



Defense Orientation Conference Association

Live: Virtual Conference

CONFERENCE READ AHEAD

Friday, August 28th, 2020

8:00AM to Noon PDT via Microsoft TEAMS

United States Air Force Academy (USAFA)

When the Air Force became a separate service in 1947, plans for an Air Force Academy were set in motion. Progress on establishing the Academy was not made until the Secretary of Defense appointed a board of educators including Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of Columbia University, and Robert L. Stearns, President of the University of Colorado. This board recommended the general systems of education for the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Many of these systems and history of the USAFA echo throughout the campus, even today. Yet modernization and expansion have caused the USAFA to continue to shine as a pillar of leadership among the service Academies.

USAFA was built in 1954 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. When the decision of location took place, there was concern about the wind currents and Rocky Mountains interfering with flight training. The aviator Charles Lindbergh approved of the Colorado Springs location and labeled it fit for flying. In 2020, the campus sits on 18,500 acres filled with academic buildings, cadet housing, research facilities, flight-training airfield and hangars, and the iconic chapel. Despite the campus being large and diversely utilized, USAFA is one of the world leaders in integrating renewable energy solutions. Their success is mostly due to their billion-dollar updates that began in 2006. Now, a 6-megawatt solar farm occupies 30 acres on the Academy's southeast corner.

The first class that entered the USAFA in 1955 was comprised of 306 men and started in temporary facilities at Lowry AFB in Denver, CO before opening at the present site a year later. The Academy was led by Lieutenant General Hubert R. Harmon, the first superintendent, who was recalled from retirement after playing a key role in developing the Academy. During the time of the Cold War, President Lyndon B. Johnson allowed for USAFA to increase their cadet strength to 2,529. In 1976, 157 women joined the ranks, leading to the first 97 female graduates in 1980. Today, approximately 4,200 cadets comprise a very diverse cadet wing who are assigned and live at the Academy.

Among the numerous engineering, science, and liberal arts programs offered at the USAFA, they have an outstanding astronautical engineering program going back well before the formal launch of the space shuttle program in 1972. Now USAFA has produced the second highest number of NASA astronauts next to the Naval Academy. Additionally, remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) have become a vital and widely-fielded mission supporting operations around the world. USAFA brought RPA's into their airmanship curriculum and graduated their first 24 cadets in 2010, contributing to the Air Force's growing expertise in this expanding field.

The USAF Academy focuses on three key areas to produce the best young leaders as possible to serve their country. These are military training, academics, and athletics, with character and leadership development wrapped around these and all other activities to successfully achieve the USAFA's mission. USAFA graduates, like the other U.S. military academies, provide leadership to our country's services, many for lengthy careers. In addition, they become leaders of character and expertise who contribute to American businesses and communities.

“The Academy's mission is to educate, train and inspire men and women to become officers of character motivated to lead the United States Air Force in service to our Nation. The Academy's Center for Character and Leadership Development (CCLD) is at the heart of accomplishing that mission. CCLD helps align academic, athletic and military efforts—for faculty and staff and across all four years of the Academy course of instruction—to develop leaders of character.” – [Leadership Overview](#)



During this conference, DOCA members will be introduced to key leaders at the Academy to learn more about the mission, focus, and challenges facing the institution. The Superintendent, Lt Gen Jay Silveria will welcome the conference attendees, and the Dean of Faculty will provide an update on the academic curriculum. In addition, the USAFA Chief of Staff and Director of Admissions will describe ongoing Congressional engagement and support, as well as information about the admissions process and demographics of the cadet wing, respectively. Finally, we will have a representative from their Pandemic Math Team which is a cross-functional collection of experts in statistics, mathematical modeling, biology, virology, and public health who are engaged in creating the most effective response to the pandemic.

History and Site Tour of USAFA

Founders Day Video

U.S. Air Force Academy (April 1st, 2016)

A brief video explaining the USAFA vision for developing quality leaders and modernizing their campus.

