements outlined in **Attachment 1** of this PSDM. All career fields (officer, enlisted, and civilians), across the DoD may apply.
- b. Eligible applicants will send an email to HQ.USSF.Talentmgmtboard@spaceforce.mil with the subject “I intend to apply for 2026-B/2027-A.” USSF ETMO will add the applicant to the candidate pool.
- c. DAF Military applicants will complete the application on MyVECTOR. Candidates will answer several questions, upload documents outlined in Section 4, and route the application to their Squadron Commander/equivalent for endorsement via MyVector.

NOTE: MyVECTOR allows up to 2500 characters for each narrative question. Applicants **DO NOT** need to fill the entire space. Complete and concise narratives will demonstrate critical writing skills as well as allow the Board to evaluate answers more easily.

d. Civilian/Non-DAF applicants and those without access to MyVECTOR will notify ETMO in their “intent to apply” email for application instructions.

4. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS:

a. Waivers: Waiver requests to eligibility criteria will be submitted in MyVECTOR with the application. Detailed information on waivers is in **Attachment 1**.

b. Career Field Release: Applicants are required to receive release from their Career Field Managers (CFM) and provide documentation acknowledging positive release and payback assignment post-graduation. For career field release you can submit requests using the following link:
<https://usaf.dps.mil/u:/r/teams/USSFFMAssignmentsHelpDesk/SitePages/Home.aspx?csf=1&web=1&e=4Xt6mt>

c. Letter of Recommendation: Applicants will provide one letter of recommendation, as instructed in **Attachment 2**. Additional letters of recommendation will not be accepted. The letter of recommendation should NOT come from the applicant’s Squadron Commander/equivalent, since they will be endorsing the application.

d. Academic Record: Include transcripts for all post-secondary education in chronological order with the most recent on top. Applicants should highlight the following information in their transcripts:

(1) Degree awarded and final GPA

(2) Grades for each of the following courses: Calculus I, Calculus II, Physics I, Physics II, Statistics, and Differential Equations.

e. Records of Performance (ROP): Only the last five finalized Enlisted Performance Reports (EPRs), Officer Performance Reports (OPRs), and performance reviews will be included for consideration.

5. SERVICE COMMITMENT: All individuals selected for STC will incur a service commitment. The current Active Duty Service Commitment (ADSC) for STC graduates is 3 years post-graduation. DAF civilians must agree to/sign a Continued Service Agreement (CSA) of 3 years post-graduation.

6. POINTS OF CONTACT: Direct questions regarding applications or waivers to USAF TPS (USAFTPS.DFS.StudentServices@us.af.mil) or USSF ETMO (HQ.USSF.Talentmgmtboard@spaceforce.mil).

//SIGNED//

Director, Enterprise Talent Management Office

3 Attachments:

1. Eligibility Criteria
2. Letters of Recommendation & Endorsements
3. Civilian Placement

Ensure all the records generated as a result of processes prescribed in this publication adhere to Air Force Instruction 33-322, Records Management and Information Governance Program and are disposed of IAW the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule in the Air Force Records Information Management System.

ATTACHMENT 1: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Degree in Engineering, Mathematics, or Physics with a GPA of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale.

a. Applicants with a B.S. in a different discipline with a GPA of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale may still be considered eligible provided the member has completed undergraduate or graduate courses in: Calculus I, Calculus II, Physics I, Physics II, Statistics, and Differential Equations.

2. Service Requirements:

a. Lt to Maj Officers: 3-10 years of government service by Jan 2026.

b. Spec 4 to Tech Sergeant Enlisted: 2-14 years of government service by Jan 2026.

c. Civilians GS-13/NH-O3/equivalent & below: 2+ years of service by Jan 2026.

3. Active, fully adjudicated TS/SCI Clearance and Special Access Program (SAP) eligible.

4. Minimum of 18 months Time on Station (TOS) by Jan 2026.

5. Eligibility Waivers: The waiver request memorandum will be signed by the applicant and should state the eligibility criterion requiring a waiver and discuss any rationale for waiver approval. Applicants requesting waiver consideration for multiple criteria may submit a single waiver request. Waivers will be considered after all applications are submitted and will be decided based on the severity of the waiver selection requirements, and applicant pool. STARCOM S2/3V is the approval authority for eligibility requirement waivers.

NOTE: Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members may apply, but will only be selected if a funding strategy is secured for the 1-year school and the minimum 3-year payback tour. Interested Guard and Reserve members are encouraged to continue to monitor future PSDMs for any updates.

Interagency and joint personnel may apply but can only be placed into this class if funding and assignment agreements and actions are in place with the applicant's service or agency.

ATTACHMENT 2: LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION AND ENDORSEMENTS

1. Letter of Recommendation: ***Each Letter of Recommendation will be limited to ONE (1) page.*** Recommending officials should use standard unit letterhead and Memorandum for Record (MFR) formatting. Recommendations should focus on the applicant's aptitude to excel at the STC and ability to support the USSF T&E mission, including assessments on areas such as leadership, judgement, decision-making skills, and technical acumen. If desired, the recommending official may provide a stratification remark for each applicant.

a. All recommendations should be provided directly to the applicant and attached in their MyVECTOR application. Recommendations should be as candid as possible. Any recommending official wishing to submit negative information directly to the board should email ETMO. Include the applicant's full rank and name.

b. Letters of Recommendation should come from individuals who: 1) know the applicant well, 2) understand what it takes to excel at STC, 3) and understand the USSF T&E Enterprise.

2. Endorsement: The applicant's Squadron Commander/equivalent will endorse the application in MyVECTOR. Squadron Commanders will only provide the endorsement and NOT any additional Letters of Recommendation. The first line of the endorsement should read "**NAME is my #X/Y STC candidates.**" Endorsements should focus on the applicant's aptitude to excel at STC and ability to support the T&E mission, including assessments on areas such as leadership, judgement, decision-making skills, and technical acumen.

NOTE: Applicants will not be able to view endorsements. Squadron Commanders are encouraged to be candid in their comments to help the board make the best selections.

ATTACHMENT 3: CIVILIAN PLACEMENT

Civilians selected for STC should expect a Temporary Change of Station (TCS)/Permanent Change of Station (PCS) to Edwards, AFB for approximately 12 months + 1 day and then TCS/PCS to a test location. Civilians will be required to live on Edwards, AFB while enrolled in STC.

DAF Civilian applicants selected for STC will be placed into the STARCOM Long-Term Full-Time Training Program. The selectee will be centrally managed and funded by STARCOM during the candidate's attendance at STC. Prior to starting the program, the post-graduation assignment within USSF will be identified with full relocation expenses paid by STARCOM. Any DAF Civilian selected for STC will be required to sign a 3-year CSA as part of their relocation package. The individual's servicing Education and Training Office will process the CSA. Civilian applicants outside the DAF will be managed by agreement between the applicant's department/agency and STARCOM.

For STC civilian selects, STARCOM will work with organizational and site commanders to identify a progressive career path. Immediately following STC, civilian graduates will normally have two assignments within the USSF T&E enterprise to include a possible STC instructor assignment at Edwards, AFB. Civilian STC graduates will have the opportunity to be assigned to multiple test organizations across the USSF, providing progressive career breadth, depth, and broadening opportunities. This programmed career track does not prevent employees from competing for promotion after graduation.