

# ***FALCON FAMILY NEWS***

**APRIL 2010**

## **CLASS STATISTICS (as of 31 MARCH 2010)**

	Men	Women	Total
2010	830	187	1017
2011	845	210	1055
2012	919	259	1178
2013	1019	250	1269
<b>WING</b>	<b>3613</b>	<b>906</b>	<b>4519</b>

## **FROM CADET WING MEDIA:**

We've tried handling the Family congratulatory messages in the yearbook on-line this year. A postcard was sent by the yearbook publisher to the home of record for each upcoming grad with cost information and the website, but participation has been very low so far.

We're a bit concerned that parents might have mistaken the notice for junk mail, not realizing it is the new way to get a message for their grad into the Polaris yearbook.

Here's the information:

The website is [wpccolorado.com](http://wpccolorado.com) and the cost is \$45 plus a \$5 service fee. We'll accept submissions through the first week of May or until we reach 300. Questions can be directed to Ms Reina Pavlis (719-333-4649) or James Rush (719-333-1210).

## **CADET AWARDS PROGRAM**

The Cadet Awards Program offers incentives to cadets for higher achievements in academic, athletic, leadership, military training and related activities by public recognition at the Individual Awards Ceremony which takes place on the Monday prior to graduation. The awards foster unit and individual competition and enhance morale. We thank the United States Air Force Academy Colorado Parents Club and the Georgia Parents Club for sponsoring cadet awards. There are a few cadet awards still available for sponsorship. Please contact Ms. Cathy Wedo, Chief of Cadet Awards at (719) 333-4410 or [cathy.wedo@usafa.edu](mailto:cathy.wedo@usafa.edu), if your club is interested in sponsoring one.

## **ACADEMY RECEIVES LARGEST DONATION FROM GRADUATE IN SCHOOL HISTORY**

The USAFA Endowment is pleased to announce, on behalf of the U.S. Air Force Academy, the largest gift from a graduate to the Academy in the institution's history. Bart Holaday, Class of '65, and his wife, Lynn, have recently committed \$5 million toward the construction of a new indoor athletic training facility.

The indoor training facility is slated for completion by early 2011. The 92,000 square-foot center will house a regulation-sized field that can accommodate football, lacrosse, and soccer, in addition to many other athletic activities. Cadet athletic development and performance will be enhanced through reduced weather delays, increased practice time, and improved replication of game conditions that the facility provides.

"This athletic facility will allow our cadets to safely train all year-round," says Dr. Mueh, the Director of Athletics. "This is a tremendous step forward for the athletics program and the Academy in terms of providing vital support for our cadets' development and success."

The training facility will foster short and long-term success in all cadets' lives, as expressed by Troy Calhoun, '89, Head Football Coach: "Discipline, fortitude and toughness are key character traits that Air Force Academy graduates will draw upon while serving as leaders for our country on active duty and beyond. The construction of the indoor facility will continue to provide optimal support and training grounds for the young men and women at the world's finest leadership institution. This tremendous commitment and investment will be returned many times over by the quality of officers who, in the years to come, will lead our Air Force."

At this time, the Academy is the only service academy and one of only three institutions in the Mountain West Conference without a dedicated indoor training facility. Once completed, the facility will be among the best in the nation and is destined to become a landmark of private philanthropy as the largest privately-funded capital project in the Academy's history.

"We are thrilled to receive such an unprecedented gift and appreciate Bart and Lynn Holaday's generous and thoughtful support of our Academy," says General Gould, Superintendent of the Academy. "This training facility will be among the most important donor projects in the Academy's history. It will be a part of our cadets' daily lives. Every time they see this landmark, they will know that it was built specifically for them by the dedicated graduates and friends of the Air Force Academy."

Bart Holaday shared his motivation behind offering the \$5 million gift: "My experiences at the Academy provided the foundation that I built my life upon: integrity, trust, hard work, persistence, and loyalty. The Academy emphasized the profound importance of sacrifice and service, inspiring me to support others in reaching their full potential. Lynn and I hope that this new facility will, in turn, inspire others to give back to the institution that gave so much to the two of us."

Dr. Erv Rokke, President of the USAFA Endowment, shared his thoughts on the importance of the new facility: “This indoor training facility is a landmark that heralds a new era of private philanthropy at the Academy, initiated by two exemplary individuals who, through their outstanding personal and professional conduct, truly embody Air Force Academy values.”

