

professional military education

Integrity First

Service Before Self

Excellence in All We Do



The purpose of the Air Force Academy is to produce air, space and cyberspace leaders of character with vision for tomorrow—officers who ascribe to our Core Values of integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do. To that end, we seek to ensure that each graduate enters the Air Force with a unique combination of education and experience—military, athletic, academic, ethical—designed to produce leaders of character who have special qualities. The experiences are largely intellectual and physical challenges. The challenges begin in Basic Cadet Training and continue across the next four years. Meeting those challenges requires dedication, character, sacrifice, stamina and courage.

brigadier general richard m. clark

Commandant of Cadets



Brigadier Gen. Clark graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1986. He is a command pilot with more than 4,200 flying hours primarily in the B-1 bomber. In 1994 Gen. Clark earned a master's in human resource development from Webster University in St. Louis, Mo., followed by a master's of strategic studies from the Naval Command and Staff College in Newport, R.I. in 1998, and a master's in airpower studies from the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala., in 1999. Gen. Clark also earned a master's in national security studies from the National War College, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C., in 2005. Gen. Clark has commanded the 34th Bomb Squadron, Ellsworth AFB S.D., and the 12th Flying Training Wing, Randolph AFB, Texas. Prior to becoming the 24th commandant at the United States Air Force Academy, he was assigned as vice commander, Eighth Air Force at Barksdale AFB, La. Gen. Clark's decorations include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster, Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Combat Action Medal. Gen. Clark assumed command of the cadet wing in July 2010.

“Our nation requires intelligent, assertive, well-rounded young men and women as leaders and defenders of freedom. The mission at the United States Air Force Academy is to inspire, educate and train men and women to become officers of character motivated to lead the United States Air Force in service to our nation. A cornerstone of cadet life at the Academy is the Cadet Wing Honor Code that states: ‘We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does.’ Rigorous military training, a stimulating academic curriculum and challenging athletics highlight the four-year Academy program. The Academy’s world-class military training and academic curriculum prepare graduates to meet the diversified and specific challenges of military service. From survival school to flying sailplanes, you’ll have opportunities to demonstrate ‘excellence in all we do’ while learning and growing physically, mentally and spiritually. It’s not easy to get into the Academy; it’s even tougher to make it through to graduation—but it’s more than worth every bit of the effort.”

the rigors of bct

Each of BCT's two phases—one in the cadet area, the other in Jacks Valley—makes its own demands and offers its own rewards. BCT will challenge you physically, mentally and emotionally. Few of your high school friends will ever face such tests. Your commitment to yourself, to those close to you, and ultimately, your nation, will be tested daily. You'll expand your limits and emerge with a deep sense of pride and confidence in your accomplishments and abilities. You'll begin to understand what sets the Academy apart from other colleges and universities.

bct in the cadet area

This phase focuses on the transition from civilian to military life. Upper-class cadets instruct you in military topics ranging from customs, courtesies, the Honor Code, Air Force heritage and marching to room inspection. You'll demonstrate your proficiency through knowledge tests, drill, rifle-manual competitions, parades and inspections. Your daily physical conditioning training includes strenuous exercises, running and competitive sports. All activities condition you to meet the physical demands of BCT in Jacks Valley and the academic school year.

field day

During Field Day, your squadron competes against other BCT squadrons in events such as distance races, log relays and the tug-of-war to test teamwork. Points earned, added to those awarded throughout BCT for marching, knowledge tests and performance in various other activities, determine the “honor squadron.”

bct in jacks valley

Following the military and physical preparation of BCT in the cadet area, training continues in Jacks Valley, a wooded area on the Academy grounds. Your stay in Jacks Valley will involve many activities, which will push you to your physical limits and build within you self-confidence and confidence in your classmates. You'll also become familiar with small-unit tactics and firearms. After a challenging and rewarding experience in Jacks Valley, BCT training concludes back in the cadet area.

acceptance parade

The end of BCT and transition into the academic year are marked by the Acceptance Parade. There you will receive your fourth-class shoulder boards to recognize completing BCT and to signify your acceptance into the cadet wing. In a ceremony associated with the parade, new fourth-class cadets culminate the intensive BCT core values, honor, ethics and human relations training by taking the Academy Honor Code Oath and pledging to live by its principles. It's the end of one test but the beginning of another—meeting the new and different challenges that each succeeding year at the Academy will bring.

meeting the challenge

The training you'll receive during your fourth-class year will serve as a foundation for your conduct throughout your time as a cadet and career as an officer. You, as a fourth-class cadet, are expected to enter the Academy armed with physical fitness, mental resolve, enthusiasm for competition and challenge, and an attitude positively directed toward success. Your training will be rigorous and well disciplined, designed to test and strengthen your motivation and capabilities.

Along with BCT, the fourth-class year will probably be more emotionally and physically demanding than anything you have done in your life. To succeed, you must accept the challenges that the Air Force Academy presents, realizing that the training you receive is directed toward making you an effective member of the Air Force. You must commit strongly to succeed at the Academy. Candidates who enter training because of pressure from peers or parents, with the attitude that they'll just “give it a try,” usually have great difficulties. More than 42,000 graduates have met the challenges of the fourth-class year and have succeeded. You too can join that group of winners and become a leader of character.

professional development

The four-year Cadet Military Education and Training Plan (CMETP) allows cadets of each class to take prescribed classes during commandant's time. The program prepares cadets to apply their knowledge and experience in an operational military environment using the Officer Development System (ODS) as the foundation.

The CMETP carefully integrates the Officer Development System, cadet roles and responsibilities with other Academy experiences to equip cadets with the attitude, knowledge and leadership skills necessary to excel as Air Force officers. The CMETP follows a developmental approach throughout the duration of a cadet's tenure at the Academy and consists of four distinct Commissioning Education Program (CEP) courses based on cadet year groups (classes). Course content addresses four core areas: profession of arms, leadership studies, military studies and communication studies. CEP is comprised of self-study material, graded written/briefing assignments, guided discussions and lectures, discussions on selected key topics for each class and graded military certification examinations/tests.

Fourth-Class Year

The fourth-class CEP provides you with an initial foundation of the Officer Development System and focuses on developing personal leadership and followership skills. The focus is on developing your appreciation for the qualities of a professional officer, while stressing individual professional values such as self-discipline, teamwork, duty and commitment. When you've completed the fourth-class year, you'll feel accomplished and self-confident. Moreover, you'll have the sense of responsibility, self-discipline and duty required of a third-class cadet.

Third-Class Summer

Going through Global Engagement as a third-class cadet, you will find out what it takes to support the aircraft you may someday fly. From contingency experienced officers and enlisted personnel, you will acquire skills in expandable, modular tent setup, contingency utilities, passive defense, force protection, security force individual and team movement, mortuary affairs, contingency food service and much more. We'll explain concepts and you will receive personal experience as part of an Air Expeditionary Force deployment, employment and redeployment.

Some of the most exciting experiences of the third-class summer involve flying, as you will read later in the aviation part of military education.

Third-Class Year

The third class CEP concentrates on the transition from a follower to a leader. As a third-class cadet, your main goal is to become an effective military role model or coach for the fourth-class cadets as you learn and apply effective teaching, training and ultimately mentoring skill. The third-class cadet program prepares you for increased levels of responsibility, helps you internalize standards essential for success (both at the Academy and in the operational Air Force), and equips you with training and skills required of leaders. You'll receive extensive experience using the Academy Training Philosophy to include establishing expectations, providing skills, exchanging feedback, and ensuring the professional growth of your subordinates.

