

The Long Blue Line Guide 2020

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY



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Serving the **Long Blue Line Together**

Dear fellow graduates, Association members, parents, friends and supporters of your Air Force Academy,

Since its official creation in 1965, the USAFA Association of Graduates has developed, expanded and refined an exceptional array of services and capabilities dedicated to assisting and supporting Academy grads, cadets, parents, families and the community at large.

In that tradition, the purpose of this **Long Blue Line Guide** is to provide an appropriately focused, annual resource which summarizes the AOG's and the Air Force Academy Foundation's full range of activities, services and capabilities.

Our members, donors, parents and friends will find that this top-level and easy-to-digest guide primarily provides general information while stimulating more in-depth engagement by the reader on topics of special interest. The guide is meant to be to-the-point and useful.

We at the AOG and Foundation hope that this publication will serve as a practical reference which successfully articulates and reinforces the critical role both organizations play in sustaining and improving the United States Air Force Academy, while encouraging increased participation in that effort by graduates, parents, families and friends of the Academy.

The guide you are about to read is a valued addition to the expanding range of AOG and Foundation initiatives intended to enhance communications to and among the Academy's many constituents. All of us in Doolittle Hall hope you will enjoy the Long Blue Line Guide, and (perhaps more importantly) will find it a valuable aid in appreciating the impressive catalogue of AOG and Foundation services and capabilities that exist for the benefit of the entire Academy community.

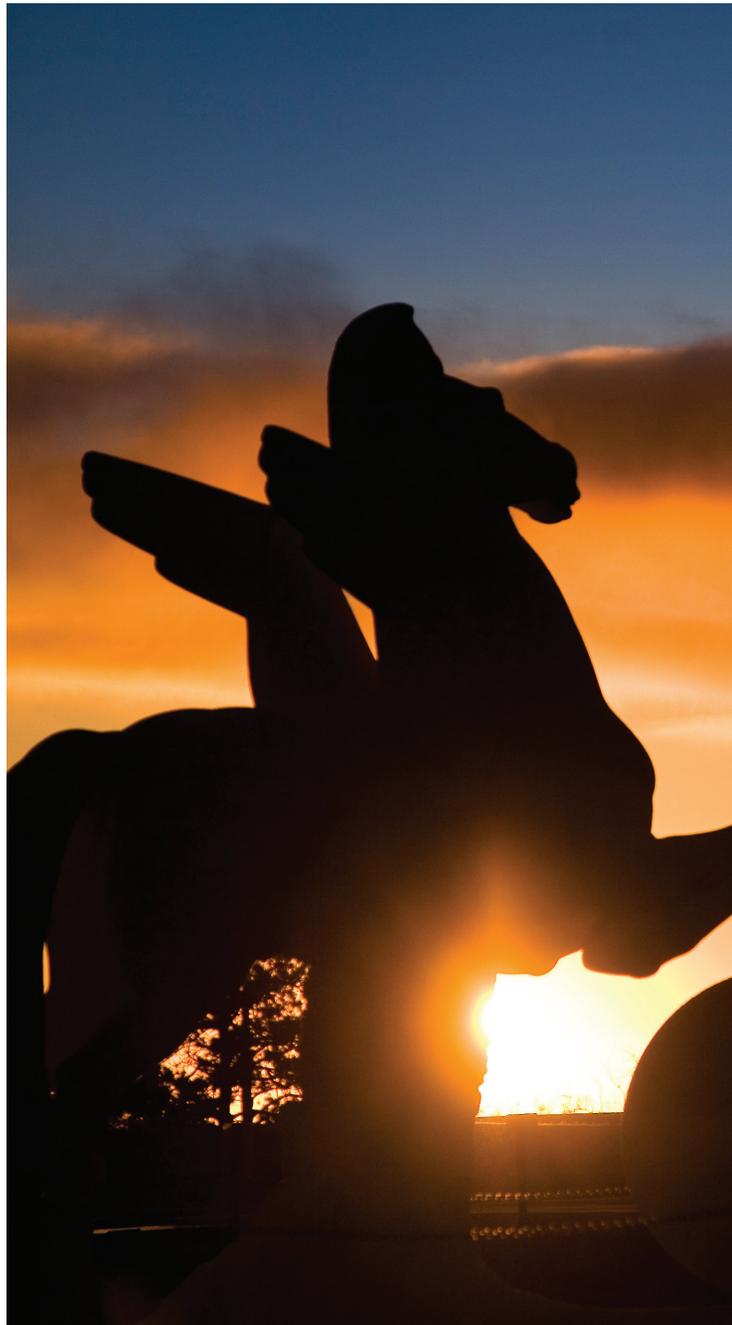
With thanks and best wishes,

Mike Gould '76
AOG and Foundation Chief Executive Officer

Introduction to the **Long Blue Line Guide**

When you need a specific AOG service, or when you have a question, you can go to the *Long Blue Line Guide* and find both references and points of contact to assist you. From the table of contents to the staff directory, the *Guide* is organized as an informal, eye-catching, but information-packed resource for graduates and for the wider community of Academy friends and supporters.

The *Guide* catalogues the full range of AOG services and capabilities, aligned under core topic areas that reflect the up-to-date scope of Association activities and priorities. Additionally, there is a list of relevant points of contact for use by the full range of association constituents.





Our Vision Our Mission

OUR VISION

The Association of Graduates aspires to be the primary organization of United States Air Force Academy graduates and friends dedicated to supporting the Academy mission of building leaders of character for the Air Force and the nation, and aspires to provide service and support for graduates and cadets.

OUR MISSION

To pursue our vision and to serve and support the United States of America, the United States Air Force, the United States Air Force Academy, and the graduate community by:

- I. Working in partnership with the Academy to produce and foster graduates with an enduring commitment to integrity, excellence and service to country.
- II. Providing leadership, communication and support to all of the Academy's graduates and friends of the Academy, and promoting camaraderie among them.
- III. Promoting the heritage of the Academy, our common traditions and the accomplishments of our graduates.

The Association of Graduates

Serving the Long Blue Line for Nearly Six Decades

AOG HISTORY

In the early days, the Association of Graduates was operated as an additional duty in the Superintendent's office by select Academy staff members. In 1968, the AOG became incorporated as a Colorado charitable non-profit organization operated entirely by graduate volunteers assigned to the Academy staff. In 1983, the first non-active duty executive was hired to take over the operation of the AOG.

Under the leadership of Richard Coppock '61, the AOG grew from a handful of employees operating out of a couple of rooms in Sijan Hall to our own building, Doolittle Hall, built in 1992. Doolittle Hall was our first major fundraising effort. Today, the AOG has a substantial workforce yet still partners with volunteers, chapters and affinity groups to host events and social gatherings or just being ambassadors for the Academy.

JUNE 3, 1959

207 members of the first class graduate.



AUGUST 12, 1965

Air Force Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Thomas Moorman establishes the Association of Graduates. The first AOG Alumni Secretary, Capt. Dick Mathews '60, is appointed. The AOG staff includes four civilians and is run out of room

226 in Harmon Hall. The Association of Graduates has experienced tremendous growth over the decades and now employs more than 40 individuals dedicated to serving the Long Blue Line.

1966

The first class reunion is held. In 1984, the AOG provides support to a non-homecoming reunion for the very first time. Today, the Association of Graduates helps organize up to 10 reunions a year. In 2019, thousands of graduates and their guests returned to Colorado Springs to celebrate with friends and classmates.

JANUARY 15, 1968

The AOG is incorporated as a tax-exempt, Colorado non-profit corporation.

SEPTEMBER 22, 1970

The AOG issues the first Association of Graduates Life Membership.



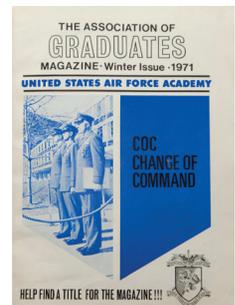
The curved monolith is constructed of three 7' by 21' slabs of black granite.

OCTOBER 10, 1970

The Association of Graduates donates the Graduate War Memorial in the Cadet Area. Brig. Gen. Robin Olds, Commandant of Cadets, speaks at the ceremony.

1971

The first *Association of Graduates Magazine* is published in the winter of 1971. The name is officially changed to *Checkpoints* in the summer 1979 issue. In the past seven years, the magazine has won more than 100 awards for excellence in writing, photography and design from the



Council for Advancement and Support of Education. The magazine currently has a worldwide circulation of more than 33,500.



1972

Former Air Force Academy Athletic Director, Gen. George B. Simler, develops the concept of the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy and brings the

idea to the Association of Graduates. The AOG teams up with its Army and Navy sister organizations to create the three-sided, 170-pound trophy that we know today.

OCTOBER 14, 1978

Through class gifts, the AOG donates the Class Wall below the Cadet Chapel. The Class Wall, a gallery of crests of Academy classes, started when the Class of 1968 presented its crest during its 10-year reunion. The wall is "dedicated by the classes which have gone before to those which will follow in recognition of our common commitment to excellence."



APRIL 25, 1979

The AOG dedicates a plaque honoring American Unknown Heroes at the Memorial Trophy Room, Arlington National Cemetery.

1981

Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Lew Allen Jr., authorizes the Association of Graduates to sell cadet sabers to graduates.



OCTOBER 3, 1981

The AOG selects Gail McComas, former Cadet Wing hostess, as its first Honorary Member. Mrs. McComas served as hostess at the Academy from 1955 until 1977. Honorary membership is awarded to persons who have rendered outstanding service to the Air Force and/or the Academy. Membership is limited

to 25 living persons and must be unanimously approved by AOG Board members voting by secret ballot.

1983

The AOG moves to an all non-governmental staff and Dick Coppock '61 is hired as the first non-active duty executive director beginning an exciting new phase in the organization's development. He would guide the organization until 1999.



JULY 6, 1985

Members of the Class of 1989 are the first to participate in the Life Membership at Graduation (LMAG) program initiated by the AOG. LMAG allows cadets to pay dues throughout their cadet careers and graduate with a paid-in-full life membership to the organization.

1987

The AOG buys and gifts two sailplanes to the Academy.

1990

The AOG awards the first five Graduate Dependent Scholarships. Each year, thousands of dollars in scholarship funds are awarded to dependents of USAFA graduates.

MAY 28, 1991

Ground is broken on Doolittle Hall, the new Air Force Academy alumni house. For the first 27 years of its existence, the Association of Graduates was housed in various offices at Harmon Hall, Sijan Hall and off campus.

AUGUST 21, 1992

Doolittle Hall is officially dedicated.

APRIL 28, 1994

The first Joint Service Academy Career Conference is held. During the past two decades, this AOG-sponsored program has helped thousands of graduates land jobs and advance their careers.

1994

The AOG establishes the Sabre Society. The program is now managed by the AFA Foundation and has more than 1,100 donors.



JULY 1, 1994

In 1994, Doolittle Hall becomes the first stop for Inprocessing, a tradition that was broken only once due to the Waldo Canyon fire of 2012, and continued through 2017. The alumni

house hosts dozens of events each year, has become the epicenter for reunion activities, and is the shared home of the Air Force Academy Foundation and Falcon Foundation.

JUNE 8, 1996

The Association of Graduates purchases a gyrfalcon and presents it to the Academy. The cadets name the white falcon Aurora.



1997

The AOG takes over the procurement of class rings and oversight of ring heritage. On the second floor of Doolittle Hall exists a collection of every USAFA class ring. The display was donated by the Class of 1968.

APRIL 3, 1998

The first annual Founders Day Dinner is held at Doolittle Hall. The dinner has evolved into the premier event at the Academy each year and one of the great celebrations held in honor of our nation's service academies.

JULY 1999

Col. (Ret.) Jim Shaw '67 is hired as the AOG's second CEO. He serves in the position until 2008.



2001

The AOG and the Academy name the institution's first two Distinguished Graduates: Gen. (Ret.) Ronald Fogleman '63 and Mr. Harry J.

Pearce '64. Subsequently, 44 more members of the Long Blue Line have received this singular honor.

DECEMBER 2003

The Association of Graduates' new website, usafa.org, goes live. Its predecessor, www.aog-usafa.org, dates back to 1998. USAFA.org has won several Council for Advancement and Support of Education awards for website excellence. The website contains a wealth of resources including a searchable grad directory, an events calendar, *Checkpoints Online* and much, much more. Browse the AOG Gift Shop online to find the perfect gift for any Falcon.

2004

The AOG establishes the WebGuy program allowing

AOG members, parents and friends of cadets worldwide to follow the progress of their loved one as they tackle the many challenges of the Academy. In 2014, more than 200,000 pictures were taken and the WebGuy website received a staggering 6 million page views.

JUNE 17, 2004

The Class of 1959 Challenge Bridge is dedicated at Doolittle Hall. During Inprocessing, members of the Class of 1959 read the challenge to incoming appointees before they cross the bridge to begin Basic Cadet Training.



MAY 11, 2007

The Memorial Pavilion at the USAFA Cemetery is dedicated. The Pavilion, funded by the Association of Graduates, provides a beautiful and dignified indoor facility for events during inclement weather.

JANUARY 2008

Gary Howe '69 is hired as the third AOG president and CEO while the AOG conducts a nationwide search for its next CEO.

MAY 1, 2008

KAFA, the Academy radio station broadcasting at 97.7 FM, begins streaming through funds provided by the AOG. The station has since upgraded its streaming service. You can listen to the commercial-free modern rock station at usafa.org.

