

U.S. Air Force

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY : COLORADO

In 1948 a board of leading civilian and military educators was appointed to plan the curriculum for an academy that would meet the needs of the newly established Air Force. The board determined that Air Force requirements could not be met by expanding the other service academies and recommended an Air Force Academy be established without delay.



In 1949, then Secretary of the Air Force W. Stuart Symington appointed a commission to assist in selecting a site and on April 1, 1954, President Dwight D.

Eisenhower signed the legislation creating the United States Air Force Academy. After considering 580 sites in 45 states, the commission narrowed the choice to three locations. The summer of 1954, Secretary of the Air Force Harold Talbott selected a site near Colorado Springs, Colo. Colorado contributed \$1 million toward purchase of the property.

In July 1955, the first academy class entered interim facilities at Lowry Air Force Base, Denver, while construction began. It was sufficiently completed for occupancy by the cadet wing in late August 1958. Nine months later, 207 cadets in the first graduating class became second lieutenants in the United States Air Force. Initial construction cost was \$142 million.

FAST FACTS

- » Location: **El Paso County, CO**
- » Land Area: **19,315 acres**
- » Student population: **4,200**
- » Military Personnel: **1,700** (approximately; excluding cadets)
- » Civilian Personnel: **2,300** (approximately)



Above: Wings of Blue team members Cadets jump from an aircraft during the Collegiate Parachuting Championships in Lake Wales Florida. Wings Of Blue is the U.S. Air Force Academy's parachute team. The team won 26 medals at the event. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Left: Basic cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy salute during the ceremony beginning Field Day. Field Day is an annual competitive event that marks the half-way point through Basic Cadet Training. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Above: The U.S. Air Force Academy logo. (U.S. Air Force)

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.

VISION STATEMENT

The Air Force's premier institution for developing Leaders of Character.

CONTACT

USAF Public Affairs Office
(719) 333-7731



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UNIT MISSIONS

- » **Superintendent:** The Superintendent takes on a dual-role as commander and university president and is responsible for the Academy's regimen of military training, academics, athletic and character development programs.
- » **Commandant:** The Commandant oversees the 4,000-member cadet wing and more than 300 Air Force and civilian support personnel and is responsible for cadet military training and Airmanship education, supervising cadet life activities and providing support to facilities and logistics.
- » **Dean of Faculty:** The Dean of Faculty oversees an annual course design and instruction of more than 500 courses crossing 20 academic departments and directs the operation of five support staff agencies and faculty resources.
- » **Athletics:** The objective of the Academy athletic program is to provide all cadets a realistic leadership experience in a mentally and physically challenging environment. This prepares and motivates cadets for a lifetime of service through physical education, fitness training and testing, intramural and intercollegiate athletic competition. All cadets must participate in an intercollegiate or intramural sport throughout the academic year. There are 27 men's and women's intercollegiate sports, many of the men's teams, including basketball and football, compete in the highly competitive Mountain West Conference.
- » **10th Air Base Wing:** The 10th ABW comprises more than 3,000 military, civilian and contract personnel who conduct all base-level support activities, including law enforcement and force protection, civil engineering, communications, logistics, military and civilian personnel, financial management, services and the clinic, for a military community of about 25,000 people.
- » **10th Mission Support Group:** The 10th MSG provides the highest possible quality support to enhance the education and development of more than 4,000 future Air Force leaders. The 10th MSG is responsible for civil engineering; morale, welfare and recreation programs; military and civilian personnel; communications and computers; security forces; transportation, supply and contracting support for military and civilian personnel. The group also preserves and improves an approximately \$4-billion base infrastructure.
- » **USAFA Preparatory School:** The Prep School is designed to academically, physical and militarily prepare qualified young men and women to enter the Academy. If not accepted into the Academy, one may receive an appointment to the Prep School. Successful completion improves chances for appointment as an Air Force Academy cadet, but does not guarantee one.
- » **306th Flying Training Group:** The 306th FTG, located at the U.S. Air Force Academy, provides management and oversight of USAFA airmanship programs involving 2,500 cadets annually and of the U.S. Air Force Initial Flight Training program involving approximately 950 UFT candidates annually. The group ensures powered flight, soaring and parachuting courses contribute measurably to the leadership and character development of cadets and ensures quality flight training identifies those officers with the ability to succeed in follow-on Undergraduate Flight Training.



Above: A Cadet works a problem-solving exercise in the Air Force Academy's Cyber Warfare Laboratory.

COMMANDER RANK

Lieutenant General

UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

- » The Air Force Academy is both a military organization and a university. Much of the Academy is set up like most other Air Force bases, particularly the 10 ABW, but the superintendent, commandant, dean of faculty and cadet wing are set up in a manner resembling a civilian university.
- » The United States Air Force Academy Band proudly represents the Air Force Academy as the leading educational institution developing and inspiring air and space leaders of character with a vision for tomorrow. The Academy Band maintains a rigorous performance schedule in support of Cadet and Air Force troop morale, recruiting and community outreach. For over 50 years, the Academy Band has used the power of music to inspire Air Force personnel and the nation they serve, produce innovative musical programs and products, and communicate Air Force excellence to millions around the globe.

For more information, please see <<http://www.usafa.af.mil>>