

**THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY  
CLASS OF 2019 GRADUATION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS  
2nd Lt KATHLEEN TAYLOR KOHLER**

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	TICKETS	DRESS	NOTES
"The Music Man"	27-May	7-9:30 PM	Arnold Hall Theatre	No	Casual	Katie is working backstage
1st Lt. Roslyn L. Schulte Award	28-May	1:30-3:30 PM	Polaris Hall Forum	No	Dressy	Katie has been nominated for this award
Cadet Aerial Demonstration and Graduation Parade	29-May	7:30-10:30 AM	Stillman Field	No	Business Casual	8,000 people attended this event last year - <b>leave early</b>
Commissioning Ceremony	29-May	Must arrive at 12:30 Ceremony 1:30 - 2:30 PM	Polaris Hall Forum	No	Dressy	We can meet at the car for lunch there is a 2 hour gap between the Parade and the Commissioning Ceremony. Plan on bringing a lunch and eating at your car. You may want to either wear your dressy clothes (dressy church attire) to the Demonstration & Parade or change into them before the Commissioning Ceremony.
Graduation Ceremony	30-May	10:30-2:15 PM	Falcon Stadium	Yes	Business Casual	Trump is speaking so prepare for long lines and to <b>leave very early</b> for security purposes. Gates open at 6 AM
Air Force Thunderbirds Demonstration	30-May	2:00 PM	Falcon Stadium	No	Business Casual	This will immediately follow the Graduation Ceremony; you may not leave the stadium until after the Thunderbirds Performance
Katie's Graduation Party	30-May	After Graduation Ceremony	6372 Tenderfoot Dr Colorado Springs CO 80923	No	Come as you are	Let's celebrate Katie's Graduation from USAFA!!

**NOTE: Dressy = ladies - slacks, skirt, or dress; men business suit or coat and tie  
Business casual - mens khakis and polos, women - slacks and top  
Everyone is invited to the house each evening for dinner**

## SECURITY PROCEDURES FOR GRAD WEEK

**BASE ENTRY:** Throughout Grad Week, guests may enter the base via the North Gate by showing a driver's license or a military ID. Standard base visitor hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. However, during Grad Week, the North Gate will be open to allow guests to enter the base for early or late events. North Gate times are as follows: 17 May 6:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. 18 May, 6:00 a.m.-11:59 p.m. 19 May, 6:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. 20 May, 6:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. 21 May, 6:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. 22 May, 6:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. 23 May, 6:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. A DOD ID card or base visitor pass is required to enter the South Gate and the secure areas of the base (see attached map). All vehicles entering the base are subject to inspection/search by security personnel and you may be asked to show proof of insurance, a valid vehicle registration and a rental car agreement. Guests should refrain from bringing large bags, coolers, backpacks or other items that will require additional scrutiny or searches from security personnel. The South Gate will be open for guests on graduation day for travel to the stadium, but people using the South gate should expect considerable delays due to road construction. Plan accordingly, or use the North Gate to avoid delays.

**PARKING:** Parking for events on Monday and Tuesday of Graduation Week is in the Cadet Field House, Parade Field and Cadet Parking Lots. On Tuesday, shuttle buses will run from these parking areas to locations throughout the Cadet Area. All parking for the Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday is at Falcon Stadium.

**CADET AREA ACCESS:** Guests must be escorted by a cadet or USAFA staff with a Cadet Area Badge while in the Cadet Area, particularly on the Terrazzo or in any of the academic or dormitory buildings. Guests should not bring large bags or backpacks into the Cadet Area; bags will be searched at the bus stops and at the parades, potentially delaying your arrival at your destination.

**EVENTS IN SECURE AREAS OF THE BASE:** For Graduation Week events taking place outside of the immediate Cadet Area or after visitor hours, all non-DOD guests must be escorted through the entry control point by a DOD ID card holder. These events include any held at The Carlton House (e.g., the Superintendent's Family Reception or Commissioning Ceremonies). We recommend cadets meet their non-DOD guests either off base or at the Field House in order to carpool and/or caravan to their destination. DOD ID cardholders, including civilian, military cadets and base contractors, can vouch for non-DOD affiliated people in the car which they are traveling and one additional vehicle. Plan to arrive early for Grad Week activities in order to give yourself sufficient time to get through security to your event location.

**TEMPORARY BASE VISITOR PASSES:** Graduating cadets may provide guest information (full name, date of birth and driver's license number/state of registration) to request base access passes for up to 5 guests/family members. Security Forces will provide completed base passes to cadets in late April and early May and cadets must send or give these passes to the individuals. Passes will allow the designated guest to escort up to 10 other guests to access all parts of the base and will permit them to escort one additional vehicle through the entrance gates. Guests should make sure to coordinate with their cadets if they will need a base pass.

**HANDICAPPED:** USAFA does not issue handicapped or special parking passes, so please bring your own handicapped placard in order to access the Cadet Area handicapped lot (immediately north of Stillman Parade Field) and handicapped parking at the stadium on Graduation day. If you do not have a handicapped placard, you may speak with the parking attendant to request parking in the handicapped lots. Handicapped shuttles will operate throughout the Cadet Area during Grad Week.

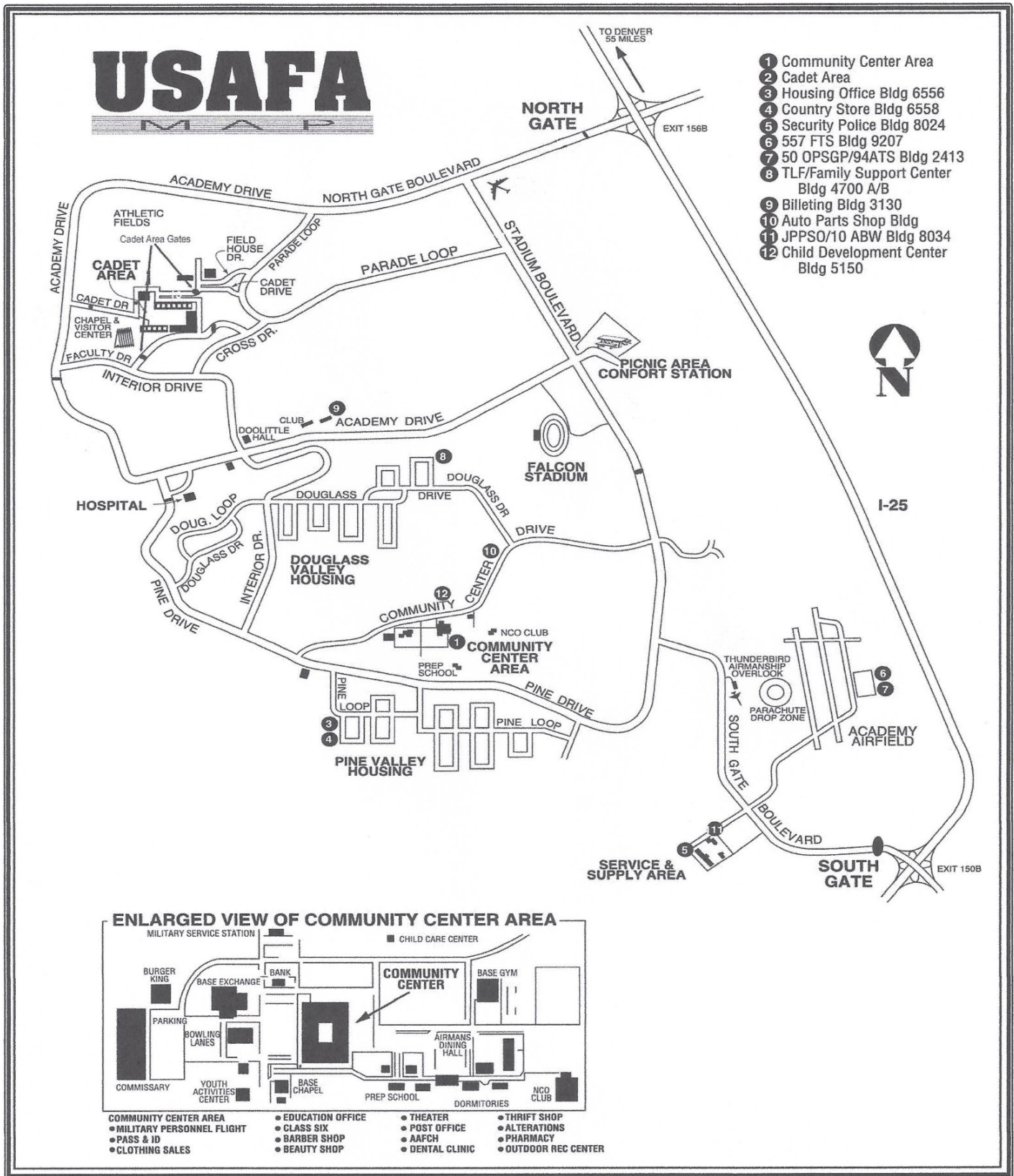
**GENERAL BASE DRIVING INFO:** Please make sure to follow all posted speed limits when driving on the base. Note that seatbelts must be worn by all vehicle occupants at all times when driving on the Academy. Drivers may not use hand-held cellular phones while the vehicle is in motion. If you need to make or take a call, please use a hands-free device or pull to the side of the road. Also, be aware that radar detectors are not permitted on base. Finally, keep in mind that wildlife such as deer, elk and wild turkeys can be a hazard while driving on the Academy. Please be alert for them and drive carefully. Remember, they have the right-of-way!

If Force Protection Conditions change due to world events or events closer to home, some scheduled events may change or require additional security precautions for the safety of all our guests. Any event changes will be widely publicized in local media, on our Graduation Website and throughout the base.

