Capital Campaign Workshop

Gen (Ret.) DT Thompson ’85

15 October 2026

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES
U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Capital Campaign Background

- Current/Previous Capital Campaign: "Defining Our Future"
  - Supports priorities of the Joint Strategic Plan
  - Raised $300 million
  - Benefited: Madera Center, Athletic Teams and Facilities, Cadet Clubs and Leadership experiences, Endowed Chairs, IFC, Chaplains Programs, AOG/Graduate Programs, etc

- New Campaign
  - Objectives/Outcomes
    1. Raise financial support — $500 million — for critical Academy priorities and for strategic needs of supporting organizations.
    2. Increase awareness, engagement and participation among Academy graduates, parents and friends.
    3. Enhance institutional pride among all stakeholders.
    4. Imbue Academy faculty, staff, graduates and supporters with information about philanthropy's role and impact at the Academy
  - Planning phase: 2026 – 2027
  - Period of performance: 2027 – 2032
  - Led by the Foundation (Co-chairs Gen Mark Welsh and Mr Matt Young)

- Space Force and AOG Board Liaison: DT Thompson

Key Stakeholders and Audiences

- Beneficiaries
  - The Academy
    - Current Cadet Wing
    - Academic, Military Training and Athletic Programs
    - Special activities, clubs and other Cadet-focused organizations
    - Infrastructure (new, modified, restored)
  - The Graduate Community
    - AOG
    - Graduate Programs
    - Individual members
  - Other USAFA connected/supporting organizations
- Advocates
  - USAFA (and Department of the Air Force) leadership
  - Government leaders (to include BOV)
  - AOG/Foundation Leadership
  - Class Senate
- Donors
  - Alumni
  - Industry
  - Philanthropic Organizations
  - Other

Sample Needs/Projects

- Infrastructure
  - USAFA “Warfare Center”
  - Integrated Engineering Center
  - Space Education Center
  - Carlton (Supt’s) House
  - Sijan and Arnold Hall Renovations
  - Classroom Modernization
  - Outdoor covered training venue (military and athletic)
- Mission support
  - Airmanship and Guardianship programs
  - Friends of the Library
  - Academic/Research/Study Endowments
  - CCLD and IFC
  - Falcon Foundation and other Scholarships
- “Heritage” projects
- Enhanced Use Lease/Land Development along the I-25 corridor

AOG Board Input to Date

- Doolittle Hall Renovation
- Arnold Hall/Cadet Area “leisure center” with free pizza/snacks, games
- Endowment to fund Checkpoints
- Endowment to fund Chapters (stipend to each Chapter for Founders Day; support for annual Chapters Conference; etc)
- Endowment to fund Next of Kin support
- Increase/Fund Endowments for Reunions and Tailgates
- Increase Endowment to fund AOG operations/budget
- Funds for selected A&F intern programs (e.g., UCCS College of Public Service and College of Business)

AOG Input Not Limited to Items within AOG Span of Control

Next Steps

- AOG Board
  - Finalize AOG prioritized inputs
  - Submit prioritized inputs
  - Prepare to advocate (once planning is complete and campaign starts)
- Planning Committee
  - Finish collecting inputs from key stakeholders
  - Outreach to potential benefactors
  - Recommend priorities and develop execution plan
- AOG & Foundation (including staff)
  - Advocacy
  - Engagement
  - Execution

Back-ups

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES
U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Previous Capital Campaign Fundraising Priorities

Priority	Goal (in millions)
Athletic Facility Enhancements (Falcon Stadium, Falcon's Nest)	$65
Madera Cyber Innovation Center	$30
Endowed Chairs – IFC (Study for Future Cyber Domain, Study of Information Dominance)	$30
Air Force Academy Fund (For greatest Academy need)	$27
Institute for Future Conflict (IFC) (IFC Studies Professor, Chief Scientist, Post-Doctoral Researcher)	$19
Cadet Wing Leadership Experiences (Cadet Clubs)	$15
Endowed Scholar Chairs – CCLD	$15
Academic Teams	$12
CCLD Cadet Programs	$11
Journal of Character and Leadership Development (Editor and operational costs)	$9
Chaplain Programs	$5
Falcon Scholarships	$5
Friends of the Library	$2
AOG Programs and Graduate Investment (Firstie Departure, Young Alumni Engagement, Long Blue Line Endowment)	$10
Resource Development (Air Force Academy Foundation Operational Support)	$15
Campaign Goal	**$270**