



2023

65th GRADUATING CLASS
AWARD CEREMONY PROGRAM

30 MAY 2023



Graduation Awards Ceremony

30 May 2023, 9:15 AM

Clune Arena

Schedule of Events

Arrival of the Official Party

Playing of the National Anthem

Presentation of Awards

Presentation of Order of Graduation Awards

Playing of the Air Force Song

Organizational and individual awards are grouped and presented by mission element; military, academic, and athletic awards, followed by the order of graduation award. Organizational awards are designed to recognize cadet units for outstanding achievement in academics, military training, athletics, and extracurricular activities. Individual awards are designed to recognize cadets for their military, academic, and athletic performance. They are offered for their motivational and inspirational value to all cadets who may one day be called upon to defend our great nation. Military awards recognize the highest standards of leadership, character development, and military scholarship.

Academic awards reward outstanding achievement in each of the four academic divisions. Athletic awards are awarded to cadets who demonstrate superior athletic achievement and leadership abilities. Each year, through the generosity of our sponsors, the Academy presents the following awards:

Official photos of the Graduation Awards Ceremony, and other graduation week events, will be available at

https://www.flickr.com/photos/af_academy/albums

Military Awards

The Intercollegiate Athletics Squadron Award, established in 1962, is based on participation and achievement in the intercollegiate program.

.....Recipient: Cadet Squadron 4

The Intramural Athletics Squadron Award (Malanaphy Trophy), established in 1956, is based on points earned in intramural athletics and is sponsored by the United Services Automobile Association, Mountain States Region, in memory of First Lieutenant John J. Malanaphy.

.....Recipient: Cadet Squadron 36

Athletic Excellence Squadron Award (Superintendent's Trophy), established in 1979, is presented to the squadron with the highest ranking in both intramural athletics and intercollegiate participation and is sponsored by the Association of Graduates of the United States Air Force Academy.

.....Recipient: Cadet Squadron 4

The Drill and Ceremonies Competition Squadron Award, established in 1959, is based on military performance and is sponsored by the late Mrs. Allan A. Sherlock family and friends in memory of Ambassador Laurence A. Steinhardt and Squadron Leader Allan A. Sherlock, Royal Canadian Air Force.

.....Recipient: Cadet Squadron 29

The Academic Achievement Squadron Award, established in 1962, recognizes the squadron with the highest grade point average for the academic year and is sponsored by Air Education and Training Command.

.....Recipient: Cadet Squadron 4

The Leadership and Scholarship Squadron Award, established in 1983, recognizes the squadron with the highest percentage of cadets on the Superintendent's List and is sponsored by the Air Force Academy Foundation.

.....Recipient: Cadet Squadron 28

The Military Proficiency Squadron Award, established in 1963, recognizes the squadron achieving the highest overall military standing and is sponsored by United States Space Command in memory of Colonel John H. Fowler, Jr.

.....Recipient: Cadet Squadron 15

The Core Values Squadron Award, established in 2003, is based on leadership and character development through the performance of community service and is sponsored by the Airlift Tanker Association.

.....Recipient: Cadet Squadron 33

The Outstanding Squadron Award, established in 1959, recognizes the highest achievements in military, academic and athletic excellence and is sponsored by the Air Force Association, National Headquarters.

.....Recipient: Cadet Squadron 15

The Outstanding Group Award, established in 1970, is awarded for the highest achievements in military, academic and athletic excellence. It is sponsored by the Association of Graduates of the United States Air Force Academy, through donations made in memory of the following graduates who died in service to their country: Major William E. Page, Jr., Class of 1959; Captain Marvin W. Guthrie, Jr., Class of 1965; Captain Alfred R. Jacox, Jr., Class of 1965; Captain Monte L. Moorberg, Class of 1961; Captain Richard T. Morris, Class of 1964; Captain James V. Newendorp, Class of 1965; Captain Robert L. Reeves, Class of 1964; Captain James W. Wood, Class of 1965; and Lieutenant Dennis B. Haas, Class of 1968.