AUGUST, 2008

The AOG hires William "T" Thompson '73 as its fourth president and CEO. He served in the position until 2017.

OCTOBER 1, 2010

The Southeast Asia Memorial Pavilion, which sits along the Heritage Trail adjacent to the AOG's Doolittle Hall, is officially dedicated and pays homage to United States Air Force Academy graduates who served during the Southeast Asia conflict.

NOVEMBER 15, 2011

The Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Mike Gould '76, formally concurs with the AOG plan to implement a 50-Year Legacy Program. Under the plan, the 50-year class

would begin interacting with the new class, beginning with Inprocessing. This program replaced the 40-year legacy program that started before the Class of '59 had reached its 50th year.

OCTOBER 19, 2012

The AOG and the Academy dedicate the Falcon Center Heritage Exhibit located in Fairchild Hall. The Heritage Exhibit honors a diverse group of 28 Air Force Academy graduates, each of whom has excelled in one of seven categories. These graduates serve as examples the Cadet Wing can emulate. A replica of the exhibit is available for public viewing on the second floor of Doolittle Hall.

NOVEMBER 6, 2015

Adjacent to Doolittle Hall, the Plaza of Heroes, along the Heritage Trail, is dedicated. The Plaza of Heroes recognizes USAFA graduates who performed conspicuous acts of valor during the Southeast Asia/Vietnam War. The centerpiece of the Plaza is a statue of Lance Sijan, the Academy's only graduate to receive the Medal of Honor.



JULY 23, 2016

An official ribbon cutting is conducted for the new Polaris Hall, the home of the Center for Character and Leadership Development. The building is made possible through private donations to the USAFA Endowment and through military construction funds. The most striking feature

of the structure is the 105-foot glass tower, which is tilted symbolically toward the North Star.

JULY 1, 2017

Marty Marcolongo '88 takes over as the president and CEO of the AOG.

MARCH 2020

COVID-19 pandemic disrupts AOG and Foundation operations for several months.

MAY 1, 2020

Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Mike Gould, Class of '76, becomes the first "Single CEO," serving as president and chief executive officer for both the Association of Graduates (AOG) and the Air Force Academy Foundation. He had previously led the Foundation, while Marty Marcolongo '88, had led the AOG.

Association of Graduates Honorary Members

NAME	DATE AWARDED
Gail McComas*	04/07/1981
Robert Smith*	10/12/1983
Barry Goldwater*	04/18/1984
Frieda Weber	01/08/1985
James Conboy*	03/04/1986
Joseph Reich*	03/04/1986
William Tutt*	04/01/1986
Russell Tutt*	05/06/1986
Joseph Moller*	05/06/1989
James Doolittle*	12/02/1989
Harold Littrell	08/22/1992
William Lyon	08/22/1992
Robert McDermott*	08/22/1992
Norma Nottingham	05/07/1994
James Bowman	11/11/1994
Donald Barrett*	02/10/1995
Harold Stuart*	02/10/1995
Malham Wakin	02/10/1995
Benjamin Bellis*	02/10/1995
Dorothy Moller*	11/17/1995
Gregory Kolligian*	05/10/1997
John Kirkpatrick*	02/07/1998
Ben Martin*	11/12/1999
Albert P. Clark*	05/12/2001
Fisher DeBerry	05/12/2001
William Hybl	07/14/2001
Philip Erdle*	11/16/2001
Winfield Scott	11/02/2002
James McCarthy	08/07/2004
Nancy Burns	05/14/2005
Edmund Ladouceur	02/02/2012
Benjamin Cassidy Jr.*	05/04/2012
Janet Edwards	08/03/2012
Dean Wilson*	02/01/2013
Gregory Lengyel	05/12/2015
Andrew Armacost	08/02/2019
John W. Rosa, Jr.	11/08/2019

* Indicates member is deceased.

BOARD CHAIRS



Mr. James E. Spittler Jr. '65
1983–1985



Col. (Ret.) Jock C. H. Schwank '60
1985–1987



Col. (Ret.) James E. Wilhelm '61
1987–1989



Honorable Eric M. Thorson '67
1989–1991



Col. (Ret.) Earl W. Richardson '71
1991–1993



Brig. Gen. (Ret.) James P. Ulm Jr. '61
1993–1997



Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Marcus A. Anderson '61
1999–2003



Mr. Edward E. Legasey '67
2003–2007



Lt. Col. (Ret.) James F. Wheeler '64
2007–2009



Lt. Col. (Ret.) Terry L. Storm '61
2009–2013



Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Roger Carleton '67
2013–2017



Col. (Ret.) Cathy McClain '82
2017–present

Prior to 1983, the head of the AOG staff was an active duty officer on the Superintendent's staff. The title of the position was Executive Director, Executive Secretary, or Executive Vice President. These are the officers who held that position.



From top left:

- Capt. Gerald J. Garvey '59, 1965–1965
- Capt. Richard T. Matthews '60, 1966–1966
- Brig. Gen. (Ret.) David H. Roe '62, 1967–1970, 1997–1999
- Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Charles F. Stebbins '61, 1971–1974
- Maj. Gen. (Ret.) David M. Goodrich '59, 1975–1978
- Dr. Thomas J. Eller '61, 1979–1983

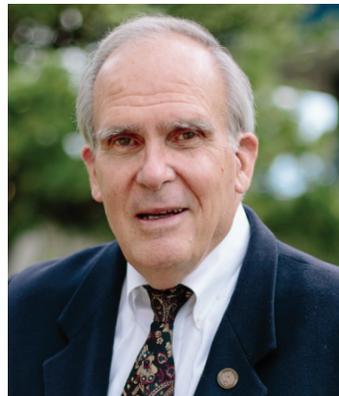
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS



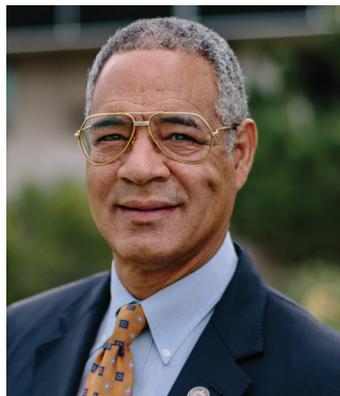
Lt. Col. (Ret.)
Richard M. Coppock '61
1983–1999



Col. (Ret.)
James A. Shaw '67
1999–2008



Lt. Col. (Ret.)
Gary S. Howe '69
2008



Mr. William "T" Thompson, Esq. '73
2008–2017



Marty Marcolongo '88
2017–2020



Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Mike Gould '76
Single CEO, AOG & AFA Foundation
2020–Present

Current Board of Directors



Cathy McClain '82
Chairman



Mike Gould '76
AOG President and CEO



Bob Lowe '71
Vice Chairman



Ginny Caine Tonneson '80
Secretary



Glenn Strebe '87
Treasurer



Hans Mueh '66



Garry Dudley '68



Mark Volcheff '75



Frank Gorenc '79



Will Gunn '80



Diann Boyle '83



Dennis Dabney '89



John Vargas '96



Nancy Taylor '01



Andrew Hendel '09



Emma Przybyslawski '10



Doug Brower '72
CAS President

Committees of the Board for 2020

Audit Committee

Voting Members

Bob Lowe '71 (Chair)
Hans Mueh '66
Barry Blackman '65 (Non-Director; CPA)
Jack Fry '67 (Non-Director)

Non-Voting Member

Jennifer Harwig, CFO

Finance and Investment Committee

Voting Members

Glenn Strebe '87 (Chair)
Garry Dudley '68
Bob Lowe '71
Andrew Hendel '09

Non-Voting Member

Jennifer Harwig, CFO

Investment Sub-Committee

Voting Members

Glenn Strebe '87 (Chair)
Jerry Bruni '70 (Non-Director)
Rod Hennek '75 (Non-Director)
Kathleen Barchick '89 (Non-Director)
Bill Jennings, USAFA/DFM (Non-Director)

Non-Voting Member

Jennifer Harwig, CFO

Nominating Committee

Frank Gorenc '79 (Chair)
Mark Volcheff '75
Diann Boyle '83
John Vargas '96
Emma Przybyslawski '10
Betsy Pimentel '80 (Non-Director)
Jody Merritt '89 (Non-Director)
Chris Mulder '01 (Non-Director)
Michelle Ruehl '03 (Non-Director)
Tara Nolan '94 (Non-Director)

Governance Committee

Bob Lowe '71 (Chair)
Frank Gorenc '79
Will Gunn '80
Ginny Tonneson '80
Dennis Dabney '89
Nancy Taylor '01

Heritage and Traditions

Garry Dudley '68 (Chair)
Hans Mueh '66
Doug Brower '72
Frank Gorenc '79
John Vargas '96
Andy Biancur '60 (Non-Director)
Mark Ewig, '70 (Non-Director)
John Weida '78 (Non-Director)
Steve Mueller '79 (Non-Director)
Heidi Schlagheck '03 (Non-Director)

Awards and Recognition Committee

John Vargas '96 (Chair)
Doug Brower '72
Mark Volcheff '75
Diann Boyle '83
Nancy Taylor '01
Robin Wright '96 (Non-Director)
Kathleen Rock '98 (Non-Director)

Distinguished Graduate Award

Will Gunn '80 (Chair)
Emma Przybyslawski '10

AOG CEO Contracts, Evaluation and Compensation Committee

Will Gunn '80 (Chair)
Garry Dudley '68

Dennis Dabney '89
Nancy Taylor '01

Joint Coordination Committee

Voting Members
Cathy McClain '82 (Chair)
Hans Mueh '66
Glenn Strebe '87

Non-Voting Member

Marty Marcolongo '88, COO (Observer)

Joint Finance Committee

Glenn Strebe '87 (Chair)
Bob Lowe '71
Andrew Hendel '09

Single CEO Selection

Cathy McClain '82 (Chair)
Ginny Tonneson '80
Glenn Strebe '87
Jack Kucera '78 (USAFA Endowment Chair)
Bart Holaday '65 (USAFA Endowment)
Dick Schlosberg '65 (USAFA Endowment)

Bylaws Review Task Force

Will Gunn '80 (Chair)
Dennis Dabney '89
Nancy Taylor '01

AOG Leadership



From top left
President & Chief Operating Officer **Marty Marcolongo '88**
Executive Vice President **Steve Simon '77**
Senior Vice President for Operations **Corrie Grubbs**
Vice President, Alumni & Constituent Relations **Michele Bergeman**
Chief Financial Officer **Jennifer Harwig**





Doolittle Hall — **Your Alumni House, Our Home**

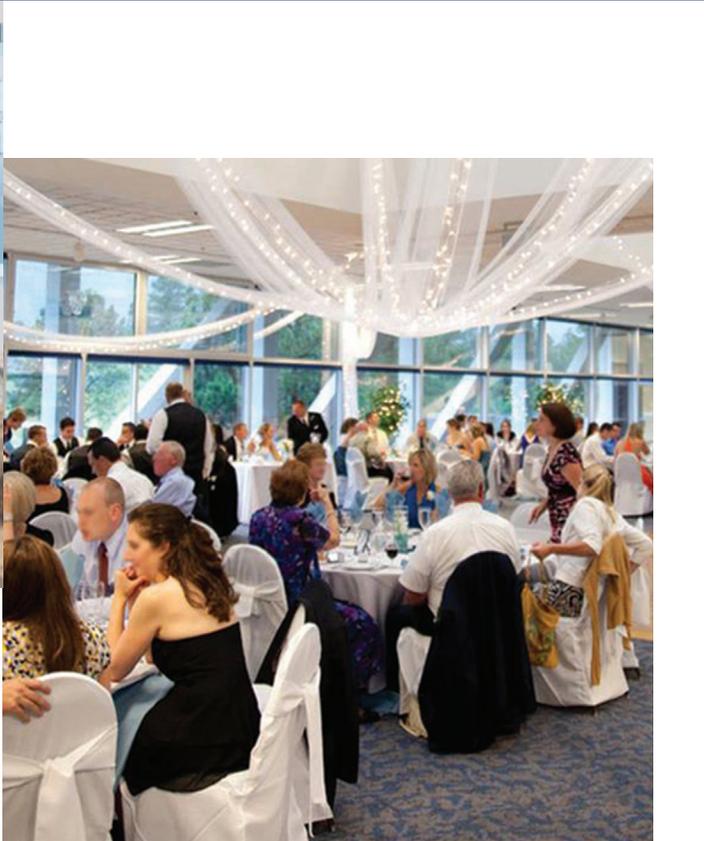
Dedicated in 1992, Doolittle Hall is the alumni house for the United States Air Force Academy. Located on approximately 24 acres of scenic Colorado landscape, this multi-use facility can host a wide range of events. Surround yourself with our panoramic views of the Front Range at one of the top event sites in Colorado Springs. It's truly an inspiring setting.

Along with being open to members and visitors, the Association of Graduates rents out Doolittle Hall's assembly area, atrium, boardroom and library for conferences, off-site meetings and special events. From corporate events and wedding receptions to retirement and promotion ceremonies, Doolittle Hall is the optimal setting to host your next event, large or small.

While we are located on the Air Force Academy, you do not need to have any ties to the military or Air Force Academy to use our facilities for your next event.

For more information about Doolittle Hall in this *Guide*, see page 37.

For more information on how you can hold your next event at Doolittle Hall, contact Marcella Mills, (719) 472-0300, ext. 148, or email aog.events@aogusafa.org.