For more information, please contact:

Mark Hille  
Vice President of Development  
The USAFA Endowment  
3116 Academy Drive  
USAFA, CO 80840  
(719) 472-0300 Ext 200

### **AOG LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP**

Give your cadet a gift that will last a life time, an Association Of Graduates (AOG) Lifetime Membership.

As the Class of 2010 approaches their graduation, the ideal graduation gift is a Lifetime Membership in the Association of Graduates. This membership will keep the 2010 graduates in touch with what’s going on at the Academy.

Take this gift opportunity and help your Class of 2010 graduate remain connected to the Long Blue Line. Please call the AOG at 719-472-0300, Ext 139, to move forward and the AOG will send your cadet a note indicating your wonderful gift. This membership will also provide your Class of 2010 graduate an additional 10% discount on selected AOG merchandise on top of the regular 15% membership discount at Doolittle Hall from 27 May 2010 through 30 June 2010.

If you have ever considered giving your Class of 2010 graduate a gift they will use throughout their lifetime, this is a wonderful opportunity. The Association of Graduates extends their congratulations to the upcoming Class of 2010 graduates. A wonderful career is about to begin.

### **GRADUATION RECEPTION**

Cost is \$12.00 per person (cadets do not have to purchase ticket for themselves). Assorted desserts, fruit and veggie trays, tenderloin and turkey carving stations, slider bar, chips, salsa, steamed shrimp, cheese trays, boneless chicken wings, meatballs in sauce and beverages. There will be a cash bar.

## GRADUATION RECEPTION TICKET PROCEDURES

Graduating cadets may purchase tickets to attend the Graduation Reception held on 25 May 2010. Ticket sales will start on 3 May 2010 and continue through 21 May 2010.

a. Ticket Sales on the Staff Tower:

3-7 May 0730-1430

10-14 May 0730-1430

b. Tickets sales on the Main Floor:

3-7 May 1700-1900

10-14 May 1700 to 1900

17-21 May 0700-0900; 1100-1300 and 1700 to 1900

c. Please be aware that the Graduation Reception is a stand up reception with limited seating. All tickets must be purchased in advance. The last day for ticket sales is 21 May. Forms of payment are cash or check only. Checks should be made out to **Cadet Dining Facility**. Mitchell Hall cannot accept credit/debit cards.

## STATE INCOME TAX ISSUES

The Service members Civil Relief Act provides that military members may only be taxed on their military income by their state of residence. And following information is about state income tax and how each state taxes cadets on military income.

**ARIZONA:** Tax exempt. Arizona does not tax active duty military pay.

**ARKANSAS:** The first \$9,000 is exempt for military members, the remainder is taxable.

**CALIFORNIA:** Taxable to military members who are domiciles of California when they are stationed in California. Military pay is not taxable when stationed outside of California.

**CONNECTICUT:** Fully taxable.

**IDAHO:** Fully taxable when stationed in Idaho. Not taxable when stationed outside of Idaho.

**LOUISIANA:** Military personnel who are legal residents of LA may exclude up to \$30,000 in military pay if they served 120 or more consecutive days on active duty outside the state.

**MAINE:** Fully taxable.

**MARYLAND:** Fully taxable if stationed in the US.

**MICHIGAN:** Exempt.

**MINNESOTA:** Fully taxable when stationed in Minnesota. Exempt when stationed outside Minnesota.

**MISSOURI:** Fully taxable. However, If stationed outside Missouri and he/she:

- maintained no permanent living quarters in Missouri during the year;
- did maintain permanent living quarters elsewhere; and
- did not spend more than thirty (30) days of the year in Missouri; Then the military member is a “nonresident” for tax status purposes and military pay, interest, and dividends are not taxable to Missouri.

**MONTANA:** Military income is exempt.

**NEW JERSEY:** Fully taxable.

**NEW MEXICO:** Not taxed.

**NEW YORK:** Fully taxable.

**OHIO:** Taxable to military members who are domiciles of Ohio when they are stationed in Ohio. Military pay is not taxable when stationed outside of Ohio.

**OKLAHOMA:** Fully taxable with \$1,500 exemption.

**OREGON:** \$6,000 exclusion for residents. Full Exemption allowed if:

- they maintained a permanent home outside Oregon the entire year;
- they didn't keep a home in Oregon during any part of the year;
- they spend no more than 31 days in the state during the year.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Fully taxable if stationed in the state. Not taxable if stationed outside the state.

