

admissions



The Air Force Academy is one of the most selective colleges in the country. Start preparing now—junior high school is not too soon to meet the high admission requirements, intense competition for appointments, and the demands you'll face at the Academy. It takes a well-rounded program of academic, physical, and leadership preparation to meet the challenge. In addition, you need dedication, a desire to serve others, the ability to accept discipline, and a sense of duty. Home-schooled students are as competitive for appointment as any other student—academic, athletic and leadership potential are evaluated just as any other applicant. Make your own decision to attend the Academy. Don't let parents or friends make it for you. You will be the one facing the challenges. If you enjoy responsibility, welcome new experiences and opportunities, and like to excel and lead others, you have the attributes to become a successful cadet and Air Force officer.

colonel carolyn a. m. benyshek

Director of Admissions



As director of admissions, Col. Benyshek is responsible for recruiting the nation's finest young men and women for entrance into the United States Air Force Academy. To accomplish this mission, she leads a 73-person permanent staff and an Admissions Liaison Officer Program of nearly 1,700 Reserve, active-duty and retired Air Force officers. Col. Benyshek graduated from the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School in 1983 and graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science degree. The colonel completed Undergraduate Space Training at Lowry AFB, Colo., in 1988 and Squadron Officer School at Maxwell AFB, Ala. in 1994. She earned a master's degree from the University of Phoenix in business administration in 1996 and a second master's degree in military operational art and science from the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB in 2000. Col. Benyshek's decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal with two oak-leaf clusters, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Joint Service Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, Joint Meritorious Unit Award and the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award. Prior to returning to the United States Air Force Academy, Col. Benyshek was Acting Director, Space Programs and Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Networks and Information Integration, C3, Space and Spectrum. Col. Benyshek was appointed director of admissions in May 2010.

"The Air Force Academy is one of the most selective colleges in America. We seek young men and women who have the qualities and genuine motivation to succeed in a very challenging environment and whose primary goal is to serve our nation as Air Force officers and warriors. The competition for an appointment is extremely high. You must have a proven record of achievement in leadership, academics, athletics, extracurricular activities and be of high moral character. This catalog clearly describes what you need to do and when to do it; the key is starting early. Our professional staff, counselors and Admissions Liaison Officers will guide you through each step. For those who are accepted, there are endless opportunities and challenges that await with a wonderful future in the world's premier air, space and cyberspace force, and in service to our Nation."

academic preparation

A college preparatory education in high school provides the best background for the Academy's academic challenges. We strongly recommend you take four years of English, including a college preparatory course in writing; four years of math, with a strong background in algebra, trigonometry and analytic geometry; four years of lab science; three years of social studies; and two years of foreign language. A computer course is also helpful. Strive for the best grades possible. Also, develop effective study habits and efficient time management. Because the ACT or SAT tests are an important indicator of your academic ability, you should plan to take them early. Each of these tests has a slightly different emphasis, so you should take both to reflect your true potential. You may take these tests several times to try to improve your scores. Your highest scores will be accepted. You must have the results in our records to be considered for an appointment. When you register for the tests, request your scores be sent to the Air Force Academy. The SAT code for the Academy is 4830, and the ACT code is 0530. See your guidance counselor, Air Force Academy Admissions Liaison Officer, or base education officer for registration procedures and test dates.

leadership preparation

Earn leadership positions in a few selected activities rather than being a member of many. Both your athletic and nonathletic activities indicate your leadership potential, but quality of involvement means more than quantity of activities.

physical preparation

At the Academy, cadets literally hit the ground running. You'll take the Candidate Fitness Assessment (CFA) during the admissions process and a Physical Fitness Test (PFT) each semester while at the Academy. To meet the physical demands of Academy life, develop your fitness by participating in individual and team sports or an individual fitness program. Upper body strength, running speed and endurance should be your objectives. Keep in mind, the Academy's high altitude makes cardiovascular preparation a must. You'll also take aquatic classes while at the Academy. If you don't already know how to swim, you should learn.