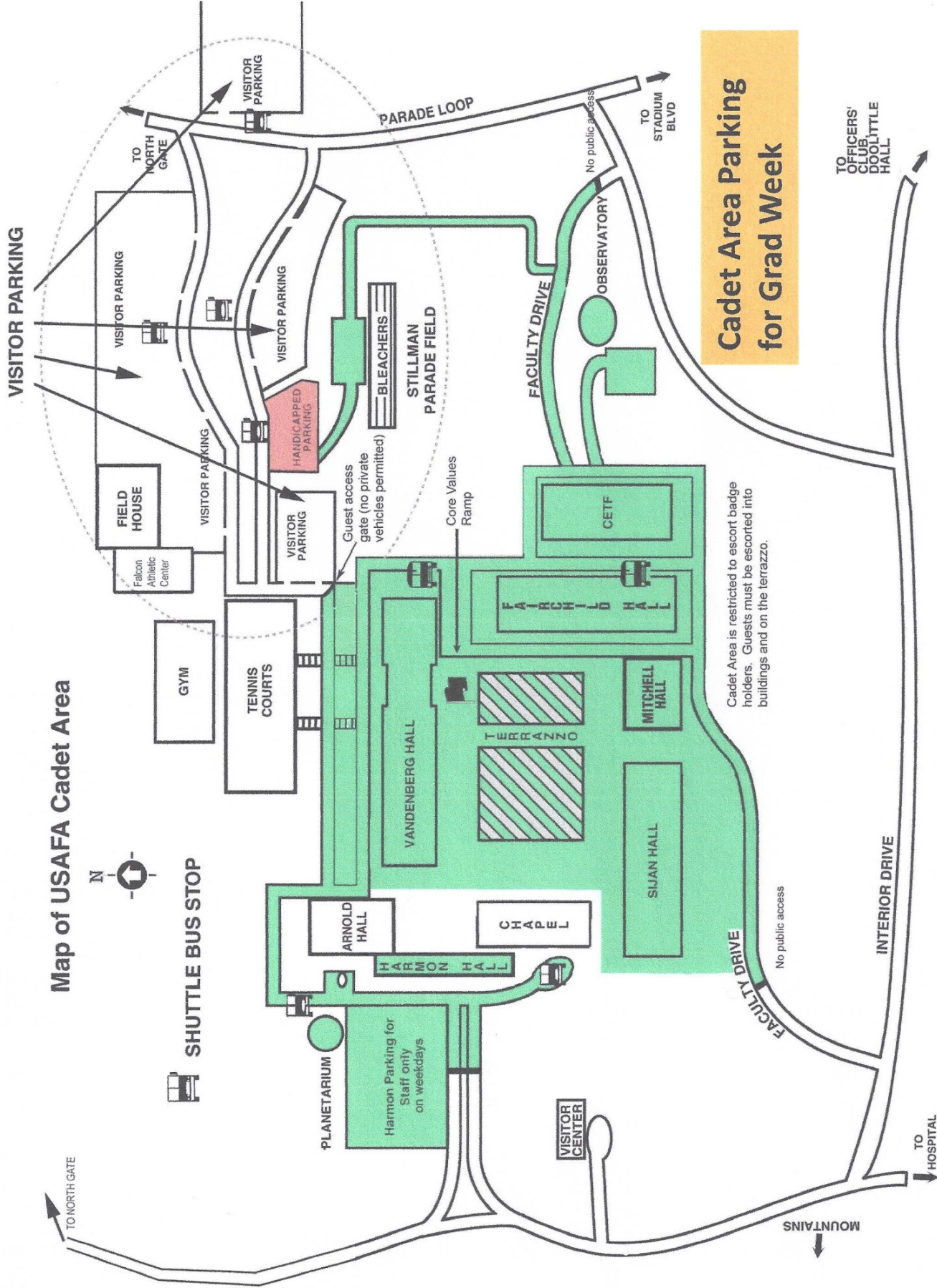
# GRADUATION TIPS

- Arrive early – gates open at 6am; there is road construction at the South Gate so you may want to consider entering via the North Gate; expect 1 hour from North Gate to Stillman Field
- I-25 will be backed up to enter either the South or North Gates – leave early
- Tickets are required for each individual – make sure you have your ticket on you person
- Once inside the stadium you may not depart until after the Thunderbirds performance
- Food is permitted but must be displayed in a 1-gallon zip-lock bag (only 1 per person)
- Sunscreen is recommended but is limited to one 6-ounce tube or less (no aerosol spray)
- Factory-sealed transparent soft plastic water bottles – maximum 24 ounces total
- No purses larger than 12”x12”x12” and no backpacks of any kind allowed
- Food/Drink will be available via food trucks located at Stillman Field. Water will be available via portable water tanks at Stillman Field
- Wear comfortable shoes – expect a lot of walking

**EMERGENCIES:** If you have a medical, fire or police emergency, please call 911 immediately. There are several major medical facilities in Colorado Springs to handle medical situations: Memorial Hospital Central, (719) 365-5000, Memorial Hospital North, (719) 364-5000, Penrose-St. Francis, (719) 776-5000, and St. Francis Medical Center, (719) 571-1000. On base, you may contact USAFA Security Forces at (719) 333-2000 or 333-4100.



# Map of USAFA Cadet Area



**Cadet Area Parking  
for Grad Week**

Cadet Area is restricted to escort badge holders. Guests must be escorted into buildings and on the terrazzo.

TO OFFICERS' CLUB, DOOLITTLE HALL

TO HOSPITAL

MOUNTAINS

INTERIOR DRIVE

No public access

FACULTY DRIVE

VISITOR CENTER

PARADE LOOP

TO STADIUM BLVD

No public access

FACULTY DRIVE

OBSERVATORY

BLEACHERS  
STILLMAN PARADE FIELD

Guest access gate (no private vehicles permitted)

Core Values Ramp

CETF

FARROW HALL

MITCHELL HALL

SUJAN HALL

STABLE

HARMON HALL

ARNOLD HALL

PLANETARIUM

Harmon Parking for Staff only on weekdays

TENNIS COURTS

GYM

Falcon Athletic Center

FIELD HOUSE

VISITOR PARKING

VISITOR PARKING

VISITOR PARKING

VISITOR PARKING

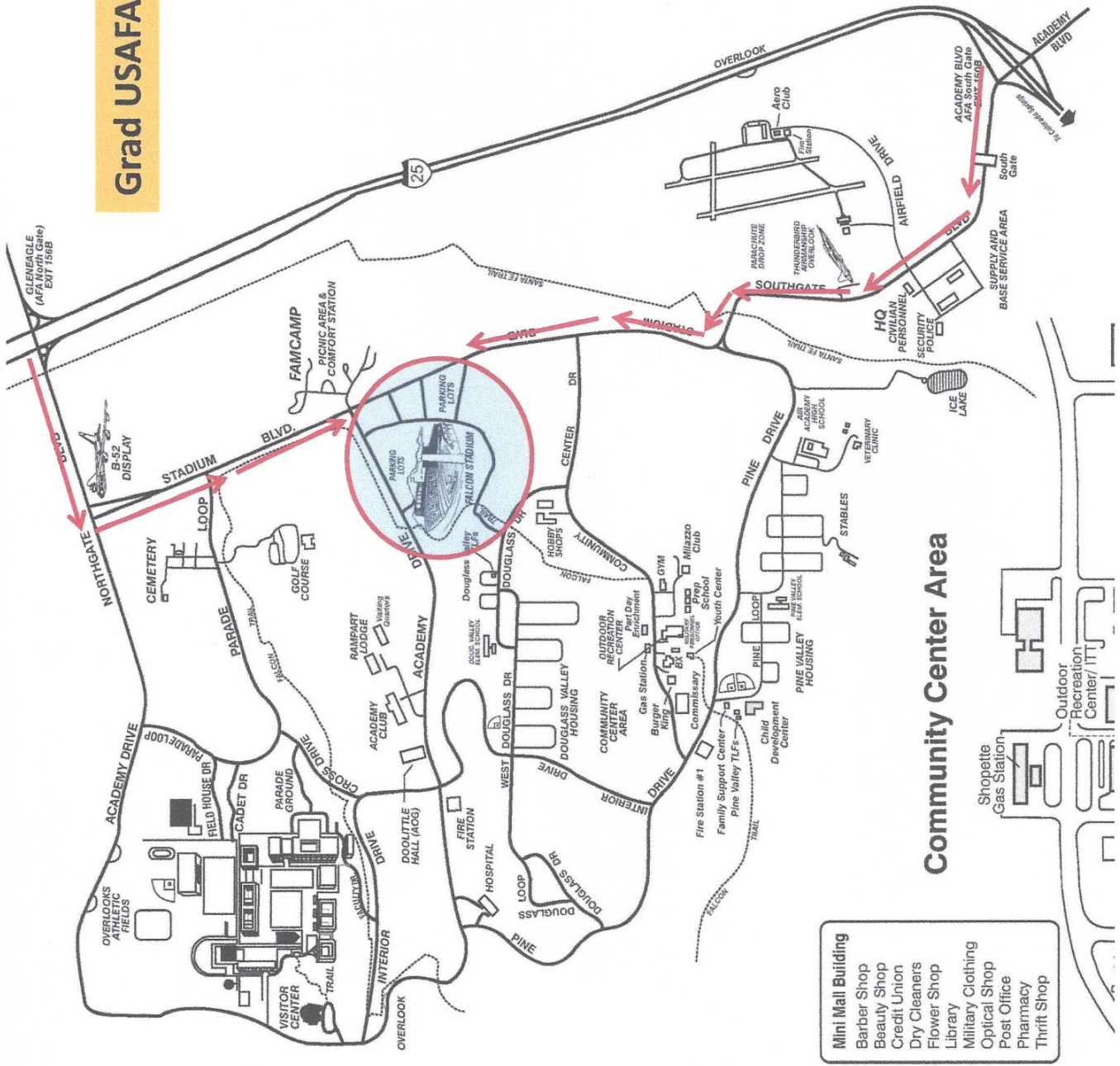
VISITOR PARKING

VISITOR PARKING

TO NORTH GATE

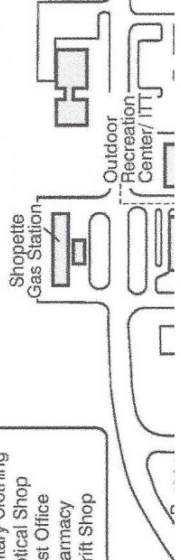
VISITOR PARKING

# Grad USAFA Base Entry



## Community Center Area

- Mini Mall Building
- Barber Shop
- Beauty Shop
- Credit Union
- Dry Cleaners
- Flower Shop
- Library
- Military Clothing
- Optical Shop
- Post Office
- Pharmacy
- Thrift Shop



**Grad Stadium Parking**

**FALCON STADIUM  
PARKING FOR GRADUATION**

ACADEMY CLUB

Lot 5A

ACADEMY DRIVE



Reserved  
Parking

Lot 6

Lot 5

TUNNEL ROAD

**FALCON STADIUM**

Lot 4

No Parking

Lot 3

Lot 1

Lot 2

STADIUM BLVD.