Forming the Long Blue Line

The Graduates BY STEVE SIMON '77

An educational institution is only as good as its product. Bricks and mortar, books and buildings, staff and faculty can exert great influence on a school's reputation, but the final measure of an institution's worth is how well its students perform after graduation. In this dimension, the United States Air Force Academy earns top marks.

More than 52,000 men and women have completed the Academy's grueling four-year course of instruction and gone on to serve the United States. Individually and as a group, graduates make a compelling argument for the national value of the Academy. The Academy was chartered first and foremost to produce active duty military leaders for service on and off the battlefield. In this regard, the Academy has succeeded magnificently, but grads also have made their marks in civilian service, space, sports and almost every other aspect of American society. At the unavoidable risk of missing deserving individuals, this article highlights some of our most noteworthy graduates.

Any discussion of this topic must start at the beginning. The first group of Academy graduates, the esteemed Class of 1959, set a phenomenal standard for later classes to emulate.

Lt. Gen. Bradley Hosmer '59 was number one in graduation order of merit and was the first Academy graduate to earn a Rhodes Scholarship. (41 cadets have been so honored). Gen. Hosmer's accomplishments did not end at Oxford, as three decades later he earned the distinction of being the first graduate superintendent. To acknowledge his stellar service, he was awarded the 2003 Distinguished Graduate Award. The Distinguished Graduate



Lt. Gen. Bradley Hosmer '59

Award was first conferred in 2002 and is presented to two or more graduates each year. It is a

unique honor bestowed by the U.S. Air Force Academy and its Association of Graduates, recognizing those graduates whose accomplishments are inspirational and elevate the reputation and the standing of the U.S. Air Force Academy. Forty-six of the Academy's most illustrious graduates have been so honored. Most recently, Col. (Ret.) Les Denend '63; Mr. Fletcher "Flash" Wiley '65; Gen. (Ret.) Norton "Norty" Schwartz '73; Gen. (Ret.) Edward Rice '78; and Mr. John "Jack" Kucera '78 were so honored.

Gen. Robert Oaks, 2002 Distinguished Graduate Award winner, is another celebrated '59er. He culminated his Air



Gen. Robert Oaks '59

Force career as commander in chief of U.S. Air Forces in Europe and served as commander, Allied Forces Central Europe.

Gen. Hansford Johnson '59 was the first Academy graduate promoted to four-star general (Harold Todd, his classmate, was the first grad to make brigadier and major general.). Gen.

Johnson flew 423 combat missions during the Vietnam War, and later served as commander in chief of the United States Transportation Command and the Air Force's Military Airlift Command.

Other members of the Class of 1959 have excelled as well. Col. Karol Bobko was the first graduate to enter the space program. He commanded the Space Shuttle Discovery in April 1985 and is the only astronaut to have flown on the maiden voyage of two Space Shuttle orbiters. Gen. Michael Carns served as Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, and Lt. Gen. Robert Beckel, the only person to serve as Cadet Wing Commander twice, was the first graduate to assume a senior leadership position at the Academy (Commandant of Cadets) in 1981. Following classes have upheld the standard of excel-

Distinguished Graduate Award Recipients

lence set by the Class of 1959. The Air Force has benefited greatly from the superior leadership provided by Academy graduates. Class of 1963 graduate Gen. Ronald Fogleman was the first Academy graduate to serve as Air Force Chief of Staff. After flying 315 combat missions, he rose to be commander in chief of the U.S. Transportation Command before being tapped as Chief of Staff. He was the first military recipient of the Distinguished Graduate Award. Another of Gen. Fogleman's many distinctions is that he was the first Academy graduate to deliver USAFA's commencement address, which he did in 1996.



Gen. Ronald Fogleman '63

Four other Academy graduates have served as Chief of Staff: Gen. Michael Ryan '65; Gen. Norton Schwartz '73; Gen. Mark Welsh III '76; and current Chief, Gen. David L. Goldfein '83.

In 1983, the Academy welcomed its first Academy graduate Dean of the Faculty, Brig. Gen. Ervin Rokke '62. Rokke also had been the first Air Force Academy graduate to be appointed a permanent professor.

In the past 16 years, female Academy graduates have taken their place in the general officer ranks as leaders of character. In 2004, Janet Therianos, a member of the Academy's first class with women, the Class of 1980, was nominated for promotion to the grade of brigadier general, making her the first female Air Force Academy graduate selected for promotion to flag officer rank. Also in 2004, Brig. Gen. Dana Born '83 became the first female Air Force Academy graduate to serve as USAFA Dean of the Faculty. A year later, Brig. Gen. Susan Desjardins '80 joined the Academy leadership team as the first female Air Force Academy graduate to take on the role of Commandant of Cadets. Finally, in August 2013, Lt. Gen. Michelle Johnson '81 completed the USAFA leadership trifecta, taking over as the first female Academy graduate to serve as Air Force Academy superintendent.

- 2001 Gen. Ronald Fogleman '63
Mr. Harry J. Pearce '64
- 2002 Dr. Paul G. Kaminski '64
Gen. Robert C. Oaks '59
- 2003 Lt. Gen. Bradley C. Hosmer '59
Mr. Richard T. Schlosberg '65
- 2004 Col. Frederick Gregory '64
Gen. Ronald W. Yates '60
- 2005 Gen. H.T. Johnson '59
Gen. Michael E. Ryan '65
- 2006 Lt. Gen. Robert D. Beckel '59
Maj. Gen. Edward J. Mechenbier '64
- 2007 Lt. Gen. Ervin Rokke '62
Mr. Gregg Popovich '70
- 2008 Maj. Gen. Donald Shepperd '62
Mr. John Martinson '70
- 2009 Gen. John Michael Loh '60
Honorable Heather A. Wilson '82
- 2010 Mr. Max F. James '64
Gen. Ralph E. Eberhart '68
- 2011 Brig. Gen. Ruben A. Cubero '61
Mr. Richard D. McConn '66
- 2012 Lt. Gen. Marcus A. Anderson '61
Mr. Edward E. Legasey '67
- 2013 Mr. A. Bart Holaday '65
Gen. William R. Looney III '72
- 2014 Dr. Thomas J. Eller '61
Gen. Kevin P. Chilton '76
- 2015 Gen. (Ret.) Gregory S. Martin '70
Mr. Paul S. Madera '78
- 2016 Gen. (Ret.) George Lee Butler '61
Gen. (Ret.) Charles Holland '68
Mr. Robert David Yost '69
Col. (Ret.) Gary Payton '71
- 2017 Mr. T. Allan McArtor '64
Mr. John Fox '63
Gen. (Ret.) Steve Lorenz '73
- 2018 Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Edward Jayne '66
Mr. H. Michael Lambert '70
Gen. (Ret.) Mark Walsh III '76
Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Chris Inglis '76
- 2019 Col. (Ret.) Leslie Denend '63
Mr. Fletcher "Flash" Wiley '65
Gen. (Ret.) Norton Schwartz '73
Gen. (Ret.) Edward Rice '78
Mr. John "Jack" Kucera '78



Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger '80 also holds a very distinct position in Air Force and Air Force Academy history. On June 5, 2012, she became the Air Force and the Air Force Academy's first female four-star general, as she assumed command of Air Force Materiel Command.

Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger '80

More than 764 Academy graduates have earned general stars. This list is long and distinguished, and is certain to grow much larger as Academy graduates continue to excel.

The Vietnam War provided ample opportunity for graduates to demonstrate the discipline and heroism forged during their Academy matriculation. Thousands served honorably in the war, including more than 150 who died there and 33 who suffered as prisoners of war. Each has a compelling story, but space constraints preclude telling all but a few.



Capt. Lance Sijan '65

Capt. Lance Sijan '65 is the most famous of the Academy war heroes. On Nov. 9, 1967, he was forced to eject behind enemy lines after his F-4 fighter jet was disabled and his crewmember was killed. Despite a skull fracture, a broken hand and a compound fracture of his left leg, he managed to evade capture for 45 days after rescue efforts were unsuccessful.

Shortly after his capture, despite his greatly weakened condition, he overpowered his guard and escaped again, albeit briefly. In captivity, he endured horrific treatment and brutal torture, never losing his resolve to escape and return to the fight. On Jan. 22, 1968, he died from his injuries and mistreatment. Upon his own eventual release in 1973, cellmate Guy Gruters '64 told Sijan's story. Sijan's conduct merited the Medal of Honor, which President Gerald Ford presented to Sijan's parents on March 4, 1976. In May of that year, the Air Force Academy honored Sijan, the only Academy graduate to earn the Medal of Honor, by naming the newer of its two dormitories after him. He is the only grad memorialized with an Academy building.

Sijan is by no means the only Vietnam War hero. Capt. Valmore Borque '60 was the first Academy graduate to die

in combat. The first graduate to down a MiG was then-Capt. Robert E. Blake '59. 1st Lt. Karl W. Richter '64 was the youngest pilot to down a MiG in combat. On his 198th combat mission, he was shot down and killed. Then-Capt. Richard S. Ritchie, also Class of 1964, was the Air Force's only pilot ace of the war. Then-Capt. Jeffrey Feinstein '68, a Weapon Systems Officer in the F-4 Phantom II, also became an ace in 1972.



Capt. Kim N. Campbell '97

Graduates continue to serve — and make the ultimate sacrifice. Five grads were killed in action and four were held prisoner of war during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

Two graduates, Leroy Homer '87 and Charles Jones '74 were killed in the September 11, 2001, attack. The ensuing struggle has taken the lives of several Academy graduates, most recently Capt. Mark Weber, Class '11 who one of seven airmen killed when his HH-60 helicopter crashed in western Iraq on March 15, 2018. 1st Lt. Roslyn Schulte '06 became the first female graduate killed in action, also the result of an IED in Afghanistan.

Fortunately, not all the heroism resulted in the loss of life. In 2003, Capt. Kim N. Campbell '97 recovered her damaged A-10 after it was struck by a surface-to-air missile. Despite losing hydraulics and sustaining heavy damage and the partial loss of her aircraft's tail during a close air support mission over Baghdad, she was able to land safely in Kuwait. She received the Distinguished Flying Cross for the mission.

It is not necessary for graduates to remain in uniform to serve their country, as the following examples demonstrate. The previously mentioned H. T. Johnson '59 has served as assistant secretary of the Navy (Installations and Logistics), as well as acting secretary of the Navy. Dr. Paul Kaminski '64 served as under secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology from 1994-1997. T. Allan McArtor, also Class of 1964, served as administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, and is currently chairman of Airbus Americas, Inc. Terrence O'Donnell '66 served as Department of Defense General Counsel.



Air Force Cross Recipients

Donald D. Stevens '60
Monte L. Moorberg '61
John L. Carroll '62
Phillip V. Maywald '63
John B. McTasney '63
Jackson L. Hudson '64
Karl W. Richter '64
Richard S. Ritchie '64
Michael C. Francisco '67
Dale E. Stovall '67
Jeffrey S. Feinstein '68
Rowland H. Worrell III '68
Joseph A. Personett '69
Tilford W. Harp '70
Donald R. Backlund '71
Richard C. Brims '71
William F. Andrews '80
Barry F. Crawford Jr. '03

Gary Grappo '72 and Jim Smith '74 have both worked as U.S. ambassadors. Lawrence Romo '78 is the current director of the Selective Service System and Chuck Reed '70 was the 64th mayor of San Jose, Calif. Class of 1980 Will Gunn served as general counsel for the Department of Veterans Affairs and currently serves on the AOG Board of Directors.

Rhodes Scholar Heather A. Wilson '82 made her mark in politics. In 1998, she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, making her not only the first Academy graduate elected to the House, but also the first female veteran in American history to serve in Congress. Martha McSally '88 became the first USAFA graduate to serve in the U.S. Senate on Jan. 3, 2019.



Frederick Gregory '64

Another area of graduate achievement is America's space program, as many grads have followed Karol Bobko's lead. As a point of interest, the Academy has produced 42 astronauts so far. Among them, Frederick Gregory '64 became the first African-American astronaut to pilot the Space Shuttle, as a member of the Challenger crew on mission STS-51B in 1985. He was later the first African-American to command a space mission (Discovery in 1989). In 2005, Gregory was named NASA's acting administrator. Col. Richard O. Covey '68 also distinguished himself in the space program. Among his four Space

Shuttle flights, he was commander of the Hubble Space Telescope repair mission and piloted the Shuttle program's critical return-to-flight mission following the 1986 Challenger disaster.

Among the other renowned astronauts is Col. John E. Blaha '65, who flew a total of six Space Shuttle missions as pilot, spacecraft commander, scientist and mission specialist. He participated in joint U.S.-Russia research while residing aboard the space station Mir from September 1996 until January 1997. Gen. Kevin Chilton '76, a veteran of three Space Shuttle flights, assumed command of Air Force Space Command in 2006, becoming the first and only astronaut to earn four stars. Col. Charles J. Precourt '77 flew four Space Shuttle missions, logging more than 930 hours in space. Then-Major Susan Helms '80 was the first military female astronaut. She flew on four Space Shuttle missions and spent 163 days onboard the International Space Station during her 12 years as an astronaut. Helms logged a total of 5,064 hours in space, including a spacewalk of 8 hours and 56 minutes in 2001 (a world record for longest spacewalk duration). For their accomplishments, all of these illustrious individuals are enshrined in the Astronaut Hall of Fame.

