

FALCON FAMILY NEWS

FEBRUARY 2011



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CLASS STATISTICS (as of 31 January 2011)

	Men	Women	Total
2011	838	205	1043
2012	881	239	1120
2013	935	238	1173
2014	938	268	1206
WING	3592	950	4542

APPOINTEE ORIENTATION

The Air Force Academy will no longer conduct Appointee Orientation sessions. Budget reductions and resource restrictions have required USAFA to look at all of the opportunities applicants/appointees have to garner knowledge about USAFA and to aid them in deciding to attend USAFA. Attendance at Appointee Orientation has decreased over recent years and feedback from attendees has indicated limited utility given the increase in availability of information about USAFA and easier access to USAFA than in past years.

The Academy provides a multitude of new programs via the internet providing applicants/appointees information on USAFA. These programs include a very in-depth website (<http://academyadmissions.com>), Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/AcademyAdmissions>), a “virtual tour” of USAFA (by invitation – see more information below), “Instructions to Appointees,” USAFA Parents Guide, and an on-line USAFA Catalog. Additionally, extensive programs allowing interested students to visit USAFA in person are also available and include Summer Seminar (1150 slots), Admissions Tours (3 days per week: Register at 1-800-443-3864 or via e-mail to usafa.tours@usafa.edu), Sports Camps, and SAME (Society of American

Military Engineers) Camps plus the USAFA reservation is open to the public and has a comprehensive Visitors Center.

“VIRTUAL WORLD”

USAFA’s recruitment and marketing department would like parents to know they now have a “virtual world” so students can get an impression of some of the facilities. Students can also look for trivia clues and answer trivia about the Academy and the Air Force. They may also play games in the various buildings, and events will be hosted where an Admissions representative will conduct a tour and answer questions.

Keep in mind this can be viewed by invitation only. It was designed to allow Academy appointees and other very interested students a chance to see the Academy if they are unable to visit in person. Interested appointees and students should email Ms. Leann Nelson (leann.nelson@usafa.edu) giving her their name and email address and stating they would like to participate in the virtual tour.

PAK MAIL CHANGES LOCATION

The location for cadets to pick up packages which were sent via UPS or Federal Express has been moved from Arnold Hall to the Cadet Book Store in Vandenberg Hall. The new address is effective immediately and should be used if you are sending packages **via UPS or Federal Express**.

Do not use this address if you are mailing packages via the “regular post office” and mailing to the cadet’s post office box. (The cadet will receive a note in his/her box that directs him/her to pick up the package at the counter.) There is no pick-up charge at the post office.

Packages that were sent via UPS or Federal Express to the old address (2302 Cadet Drive (Arnold Hall)) will automatically be taken to the new location and this will go on indefinitely. The pick-up charge to the cadet is \$3.00 cash or \$3.50 using Visa or MasterCard. (There is a charge because UPS and Fed Ex do not deliver to post office boxes and PAK MAIL is contracted.) PAK MAIL’s phone number is 719-472-8552. The correct way to address the package is below:

C4C John Jones (PO Box xxxx) (The post office box is used only as a means to identify the cadet.)
2360 Vandenberg Drive
USAFA CO 80840 (or 80841 – either can be used)

Hours are: Mon, Wed, Fri – 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm
Tues & Thu - 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

FAMCAMP RESERVATIONS FOR GRADUATION AND PARENTS’ WEEKEND

Parents requiring camp sites must ensure their cadets reserve a site as soon as possible. Cadets are allowed two sites and they should email John Rodrigues (john.rodrigues@usafa.af.mil) from their military email address. The sites are \$25 per night for cadet families (non military) and \$20 per night for active duty military, retired military and

DoD. The sites have full hookups (water, electricity and sewer), and each has a picnic table and charcoal grill. Wood burning fires are not allowed – only charcoal and gas. Also on site are laundry rooms and men and women bathrooms with showers.

Information required is the size/length of the RV, guest name and cell phone number. After the information is received from the cadet, s/he will be sent a confirmation number. Questions should be directed to the Famcamp office at 719-333-4980 or 719-333-4475 and ask for John Rodriques.

If reservations must be cancelled, please let John know as soon as possible. If reservations are not cancelled within 48 hours of scheduled arrival, a \$25 charge will be made to the person's credit card (which is required to be on file to hold the reservation).

GRADUATION PHOTOS, VIDEO AND YEARBOOK

You may order the 2011 USAFA Graduation DVD, photographs of your cadet receiving his/her diploma and the 2011 POLARIS Yearbook and Congratulatory Message through the Office of Cadet Wing Media. The DVD includes every graduate, Graduation Week activities excerpts and Class of 2011 bonus material. This DVD is the only graduation product officially sanctioned by the USAF Academy. Go to USAFA's graduation page <http://www.usafa.edu/graduation> for links to order your Class of 2011 Polaris yearbook, Congratulatory Message or Graduation DVD.