INTERIUM DRIVE

DOUGLASS DRIVE

COMMUNITY CENTER DRIVE

GATE 5

GATE 3

GATE 7

GATE 9

GATE 10

GATE 8

GATE 6

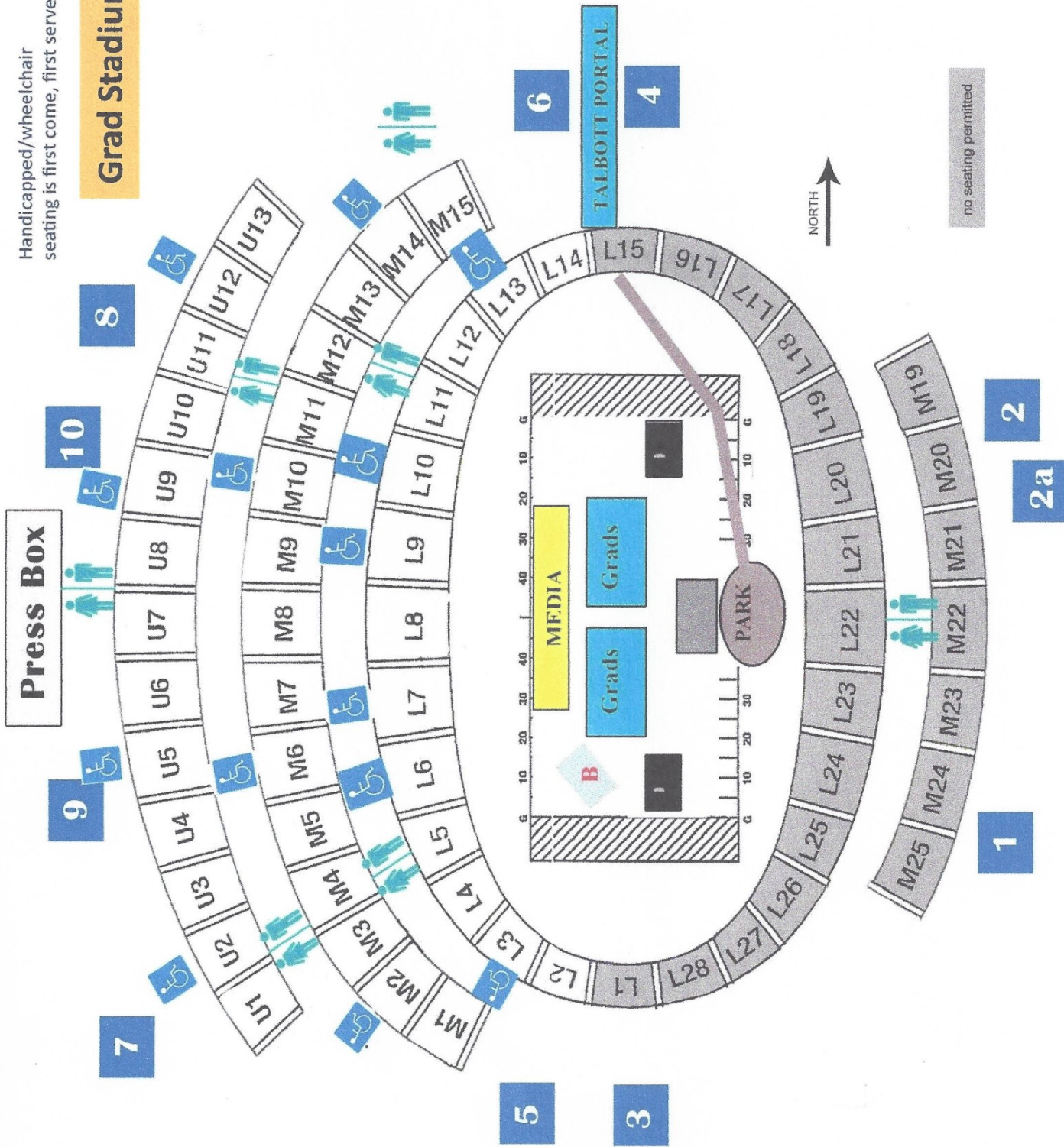
GATE 4

GATE 2

GATE 1

Handicapped/wheelchair seating is first come, first served

# Grad Stadium Seating





# The United States Air Force Academy

Reminder when you are on the US Air Force Academy Grounds....

**Everyone** MUST have ID and event tickets, and someone in the group needs the Cadet Escort badge (event tickets and Escort badge will be given to you by mail or in person).

The driver must have a valid driver's license or a Dept of Defense (DoD) ID card and be ready to present if asked. The driver also needs to display prominently the Base Access and Parking Pass inside the vehicle. The driver needs to be prepared to present proof of insurance car insurance and either valid vehicle registration documents or car rental agreement.

Use the USAFA NORTH GATE Exit #156B off I-25 for easier access and to be closer to events.

Read the electronic marquees at USAFA's entrances and tune in to local media for real-time updates and any security changes to the Force Protection Condition.

The driver can be ticketed for talking on cell phones while driving, speeding, and parking illegally. **BE CAREFUL!**

When parking on base, park in the Cadet Field House parking lots. Shuttles will transport to the Cadet areas. Unsure where to go? Follow the event parking attendants and event signage, or follow the hundreds of other cars going to the same event as us—**REMEMBER TO LEAVE EARLY!!!**

No parking overnight or be towed.

Watch for wildlife such as deer, elk and wild turkeys, which have the right-of-way.

Anticipate heavy traffic and security precautions and **PLAN TO ARRIVE EARLY**. And there are pre-event happenings to enjoy.

Remember to **LEAVE EARLY!**

2 hours before an event is reasonable. Yes, you heard correctly... **TWO HOURS** before is reasonable.

Because heavy traffic, individual inspection, parking, waiting for shuttles, and security measures will create delays. We are but a handful of the hundreds or thousands attending the events. 20,000 people are expected to attend the Graduation.

Some events are listed as “first come/first served” as supply/demand for seating isn’t at an equilibrium! As a bonus, USAFA has pre-event activities to entertain the (smart!) early arrivals.

From the USAFA Graduation webpage: “Please note: Information on recommended dress is provided for each event. We ask your cooperation in ensuring your guests wear appropriate attire through out their stay at the Academy.”

**Remember....**

**PLAN TO ARRIVE EARLY!!**

# **General Guidelines for Special Events and Permissible Items**

*This includes Parade Grounds and Falcon Stadium*

## **Graduation Code of Conduct**

- **BE EARLY** at all times
- Be pleasant
- Speak up to ask for things
- Be flexible
- Pitch-in and make things better
- Enjoy the patriotism
- Be honest about what you want to (and don't want to do)
- Refrain from any political discussions, because no matter who is in the White House, that person is Katie's boss.

This week is a celebration of the USAFA cadets and their futures.

## **Important Information**

### **ID are required at all times while on base**

#### **Permitted**

- Hand or shoulder bags (larger than usual will be searched, so plan for delays).  
Clear Plastic bags speeds you thru security
- Unopened, sealed transparent drink containers
- Cameras (those with telephoto lens will be inspected)
- Personal sized video cameras and camcorders
- Medical supplies and equipment

#### **Not permitted**

- Coolers, boxes, thermoses or drink cups or glass containers, alcohol, firecrackers, umbrellas, opened water bottles

## **Graduation Week Weather: Prepare For It**

The Academy is on the Front Range of the Rockies and is at 7300 feet above sea level. Weather at the Academy is highly unpredictable and can change rapidly, even from hour to hour. Sunny and warm one day and rainy, foggy and very cold the next day. At Graduation time, the normal Colorado weather is dry and sunny with cool evenings. Some past Academy graduations were held in very cold, wet weather.

Should Graduation be forced to be moved inside to the Cadet Field House, Katie will be given 4 tickets to be divided up among her entourage. So, every effort is made to hold the graduation ceremony outdoors. Plan for all types of weather.

Plan on layering of clothes, where you can be comfortable during a 40°F early morning fog and then a burning hot noonday sun and can stand a downpour or heavy gusts of wind. All in one day! And look “smart casual” throughout!! There will be lots of photos taken and ask if this is the clothing you want to be remembered for wearing.

People sunburn easily because the thin atmosphere allows UV radiation and people can dehydrate quicker, too, as perspiration will evaporate quicker. Drink water every chance you get. Know that NO umbrellas are allowed in the Stadium or parade bleachers.

Bring Chapstick and your own “smart and dashing” wide-brimmed hat.

## **Altitude Sickness**

When people are not used to the high elevation, they may experience “acute mountain sickness”. The symptoms are headache, malaise, nausea and vomiting, and shortness of breath. Cases are usually mild and will abate within a few days once acclimatized to the increased elevation. Do not overexert the first few days and drink lots of water. Avoid going into higher elevations the first days and limit alcohol consumption. It is recommended to increase water intake 2 weeks prior to arrival.

## Things to do near Colorado Springs, Colorado – Summer 2019s

**United States Air Force Academy** • 2346 Academy Drive • USAFA, CO 80840 • 719-333-2025

<https://www.usafa.edu/visitors>

If you travel to the United States Air Force Academy by car, you will find that entrances are clearly marked. Public areas of the Academy are open to visitors and guests from 9:00 am to 5 pm. Visitors can enter through the North Gate (exit 156 on Interstate 25) and will need to provide one of the following:

Military ID, Driver's License, Photo ID. The Barry Goldwater Air Force Academy Visitor Center serves as the gateway to the Academy; the 31,600-square-foot building contains exhibits, a snack bar and a gift shop. A one-third-mile paved nature trail east of the facility allows visitors to walk to the Cadet Chapel. Exhibit area includes video and static displays, a hometown map, and a historical exhibit featuring information on Academy history, current and former superintendents and other significant features of the Academy's history.

**Pikes Peak** • <https://www.pikes-peak.com>

Pikes Peak, located in the Rocky Mountains, is one of the most famous summits in the United States. The 14,115-foot mountain features an observatory deck at the summit, miles and miles

of hiking. Uphill gates open 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Spring Carload (up to 5 passengers) \$35.

See website for current admission.

**Pikes Peak Highway Tour** • <https://pikespeaktour.com> • 719-465-1871 • Pikes Peak Tour Gift Shop

30 S Sierra Madre St., Colorado Springs, CO 80903 • Summer Tours depart at 8:00 am, 9:00 am, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm. \$69.50 for adults (13 and over); \$39.50 for children (12 & under).

NOTE: The popular Pikes Peak Cog Railway has undergone a major evaluation and it has been determined that the infrastructure and equipment has run its course. The railroad is in the process of determining next steps and action plans for the future.

**Garden of the Gods** • 1805 N. 30th St., Colorado Springs, CO 80904 • 719-634-6666

<https://gardenofgods.com>

Garden of the Gods Park is a registered National Natural Landmark. Imagine dramatic views,

300-ft towering sandstone rock formations against a backdrop of snow-capped Pikes Peak and bright blue skies. This world-class Visitor & Nature Center and Museum is the most visited attraction in the region with all new interactive exhibits and unique activities just for kids. Learn how the amazing red rocks got there with the NEW Geo-Trekker movie experience, shown every 20 minutes. Visitor & Nature Center: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm; Park: 5:00 am – 9:00 pm. Free Admission.

**Colorado Springs Foothills and Garden of the Gods Jeep Tour •**

<https://advoutwest.com/jeeps>

The foothills tour highlights Colorado Springs' most-beloved sights, including Pikes Peak and Garden of the Gods. The local guides, rich Colorado history and amazing scenery will provide a memorable journey through Colorado's colorful and rustic past.

**Cheyenne Mountain Zoo •** 4250 Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Rd. • Colorado Springs, CO 80906

719-633-9925 • [www.cmzoo.org](http://www.cmzoo.org)

A trip to America's only mountain zoo is your chance to connect with over 750 animals and over 170 species from Africa and the rest of the world—including hand-feeding Cheyenne Mountain Zoo's magnificent giraffe herd, the largest herd at any zoo in the world. Daily 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Admission: Adult (12-64) \$19.75; Child (3-11) \$14.75; Ages 2 and under 75¢; Seniors (65+) \$17.75; Military Adult \$16.75; Military Child \$11.75

**Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum •** 215 S. Tejon St. • Colorado Springs, CO 80903

719-385-5990 • [www.cspm.org](http://www.cspm.org)

The Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum is the only institution researching, collecting and interpreting the robust history of Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak region. Each year, the Museum welcomes more than 50,000 visitors. Open Tues. to Sat., 10 am – 5 pm. Free Admission.

**National Museum of World War II Aviation •** 755 Aviation Way • Colorado Springs, CO 80916

719-637-7559 • [www.worldwariiaviation.org](http://www.worldwariiaviation.org)

The National Museum of World War II Aviation is home of 22 flyable historic aircraft. The Museum's aircraft are displayed along with a selection of aircraft on loan from private collections around the country to tell the story behind American advancements in aviation technology during the war.