definitions of terms

Precandidate	A student interested in attending the Air Force Academy who has completed the application/precandidate questionnaire.
Tentative Candidate	A precandidate who appears to have the potential to be a qualified candidate, based upon self-reported information.
Nomination	The selection of a precandidate as an official candidate for admission to the Academy by a legal nominating authority.
Candidate	A precandidate who has a nomination in an authorized category (also referred to as a nominee).
Qualified Candidate	A candidate who has met all admission requirements.
Appointment	An offer of admission to a candidate.
Appointee	A competitive candidate who has been offered an appointment to the Academy.
Qualified Alternate	A competitive candidate not chosen to fill any specific nomination category but placed in a nationwide pool from which additional appointments are made to fill the entering class.
Cadet	An appointee who has been admitted to the Academy and has taken the oath of allegiance.

eligibility

To be eligible for appointment consideration, you must:

- be at least 17 years old by July 1 of the year you enter the Academy
- not have passed your 23rd birthday on July 1 of the year you enter the Academy
- be a U.S. citizen (international students authorized admission are exempt from the U.S. citizenship requirement)
- be of high moral character
- meet high leadership, academic, physical and medical standards
- be unmarried, with no dependents

application process

Complete a precandidate questionnaire from the admissions Web site, academyadmissions.com, after March 1 of your junior year but not later than January 31 of the year you wish to enter. Apply as soon as possible so we can evaluate your qualifications, schedule you for a medical exam, and provide information to members of Congress on your potential as a nominee. If you need assistance, ask your high school guidance counselor for the name of the nearest Air Force Admissions Liaison Officer.

nomination categories

The laws governing our appointments require that you have a nomination to attend the Academy. Since the nomination process is lengthy, you should seek a nomination at the same time you return your questionnaire (see the following information regarding congressional deadlines). To increase your chances of being selected, you should apply for a nomination from your U.S. representative, your two U.S. senators and the vice president.

Each member of Congress and the vice president may have five cadets at the Air Force Academy at any one time. They may nominate up to 10 candidates for each vacancy. Vacancies occur when cadets graduate or leave prior to graduation. You also may be eligible for a nomination in one or more of the military-affiliated categories. Use the sample formats included in this section to prepare your requests for nomination. If you are from Puerto Rico, you should seek a nomination from the governor of Puerto Rico and the resident commissioner. If you are from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, write to the resident representative.

If you are from the District of Columbia, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands or American Samoa, you should seek nomination from your appropriate delegate in the House of Representatives.

Congressional

This is the primary nomination source for most candidates.

Apply to both your U.S. senators and your U.S. representative. You must legally reside in the state and congressional district to which you apply, but you need not know the members of Congress personally. Each congressional office has its own procedures and deadlines for accepting nomination requests, but all use a competitive method of selection.

To obtain the name of your senator, visit senate.gov, and for your representative, visit house.gov. You can then access each member's Web site for specifics on application procedures and deadlines, including which office you should contact.

No political affiliation is necessary to apply for a nomination. Members of Congress want to nominate outstanding individuals who are competitive for an appointment.

Each senator and representative has considerable latitude in awarding nominations; however, most are based upon some combination of academic achievement, leadership performance and athletic participation. Most members of Congress do not accept requests for nominations after October, so you should contact them in the spring semester of your junior year.

Other Categories

Several other authorities also nominate candidates. The vice president of the United States nominates from the U.S. at large (all precandidates are eligible). The deadline for requesting a nomination in the Vice Presidential category is October 31. If you wish to request a nomination from the vice president you can access <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/vice-president-biden/academy-nominations> for the online application. **Do not mail your request for a Vice Presidential nomination to the Academy.** The Academy will make recommendations to the vice president based upon your admissions record.

For the governor of Puerto Rico, address your request to:

Honorable (name of governor)
Governor of Puerto Rico
La Fortaleza San Juan PR 00901

The governor and resident commissioner of Puerto Rico are allowed to have six cadets cumulative at the Academy at any one time. The delegates in the House of Representatives are allowed the following number of cadets at the Academy at any one time.

The District of Columbia	5
Guam	3
The U.S. Virgin Islands	3
American Samoa	2
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	2

Address your requests to the resident commissioner of Puerto Rico and the delegates in the House of Representatives from the District of Columbia, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the resident representative of the Northern Mariana Islands to:

Honorable (name of appropriate delegate, commissioner or resident representative)
House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Military Affiliated

To request a nomination in the Presidential, Children of Deceased or Disabled Veterans, Military or Civilian Personnel in a Missing Status, or Children of Medal of Honor Recipients categories, follow the sample military-affiliated format included in this section. Mail the letter to the Admissions Office, HQ USAFA/RRS, 2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 2300, USAF Academy, CO 80840-5025. If you are eligible to apply in one of the other military-affiliated categories, follow the specific instructions for that category.