**VERMONT:** Military pay is not taxable when stationed outside of Vermont.

**VIRGINIA:** Fully taxable, but exemption allowed: Each filer who qualifies as military personnel stationed inside or outside Virginia can subtract up to \$15,000 of military basic pay received during the taxable year, provided they are on extended active duty for more than 90 days.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Fully taxable unless individual did not maintain a physical presence in the state for more than 30 days during the year.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS, FINANCIAL AID, AND INVESTMENT PLANS**

**Scholarships:** Agencies should issue scholarship proceeds directly to the cadet. When a scholarship agency is unable to make payment directly to the cadet, the scholarship may be accepted for credit to the cadet’s pay account provided there are no restrictions on the scholarship and the check is payable to the U. S. Treasury. Restrictions are any condition or limitation an agency places on the use of their scholarship funds. Restriction examples; “must be used for tuition, room and/or board,” “student is required to maintain a specific GPA,”

“scholarship funds will be paid back if cadet disenrolls,” etc. Scholarships silent on restrictions will be treated as non-restrictive and accepted. Once a scholarship is accepted it is never refunded to the agency granting the scholarship, even if the cadet disenrolls. Checks shall be made payable to **US Treasury** and mailed to HQ USAFA/FMF, 2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 2200, USAF Academy, CO 80840-5035. **NO CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL AFTER 20 AUGUST 2010** for the Class of 2014. Be sure to provide the cadet’s full name and social security number in the memo area of the check.

**A financial aid office does not exist at USAFA** because we are prohibited by law (10 U.S.C. 4360) from charging cadets for tuition, room or board like other universities. We do not have the authority to maintain separate billing and receiving accounts required to monitor the restrictions levied by law. USAFA does not issue IRS Form 1098-T, Tuition Statement. The US Air Force Academy is not eligible to participate in the Title IV programs (Financial Aid) and therefore does not receive Title IV program funds.

**Investment Plans:** The individual owner or administrator of the educational investment plan determines the valid use of the funds based on specific fund requirements and any state, federal and/or IRS restrictions. The owner/administrator shall consult their financial advisor, tax advisor or legal advisor to ensure the specific fund rules are followed and if there are procedures for providing proceeds directly to the cadet. Investment plan proceeds will not be accepted by USAFA/FM, and if received, shall be returned to the originator. Based on information provided by the IRS, it is our understanding that the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 provides that attendance at a U.S. military academy will be treated as a scholarship for purposes of the 10% penalty on nonqualified withdrawals from a 529 plan or Coverdell ESA and that the value of the no-cost education (as determined under the U.S. military code) can be withdrawn penalty-free from a 529 plan or Coverdell ESA, although the earnings portion will continue to be taxable. Accordingly, parents and financial planners have requested the Cost of Education (CoE) for USAFA. Please understand that we are not attempting, and are not authorized, to provide tax advice; we are simply providing information concerning the USAF Academy CoE for recent Fiscal Years. You are advised to consult your own tax advisors regarding permissible uses of this information. The USAFA CoE amount may be exempt from the 10% additional tax IAW IRS rules (see IRS Publication 970). The CoE at a Service Academy is defined in DoDD 1332.23 as: “Those costs that are attributable directly to educating a person at a Service academy under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned and approved by the Office of the ASD (FM&P) (OASD (FM&P)) and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) (OASD(C)). Such costs include a reasonable charge for the provided education, books, supplies, room, board, transportation, and other miscellaneous items furnished at government expense. Excluded are the costs for cadet pay and allowances, under 37 U.S.C. 201 (reference (j)), for uniforms, military training, and support for nonacademic military operations.” The following amounts are the USAF Academy cost of education for the Fiscal Year (FY) indicated. For the period 1 October 2007 – 30 September 2009 (FY08) the CoE is \$41,925. For the period 1 October 2008 – 30 September 2009 (FY09) the CoE is \$42,240.

Any tax consequence resulting from receipt of scholarships and/or educational investment plan proceeds is the responsibility of the cadet. Additional information on

educational benefits is available on the IRS web site; see IRS Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education.

Cadet pay is equal to 35% of a 2nd lieutenant pay in accordance with 37 U.S.C. 203(c). Cadets are not eligible to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). The section of US Code that authorizes TSP participation applies only to those members who are paid under 37 USC 204 (only covers active duty and reserve members). Cadets are paid under a separate area of US Code (37 USC 203) and are therefore ineligible to participate in TSP.