.....Recipient: Cadet Squadron 2

The Outstanding Cadet in Remotely Piloted Aircraft Award, established in 2012, is sponsored by General James P. McCarthy, USAF, Retired, and Mrs. McCarthy in memory of Captain Mark Patrick McCarthy, Class of 1985, who died when his F-16 crashed into the Adriatic Sea. Captain McCarthy had many accomplishments during his career to include Cadet Vice Wing Commander, Distinguished Graduate from Pilot Instructor Training and Squadron Officer School.

.....Recipient: Zachariah E. Werhan

The Outstanding Cadet Honor Chairperson Award, established in 1961, is sponsored by the family of Second Lieutenant John C. K. Milligan, Class of 1959, in his memory.

.....Recipient: Julian R. McKeen

The Outstanding Cadet Element Leader Award, is sponsored by the Georgia parents club, in memory of First Lieutenant Joseph D. Helton, class of '07. Lt Helton graduated with honors in leadership, academics, and athletics. He was killed in action in 2009 by an improvised explosive device detonation while deployed to Iraq with the 6th Security Forces Squadron and he earned the bronze star and purple heart.

.....Recipient: Othniel H. Wetlesen

Military Awards

The Outstanding Cadet Flight Commander Award, established in 1996, is sponsored by the Military Affairs Council of the Colorado Springs Chamber and Economic Development Corporation.
.....Recipient: Linus B. McFarland

The Outstanding Cadet Squadron Commander Award, established in 1959, is sponsored by McCormick and Company, Inc., in memory of General Hoyt S. Vandenberg. General Vandenberg served as the Air Force Chief of Staff from 1948–1953.
.....Recipient: Haena A. Lee

The Outstanding Cadet Group Commander Award, established in 1959, is sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary in memory of Major General Oscar Westover. General Westover, a 1906 West Point graduate, was Chief of Staff of the Army Air Corps from 1935 to 1938.
.....Recipient: Donovan A. Hodge

The names of the Cadet Wing Commanders are inscribed on plaques displayed in the Arnold Hall ballroom. The Glenn H. Curtiss Trophy is also displayed in the Arnold Hall ballroom. For twenty years, until 1941, Glenn Curtiss awarded this trophy to the winners of the Curtiss Air Races in Miami, Florida. To illustrate the transition from "fastest pilot" to the "whole person" concept, the Iron Gate Chapter of the Air Force Association reinstated this trophy to recognize the "whole persons" who serve as the Cadet Wing Commanders.

The Cadet Summer Wing Commander Award, established in 2007, is sponsored by Aviators' Post No. 743, American Legion.
.....Recipient: Julia B. Gundlach

The Cadet Fall Wing Commander Award, established in 1959, is sponsored by Aviators' Post No. 743, American Legion, in memory of Captain Herbert A. Adamson, Class of 1959. Captain Adamson was the Academy's first wing commander and served on active duty as a B-52 pilot with Strategic Air Command until returning to graduate school. He subsequently taught in the Academy's Department of Economics.
.....Recipient: Christopher W. Von Haas

The Cadet Spring Wing Commander Award, established in 1959, is sponsored by Aviators' Post No. 743, American Legion, in memory of General of the Air Force Henry H. (Hap) Arnold. General Arnold was a pioneer airman who was taught to fly by the Wright Brothers. He was commander of the Army Air Forces in their victory over Germany and Japan in World War II.
.....Recipient: Eric B. Kenes

The Outstanding Cadet in Citizenship Award, established in 2001, is sponsored by the Rotary Club of the Garden of the Gods to recognize involvement in community support activities.
.....Recipient: Jack A. Wachtel

The Outstanding Cadet in Character Award, established in 2007, is sponsored by the Association of Graduates of the United States Air Force Academy.
.....Recipient: Robert J. Kersten

The Outstanding Cadet Who Best Exemplifies the Highest Ideals of Loyalty, Integrity, and Courage Award, established in 1966, is awarded to the cadet who exemplifies the ideals of loyalty, integrity, and courage.
.....Recipient: Niyah M. Martinez