Presidential

We may have up to 100 appointments in the Presidential category. This category is reserved for children of career military personnel. To qualify, the parent must meet one of the following criteria:

- be on active duty and have served continuously on active duty for at least eight years
- have retired with pay or have been granted retired or retainer pay
- children of reservists may also be eligible (see Section 12733 Title 10 U.S.C for details)
- for adopted children, proceedings must have begun before the child's 15th birthday
- have died after being retired with pay or being granted retired or retainer pay

Children of Deceased or Disabled Veterans

The child of a deceased or disabled member of the Armed Forces is eligible if the parent was killed or 100 percent disabled by wounds or injuries received or diseases contracted while in active service, or from a pre-existing injury or disease aggravated by active service.

Children of Military or Civilian Personnel in Missing Status

The child of a parent who is in "missing status" is eligible if the parent is a member of the armed services or a civilian employee in active government service who is officially carried or determined to be absent in a status of missing; missing in action; interred in a foreign country; captured, beleaguered, or besieged by a hostile force; or detained in a foreign country against his or her will.

Children of Medal of Honor Recipients

The children of Medal of Honor recipients from any branch of the armed services may apply under this category.

Air Force Regular and Reserve Components

Vacancies are available under this category for members of the active-duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard in accordance with Air Force directives available through any base education office. The application form (AF Form 1786) should be obtained through normal Air Force publications supply channels.

Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) and Air Force Junior ROTC

Five students may be nominated to the Academy every year from each college or university AFROTC detachment as well as honor graduates from each eligible honor high school with Air Force Junior ROTC. College or university students must submit their applications to the Professor of Aerospace Studies. High school students must submit their applications to the Aerospace Science Instructor.

Honor Military And Naval Schools

Any school designated by the Departments of the Army and Navy as an honor school with distinction may nominate five candidates from among its honor graduates. The eligible schools have applications for students.

International Students

International students from countries invited by the Department of Defense may request a nomination to the Academy through an appropriate official of their own government. The request should contain information about the applicant's potential for success at the Academy and should be made at least a year prior to the date of admission. The official's nomination should be received at the Academy by December 31.

International students who graduate from the Academy receive a Bachelor of Science degree; however, they are not commissioned in the United States Air Force. They go back to their country and serve in their military. The maximum number of international students at the Academy at any one time is 60.

Air Force Academy Cadet Wing Appointments

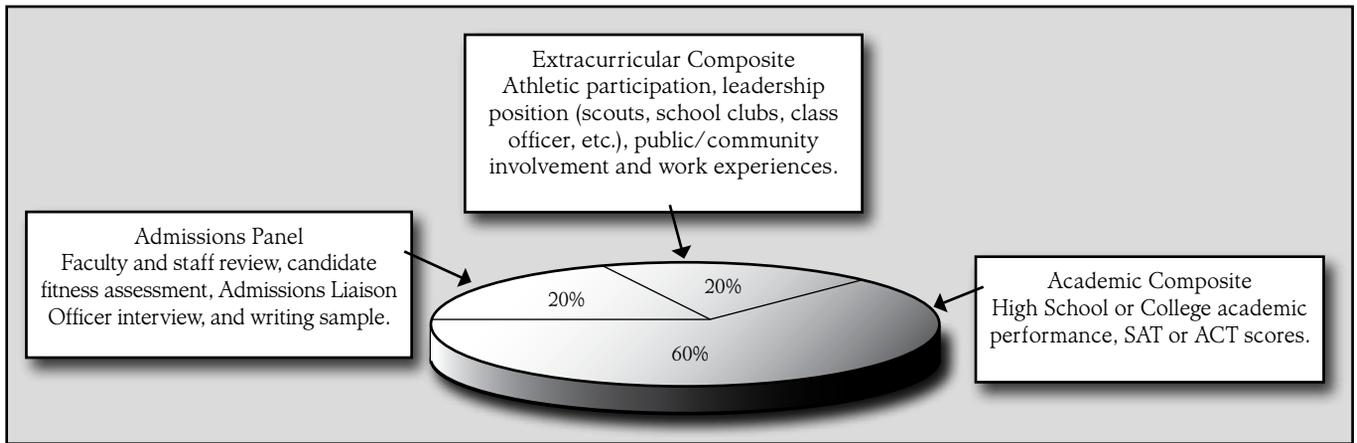
Current directives set the Air Force Academy's cadet strength at 4,400. The authorized appointments at maximum strength for each nomination category are shown in the following chart. Cumulative appointments are the total number available, of which approximately one-third will enter each year.