Graduates also have brought great credit to the Academy in a variety of civilian endeavors. Again, there are far too many worthy individuals to mention. Several who have excelled: Harry Pearce '64 earned his law degree and rose through the ranks at General Motors to become vice chairman. He was later named to the position of CEO at Hughes Aviation. He also was the first civilian recipient of the Distinguished Graduate Award.



Paul Kaminski '64

Pearce's classmate, Paul Kaminski '64, is another Distinguished Graduate Award winner. While on active duty, Dr. Kaminski worked with Secretary of Defense William J. Perry on the DoD Stealth and Counter-Stealth program and had a pioneering role in the National Reconnaissance Office. After his stellar government career, he served as CEO of Technovation Incorporated and has served in

multiple advisory and board positions.

A third civilian Distinguished Graduate Award recipient was Richard Schlosberg '65. He served as president and CEO of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Prior to that, he was the publisher and chief executive of the Los Angeles Times and the Denver Post.



Chelsey Sullenberger '73

Perhaps the most publicly famous of all Air Force Academy graduates is Chesley Sullenberger '73. On Jan. 15, 2009, Capt. Sullenberger landed US Airways flight 1549 on the Hudson River after the plane hit a flock of geese and lost power. His actions saved the lives of all 155 people on board. For his actions, Capt. Sullenberger was awarded the Academy's 2009 Col. James Jabara Award for Airmanship. Estab-

lished in 1967, the Jabara Award is presented annually by the Academy, the AOG and the Jabara family to a USAFA graduate, living or deceased, whose actions directly associated with an aerospace vehicle set him/her apart from contemporaries.

A final area of graduate success is the world of sports. The Academy program requires individuals to be well-rounded, with athletics being an important part of the curriculum. Air Force Academy scholar-athletes have fared well in the sports world after graduation, reflecting credit back on their alma mater. Twelve Air Force Academy graduates have participated in the Olympic Games. In 1976, Class of 1970 graduate Robert Nieman became the first Academy graduate to compete by taking part in the Modern Pentathlon. Three years later, he became the first American to win the International Modern Pentathlon Individual World Championship.



MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT Lance P. Sijan '65



Alonzo Babers '83

Class of 1983 graduate Alonzo Babers won two track gold medals (in the 400 meters and the 4-by-400 meter relay) at the 1984 Olympic Summer Games in Los Angeles. Men's epee fencer Seth Kelsey '03 has participated in three Olympic Games, finishing a tantalizing fourth place at the 2012 games in London. Two grads, David Higgins '16 and Cale Simmons '13, competed in the Rio Olympics in 2016. Higgins competed in small bore rifle shooting, and Simmons in the pole vault.



Chad Hennings '88

In pro football, 1988 graduate Chad Hennings starred at defensive end for the Dallas Cowboys, winning three Super Bowl Championships (1993, 1994 and 1996). Gregg Popovich, Class of 1970, has excelled as head coach for the San Antonio Spurs of the National Basketball Association, winning five NBA championships and three Coach of the Year Awards. He has the most wins of any coach in history.

In April 2020, the first graduates to commission directly into the Space Force — 86 in total — are sworn in at graduation.

While in no way providing a complete accounting of notable USAFA graduates, we hope we have conveyed the depth and breadth of the extraordinarily impressive service which graduates have given to the nation.





The Graduate War Memorial

Class of 1959

Capt. Davis, William Sheldon III
 Col. Derrickson, Thomas Gardner II
 Capt. Halbower, Harlow Kenneth
 Capt. Oberdier, Lyn Douglas

Class of 1960

Capt. Bourque, Valmore William
 Maj. Davis, Robert Charles
 Capt. Hyde, Michael Lewis
 Capt. Mills, James Dale
 Maj. Morton, James Edward Jr.
 Maj. Waters, Samuel Edwin Jr.
 Maj. Waugh, Grant Reed

Class of 1961

Maj. Apodaca, Victor Joe Jr.
 Capt. Bull, Robert George Jr.
 Capt. Dixon, Lee Chris
 Lt. Col. Koonce, Terry Treloar
 Capt. Moorberg, Monte Larue
 Maj. Morgan, Burke Henderson
 1st Lt. Sanders, Thomas Andrew
 Capt. Stackhouse, John Ernest
 Capt. Walker, Thomas Tyler

Class of 1962

Capt. Baker, Samuel James
 Capt. Brinkman, James Martin III
 Maj. Brucher, John Martin
 1st Lt. Carn, Robert Marion Jr.
 Maj. Carroll, John Leonard

Capt. Franco, Charles Stephen
 1st Lt. Griffey, Terrence Hastings
 Capt. Griffin, Charles Farrell
 1st Lt. Hauschildt, John Charles
 Capt. Hornaday, Ralph Jefferson Jr.
 Capt. Martin, Harreld Pirtie
 Capt. Moore, Charles Larry
 1st Lt. Watson, Donald David
 Maj. Wilson, Gordon Scott

Class of 1963

1st Lt. Adams, Lee Aaron
 Capt. Bunker, Park George
 Capt. Butterfield, Douglas Holman
 Maj. Clark, Thomas Edward
 Maj. Gilchrist, Robert Michael
 1st Lt. Goodman, James Donald
 Capt. Hathaway, John Hooper V
 Capt. Hemmel, Clarence Joseph
 1st Lt. Knudsen, Harold Eugene Jr.
 Maj. Mitchell, Thomas Barry
 Capt. Newberry, Wayne Ellsworth
 Capt. Pirruccello, Joseph Samuel Jr.
 Maj. Ralston, Frank Delzell III
 Capt. Rex, Robert F.
 1st Lt. Skoro, John Peter Jr.
 Capt. Thomas, Leo Tarlton Jr.
 1st Lt. Wax, David Joel
 Maj. Wynne, Patrick Edward

Class of 1964

Maj. Alfred, Gerald Oak Jr.

Lt. Col. Jefferson, James Milton
 1st Lt. Krogman, Alva Ray
 Maj. Lodge, Robert Alfred
 Capt. Midnight, Francis Barnes
 Capt. Moore, Larry Albert
 1st Lt. Pazdan, Dennis Sigmund
 Capt. Reeves, Robert Linton
 1st Lt. Richter, Karl Wendell
 Maj. Rickel, David J.
 Capt. Risher, David Horace
 Capt. Salzarulo, Raymond Paul Jr.
 1st Lt. Spangler, James Nelson
 Capt. Trent, Alan Robert
 Maj. White, James Blair
 Maj. (USMC) Williams, David Beryl
 Capt. (USMC) Zavacki, Francis

Class of 1965

Capt. Adams, Stanley Lee
 2nd Lt. Bonnell, George Harrison III
 Capt. Callies, Tommy Leon
 Maj. Crew, James Alan
 Capt. Daffron, Thomas Carl
 Capt. Davenport, Robert Dean
 Capt. Hackett, Harley Benjamin III
 Maj. Hesford, Peter Dean
 Lt. Col. Hopper, Earl Pearson Jr.
 1st Lt. Johnson, Theodore Wesley
 Capt. Keller, George Richard
 Capt. Lucki, Albin Earl
 Capt. Melnick, Steven Bernard
 Capt. Newendorp, James Vernon

Capt. Raymond, Paul Darwin
Capt. Sijan, Lance Peter
Capt. Smith, Victor Arlon
Capt. Warren, Gray Dawson
Capt. Wood, James Watson

Class of 1966

Capt. Brunner, Gary Edward
Capt. Bush, John Robert
Capt. Cheeseman, Alan Browne
Capt. Crist, Kenneth Roy
Capt. Estrada, Carlos Alberto Jr.
Maj. Gourley, Laurent Lee
Maj. Hess, Frederick William Jr.
Capt. Mravak, Thomas Anthony
Capt. Orlowski, Joseph Michael
Capt. Ross, Joseph Shaw
Capt. Setterquist, Francis Leslie
Capt. Spitz, George Ross
Capt. Vincent, Halton Ramsey

Class of 1967

Maj. Albright, John Scott II
Maj. Bosiljevac, Michael Joseph
Capt. Chorlins, Richard David
Capt. Davis, Daniel Richard
Maj. Donahue, Morgan Jefferson
Capt. Ferguson, Douglas David
1st Lt. Gilmore, James Robson Jr.
1st Lt. Henderson, Hal Kent
Capt. Henry, George Donald Jr.
Capt. Hoskins, Charles Lee
Capt. James, Samuel Larry
Mr. Kruzel, Joseph John Jr.
1st Lt. Moore, Donald Robert Jr.
Maj. Pugh, Dennis Gerard
1st Lt. Rosen, Max Emmanuel
Maj. Shay, Donald Emerson Jr.
Capt. Smith, James Leonard
Capt. Steadman, James Eugene
1st Lt. Svanoe, Kennard Errol

Class of 1968

1st Lt. Caudill, Elmon Cleveland II
Capt. Duffy, John Everett
1st Lt. Fehrenbach, Theron Carl II
Capt. Hallenbeck, Ted Brian
Capt. Jackson, Paul Vernon III
1st Lt. Kollenberg, Charles Louis
Capt. Ryder, John Leslie
Mr. Sawyer, Wallace Blaine Jr.
Capt. Sigafos, Walter Harrison III
1st Lt. Uhls, Willis Grant
1st Lt. Voris, Russell Earl

Class of 1969

Capt. Bond, Ronald Leslie
1st Lt. Kamenicky, George Wayne
Capt. Kohn, Robert Alan
Capt. Lockhart, George Barry
Capt. Martin, Douglas Kent
Capt. Paul, Craig Allan
1st Lt. Ryan, Robert Edward
1st Lt. Rydlewicz, John Michael
Capt. Tousley, George Henry III

Class of 1970

1st Lt. Blassie, Michael Joseph
1st Lt. Christy, Richard Neil II
1st Lt. Gravrock, Stephen Howard
Capt. Hardy, Arthur Hans
1st Lt. Hargrove, William Stone
1st Lt. Haselton, John Herbert
Capt. Rovito, Gilbert Allan
Capt. Townsend, Francis Wayne
1st Lt. Turose, Michael Stephen

Class of 1971

1st Lt. Gray, Richard Tenney
Capt. Kays, James Grier
Capt. Peterson, Mark Allan

Class of 1972

1st Lt. Froehlich, Laurence Eugene

Class of 1973

Capt. McMillan, Charles Thomas II

Class of 1974

Col. Jones, Charles Edward

Class of 1976

Maj. Hook, Peter Samuel
Col. (Ret.) Butler, Michael Wayne

Class of 1979

Maj. Weaver, Paul Jennings

Class of 1982

Capt. Phillis, Stephen Richard

Class of 1985

Capt. McCarthy, Mark Patrick

Class of 1986

Capt. Hawkens, David Andrew
Capt. Olson, Jeffrey Jon

Class of 1987

Maj. Homer, Leroy Wilton Jr.
Capt. Olson, Patrick Brian

Class of 1989

Lt. Col. Shea, Kevin Michael

Class of 1992

1st Lt. Piper, Laura Ashley
Maj. Plumhoff, Steven

Class of 1995

Lt. Col. Bryant, Frank Diehl Jr.
Capt. Das, Eric Bruce

Class of 1998

Maj. Rodriguez, Rodolfo Ivan

Class of 1999

Maj. Brodeur, David Lawrence

Class of 2001

Capt. Argel, Derek Mears
Capt. Fresques, Jeremy Jeff

Class of 2002

Capt. Wisniewski, David Anthony
Maj. Vorderbruggen, Adrianna Marie

Class of 2005

Capt. McDowell, Mark Russell

Class of 2006

1st Lt. Schulte, Roslyn Littmann
Capt. Steel, James Michael

Class of 2007

Lt. Helton, Joseph Dennis Jr.

Class of 2008

Capt. Pinckney, Victoria Ann
Capt. Voss, Mark Tyler
Capt. (Lissy) Lyon, David Irvin

Class of 2009

1st Lt. Wilkens, Justin James

Class of 2010

Capt. Roland, Matthew David
Capt. Pierson, Jordan Bradford

Class of 2011

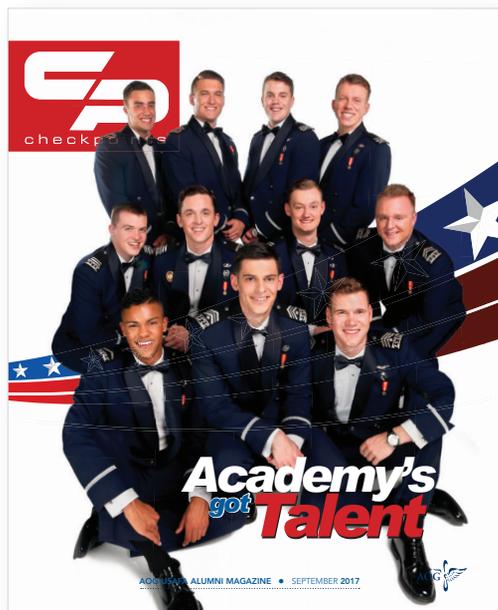
Capt. Weber, Mark K.

Benefits of Membership

While membership benefits of the Association may seem intuitive, they bear summarizing here, if only to reinforce that access to many AOG resources requires membership. More will be said about it in the Communications section of the Guide, but the award-winning *Checkpoints* magazine continues to be a well-documented membership draw for alumni and friends of the Academy alike. Graduate and member directories and the *Register of Graduates* provide a foundation for keeping up with fellow grads. The AOG can arrange tours of the Cadet Area for graduate members. Expanded access to the AOG website (another award-winning enterprise) is also a membership benefit, and includes links to class websites and to a host of alumni services.