The Outstanding Cadet in Military Performance Award, established in 1966, is sponsored by the family and friends of General Walter C. Sweeney, Jr., in his memory. General Sweeney commanded the Army Task Force Group at the Battle of Midway during World War II and also took part in General Curtis LeMay's famous B-29 low level night attacks against Japan.
.....Recipient: Catherine A. Manning

Academic Awards

The Outstanding Cadet in Aeronautical Engineering Award, presented to the top cadet in that major
.....Recipient: Graham W. Lakin

The Dr. John von Neumann award for the Outstanding Cadet in Astronautics, presented to the top cadet in that major
.....Recipient: Keaton C. Koenig

The Outstanding Cadet in Behavioral Sciences and Leadership Award, presented to the top cadet in that major
.....Recipient: Haley A. Deome

The Outstanding Cadet in Biology Award, presented to the top cadet in that major
.....Recipient: Sarah N. Mayerchak

The Outstanding Cadet in Chemistry Award, presented to the top cadet in that major
.....Recipient: Zachary J. Auleciems

The Major General Eugene A. Lupia award for the Outstanding Cadet in Civil Engineering, presented to the top cadet in that major
.....Recipient: Nathaniel Bone

The Captain Dean Gonzalez Award for the Outstanding Cadet in Computer Science, presented to the top cadet in that major
.....Recipient: Quinn A. Henry

The Honorable Michael W. Wynne Award for the Outstanding Cadet in Cyber Science, presented to the top cadet in that major.
.....Recipient: Finnian E. Westenfelder

The Outstanding Cadet in Data Science Award, presented to the top cadet in that major.
.....Recipient: Devin C. Wasilefsky

The Outstanding Cadet in Economics Award, presented to the top cadet in that major.
.....Recipient: Connor D. Rude

The Outstanding Cadet in Electrical and Computer Engineering Award, presented to the top cadet in that major.
.....Recipient: James C. Morrison

The Outstanding Cadet in English Award, presented to the top cadet in that major.
.....Recipient: Anna K. Caldwell

The Outstanding Cadet in Foreign Area Studies Award, presented to the top cadet in that major.
.....Recipient: Daniil A. Tourashev

The Outstanding Cadet in Geospatial Science Award, presented to the top cadet in that major.
.....Recipient: Julianna D. Winters

The General Frank M. Andrews Award for the Outstanding Cadet in History, presented to the top cadet in that major.
.....Recipient: Angelo L. Capriola

The Outstanding Cadet in Humanities Major Award, presented to the top cadet in that major.....Recipient: Sarah E. Hetzel

The Outstanding Cadet in Legal Studies Award, presented to the top cadet in that major.
.....Recipient: Claire H. Melton

The Colonel Frank T. Bird Award for the Outstanding Cadet in Management, presented to the top cadet in that major.
.....Recipient: Aidan J. Boyle

The Outstanding Cadet in Mathematics Award, sponsored by Brigadier General John M. Andrew class of 1976 and Mrs. Sandi Andrew in memory of Dr. Robert H. Goddard is presented to the top cadet in that major.
.....Recipient: Philippos A. Dimitroglou

Academic Awards

The Outstanding Cadet in Mechanical Engineering Award, presented to the top cadet in that major.
.....Recipient: William S. Mockel

The Outstanding Cadet in Meteorology Award, presented to the top cadet in that major.
.....Recipient: Julianna D. Winters

The Outstanding Cadet in Military and Strategic Studies Award, presented to the top cadet in that major.
.....Recipient: Nora Aschoff

The Brigadier General John M. Andrew Award for the Outstanding Cadet in Operations Research, presented to the top cadet in that major.
.....Recipient: Luke A. Rohlwing

The Outstanding Cadet in Philosophy Award, presented to the top cadet in that major..
.....Recipient: Makensie P. Blum

The Major General George O. Squier Award for the Outstanding Cadet in Physics, presented to the top cadet in that major.
.....Recipient: Samuel B. Angus