The other appointments are allotted annually.

	Appointments Authorized
Nomination	(Cumulative)
100 United States Senators (5 each)	500
435 United States Representatives (5 each)	2,175
Vice President	5
District of Columbia	5
Puerto Rico	6
American Samoa	2
Guam	3
Virgin Islands	3
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	2
Children of Deceased or Disabled Veterans or Children of Persons in a Missing Status	65
International Students (Maximum allowed annually by law)	60
Presidential	100
Regular Components	85
Reserve Components	85
Honor Military and Naval Schools, AFROTC and AFJROTC	20
Children of Medal of Honor Recipients	No Limit
Qualified Alternates	Number needed to fill each class

profile of a typical cadet class

Valedictorian/Salutatorian	9%
President/Vice President of Class or Student Body	15%
Top 10% of High School Class	51%
Athletic Letter Award	83%
Boys/Girls State or Nation	12%
National Honor Society	65%
Boy/Girl Scouting (Includes Eagle Scouts)	28%



candidate fitness assessment (cfa)

Events	Average (Men)	Average (Women)
Basketball Throw	69'	41'
Cadence Pull-ups	11	3
OR Flexed Arm Hang (Women)		21 sec.
Shuttle Run	8.9 sec.	9.7 sec.
Modified Sit-ups	80	79
Push-ups	60	40
One Mile Run	6:40	7:44

academic data

Test	Mid 50% Range	Mean
ACT English	27-32	30
ACT Reading	28-33	30
ACT Math	28-33	30
ACT Science Reasoning	27-32	29
SAT Verbal Aptitude	600-680	639
SAT Math Aptitude	630-700	664

To be eligible to enter the Academy, you must be:

- a citizen of the United States
- unmarried with no dependents
- of good moral character
- at least 17, but not past your 23rd birthday by July 1st of the year you would enter

To be competitive for an Air Force Academy appointment, we recommend you complete the following high school courses at a minimum:

- 4 years of English
- 4 years of college-prep math (with coursework through pre-calculus and a strong background in algebra and trigonometry)
- 3 years of social studies
- 2 years of foreign languages
- 4 years of science (chemistry and physics are strongly recommended)
- 1 year of computer studies

Carefully consider the characteristics of dedication to duty, desire to serve others, ability to accept discipline, morality, and the enjoyment of challenge in deciding if you want to pursue an Air Force Academy education.

format of request for congressional or vice presidential nomination

(This is intended as a guide. A separate letter must be sent to each senator and representative to whom you apply, or you can request a nomination on-line. You can access each senator or representative at the following Web sites: www.senate.gov or www.house.gov.)

Date

Honorable (Name of Appropriate Authority)

(Visit Web site listed above for correct address for your senators and representatives)

Dear Mr./Mrs./Ms. (Name) OR Dear Senator (Name) OR Mr. Vice President

I want to attend the Air Force Academy and serve in the United States Air Force. I request that I be considered as one of your nominees for the class that enters the Academy in June 20__.

My pertinent data is:

Name (print name exactly as it appears on the birth certificate or, if legally changed, attach a copy of the court order):

Social Security Number:

Permanent address (street, city, county, state, zip code):

Temporary address (if applicable):

Permanent phone number (with area code):

Temporary phone number (with area code if applicable):

Name of father:

Name of mother:

Date (spell out month) and place of birth:

Name and address of high school:

Date of graduation:

Approximate grade point average (GPA), rank-in-class and PSAT, PACT/PLAN, ATP (SAT) and ACT scores if you have taken these tests. Include verbal and math scores for the PSAT and ATP (SAT) tests, the composite for the PLAN, and English, reading, math, and science reasoning scores for the ACT test.

Extracurricular activities:

Reasons for wanting to enter the Air Force Academy:

Thank you for considering me as one of your nominees to the Air Force Academy.

Sincerely

Signature

format of request for military-affiliated nomination

(Use this format for any of these categories: Presidential, Children of Deceased or Disabled Veterans, Children of Military or Civilian Personnel in Missing Status, or Children of Medal of Honor Recipients.)