## **INTERESTING ANIMALS AT USAFA**

From our Public Health Department

Colorado is a state that offers amazing diversity in its climate, environment and seasons. USAFA is no exception- from military and civilian personnel to career options to sports, USAFA provides a variety of opportunities for cadets to explore. Something that may not jump to the front of your mind when thinking of the Academy, however, is the animals. The wildlife population here at USAFA is just as varied as the weather...

Some of the more common animals you may see around the base include wild turkeys, mule deer, elk and raccoons. However, black bear, coyotes and even mountain lions have been spotted roaming the area. Colorado has over 20 different species of snakes but only two are venomous. The Western Rattlesnake and the Massasauga are both poisonous snakes that have rattles on the ends of their tails, whereas the non-poisonous snakes do not have rattles. Likewise, Colorado has a multitude of different spiders but only two are dangerous -- widow spiders (somewhat common) and brown recluse spiders (somewhat rare).

Issues of concern with wild animals are just as numerous as the animals themselves. Potentially harmless animals can actually be the most dangerous. Take the deer mouse, for instance. While this small rodent may seem cute and furry, it can actually harbor and transmit a life-threatening virus. Similarly, prairie dogs are common in this part of the state; at the same time, so are the plague bacteria they carry. Rabies cases are on the rise in skunks both locally, in El Paso County and regionally, throughout the state.

For the health and safety of cadets and their families, here are a few tips to ensure you or your family won't become a winner on the next episode of "When Animals Attack." Do NOT feed the wildlife. It is actually against the law in Colorado and here at USAFA to feed wild animals. Drive carefully all the time but be especially vigilant from dusk to dawn since this is prime time for animals to be out and about. Keep your living area free from food crumbs and debris. Wash your hands – always!

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, Capt Brigitte French at 719-333-9443.

# Class of 2014

## Appointee Bed & Breakfast Program

The Association of Graduates (AOG), with the assistance of the Rampart Chapter of the AOG, provides “bed and breakfast” to appointees who will be traveling alone to the Academy for In-processing, for a minimal processing fee.

The Bed & Breakfast program provides appointees the opportunity to stay at the home of Academy graduates, faculty, staff and friends. Last year, over 350 appointees participated in the program. Bed & Breakfast hosts are familiar with the Academy and offer encouragement and support to appointees.

Hosts will pick up their assigned appointees Wednesday, June 23, at the Colorado Springs airport or the AOG’s Doolittle Hall and provide a place to stay, dinner, breakfast and transportation to Doolittle Hall for In-processing on Thursday, June 24.

Appointees who have already enrolled in the official Academy Sponsorship Program **are not** automatically enrolled in the AOG’s Bed & Breakfast program. **Appointees interested in participating in the Bed & Breakfast program must follow these instructions:**

**Step 1.** Arrange for airline transportation as directed by the Academy’s admissions office. You must have your airline ticket prior to registering for Bed and Breakfast.

**Step 2.** Visit the Association of Graduates Web site at [www.usafa.org](http://www.usafa.org) and click on the “Bed and Breakfast” button on the left side of the screen. If you are unable to register online, please contact Jennifer Ganzler at (719) 472-0300, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (MST), or at [jennifer.ganzler@aogusafa.org](mailto:jennifer.ganzler@aogusafa.org). The processing fee is \$10.

**Step 3.** After registering for the Bed & Breakfast program, please wait for an AOG representative to call you in mid-June with the name and phone number of your Bed & Breakfast host family. The AOG is unable to fulfill special requests for host families from specific states, cultural backgrounds, religions, etc.

**Step 4.** After receiving your host family’s information, contact them to finalize and confirm the arrangements of how and when they will meet you.

The Association of Graduates is excited to welcome you to the Long Blue Line. We look forward to seeing you in June!

**The AOG Bed & Breakfast program is not affiliated with the official Academy Sponsorship Program**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED DENTAL QUESTIONS FROM APPOINTEES

1. If I don't have my wisdom teeth removed before I get to the Academy, does that disqualify me?

~No. If you would like to get ahead of the game and are planning to have a career in aviation then it would be in your best interest to consider having your wisdom teeth removed before getting to the Academy. If your civilian dentist has recommended that you have your wisdom teeth removed, we strongly suggest that you follow their advice. However, having your teeth pulled one week before getting here is probably not a good idea. Ideally, it would be best to have at least 6 weeks of healing time between when the surgery is completed and when you arrive at the Academy.

