



PHOTO ACCESS FOR PARENTS -

The U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs office provides command information to the installation and the public. One of the ways we do this is through social media venues such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. All information provided is official, but there is also fun stuff on there too. Did you know you can download photos from our Facebook page for free?

- [Official USAFA Facebook site](#)
- [Official USAFA Twitter site](#)
- [Official USAFA Instagram site](#)
- [Official USAFA Flick'r site](#)

Prep School Access:

- <https://twitter.com/USAFAPrepSchool>
- www.facebook.com/AFPrepSchool
- <https://www.instagram.com/usafapreppofficial/>

We also want your Academy photos. Upload them to Instagram using #YourAcademy and #YourUSAFAPrep for the Prep School. You might see it on Facebook and Twitter. If you have any questions, please call the Public Affairs office at (719) 333-7731.

Cadet Class Statistics (as of 31 Mar 18)

Class Year	Men	Women	Total
2017	1	0	1
2018	791	214	1005
2019	754	263	1017
2020	740	300	1040
2021	833	316	1149
WING	3119	1093	4212

53 International Cadets are counted in the Cadet Wing Strength, but do not count in the Fiscal year Strength.

Prep School Class Statistics (as of 19 Apr 18)

Class year	Men	Women	Total
2017-2018	156	52	208

ACADEMY APP AVAILABLE –

Do you have an iTunes or Android enabled device? Get the latest Academy news, photos, videos, and more with the Academy App. Android app available on Google Play at:



<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.u360mobile.airforceacademy> .

Apple app available at the I-Tunes Store at:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/united-states-air-force-academy/id427133480?mt=8>

Or use the following QR codes with your cellphone to get access to the Academy app.



iTunes



Android

Summer Session Dates

2 Jun 18	1 st Summer Session Begins
23 Jun 18	1 st Session Ends/2 nd Session Begins
14 Jul 18	2 nd Session Ends/3 rd Session Begins
4 Aug 18	3 rd Session Ends/BCT Ends/Cadet Wing Returns by 7 pm/ BCT ends



U.S. Air Force Academy cadets pose for a photo April 14, 2018 at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., after winning the Sandhurst Military Skills Competition. The cadets are holding the Reginald E. Johnson Memorial Saber, given to the winning team. This is the first time Air Force has won the competition in its 50 year history. (U.S. Army photo)

By Ray Bowden/Published April 16, 2018

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Air Force cadets beat Army cadets to take the top prize at the two-day Sandhurst Military Skills Competition April 13-14 at the U.S. Military Academy.

It's the first time Air Force Academy cadets have won since the competition started in 1967.

“We’re just a weird group of Air Force guys who wanted to go Air Force but wanted to play Army,” said Cadet 1st Class Nathan Ziegler in an Army news release. “We have a lot of us who are interested in doing more ground-force work instead of being directly in aviation.”

Academy cadets earned the top overall score to receive the Reginald E. Johnson Memorial Saber. The award's namesake is an Army cadet who died in 1980 during the competition.

Army took second place to receive the Sandhurst Sword, which goes to the West Point regiment with the best aggregate company performance.

More than 700 military cadets from the U.S. and 14 other countries competed in squad assault tactics, rifle marksmanship, land navigation and other challenges.

Lieutenant Gen. Jay Silveria, superintendent of the Academy, said the win represents the warrior spirit of today's Academy cadets.

“Congrats to our Sandhurst team for an incredible win,” Silveria said. “They pulled off this victory just like our cadets pull off victories on the athletic fields and in the classroom every day: with preparation, training, determination and grit. Their success in this competition is the result of countless hours of mental and physical preparation, and epitomizes the character our faculty and staff works to inspire in all of our cadets.”

A Good ‘Gut Check’

Ziegler has competed at Sandhurst three times. He was one of 17 Academy cadets on this year's Sandhurst roster who, he said, were all critical to bringing home the win.

“I’m proud the U.S. Military Academy continues to uphold the tradition of the Sandhurst competition with utmost professionalism,” he said. “I’m proud that allied countries continue to train hard and take part in that tradition. In a time where there is some speculation about a lack of warrior ethos as our academies, I hope this win helps restore some faith in our next generation of leaders and goes to show that cadets are still training for the fight.”

“Pride” summed up Cadet 1st Class Carter Long's emotions too.

“I feel incredibly proud to have represented the Air Force and the Academy on the international stage and to have had the honor of leading the most dedicated and hardest working team that I have ever met,” he said. “I think this win proves that today's generation of cadets are committed to challenging themselves and getting out of their comfort zones to make themselves and people around them better. We showed everyone that we wanted to win and we were relentless in every challenge we faced.”