The AOG offers coordination services with cadet ring manufacturers in obtaining repairs or replacements. As a side note, with the support of the Class of 1968, the AOG created an attractive and historic Class Ring display which is located on the second floor of Doolittle Hall.

The AOG facility itself is a unique venue, and is available to members (at a discounted rate) for hosting social or professional events, to include coordinating all the requisite supporting services that go along with this robust capability. For bargain hunters, Association membership rewards include a broad range of discounts on merchandise and services—from gifts to fan gear, to joint membership discounts. Even class reunion registration fees are discounted for AOG members. For all discount programs, be sure to have your AOG member ID handy!





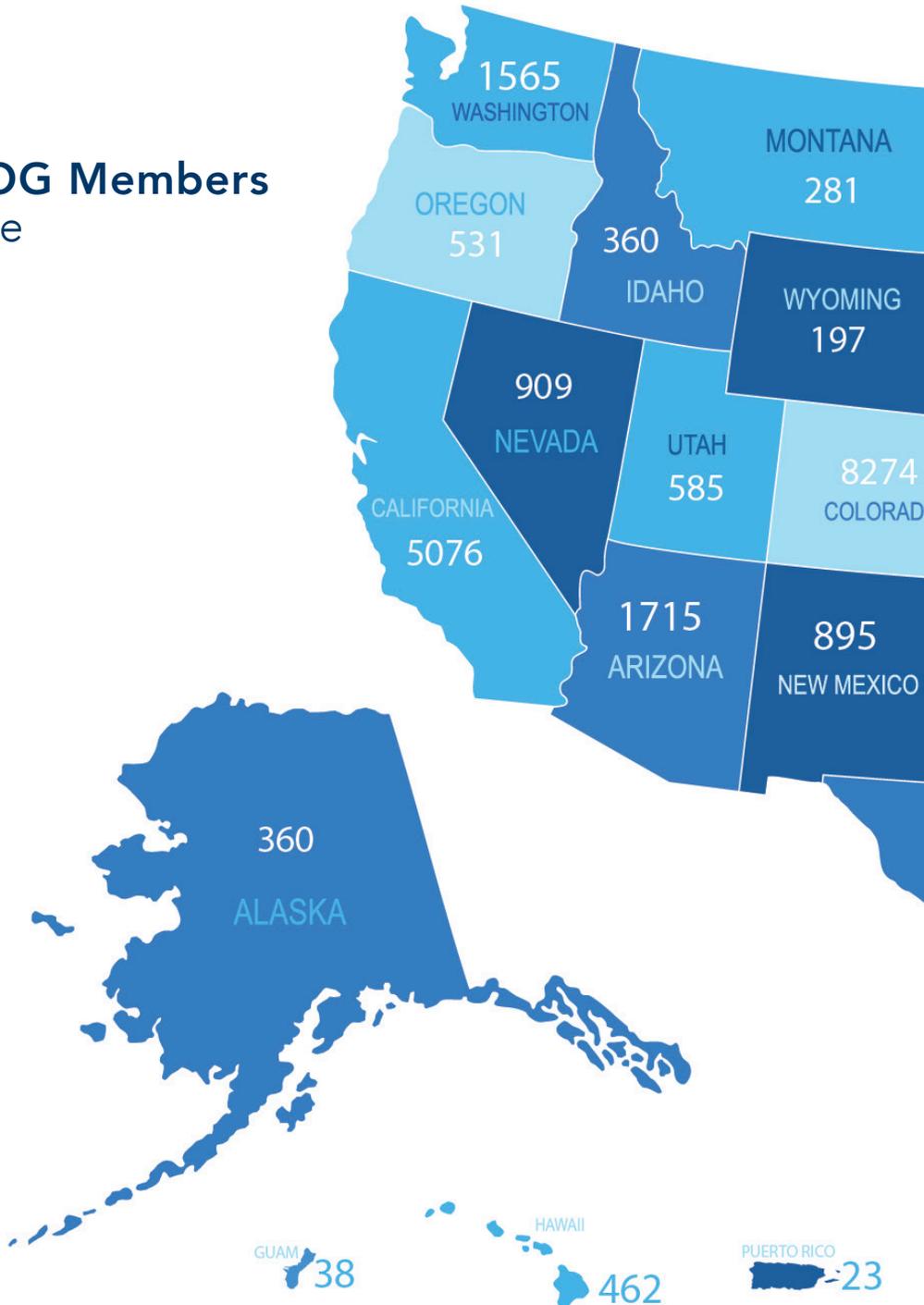

The Association also sponsors competitive Graduate Dependent Scholarships for deserving students. Dependents of member grads can apply for scholarship support their senior year of high school, and re-apply subsequently as they matriculate through their college course of study.

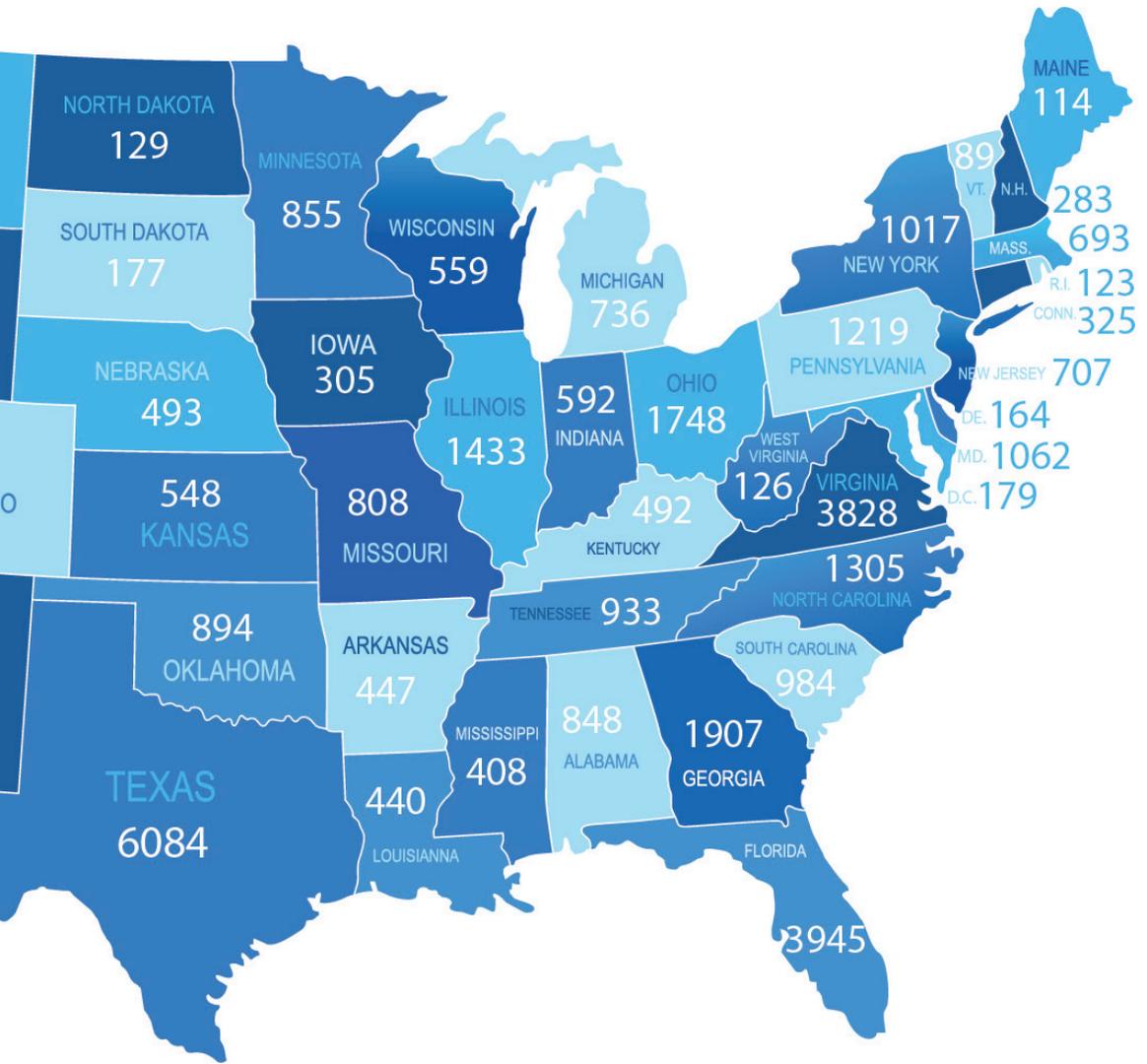
While the Association focuses on members, it also provides valuable services to all USAFA graduates — such as the ZoomieLink platform and Career Services. In addition, the AOG, in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Motor Vehicles, offers USAFA license plates to graduates of the institution. The wider community outside the Association can and does access the AOG and Air Force Academy Foundation website to catch up on posted news items or review the calendar of events. The two AOG electronic newsletters, *ZoomieEnews* and *7258*, enjoy a large external readership and provide weekly updates on Academy news, events and activities throughout the year. Additionally, participation in the Joint Service Academy travel program is extended beyond alumni.

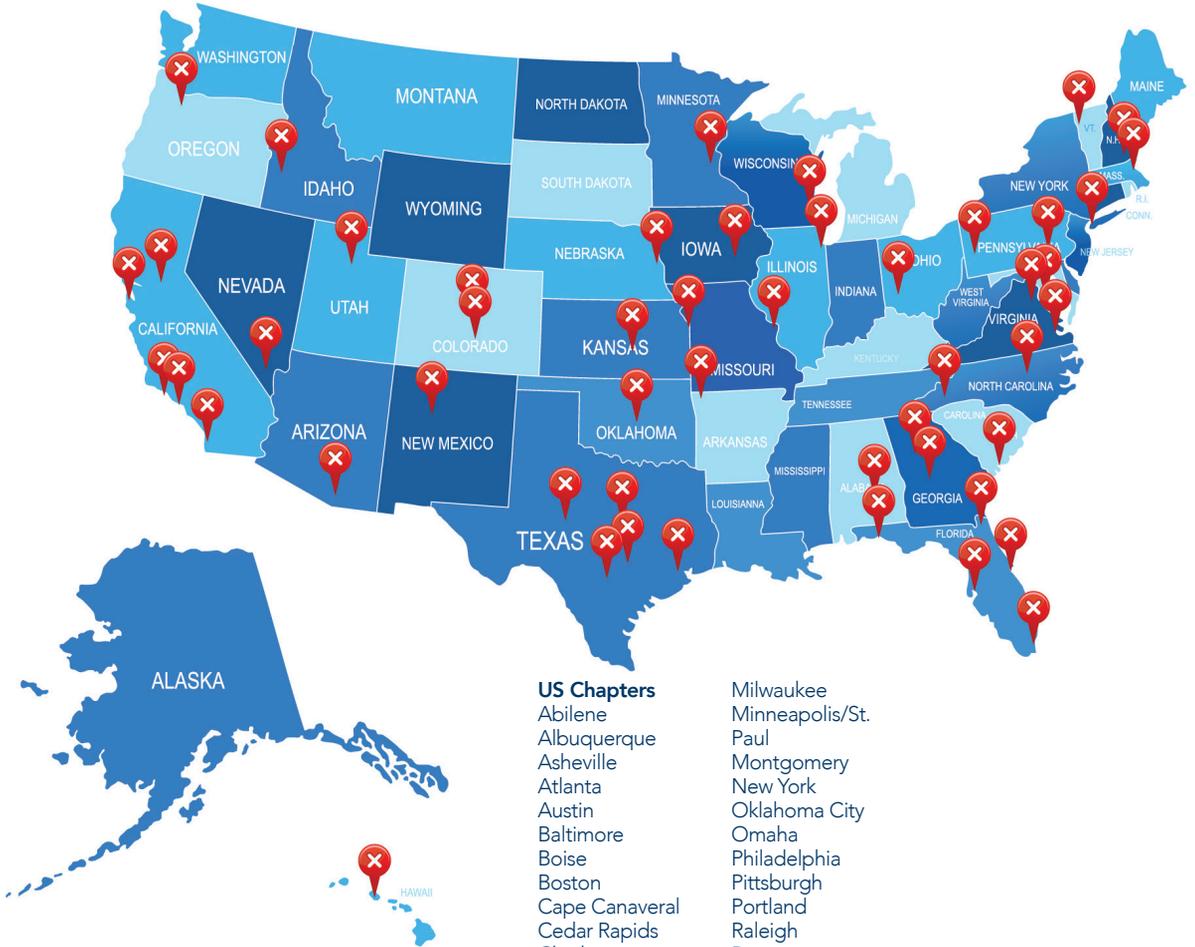
For more information on membership, contact Megan Bollman, (719) 472-0300, ext. 108, megan.bollman@aogusafa.org, usafa.org/membership



Our **AOG** Members by State







US Chapters

- Abilene
- Albuquerque
- Asheville
- Atlanta
- Austin
- Baltimore
- Boise
- Boston
- Cape Canaveral
- Cedar Rapids
- Charleston
- Chicago
- Colchester
- Colorado Springs
- Dallas
- Dayton
- Denver
- Ft. Walton Beach
- Hampton
- Honolulu
- Houston
- Irvine
- Jacksonville
- Kansas City
- Las Vegas
- Los Angeles
- Manchester
- Miami
- Milwaukee
- Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Montgomery
- New York
- Oklahoma City
- Omaha
- Philadelphia
- Pittsburgh
- Portland
- Raleigh
- Rogers
- Sacramento
- Salt Lake City
- San Antonio
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- St. Louis
- Tampa
- Tucson
- Warner Robins
- Washington, D.C.
- Wichita

International Chapters

- Ramstein AB



Our **AOG** Chapters



Alumni Services

The very nature and character of the AOG have evolved significantly since its early days. Perhaps most representative of this trend, there are now more than 52,000 USAFA graduates, and the rising median age of the graduate community reflects a broadening and maturing of interests which are addressed by a number of unique services provided by the Association.