Date

Chief, Selections Division
HQ USAFA/RR
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 2400
USAF Academy CO 80840-5025

Dear Chief, Selections Division:

I want to attend the Air Force Academy and serve in the United States Air Force. I request a nomination under the (name of appropriate category) for the class that enters the Academy in June 20__.

My pertinent data is:

Name (print name exactly as it appears on the birth certificate or, if legally changed, attach a copy of the court order):

Social Security Number:

Permanent address (street, city, county, state, zip code):

Temporary address (if applicable):

Permanent phone number (with area code):

Temporary phone number (with area code if applicable):

Date (spell out month) and place of birth:

If member of military, include rank, regular or reserve component, branch of service and organizational address including

PSC Box Number:

If previous candidate, indicate year:

Information on parents:

Name, rank, Social Security Number, regular or reserve component and branch of service:

If your parent is on active duty, attach a statement of the service dated and signed by current personnel officer specifying all periods of active duty and any breaks therein. If your parent is retired or deceased, attach a copy of the retirement orders or DD Form 214 member 4 copy or casualty report; include Veterans Administration (VA) claim number and VA office where case is filed, if appropriate; include brief statement with date and circumstances of Medal of Honor award, if appropriate).

Sincerely

Signature

selection procedures

Your academic and leadership potential, physical fitness, motivation, and aptitude for the Academy determine your rank among the other candidates. Starting in October, the admissions panel meets weekly to review completed files. The panel of senior officers considers your qualifications based on all information contained in your records.

The secretary of the Air Force, through the superintendent and his senior staff officers, appoints candidates to fill vacancies in each nominating category. We'll notify you of your appointment status by mid May. Qualified candidates not selected to fill the specific vacancies for which they were nominated are placed in a nationwide qualified alternate pool. We offer appointments to enough people from this pool to fill the entering class. We consider all qualified candidates in all nominating categories, and selection is on a competitive basis.

early notification

If you are a highly qualified candidate and have a nomination, we may notify you of an appointment as early as October, if your records are complete. If you don't have a nomination yet, we'll send you a letter of assurance. As soon as you receive a nomination, you'll receive an appointment. To be considered for an early appointment, our records must include all correspondence about you and the following documents: official results of required examinations (SAT or ACT and Candidate Fitness Assessment); candidate activities records; high school transcript; drug and alcohol abuse certificate; and personal data record. If we don't have your medical clearance or your preparatory school or college transcript, you will receive a conditional appointment.

regular selections

If you haven't received an early notification, we'll consider you in March if your records are complete and you meet all of our admissions requirements. If we don't have your medical clearance or your preparatory school or college transcript by March 15, you will be considered for a conditional appointment. If we select you, your final appointment will depend on your medical qualifications and our receiving a satisfactory college or preparatory school transcript.

late selections

If your records are not complete by March 15, we'll consider you for an appointment at a later date if a vacancy occurs and you are eligible in that category. Some initial appointees decline their appointment offers, and we select other qualified candidates to fill those vacancies. In such cases, we may not notify replacement candidates until shortly before the class enters.

appointee requirements

Medical Examination and Fitness Requirements

All academies and commissioning sources use one general standardized examination to determine medical qualifications. You will take your examination at designated examining centers located throughout the United States and at some overseas bases on or after June 1 of the year preceding the year of admission. Prior candidates who are reapplying must retake portions of the medical examination. Specific medical and fitness preparation information is discussed in the appendix.

Transcripts and Activities Record

You must submit your entire scholastic record from secondary school as well as transcripts for any preparatory school or college you've attended. High school students must submit their current rank in class if known. We also need a high school activities record outlining your performance in extracurricular or other activities that indicate leadership potential.

Social Security Number

You must have a Social Security Number to open an admissions file. If you don't have one, ask for an SSA-5 Form from your local Social Security Administration Office. You must furnish evidence of your date of birth, identity and U.S. citizenship.

Birth Certificate or Proof of Citizenship.