2. You stated that the Academy Dental Clinic now has digital x-rays and not to bring x-rays from my civilian dentist. However my dentist also has digital radiographs, can I bring my digital x-rays?

~ We cannot guarantee that your dentist's digital x-rays will be compatible with our system. If you do bring digital x-rays, they must be on a CDROM and in DICOM format. Due to compatibility reasons, even if you bring digital x-rays on a CDROM, we may still need to take new or additional x-rays.

3. If I have a permanently bonded orthodontic retainer, does that disqualify me?

~No. We recommend that the permanent retainer remain in place. If you have removable retainers we ask that you do bring those along with their carrying case.

4. If I have braces on do I have to have them taken off before I arrive at the Academy?

~Yes. Regulations clearly state that you may not enter Basic Military Training with active orthodontic appliances on your teeth. If you are in active orthodontic treatment and have braces on your teeth, they will need to be removed before you are medically qualified for the Academy. The Academy does have an orthodontist and he will be screening cadets during dental in-processing for needs and requirements for treatment during their tenure at the Academy. Severe mal-occlusions will be prioritized over minor crowding/esthetic issues. Classmates with more severe problems will receive priority care. Invisalign™ orthodontic treatment is not supported nor rendered at the Academy.

5. Do I need to bring my civilian dental records?

~No. You do not need to bring your records. Once you arrive we will be initiating your permanent military dental record which will be maintained at the Academy Dental Clinic.

6. After I arrive at the Academy can I still get treatment at my civilian dentist on breaks?

~Yes you can. However, routine dental treatment as a Cadet (and while on Active Duty) is an entitlement and there is no cost for this dental benefit. If you make arrangements to receive care from your civilian dentist we must see you afterwards. The reason for this appointment is to ensure that your military dental health record is properly documented and is up to date. You must bring a copy of the treatment you received. Keep in mind that YOU are responsible for the cost of the treatment rendered by your civilian dentist. The military WILL NOT reimburse you for any of the expenses that you incur.

MEMORANDUM FOR UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY APPOINTEES, CLASS OF 2014

FROM: Colonel Paul M. Fortunato  
Commander, 10th Dental Squadron  
2355-B Faculty Dr.  
USAF Academy, CO 80840-8200

SUBJECT: Dental Requirements for In-Processing

Congratulations on your appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. On behalf of the 10th Dental Squadron, I welcome you to one of our nation's premiere educational institutions, set in the scenic splendor of the Rockies.

It is our desire to ensure dental concerns do not interfere with your success as an Air Force cadet. The Academy staff expects you will arrive here with no potentially disqualifying medical or dental conditions; mentally, physically and emotionally ready to begin a vigorous physical and academic Fourth Class year. Examples of dental conditions that may prevent you from performing optimally include (1) the presence of wisdom teeth, either erupted or impacted, that cannot be maintained in a state of health, (2) cavities that may become emergent problems if not restored immediately, (3) active orthodontic appliances (braces). Active orthodontic appliances are disqualifying for Academy admission. All orthodontic treatment must be completed and retainers (if indicated) in place prior to entering the Academy. Don't forget to bring your retainers with you to the Academy!

Interestingly, wisdom teeth are the leading cause of lost academic time and delays in pilot qualification for cadets. I highly encourage you to visit your family dentist for a thorough dental examination, paying particular attention to the above-mentioned concerns. Correction of all dental defects and removal of wisdom teeth, when indicated, before arriving at the Academy will maximize your dental readiness, minimize lost academic time and go a long way toward ensuring your success as an Air Force cadet.

Upon arrival at the Academy, you will commence with a myriad of in-processing actions including a dental screening. The Academy Dental Clinic has recently converted to digital dental radiology. Thus, unlike in past years, **there is no need for you to bring x-rays from your civilian dentist**. I have attached a Q & A sheet that should help answer many of your questions.

Again, welcome to the United States Air Force Academy. Be assured that my dental staff is eager to serve you and will strive to provide you the highest level of dental care. If you have questions, my points of contact are Technical Sergeant Kelly Links, [kelly.links@usafa.af.mil](mailto:kelly.links@usafa.af.mil) or Senior Master Sergeant Salley [brian.salley@usafa.af.mil](mailto:brian.salley@usafa.af.mil) at (719) 333-5192. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

PAUL M. FORTUNATO, Col, USAF, DC  
Commander