

The United States Air Force Academy

Class Crest: The class crest is one of the most treasured representations of class unity and class pride. Until graduation, we, the Class of 2012, will wear the ring with the class crest facing inward, closest to our hearts. After graduation, the ring is turned so that the Academy Crest is closest to the heart of an officer ready and willing to protect and defend with the training we have received. This is a unique tradition in which all graduates of the Academy are forever united. Through the blood and the sweat, the triumphs and the failures, we have become brothers and sisters for life.

2012 USAFA Ring — The Academy Crest is placed on the left side of the ring. The bezel surrounds a stone or inset plus the words “United States Air Force Academy.” These are encircled by a chain of 59 links to represent the first graduating class and the bond each class shares with the preceding ones. These elements have remained constant throughout the years and serve as yet another bond all classes share together.

The Class of 2012 crest decorates the right side of the ring. It is composed of both compulsory and optional elements that together represent our Academy experience.

Ring Elements

1. Graduation Year - Our graduation year is clearly displayed at the top of our crest, championing the crest as 2012's.
2. Five Stars – Indicative of the rank achieved by our class exemplar Gen “Hap” Arnold. The five stars illustrate 2012 as a unique class bound for unparalleled greatness. Like “Hap,” 2012 graduates are expected to achieve feats and accomplishments way above those of any other class year. Above all, 2012 is expected to lead.
3. Class Motto - “Numquam Hesitabimus, Numquam Deficiemus” is Latin for our class motto, “Never Falter, Never Fail.” Unique to any other Academy class is the symmetry present within the Latin motto as it is split on both sides of the crest. The motto itself serves as a reminder that our duty requires us to maintain a fighting spirit while remembering that as officers--failing is never an option.
4. Saber - The USAFA saber is showcased at the symmetric center of the crest. It provides a reminder for all 2012 graduates of our connection to the “long blue line.” We follow the tradition of many that graduated before us, and strive to uphold the values and standards that remain the cornerstone of our academy legacy. Within the saber is a tribute to our exemplar Gen “Hap” Arnold. The “Hap Arnold” was the first Army Air Corps logo adopted by early airmen. The initials “H.A.” within the saber also recognize our exemplar.
5. Chapel - The most recognizable feature at our alma mater. It reminds us of our institution, the Academy's pristine surroundings, and the fanatical pride that every graduate has for having been a Falcon.
6. Planes - The three planes at the center of our crest are an A-10 flanked by two F-22s. When added together, all three planes represent the 54th class. Serving the Air Force since 1976, the A-10 is considered by many in the Joint Coalition community to be an indispensable asset in forward air control and counter-insurgent warfare. Recognized as the greatest air superiority fighter in American history, the two F-22s represent 2012's innovative spirit and commitment to dominance--no matter the cost.
7. Eagle - The eagle, remarkable for its strength, size, graceful figure, keenness of vision, and extraordinary flight is depicted in the center of the crest. As the proud symbol of our nation, the eagle is the centerpiece. It symbolizes our resolve to always keep America's interests at the heart of everything we do. The eagle is shown gracefully spreading its wings while warning its enemies to beware of its perilous talons.
8. Polaris - The northern star lies within the heart of the eagle. It signifies that when times are tough, following our moral compass will never lead us astray. Polaris is a representation of the most fundamental core value--integrity first.
9. Class Number - LIV, Roman Numerals represent the 54th class to graduate from the Air Force Academy.
10. Prop & Wings – Represent what sets Academy graduates apart from all other Air Force officers. It prominently showcases the hard work, discipline, and mental fortitude it takes to be recognized by the greatest military Academy in the world.