Prestige Portraits by Lifetouch has been contracted to provide professional photographs of your cadet at the Class of 2011 Graduation Ball and at the Graduation Ceremony. Go to <http://www.usafaservices.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media> for order form of the Class of 2011 Graduation Ball & ceremony photos. For more information call (800) 426-9533 or write to Lifetouch, 1170 Pontiac Ave, Cranston, RI 02920, Attention: AFA Graduation.

You may contact Cadet Wing Media by calling (719) 333-4644, sending an email to cwmedia@usafa.edu or writing to HQ USAFA/FSLAM, P.O. Box 6066, USAFA CO 80841-6066. Visit their web page at <http://www.usafaservices.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media>.

FORCE MANAGEMENT STORY

Following is the link to the force management story as well as a letter from the Chief of Staff. <http://www.usafa.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123240940>

Fellow Airmen,

Secretary Donley and I recognize and appreciate the tremendous sacrifices asked of you and your family, and we are proud of your exceptional contributions to our nation in a time of war.

As you may recall, last March, the Secretary and I announced a Force Management Plan intended to size and shape the officer and enlisted force to align the Air Force within our congressionally authorized personnel ceiling.

Through the Force Management actions we took last year, we met our enlisted goal in FY10; however, we remain approximately 2,300 officers above our authorized ceiling.

Our Air Force is now at a 16-year high in retention at a time when we already exceed authorized personnel strength levels. It is for this reason that the Secretary and I made the difficult, but fiscally responsible, decision to continue Force Management measures. This will not be easy, and we do not take this decision lightly.

First, in an effort to minimize the impact to our current force, we will reduce active duty accessions as much as prudent. In addition to the previously announced voluntary programs, we will also implement involuntary programs to include enlisted date of separation rollbacks, officer retention boards, and reduced officer promotion opportunities. Our over strength situation is such that offers of selective continuation for twice deferred officers may be limited. More information on this multi-tiered Force Management Plan is available on the Air Force Personnel Center website and will be communicated by your base-level Force Support Squadrons in the near future.

This is a difficult time. The results of last year's reductions are no doubt affecting units and lives across our Air Force family. With a very talented, all-volunteer force answering our nation's call in a variety of global commitments, it is not easy to select Airmen for early transition from the active duty force.

For those of you choosing or selected to transition from active duty, I sincerely thank you for your service and encourage you to stay with our Air Force family through our Guard and Reserve programs. Leaders at all levels are committed to assisting you through transition to the next phase of your careers, and our Airman and Family Readiness Centers are standing by with valuable resources to support your transition.

As I stated last March, the Secretary and I have carefully considered all options and their impacts. In the end, we arrived at the conclusion that these additional force management measures are necessary for the Air Force to reduce personnel strength to authorized levels over the next two years.

In short, we seek to do the difficult now in order to put this dilemma behind us, returning to more predictable career paths for all Airmen.

NORTON A. SCHWARTZ
General, USAF
Chief of Staff

GRADUATION PHYSICALS (from USAFA Cadet Standards)

Dear Parents,

Dr. Kristin Soltis-Tyler and I are the Flight Surgeons assigned to the Cadet Standards (aka Graduation Physicals) Clinic at USAFA. We see every cadet and perform their graduation physical examinations. We are both Board Certified Family Medicine Physicians as well as Flight Surgeons. We both graduated from USAFA and are very excited to be back at USAFA. Our intent is to qualify each cadet for their desired job in the Air Force. Obviously not every cadet will qualify for their number one choice, but we utilize all our resources to maximize the options for each cadet.

Cadets who desire a rated (flying associated) career have an extensive evaluation including hearing tests, detailed eye exams, chest x-ray, dental clearance, lab work, body measurements, baseline neuropsychiatric testing and a physical exam as a minimum. There may be more testing and evaluation needed if the cadet requires a waiver in order to fill a rated position. Rated physicals are sent to Air Education and Training Command (AETC) for approval/certification.

Cadets who desire a non-rated (not directly associated with flying) career have a similar extensive evaluation. They are not required to have further eye or hearing tests if their baseline testing met Air Force standards. Most non-rated physicals can be approved/certified at USAFA.

Our team at Cadet Standards consists of Physicians, Medical Technicians, Force Health quality reviewers, Medical Administrative Technicians, and a Neuropsychiatric Testing Technician. We work closely with all other medical areas at USAFA to coordinate the finest care available and most rapid completion of physicals possible.

We are working feverishly to get the Class of 2011 graduation physicals finalized. We started the Class of 2012 graduation physicals in Jan 2011. Rest assured we are working our hardest to support every cadet in their pursuit of a meaningful and fulfilling Air Force career.