In addition to its aircraft collection, the National Museum of World War II Aviation has several fully-restored and operational vehicles that were used by US forces and their allies during the war. Tues/Thurs./Sat. 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Admission: Adult \$14.00 (\$12.00 online); Child 4-12 \$10.00 (\$9.00 online); Seniors 65+ \$12.00 (\$10.00 online); Military \$12.00 (\$10.00 online)

**Red Rock Canyon •** 3550 W High St • Colorado Springs, CO 80904

<https://coloradosprings.gov/parks/page/red-rock-canyon-open-space>

Red Rock Canyon is characterized by a series of canyons and ridges sculpted by erosion of the area's uplifted rock strata. The ridges and canyons offer beautiful views and sheltered enclaves for inspiration, varied terrain for recreation, and a 240 million-year-old slice of sedimentary geology for education. There are 653 acres of land dedicated to hiking, biking, climbing and horseback riding. With the remainder of the

789 acres is designed for picnic areas and a bicycle free ride area. There are two parking areas on the right side of W. High Street.

**U.S. Olympic Training Center** • 1 Olympic Plaza • Colorado Springs, CO 80909 • 719-866-4618 [www.teamusa.org/about-the-usoc/olympic-training-centers/csotc/tours](http://www.teamusa.org/about-the-usoc/olympic-training-centers/csotc/tours)

This facility in Colorado Springs is the flagship training center of the U.S. Olympic team and the active headquarters of the U.S. Olympic Committee. The 35-acre complex houses two Olympic-size swimming pools, as well as facilities for fencing, gymnastics, weightlifting and wrestling.

In addition to the athletes who live and train here, the center welcomes roughly 140,000 visitors each year and offers guided tours each day during the summer months. Mon – Sat: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Admission: Adults: \$15.00; Military: \$13.00; Seniors (65+): \$13.00; Children (5-12): \$11.00

**Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame** • 101 Pro Rodeo Dr • Colorado Springs, CO 80919 • 719-528-4764 [www.prorodeohalloffame.com](http://www.prorodeohalloffame.com)

The Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame and Museum of the American Cowboy educates the public about rodeo, its history, and its impact on Western American culture. The Hall of Fame provides recognition to rodeo notables of the past and present. During the months of May- October visit the Outdoor Garden Exhibit where team roping events, convention rodeos, and wild west shows take place.

Monday - Sunday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Admission: Adults: \$8.00; Seniors (55+): \$7.00; Military (with ID): \$6.00; Youth (6-12): \$5.00

**Manitou Springs** • [www.visitcos.com/areas/manitou-springs](http://www.visitcos.com/areas/manitou-springs)

Hidden between Garden of the Gods and America's most famous mountain, Pikes Peak, lies the magical town of Manitou Springs, just minutes from Colorado Springs. Visit this vibrant artisan community, home to world class art, music, theater, and sidewalk sculpture displays.

The Historic District is lined with unique art galleries, one of a kind gift shops and trading posts with handcrafted Native American treasures. Manitou Springs is home to dozens of artists and art galleries.

**Western Museum of Mining and Industry** • 225 North Gate Blvd. • Colorado Springs, CO 80921

719-488-0880 • [www.wmmi.org](http://www.wmmi.org)

The Western Museum of Mining and Industry Brings the history of mining to life for you and your family through a variety of dynamic guided tours, interactive exhibits and a variety of education events. With over 4,000 artifacts on display, the 27-acre indoor/outdoor exhibit site includes a

ten-stamp ore mill, a theater and a 5,000-volume research library. Monday to Saturday,

9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Admission: Adults \$10; Children 4-12 \$6; Military/AAA \$9; Seniors 60+ \$8

**Ghost Town Museum** • 400 S 21st Street • Colorado Springs, CO 80904 • 719-634-0696  
[www.ghosttownmuseum.com](http://www.ghosttownmuseum.com)

As a true preservation of Colorado's western past, Ghost Town Museum is a fun and historic look back at kind of old west town that used to dot this region during the late 1800's and early 1900's. Explore the boardwalk connecting the Blacksmith's shop, Saloon, General and Merchants of Main Street, with the Livery Stable, and Victorian Home. Each is filled with thousands of fascinating artifacts. Ghost Town Museum delights young and old with lots of hands on activities.

Mon – Sat 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; Sun 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Adults \$7.50; Children 6-16 \$5.50

**Cliff Dwellings Museum** • 10 Cliff Dwellings Rd • Manitou Springs, CO 80829 • 800-354-9971  
[www.cliffdwellingsmuseum.com](http://www.cliffdwellingsmuseum.com)

Explore the fascinating architecture of the ancient Anasazi and browse through two museums featuring cultural displays all overlooking the historic town of Manitou Springs. The creation of the Manitou Cliff Dwellings Museum and Preserve was the vision of Virginia McClurg and Harold Ashenurst. It was undertaken to create a museum that preserves and protects the fine stonework architecture of the Southwestern Indians. Open 9 am to 6 pm. Adults 12 and up: \$10.00 + tax; Children 4-11: \$7.50 + tax; Children 3 & under: Free; Seniors 60 & up: \$8.50 + tax.

**Seven Falls** • 1045 Lower Gold Camp Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80905 • 719-476-6708  
[www.sevenfalls.com](http://www.sevenfalls.com)

Seven Falls is a magnificent series of waterfalls located in a 1,400-foot-tall box canyon. Walking and hiking trails are available, even at night, when white, eco-friendly LED lights illuminate the falls for an unforgettable view. This memorable view is also available via an

in-mountain elevator for guests who are unable to or would rather not take the stairs.

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm; Friday - Sunday: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm. Adult, \$15.50; Senior & Military, \$12.75; Child, \$9.50

Availability, times, and prices subject to change (and sometimes weather). Please check ahead of time, and visit the websites – some have coupons!



## **THE CADET CHAPEL**

Soaring 150 feet toward the Colorado sky, the Air Force Academy Chapel is an all-faith house of worship designed to meet the spiritual needs of cadets. It contains a separate chapel for each of the three major religious faiths represented in the Air Force - Protestant, Catholic and Jewish - plus two all-faiths worship rooms.

There are two main levels, with the Protestant nave on the upper level. The Catholic and Jewish chapels and one all-faiths room are located beneath it. Each chapel has its own entrance, and services may be held simultaneously without interfering with one another.

The aluminum, glass and steel structure features 17 spires. The shell of the chapel and surrounding grounds cost \$3.5 million to build.

Furnishings, pipe organs, liturgical fittings and adornments of the chapel were presented as gifts from individuals and various organizations. A designated Easter offering was also taken at Air Force bases around the world in 1959 to help complete the interior.

The principal designer-architect of the chapel was Walter A. Netsch Jr. of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill of Chicago. Construction was by Robert E. McKee, Inc., of Santa Fe, N.M.

## **PROTESTANT CHAPEL**

The tetrahedrons form the walls and the 99-foot-high pinnacled ceiling of the Protestant Chapel. Stained glass windows form ribbons of color between the tetrahedrons. The colors graduate from dark to light representing coming from the darkness into the light of God. The floor is gray-white terrazzo.

The chancel is set off by a crescent-shaped, varicolored reredos behind the altar. The 14- by 45-foot reredos represents the arms of God ready to receive anyone who goes there in prayer. Semi-precious stones from Colorado and pietra santa marble from Italy cover its 1,260 square-foot area.

The focal point of the chancel is the cross-suspended above a 15-foot travertine marble altar. Constructed of aluminum, the cross is 46 feet, 2 inches high, 12 feet wide and weighs 1,200 pounds.

Surrounding the curved steps of the altar are 12 kneelers done in needle-point by officer's wives' clubs throughout the Air Force. Each kneeler contains different designs of the cross or Christian symbols as they appear throughout Christian history.

The pews, which can seat 1,200, are of American walnut and African mahogany. They were sculptured so the end of each pew resembles a World War airplane propeller.

The backs of the pews are capped by a strip of aluminum similar to the leading edge of a fighter aircraft wing.

The classical pipe organ, designed by the Holtkamp Organ Co., has 83 ranks and 67 stops controlling 4,334 pipes. The largest pipe is 32 feet high and the smallest is pencil size.

## **CATHOLIC CHAPEL**

The focal point of the Catholic Chapel is the reredos behind the altar. An abstract glass mosaic mural, the reredos is composed of varying shades of blue, turquoise, rose and gray tessera to form a portrayal of the firmament. Superimposed on the mural and depicting the Annunciation are two 10-foot tall marble figures, The Blessed Virgin Mary on the left, and the Archangel Gabriel on the right. Above and between these two figures is a marble dove, symbolic of the Holy Spirit.

In front of the reredos is the altar, a gift from the late Francis Cardinal Spellman, who dedicated this chapel on Sept. 22, 1963. The altar is Italian white marble mounted on a marble cone-shaped pedestal. Above is a six-foot sculptured nickel-silver crucifix.

The side walls of the chapel, from floor to ceiling, are panels of amber glass. Between the amber glass panels are strip windows of multi-colored cast glass set in precast reinforced concrete.

Along the side walls are the 14 Stations of the Cross, carved from four-inch thick slabs of marble. The recessed backgrounds in the sculptures are multi-colored tessera.

Both the Stations of the Cross and the reredos were designed and completed by the late Lumen Martin Winter. The figures are done in Carrera marble, from the same quarries where Michelangelo drew his stone. The pews, which seat 500 people, are of American walnut trimmed in satin finished stainless steel.

The classical pipe organ, placed in the 100-seat choir loft, was designed by Walter Holtkamp and built by M. P. Moller Co. It features 36 ranks and 29 stops controlling its 1,950 pipes.

## **JEWISH CHAPEL**

Architecturally, the synagogue is a circle within a square. The circular design symbolizes the global mission of the Air Force and the everlasting presence of God. The surrounding foyer is paved with 1,631 pieces of Jerusalem stone donated by the Israeli Defense Force.

The walls of the foyer are purple stained glass panels alternating with green and blue stained accent windows. The circular walls of the synagogue are panels of translucent glass separated by stanchions of Israeli cypress.

The paintings, done by Shlomo Katz in 1985 and 1986, depict a Biblical story. They are divided into three groups; brotherhood, flight (in honor of the Air Force) and justice.

The focal point is the Aaron Kodesh, the Holy Ark, which shelters the Scrolls of the Torah. The Ner Tamid (Eternal Light) hangs to the right of the Ark. Nested in three Stars of David, it symbolizes the ever-present God within the life of the Jewish People.

In the foyer of the chapel is a display cabinet with a Torah Scroll that was saved from the Nazis during World War II. It was found in Poland in 1989 in an abandoned warehouse and donated to the Jewish Chapel in April 1990. This "Holocaust Torah" is dedicated to the memory of all of those who fought against the Nazis.

The synagogue is the only chapel with individual chairs for the congregation. It seats 100 people.

## **THE ALL-FAITHS ROOM**

The All-Faiths Rooms are worship areas for smaller religious groups. They are purposely void of religious symbolism so that they may be used by a variety of faiths. Distinguishing faith-specific accouterments are available for each group to use during their worship service.

## **The Cadet Prayer**

Lord God of Hosts, life is a stewardship in your sight. Grant the light or Your wisdom to the path of our cadet days. Instill within us an abiding awareness of love to You, our country, and our fellow man.

We seek humility, that knowing self, we may rise above human frailty. We ask for courage, that we may prove faithful to duty. We ask unfailing devotion and personal integrity, that we may preserve honor without compromise.

Make us instruments of Your peace in defense of skies that canopy free nations. So guide us in our thoughts, our words, our deeds, -- that we may fulfill Your will. May these graces abide in us, in those we love, and all who share our country's trust.

This we ask in the name of our Master and Leader,

Amen

## **The Air Force Hymn**

Lord, guard and guide those who fly  
Through the great spaces in the sky;  
Be with them traversing the air  
In darkening storms or sunshine fair,

You who support with tender might  
The balanced birds in all their flight.  
Lord of the tempered winds, be near,  
That, having you, they know no fear.