Second-Class Summer

During your third summer at the Academy, you'll apply your leadership skills and increase your knowledge of the rest of the operational Air Force. You'll practice leadership principles while serving as cadre members in BCT, Global Engagement (GE), or as instructors in parachuting, soaring or navigation. You'll have the chance to practice your leadership style while directly contributing to the professional growth of other cadets. You will visit and interact with members of an operational unit during Operation Air Force, a three-week program during which you'll experience firsthand the mission and lifestyle of Air Force Airmen, noncommissioned officers (NCOs), and company grade officers. Cadets are sent all over the world to operational Air Force bases. Operation Air Force is one of the most rewarding experiences cadets receive during their four-year education.

Second-Class Year

The second-class CEP will prepare you for your responsibilities as the primary trainers of third- and fourth-class cadets. You'll receive instruction in practical leadership and supervisory skills as you serve in senior NCO positions within your squadron chain of command. You will be a technical expert in drill and ceremonies, personal appearance and room inspections, and you will train the third- and fourth-class cadets. In addition, you'll be taught specific leadership and organizational improvement skills needed by junior officers and examine how to apply these skills correctly when you run the cadet wing as a first-class cadet.

First-Class Summer

As first-class cadets, you and your classmates will take the reins of command as the cadet wing leadership. The positions of responsibility you will hold and your leadership skills will contribute to the success of the Academy's military training programs during your final summer at the Academy. BCT, GE, aviation and airmanship programs will all rely upon you for meaningful training and learning. This is your chance to put the finishing touches on your leadership style and skills as you prepare to be commissioned a second lieutenant.

First-Class Year

As a first-class cadet, you'll serve as a cadet officer in leadership positions throughout the cadet wing. You'll practice your leadership skills by leading and supervising the professional development of the lower three cadet classes. Your leadership experiences will be invaluable when assuming the responsibilities of a second lieutenant. The first-class CEP is designed to prepare you for commissioning as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force. Thus, you'll learn basic, "need-to-know" information for prospective officers.

cadet commanders' leadership enrichment seminar

Military training at the Air Force Academy also includes specific leadership enrichment experiences for cadet commanders. From wing commander through squadron flight commander, cadet leaders must face the challenges that come with having the success of 4,400 members of the cadet wing in their hands, but you don't face this challenge alone. To help you succeed in your first real tests of command, the Academy conducts seminars on teamwork, communication, problem solving, delegation of authority, setting standards, wing goals and conflict resolution. These seminars are very popular among cadets and have proven to be highly successful in helping develop the leadership skills of our future Air Force leaders.

the chain of command

Integral to all aspects of military education is how cadets live and work in their daily activities. The cadet wing is organized into a military chain of command to mirror the organization of the rest of the Air Force. First-class cadet commanders and their cadet staffs command 40 squadrons of approximately 110 cadets each. Those commanders in turn report to four cadet group commanders who are led by the cadet wing commander, the cadet in charge of the entire cadet wing. Supervising these cadets are Air Officer Commanding (AOC), located in each squadron and group. These Air Force officers oversee all cadet activities, provide instruction, and serve as role models as the cadets experience firsthand the processes of command and organization to accomplish the mission. The Academy Military Training Noncommissioned Officer (AMT NCO) complements the AOC and provides an enlisted role model perspective. Across the wide spectrum of cadet activities, from meals in Mitchell Hall, to the intramural athletic fields, to living arrangements within the dorms, the organizational focus is on the squadron.

aviation and airmanship programs

A very large part of the commandant of cadets' military education program involves flying. Some of the most enjoyable training you will receive is in aviation and airmanship courses offered throughout your four years at the Academy. As early as BCT, you'll be exposed to air power via multiple flyovers of America's top-line aircraft. In addition, every cadet will have the opportunity to fly an orientation flight in a sailplane. After BCT, your training continues with instruction in the concepts of flight, navigation and operations.

Approximately 50 percent of cadets are enrolled in a soaring course during their third-class year. This is where you'll pilot a sailplane and have the chance to solo. You'll also have the opportunity to take an elective course in freefall parachuting, complete five freefall parachute jumps and receive your basic military jump wings. You'll even have the chance to become an instructor in various aviation and airmanship programs. Cadets who desire may take the powered flight course during their first-class year, in which they learn to fly and solo a propeller driven aircraft. Altogether, aviation and airmanship courses will familiarize you with important activities in the Air Force and will possibly introduce you to a satisfying career in aviation.

Aviation

During the fourth-class year, you'll have an opportunity to participate in a voluntary aviation program called "Project Fledgling" that includes a classroom introduction to basic aviation principles, as well as "flying time" in T-6 simulators. Elective aviation courses provide firsthand flight experience while furthering your knowledge and understanding of the flight environment. They teach flight concepts, basic and advanced aviation, and instrument principles and procedures. The aviation courses offered are varied, ranging from a course on Air Force combat operations to courses designed to prepare graduates to excel at Undergraduate Flight Training (UFT). Additionally, selected cadets are offered an opportunity to serve as cadet aviation instructors, where they gain invaluable leadership experience both in the air and on the ground.

Airmanship Soaring Programs

Half of all third-class cadets receive instruction in flying a two-seat sailplane. Air Force pilots supervise the soaring program, but cadet instructor pilots provide most ground and flight instruction. After completing the basic soaring course, you may apply for enrollment in an advanced course that trains cadets to become soaring flight instructors. In this and other advanced courses, you can experience many aspects of soaring flight.

Parachuting

Cadet volunteers who meet stringent physical requirements may enroll in the parachute program. Completing five freefall jumps earns you the Air Force parachutist badge. Selected cadets from the basic parachuting course may enroll in the parachute instructor course. Graduates of this course instruct others in the basic parachuting course and participate in advanced parachuting activities, to include demonstrations for the “Wings of Blue” Parachute Team.

Powered Flight Program (PFP)

Cadets who are interested have the opportunity to participate in the Academy’s Powered Flight Program. Using T-52s, a military version of the civilian DA-40, military instructors will introduce you to concepts of powered flight. Based on proficiency, approximately 50 per cent of these students will solo. The training includes ground and flight instruction under an AETC flying syllabus.

Extracurricular Flying

The Academy has an Aero Club where you can learn to fly club-owned aircraft during your free time. You may also join the Cadet Aviation Club. Members of this club are interested in general aviation and meet regularly to discuss and organize various club activities. As a member of the Aero Club or the Aviation Club, you receive discounts and privileges on certain aviation activities, including the chance to earn FAA ratings.

Intercollegiate Competition

Cadets at the Academy who demonstrate high levels of ability in airmanship programs can compete at the intercollegiate level. Cadet soaring instructors compete in regional and national cross-country soaring and aerobatic events as members of the Cross-Country Soaring Team and the Aerobatic Demonstration Team. Cadet members of the Wings of Blue parachuting team compete in events throughout the country, culminating at the College National Parachuting Championships. Cadets on the Academy Flying Team also compete in regional and national level events. All of the teams are nationally recognized and perennially earn top honors. These teams also conduct demonstrations at public events at the Academy and throughout the nation.

AIRMANSHIP (Armshp)

Offered by the 306th Flying Training Group (306 FTG).

Armshp 201. Advanced Fundamentals of Air Force Unmanned Aviation and ISR. (Summer Airmanship-200 prerequisite) A cadre of 48 cadets, selected from Airmanship 200, will progress to this UAS/ISR mission planning and execution course. The course combines flight and simulator operations and laboratory work to teach advanced UAS operations, sensor systems operation, ISR search concepts, sensor control and target recognition, split operations, command and control, ground force immediate re-tasking, and hands on flight operations, including launch, recovery and hand-off for mission execution. This course integrates UAS flight operations, ISR techniques and capabilities, and C2 laboratory experiential learning. Cadets also participate in AOC and ground SOF duties. Each crew obtains four instructional flights and one comprehensive mission evaluation with each flight lasting approximately 40 minutes. Each crew obtains two mission-oriented practice simulator flights and a mission-oriented simulator check.

