

**BY ORDER OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**

**HEADQUARTERS MISSION
DIRECTIVE 1-50**



12 FEBRUARY 2025

Special Management

CHIEF SCIENTIST DEPARTMENT OF AIR FORCE

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

ACCESSIBILITY: Headquarters Air Force Publications and Forms are available on the e-Publishing website: www.e-publishing.af.mil.

RELEASABILITY: There are no releasability restrictions on this publication.

OPR: SAF/ST

Certified by: SAF/ST
(Col Timothy W. Zens)

Supersedes: HAFMD 1-50, 23 April 2015

Pages: 5

1. Mission. Pursuant to Title 10 United States Code (U.S.C.) §§ 9013-9016, the Secretary of the Air Force (SecAF) may establish offices and officials within the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force (known as the Secretariat) to assist the Secretary in carrying out his/her responsibilities. Consistent with 10 U.S.C. § 9014 and as documented by this Headquarters Air Force Mission Directive (HAFMD 1-1), the SAF/ST is established as part of the Secretariat. The Chief Scientist has overall responsibility to provide an independent perspective on scientific and technical issues affecting the Department's mission. The SecAF retains ultimate responsibility for all policies related to the Department of the Air Force (DAF); however, within his/her areas of responsibility, the SAF/ST reviews policies and recommends official guidance/procedures via official DAF level publications to ensure implementation and execution of those policies and programs to ensure implementation of those policies.

2. Organizational Relationships. The SecAF is responsible for, and has all legal authority necessary to conduct, the affairs of the DAF. The Secretariat, Air Staff, and the Office of the Chief of Space Operations (known as the Space Staff) perform their DAF functions subject to the authority, direction, and control of the SecAF. The SAF/ST is part of the Secretariat and as such works closely with Air Staff and Space Staff offices to assist the SecAF in carrying out their responsibilities. The SAF/ST works in cooperation with the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (SAF/AQ), the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration (SAF/SQ), Integrated Capabilities Office (ICO), Office of Competitive Activities (OCA) and their respective offices, which are responsible, pursuant to

Chapter 903, 905 and 908 of Title 10 (10 USC §§ 9011-9024, §§ 9031-9040 and 9081-9086), for assisting the SecAF in carrying out their responsibilities. SAF/ST works collectively with the major commands (MAJCOMs) and field commands (FLDCOMs) through each MAJCOM/FLDCOM chief scientist, USSF Chief Science Officer, and Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) chief scientist to provide objective advice on emerging S&T strategy as informed by the SecAF's strategy. SAF/ST also engages with the DAF chief scientist community to understand emerging technology areas to maximize S&T investments.

2.1. The SAF/ST reports to the SecAF and serves as an advisor to the Secretary within assigned policy and program domains. The SAF/ST also assists the Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF) and Chief of Space Operations (CSO) in their responsibilities.

2.2. The SAF/ST is part of the Secretariat and as such works closely with other DAF offices to assist the SecAF, the CSAF, and the CSO in carrying out their respective responsibilities. .

3. Responsibilities. The Chief Scientist is specifically responsible for:

3.1. Advising the Secretary of the Air Force, providing independent evaluations and objective advice across a broad range of technology related subjects. Advice is based primarily on technical merit. Subjects are derived from:

3.1.1. Tasks assigned by the Secretary of the Air Force, Under Secretary of the Air Force, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and Chief of Space Operations.

3.1.2. Technical/research/science issues determined by the SAF/ST to be of high DAF importance.

3.2. Advising senior leaders across the DAF on S&T and R&D matters, as appropriate. The SAF/ST interacts with organizations across the DAF, the other Services, the Department of Defense (DoD), other United States Government Departments, Academia, and the International Science and Technology (S&T) community to research technical issues. In doing so, SAF/ST identifies and analyzes issues affecting various levels of the DAF and brings them to the attention of Air Force and Space Force leaders, as appropriate.

3.3. Providing independent technical advice to the DAF S&T community and the international scientific community. Fosters collaboration with foreign countries as well as other services and agencies, universities, and industry. Serves as consultant or member on boards and/or panels charged with advising on and evaluating the need for scientific and engineering R&D programs having national and/or international significance and import. Represents the DAF at high level technical meetings and conferences and at DoD, interagency, international, and White House forums as appropriate.

3.4. Advising DAF S&T leadership.

3.4.1. SAF/ST provides advice on the DAF S&T strategy, portfolio, and budget.

3.4.2. SAF/ST convenes and chairs semi-annual meetings of DAF S&T leadership to discuss DAF Force-wide technical issues and affect cross flow between technical areas and the operational Air Force and Space Force. Attendees include chief scientists and technical directors from laboratories, test centers, major commands, field commands and others, as appropriate.

3.4.3. SAF/ST serves as the Sponsor of the DAF Tactical Autonomy University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) in partnership with the Concepts, Development, and Management Office (SAF/CDM), which provides program management and the AFRL, which provides technical and programmatic support. In addition, the Chief Scientist convenes and chairs the DAF Tactical Autonomy UARC Government Board of Advisors.