The Captain Richard T. Carvolth III Award for the Outstanding Cadet in Political Science, presented to the top cadet in that major.
.....Recipient: Catherine Manning

The Outstanding Cadet in Systems Engineering Award, presented to the top cadet in that major..
.....Recipient: Shea E. Burcham

The Outstanding Cadet in Basic Sciences Award, established in 1959, is awarded to the top cadet in the Basic Sciences Division.
.....Recipient: Brennan J. E. Romanoff

The Outstanding Cadet in Engineering Award, established in 1970 is sponsored by Mr. Allan Hunt, Class of 1969, and is awarded to the top cadet in the Engineering Division.
.....Recipient: Finnian E. Westenfelder

The Outstanding Cadet in Humanities Award, established in 1959, is sponsored by the Association of Graduates of the United States Air Force Academy and is awarded to the top cadet in the Humanities Division.
.....Recipient: Anna I. Kemper

The Outstanding Cadet in Social Sciences Award, established in 1978, is awarded to the top cadet in the Social Sciences Division.
.....Recipient: James M. Landy

The Outstanding Cadet in Academic Performance Award is awarded to the cadet who achieved the highest academic performance.
.....Recipient: James M. Landy

Athletic Awards

The Most Valuable Baseball Player Award, presented in memory of Captain Valmore W. Bourque, Class of 1960.
.....Recipient: Samuel G. Kulasingam

The Most Valuable Men's Basketball Player Award, sponsored by Lieutenant Colonel Steven A. and Paula S. Simon, USAF, Retired.....Recipient: Camden L. Vander Zwaag

The Most Valuable Women's Basketball Player Award, sponsored by the Association of Women Military Aviators in memory of the Women Air Force Service Pilots of World War II..... Recipient: Alexis A. Huntimer

The Most Valuable Cadet in Women's Boxing Excellence Award.....Recipient: Allyah D. Marlett

The Most Valuable Cadet in Men's Boxing Excellence Award, sponsored by the Rampart Chapter, Association of Graduates.....Recipient: Walker B. Morris

The Most Valuable Cadet in Marksmanship Award (Rifle).....Recipient: Peninah D'Souza

The Most Valuable Men's Cheerleader Award.....Recipient: Garrett A. Niel

Athletic Awards

The Most Valuable Women's Cheerleader Award.....Recipient: Joely A. Gruhn

The Most Valuable Men's Cross Country Runner Award, is sponsored by the United Services Automobile Association, Mountain States Region.....Recipient: Samuel J. Gilman

The Most Valuable Women's Cross Country Runner Award, is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, National Headquarters.....Recipient: Halle L. Hamilton

The Most Valuable Women's Diver Award.....Recipient: Grace T. Treanor

The Most Valuable Men's Diver Award.....Recipient: Alexander C. Kenyon

The Most Valuable Men's Fencer Award.....Recipient: Jack Griffith

The Most Valuable Women's Fencer Award.....Recipient: Jocelyn T. Ratzlaff

The Most Valuable Football Defensive Player Award.....Recipient: Vince E. Sanford

The Most Valuable Football Lineman or Special Teams Player Award, is sponsored by the Association of Graduates of the United States Air Force Academy.....Recipient: Christopher K. Herrera

The Most Valuable Football Offensive Player Award, is sponsored by Colonel David and Master Sergeant Janice Geuting, USAF, Retired.....Recipient: Haaziq Daniels

The Most Valuable Football Player Award, is sponsored by the Air Force Academy Quarterback Club of Denver.....Recipient: Bradley B. Roberts

The Most Valuable Men's Golfer Award, is sponsored by Brigadier General John M. Andrew, USAF, Retired, Class of 1976, and Mrs. Sandi Andrew.....Recipient: Isaac S. Layne

The Most Valuable Men's Gymnast Award, is sponsored by the Friends and Family of Mr. Jasper D. Ackerman, in his memory.....Recipient: Erich A. Upton

The Most Valuable Women's Gymnast Award, is sponsored by the Family and Friends of Lieutenant Colonel Karolen K. Fahrni, Class of 1985, in her memory.....Recipient: Velandra C. Brochi