Armshp 202. Advanced Unmanned Aircraft Systems Education. (Airmanship 201 prerequisite) for 48 cadets per year. Course builds upon previous UAS/ISR experiences, completing cadet airmanship experiential immersion. This course prepares cadets to be instructor pilots for future classes. Each cadet is required to obtain at least four instructional flights and pass an instructor qualification evaluation as well as Emergency Procedures Simulator evaluation. Each crew obtains five instructional flights and one comprehensive evaluation with each flight lasting approximately 40 minutes. Each cadet receives two Emergency Procedure practice rides along with an EP evaluation.

Armshp 251. Basic Soaring. Ground school, sailplane flight training supporting the Academy’s Officer Development System outcomes helping motivate students toward a career in the Air Force. Offered in the summer and both semesters during the academic year. Completion during summer fills one military training requirement.

Armshp 420. Powered Flight Program. Ground and flight training in the T-52, supporting the Academy’s Officer Development System, motivating students toward careers in aviation. Taught by rated Air Force officers, this capstone course is offered year-round to first-class cadets and on a limited space available basis to second-class cadets, and includes up to 10 flights, culminating in solo flight for those showing proficiency.

Armnsbp 450. Airplane Rating, Private. Dual and solo flight training to complete the requirements for an FAA Private Pilot Certificate. This training is conducted at the Academy Aero Club at student expense (some subsidy is available from the Aviation Club). No formal course enrollment.

Armnsbp 460. Airplane Rating, Commercial. Dual and solo flight training to complete the requirements for an FAA Commercial Pilot Certificate. This training is conducted at the Academy Aero Club at student expense (some subsidy is available from the Aviation Club). No formal course enrollment.

Armnsbp 461. Cadet Soaring Instructor Upgrade. Current ground school instruction taught by 94 FTS officer personnel consists of 19 classroom hours. Lessons follow a sequential path for becoming a student instructor, starting with the basics of the airplane and finishing with fundamentals of instruction and instructor techniques. The flying portion includes approximately 80 sailplane sorties and 24 flight hours.

Armnsbp 465. Precision Flight Training - Academy Flying Team. Selected cadets receive training in precision landings, cross-country navigation, aircraft preflight, instrument flying, message drop, aircraft identification, Federal Aviation Regulations, Aeronautical Information Manual and Academy flying regulations. Qualified students may participate in national and international flying competitions. During the first summer following their selection for the competitive team, students spend the third summer period qualifying in the team's aircraft, the T-51. During the fall and spring semesters, the Flying Team is considered a mission essential activity. Armnsbp 465X indicates Precision Flying Team tryouts.

Armnsbp 470. Airplane Rating, Instrument. Dual flight instruction to complete the requirements for an FAA Instrument Pilot Rating. Training is conducted at the Academy Aero Club at student expense (some subsidy is available from the Aviation Club). No formal course enrollment.

Armnsbp 472. Soaring Instructor. Selected students serve as instructors in Airmanship 251. Completion during summer fulfills a military training leadership option.

Armnsbp 473. Cadet Soaring Instructor Duty. Selected students serve as instructors in Airmanship 461.

Armnsbp 474. Sailplane Racing Team. Ground school includes regulations, planning, weather, thermalling techniques, competition rules and equipment use. Flight training includes precision on and off field landings, thermalling techniques, and dual/solo cross-country and competition sorties. Training is conducted at a deployed location during summer prep week and the first part of graduation week. Qualified students may be selected to travel to regional and national cross-country soaring competitions. Rising second-class team members are scheduled for two summer periods of AM 474 plus Operation Air Force. Rising first-class team members are scheduled for three summer periods of AM 474.

Armnsbp 475. Glider Aerobatic Competition/Demonstration Team. Ground and flight instruction includes spins, aerobatic maneuvers, precision flying techniques and competition rules towards attaining Academy Cadet Spin Instructor Pilot IP and Demonstration Pilot ratings. Training is conducted at a deployed location during one summer period. Qualified students may be selected to travel to regional and national aerobatic competitions, air shows and participate in home football game aerial demonstrations as part of the Academy's Glider Demonstration Team. Rising second-class team members will be scheduled for two summer periods of AM 475 plus Operation Air Force. Rising first-class team members will be scheduled for two summer periods of AM 475.

Armnsbp 480. Airplane Rating, Flight Instructor. Dual flight training to complete the requirements for an FAA Flight instructor, Airplane Rating. Training conducted at the Academy Aero Club at the student expense (some subsidy is available from the Aviation Club). No formal course enrollment.

Armnsbp 490. Basic Parachuting. Instruction in basic free fall parachuting and familiarization with emergency parachuting as it pertains to future Air Force careers. Successful completion results in award of basic parachutist rating and badge. Completion during summer fills one military training requirement.

Armnsbp 491. Advanced Parachute Training. Ground and aerial training allows students to progress from initial free fall qualification to advanced free fall techniques, controlled body maneuvers and precision landings. Introduction to instructional techniques, jumpmaster procedures, competitive parachuting. Students upgrading to cadet parachuting instructor duty are not eligible to enroll in any other Academy aviation or airmanship course during the same semester as Armnsbp 491.

Armshp 492. Jumpmaster/Instructor Training. Introduces selected students to jumpmaster procedures and instructional concepts. Course follows a sequential path for becoming a student instructor/jumpmaster. Progression affords students advanced instruction in concepts and procedures required of Academy jumpmasters and parachuting instructors. Participation in a spring deployment is mandatory. Students upgrading to cadet parachuting instructor duty are not eligible to take any other aviation or airmanship courses during the same semester they are enrolled in AM 492. Students must successfully complete a qualification check ride and a final written exam with a minimum of 85 percent to pass.

Armshp 496. Parachuting Instructor. Selected students wishing to serve as instructors and jumpmasters for AM 490 and upgrade courses. Students participate in competitive parachuting events and parachute demonstrations throughout the U.S. (Students performing cadet parachuting instructor duty are not eligible to train as instructors in any other Academy aviation or airmanship courses.) Completion during summer fulfills a military training leadership requirement.

SPACE (Space Power Application, Capabilities and Employment)
Offered by the Commandant of Cadets.

Space 215. SPACE Student. Introduces Air Force Space Power Application, Capabilities and Employment. Students explore current Air Force space mission areas during this 10-day course. Includes hands-on experience with selected operational space capabilities. Successful completion fulfills one requirement for award of the Cadet Basic Space Badge and one military training requirement.

Space 350. Satellite Ground Station Certification. Required to complete certification in the Academy's satellite command and control. Conducted in the Space System Research Center (SSRC) at the Academy. Current ground station instruction consists of 18 classroom hours. Lessons follow a sequential path for becoming a qualified FalconSAT Operator, starting with the basics of the FalconSAT series of satellites and finishing with a check ride. The on-console portion includes approximately 24 scenarios. Successful completion results in the award of the Cadet Senior Space Badge.

Space 461. SPACE Operations Instructor/Evaluator Upgrade. Following Space 350, select students may continue to become SPACE instructors. Selection depends on standing in Space 350. Space Operations Instructor/Evaluator Upgrade is offered in the spring semester and is a prerequisite to Space 472 and Space 473. Course concludes with a qualification check ride evaluation. Successful completion results in the award of the Cadet Command Space Badge.

Space 472. SPACE Instructor. Selected students serve as instructors for Space 251. Completion fulfills a military training leadership option.