3.4.4. SAF/ST serves on the Scientist and Engineer Advisory Council (SEAC), chaired by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Science, Technology & Engineering) (SAF/AQR), which oversees the health of science and engineering career fields across the DAF.

3.4.5. SAF/ST champions Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) initiatives in support of the DAF STEM strategy, in coordination SAF/AQR, which oversees the health of the STEM workforce across the DAF.

3.4.6. SAF/ST serves as an ex officio (non-voting) member of the DAF Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) Executive Committee. The Chief Scientist participates in defining studies, selection of candidates for membership, and attends SAB meetings and other SAB functions as appropriate in coordination with the SAB Chair.

3.5. Sponsoring and administering the DAF-level Science and Technology award programs, Science and Technology Awards. The SAF/ST evaluates the quality, novelty and merit of DAF level science and technology award submissions and recommends award recipients to the SecAF.

4. Delegations of Secretary of the Air Force Authority and Assignments of Responsibility: Responsibility: There are no delegations of SecAF authorities or assignments of responsibilities for SAF/ST. The responsibilities assigned to the SAF/ST by this HAFMD may generally be reassigned to other DAF officials unless reassignment is expressly prohibited by controlling law, regulation, or DoD issuance. While the SAF/ST may reassign responsibilities, he/she will ultimately be responsible to SecAF for all matters listed in Paragraphs **1** and **3** of this publication. Any reassignment of responsibility shall not be effective unless it is in writing, has been reviewed by SAF/GC as primary legal advisor and AF/JA provide complimentary legal advice, and is signed by the SAF/ST. Any person re-delegating authority in accordance with this HAFMD may further restrict or condition the authority/responsibility being re-delegated/re-assigned.

5. Notifications to Congress: No re-delegation of authority/assignment of responsibility under this HAFMD below the level of a Deputy Assistant Secretary or three-letter/digit office shall include authority to provide notifications or reports to Congress.

6. Continuation of Prior Re-Delegations of Authority/Assignments of Responsibility: Re-delegations of authority/assignments of responsibility made prior to the date of issuance of this HAFMD remain effective insofar as such re-delegations are not inconsistent with the terms of this HAFMD unless superseded by a new re-delegation or assignment of responsibility.

FRANK KENDALL
Secretary of the Air Force

Attachments:

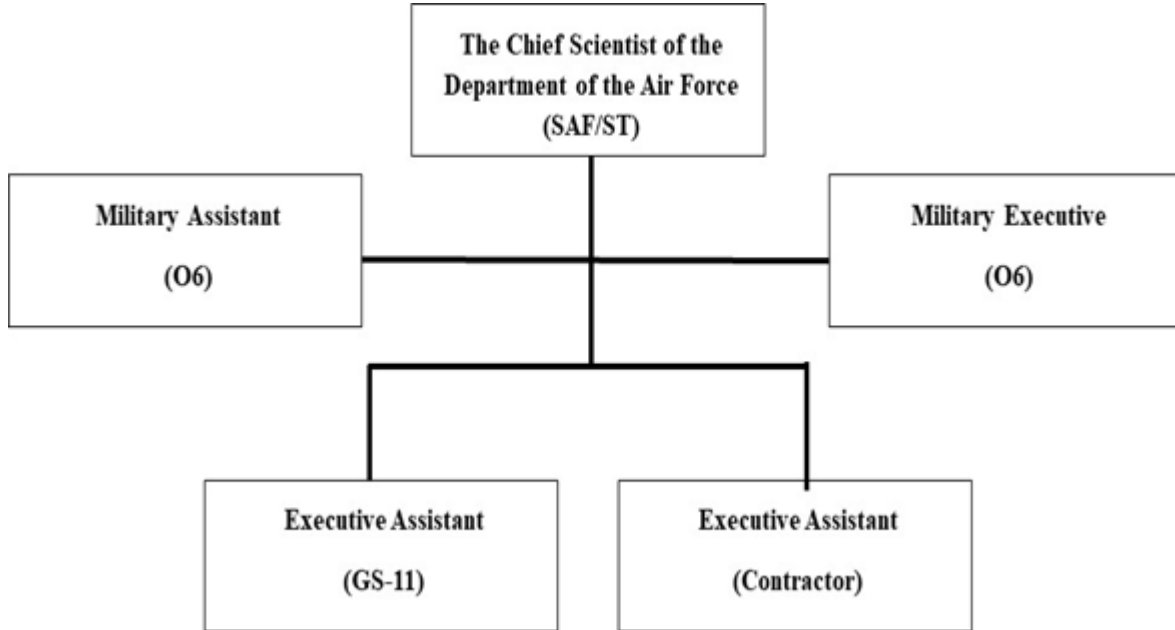
1. Delegations of Authority/Assignment of Responsibility for SAF/ST
2. Organizational Chart/3-Letter Responsibilities

ATTACHMENT 1

**DELEGATIONS OF SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
AUTHORITY/ASSIGNMENTS OF RESPONSIBILITY
TO THE
THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SCIENTIST**

N/A

ATTACHMENT 2
CHIEF SCIENTIST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
(SAF/ST)



A2.1. The Chief Scientist has overall responsibility to provide an independent perspective on scientific and technical issues affecting the Department’s mission.