The Most Valuable Ice Hockey Player Award, is sponsored by Ms. Margo Henderson and Mrs. Lisa Marie Henderson Nelson in memory of First Lieutenant Hal K. Henderson, Class of 1967. Recipient: William D. Reim

The Most Valuable Lacrosse Player Award, is presented in memory of First Lieutenant Michael Sands, Class of 1971.....Recipient:

The Most Valuable Men's Soccer Player Award, is sponsored by the Colorado Parents' Club.....Recipient: London P. Aghedo

The Most Valuable Women's Soccer Player Award, is sponsored by Lieutenant Colonel Carl Janssen, United States Air Force Reserve, Retired, Class of 1968.....Recipient: Kayla A. Milford

The Most Valuable Men's Swimmer Award, is sponsored by the Rye Family in memory of Captain Bryan A. Rye, Class of '71.....Recipient: Wen K. Zhang

The Most Valuable Women's Swimmer Award, is sponsored by the USAFA's Women Swimming Alumni in Honor of Coach Casey Converse.....Recipient: Abby L. Turner

The Most Valuable Men's Tennis Player Award, is given in memory of Lieutenant General Francis Gideon, USAF.....Recipient: Arjun A. Kersten

The Carole Gilchrist Bassett Award for the Most Valuable Women's Tennis Player, is sponsored by Mr. Kimbrough Bassett, in her memory.....Recipient: Sydney M. Fitch

The Most Valuable Men's Track and Field Athlete Award, is sponsored by the Wilson Family and Friends in memory of Brigadier General James V.G. Wilson.....Recipient: Samuel J. Gilman

The Most Valuable Women's Track and Field Athlete Award, is given in memory of General Claire L. Chennault.....Recipient: Taylor E. Rioux

The Most Valuable Men's Track and Field Competitor Award, is sponsored by the Wilson Family and Friends in memory of Brigadier General James V.G. Wilson.....Recipient: Hayden C. Bullock

Athletic Awards

The Most Valuable Women's Track and Field Competitor Award, is given in memory of General Claire L. Chennault.....Recipient: Rachel P. Crytser

The Most Valuable Volleyball Player Award, is sponsored by the United Services Automobile Association, Mountain States Region.....Recipient: Caroline K. Reinkensmeyer

The Most Valuable Water Polo Player Award, is sponsored by Lieutenant Colonel Jeffery N Heidmous, USAF, Retired, Class of 1977, and Mrs. Heidmous on Behalf of Colonel Heidmous' Parents whose three sons, Jeff, Walt, and Phil were all recipients of this award.....Recipient: Grant C Snyder

The Most Valuable Wrestler Award, is sponsored by Colonel Terry R. Silvester, USAF Retired, Class of 1970, and Mrs. Janet Christy Silvester in memory of First Lieutenant Richard Christy II, Class of 1970. Recipient: Wyatt A. Hendrickson

The Most Valuable Athlete Award (Men), established in 1959, is sponsored by the United States Air Force Academy Liaison Officers in memory of Colonel John J. Clune, United States Air Force Academy Athletic Director, 1975-1991.....Recipient: Wen K. Zhang

The Most Valuable Athlete Award (Women), established in 1992, is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Paul and Kathy Puseman from the United States Air Force Academy Colorado Parents' Club in memory of Colonel John J. Clune, United States Air Force Academy Athletic Director, 1975-1991.....Recipient: Sydney M. Fitch

The Outstanding Cadet, Athletic Achievement Award, is sponsored by Lieutenant Colonel Franklin D. Roth, USAF Retired, and Mrs. Rolene Roth; and Major Benjamin D. Roth and Mrs. Sarah Roth, in memory of Major Jack Schwall, USAF Retired.....Recipient: Bradley B. Roberts

The Outstanding Cadet, Athletic Excellence Award, is awarded in memory of First Lieutenant Dale A. Walters, Class of 1982.....Recipient: Samuel J. Gilman