Space 473. SPACE Operations Instructor Duty. Selected students serve as instructors in Space 350 and Space 461 training the next generation of space instructors. Completion fulfills a military training leadership option.

MILITARY TRAINING (Mil Tng)
Offered by Training Support Directorate (CWT).

Mil Tng 100. Basic Cadet Training (BCT). A five and one-half week transition period from civilian to military life. Indoctrination in the overall Academy program, cadet regulations, the Honor Code, manual of arms, drill, customs and courtesies, introduction to basic Air Force weapons, a field encampment and other general military subjects. Course is a graduation requirement.

Mil Tng 101. Operation Air Force Program (OpsAF Non-Comm). Three-week program conducted at Air Force installations worldwide. Students learn the roles, responsibilities and expectations of enlisted personnel. Cadets gain an enlisted perspective.

Mil Tng 201. Operation Air Force Program (OpsAF-3Lt). Three-week program conducted at Air Force installations worldwide. Students learn the roles, responsibilities and expectations of second lieutenants and also gain an understanding of the Air Force organization and a broad officer perspective in both support and operational squadrons. This course is a graduation requirement. AETC leadership and Civil Engineering—Field Engineering Research Laboratory (CE-FERL) are substitute courses that fulfill the graduation requirement.

Mil Tng 202. Operation Air Force Staff. Selected students assist the Operation Air Force CICs with managing all aspects of the Operation Air Force program including: administrative support, transportation arrangements, dormitory management, cadet accountability and base program manager coordination. Course is only for prior enlisted students who do not require or will not benefit from Mil Tng 101.

Mil Tng 233/234/235/236. Admin Squadron. Students in temporary hold for either the Physical Education Review Committee (PERC) (Mil Tng 234), the Academic Review Committee (ARC) (Mil Tng 235), the Military Review Committee (MRC) (Mil Tng 236), or for some other purpose (Mil Tng 233).

Mil Tng 260. Global Engagement (GE). Third-class cadets deploy into a pre-existing, bare-base location and are exposed to the challenges they will face as they join the Expeditionary Aerospace Forces (EAF) of the 21st century. The 10-day program includes EAF academics; five days of pre-deployment training including DoD certified training that can be transferred to the first active-duty assignment (Chemical Warfare Training and Terrorism/Anti-Terrorism); five days deployment to Jacks Valley bare-base location; and reconstitution. Course is a graduation requirement.

Mil Tng 261. Global Engagement (International Students) (GE). Program conducted by the international student's home country. Course substitutes for Mil Tng 260 for international students.

Mil Tng 300. Operation Air Force Program (International Students). Three-week program conducted by the international student's home country.

Mil Tng 301. Operation Air Force Program. (OpsAF-Brevet Lt) Three-week program conducted at Air Force installations worldwide. Students learn the roles, responsibilities and expectations of company grade officers in an Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) focused program, gain understanding of Air Force organizations, and have efforts focused on learning what specific AFSC duty entails. OpsAF-Brevet Lt Deployed exposes selected students to AEF concepts through deployment to a Combatant Command's Area of Responsibility (AOR). This exposure is anywhere from three to six weeks in duration. Each student will understand the expeditionary wing contribution to the combatant commander's mission and will be indoctrinated into the mobility readiness and deployment line process. Select Cadet Summer Research Program (CSR) activities are substitute courses that fulfill the Mil Tng 301 OpsAF requirement.

Mil Tng 302. Navy Programs. First- and second-class cadets volunteer for various Navy training courses. Specific courses vary from summer to summer. Programs are two to three weeks long.

Mil Tng 303. Army Airborne. First- and second-class cadets volunteer for Army Airborne training courses. Training conducted at an army location by U.S. Army personnel.

Mil Tng 304. Army Air Assault. First- and second-class cadets volunteer for Army (Air Assault) training courses. Training conducted at an army location. Program is two weeks long.

Mil Tng 305. Marine Bulldog. First- and second-class cadets volunteer for Marine training. The program is two to three weeks long. Program is a prerequisite to cross commissioning to the Marine Corps.

Mil Tng 307. BSA Philmont Ranger. Positions at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico, as rangers or instructors in the staff camp areas.

Mil Tng 309. Prep School BCT Cadre. Students serve as cadre for Academy Prep School basic training.

Mil Tng 313. Air Force Special Tactics Orientation. Introduces students to Special Tactics history, missions and career field specific skills. Students are required to participate in a rigorous physical fitness program that introduces them to physical exercises that are conducted during the pipeline. Course includes the following events: running, swimming, calisthenics, weight training, sports nutrition, sports medicine and combat control related skills.

Mil Tng 315. Training Wing Operations Center (TWOC). Staff is responsible for manning the center 24 hours a day. Duties include maintaining wing locator information, emergency procedures notification and information dissemination.

Mil Tng 332. Summer Seminar. Students serve as counselors and escorts for approximately 700 high school seniors from all 50 states. During the three one-week sessions, the high school students are housed in Vandenberg Hall, attend specific workshops, tour the Academy and surrounding areas, participate in recreational sports, and attend various evening programs. Qualified students help with some of the workshops.

Mil Tng 351. Civil Engineering Field Engineering and Readiness Laboratory (FERL) Leadership. First-class civil engineering or environmental engineering students selected by their departments serve as squadron commander, chief of operations, flight commanders, and logistics officers for Civ Engr 351. Students lead second-class students through hands-on engineering/construction activities, a variety of team building activities and field trips. Flight commanders deploy with students to active-duty Air Force installations on Operation Civil Engineering Air Force (OpsCEAF). Logistics officers and leadership cadre prepare site and activities at the Field Engineering and Readiness Laboratory (FERL) for Civ Engr 351.

Mil Tng 352. SAME/USafa Engineering and Construction Camp Cadre (CE-SAME). First-class civil engineering or environmental engineering students selected by their departments serve as flight commanders for high school students during the second summer period at the Field Engineering and Readiness Laboratory (FERL) complex in Jacks Valley. Cadets lead students through a variety of team building activities/competitions, hands-on engineering/construction activities and field trips. Cadets prepare site and activities prior to camp while leading and mentoring their students during the camp.

Mil Tng 360. Global Engagement Cadre. Selected cadets serve as leadership for students enrolled in GE, managing all aspects of the GE program to include: security forces, services, civil engineering, administrative support, transportation arrangements, dormitory management, cadet accountability and base program manager coordination.

Mil Tng 400/402. Basic Cadet Training (BCT) Cadre. Leadership positions as instructors, officers or NCOs in the cadet chain of command during BCT. Some areas include: Combat Arms Training, Obstacle Course, Assault Course, Confidence Course, Self-Aid/Buddy Care, Leadership Reaction Course and Ground Combat Familiarization Course. Mil Tng 400 refers to first BCT during second summer period. Mil Tng 402 refers to second BCT during third summer period.

Mil Tng 401. Operation Air Force Cadet-in-Charge. Selected students assist the Operation Air Force Program Manager with managing all aspects of the Operations Air Force program to include: administrative support, transportation arrangements, dormitory management, cadet accountability and base program manager coordination.

Mil Tng 403. Basic Cadet Training Group Staff. Cadet officer and NCO group leadership positions maintaining command, control and accountability for Basic Cadet Training.

Mil Tng 404. Aviation Group. Career broadening cadet officer and NCO leadership positions maintaining command, control, accountability, and providing billeting for all students involved in summer aviation courses.

Mil Tng 405. Basic Cadet Training Preparation. Cadets assigned to prepare facilities and resources for Basic Cadet Training.

Mil Tng 407. Mission Support Group. Cadet officer and NCO leadership positions maintaining command, control and accountability. Provide billeting for all cadets taking summer academic courses, Summer Seminar, Sports Camp and transient cadets using cadet area facilities.

