

building the future

1955-1965

In August 1958 the Academy was ready for occupancy. After completing Basic Cadet Training at Lowry, the Class of 1962 was bussed to the north gate and marched five miles up the hill to the newly constructed cadet area. Less than a year later the Academy received academic accreditation, and then the first class graduated and was commissioned June 3, 1959.

One aspect that sets the Academy apart from the other military service academies is its airmanship programs, such as soaring (glider), powered flight and parachuting training. The airmanship programs endured many changes and implementations throughout the years. Now, more than 800 cadets complete the basic freefall parachuting course annually, and more than 550 cadets complete the basic soaring course annually. Soaring, powered flight and parachuting all have multiple upgrade courses and nationally recognized competition teams.

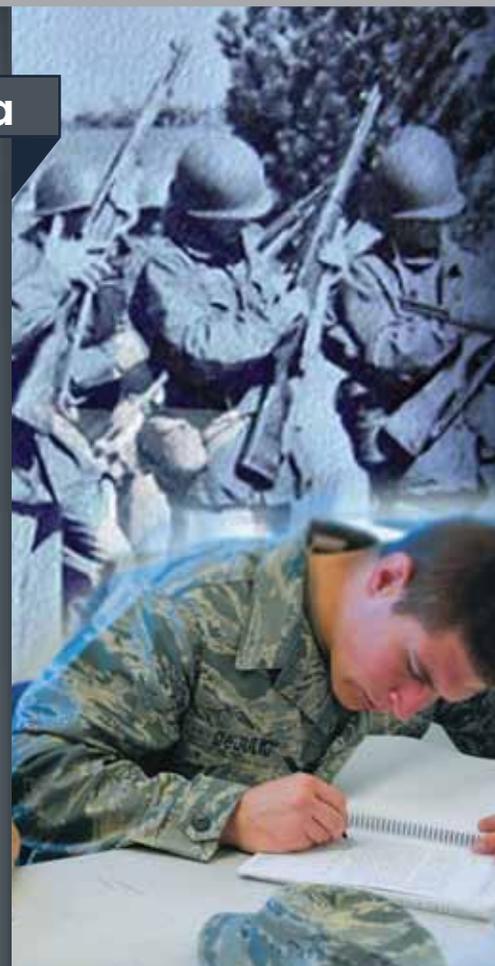
As the Cold War continued through the 1950s and into the 1960s, the nation's reliance on air power as the primary agent of deterrence highlighted the need for more Air Force officers. When the Air Force Academy was approved, cadet strength was set at 2,529, equal to that of West Point. The Naval Academy, however, had been authorized 4,417 midshipmen for many years. On March 3, 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signed Public Law 88-276, which authorized both the Air Force Academy and West Point to expand to the Naval Academy's strength. This increase required more facilities to accommodate the greater number of cadets.



usafa prep school

the future of usafa

The USAFA Preparatory School was officially established in 1961 about five miles from the cadet area. The Prep School was established for applicants who do not receive a direct appointment to the Academy. The Prep School is a 10-month program that prepares cadet candidates academically, athletically and militarily and is designed to develop skills and character necessary for success at the Academy.



setting the standard

1958-1965

On July 11, 1955, the same year construction for the Air Force Academy began, the first class of 306 men swore in at a temporary site at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado. Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon, a key figure in the development of the Academy was recalled from retirement to become the first superintendent.

The first class to enter the Academy chose the falcon as the mascot because it possessed characteristics which typify the U.S. Air Force: speed, graceful flight, courage, alertness and noble carriage. Several types of falcons, to include one white gyrfalcon, are housed at the Academy.

The first class also established the Honor Code, which states, "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does." The Honor Code is still a vital segment of cadet life and coincides with upholding the three core values of Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do.