The Outstanding Cadet, Athletic Leadership Award, is sponsored by the family and friends of First Lieutenant Michael J. Mark, Class of 1975, in his memory.....Recipient: Brookelyn A. Messenger

The Outstanding Cadet, Scholar-Athlete Award, established in 1964, is awarded in memory of the late General Edwin W. Rawlings, to the cadet who not only achieves high academic standing in his or her class, but also demonstrates superior ability as a varsity athlete competing in one of the intercollegiate sports.....Recipient: Carter H. Murphy

The Outstanding Cadet, Physical Education Award, is awarded in memory of Lieutenant Colonel Paul Edward Bickle, Class of 1970, to the cadet with the highest score in Physical Education classes.....Recipient: Walker B. Morris

The Outstanding Cadet in Physical Education Average Award is awarded in memory of Captain Dean G Crowell, Class of 1964, to the cadet with the highest cumulative Physical Education average. Recipient: Dylan J. Martinez

Airmanship Awards

The Outstanding Cadet in Parachuting Award, established in 1969, is sponsored by the Class of 1966 in memory of Peter A. Johnston, Class of 1966, who died in a parachuting accident just weeks before he was due to graduate from the Academy. He was graduated posthumously.....Recipient: Micah P. Pugh

The Outstanding Cadet in Powered Flight Award, is awarded to the cadet who demonstrated excellence in all phases of avionic education.....Recipient: Joseph P. Mucklestone

The Outstanding Flying Team Cadet Award, is awarded to the top cadet in Flying Team performanceRecipient: Trevor M. Anderson

The Outstanding Cadet in Soaring Award was established in 1969 and is awarded to the top cadet in USAFA's Soaring Program.Recipient: Matthew R. Hamilton

The Colonel Jay B. Harrelson Award for Commitment and Service Celebrating the Outstanding Cadet in Airmanship Award, established in 1967, is sponsored by the Bassett Family to encourage the highest standards of leadership, character development, and scholarship.Recipient: Keane I. Singleton

Order of Graduation Awards *established in 1959*

Recipient: James M. Landy

Argentine Air Force Award (Outstanding Cadet in the Order of Graduation) is sponsored by the Argentine Air Force. A saber symbolizing the virtues of General San Martin is presented to the cadet graduating first in the class.

The Chilean Air Force Award (Outstanding Cadet in the Order of Graduation) is sponsored by the Chilean Air Force. The Chilean Air Force Medal is presented to the cadet graduating first in the class.

The Mexican Secretariat of Defense presentation is a replica of a hilted saber from the late eighteen century and was used by General Jose Maria Morelos during the battle of Cuautla in 1812.

The Outstanding Cadet in the Order of Graduation Award was established in 1959 and is sponsored by the Order of Daedalians in memory of Lieutenant Generals Millard F. Harmon and Hubert R. Harmon, founding members of the Order of Daedalians. General Millard Harmon was commander of US Army Air Forces in the South Pacific from 1942 until his aircraft crashed at sea near the Marshall Islands in 1945. General Hubert Harmon commanded combat air units in World War II and later served with the United Nations. He was recalled from retirement by President Eisenhower to serve as the Academy's first superintendent.

The name of the Outstanding Cadet in the Order of Graduation is inscribed on the Academy's 100-Year Honor Roll located in the Arnold Hall ballroom. The Honor Roll plaque was donated by Kelly Field National Bank, San Antonio, Texas, in memory of Lieutenant Generals Millard F. and Hubert R. Harmon.

Air Force Song

Off we go into the wild blue yonder,
Climbing high into the sun;
Here they come zooming to meet our thunder,
At 'em now, Give 'em the gun!

Down we dive, spouting our flame from under,
Off with one helluva roar!
We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!

Semper Supra – The Official U.S. Space Force Song

We're the mighty watchful eye,
Guardians beyond the blue,
The invisible front line,
Warfighters brave and true.
Boldly reaching into space,
There's no limit to our sky.
Standing guard both night and day,
We're the Space Force from on high.



UNITED STATES
AIR FORCE
ACADEMY

