



# **OUR ACADEMY HERITAGE**

## **History Office**

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## **The Academy's Mission Statement:**

To educate, train, and inspire men and women  
to become officers of character, motivated to  
lead the United States Air Force in service to our nation.

## **The Academy's Vision Statement:**

The United States Air Force Academy . . .  
the Air Forces's premier institution  
for developing leaders of character

## The United States Air Force Academy Shield



The emblem is symbolic of the Air Force Academy. Against a shield divided horizontally into three sections, white representing clouds, azure blue representing sky, and black indicating outer space, two geometric forms (symbolic of the upward motion of flight and the dual mission of Educational Development and Training for Military Leadership) pointed upward to the North Star symbol, which represents the ultimate achievement.

# The United States Air Force Academy Flag



The Academy's flag insignia combines the crest from the Department of the Air Force seal with that of the Academy shield. The Air Force eagle, cloud formation and heraldic wreath surmount the Academy shield. The American bald eagle symbolizes the United States and its airpower; the wreath beneath the eagle, composed of six alternate folds of metal and color, repeats the principal metal and color used in the Air Force Shield--white (representing silver) and light blue. The cloud formation behind the eagle depicts the creation of the Department of the Air Force. The eagle and clouds are in their natural colors. Underneath the wreath is the Air Force Academy shield, and beneath it the traditional scroll black letters on a gold background. The 13 encircling white stars represent the original 13 colonies.

## **The Academy's Mascot**

The Class of 1959, the first to enter the Academy, chose the falcon as the mascot of the Cadet Wing on 25 September 1955, feeling that it best characterized the combat role of the U. S. Air Force. They did not specify any particular species; thus, any falcon can serve as mascot. Some of the characteristics that led to its selection are:

Speed---Falcons can attain velocities exceeding 100 miles per hour in swoops or dives on their prey.

Flight---Powerful and graceful, falcons fly with strong, deep wing beats and maneuver with ease, grace, and evident enjoyment.

Courage---Fearless and aggressive, falcons fiercely defend their nest and young against intruders. They have been known to unhesitatingly attack and kill prey more than twice their size.

Keen eyesight---Falcons have vision about eight times sharper than man's.

With its alertness, regal carriage, and noble tradition, the falcon makes an ideal mascot.

On 5 October 1955 a splendid peregrine was the first falcon presented to the Cadet Wing. It was named "Mach 1," referring to the speed of sound. Many other falcon mascots have followed "Mach 1" since.

The falcon is also used as the Academy's "heraldic device," and is represented as a 12-inch gyrfalcon in flight attack profile with bared talons.

## **OUR HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The United States Air Force Academy was established on 1 April 1954, the culmination of an idea that had been years in the making. Air power leaders, long before the Air Force was a separate service, had argued that they needed a school, dedicated to war in the air, at which to train the country's future airmen. After October 1947, when the Air Force was established as a separate service, this idea finally had the legitimacy of the new service behind it.

In 1948, the Air Force appointed a board, later named the Stearns-Eisenhower Board for its chairmen, to study the existing military academies and to study the options for an Air Force Academy. Their conclusions were strongly put: the Air Force needed its own school, and they recommended additionally that at least 40% of future officers be service academy graduates.

After Congress passed the bill establishing the Air Force Academy, the Secretary of the Air Force appointed a commission to recommend a location. After traveling 21,000 miles and considering hundreds of sites all over the country, the commission recommended Colorado Springs as its first choice. The Secretary agreed, and the purchasing of the thousands of acres began. The state of Colorado contributed \$1 million to the purchase of the land.

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

Two years later, Maj Gen James Briggs took over as the Academy's second superintendent. On 29 August 1958, the wing of 1,145 cadets moved to its permanent site from Denver. Less than a year later the Academy received academic accreditation, and graduated its first class of 207 on 3 June 1959. In 1964, the

authorized strength of the Cadet Wing was increased to 4,417. The present authorized strength is 4,400.

Perhaps the most controversial event in the Academy's history was the admission of women. President Gerald R. Ford signed legislation on 7 October 1975 permitting women to enter the military academies. Women entered the Air Force Academy for the first time on 28 June 1976. The first class including women graduated in 1980.

As with any institution, the Air Force Academy has suffered growing pains and continues to evolve. Even in its relatively short existence, the school has excelled in its quest for excellence.

On 1 April 2004, the Academy celebrated the 50th anniversary of its inception. Three noteworthy events occurred in connection with the celebration. First, a 37-cent commemorative stamp was issued honoring the Academy, with the chapel strikingly portrayed. The Academy was also declared a National Historic Landmark, and a plaque was installed on the Honor Court marking the occasion. Finally, Lt Gen Hubert Harmon was officially named as the Father of the Air Force Academy, honoring the pivotal role he played in its planning and establishment. Further anniversaries will be marked during the next four years, culminating in the 50th anniversary of the first commencement at the Academy in 2009.