The AOG plays a vital and growing role in sponsoring and publicizing many categories of graduate achievements and awards. The AOG's Falcon Center in Fairchild Hall has included exhibits (also replicated in Doolittle Hall) on grad notable firsts, chiefs of staff, academic and business leaders, exemplars of military excellence and heroism, and graduates distinguished in government service. Graduate authors are highlighted via the AOG website. Premier Association honors are the Jabara Award, which recognizes exceptional airmanship, and the Distinguished Graduate Award program acknowledging lifetime achievements in service to the Association, the military and our nation.

The AOG fosters an abiding memory of those graduates who have gone before. The "In Memoriam" portion of our services and capabilities includes preparation and publication of "Gone But Not Forgotten" and associated obituaries of deceased graduates overseen by a full-time researcher and editor within the AOG Communications staff. The Association maintains a liaison with the Academy Office of Mortuary Affairs, and facilitates class notifications of local funerals and interments. With-in or outside of the reunion context, the AOG assists in planned class and family memorial ceremonies. In honoring those grads who have suffered imprisonment in times of conflict, the AOG maintains on its website a list of Prisoners of War (POW) that links to the Friends of the USAFA Library Graduate POW website (usafa.org/Heritage/POWs), which sustains a detailed repository of graduate POW records.

Business Operations and Partnerships

Engaging the community.

Nurturing strategic relationships.

Providing useful services.

AOG GIFT SHOP AND SHOP.USAFA.ORG

Do you have a special event coming up — Graduation? Inprocessing? Reunion? The AOG is proud to offer exclusive merchandise to the greater Air Force Academy community for all occasions.

Stop into Doolittle Hall or shop online at shop.usafa.org for all of your USAFA alumni, squadron, class, family and fan gear!

For more information about the AOG Gift Shop, contact us at 719-472-0300 or CustomerService@aogusafa.org.

EVENT SPONSORSHIP AND AOG ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

The AOG is continually looking to partner with businesses and individuals who would like their brand associated with the high standards of the Air Force Academy community. Sponsorship packages are available for the USAFA Golf Tour, AOG tailgates and other high-profile events. You can advertise with the AOG and get your business name in front of the Air Force Academy community through opportunities available in the AOG's award-winning alumni magazine, *Checkpoints*, and its popular electronic newsletters, *7258'* and *ZoomiEnews*. Media kits with rates and information are available on the AOG website.

For more information on event sponsorship and AOG advertising opportunities, contact Jeff MacLean, (719) 472-0300, ext. 167, jeff.maclean@aogusafa.org.

usafa.org/sponsorship



TRUE BLUE BUSINESS PROGRAM

The True Blue Business program is designed as an exclusive local group of Academy supporters who are interested in increasing their presence on the Academy campus and expanding their networking opportunities through unprecedented access to Academy events. With sponsorships starting at \$1,250, True Blue Business sponsors receive the following benefits and more!

- Invitations to high-profile Association of Graduates and Air Force Academy events, including Founders Day and the National Character and Leadership Symposium
- A behind-the-scenes tour of the cadet area for you and up to three guests
- Logo recognition on the AOG's Corporate Sponsors webpage
- Logo recognition in the lobby of Doolittle Hall
- 15% off AOG Gift Shop merchandise



For more information on the True Blue Business Program, contact Jeff MacLean, (719) 472-0300, ext. 167, jeff.maclean@aogusafa.org. usafa.org/truebluebusiness

TRAVEL PROGRAM

The AOG's partnership with several companies — including JAT, Go Next and World War II Museum — allows graduates to sail to exotic locales around the world, at a great price, while helping support the mission of the AOG. With the travel program, graduates enjoy longer vacations aboard elegant, mid-sized ships featuring large-ship amenities. Bring country club casual ambiance to your journey — tuxedos and gowns are never required! Take comfort in knowing that your travels continue to support the mission of the AOG!

For more information on the AOG Travel Program, contact Michele Bergeman, (719) 472-0300, ext. 136, michele.bergeman@aogusafa.org. usafa.org/membership/travel_gonext_2015

USAA PARTNERSHIP

USAA is the Premier Sponsor of the Association of Graduates. The partnership makes the AOG USAA Rewards credit card available to graduates and their families. USAA Bank makes a contribution to the AOG when accounts are opened and with each eligible purchase. We strongly encourage getting and using this benefit-filled card. It's an easy way to support your Academy and the Association!

For more information on the USAA Rewards credit card, contact Corrie Grubbs, (719) 472-0300, ext. 105, corrie.grubbs@aogusafa.org. usafa.org/sponsorship/corporate_sponsors

Career Services

Support to ease professional transitions, connect with fellow alumni, and search for jobs

SERVICE ACADEMY CAREER CONFERENCE (SACC)

Administered and supported by the Association of Graduates and the alumni associations of the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, this is the only job fair exclusively for service academy alumni conducted by the alumni associations.

Four times each year, SACC allows candidates to interface with a large number of corporate and educational institutions. Companies and universities are encouraged to have in-depth conversations with the candidates to evaluate their skill sets. Semi-private “interview” tables are provided at each venue. By registering in advance, the candidate has the opportunity to have his or her résumé reviewed by the companies prior to SACC and the companies are encouraged to reach out to the candidates and invite them to their booths. It is a win-win for all involved, especially the thousands of service academy graduates who have found employment through the event.

This event is suggested for alumni of all experience levels. Junior officers should expect to use SACC as a tool to learn about the civilian workforce, search for entry- to mid-level management positions, and begin the interview process. Senior officers are encouraged to take advantage of the resources provided at SACC, including professional development seminars, networking events, and face-to-face interaction with corporate hiring managers who can be valuable additions to their professional network.

For more information on the Service Academy Career Conference, contact Karina Ross, (719) 472-0300, ext. 100, careers@aogusafa.org. sacc-jobfair.com

AOG CAREER CENTER

Designed specifically for alumni of the U.S. Air Force Academy, the recently transformed AOG Career Center uses the latest technology in alumni career services to provide online support through all of life’s professional transitions. The website can be used for:

- Connecting with mentors/professional contacts
- Résumé writing and revising
- Job fair preparation



- Career transition preparation
- Networking

Alumni Mentoring Program

Built into the AOG Career Center, the Alumni Mentoring Program is designed to facilitate interaction between alumni for the purpose of professional and career support. Mentors are invited to develop their alumni profiles, so others can search for them using the website’s search and filter tools to find suitable matches based on the work and personal experiences the mentor provides. Those who wish to find a mentor or protégés are invited to develop their profile and search for others with common backgrounds or career paths. Protégés may use the website’s messaging feature to request a mentoring relationship with fellow alumni. careers.usafa.org

SACCentral

Administered by the Naval Academy Association of Graduates, SACCentral mirrors the AOG Career Center, inviting graduates of all service academies to use their alumni profiles to search for jobs and receive the most up-to-date information regarding the SACC and other joint-service career events. Air Force Academy alumni can access SACCentral by logging in to their AOG Career Center account.

For more information on AOG Career Services, contact Karina Ross, (719) 472-0300, ext. 100, careers@aogusafa.org. usafa.org/CareerCenter

Constituent Programs

To connect, serve and strengthen the Long Blue Line.

AMBASSADORS

Ambassadors are an exclusive group of passionate Falcons that are instrumental in supporting graduates, young alumni, parents and spouses in navigating the U.S. Air Force Academy experience and beyond.

BECOME AN AMBASSADOR

Do you have a drive to help others in USAFA Family?

We are always looking for people like you to strengthen our community connections and further the success of our graduates. As an Ambassador, you will have the opportunity to:

- Share your experience and advice about life in and beyond the US Air Force Academy.
- Share insider tips to navigating a new city or career.
- Create a community of connections in your city, town, or state.
- Make a difference in someone's life.

usafa.org/ambassadors. Contact Devin Davis, 719-472-0300, ext. 150, devin.davis@aogusafa.org.

AOG AFFINITY GROUP PROGRAM

A small number of Affinity Groups throughout the country bring people of similar professional, personal and/or vocational interests together. Affinity groups offer graduates the opportunity to stay connected with the Academy and each other beyond the traditional regional structure of the AOG Chapter Program. Examples of such groups include Graduate Way of Life, Academy Women, Space Group and the Blue Alliance. We are actively trying to grow the Affinity Group Program and encourage our graduates to unite through this venue. For more information on the AOG Affinity Group Program, contact Barbara Rosenheim, (609) 330-3646, barbara.rosenheim@aogusafa.org.

usafa.org/group/affinityprograms

AOG CHAPTERS

There are now some 50 local and regional AOG Chapters. Each chapter has a unique personality that represents the collective outlook of its members. The Association provides extensive advice on chapter set-up and management in the *Chapter Handbook*, and keeps website design tools available for budding chapter organizers. Every fall, at the annual Chapter Presidents

Conference, chapter representatives hear from Academy and AOG senior leaders about the current state of the Academy. During this conference, chapters that go above and beyond are recognized with the Distinguished Chapter Award. See chapter map on page 28. For more information on AOG Chapters, contact Karina Ross, (719) 472-0300, ext. 100, karina.ross@aogusafa.org.
usafa.org/group/chapters

COMMEMORATIVE PAVERS

At Doolittle Hall, some of the grounds surrounding the facility are paved with granite bricks inscribed with the names of Academy graduates, family members and friends of the Academy. Graduates and friends of the Academy can forever link themselves, or a loved one, to the tradition and future of the Air Force Academy by purchasing an engraved granite commemorative paver. For more information on the Commemorative Pavers, contact Corrie Grubbs at (719) 472-0300, ext. 105, corrie.grubbs@aogusafa.org. **usafa.org/heritage/pavers**

GRADUATE DEPENDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Since 1987, the AOG Board of Directors has continued its long-standing support for the Graduate Dependent Scholarship Program. In 2015, more than 100 applications were submitted to a volunteer committee of Academy graduates for review. Awards totaling in the thousands of dollars were approved for 20 students, directly supporting postsecondary education for the children of AOG graduate members.

For more information on Graduate Dependent Scholarships, contact Bill Preston, (719) 472-0300, ext. 121, bill.preston@aogusafa.org.

usafa.org/membership/scholarships

50-YEAR LEGACY CLASS PROGRAM

Members of the class which graduated 50 years ahead of the incoming class serve as mentors and a support system for the newest cadets. Graduates are encouraged to take part in legacy events with the class during its four years at the Academy. Those events include: Acceptance Parade, Exemplar Dinner, Commitment Dinner, Ring Dining-Out and 100th Night.

For more information on the 50-Year Legacy Class Pro-



gram, contact Felicia Recker, (719) 472-0300, ext. 139, felicia.recker@aogusafa.org.

usafa.org/connect/events_legacy

USAFA PARENTS CLUBS

The AOG welcomes parents to the Air Force Academy community. USAFA Parents Clubs are located throughout the country and serve as a support network for parents and cadets alike. Parents Clubs keep families connected with their loved ones and their experiences as they tackle life at the Academy. The Association Graduates helps support USAFA Parents Clubs by improving their visibility and partnering with them on events that support cadets and promote the institution.

For more information on USAFA Parents Clubs, contact Bill Preston, (719) 472-0300, ext. 121, bill.preston@aogusafa.org.

usafa.org/group/parentsclub

YOUNG ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT

If you have graduated within the past 15 years, you are a part of a network of 12,000 young USAFA grads spanning across the globe. As a part of this community, you have access to opportunities in connecting with fellow alums, mentoring grads and cadets, and attending

exclusive events. Explore all our tailored services and events at usafa.org/YoungAlumni.

For more information, contact Devin Davis, 719-472-0300, ext. 150, devin.davis@aogusafa.org.

ZOOMIELINK

ZoomieLink is an easy-to-use online platform exclusive to USAFA grads and alumni around the globe. The platform allows graduates to quickly connect by matching them with fellow grads that fit their location, career, and interest to serve others.

In addition to building a community, this platform will serve as a hub for graduates to connect with resources and services that can play a role in their success. ZoomieLink's top features include:

- Map view allowing grads to easily search connections in their area.
 - Exclusive groups connecting grads by industries or interests.
 - Custom profiles with the ability to import LinkedIn resume.
 - Integrated messaging and video chat feature to create direct connections. Zoomielink.usafa.org
- Contact Raychel Blocher, 719-472-0300, ext. 115, raychel.blocher@aogusafa.org.

WebGuy

The wildly popular WebGuy program provides families and friends with a sneak peek into the Air Force Academy and many of the important milestones of their cadet's journey to become members of the Long Blue Line. WebGuy coverage includes photos, high-resolution image downloads, videos and a blog. We encourage you to take part in the Family Plan, which provides a litany of benefits for both you and your cadet. Free access to our WebGuy program is available to parents who are USAFA Graduate AOG Life Members.