Long said the cadets' victory is the result of years of training and is also a win for all former Academy cadets who have competed at Sandhurst. He said his first thought when competition officials announced the Air Force win was “Thank God.”

“Going into the competition we were confident that we had a team capable of winning, but you can get ahead of yourself and imagine yourself on the victory stand,” he said. “There are simply too many outstanding teams who are just as good. We pushed our team very hard this year and they responded with nothing but their best attitude and effort. To see that effort translate into a first place finish was a massive relief.”

Long’s first reaction was one of elation and reprieve. “Every person on the team sacrificed so much for the success of the team not only in the competition but through all the training leading up to it,” he said. “It was extremely gratifying to see all of our hard work, though and effort pay off.”

Army Cadet Max Liles, a squad leader for Army at the competition, said the Air Force win is a reminder to be prepared.

“It’s a good gut check and also shows where we’re at and what we need to work on for when we all commission and become officers,” he said in the Army report. “As a squad leader, I’m going to review what we trained on and what we needed to improve on because, obviously, the Air Force trained better.” Long earned Surdyke Leadership Award at the competition, dedicated to the memory of Army Cadet Thomas Surdyke who died trying to save the life of a drowning person.

Long is from Kennesaw, Ga., and Ziegler is from Colorado Springs. They’re slated to report to Hurlburt Field, Fla., for special operations training after graduating from the Academy in May



(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Charlie Rivezzo)
By Ray Bowden/April 12, 2018

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Lieutenant Gen. Jay Silveria hosted his first State of the U.S. Air Force Academy address April 6 in Polaris Hall to update local civic leaders and Airmen on the school’s activities.

“I want the community to consider that this is their Air Force Academy and I want the Air Force Academy to be part of the local community, and to be part of the Front Range,” he said.

Silveria told the audience that the achievements of cadets highlight the quality of the Academy. “The cadets are absolutely unbelievable in their sophistication and their breadth and their depth,” he said.

Respect

Silveria discussed tolerance and the value of diversity, using last fall’s event of racially-incendiary graffiti found at the Academy Prep School as an example of disrespect no one should tolerate.

“Many of you saw me on CNN back in September addressing racial slurs that were put on some boards in the Prep School,” he said. “It ultimately turned out that one of the individuals thought to be a victim was the perpetrator. But true to our message of dignity and respect, that individual is no longer with us.”

While events like this are wholly unwelcome, the general said, they give Airmen and cadets an opportunity to think about how diversity makes the Air Force stronger and more lethal.

“[The incident at the Prep School] allowed for some sober reflection across our Academy,” he said. “It allowed for us an opportunity to open up discussions about race relations and about interpersonal relations in general.”

Silveria also spoke about last year’s troubles in the Academy’s Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office that resulted in a staffing overhaul and cast the school in the media spotlight. His words to the audience coincided with his continuous message to all at the Academy that “One sexual assault is one too many.”

“First and foremost, I’ve said this before and it’s worth repeating, I’m disgusted and outraged by any instance

of sexual assault here or in the U.S. Air Force as a parent, as a military commander and as a human being,” he said.

Silveria said a desire for full accountability drove the Academy’s previous superintendent to call for a command-directed investigation of the SAPR office that caused some staff members to be removed. “We’re being diligent about hiring new professionals to replace those in the office and we’re continuing to scrutinize our efforts,” he said. “But you also want to do that with transparency.”

Universities across the U.S. are confronting sexual violence, Silveria said.

“It is a societal issue ... And I expect us to be part of the national dialog in that,” he said. “We are open to all ideas, we are open to all ways we can take this on directly.”

New Visitors Center

The general invited several Colorado Springs and El Paso County officials to the stage while he talked about plans to build a new visitors center.

“The Air Force is in negotiations with a privately owned company to begin development on 57 acres [near] the Academy’s North Gate, Silveria said. Taking the stage with Silveria were City of Colorado Springs economic development officer Bob Cope, Colorado State of Economic Development Commission board member Chris Franz, El Paso County Board of Commissioners president Darryl Glenn, Colorado Springs City Mayor John Struthers, and Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority executive director Jariah Walker.

“The proposed lease includes an agreement between Air Force and Blue and Silver, LLC to construct a new \$35 million visitor’s center which will increase the visibility and accessibility of USAFA to tourists and community members in Colorado Springs.” Construction is slated to begin in 2019 and completed in 2023.