Mil Tng 408. Sports Camp. Career broadening. First-class cadets accepted by the Athletic Department program manager to work sports camps during the first summer period.

Mil Tng 411. AETC Leadership. Leadership positions with a Basic Military Training squadron at Lackland AFB, Texas, as assistants to Military Training Instructors and as basic Airmen training instructors and counselors. Meets the requirements for a military training leadership program and for Operation Air Force. Students cannot be scheduled for Operation Air Force after completing AETC Leadership.

Mil Tng 412. Falconry. Train recently hatched falcons for upcoming football season performances, train falcons on hand, public relations work, and assist in renovations/repairs of mews and equipment. Only student falconers are eligible.

Mil Tng 418. Cadet Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). Students perform as EMTs to fulfill summer program requirements for medical first responders.

Mil Tng 435. Cadet Wing Leadership. Selected students perform in cadet wing command functions managing all aspects of the cadet wing to include: wing commander, deputy commander, superintendent, director of operations and leadership staff.

Mil Tng 439. Summer Research. First-class cadets spend 38 days at a government research facility working on a project, usually in their major's area. Summer research participants will be scheduled for a third period leadership program. Students must be selected by their major's department for this program.

Mil Tng 441. Cadet Summer Language Immersion Program (CSLIP). Intensive foreign language and cultural study program at an accredited foreign university or language institute. The Academy currently sends eligible students to immersion programs in China, France, Germany, Japan, Latin America, Middle East, Russia and Spain. All third- or second-class foreign language students are eligible to apply for the program, but preference is given to Arabic, Chinese and Russian students. Program runs for four weeks, from graduation week through the end of the first summer period; participation is in lieu of leave. Participation in CSLIP provides across-the-board significant improvement in language skills and cultural understanding, as well as the ability to function with confidence in international/foreign environments.

Mil Tng 442. Olmsted Foundation Language and Cultural Immersion Program. Provides unique cultural and language learning opportunities for Academy faculty, staff and students to develop and submit their own proposals to study specific international issues, cultures, histories and languages in a variety of foreign countries around the world. Like CSLIP, preference is given to proposals to travel to China, Middle East/Africa and Russia; each proposal must have a strong foreign culture and foreign language component as its primary focus. Approximately 7 to 10 proposals are approved from over 25 submitted each year; most travel takes place during graduation week through the end of the first summer period. This program is in lieu of leave.

Mil Tng 444. Summer Leave. No Military Training credit.

Mil Tng 446. Special Leave. First-, second- and third-class students requiring leave at a certain time during the summer. Examples include: third-class football players and students requiring leave for weddings or other special occasions.

Mil Tng 447. Medical Leave. First-, second- and third-class students requiring leave at a certain time for scheduled medical operations or when sent home on recuperative leave.

Mil Tng 451. Honor Staff. First- and second-class students who teach honor lessons to basic cadets and process honor cases during the summer.

Mil Tng 452. Media Staff. First- and second-class students selected for cadet-in-charge (CIC) duty for media.

Mil Tng 492. Military Strategic Studies Application Laboratories. Cadet air and space instructors use a number of educational laboratories such as available aircraft, Air Warfare Laboratory simulators, aviation flight training devices and the Space Education Laboratory. Students interact with visiting dignitaries such as congressional delegations, high school and university counselors and general officers. In addition, they host the air and space application portions of Summer Seminar, conduct integrated field studies, teen aviation camp, space camp and ROTC summer visitations.

Mil Tng 499. Internship. First-class cadets working special research/internships at various temporary duty locations or on the Academy. These are individual programs structured for each student enrolled. The program may be scheduled for any one of the three summer periods. Internships may be longer than three weeks. Examples are the Georgetown and Washington internship programs.

CADET MILITARY TRAINING (CEP)

Offered by the Commandant of Cadets.

PDP 100/101. Fourth-Class Cadet Commissioning Education Program (CEP). The fall semester focuses on the development of personal leadership competencies, such as mastering primary duties, building personal awareness, honing followership skills, adopting core values and leading their peers by example. Spring semester fourth-class CEP introduces interpersonal leadership competencies they will use and develop during their third-class year.

PDP 200/201. Third-Class Cadet Commissioning Education Program (CEP). Fall semester focuses on the further development of interpersonal leadership competencies, such as coaching others, teambuilding, a broader appreciation of Air Force culture and doctrine, effective communication and problem solving skills. Third-class CEP in the spring semester introduces students to team leadership competencies they will use and further develop during their second-class year.

PDP 300/301. Second-Class Cadet Commissioning Education Program (CEP). Fall semester builds on the skills developed in the previous two years and exposes students to principles of leadership and management of larger groups, such as applying team dynamics, integrating individual skills in support of a task, decision making skills, focusing on organizational goals, and broadening one's mentoring role. CEP in the spring semester introduces cadets to organizational leadership competencies they will use and develop during their first-class year.

PDP 400/401. First-Class Cadet Commissioning Education Program (CEP). Fall semester continues to build on the skills developed in the previous three years and points students towards organizational leadership competencies, such as influencing element, flight, squadron and wing policy; integrating the efforts of small units toward broader objectives; and developing the talents of others. Spring semester CEP introduces operational Air Force concepts, personnel systems and programs, base services and principles essential to the successful transition from cadet to Air Force officer.

center for character development



“To educate a person in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.”

-T. Roosevelt

“There is no more noble and important mission than the one we have here...we are responsible for developing future leaders. This Academy exists for one reason – to develop cadets into leaders of character.”

-Lt Gen Michael C. Gould
Superintendent

“At our Air Force Academy, we are in the business of producing leaders of character. We must not fail in this regard, for our nation and our Air Force depend on leaders of character to prosecute the most serious business of all...war.”

-Brig Gen Samuel Cox
Commandant of Cadets

The Air Force Academy defines character as: “One’s moral compass, the sum of those qualities of moral excellence which compel a person to do the right thing despite pressure or temptations to the contrary.” It defines leadership as: “The process of influencing people and being responsible for the care of followers while accomplishing a common mission.”

The Center for Character & Leadership Development’s mission is to advance the understanding, practice, and integration of character and leadership development in preparation for service to the nation in the profession of arms.

The center offers programs for both cadets and staff. Staff programs are aimed at creating an overall climate of character-based education throughout all aspects of Academy life. Cadet character and leadership education follows a developmental plan, which provides fundamental knowledge early in the cadet career, followed with a variety of developmental experiences to help cadets internalize the motivation for personal character and leadership development.

The Center for Character & Leadership Development is organized into four divisions:

- Honor Division
- Character and Leadership Education Division
- Capstone Events Division
- Scholarship Division

The Honor Division guides the Cadet Honor Committee in administering the Cadet Honor Code. Administration of the code involves adjudicating possible violations and recommending appropriate sanctions. The Honor Committee is composed of first- and second-class cadets elected from each squadron. They form the honor instructor cadre and are responsible for guiding cadets through the system should they be charged with violating the code. Active-duty personnel in the Honor Division oversee this process and ensure the commandant or the superintendent is provided complete case files. Although the presumptive sanction for a Wing Honor Board violation is disenrollment, the commandant may sanction probation for a designated period on a case-by-case basis. Factors considered in sanctioning are the cadet’s experience under the code, nature of the violation, forthrightness, and whether the cadet admitted or denied the violation.

The bedrock of moral and character education begins with a solid understanding and internalization of the Cadet Honor Code. Instruction on the code, system processing and the honor probation program begin during BCT and continue throughout a cadet’s four years at the Academy. In the first two years, instruction focuses on understanding and living under the code, and in the final two years, emphasis is placed on cadets living an honorable life, while helping others to do the same.