Control their minds with instinct fit,  
What time adventuring, they quit  
The firm security of land;  
Grant steadfast eye and skillful hand.

Aloft in solitudes of space  
Uphold them with your saving grace  
O God, protect those who fly  
Through lonely ways beneath the sky

## **USAFA'S Core Values**

Integrity First  
Service Above Self  
Excellence In All We Do

## **USAFA'S Honor Code**

“We will not lie, cheat or steal, nor tolerate among us anyone  
who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and live  
honorably,  
So Help me God.”

## U.S. Air Force Blue Song

They took the blue from the skies and a pretty girl's eyes  
and a touch of Old Glory's hue,  
And gave it to the men who proudly wear the U.S. Air Force blue.  
The U.S. Air Force Blue!

Oh, they are men with a dream on America's team,  
They're a rugged and ready crew.  
And you can bet your boots the world looks up to U.S. Air Force  
Blue.  
To U.S. Air Force Blue!

They know where they're goin', they've set their course,  
the sky's no limit in the Air Force.  
They took the blue from the skies and a pretty girl's eyes  
and a touch of Old Glory's hue,  
And gave it to the men who proudly wear the U.S. Air Force Blue.

And you can wear it too! The U.S... Air Force... Blue!

Scan the QR code to learn how this recruiting song from the late 1950's nearly replaced the US Air Force Song.



# *High Flight*

*by John Gillespie Magee*

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth of sun-  
split clouds, —and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of—wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air....  
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark nor ever eagle flew—  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.*

John Gillespie Magee was an American aviator and poet who died at the age of 19 fighting in World War II while serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was inspired to write the poem when he was flying a high altitude (30,000 feet) test flight in a newer model of the Spitfire V and as he orbited and climbed upward, he was struck with the inspiration of a poem -- "To touch the face of God." He completed the poem later that day after landing. Magee enclosed the poem on the back of a letter to his parents and his father, then rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington, DC reprinted it in church publications. "It started at 30,000 feet, and was finished soon after I landed. I thought it might interest you." Less than 2 months later, Magee was killed in a mid-air collision.

# The United States Air Force song

*Off we go into the wild blue yonder,  
Climbing high into the sun;  
Here they come zooming to meet our thunder,  
At 'em boys, Give 'er the gun! (Give 'er the gun now!)  
Down we dive, spouting our flame from under,  
Off with one helluva roar!  
We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!  
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!*

*Minds of men fashioned a crate of thunder,  
Sent it high into the blue;  
Hands of men blasted the world asunder;  
How they lived God only knew! (God only knew then!)  
Souls of men dreaming of skies to conquer  
Gave us wings, ever to soar!  
With scouts before And bombers galore. Hey!  
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!*

## **Bridge:** "A Toast to the Host"

*Here's a toast to the host  
Of those who love the vastness of the sky,  
To a friend we send a message of his brother men who fly.  
We drink to those who gave their all of old,  
Then down we roar to score the rainbow's pot of gold.  
A toast to the host of men we boast, the U.S. Air Force!*

*Zoom!*

*Off we go into the wild sky yonder,  
Keep the wings level and true;  
If you'd live to be a grey-haired wonder  
Keep the nose out of the blue! (Out of the blue, boy!)  
Flying men, guarding the nation's border,  
We'll be there, followed by more!  
In echelon we carry on. Hey!  
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!*

Note that the third verse has a different melody, and a more reverent mood than the rest of the song to commemorate those who have fallen in the service of the Air Force and the United States.

# The POW/MIA table setting to symbolize the members of the armed forces missing from our ranks.

The **table is small**, set only for one. It symbolizes the frailty of the prisoner against many oppressors.

The **table is round** to show our everlasting concern for our missing men and women.

The **tablecloth is white**, symbolizing the purity of their intentions to their country's call to arms.

The **single red rose** in the vase signifies their blood shed in sacrifice to ensure the freedom of our beloved United States of America. The rose also reminds us of their family and friends keeping faith while awaiting their return.

The **yellow ribbon** on the vase represents the yellow ribbon worn on the lapels of thousands who demand with unyielding determination a proper accounting of our comrades who are not among us tonight.

A **slice of lemon** on the bread plate reminds us of the bitter fate.

The **salt** sprinkled on the plate reminds us of the countless fallen tears of families as they wait and still feel the pain of their missing loved ones.

The **Bible** represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God.

The **glass** is inverted – they cannot toast with us tonight.

The **napkin** is unfolded as though used, as the lives of our fallen comrades were used in the service of our country.

The **chair** is empty. They are not here.

A **solitary candle** stands straight and tall, proud like our comrades. It stands alone as they have stood. It is reminiscent of the light of hope which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors, to the open arms of a grateful nation.

Let us not forget those who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that we may have the freedoms we enjoy here tonight. They may be gone, but they will never be forgotten. Let us pray to the Supreme Commander that all of our comrades will soon be back within our ranks. Let us remember and never forget their sacrifices.



One More Roll, written by retired Navy Captain, "Jerry" Coffee. Coffee was one of the longest held Vietnam POWs, remaining in captivity for over 7 years. Out of respect, this toast will be with water, instead of wine. This toast was first written and offered in 1968 in the prison camps of Hanoi, where wine was unavailable and clean water was a luxury.

## **One More Roll**

*We toast our faithful comrades  
Now fallen from the sky  
And gently caught by God's own hand  
To be with Him on high  
To dwell among the soaring clouds  
They knew so well before  
From dawn patrol and victory roll  
At heaven's very door.  
And as we fly among them there  
We're sure to hear their plea:  
"Take care, my friend, watch your six, and do one more roll*

"One More Roll" is the traditional final toast given by the President of the Mess at Air Force Dining-In and Dining-Out functions. It is also presented at the end of the POW/MIA salute.

# **PARADE DEMONSTRATIONS**

## **WINGS OF BLUE DEMONSTRATION**

During a normal Wings of Blue demonstration, 12 parachutists exit the jump aircraft in four separate maneuvers at altitudes ranging from 4,500 to 11,000 feet above ground level. The team uses colored smoke to aid spectators in seeing the demonstration.

On the first pass, wind drift indicators are dropped from the jump aircraft. These weighted pieces of crepe paper are designed to fall at the same rate as an open canopy. The jumpmaster drops the indicators just as the aircraft passes directly over the target at an altitude of 3,000 feet. The jumpmaster watches to see where the indicators land and uses this information to determine the exact point at which the jumper should exit the aircraft to land in the target area.

## **CANOPY SHOW**

The second pass is the canopy show, where four parachutists exit the jump aircraft from 4,500 feet above the ground. They free fall for about 10 seconds before deploying their parachutes. The team uses the high performance square parachute, which has a vertical descent rate of 2-16 feet per second and can reach forward speeds of up to 30 miles per hour. Shaped like an airfoil, it exhibits some of the same flight characteristics as the wing of an airplane.

## **BARBER POLE SHOW**

The third pass is the barber pole show, where two parachutists exit the aircraft from 7,000 feet. The jumpers come together in mid-air and begin to spin, by a slight movement of one arm or leg, or by dipping one shoulder. As they spin, the colored smoke they are carrying forms the barber pole. At 4,000 feet, they begin moving apart, and at 2,500 feet, they deploy their parachutes.

## **HIGH-LOW SHOW**

The fourth pass is the high-low show, where two parachutists exit the plane from 9,000 feet. One assumes the basic spread-eagle position, which allows him or her to fall as slowly as 85 miles per hour. The second jumper streamlines his or her body and pitches over into a head-first dive, allowing the parachutist to reach speeds in excess of 200 miles per hour. Both deploy their parachutes at 2,500 feet. Each second of delay in opening between the first and second parachutists represents approximately 150 feet of vertical separation between the two jumpers.

## **BOMB BURST SHOW**

The final pass is the bomb burst show, where four jumpers exit the aircraft from 11,000 feet. They maneuver their bodies in free fall to join into a four-man star, holding this position until 5,000 feet. At this altitude they break the star, turn and track away from each other. The smoke they carry creates the spectacular bomb burst effect. They deploy their parachutes at 2,500 feet.

## **GLIDER DEMONSTRATION**

The 94th FTS conducts more than 20,000 training and competition glider sorties annually, focused on developing officers, leadership, and character. More than 330 cadets take a basic solo course in sailplanes (Airmanship 251) and more than 1,100 cadets participate in the basic soaring course (Airmanship 250). Additionally, cadet instructors compete nationally in aerobatics and sailplane racing team competitions. The squadron operates 24 sailplanes with seven tow aircraft. Today you will see aerial acrobatics with smoke flares.

## **POWERED FLIGHT DEMONSTRATION**

Precision Flight Training – USAFA Flying Team Selected cadets participate in a three-year upgrade training program in aviation skills. Flight training includes precision landings, cross-country navigation, aircraft preflight, instrument flying, message drop, aircraft identification, Federal Aviation Regulations, Aeronautical Information Manual, and USAF flying regulations. Qualified cadets may participate in national and international flying competitions.

## **CADET DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS**

The Cadet Drum and Bugle Corps is comprised of 135 cadets and has represented the Air Force Academy at various national parades. Known as the "Flight of Sound," the Corps primary mission is to support Cadet Wing activities, including military formations and most major sporting events. An extension of the mission continues in the community with concerts and field exhibitions, band festivals, and military ceremonies. The Corps has won 15 of the 21 Inter-Service Academy Drum and Bugle Corps Competitions.

## **CADET HONOR GUARD**

The U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Honor Guard is a very prestigious cadet unit, drawing less than 2 percent of the Cadet Wing as its members. The unit is made up of approximately 70 cadets, both male and female, with each class year providing 14-20 cadets as part of the unit. Steeped in tradition, this unit performs Color Guard, flag details, funeral honors, and all other ceremonial details. The Cadet Honor Guard has won numerous titles for its excellence in military inspection, regulation drill, exhibition drill, along with awards for outstanding fourth-class commanders.

## **SABRE DRILL TEAM**

The mission of the US Air Force Academy Sabre Drill Team is to demonstrate professional military skills through the performance of intricate sabre manual. The sabres are modeled after a French weapon and made of stainless steel. The sabres are three feet long and weigh 1 pound, 1 ounce unsheathed. They are manufactured in West Germany and their design is unique to the Academy and the sabre drill team.

Cadets can join the team only in their freshman year and may remain a member until they graduate. Each candidate is rigorously screened. Those who make the team are required to devote five afternoons each week to sabre and drill practices. After a three-month trial period, the top performers are granted team member status.

## **FALCON DEMONSTRATION**

USAFA has the only performing mascot (a Prairie Falcon) in the NCAA (riding or running a horse, mule, or buffalo around does not count). The falcons fly around the stadium and then dive (at speeds close to 120 mph) toward the lure swung by cadet "falconers" on the field. Cadets in the stands are known to yell "Go, fly away, be free" to the falcons. Since these cadets could be years from graduation, they fully understand and appreciate the falcon's taste of freedom at halftime. You just might get your photo taken with one!

# Commissioning Information

## OATH OF OFFICE

The Commissioning Ceremony is when the cadets receive their new rank of Second Lieutenant and take the Oath of Office. About 30 Cadets from Squadron 22 will be individually commissioned in alphabetical order and each will take about 5 minutes.