USAFA Virtual Tour

U.S. Air Force Academy (2020)

Interact with locations on campus through the many various campus tours. Also, below is an aerial view of the campus with a self-guided tour.

WELCOME TO YOUR UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

LEGEND
 — Visitor Tour Route
 # Self-Guided Tour

THE FALCON TOUR
 DIRECTIONS FOR THE SELF-GUIDED TOUR

The Falcon route shown on this map provides an enjoyable and informative tour of the Air Force Academy. Along the route you will find distinctive Falcon signs like the ones shown here. Visitors need not follow them in sequence to have an enjoyable tour. The route will take about 2 1/2 hours and will give you a complete look at the Academy.

PLEASE NOTE:
 The Academy is an active military training facility. Please do not go into closed areas, especially those marked with signs saying "No Visitors Beyond This Point." Some examples are the dorms, airfield, and the Terrace, which is in the middle of the cadet area.

1 B-52 DISPLAY The B-52 bomber has been the backbone of America's manned bomber force for more than half a century.

2 CADET FIELD HOUSE/FALCON ATHLETIC CENTER Sports Hall of Fame Display, Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

3 ACADEMIC OVERLOOK The U.S. Air Force Academy is recognized as one of the nation's finest four-year institutions of higher learning. The academic curriculum provides cadets with a solid foundation appropriate to an Air Force career and the activities of a responsible American citizen.

4 ATHLETIC OVERLOOK The goals of the athletic program are to enhance the physical conditioning of all cadets, to develop the physical skills necessary for leadership, to teach leadership in a competitive environment and to build character.

5 VISITOR CENTER & CHAPEL Visitor Center contains Academy displays, theater, gift shop, Subway Sandwich Shop and restrooms. The Visitor Center hours are daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Visitor Center closes Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Information Desk: (719) 333-2025.

The Cadet Chapel is one of the most distinctive buildings in the country and offers an excellent view of the Cadet Area. Normal hours of operation are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (The Cadet Chapel is closed for touring during funerals, weddings, baptisms and other special events.)

All backpacks and large bags are subject to search. It is recommended that you leave these items in your car.

6 CHAPEL OVERLOOK Excellent photo opportunity and a nature trail.

7 AOG BUILDING (DOOLITTLE HALL) Owned and supported by the Association of Graduates. Visit where new cadets begin their journey. Walk the Heritage Trail and visit the "Challenge Bridge," the Memorial Wall and the Southeast Asia Pavilion. Doolittle Hall's Gift Shop is open to the public Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Doolittle Hall is occasionally closed for private functions.

8 FALCON STADIUM Site of home football games and graduation. Falcon Stadium was built in the fall of 1962 at a cost of \$3.5 million. The stadium, which was built in a natural bowl, has a capacity of 46,692 and stands in the base of the Rampart Range of the Rocky Mountains.

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#43 United States Air Force Academy *Forbes (2020)*

According to Forbes, USAFA is #43 of top colleges in 2019. Find more statistics and details within this article.

More details of the campus can be found in the graphic below:



USAFA Reacts to COVID-19

Two senior cadets, among 1,000 seniors isolated at the Air Force Academy, died by suicide within days
Tom Vanden Brook, U.S.A. Today (March 30th, 2020)

The Academy made a difficult decision when facing the COVID-19 pandemic and chose to keep all seniors (first-class cadets) on campus. This choice led to some complicated consequences.

Academy to Bring All Students Back to Campus
Brian W. Everstine, Airforce Magazine (GAO) (July 23rd, 2020)

Pentagon orders declare all accession sources and training pipelines to be mission essential. These are some of the expectations and concerns.

Opposition to Service Academies

Abolish West Point — and the other service academies, too
Scott Beauchamp, The Washington Post: Opinions (January 23rd, 2015)

Despite the service academies’ prestigious background, mission, and overall success, periodically there are some who believe that they are underperforming and not worth the cost.

Charter: Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy
BOV of the U.S. Air Force (November 13th, 2018)

This document provides an administrative summary of the Board of Visitors, the group charged with providing independent advice and recommendations regarding the USAFA.