The Character and Leadership Education Division conducts multiple character and leadership seminars, oversees core values education, and operates an adventure-based learning (ABL) ropes course. Beginning in basic training and continuing until the last semester at the Academy, these programs encourage character and leadership development throughout the cadet experience and across Academy mission elements. The division’s programs provide hundreds of opportunities for Academy-wide involvement and integration, when volunteer Academy staff and friends mentor cadets and facilitate at character and leadership seminars.

Core Values Education

The Air Force Core Values are the immovable and universal landmarks by which all Air Force members must live. Core Values Education (CVE) gives new basic cadets their first introduction to these values. Beginning on their fourth day of training, basic cadets receive six hours of CVE during four interactive and multimedia sessions with their flights. They receive an introduction as well as detailed lessons on each of the Air Force Core Values: Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do.

While we expect all new recruits to already possess these values to some degree, CVE provides standard interpretations and applications of these values. Furthermore, CVE emphasizes that because the military is entrusted with far greater responsibility than is found in the civilian world, it must be held to a higher standard.

VECTOR

Fourth-class cadets attend the 7.5-hour VECTOR (Vital Effective Character Through Observation and Reflection) seminar during the fall semester. This interactive seminar provides several opportunities for self-reflection and for taking inventory of personal leadership skills. Cadets examine their values, vision, purpose, and influence as they look forward to their Academy journey and to their military careers. Through various media presentations and facilitated roundtable discussions, VECTOR illustrates to the fourth-class cadets the importance of establishing a strong foundation of vision, values and purpose and understanding the power of their personal leadership and influence.

R&R

Fourth-class cadets also complete the 7.5-hour R&R (Respect and Responsibility) seminar during the spring semester. This seminar aims to help cadets discover valuable information about themselves and others and the interpersonal interactions that foster a healthy command environment. Students participate in several self-assessment and interpersonal leadership exercises, focused on human relations and diversity issues. The goals of the R&R seminar are for participants to acknowledge differences and similarities in their own and others' leadership behaviors; appreciate the impact of respect, cooperation and trust on leadership effectiveness; develop skills that foster and encourage open and honest communication; and to challenge views and biases that undermine a positive and productive work environment.

ROPES

Third-class cadets attend a 7.5-hour experiential learning seminar entitled ROPES (Responsible Officership Performance Enhancement Seminar), which takes place at the Academy's ABL (adventure-based learning) course. ROPES consists of several low course events that demonstrate the challenging dynamics of team and interpersonal leadership. Respect and moral courage are modeled and tested as cadets solve problems and accomplish the low team exercises. Later, high challenge events enable cadets to build on the day's earlier discussions and to demonstrate team support, physical courage and respect for teammates' various capabilities as they negotiate the obstacles.

LIFT

Second-class cadets attend the 7.5-hour LIFT (Leaders In Flight Today) seminar. Building upon the previous character development programs, LIFT examines team dynamics and servant leadership. As they prepare to lead the wing, second-class cadets at LIFT focus on leading and participating in high performance teams. The seminar's activities and presentations encourage cadets to examine their own empathy, humility, accountability and investment in team members. A culminating exercise jumpstarts the journey, as the cadets are energized to field test the seminar's major insights within their squadrons starting TODAY. The cadets' follow-up and follow-through on the LIFT concepts reflects, in part, leaders of character committed to high performance teams.

ACES

The cadets' character and leadership development journey culminates in the firstie program, ACES (Academy Character Enrichment Seminar). The 7.5-hour ACES offsite seminar focuses on the ethical demands placed on Air Force officers. During a roundtable rotation, facilitator mentors also share their experiences and the ethical challenges they have encountered. Additionally, the ACES seminar advances the notion that a good leader is not only one who is effective, but is also one who possesses good moral character. ACES helps the first-class cadets examine their roles in character development, in leadership, and in setting the example for their subordinates in the cadet wing and in their future military organizations.

The end goal is to inspire and excite cadets about their future roles as officers and leaders in the world's best Air Force and ensure that Academy character programs not only make a positive difference in cadet development but contribute directly to the Air Force and Department of Defense requirement of having officers of character leading our nation's military.

The Capstone Events Division directs USAFA's capstone character and leadership development programs for the 4,400-member cadet wing, staff and visitors. Programs include the Falcon Heritage Forum, the National Character and Leadership Symposium, Cadet Service Learning, Alternative Spring Break, the Character and Leadership Development Team and its affiliation with the Colorado Leadership Alliance, and the mentoring of the Cadet Wing Character Officer and Cadet Wing Character Non-Commissioned Officer.

National Character and Leadership Symposium (NCLS)

The annual National Character and Leadership Symposium, one of the premier national symposia in the area of character and leadership development, brings together distinguished scholars, armed forces leaders, corporate presidents, world-class athletes, and others to explore a character-related theme based on the USAFA Outcomes. This three-day symposium provides the opportunity for all Academy personnel, visiting university students and faculty, and community members to experience dynamic speakers and take part in group discussions to enhance their own understanding of the importance and challenges of sound moral character and leadership.

Falcon Heritage Forum (FHF)

Falcon Heritage Forum is designed to link cadets with the wealth of experience and military heritage embodied in our nation's distinguished veterans. This biannual three-day event provides cadets a systematic way to engage in discussions with veterans who have or are in the process of living out Air Force Core Values in service to their country. FHF includes cadet squadron-hosted dinners, panel discussions, cadet squadron briefings, and interactive mentoring exercises where each veteran has the opportunity to share experiential learning with cadets in a more informal setting.

Cadet Service Learning (CSL)

Community service and the concept of service learning are part of the center's efforts to offer cadet character and leadership development programs which emphasize "Service Before Self." Service learning activities help cadets develop their leadership and organizational abilities while enhancing their sense of responsibility to others by giving of their free time to meet community needs. Our service learning program continually seeks out service opportunities in the local community and surrounding states, then makes these opportunities available to cadets who choose this avenue for personal development. Each cadet squadron also accomplishes an annual Service learning project to benefit persons or organizations in the local area and give cadets opportunities to learn by doing.

Alternative Spring Break (ASB)

Another aspect of service learning is the Alternative Spring Break program. Each year, scores of cadets give up their spring break to work with Habitat for Humanity to build homes throughout the Southwest. Cadets travel and work together in teams from all four year groups, with leadership opportunities for upper-class cadets.

Character and Leadership Development Team (CaLD)

The cadet Character and Leadership Development team (CaLD) develops character and leadership by working alongside permanent-party mentors to plan and execute the center's capstone events.

The Scholarship Division is the catalyst and strategic vector for character and leadership at the Air Force Academy. This division strives to create innovative instruction, research, and assessment into the disciplines of character and leadership; integrate character and leadership development programs across organizational and mission elements; and help USAFA enter a new realm in regards to character and leadership development. The Scholarship Division does this in a variety of ways.

Journal of Character & Leader Scholarship

Published semi-annually, the Journal of Character & Leader Scholarship serves as the premier venue for advancing the integrative study and development of character and leadership. The capacity for a robust publication process expands our reach in disseminating leading edge research. One of the fundamental commitments of this multi-disciplinary, multi-perspective journal is to facilitate a convergence of diverging worldviews and to foster a dynamic living partnership of theory and practice.