In 1965, that year's military construction legislation authorized \$38 million for a new cadet dormitory; the expansion of Mitchell Hall, Arnold Hall, Fairchild Hall and the gymnasium; and the construction of a new field house and athletic fields. Construction began the following year and was formally completed with the dedication of the new Sijan Hall dormitory on May 31, 1976.



effects of vietnam

the cost of war

The Vietnam War was the first war in which Academy graduates fought and died. The first Academy graduate to die in combat was Capt. Valmore Bourque, Class of 1959. He was killed in action while flying as a C-123 aircraft commander on a combat mission northeast of Saigon. By strange coincidence, he was also the first cadet to take the Oath of Allegiance in the first entering class.

One hundred and forty-one graduates died in that conflict, and 32 graduates became prisoners of war. Capt. Lance P. Sijan, Class of 1965, fell into both categories. While on a bombing run November 9, 1967, his F-4 blew up, and he was severely injured. He managed to evade capture for 45 days despite suffering a fractured skull, mangled right hand and a compound fracture of his left leg. Once captured, he managed one more brief escape. He continued to resist the enemy despite numerous tortures and worsening health. He died a prisoner of war on January 22, 1968, and became the first Academy graduate to be awarded the Medal of Honor in March 1976. Sijan Hall was named in his memory.



integrating women

1976-1986

The most sweeping change since the Academy's formation was the admission of women in 1976. The change was officially brought about by Public Law 94-106, signed by President Gerald Ford October 7, 1975, although preparation had begun years before. Anticipating the requirement, Lt. Gen. Albert P. Clark had directed extensive study and planning for the incorporation of women before he retired in July 1974.

On June 28, 1976, 157 pioneering women joined the cadet wing. Thanks to then-Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. James R. Allen and his relentlessly optimistic leadership, the incorporation and transition was relatively smooth. Ninety-seven of the original female cadets completed the program and graduated May 28, 1980.



participation in space



The space shuttle program was formally launched on January 5, 1972, when President Nixon announced that NASA would proceed with the development of a reusable space shuttle system. Many Air Force Academy graduates have become astronauts, and graduates have participated in all aspects of space shuttle missions, from piloting shuttles to serving as payload and mission specialists.

Space has always been a part of the Academy curriculum. Since 1965, the school has offered a major in aeronautical engineering, one of the few accredited undergraduate astronautics programs in the nation. The physics department also offers a focus in space physics that deals with environmental problems in space. In addition, the Academy offers an interdisciplinary space operations major.

Col. Karol Bobko, Class of 1959, was the first graduate in space, piloting the space shuttle Challenger in April 1983. Maj. Susan J. Helms, Class of 1980, was the first female graduate to fly in space as a mission specialist aboard Endeavor in 1993. To date, 37 Air Force Academy graduates have become astronauts for NASA, producing the second highest number of astronauts next to the Naval Academy.



character & honor

1987-1999



Chad Hennings, 1987 Academy graduate, won multiple national awards during his football career at the Academy. Hennings went on to play in the National Football League with the Dallas Cowboys winning three Super Bowls. During Desert Storm he flew attack and support missions in the A-10 Thunderbolt.

Lt. Gen. Bradley C. Hosmer became the first Academy graduate to be named superintendent, serving from 1991-94. He was responsible for the creation of the Center for Character Development, which oversees and coordinates character training and education.

First Lt. Laura A. Piper, a 1992 Academy graduate, became the first female graduate to die in a combat zone and the first female graduate to receive the Purple Heart. Piper was killed April 14, 1994, when the helicopter in which she was a passenger was shot down in a friendly fire incident over northern Iraq.

Heather Wilson graduated from the Academy in 1982 as a distinguished graduate and then attended Oxford earning a Doctor of Philosophy in International Relations. In 1998, she became the first Academy graduate to become a member of Congress, serving as a Republican member of the U.S. House of Representatives representing New Mexico until 2009.



the tools to fight terror

2000-2010

All cadets begin their Academy and Air Force career with the 38-day Basic Cadet Training. The BCT program tests Cadet's mental and physical abilities and helps them transition from civilian to military life. This foundational leadership training helps develop alertness, physical endurance, emotional stability, self-reliance and individual initiative.