You must use your name as it appears on your birth certificate on all official records unless the admissions office has received legal evidence authorizing a name change. If you are adopted and claim eligibility in a nominating category through an adoptive parent, you must submit a copy of the court order of adoption. Also, adoption proceedings must have begun before your 15th birthday. You must submit proof of citizenship if you were foreign born or naturalized. U.S. citizenship is required unless you are applying as an international student. For tax purposes, international students will obtain a valid Social Security Account Number when they arrive.

travel expenses

Appointees will receive instructions concerning reimbursement for travel to the Academy. Travel allowances will be credited to your personal checking account. If you refuse to take the Oath of Allegiance upon arrival at the Academy or are disqualified for admission because of some fault of your own, you won't be entitled to any travel allowances.

service obligations

Before you take the Oath of Allegiance, you'll sign an agreement, with the consent of your parents or guardian if you are a minor. This agreement states that you'll fulfill the following service obligations, which apply to all cadets except international students:

- complete the course of instruction at the Academy (unless you are disenrolled by proper authority), and
- accept an appointment and serve as a commissioned officer in the Air Force for at least eight years after graduation—five of which must be active duty, and the remainder can be served as inactive reserve. You become eligible to request a separation from the Air Force after five years of service.

If you entered the Academy from the active duty or Reserve component of any service and are discharged from the Academy before graduation, you'll normally return to former rank and branch of service to serve the rest of your obligation.

Graduates who enter pilot training incur a longer commitment when they've completed that training. The Air Force policy in effect when you enter flight training determines the length of your commitment.

discharge policy

The policy requiring discharged cadets to serve in the Air Force may vary depending on manpower needs of the Department of Defense. Air Force policy now states:

- fourth- and third-class cadets (freshman and sophomore) who are separated by the Academy or whose resignations are accepted will ordinarily be completely relieved from all military duty - active or reserve.
- second- and first-class cadets (junior and senior) who are separated by the Academy or whose resignations are accepted will normally incur a commitment for active duty. Exceptions will be made for humanitarian reasons and those few cases in which it is not in the best interest of the Air Force to call a cadet to active duty because of physical disqualification, misconduct, or demonstrated unsuitability for military service in an enlisted status. If you incur a commitment, you'll normally transfer to the Air Force Reserve and serve on active duty as an enlisted Airman.
- second-class cadets who are disenrolled or resign on or after the first day of academics in the fall semester of the second-class year will incur a two-year commitment for active-duty service. This commitment is three years for first-class cadets on or after the beginning of the first-class year fall semester. First-class cadets who complete the entire academic program and then resign or refuse to accept a commission may be ordered to active duty for four years as enlisted Airmen.
- cadets who fail to complete any period of active duty may incur a liability to reimburse the U.S. government for an appropriate proportion of the cost of their Academy education. The cost of an Academy education for the Class of 2009 was \$416,802 per graduate.

resignation policy

A cadet who submits a request to resign must state a specific reason for the action. The cadet will be counseled to determine if the problem can be resolved prior to action being taken to process the resignation.

admissions liaison officers

The Air Force Admissions Liaison Officer (ALO) force consists of nearly 1,700 Air Force officers who live in neighborhoods throughout the United States and overseas locations. Lt. Col. Paul MacDonald, director of enrollment programs, and the regional directors oversee all ALO activities, by area, from their offices at the Academy. The regional directors may be reached at HQ USAFA/RRA, 2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 2300, USAF Academy, CO 80840-5025, telephone 1-800-443-8187.

Academy Region I:

CT, DC, DE, MD, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, VT, and WV plus Europe, Africa, Middle East and all APO AE addresses

Academy Region II:

AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC and TN, plus the Caribbean, and Central/South America

Academy Region III:

ID, IL, IN, IA, MI, MN, MT, ND, NE, OH, SD, WA, WI, WY and Canada

Academy Region IV:

AR, AZ, KS, LA, MO, NM, OK, TX

Academy Region V:

AK, CA, CO, HI, NV, OR, UT, the Pacific region and all APO AP addresses

An ALO will help you throughout the admissions process. The majority of ALOs are Air Force officers, either Reserve, Air National Guard, retired or active duty, who are very knowledgeable about the Academy and the admissions process. They are qualified to assist you in all aspects of admissions and answer questions about the Academy's education and training. In addition, ALOs provide counseling for the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) commissioning program. They can also tell you what being an Air Force officer will be like after you graduate.

You must meet with your ALO or an Academy representative as part of the admissions process. During an interview with one of them, you may ask any questions you have about the Academy or AFROTC. This is your chance to personalize the selection process and communicate directly with the admissions panel members who review your folder.

You are encouraged to contact your ALO at your earliest opportunity.

Ask your guidance counselor for the ALO's name. If your guidance counselor does not know the ALO's name, please contact your Academy regional director at 1-800-443-8187 or visit www.academyadmissions.com.