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- WebGuy access
- Daily Blogs
- Free downloads of videos and pictures
- Life Membership for parent/guardian
- Life Membership at Graduation for your cadet
- Graduate Directory
- Career Services
- Reunion discounts
- Cadet member benefits
- Free or discounted events
- Exclusive "WebGuy Giveaways"
- Checkpoints alumni magazine
- 15% discount at the AOG Gift Shop (Doolittle Hall and shop.usafa.org)

**Limit 1 membership per household. Benefits and services are based on membership type and your affiliation with USAFA.*

For more information on Family Plan membership, contact Megan Bollman, (719) 472-0300, ext. 108, megan.bollman@aogusafa.org.
usafa.org/membership/benefits

Events

Strengthening bonds. Recognizing excellence. Preserving heritage.

ANNUAL AOG SINGLE MALT SCOTCH AND BOURBON TASTING

This popular event brings vendors from across the Pikes Peak Region together and provides attendees with a unique spirit and food sampling experience. The event typically takes place in March, so be sure to check the USAFA Master Events Calendar (usafa.org/Calendar/Events) for future dates because tickets go fast! Proceeds from the tasting support the Next of Kin.

For more information on the Annual AOG Single Malt Scotch and Bourbon Tasting, contact Marcella Mills, (719) 472-0300, ext. 148, marcella.mills@aogusafa.org. usafa.org/calendar/events

DOOLITTLE HALL FACILITY RENTALS

Take advantage of one of the top event sites in Colorado, with panoramic Rampart Range vistas and stunning views of the Cadet Chapel and the Cadet Area. Rental information is available on the AOG website.

EVENT SPACES

Doolittle Hall is a one-of-a-kind venue offering a wide variety of accommodations for all your conference and event needs. The grid below shows the capacity and options for each of our available spaces for rent. Our large parking lot offers ample free parking for all guests as well as large bus parking. Doolittle Hall is handicap accessible and is a smoke-free facility.

Floor Plan	Assembly	Atrium	Boardroom	Library Lounge
Total Sq. Ft.	5,500	3,550	800	1,600
Classroom	70	60	N/A	N/A
Theatre	300	150	N/A	N/A
Banquet	250	100	N/A	N/A
Reception	500	250	N/A	50
U-Shape	30	30	26	N/A



For more information on Doolittle Hall facility rentals, contact Marcella Mills, (719) 472-0300, ext. 148, aogevents@aogusafa.org. events.usafa.org

FOUNDERS DAY DINNER

Each April, the Association of Graduates celebrates the Academy's birthday by hosting a dinner and program which includes the presentation of the Distinguished Graduate Award. Attendees are treated to a gourmet meal as well as live and video entertainment packaged in an "Academy Awards" style presentation.

For more information, contact Marcella Mills, (719) 472-0300, ext. 148, marcella.mills@aogusafa.org. usafa.org/connect/events_usafa

NEXT OF KIN

Graduates and cadets who have passed away between 1 July and 30 June each year are honored at the annual Memorial Ceremony held on Homecoming weekend in the Fall. The next of kin are invited to return to the Academy to participate in a special reception with the Academy's senior staff just prior to the ceremony on the Terrazzo. The AOG issues invitations, organizes the reception, prepares the brochure, and provides the ceremonial wreath.

For more information on Next of Kin Coffee, contact Marcella Mills, (719) 472-0300, ext. 148, marcella.mills@aogusafa.org. usafa.org/heritage/notify_graduateddeath



JABARA AWARD BANQUET

The Jabara Award Banquet, sponsored by the Association of Graduates and the Air Force Academy, honors each year's award recipient. The event is attended by senior AOG and Academy staff and includes the plaque presentation. We strongly encourage you to attend and support the extraordinary achievements of these graduates. See more about the Jabara Award on page 42.

For more information on the Jabara Award Banquet, contact Marcella Mills, (719) 472-0300, ext. 148, marcella.mills@aogusafa.org.
usafa.org/connect/events_usafa

YOUNG ALUMNI EXCELLENCE AWARD

Each spring, the Association of Graduates has the pleasure of honoring graduates who attended the United States Air Force Academy within the last 15 years with our Young Alumni Excellence Award. The award is presented on the basis of the recipient's outstanding professional achievement and contributions to their community, whether in military or civilian life. Contact Devin Davis, 719-472-0300, ext. 150, devin.davis@aogusafa.org.

REUNION SERVICES

The role the AOG plays in class reunions is well known.



interservice rivalry game, the AOG hosts a tailgate or fan fest, which includes food, drink and entertainment. The events provide a fantastic opportunity to bring AOG, Air Force Academy Foundation, Air Force and Academy leadership together with grads and supporters to connect and cheer on our Falcons. The events are often attended by the Falconers, USAFA Cheerleaders, the Drum and Bugle Corps and more. Entertainment also includes a DJ where available. You can get your business name in front of the graduate community by sponsoring a tailgate or fan fest. Several sponsorship packages are currently available.

For more information on AOG Tailgates and Fan Fests, call Michele Bergeman at (719) 472-0300, ext. 136, michele.bergeman@aogusafa.org.
usafa.org/connect/events_usafa

Event coordinators from the Association do much of the reunion heavy-lifting for class committees over the months and weeks of intense planning that go into putting on a successful reunion. They serve as interlocutors with Academy officials, local hotels and reunion service providers. A reunion guide featuring a comprehensive listing of the services provided by your AOG is available to class officers and reunion committees. Remember, AOG members receive a discount on reunion registration!

For more information on Reunion Services, contact Brandi Lortz (719) 472-0300, ext. 165, brandi.lortz@aogusafa.org.
usafa.org/connect/reunions

AOG TAILGATES AND FAN FESTS

Before several away games each year, including the



History and Heritage

Support of history and heritage is one of the Association's most vibrant and relevant programs. It is indeed a collaborative and ongoing effort of the AOG, the Air Force Academy Foundation and sponsoring classes. The program is an impactful way of highlighting both the Air Force's and the Academy's roots, and of acknowledging the sacrifices and achievements of the Long Blue Line. The very art on the walls of Doolittle Hall (and indeed within all of the Academy's major buildings) attests to this history-centric perspective. History and heritage projects range from the humble to the awe-inspiring. Below is a non-exhaustive list of examples where the AOG is helping preserve USAFA heritage.

DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE AWARD

The Distinguished Graduate Award recognizes exceptional graduates who have set themselves apart by making extraordinarily significant contributions to our nation and/or their communities. It is a unique honor bestowed by the U.S. Air Force Academy and the Association of Graduates, recognizing graduates whose accomplishments are inspirational and elevate the reputation and the standing of the U.S. Air Force Academy. Distinguished Graduates provide an example to all graduates and cadets of the standards that we value and of the abilities that have made our country and society great. Each April, the Distinguished Graduates are presented with the award at the USAFA Founders Day Dinner. They are all recognized with a pedestal on the Heritage Trail and a display on the second floor of Doolittle Hall. To date, 46 USAFA graduates have been bestowed with this honor. See page 17 for a complete listing of our Distinguished Graduates.

For more information on the Distinguished Graduate Award, contact Gayle Yamazaki '83, (719) 472-0300, ext. 104, gayle.yamazaki@aogusafa.org.
[usafa.org/heritage/distinguished_graduates](#)

DOOLITTLE HALL

Doolittle Hall is home to the AOG, the Falcon Foundation, and the Air Force Foundation offices. It also serves as a re-



pository of Academy history and heritage exhibits. Memorial Window Etchings in the Assembly area honor the first Air Training Officers at the Academy who trained the classes of 1959 and 1960 and female ATOs who trained the first women admitted to the Academy, specifically members of the classes of 1980 and 1981. The Library Lounge boasts a collection of books, a POW bracelet display and other important Air Force Academy memorabilia. On the second floor, you can view the Doolittle Raiders display, the Class Ring display, the Air Force Academy Heritage Exhibit which honors notable grads, and the Distinguished Graduate Exhibit, among other items.

For more information on Doolittle Hall's history and heritage, contact Gayle Yamazaki '83, (719) 472-0300, ext. 104, gayle.yamazaki@aogusafa.org. **[events.usafa.org](#)**

HERITAGE IN THE CADET AREA

In and around the Cadet Area, there are many testaments to history and heritage which have been sponsored by the AOG. Dedicated to character, education and leadership, the Class of 1959's Harmon Memorial commemorates the Academy's first superintendent, and is set off by nearby sculptures and plaques dedicated by a number of warfighting and commemorative organizations. Along the Terrazzo, a stunning War Memorial honors all graduates who died in



Cadet Wing Community Engagement

Engagement with and support for cadets are major mission elements for the Association. In fact, this process begins before cadets arrive ... or are even selected for admission. The Association develops and provides incentives to graduating cadets that encourage membership in the organization and a commitment to the institution of the Academy. The AOG, in sum, renders full “life-cycle” support to the Wing, from the students’ first day to their last as cadets – and beyond.

CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The AOG also is a resource for securing graduates to support honor and ethics instruction and advisement and to provide speakers for cadet professional development programs. While the Air Force Academy Foundation (formerly known as the Endowment) led the efforts for the construction of the Center for Character and Leadership Development (CCLD), the AOG through its Moller funds has been a multimillion-dollar contributor and plays a supporting role encouraging and sustaining funding for this effort. Within its impressive architecture, the CCLD will host conferences and implement character and leadership development curricula supporting vital aspects of cadet professional growth.

For more information on Character and Leadership Development, visit usafa.org/give/character

CLASS RING PROGRAM

The Association of Graduates provides support to each class by assisting the cadets in the conceptualization of their class ring, design and refinement process as they work side by side with a ring design expert. The class crest design process begins in August of their third-class year with a meeting of the Class Crest/Ring Committee selected by the class president. The cadets come to the meeting prepared to discuss their ideas to personalize their class crest, which also includes six mandatory features that must be represented. By September, artists



from Jostens meet with the committee to hand-sketch the crest voted on by the committee. The Association of Graduates continues to facilitate meetings with the class and Jostens until all of the rings are ordered, delivered to the Academy, and ready to be presented for the first time at the Ring Dining Out. The Association of Graduates also assists cadets and graduates in contacting Jostens if their ring needs to be resized or replaced.

For more information about the Class Ring Program, contact Felicia Recker, (719) 472-0300, ext. 139, felicia.recker@aogusafa.org.

usafa.org/heritage/classrings

FALCON FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP

The AOG partners with the Falcon Foundation, which provides scholarship funds for preparatory enrichment of deserving students seeking admission as cadets at the United States Air Force Academy. The AOG provides the Foundation with office space, web technical support and other supporting infrastructure.

For more information about the Falcon Foundation, contact Sherry Cooper (P'16) at (719) 472-4096, sherry.cooper@falconfoundation.org.

usafa.org/falconfoundation

50-YEAR LEGACY CLASS INTERACTION

Beginning with Inprocessing, each class is exposed to the 50-Year Legacy Class program. Graduates of the class 50 years

prior to the incoming class will take part in key activities: from the Acceptance Parade and presentation of *Contrails* book of knowledge, to Commissioning and bestowal of specially engraved 2nd Lt. bars, the Legacy Class program is integral to all significant cadet milestones.

For more information on 50-Year Legacy Class interaction, contact Felicia Recker, (719) 472-0300, ext. 139, felicia.recker@aogusafa.org.

usafa.org/connect/events_legacy

FIRSTIE DEPARTURE

Welcome to your Firstie Departure! No matter the destination, this exclusive virtual event was created to support Firsties on their next journey. By exploring the links on this website, you will gain critical information, learn more about life after the Academy and connect with grads willing to share their insider tips.

Your virtual experience includes opportunities to:

- Collect information on-base or off-base housing suggestions.
- Connect with our Young Alumni Ambassador program and local chapters.
- Be introduced to fellow young grads and supporters who can share all the insider tips.
- Learn more about career planning with our Career Services team.
- Watch a quick cooking demonstration.
- Gather base details to help you prepare for your new base arrival.

Contact Raychel Blocher, 719-472-0300, ext. 115, raychel.blocher@aogusafa.org.

FORGED IN BLUE

The "Forged In Blue" program allows graduates to continue the Long Blue Line by donating their class ring. Donated rings are melted into a single gold ingot, which in turn becomes part of the production for new USAFA class rings. The presentation of the gold ingot at the Commitment Dinner that evening starts the production process of that class year's rings, symbolizing the commitment and involvement of the Long Blue Line as that class commits to the Air Force.

For more information on 50-Year Legacy Class interaction, contact Felicia Recker, (719) 472-0300, ext. 139, felicia.recker@aogusafa.org.

Family Services

If there is one aspect of operations that is emblematic of the AOG's evolution over the years, it is the increasingly strong component of family and community interaction that has become part and parcel of the Association's new breadth of purpose. Facilitating the family's ability to support their cadet has been nothing short of transformational for the AOG.

PARENTS CLUBS

Through the WebGuy Parents Portal, you can find useful links to resources in one convenient location, including information on the 88 USAFA Parents Clubs located throughout the country. The AOG actively works to engage and partner with USAFA parent members to provide support and facilitate engagement with other AOG constituencies in order to build a more robust capacity to support the institution.