Preceding BCT, the Academy training schedule is built around two major training events, one conducted in the fall and one in the spring. The Commandants Challenge, conducted in the fall, tests the limits of the cadet wing both as individuals and as teams. Recognition, the major spring training event, represents the acceptance of the fourth-class cadets as upperclassmen. Following Recognition, the fourth-class cadets gain much more freedom and liberties. Each class is also certified to assume greater responsibility and leadership within the cadet wing.

The September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon changed the world and the Academy forever. The U.S. has been fighting in two wars since 2003, Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. The Academy lost two graduates when the Pentagon was hit, and since the military campaigns began, the Academy has lost several graduates while many others have sustained combat injuries.



looking to the future

conservation and innovation

In 2006, the Academy began a \$1 billion multi-year construction plan to update several areas of its 50-year-old infrastructure. The "Fix USAFA" initiative brings advances from the last 50 years into the facilities. Energy efficiency and sustainability are the foundation of the renovations. The 2008 Academy Energy Strategic Plan details a vision to improve our stewardship of fiscal and natural resources, by becoming a leader in the world of renewable energy. The vision is to be a "Net-Zero" electricity installation by 2015 and a carbon-neutral installation by 2025.

In 2009, one Academy grad became a nationwide hero when he safely landed a US Airways flight in the Hudson River, saving the lives of all 155 people on board. The aircraft had lost power in both engines due to bird strikes. The pilot, Chelsey "Sully" Sullenberger III, is a 1973 grad.

Some less familiar aircraft in the Air Force's inventory are the MQ-9 Reaper, RQ-1 Predator and RQ-4 Global Hawk. They aren't typical cargo aircraft or fighter jets, but are remotely piloted aircraft (RPA). Due to increased RPA use, the Academy brought RPAs into the airmanship curriculum graduating the first 24 cadets in February 2010.

The Air Force celebrates its 63rd birthday this year, while the Academy celebrates its 55th. Considering the lineage of the other service academies, this isn't very old. But the Academy remains the leader in developing air, space and, most recently, cyberspace officers for the number one Air Force in the world.



SAVE ENERGY



US AIR FORCE ACADEMY

FALCON GREEN



lieutenant general michael c. gould

Superintendent



Lieutenant Gen. Gould is a 1976 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in behavioral sciences. He earned a master's in human resource management in 1986 from Webster University. Gen. Gould completed Air Command and Staff College in 1989 and the National War College at Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington, D.C., in 1993. The general attended the Advanced Executive Program, Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., in 1998 and the National and International Security Management Course, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., in 2001. He has commanded an operations group, an air refueling wing, an air mobility wing and the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center. He has also commanded the 3rd Air Force, Royal Air

Force Mildenhall, England, and the 2nd Air Force, Keesler AFB, Miss. His operational and staff assignments include three tours at Headquarters U.S. Air Force, along with duty as an Air Force aide to the president and military assistant to the secretary of the Air Force. He served as the director of mobility forces for Operation Joint Endeavor and as USEUCOM's Air Expeditionary Task Force Commander for the deployment of African Union troops into the Darfur region of Sudan. The general is a command pilot with more than 3,000 hours in a variety of aircraft. Gen. Gould's decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Defense Superior Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. Gen. Gould became the 18th superintendent of the Air Force Academy on June 9th, 2009.

"The Air Force Academy is a challenging environment by design. Our mission is to educate, train and inspire men and women to become officers of character, motivated to lead the United States Air Force in service to our nation. This catalog describes many of the ways we accomplish that mission. Academics, athletics, professional military training and social activities play a big part. But the most important part of our program is the individual cadet's commitment to hard work, individual and team excellence, development of leadership skills, unquestioned integrity and unwavering character. The demands are tough, the rewards are many, and successful completion means becoming an officer in the world's most respected air, space and cyberspace force!"