Many say this is the most emotional time of all the events during Graduation Week because Cadets give great care to selecting who will participate and who will administer the Oath of Office. Only active or retired military and a select few others can administer the Oath.

When it is her turn, Katie will move to the front of the room. Paperwork is signed by two parties. Katie will face the person giving the Oath and both will raise their right hands. The Oath will be on a cue card in large letters behind the soon-to-be lieutenant. The Oath is read and repeated. From a USAFA professor who has administered the Oath, "From personal experience, I can state that it gets very hard to read those large letters towards the end."

After the Oath is over and the salutes have been exchanged, the new officer will face the audience and the chosen family members put on the gold bar shoulder boards.

## Tradition with the First Salute.

Newly-commissioned Second Lieutenants customarily give a coin to the first person who salutes them. There are many variations on this tradition, which dates back to British Colonial times. The coins can be the garden-variety Ike dollar all the way to coins carrying the 2LT's birth year or more. This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apollo landing on the moon and a commemorative coin was minted. Neil Armstrong is the class of 2019 Exemplar. Many will choose this symbolic coin to give away on their first salute.

The first salute is incorporated into the Commissioning ceremony. The Cadet can invite an enlisted person who has been helpful in the Cadet's struggle through the Academy. After the bars are pinned on, the salute is snapped, the silver dollar is passed, and then bear hugs are given all the way around.

## Oath of Allegiance to the United States

I, Kathleen Kohler, having been appointed a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. SO HELP ME GOD.

# Graduation Information

## 12 noon Hat Toss

After the last cadet gets the diploma, the USAFA Superintendent shouts “Class Dismissed.” This is the cue for the now 2LTs to throw their white hats into the air and for the Thunderbirds to begin their performance. Custom has it for the owner of the hat to place some money or a note in the hat, generally their class year (\$20.19). The children are expected to write the owner of the hats and wish them well. Children ages 7-10 only will be allowed on the Stadium floor to retrieve and keep one hat.

## ***Potential Grad Week Force Protection Changes.***

Recent increase in terrorist activity worldwide could result in changes in our force protection posture. Although we do not expect a change in the near future, an increase in national or local threat may result in the implementation of additional anti-terrorism/force protection measures. These measures may be implemented with very little notice in order to ensure the security and safety of all working on the installation. Remain flexible and plan accordingly...parades maybe cancelled to ensure the protection of our most critical resource, our people...if Graduation is moved to the Clune Arena in order to ensure protection for all attendees, the event would be closed to the public and all family pass holders would be centrally bussed from the stadium.

*Please follow the rules on what is permitted and not permitted in Falcon Stadium. Bringing prohibited items only slows down the process and brings more stress on the day.*

## **12-12:45pm Thunderbird Performance**

The USAF Thunderbirds Demonstration zooms over the Falcon Stadium immediately following the Graduation Ceremony. The team is comprised of selected pilots.

For safety sake and to comply with FAA regulations, no one will be permitted to leave the stadium until after the Thunderbirds' performance ends. Even traffic on I-25 is stopped during the show. Visitors are not permitted in the parking lots during the demonstration. Helium-filled balloons may not be released.

### **The Thunderbirds**

#### **The Team**

The Thunderbirds squadron is an Air Combat Command unit composed of eight pilots (including six demonstration pilots), four support officers, three civilians and more than 130 enlisted personnel performing in 25 career fields.

A Thunderbirds air demonstration is a mix of formation flying and solo routines. The four-aircraft diamond formation demonstrates the training and precision of Air Force pilots, while the solo aircraft highlight the maximum capabilities of the F-16. The entire show, including ground and air, runs about an hour and fifteen minutes.

**F-16 Fighting Falcon** - the Lockheed Martin (formerly General Dynamics) F-16 Fighting Falcon represents the full range of capabilities possessed by the Air Force's tactical fighters. This highly maneuverable multi-role fighter has proven to be one of the world's best precision tactical bombers and air-to-air combat aircraft. The only modifications needed to prepare the aircraft for its air demonstration role are installing a smoke-generating system in the space normally reserved for the 20mm cannon, and the painting of the aircraft in Thunderbird colors.

#### **History of the US Air Force Academy**

Although airpower advocates had been pushing for a separate air force academy during previous decades, it was not until the late 1940s that the concept of the United States Air Force Academy began to take shape. In January 1950, the Service Academy Board, headed by Dwight D. Eisenhower, then president of Columbia University, concluded that the needs of the Air Force could not be met by the two existing U.S. service academies and that an air force academy should be established. Congress authorized the construction of the Academy on April 1, 1954, and established an advisory commission to help determine the site of the new school. Among the panel members were Charles Lindbergh, General Carl Spaatz, and Lieutenant General Hubert R. Harmon, who later became the Academy's first superintendent. 582 sites were considered and Colorado Springs was announced the winning site on June 24, 1954.

#### **The Early Years**

On July 11 1955, the first class of 306 cadets was sworn in at a temporary site at Lowry Air Force Base, Denver while construction was completed in Colorado Springs. Because there were no upper-class cadets to run the Cadet Wing, a cadre of Air Training Officers was selected to supervise and train the new cadets until the upper classes could be populated. On August 29, 1958, a wing of 1,145 cadets moved to the present site. Less than a year later the Academy received accreditation. The First Class graduated on June 3, 1959.

President Gerald R. Ford signed legislation permitting women to enter the US Service Academies. On June 26, 1976, 157 women entered the Air Force Academy with the Class of 1980. 15 young female officers were selected to help with the integration process. The women were initially segregated from the rest of the Cadet Wing, but were fully integrated into their assigned squadrons after the first winter break. Four years later, 97 of the original female cadets completed the program and graduated from the Academy.

The campus of the Academy covers 18,000 acres on the east side of the Rampart Range of the Rocky Mountains, at an altitude of 7,258 feet above sea-level. The Academy was designed by the architectural firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill.

### **Present Day**

The Academy offers 29 Academic majors, and is the only school in the US to offer a BS degree in English. In the summers, the cadets will choose among parachuting, soaring, flying, and working at BCT and serve at bases around the world before graduating in the required 8 semesters.

In addition to a full academic load and military training, cadets are required to maintain physical conditioning. A Division I school, the Academy fields 27 varsity teams and also offers a range of intramural sports and sports clubs. Cadets can also choose from nearly 100 activities to develop interests outside the Academy. Encompassing all activities is Character Development, the development of integrity in the future officers.

# Merit Lists

Each semester, cadets can qualify for 4 special Lists.

**Dean's List:** Earned through achieving a GPA of 3.0 or higher during the previous semester, excluding PE, and carrying a minimum course load. Signified by a "star" worn on the left breast pocket.

**Commandant's List:** Earned thru achieving an MPA of 3.0 or above for the previous semester. Signified by wearing a "wreath" worn on the left breast pocket.

- Fourth class cadets who received an Air Officer Commanding (AOC) rating of A+ or A for BCT will be authorized to wear the Commandant's pin for their fall academic year semester.

**Athletic Director's List:** Earned thru achieving a physical education average (PEA) of 3.0 or higher.

- The PEA is based on a weighted combination of the PFT, PE class grades from previous semester, and the AFT score. Signified by a "lightning bolt" worn on the left breast pocket.

**Superintendent's List:** Must be on all 3 lists: the Dean's List, the Commandant's List, and the Athletic List. Signified by a "star inside a wreath with two lightning bolts below" worn on the left breast pocket.

- Cadets who land on this list get invited to a reception at the Sup's house. Only about 5% of all the Cadets make the Sup's list each semester. The pins are based on the previous semester's scores and not their cumulative scores.

Graduating Class Standing is based on a cadet cumulative of the **Overall Performance Average (OPA)** which is the weighed combinations of Academic performance Average (APA), Military Performance Average (MPA) and Athletic Performance.



## **Fun Terms:**

**Air Gardens** – The walking area on the Terrazzo where each tree stands for a graduate who died in combat in Vietnam. Forbidden for Fourth Class Cadets. An Air Garden Ace is a Fourthie who has gone undetected through them.

**Air Force Gloves** – Cadet pockets.

**Beanhead** - an "endearing" name for fourth classmen.

**Black Magic** – electrical engineering.

**Canoe U** – A small school which forms a suburb of the capital of Maryland with a campus partly on land and partly on the Severn River. Squids go there.

**Centurion** – Cadet who has had the dubious honor of marching 100 tours. Tours no longer ordered.

**Check points** – A daily list of “must-know” knowledge for the 4th Class cadets, such as meal menus, days until graduation for each of the three upper classes and Senior Officer of the Day.

**Dark Ages** – That period of time between Christmas and Spring Break and seems to drag on for millenniums.

**Dead Bug** - Doing the "Dead Bug" during BCT for sleeping on top of your bed. If a basic is caught sleeping on top of his covers, he has to get between his sheets and thrash about until his bed is trashed. Also, during RECONDO when basics are "killed" they do the dead bug with their rifle and legs in the air twitching around.

**Dental Hobby Shop** – The "endearing" name for the Cadet Dental Clinic located in the cadet area where dental "professionals" practice and play with your mouth and teeth (thus the name).

**Denver Destroyers** – Academy-provided laundry service mainly used by third and fourth classmen, known to return clothes in worse condition than when they were sent.

**Doolies** - an "endearing" name for fourth classmen. From the Greek word “doulos” for “slave.”

**"East Kansas Lot" or "Lower Slobovia Lot" or "Outer Mongolia Lot"** where cadets have to park their cars and is a long walk from the Cadet area.

**Edge Dressing** – Shiny black fluid used to shine heels and soles of shoes.

**FIGMO** - Forget it, got my orders. Demonstrating a “don’t care’ attitude.

**First snow, first shirt** - On the day of the first snow of the winter, the Doolies are supposed to grab their first sergeants and drag them through the snow until they are just shy of hypothermic.

**Fuzzy** – A cadet majoring in Liberal Arts (at the finest engineering school in the world!)

**Ground Pounder- A non-flying military member.**

**Head Shed** – Those departments falling under the jurisdiction of the Superintendent and staff.

**Jack’s Valley** – Site of encampment training during BCT.

**K-bowls** – Event where Doolies are given an opportunity to compete against another squadron to display their grasp of military knowledge.

**Mother Ship** – Nickname for Walmart.

**Nino Balducci '59 to present** - Nino entered with the class of '59 and to this day has not graduated. He's never gotten off any probation, yet the big-wigs can't gain any hard evidence to disenroll him. A little more unsubstantiated rumor concerning the

perpetual cadet was that some members of the class of 1959 went to Italy and heard about an aeronautical engineer who designed a bomber which never flew. His name was "Nino Balducci" and he started to appear on Alpha Rosters, etc.

**Ralph** – Unofficial lesser deity in charge of bad weather. Cadets would often pray to Ralph when an IRI or parade was scheduled for the coming weekend.

**Ramps** – Special tables for Athletes to eat at Mitch's.

**Red, blue, gold, silver "Magnet" or "Rack"** – The class colored blanket on a cadet's bed that draws them to take a nap at every available 15 minutes or more of free time.

**SAMI** – Saturday Morning Inspection, all members of the Cadet Wing stand in their rooms at parade rest while squadron, group, and wing staffs inspect rooms for an hour. Prior to the mid 1980s, preparing for inspection included waxing and buffing of floors for the three lower classes. Until 1978, firsties had to buff their floors too--after that, firsties were allowed carpet. In the mid 1980's the entire wing started receiving carpet in the rooms, deleting the need for buffers.

