



~ The Dennis P. Rando Cadet Humanitarian Fund ~

A way for parents to support our sons and daughters who have made the decision to accept their appointment to the US Air Force Academy Cadet and to serve their country.

The Rando Fund was the wonderful result of the tragic circumstances surrounding the passing of several AFA cadets in the mid '90s. One of those cadets was C1C Dennis P. Rando of East Bridgewater, Massachusetts. At his funeral, when it was learned that the cadets who traveled to Massachusetts to honor their classmate and to represent all cadets and cadet families did so at their own personal expense, the USAFA Cadets Parents' Association of Eastern Massachusetts under the leadership of then president and Rando Fund founder Bob Caggiano, made a request to other cadet families to donate funds to help reimburse the cadets for their travel.

The response to this request was so tremendous that the Massachusetts Parents' Association decided that establishing an ongoing fund raising initiative to continue this kind of support for all cadets would be a most worthwhile endeavor. They named the Fund in Dennis' honor as they felt that this would be a most appropriate manner to honor Dennis' memory and his sacrifice. The Academy's Superintendent at the time, Lt. General Paul Stein, recognized the value of this kind of cadet support and asked that the Rando Fund become a national fund raising effort as the Academy's budget does not have the resources to provide for this type of travel. The Air Force and the Academy fully support the Rando Fund and have officially recognized it and its mission. In addition to providing free travel for a cadet honor guard in the event of a fellow cadet's passing, the Rando Fund also provides need-based financial support to cadets who may not have the resources to travel home during emergencies such as a death in their family, a serious family illness or injury to a family member. Cadets with a financial need are granted all or part of the travel expenses. Those funds are a "gift" made possible by the Fund's donors. Those donors are cadet families, cadet friends, AFA graduates, and cadet parent organizations from across the country. Determinations as to the necessity for a cadet to travel home as well as the assessment of a cadet's financial need is made by the Cadet Chaplain's Office in conjunction with the cadet's AOC and the Commandant's Office.

Because the Rando Fund's President and the Board of Trustees volunteer their time to this cause, the fund is able to dedicate 100% of every donation to this effort. The fund's few expenses are paid by dedicated donations. The Rando Fund remains viable only as a result of the donations that people like you and your organization contribute. The Rando Fund is a parent run organization that has no affiliation with any other organizations and is the only provider for these types of funds. Every cadet at the Academy is a potential beneficiary of your donations. Please visit our web site:

<http://www.falconpride.com/rando> for more information.

If you would like to assist The Rando Fund's mission of helping cadets in time of need, please send a tax deductible contribution (checks payable to "Rando Fund") to:

Jack Bernazzani
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Roslindale, MA 02131