The Academy has provided the Air Force with a corps of officers dedicated to upholding the high standards of their profession. The Air Force, in turn has provided a proving ground for these officers and sent back to its Academy dedicated staff members to educate and train these future leaders. Fifty years after the first class entered, the Academy has now graduated over 37,000 young officers intent on serving their country.

The Academy's core values say it all:

Integrity first, service before self, excellence in all we do.

## **THE 10TH AIR BASE WING**

The Air Base Wing was formed in 1994, to align the USAF Academy with the Objective Wing structure the Air Force Chief of Staff had directed. Prior to its activation, a number of Academy staff agencies had performed the wing's functions under the command of the Chief of Staff, and later the Vice-Superintendent. (The Chief of Staff position was renamed that of Vice-Superintendent in 1994; in 2003 the position became that of Director of Staff.) It is now again that of Vice-Superintendent.

The wing was originally designated Detachment 3 (notionally called the 54th Air Base Wing.) Col David P. Csintyan assumed command on 9 August 1994. Col John Denny was named Vice Commander, and one technical sergeant headed the administrative section.

The Air Base Wing was designated the 10th Air Base Wing (provisional) on 3 September 1994, and was activated as the 10th Air Base Wing on 1 November 1994. Its heritage went back over 50 years to the Second World War. The 10th Air Base Wing started out as the 73rd Observation Group on 1 September 1941, changed its name to the 10th Photographic Group and served during the entire war, flying the first mission on D-Day and the last operational mission of the war. Later, the 10th Photographic Group became the 10th Fighter Wing, and flew missions to supported Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. With the decrease in forces after that conflict, the wing was redesignated the 10th Air Base Wing at RAF Alconbury. The wing was inactivated at RAF Alconbury in October 1994.

The 10th Air Base Wing comprises two groups and seven staff agencies. The 10th Medical Group and the 10th Mission Support Group are each comprised of eleven squadrons. The 10th Medical Group squadrons are the 10th Medical Operations Squadron, 10th Medical Support Squadron, 10th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, and 10th Dental Squadron. The 10th Support Group squadrons are the 10th Communications Squadron, 10th Mission Support Squadron, 10th Services

Division, 10th Security Forces Squadron, 10th Civil Engineering Squadron, 10th Contracting Division (LGC), and the 10th Logistics Readiness Division (LGR). The staff agencies include the Chaplain (HC), USAFA Command Center (CP), Financial Management (FM), Exercise and Evaluations (CVI), Military Equal Opportunity (MEO), Civilian Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), and the Career Assistance Advisor (CAA).

Col James McMillian is the seventh Air Base Wing commander since its reactivation at the Academy.

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY  
SUPERINTENDENTS**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>
Lt Gen Hubert R. Harmon (USMA, Class of 1915)	27 July 1954
Maj Gen James E. Briggs (USMA, Class of 1928)	28 July 1956
Maj Gen William S. Stone (USMA, Class of 1934)	17 August 1959
Maj Gen Robert H. Warren (USMA, Class of 1940)	9 July 1962
Lt Gen Thomas S. Moorman, Jr. (USMA, Class of 1933)	1 July 1965
Lt Gen A. P. Clark (USMA, Class of 1936)	1 August 1970
Lt Gen James R. Allen (USMA, Class of 1948)	1 August 1974
Lt Gen K. L. Tallman (USMA, Class of 1946)	28 June 1977
Maj Gen Robert E. Kelley (Rutgers University, June 1956)	16 June 1981
Lt Gen Winfield W. Scott, Jr. (USMA, Class of 1950)	16 June 1983
Lt Gen Charles R. Hamm (USMA, Class of 1956)	26 June 1987
Lt Gen Bradley C. Hosmer (USAFA, Class of 1959)	25 June 1991
Lt Gen Paul E. Stein (USAFA, Class of 1966)	8 July 1994

Lt Gen Tad J. Oelstrom (USAFA, Class of 1965)	1 August 1997
Lt Gen John R. Dallager (USAFA, Class of 1969)	9 June 2000
Brig Gen John A. Weida (Acting Superintendent) (USAFA, Class of 1978)	10 April 2003
Lt Gen John W. Rosa, Jr. (The Citadel, Class of 1973)	9 July 2003
Lt Gen John F. Regni (USAFA, Class of 1973)	24 October 2005

# UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

## COMMANDANTS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>FROM</u>
Brig Gen Robert M. Stillman (USMA, Class of 1935)	1 September 1954
Maj Gen Henry R. Sullivan, Jr. (USMA, Class of 1939)	2 August 1958
Brig Gen William T. Seawell (USMA, Class of 1941)	9 June 1961
Brig Gen Robert W. Strong, Jr. (USMA, Class of 1940)	4 March 1963
Brig Gen Louis T. Seith (USMA, Class of January 1943)	19 June 1965
Brig Gen Robin Olds (USMA, Class of June 1943)	1 December 1967
Brig Gen Walter T. Galligan (USMA, Class of 1945)	28 January 1971
Brig Gen Hoyt S. Vandenberg, Jr. (USMA, Class of 1951)	2 February 1973
Brig Gen Stanley C. Beck (USMA, Class of 1954)	23 July 1975
Brig Gen Thomas C. Richards (Virginia Polytechnic Institute, 1956)	20 March 1978
Brig Gen Robert D. Beckel (USAFA, Class of 1959)	21 February 1981
Brig Gen Anthony J. Burshnick (USAFA, Class of 1960)	12 June 1982
Brig Gen Marcus A. Anderson (USAFA, Class of 1961)	5 July 1984

Brig Gen Sam W. Westbrook III (USAFA, Class of 1963)	14 June 1986
Maj Gen Joseph J. Redden (USAFA, Class of 1964)	9 July 1989
Brig Gen Richard C. Bethurem (USAFA, Class of 1966)	26 June 1992
Brig Gen Patrick K. Gamble (Texas A & M, 1967)	28 June 1993
Brig Gen John D. Hopper, Jr. (USAFA, Class of 1969)	7 November 1994
Brig Gen Stephen R. Lorenz (USAFA, Class of 1973)	27 August 1996
Brig Gen Mark A. Welsh III (USAFA, Class of 1976)	18 June 1999
Brig Gen S. "Taco" Gilbert (USAFA, Class of 1978)	3 August 2001
Brig Gen John A. Weida (USAFA, Class of 1978)	10 April 2003
Brig Gen Susan Y. Desjardins (USAFA, Class of 1980)	8 December 2005

# UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

## DEANS OF FACULTY

<u>NAME</u>	<u>FROM</u>
Brig Gen Don Z. Zimmerman (USMA, Class of 1929)	22 July 1954
Lt Gen Hubert R. Harmon (USMA, Class of 1915)	1 December 1955
Brig Gen Robert F. McDermott (MSMA, Class of 1943)	1 August 1956
Brig Gen William T. Woodyard (University of Missouri)	1 August 1968
Brig Gen William A. Orth (USMA, Class of 1954)	1 September 1978
Brig Gen Ervin J. Rokke (USAFA, Class of 1962)	1 July 1983
Col John T. May (Acting Dean) (USAFA, Class of 1961)	June 1986
Brig Gen Erlind G. Royer (Montana State University, 1961)	8 May 1987
Brig Gen Ruben A. Cubero (USAFA, Class of 1961)	11 July 1991
Brig Gen David A. Wagie (USAFA, Class of 1968)	1 July 1998
Col James H. Head (Acting Dean) (University of Kansas, 1964)	20 July 2004
Brig Gen Dana H. Born (USAFA, Class of 1983)	1 October 2004

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY**  
**DIRECTORS OF ATHLETICS**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>
Col Robert V. Whitlow (USMA, Class of January 1943)	25 June 1954
Col George B. Simler (University of Maryland, 1948)	August 1957
Col Maurice L. Martin (USMA, Class of June 1943)	15 July 1960
Col Edmund A. Rafalko (USMA, Class of 1945)	8 July 1963
Col Francis E. Merritt (USMA, Class of 1944)	26 June 1967
Col John Clune (USNA, Class of 1954)	5 November 1975
Col Ken Schweitzer (Montana State University, 1966)	1 August 1991
Col Randall W. Spetman (USAFA, Class of 1976)	1 March 1996
Mr. Bradley DeAustin (Acting Athletic Director) (USAFA, Class of 1969)	10 January 2004
Dr. Hans Mueh (USAFA, Class of 1966)	1 August 2004

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY  
COMMANDERS OF 10TH AIR BASE WING**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>
Col David P. Csintyan (University of Michigan, 1969)	9 August 1994
Col Richard H. Downing (USAFA, Class of 1970)	13 November 1996
Col John H. Bonapart, Jr. (Fordham University, 1975)	April 1999
Col Bradford E. Ward (Texas Tech University, 1977)	11 May 2001
Col John G. Miller (USAFA, Class of 1978)	24 October 2002
Col Susanne Leclere (University of Massachusetts, 1980)	15 January 2004
Col James McMillian (North Carolina Agriculture and Technical State University, 1981)	17 May 2006