**Sick Call Rangers** – A small group of cadets manage to be on Sick Call whenever there is something strenuous required, especially the PFT.

**SMACK** – "Soldier Minus Ability, Coordination, and Knowledge, an "endearing" name for fourth classmen.

**Square Root Club** – If the square root of your GPA or MPA is higher than your actual GPA/MPA.

**Stract** – A very military acting cadet.

**Sugar Cookies** – Cadets who messed up during their day with RECONDO during beast would dip themselves in the river or pond, then roll around in the sand producing a human "sugar cookie."

**T'zo** – Terrazzo. Note the marble strips where the Doolies have to run.

**Terrazzo sailing** - On windy nights, procure a laundry or moving cart and a bed sheet. Go out to the terrazzo and sail away. (Teams of two usually work better than individuals.)

**Touch and Go** – Going to an official Ball at Arnold Hall—quickly getting dressed, running to Arnold Hall, going through the receiving line, eating a cookie, and running back to your room to change and sign out before most people have made it to Arnold Hall.

**Trash Hauler** – Pilot of a non-fighter aircraft with more than one engine, a transport pilot.

**Triple Threat** – A single day, usually a Saturday, that includes a SAMI, an In Ranks Inspection (IRI), and Parade. A football game can also be added to the Triple Threat further consuming a cadet's cherished weekend.

**Under Hood** – Used to describe wearing the wool parkas with the hoods up worn on very cold days.

**Waldo F. Dumbsquat** – "Perpetual" Doolie at the Academy—has never been recognized or done anything right.

**Water Haze** – Derogatory term for the mandatory water survival course.

**Zoo** – Nickname for USAFA. Also "The Blue Zoo."

**Zoomies** – That term by which a cadet is commonly known among jealous civilians. Also a USAFA graduate.

**2% Club** – Those cadets who manage to date their High School Sweethearts throughout their time at the Academy.

# Fun Trivia

The first classes of cadets wore temporary uniforms while a distinctive Academy uniform was developed. After a number of military tailors fell short, Secretary Talbott turned to Hollywood director Cecil B. DeMille for help. The resulting uniforms—most notably the distinctive cadet parade dress—are still worn by cadets today.

**Football push-ups** – After the Falcons score (touchdowns or field goals, safety, etc.), cadets (mainly fourth classmen) rush to the end zone and do pushups for the amount of the total Falcon score. Many 1970s grads seem to not remember this act of spirit. However, it seems scoring pushups became very popular and a regular act starting in 1982 with the winning four Bowl Games in a row, and beating Notre Dame four years in a row, and being ranked as high as top five in the nation. The sight of grown men in Fighting Irish sweaters crying after their fourth loss in a row to "little" Air Force was inspiring. With the average Falcon team scoring close to 40 points a game, a lot of pushups can be executed. Example, when Air Force beat University of Northern Colorado 75-10, cadets would have accomplished 460 pushups in less than three hours.

**Prop and wings** – Worn on all recognized cadets' flight caps. As Doolies, fourth classmen are not recognized as cadets by the upper class. Some time in their second semester after Hell Week, or Recognition Training, the fourth class are recognized and given their prop and wings. The prop and wings date back to the Army Air Corps and were worn on an airman's collar. Cadets with a relative who served in the Army Air Corps or Air Force have gold wings on their prop and wings.

**Ring dance** – At the end of the second-class year there is a dinner/dance/ball where second classmen receive their class rings. Pictures with dates are taken in a large class ring. Also, cadets are not supposed to touch their rings before they are christened in champagne. This requires a cadet's date to take the ring out of its box and places it into a glass of champagne. Cadets then drink the glass to get to their ring. Cadets then put on their rings, ignore their dates, and run around showing their classmates 1000 identical rings (except for stones). As a cadet, one should wear the ring with the class crest inward, towards your heart, showing that USAFA is your priority. Once you graduate turn the ring around and put the AF crest closer to your heart and show everyone you are a USAFA graduate.

**100s night** - When firsties have 100 days until graduation, there is usually a dining-in, followed by much revelry off base. While the firsties are gone, Doolies trash their rooms

# Famous Names linked to USAFA Structures

Fairchild Hall, the cadet academic building, is named after **General Muir S. Fairchild**, the first commander of Air University and later Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Fairchild Hall contains academic classrooms, laboratories and research facilities, faculty offices, and the **Robert F. McDermott** Library. The Library is named after USAFA's first Dean of the Faculty.

Vandenberg Hall, a cadet dormitory, is named after Air Force Chief of Staff **General Hoyt S. Vandenberg**.

Sijan Hall, a cadet dormitory, was built to accommodate the expansion of the Cadet Wing to a strength of 4,417 cadets. It is named after **Captain Lance Sijan**, the first USAFA graduate to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

Mitchell Hall, the cadet dining facility, has the ability to feed the entire Cadet Wing at one time. It is named after airpower pioneer **Brigadier General William "Billy" Mitchell**.

Arnold Hall, the cadet social center, contains a 3000-seat theater, a ballroom, and a number of lounge and recreation facilities for cadets and visitors. It is named after **General of the Air Force Henry H. "Hap" Arnold**, commanding general of the United States Army Air Forces during World War II.

Harmon Hall is the administration building, which houses the offices of the Superintendent and the Superintendent's staff. It is named after **Lieutenant General Hubert R. Harmon**, the first Superintendent of the Academy.

The Academy Cemetery, where air power notables such as **General Carl Spaatz** and **General Curtis E. LeMay** are interred. Spaatz was the first Chief Secretary of the Air Force and LeMay headed the Berlin Airlift Relief effort.

Doolittle Hall is the headquarters of the USAFA Association of Graduates, and also serves as the reception point for new cadets arriving for Basic Cadet Training. It is named after Medal of Honor winner and director of the Tokyo WWII raids **General of the Air Force Jimmy Doolittle**.

The Goldwater Visitors Center is the focal point for family, friends and tourists visiting the Academy grounds. It is named after **United States Senator Barry Goldwater**.

# Mitchell Hall

Imagine the task at hand when more than 4,400 hungry U.S Air Force Academy cadets march into the Mitchell Hall dining facility for the mandatory breakfast and noon meals. More than 220 dedicated employees work diligently to prepare and serve meals in one of the largest mass dining facilities in the world...120 wait staff, 50 cooks, 30 prep workers, 10 bakers, 15 warehouse/supply.

Upon the announcement from the staff tower of "Wing, take seats," the wait staff have a mere five minutes to have all hot food items served on each table. One waiter is assigned to 10 tables. The cold food items (bread, salad, beverages, etc.) are placed on tables and hot carts are positioned by the tables before the cadets arrive. Within only 20 minutes, cadets will consume the meal and return to their strenuous academic schedule. They accomplish this staggering feat 5 days a week, every week.

Mitchell Hall's annual food budget nears \$10 million a year, based on a daily ration allowance provided each cadet. Mitch's serves 3 million meals and prepares more than 100,000 box meals for cadet Wing programs and club activities each year. Menus are planned by food service dietetic experts and provide a balanced diet each day. The cadets need meals high in complex carbs and low in fat and cholesterol.

Cadets consume more than 374,000 gallons of milk, 376,000 gallons of juices and punch, 103,000 pounds of chicken, 23340 pounds of peanut butter, 251,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables and 14,500 pounds of oatmeal annually.

In April of 2005, this responsibility transferred to the 10th Air Base Wing and aligned under the 10th Services Division. The Services Division is responsible for quality of life functions at the Academy, including virtually all food service operations. Upon initial transfer, it became apparent that Mitchell Hall required substantial facility and equipment upgrades. To address these needs, the Academy funded nearly \$3 million in required maintenance and repair upgrades and spent another \$1.3 million to upgrade kitchen equipment. To date, about half of the facility upgrades have been completed and the remainder, including new equipment, will phase in over the next year.

Hot/cold Pilot and Loadmaster – In Mitchell Hall fourth classman sit at the end of the table and serve the upper classman and fill glasses with ice/drink, pour soup, etc. Hot Pilot handles food, Cold Pilot drink, and Loadmaster at the end coordinates all service.

Mitchell Hall class lights – Lights represent each class with its class color. Lights located under the staff tower in Mitchell Hall indicate, when lit, that a class is dismissed. Firsties' class colored light comes on soon after "wing take seats" and Doolies' light comes on when Wing is dismissed.

# CADET MILITARY TRAINING (CMT)

Offered by the 34th Training Group

**CMT 100.** Fourth-Class (Freshman) Military Training. Fall semester lessons concentrate on the knowledge required to orient cadets to Academy life. The first block of lessons focuses on the practical aspects of personal responsibilities, time management, and setting and attaining goals. Other lessons stress duty, followership skills, heritage, and honor. During the spring semester, training focuses on the Academy Training Philosophy and operational Air Force. The lessons are designed to help cadets better understand leadership and Air Force organization.

**CMT 200.** Third-Class (Sophomore) Military Training. Fall semester lessons focus on gaining skills for teaching and mentoring fourth-class cadets. Cadets learn how to properly apply the Academy Training Philosophy, including subordinate leader training. The spring semester focuses on the demonstration performance method of teaching and preparing the cadets to be supervisors.

**CMT 300.** Second-Class (Junior) Military Training. Focuses on development of supervisory skills. In the fall semester, cadets analyze operational problems; prepare written corrective actions; and learn delegating, controlling, and problem solving. Spring lessons concentrate on leadership principles. This approach permits cadets to practice and refine these leadership skills in preparation for leadership of the cadet wing and later for leadership in the Air Force as a commissioned officer. Spring semester prepares second-class cadets for their roll as leaders in the cadet wing.

**CMT 400.** First-Class (Senior) Military Training. The primary goal of first-class CMT is to make final preparations for commissioning. During their first-class year, cadets will apply leadership skills in running the cadet wing. They will also obtain a working knowledge of the Air Force to include such topics as officer standards, the assignment system, officer finances, duty, and the enlisted evaluation system.

## **PE Curriculum**

To fulfill the Physical Education (PE) requirements, every cadet takes a PE course in each of their four academic years. Participation in intramurals, limited on-season mission clubs or intercollegiate athletics is required in each of the eight academic semesters. Cadets must pass the Physical Fitness Test each semester unless in Inter-collegiate sports or has super-exceeded the requirements from the semester before.

### **Combatives**

Team Lifetime Academic  
Unarmed  
Combat I  
Unarmed  
Combat II  
Self-Defense Survival

### **Developmental**

Boxing or Physical  
Swimming  
Wrestling Development  
Sports Management

### **Aquatics**

Water  
SCUBA

### **Team**

Basketball  
Softball  
Volleyball  
Soccer  
**Life**  
Golf  
Tennis  
Racquetball

### **Fall Intramurals**

Basketball  
Flag Football  
Flicker ball  
Men's Boxing  
Mountain Biking  
Soccer  
Tennis (Doubles)

### **Wallyball**

### **Spring Intramurals**

Cross Country  
Racquetball  
Rugby  
Soccer  
Softball  
Team Handball  
Ultimate Frisbee  
Volleyball

# Character Development

**Fourth class cadets** attend 2 five-hour seminars called VECTOR (Vital Effective Character Through Observation and Reflection). VECTOR illustrates to fourth class cadets the importance of developing a strong personal foundation.