Sincerely,
Major (Dr.) Ruth A. German
Flight Commander, USAFA Cadet Standards

WINTER SNEEZES AND DISEASES

Illnesses are as much a part of winter as cold weather. Among the most common seasonal illnesses we see are viral respiratory infections (influenza), streptococcal pharyngitis (strep throat), and viral gastroenteritis. While many of these diseases are unavoidable, there are things we can do to help keep them at bay and make our troops a bit less miserable when they are sick.

Influenza (The Flu)

When most people think of winter illnesses, they think of the flu -- and with good reason. Flu is a very common cause of both mild and severe illness in the winter. Influenza activity typically peaks in the U.S. between late December and mid-February. The good news is that almost all cases of influenza are preventable.

Vaccine supplies are plentiful and the vaccine this year protects against three of the most common strains of flu: Influenza A types H3N2 and last year's H1N1 and an influenza B strain. For healthy people who have not been immunized, influenza can lead to a week of missed school and a lot of coughing and vomiting, but is rarely life-threatening. While antiviral agents are available to treat influenza, they are of modest benefit and are not often used in children.

Streptococcal Pharyngitis (Strep Throat)

Strep throat is most common in children of late preschool and elementary school age. While many parents expect physicians to prescribe antibiotics for sore throats, streptococcal bacteria cause only about 15 to 25 percent of sore throats; the remainder is caused by respiratory viruses, which are unresponsive to antibiotics.

No physician can consistently distinguish between streptococcal pharyngitis and sore throats caused by viruses based on physical examination alone. As such, all people suspected of having strep throat should have their throats swabbed to determine if streptococcal bacteria are present.

Patients with streptococci in their throats are appropriately treated with antibiotics to get rid of the bacteria causing the inflammation and reduce transmission of the illness.

Gastroenteritis

Outbreaks of vomiting and diarrhea caused by gastroenteritis (inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract) typically occur in late winter or early spring. While most episodes of gastroenteritis in young children are attributable to rotavirus, many other viruses can cause vomiting and/or diarrhea, such as the now-famous 'cruise ship' virus, Norovirus.

While gastroenteritis generally gets better within 24-28 hours without the need for intervention, some patients may be at increased risk for dehydration. A visit to the doctor is warranted if vomiting and diarrhea last for longer than 24 hours or other symptoms accompany the illness.

Preparing for Winter Illnesses

Winter illnesses are an inevitable part of life. While immunizations and good hand-washing can prevent the majority of illnesses, winter disease should be expected in just about everyone. To be prepared, people should keep on hand acetaminophen (e.g., Tylenol) or ibuprofen (e.g., Motrin) for treatment of fevers, a large box of soft tissues for runny noses, and a bottle of hand-sanitizer to protect those around you. If your symptoms don't respond to over-the-counter remedies or you are concerned about your health, make an appointment with your healthcare provider straight away.

Public Health flight members are dedicated to ensuring your cadet has the most current preventive health information available. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or cadet public health concerns: Maj Brigitte French at 719-333-5186.



News Release

U.S. Air Force Academy

Athletic Communications Office
2169 Field House Dr.
USAF Academy, CO 80840

Friday, Jan. 28, 2011

Air Force football team to play at Michigan in 2012 **Falcons scheduled to play in "Big House" Sept. 8**

U.S.A.F. Academy, Colo. – The Air Force Academy athletic department announced today that the Falcons will take on the University of Michigan on Saturday, Sept. 8, 2012, in famed Michigan Stadium. The one-game agreement must still go through the Academy contract process.

"We're very excited to announce that we will be playing at Michigan in 2012," Director of Athletics Dr. Hans Mueh said. "This will be a great opportunity for our players and staff to compete against one of the most storied programs in all of college football in one of the great venues in the game."

Air Force will be playing Michigan for the second time, as the team's played in Michigan Stadium during the 1964 season. Michigan defeated Air Force, 24-7, on Sept. 26. Michigan finished that season 9-1 overall and won the Big Ten championship. Air Force went on to finish 4-5-1.

"We are so fortunate at the Academy to play our home games in one of college football's finest environments in Falcon Stadium," said Troy Calhoun, Air Force's head football coach. "In 2012, with the addition of Michigan, the Falcons will also have the opportunity to play at many quality road sites too."

The Michigan game highlights a non-conference schedule that also features a game against Navy in Falcon Stadium on Oct. 6 and against Army Nov. 3 in Yankee Stadium. The Michigan game could also produce a record attendance for Air Force, as the capacity at Michigan Stadium is 109,901. The Wolverines averaged 110,235 fans at home in 2010. The largest crowd Air Force has played in front of is 105,466 at Tennessee in 2006.

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Note: Air Force is still finalizing its 2011 schedule. There is no agreement in place for the 12th game. The non-conference schedule, which features games against South Dakota (Sept. 3), at Navy (Oct. 1), at Notre Dame (Oct. 8) and vs. Army (Nov. 5), will be released at a later date.