Platinum Lecture Series

Encouraging leading edge, thought provoking lectures by world-renowned experts in producing breakthroughs in our ways of perceiving and thinking about the world.

peak performance center (ppc)

The Peak Performance Center is part of the 34th Training Wing. The primary goal of the center is to enhance the well-being and personal effectiveness of Academy cadets as they strive to become Air Force officers. The internationally accredited center combines the types of service provided at major colleges and universities with the services unique to a federal military academy in order to meet the full range of cadet needs. The Peak Performance Center is organized into four divisions: General Counseling Services, Human Relations, Sexual Assault Services and Substance Abuse Prevention Education. Counseling services include, but are not limited to relationship issues, biofeedback, stress, adjustment to the Academy and military life, anxiety, self-esteem, eating problems, resolving childhood abuse and surviving sexual assault experiences. The Peak Performance Center is also involved in a robust prevention, education and outreach program in the areas of substance abuse, sexual assault and human relations.

The PPC takes great pride in the availability of services to cadets. The staff is comprised of licensed social workers, psychologists, behavioral health technicians and certified alcohol abuse counselors, well versed in the developmental, personal and military needs of the young men and women at the Academy. The staff is committed to the ethical obligation to serve the welfare of each person while preserving their dignity and respect. Thus, the center is a capable resource whose fundamental purpose is to serve cadets and help them realize their potential.

medical care

You'll receive outpatient medical treatment, physical examinations, and routine dental care in the cadet clinic located in Fairchild Hall in the cadet area proper. After-hours medical and dental care will be provided at the nearby 24-hour Acute Care Clinic (ACC). The ACC is located at the Air Force Academy Medical Treatment Facility which is served by the 10th Medical Group. If you experience a medical emergency which might lead to loss of life, limb or eyesight, call 911, and you'll be transported to the nearest local emergency care facility. The 10th Medical Group will coordinate any necessary overnight care in a manner that supports ongoing academic studies when possible.

cadet uniforms

You'll wear various uniforms depending upon the occasion and the weather. Men wear a light blue shirt and navy blue pants during the academic year. Women wear the same uniform with a skirt as an option instead of pants. You'll be able to wear a jacket in cool weather and a parka in cold weather. For dress occasions, you'll wear a blue uniform, with a skirt or slacks matching the jacket for women and trousers for men. Other uniforms are the mess dress for formal or social functions, parade dress for formal ceremonies, Airman battle uniform (ABU) for field training, flight suits for flying activities, and athletic uniforms.

First-, second- and third-class cadets may wear civilian clothes when on leave and weekend privileges. Fourth-class cadets are not permitted to wear civilian clothing until approved by the commandant.

graduation week

Graduation completes an extremely challenging program. After testing your character, as well as your intellectual, physical and leadership abilities, you're ready to serve your country.

During the week before graduation, the Academy honors your class with parades, socials and other events. The week has special significance for members of all classes as they look forward to new opportunities in the coming year.

Several award ceremonies highlight the week by recognizing individual cadets and cadet units, which have achieved scholastic, military and athletic honors. Baccalaureate exercises, the graduation parade, and finally, the graduation exercises wrap up graduation week and your years at the Academy. Proud families and friends share the excitement and sense of accomplishment with you. You'll hear a distinguished guest speaker, receive your Bachelor of Science degree, and take the oath of office for your commission in the Air Force. The years you spent, which sometimes seemed long and difficult, may already seem short and memorable.

The Academy's military training, academics, athletics, and chances to develop character prepare you to be a professional officer who can lead tomorrow's Air Force.

life after the academy

Careers

As the 21st century begins, a challenging career faces the Air Force officer. Technological advances, increased demands for innovative resource management, and the continuing pledge to guard and defend our national goals—these are the challenges you will face.

Your assignment following graduation will relate directly to your Academy training and the needs of the Air Force. No matter what field you enter, you'll be an Air Force officer! That's why we seek men and women who are devoted to their country, to developing their skills as leaders of character, and to serving in the United States Air Force.

Discover The Opportunities

You can do nothing of real or lasting value without dedication and commitment. After the Academy, graduates are set on individual paths where the number of experiences is immeasurable.

your future in the air force

Every Air Force assignment involves hard work and increasing responsibilities. Yet, each assignment offers many personal and professional rewards. Your unique skills and talents will match you to an appropriate Air Force officer career field.

Over half of Academy graduates may be selected for flying training. These graduates serve in approximately 15 flying-related careers as navigators and pilots. Descriptions of some of the career fields you may be assigned to are provided for you here. No matter which career you choose, each offers unique and exciting opportunities after graduation.

Acquisition Management

Acquisition managers manage defense acquisition programs covering every aspect of the acquisition process - including integrating engineering, program control, test and deployment, configuration management, production and manufacturing, quality assurance and logistics support.

Air Battle Managers (ABM)

ABMs plan, organize and direct operations, including airspace management, air defense and tactical missions.

Air Traffic Controller

Air traffic controllers oversee aircraft takeoffs and landings by supervising centers covering radar approach, air route traffic, ground control approach and air base towers.

Air Weapons Controller

Officers in air weapons control handle the interception of hostile aircraft and missiles by using sophisticated AWACS equipment to see and identify airborne objects.

Aircraft Maintenance

Maintenance officers lead, train and equip personnel supporting aircraft sustainment and operations and also manage maintenance and modification of aircraft and associated equipment.

Astronaut

Astronauts command space shuttle missions, pilot space shuttles, perform on-orbit duties, and provide manned space flight consultation. They operate and reconfigure orbiter systems, monitor payload/shuttle interface, and perform extra-vehicular activities to make repairs and refurbish/inspect satellites in orbit or in the payload bay.

Band

Band officers administer, manage and direct Air Force band programs, including procurement and training of band directors and band personnel.

Chaplain

Chaplains provide professional religious support needed to accomplish the Air Force mission and maintain the highest degree of effectiveness and readiness.

Combat Systems Officer (CSO)

CSOs require tremendous efficiency, attention to detail and strong leadership skills. They're the eyes of fellow Airmen and aviators, using high-tech equipment to ensure mission completion. They're also responsible for training Airmen in their particular area of expertise. To learn more about career opportunities as a combat systems officer, browse through the following job descriptions.

Category/Specialty	Officers	% of Non-Flying
Operations:		15%
Airfield Operations	1%	
Control & Recovery	2%	
Space and Missile Operations	12%	
Scientific/Technical:		36%
Acquisition Management	11%	
Civil Engineering	4%	
Communications/Information	9%	
Development Engineering	7%	
Scientific	4%	
Weather	1%	
Sortie Generation/Logistics:		25%
Aircraft Maintenance	5%	
Intelligence	14%	
Logistics Readiness	5%	
Munitions/Missile Maintenance	1%	
Mission Support:		24%
Contracting	6%	
Finance	4%	
Force Support	4%	
Security Forces	4%	
Public Affairs	1%	
Special Investigations	1%	
Health Fields	4%	

Bomber CSO: Performs electronic warfare officer (EWO) and/or weapon systems officer (WSO) duties to accomplish joint combat missions, training and other assigned missions.

Fighter CSO: Performs weapon systems officer (WSO) and/or electronic warfare officer (EWO) duties to accomplish joint combat missions, training and other assigned missions.

Generalist CSO: Develops plans and policies, monitors and evaluates operations, coordinates staff activities and advises commanders.

Mobility CSO: Performs duties to accomplish joint mobility operations, training and other assigned missions.

Reconnaissance/Surveillance/Electronic Warfare CSO: Performs reconnaissance, surveillance, search and rescue, electronic combat, training and other assigned missions.

Remotely Operated Aircraft (ROA): An ROA CSO operates specialized mission aircraft and commands flight crews to accomplish joint reconnaissance, surveillance, combat, training and other missions.

Special Operations CSO: Performs duties of CSO, fire control officer (FCO), or electronic warfare officer (EWO) to accomplish joint special operations missions, training and other assigned missions.

Tanker CSO: Performs duties to accomplish air refueling, training and other assigned missions.