**Third class cadets** complete the Respect and Responsibility (R&R) Workshop. This workshop develops cadets' interpersonal leadership

**Second class cadets** will take part in the Leaders In Flight Today (LIFT) seminar. LIFT includes a personality style assessment tool intended for cadets to better understand others as they better understand themselves.

**First class cadets** participate in the Academy Character Enrichment Seminar (ACES). The ACES offsite is a dynamic one-day program designed to focus attendees on the ethical demands placed on Air Force officers.

Optional cadet participation at the Adventure-based Learning Facility (ABL). The ABL involves a series of high and low ropes course elements which help students develop trust, solve problems, build team unity, and enhance effective communication

## **Fourth-class Summer**

Each of Basic Cadet Training's two phases—one in the cadet area, the other in Jack's Valley will challenge cadets physically, mentally, and emotionally. Cadets emerge with a deep sense of pride and confidence. Following the military and physical preparation of BCT in the cadet area, training continues in Jack's Valley, a wooded area on the Academy grounds. Jack's Valley tests the rigors of cadets' teamwork, thinking under pressure, and physical endurance.

## **Third-Class Summer**

Global Engagement shows what it takes to support aircraft and emergency procedures. Cadets 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. Cadets will also fly, parachute and or soar.

## **Second-Class Summer**

Cadets apply leadership skills by serving as cadre members in BCT, GE, or as instructors in parachuting, soaring, or navigation. Cadets go to assigned Air Force Bases throughout the world to visit and interact with members of an operational unit during the three-week Operation Air Force

## **First-Class Summer**

First-class cadets take the reins of command as the cadet wing leadership. Through positions of responsibility, cadets' leadership skills will contribute to the success of the Academy's military training programs of BCT, GE, aviation, and airmanship programs.

## **From the USAFA Webpage: What is a cadet's day like?**

During the academic year, from early August through May, you'll have a busy schedule of classes, study periods, military training and athletic participation. Breakfast formation is at 7:00. You'll rise in time to put your room in order, dress in the cadet uniform of the day and meet the formation. After breakfast you'll attend morning classes, which begin at 7:30 a.m. You'll attend classes or study until 11:20 a.m., when you'll go to your squadron area for the noon meal formation. You'll march to lunch with the cadet wing and have 25 minutes to eat. After lunch there are three classes or study periods in the afternoon, one which includes military training (M-5), followed by athletics, squadron training or extra academic instruction. Evening mealtime is from 5:00 to 6:50 p.m. and academic call to quarters is 7:00 p.m. Some military activities will be required in the evening, but most of the time will be devoted to studying in your room or in the library. Your day ends with taps at 10:30 p.m. The daily schedule will vary during the summer, according to the military training activity in which you're involved, but you'll be busy from early morning throughout the day.

What items are cadets allowed to have in their rooms?

You'll not be permitted to bring your personal possessions with you when you enter the Academy (except for a few items listed in the cadet appointee instruction booklet). All basic necessities, such as uniforms, bedding and linens, will be furnished when you enter. During the academic year you'll be permitted to have additional items when authorized by the Cadet Wing Commander. You'll be issued a personal computer while at the Academy. You'll be permitted to have a radio or stereo equipment in your room beginning the spring semester of your Fourth-Class year; you must wait until your First-Class year to have a television in your room. You may, at certain times, watch TV in the squadron recreation room. You must wait until your Second-Class year to have most electrical appliances, but a Third-Class cadet may have a coffee pot.



# USAFA TRADITIONS

## COMMISSIONING

### **The Silver Dollar Salute –**

Exciting Announcement from the US Mint – By tradition, the silver dollar is the only coin given in exchange for the first salute. Your newly commissioned officer will render their first salute to an Enlisted military member, Non Commissioned Officer, or a Veteran. While the coin may be just one dollar in denomination, it represents a value far greater. To new officers it may represent the respect found in ones newly earned rank and position. A twist on the thinking for the silver dollar salute is that the new officer must buy his first salute as he has not yet by the nature of his deed alone, earned it! This coin should represent the deep-felt gratitude for the mentor ship and lessons imparted on the Lieutenant before being sent out into the world to embark in the brotherhood and profession of arms. The silver in a true silver dollar really represents the fidelity to a standard and this coin will be a store of value both in the memory it makes, its intrinsic value as a precious metal, and its part in American history.

For 2019, in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon, the US Mint is creating a four-coin program: a curved \$5 gold coin, a curved \$1 silver coin, a curved half-dollar clad coin, and a curved 5 ounce \$1 silver proof coin. These coins will go on sale January 24, 2019. Coins can be purchased at the US Mint website. <https://www.usmint.gov>

# GRADUATION

## Graduation Parade “Full Circle”

**Background:** In a Doolie’s first summer, the Acceptance Parade marks the successful completion of Basic Cadet Training (BCT or “Beast”). When Doolies finish their BCT within 2 months of their arrival at the Academy in June, the Doolies march together onto the Parade Field and are absorbed, or ACCEPTED, into the Cadet Wing. The newly formed 4,000-plus-strong Cadet Wing leaves the field in unison. The Cadet Wing split into squadrons and each squadron awards its Doolies their first shoulder boards which denotes rank.

Nearly four years later, the Cadet Wing will march in together onto the Parade Grounds for its Graduation Parade, and the members of the graduating class will separate and move toward the stands, leaving their under-classmen at the back of the field. After the change of leadership ceremony and the sheathing of the class color flag, the  $\frac{3}{4}$  Cadet Wing will march in review of the soon-to-be 2LTs and exchange salutes with their squadron mates.

### Look for:

- Listen for the Roll Call numbers. In previous years the 4 Groups will note the number of “Counted and Present” and it will numerate the Class Year. 2.0.1.9. And cheer!!!
- The advancing Firsties form a wedge look as they advance toward the stands.
- How the squadron flags are dipped to indicate salute as the younger classes pass their former squadron mates as they march off the field. The extra banners/ribbons hanging from the squadron pole plus flag indicate what awards that squadron won thru the year. For ex. Academic, intermurals, military....
- In the second rank of the color guard, behind the U.S., POW, and Air Force flags are the colors of the four classes at the Academy. On the right, in the position of honor: The class colors are: red, gold, blue, and silver. After the Graduating Class leaves the Cadet Wing, its Class Color flag will be furled and cased in a cover and moved to the farthest right position. At any parades before Acceptance, the cased color will be on the right, still cased, awaiting the acceptance of the next class. At that Acceptance parade, after the incoming class joins the Wing, the class color will be unfurled, symbolic of that class joining the wing. The Class color flag will work its way from left to right, year by year .... It’s a fine tradition that most folks never notice.

Note the rank of the USAFA superintendent. Currently, Gen Silveria is a three-star. When he is on the parade ground, there should be a blue flag with three stars on it behind him. Also, when the AF band plays, it will do three flourishes before commencing with the songs.

## **Hat Toss**

After the last cadet gets the diploma, the USAFA Superintendent shouts “Class Dismissed.” This is the cue for the now 2LTs to throw their white hats into the air and for the Thunderbirds to begin their performance. Custom has it for the owner of the hat is to place some money or a note in the hat. The children are expected to write the owner of the hats and wish them well. Children ages 7-10 only will be allowed on the Stadium floor to retrieve and keep one hat. The children will be invited about 15 minutes before the end of the roll call to go to certain gates to get on the stadium floor. They might need to be accompanied for an adult. Listen for instructions. Especially where to meet up with your hatted child. Thankfully, the Hat Toss got “fixed.” One year, big bully boys ran on the field and grabbed hats out of younger ones’ hands just to get the money. Lot of crying on the field. Good photo of a smiling youngster with an over-sized hat.

# **The Class of 2019**

Class Color: Gold

Exemplar: Neil Armstrong

Motto: "Conquer Mind, Conquer All"

Vince Mentem, Vince Omnia

## **Important Dates to Remember**

Inprocessing: Thursday, June 25th, 2015

Recognition: Saturday, March 12th, 2016

Exemplar Dinner: Friday, October 21st, 2016

Commitment Dinner: Wednesday, August 9th, 2017

Ring Dance: Friday, May 18th, 2018

Hundreds Night: Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Graduation: Thursday, May 30th, 2019

# MILESTONES

*There are six main milestones that mark the career of a cadet. Recognition, Exemplar Dinner, Commitment, Ring Dance, 100's Night, and Graduation*

## **Recognition**

**Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Recognition marked the transition of the Fourth Class Cadets to upper class status. Recognition consisted of wing and squadron-run training, challenge courses and events, speakers and “Prop and Wing” ceremonies, concluding with a celebratory dinner that Saturday evening.

## **Exemplar Dinner**

**Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016**

The Cadet Exemplar Program is an avenue for each Academy class to honor and identify with a past military giant, alive or dead. It is designed to link our nation’s rich heritage with our boundless future. As such, the heroes who are chosen epitomize the personal characteristics that each class of cadets seeks to emulate.

The goal of the Cadet Exemplar Program is to build officers with a strong foundation in our nation’s and our military’s heritage in order to advance into the future as a united aerospace force.

The selected class exemplar not only becomes the cadets’ honorary class leader, but also the very namesake and identity of that particular class. Throughout the cadets’ career, the Exemplar becomes the focal point of inspiration for the cadets as they prepare for their roles as Air Force officers and future leaders.

In short, the Cadet Exemplar Program strives to form unbreakable unity between past leaders and today’s future leaders so that the critical values of Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do will continue to prosper at the Air Force Academy and in the nation as a whole. The USAFA Class of 2019 chose **NEIL ARMSTRONG**.

## **Commitment Dinner**

**Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The commitment dinner tradition was established as a formal ceremony to recognize renewed commitment to the Armed Forces. Commitment Dinner for the second class takes place at the start of the fall semester. Once the cadets return to the Academy for their second-class year, they incur the financial or active duty “commitment” for their education if they depart the Academy prior to graduation. Members of the Legacy Class, the class of 1969, are invited to attend the Commitment dinner to celebrate with the second-class cadets.

## **Ring Dance**

**Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

The United States Air Force Academy is the only service academy to have had class rings for every class since its founding. Air Force Academy rings are also unique because they are made with white gold, instead of the yellow gold used at other service academies.

Each class designs its own ring and class crest. One side of the ring bears the Academy crest, while the other side bears the class crest, which always includes elements from the Class of 1959's crest: the class number, the class year, the Polaris star and the eagle.

This formal and prestigious ball is exclusively for second-class cadets (juniors). It is held during Graduation Week, before the second-class cadets become first-class cadets, and is where they receive their class rings and unveil the class crest. The rings are traditionally placed in a glass of champagne and are caught in the teeth following a toast.

The class crest and class painting are unveiled at this dinner as well.

## **100's Night**

**Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

100th night for the first-class cadets takes place roughly 100 nights before graduation. It is an opportunity for the first-class cadets to join with the Legacy Class and celebrate 100 days to graduation and commission as second lieutenants. Cadets also receive their base assignments at this dinner as well. On the weekend, the firsties leave campus and the C4Cs "decorate" the firsties' rooms.

## **Graduation**

**Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

After four years of hard work and thorough preparation to become a commissioned officer in the United States Air Force, Graduation Week time is extremely exciting for cadets and their family members and friends.

With the close of the ceremony, cadets are dismissed as graduates. Cheers and celebration are silenced by the roar of the legendary Thunderbirds as they fly over the Academy in formation to congratulate the graduating class. A four-year journey in the life of your cadet comes to a close with pride and jubilation. You and your child have reason to celebrate, as they have achieved something truly great.