For more information on USAFA Parents Clubs, contact Bill Preston, (719) 472-0300, ext. 121, bill.preston@aogusafa.org. usafa.org/parents

PARENTS PORTAL

The Parents Portal is your family's gateway to news, blogs, photos and videos of day-to-day cadet life. Find vital information about Academy events and important milestones in the life of a cadet as well as access the AOG's popular WebGuy homepage, download a copy of the *Long Blue Line Guide*, and more. Even Parent Forums, AOG Chapters, Admissions Liaison Officers, educators and Congressional committee staffs have been known to access the site for a first-hand look at what is going on. Together, the Parents Portal and the WebGuy tools provide a membership service for parents, and parents have accordingly become much more engaged in the Academy process than ever before. Through this innovative and exponentially growing medium,



parents can follow their cadet year-round in a way not previously possible.

For more information on Parents Portal, contact Bill Preston, (719) 472-0300, ext. 121, bill.preston@aogusafa.org. usafa.org/parents

WEBGUY

WebGuy is an innovative program for parents of USAFA cadets. The program, as part of the Family Plan Membership, allows parents to keep up with the important milestones in the life of their loved one. The WebGuy program is unique among service academies providing exclusive photos, videos and other information that parents with their daughter or son at other academies simply do not have access to. It has become one of the AOG's most popular initiatives. See page 36 for more information on the WebGuy program.

For more information on Family Plan — which includes the WebGuy Program, contact Megan Bollman at (719) 472-0300, ext. 108 or megan.bollman@aogusafa.org.



Communications

The AOG communications staff is perhaps closest to the heartbeat of the organization. It is communication, after all, that helps facilitate many of the aforementioned services of the AOG to the outside community. We have many tools for accomplishing this task. In 2020, AOG communications won a record 21 Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District VI awards for print, video and digital news achievements. The Communications team has tallied more than 100 CASE awards in the past seven years.

AUTHOR'S CORNER

Are you a graduate author? If so, contact us and we will add your book to the Author's Corner of usafa.org. The site provides an alphabetical listing of graduate authors, the title of their book, and a link to the author's website or a website where the book can be purchased.

For more information on the Author's Corner, contact Jeff MacLean, (719) 472-0300, ext. 167, jeff.macleaen@aogusafa.org.
usafa.org/graduateauthors

CHECKPOINTS ALUMNI MAGAZINE AND CHECKPOINTS ONLINE

Checkpoints magazine started representing the Association in 1971 as a black and white publication in ordinary newsprint format, and has grown today into the award-winning voice of the Association. As the only major Academy publication that reaches the proverbial "outside world," it has become an important vehicle for Academy senior leaders, staff, faculty and cadets to communicate. In telling the Academy story, *Checkpoints* underscores the institution's achievements as well as its challenges and future direction.

2020 Council for Advancement and Support of Education

THE ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES OVERALL EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Platinum — Excellence in Photography, Ryan Hall

Gold: Alumni Relations — New Program Initiatives, "ZoomieLink"

Gold: Best Uses of Social Media (This Date in USAFA History)

Gold: Design — Illustrations, "Winded Warriors"

Gold: Design — Editorial Design, "The Final Frontier"

Gold: Design — Editorial Design, "Africa Calling"

Silver: Design — Single-Page Publications, FamFest brochure

Silver: Individual Photography, Chapel cover

Silver: Design — Covers, "Aviation Overload"

Silver: Best Uses of Social Media (#CoolAFJob Social Media Campaign)

Silver: Mobile Applications (AOG USAFA App)

Bronze — News Writing, Periodical: Staff Writing

Bronze: Design — Editorial Design, "Winded Warriors"

Bronze: Design — Editorial Design, "Save 22 A Day"

Bronze: Design — Editorial

Design, "Throttle Up"

Bronze — Individual Photography, Chapel Ceiling

Bronze — Advertising: Choose Your Adventure

Bronze — Magazines: Special Issues, Chapel Revival

Bronze — Video: PSAs and

Commercial Spots: "Together"

Bronze: Websites — Complete Institutional Website (USAFA.ORG)

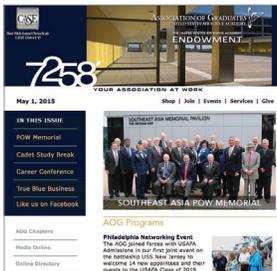
Bronze: External Audience

Tabloid and Newsletters (Digital) (7258')

With dozens of images and more than 100,000 words per issue, it is a significant publication whose influence reaches far beyond the cadet and graduate communities. The magazine also features the important "Gone But Not Forgotten" obituary section, to honor those graduates who have passed on, and "Class News" which keeps members of the Long Blue Line engaged with their classmates. Additionally, *Checkpoints Online* allows readers to defer the paper copy of the magazine. It also provides bonus content and video featurettes that bring readers even closer to the story. If you have a story idea, an article you would like to submit, or a letter to the editor, please contact us.

For more information on *Checkpoints*, contact Jeff Holmquist, (719) 472-0300, ext. 143, jeff.holmquist@aogusa.org. usafa.org/checkpoints

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS



services and events.

For more information on electronic newsletters, contact Troy Surratt, (719) 472-0300, ext. 125, troy.surratt@aogusa.org. usafa.org/membership/newsletters

PHOTO AND VIDEO ARCHIVES

The Communications team also maintains an extensive



The AOG Communications team produces the *ZoomiEnews* and *7258'* electronic newsletters. These award-winning e-newsletters hit inboxes on alternating weeks and keep constituents informed about all things related to the Academy, graduates and the Association. *ZoomiEnews* provides the latest news from the Air Force Academy, the Air Force Academy Foundation, athletics, the graduate community and more. *7258'* keeps the community apprised of all the AOG's latest products,

library of photo and video galleries. You can view videos that bring the latest USAFA events (like Inprocessing and Founders Day Dinner) to your computer, phone or tablet along with profiles of cadets and graduates alike. There also are photo galleries available on the website that bring stunning images from *Checkpoints* and other Academy events to life.

For more information on our photo and video archives, contact Ryan Hall, (719) 472-0300, ext. 140, ryan.hall@aogusa.org.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Communications staff has fostered phenomenal growth in social media links to the Association. They have even facilitated Twitter chats among grads during football games! This mode of communication exchange serves as a "bridge" to people who are not on the AOG email group listings, and may be a potential means for bringing grads on the margin "back into the fold." In the past year, the AOG Facebook page following continued to increase giving us more Facebook likes than any other alumni association in our conference, the state of Colorado, and across all service academies. Go Air Force! This may be an indication of the digital savvy of the graduate population, but is certainly reflective of how far the AOG has come in the realm of up-to-date



communications. Join the AOG's LinkedIn group to connect with USAFA grads and AOG members in the business community. There also are regional subgroups for more local discussion.

Finally, make sure to check out the AOG's Instagram account for images of the Academy and AOG events. Links to all our social media accounts can be found at usafa.org/socialmedia.

For more information on Social Media, contact Troy Surratt, (719) 472-0300, ext. 125, troy.surratt@aogusafa.org. usafa.org/membership/newsletters



facebook.com/airforcegrads
twitter.com/airforcegrads
bit.ly/linkedin_aog
instagram.com/airforcegrads

HERITAGE MINUTE

The Communications staff, along with Executive Vice President Steve Simon, have created a series of videos titled "Heritage Minute" to explore the history and heritage of USAFA. Check them out at usafa.org.

AOG MOBILE APP

Since its launch in July 2016, the Association of Graduates' new mobile app has been downloaded by more than 2,600 smartphone users. The app provides access to each member's digital membership card, event calendar and issues of

Checkpoints. USAFA grads also will see a button for their class graduation year when logged in. App users can read messages from their classmates and click to join in the class conversation. It's a reunion everyday on your phone! Log in with your last name and AOG ID.

USAFA.ORG

The AOG designs, programs, maintains and populates all of the Association's web-based applications, from the AOG main site (winner of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education [CASE] "Best Website" award) to the Parents Portal and sub-sites for WebGuy, Doolittle Hall Reservations and other services. We host AOG Chapter sites, and maintain access to class websites as well. The website also connects members through a searchable Graduate Directory which allows you to locate grads and find real-time self-reported information on their background through a range of search criteria. The AOG Member Directory provides the same options for those searching for members, and a PDF version of the most recent *Register of Graduates* is available online with the click of a mouse.

For more information on our website, contact Troy Surratt, (719) 472-0300, ext. 125, troy.surratt@aogusafa.org. usafa.org





Serving the Long Blue Line Together

The Association of Graduates and the Air Force Academy Foundation share a commitment to expanding the excellence of the Air Force Academy and its mission of developing leaders of character to serve the Air Force and the nation. While the AOG endeavors to serve and expand the community of Academy graduates and friends, the Air Force Academy Foundation is focused on aligning donor passion and generosity to serve and support the Air Force Academy. This value-driven fund raising supports large-scale capital construction, cadet and academic programs and other strategic initiatives that strengthen the Academy and the innovative leaders it develops.

Private support is not intended to replace the government's responsibility; it is used to raise the level of excellence that sets the Academy apart as one of the finest institutions of higher learning, leadership training, character development and military training. In fact, the federal government and donors work in tandem — and have done so since the Acad-

emy was founded — to maximize a public-private partnership for the benefit of cadets.

The Air Force Academy Foundation (formerly the USAFA Endowment) was established in 2007 as an IRS-designated 501(c)(3) independent, public charitable foundation. It is one of seven foundations that exist to support the Academy. In addition to the AOG, they include the Air Force Academy Athletic Foundation, ARDI, Falcon Foundation, Friends of the Library and the Superintendent's Leadership Endowment.

Since the Foundation was formed, graduates, families and friends have committed more than \$200 million in gifts to support and enhance every aspect of cadet life at the Academy. With the hiring of a single CEO, the Air Force Academy Foundation and the AOG are working more closely together than ever to create a seamless network of graduates and friends who are committed to supporting the Air Force Academy and those who are called to serve.

THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY FOUNDATION'S FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

We are committed to a positive and supportive approach. We provide private financial support for vital Academy projects and programs. We will not make any public pronouncements on the policy decisions of the Academy or the Air Force.

We are stable and independent. Our board of directors is composed entirely of donors. Our structure and governance model, similar to those of other university foundations, ensures the permanence and stability required to properly steward private support over time.

We are fully transparent. Our financial operations have complete audit and donor visibility. The Air Force Academy Foundation provides audited annual reports to donors with respect to the Foundation as a whole and to endowed funds and selected capital and program funds.

GIVING SOCIETIES

Our donor recognition societies and programs exist to acknowledge the support of our generous supporters who choose to include the Academy in their philanthropic endeavors year after year.

1954 Society

Named in recognition of the year in which the Air Force Academy was founded, the 1954 Society celebrates loyal donors of the Academy community. The 1954 Society provides much-deserved recognition to donors who support the Air Force Academy annually through the Air Force Academy Foundation. These committed donors set a philanthropic example for fellow graduates, parents and friends and play a vital role in ensuring that the Air Force Academy continues to stay on the cutting edge as a service academy and institution of higher learning.

Sabre Society

Donors who give \$1,000 or more annually to the Air Force Academy Fund are recognized as Sabre Soci-



ety level donors. Gifts provide more than a margin of excellence for cadet programs and the Academy's immediate strategic needs as identified by the superintendent. In addition, the Air Force Academy Fund supports graduate programs and services and the operational strategies of the Air Force Academy Foundation.

Polaris Society

Individuals who establish estate gifts to benefit the Air Force Academy and its graduates are members of the Polaris Society. Polaris donors leave a lasting legacy at the Academy, which can make a substantial difference to the future of the institution and the officers it produces.



Guidon Society

Benefactors who support the Academy on a continuing basis uphold the tradition of philanthropy that is vital to the Academy's success. The Guidon Society recognizes those individuals, corporations and foundations that have cumulatively given \$100,000 or more. Their contributions lead the way to building a better Academy for generations to come.



MAKE AN IMPACT

Annual Giving - Air Force Academy Fund

Each year, thousands of Academy graduates, parents and friends express their commitment to the Air Force Academy and all who benefit from it by giving to the Air Force Academy Fund. The collective impact of these commitments typically surpasses \$2.5 million each year. When you make a gift to the Air Force Academy Fund, you are making an investment in present, future and past generations of exceptional cadets and graduates.





Impact of Air Force Academy Fund Gifts

Annual contributions to the Air Force Academy Fund provide the Academy with crucial, flexible funding to enrich cadet programs, support graduate programs and services and help meet Academy needs.

CADET SUPPORT

Academy Assembly
Cadet clubs and intramurals
Character development programs and seminars
Distinguished speaker series
International immersion programs
Summer internships
Undergraduate research

GRADUATE SUPPORT

Career services
ZoomieLink
Chapter programs
Checkpoints magazine
Class legacy program
Class ring maintenance
Graduate dependent scholarships
ZoomiEnews and '7258

PARENT SUPPORT

Inprocessing support
WebGuy online service

YOU CAN SUPPORT the Air Force Academy in many ways. Whether you decide to make an annual gift, a matching gift or a planned gift, your generosity enhances the level of excellence of these programs and more.

Gifts to the Academy can be made online (supportusafa.org) or by personal check or credit card. Contact the Air Force Academy Foundation at 719-472-0300. To learn more about donor impact as well as fundraising priorities, visit afacademyfoundation.org.

The Air Force Academy Foundation Leadership



From top left

President & Chief Operating Officer **Mark Hille '97**

Chief Financial Officer **Dennis Scruggs**

Associate Vice President, Development Services **Greg Knedler**

Associate Vice President, Marketing, Communications and Donor Relations **Jermaine Johnson**

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