Test CSO: Plans, conducts, directs and reports on flight test programs associated with the design, development and modification of aircraft, aerospace vehicles, flight simulators and related systems.

Trainer CSO: Performs duties to accomplish primary, intermediate and advanced CSO training and other assigned missions.

Command and Control

Command and control officers perform and manage airfield operation functions and activities, including air traffic control (ATC), airfield management and base operations.

Communications and Computers

Communications computer officers are a part of an exciting process - tracing electrical impulses to a computer's brain, fine-tuning aircraft navigational aids, or translating ideas for communications-computer systems into engineering specifications. They influence the day-to-day activities of nearly all Air Force organizations.

Communications and Information

Officers in this career field support joint and service communications and information (C&I) requirements to conduct operations across the air, space and cyberspace domains. They also conduct deployed communications operations, manage Air Force spectrum management-related matters, policy and procedures, and develop programs to perform Air Force, joint and allied missions.

Contracting

Contracting requires planning, organizing, managing and accomplishing contracting functions to provide supplies and services essential to Air Force daily operations and the war-fighting mission.

Control and Recovery

Control and recovery officers are part of an operational capability provided by dedicated forces to affect the recovery of isolated personnel during combat operations.

Cost Analysis

Cost analysts conduct studies to estimate cost and evaluate effectiveness of force structures, operational systems, acquisition programs and support activities.

Engineer - Civil

Civil engineers build and maintain the buildings and utilities that make up the Air Force's infrastructure. They may specialize in several areas, and their duties may also include disposal of conventional, nuclear and chemical biological ordnance.

Engineer - Developmental

The developmental engineer specializes in engineering processes and subprocesses, formulates engineering policy and procedures, and coordinates and directs engineering and technical management activities and operations.

Finance

The Air Force finance officer performs financial duties and operations, including accounting liaison and pay services and budget preparation and execution.

Intelligence

Intelligence officers conduct information operations to include analysis of information vulnerability, intelligence collecting, exploiting and producing/disseminating foreign military threat information.

Judge Advocate - JAG (Attorney)

Judge advocates face an exciting variety of legal issues. Most Air Force base legal offices have three to 10 judge advocates, and while they advise many military people, one of their primary clients is the base commander.

Accordingly, they encounter a limitless variety of legal issues, including criminal law, government contract law, labor law, environmental and real property law, international law and claims.

Logistics

The logistics utilization field encompasses all functions performed by logistics officers, including aircraft, missile and space lift maintenance. Supply, transportation and logistics plans.

Logistics Readiness

Logistics readiness officers integrate the spectrum of the logistics processes within the operational, acquisition and wholesale environments.

Munitions and Missile Maintenance

Officers in this career field manage maintenance and modification of conventional munitions, nuclear weapons and associated equipment.

Operations Management

As an operations management officer, planning and coordinating weapons and other combat resources for use are the main objectives. They operate command posts, implement higher headquarters policy, and plan and analyze training programs.

Personnel and Manpower

The name of the personnel game is taking care of Air Force people. Personnel and manpower officers perform and administer personnel programs, including procurement, professional development, classification, assignments, promotions, separations, personnel support for contingency operations (PERSCO) and personal affairs.

Pilot

Flying the most advanced aircraft in the world is only one of the many responsibilities associated with a career as an Air Force pilot. Leadership skills and character are of paramount importance as you take charge of training and commanding crews to accomplish missions. Each type of pilot specializes in different aircraft and skill sets. To learn more, browse through the following job descriptions.

Airlift Pilot: Transports equipment and personnel in order to safely and successfully complete assigned missions.

Bomber Pilot: Flies bomber-type aircraft and commands crews to accomplish airlifts, training and other missions.

Fighter Pilot: Operates fighter-type aircraft and commands crews to accomplish combat, training and other missions.

Generalist Pilot: Develops plans and policies, monitors and evaluates operations, coordinates staff activities and advises commanders.

Helicopter Pilot: Operates rotary-wing aircraft and commands crews to accomplish combat, training and other missions.

Mobility Pilot: Flies a variety of mobility aircraft and commands crews to accomplish tanker airlifts, training and other missions.

Reconnaissance/Surveillance/Electronic Warfare Pilot: Operates specialized mission aircraft and commands flight crews to accomplish reconnaissance, surveillance, search and rescue, electronic warfare, training and other missions.

Remotely Operated Aircraft (ROA) Pilot: Operates specialized mission aircraft and commands flight crews to accomplish reconnaissance, surveillance, combat, training and other missions.

Special Operations Pilot: Flies special operations aircraft (fixed-wing or helicopter) and commands crews to accomplish special operations, training and other missions.

Tanker Pilot: Operates tanker aircraft and commands crews to accomplish air refueling, airlifts, training and other missions.

Test Pilot: Plans, conducts, directs and reports on flight test programs associated with the design, development and modification of aircraft, aerospace vehicles, flight simulators and related systems.

Trainer Pilot: Responsible for flying trainer aircraft in furtherance of the pilot-training mission.

Planning and Programming

In the planning and programming career officers develop and write Air Force, joint services and combined plans, programs and policies.

Public Affairs

This career field requires planning, budgeting for, executing and evaluating the effectiveness of public affairs programs and providing public affairs advice, counsel and support for commanders and senior staff members.

Readiness

Readiness officers are responsible for the integration of distribution, materiel management and contingency operations within the operational, acquisition and wholesale environments.

Science and Engineering

Our engineers are planning the Air Force of tomorrow—today! Whether it's constructing a 30,000-square-foot building on an Air Force base, developing the guidance and control systems for spacecraft and missiles, or doing flight and wind tunnel testing on new aircraft, Air Force engineers are there.

Scientist

Scientists bring a high level of intellectual curiosity to their posts. They conduct or manage programs, projects and activities to perform research. Their responsibilities include conducting and managing research, planning research projects, determining theoretical aspects of problems, and selecting methods of approach.

Security Forces

A security forces officer leads, manages and directs security force activities related to weapons systems and resource security, antiterrorism, law enforcement and investigations, air base defense, industrial security and combat arms.

Services

Services career field officers develop and implement plans, programs and policies for operation and oversight of food service, lodging, fitness, mortuary, recreation, child development and leisure functions.

Space Operations

It has been said that space is the ultimate high ground. If you have an interest in space, using space, or even being in this high ground, then the Academy is the place for you! We are the premier undergraduate institution, educating and training our graduates to understand and exploit space in defense of the United States. From core classes that all cadets take, to advanced classes aimed specifically at building satellites and rockets for Air Force missions, the Academy is a "hotbed" of space activity. After graduation there are a host of opportunities to actually work in the space career field. Here are a few of the exciting space-related careers and a short description of each:

Space Aggressors: Understanding space systems' vulnerabilities to attack is the job of the space aggressor. Highly skilled warriors, they design and participate in war games to better understand our space system's strengths and weaknesses.

Space and Missile Operations: Operating and managing space and missile operations systems, including surveillance, intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launch, space lifts, ballistic space warning and satellite command and control are responsibilities in this career field.

Space Engineers: The space community relies not only on aeronautical engineers but mechanical, electrical, environmental, civil and systems engineers to produce cutting edge systems.

Special Investigations (OSI)

This officer manages and conducts special investigations, including criminal, fraud, counterintelligence and internal security, along with technical services investigations and other related activities.

Weather

With thousands of aircraft in the skies each day, the Air Force depends on accurate weather forecasting to chart safe flight paths for each plane flying in its airspace. Weather officers perform, manage and direct weather operations critical to the success of Air Force activities.

Officers who serve as doctors and legal officers are not included here because their assignment depends on academic qualifications completed after graduation from the Academy. But some graduates do serve in these specialties.