



# FACT SHEET

USAF Fact Sheet  
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## United States Air Force Weapons School

### Mission

The mission of the United States Air Force Weapons School is to improve overall effectiveness of the combat air forces through the training of students, providing technical and tactical expertise to the field, and by publishing the quarterly U.S. Air Force Weapons Review.

The commandant is responsible for graduate-level instructor courses that provide the world's most advanced training in weapons and tactics employment to officers of the combat air forces. The school provides A-10, B-1, B-52, F-15, F-15E, F-16, HH-60, Command & Control Operations, Intelligence and Space weapons instructor academic and flying courses to the combat air forces. The school also conducts extensive technical off-station training and liaison with combat air forces. The B-1 detachment is located at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., and the B-52 detachment is located at Barksdale Air Force Base, La.



### Background

Selection to attend the weapons school is highly competitive. Of those who qualify, less than five percent are actually selected to attend. The students begin the course in a rigorous core academic program that features intense classroom study and hands-on training with actual equipment. This academic training prepares the student to get the most out of the flying and mission phases. Technical and tactical expertise, instructor preparation and teaching ability are emphasized throughout the program. Aircrews are allowed to drop, shoot or fire nearly every type of conventional ordnance certified for their aircraft. Nonrated personnel are exposed to a wide array of equipment and procedures they will use in the field.

The culmination of this five and one-half month program is the mission employment phase. During this phase, the courses are combined into a large, mixed-force exercise. The students are exposed to the entire range of combat air and space capabilities and are required to plan the exercise and integrate the different weapons systems and disciplines to effectively accomplish the objectives of each simulated wartime scenario.

Graduates return to their units as weapons officers, serving as their wing's technical expert in weapons, weapon systems, force integration and employment tactics, and training procedures and techniques. As the commander's technical advisor, the weapons officer is the focal point for the design and execution of appropriate training programs that will improve the unit's wartime capability.

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**(Current as of January 2001)**