“I’m proud that we’re a part of this and I think it’s going to be incredibly beneficial to not only the Air Force Academy but the city of Colorado Springs and really, truly the entire region,” Silveria said.

Academics

Silveria spoke about how the Academy uses its \$40 million undergraduate research budget, a level of funding rarely seen in undergraduate studies.

“Most institutions spend that money in graduate-level and doctoral-level research,” he said. “We’re spending \$40 million on undergraduate research.”

Some of that research includes the Academy’s FalconSAT program which has cadets and faculty members designing and launching satellites into orbit for a wealth of purposes.

“We’ll have another satellite launch in early fall and we’re controlling right now one satellite that’s in orbit,” Silveria said.

Facility Improvements

The general also discussed a move that began last fall to enhance the sports-fan experience at Falcon Stadium.

“We implemented a strategy at our football games to increase our fan experience to help drive the purposeful engagement with our sponsors and media channels,” he said.

A complete expansion and renovation of the team locker rooms at the stadium should be complete in September, Silveria said.

Also expected in September are a \$30 million contract to build new facilities for the Air Force’s CyberWorx Office, and a contract to renovate and modernize the Cadet Field House, he said.

Other projects include renovations on the Planetarium and the Cadet Chapel, the most-visited man-made attraction in Colorado. The Cadet Chapel is expected to close for renovations later this year and remain closed for four years.

Class of ‘18

The Air Force needs innovative lieutenants with a warrior ethos who possess impeccable character, Silveria said.

“They need to be more capable than ever and more lethal than ever to take on the challenges of our current battle spaces [and] complex battle spaces,” he said.

“I’m confident that the class of 2018 is ready to take on those challenges.”

Today’s cadets will someday lead the Air Force, Silveria said.

“In the not-too distant future, as I say often, they’re going to replace us,” he said. “In 2049, a cadet that is somewhere at this Academy right now is going to take over as the superintendent.”

For all its achievements, Silveria told the audience that the Academy needs to grow and evolve.

To this end, Silveria said the Academy’s Class of 2018, scheduled to graduate May 23, is comprised of more cadets to be selected for pilot training than ever before, with 438 graduates slated for pilot training and 69 scheduled to for remotely-piloted aircraft training. Silveria became superintendent in August.

“I would freely admit that transitioning from a 32-year combat-oriented career into higher education has been nothing but a personal journey,” he said. “And thus far it’s been rewarding beyond anything that I expected. Serving here is a privilege and this job is crucial.”

Visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOEAwcmk2D4 to watch the recorded State of the U.S. Air Force Academy address.



(Photo by U.S. Air Force Academy Athletics Department)

By Ray Bowden/April 12, 2018

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — The Hockey Commissioners Association announced April 8 that Falcon hockey defenseman and Air Force Academy cadet Dylan Abood earned the 2018 Derek Hines Unsung Hero Award.

“Without question, this is the greatest honor I have ever received,” Abood said. “It’s clear Derek was an incredible person, competitor and teammate. I can’t imagine the terrible sense of loss experienced by his family and friends.”

Hines, an Army hockey athlete (1999-2003) and four-year letter-winner, was killed Sept. 1, 2005 in Baylough, Afghanistan. He was conducting security operations when his unit came under small-arms fire. Wounded by insurgents, Hines continued to fight but was killed in action.

The HCA coordinates the Hines Award. Each of the six hockey conferences nominates a player to a national ballot. From there, sports information directors from each conference vote on a winner based on sportsmanship, competition, intellect, physical condition and work ethic, according to the award’s criteria.

Falcons’ hockey head coach Frank Serratore said Abood will be remembered long after he graduates from the Academy in May for his tenacity and sportsmanship.

“He’s made out of something special,” Serratore said. “He’s a complete champion in the rink.”

Abood, an electrical engineering major, served as flight commander for Cadet Squadron 26. He maintained an average 3.85 GPA and made the Dean’s List every semester.

Last summer, he participated in the Cadet Summer Research Program with MIT to build and test a portable solar power system for disaster relief operations.

During his spare time, Abood assisted families with special-needs children, fed the homeless at the Marion House Soup Kitchen, and helped fire crews restore the Wando Canyon fire burn scar.

On the ice, Abood is a two-time, first-team College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-District selection and was named academic all-conference three times. The two-time team captain played 122 career games and recorded 27 career points (4-23-27).

This year, he scored the game-winner against Arizona State, the second game-winner of his career. Abood is a +35 for his career, which means he's been on the ice for 35 team goals, and ranked fourth this season in the conference in blocked shots with 66.

Serratore and assistant hockey coach Joe Doyle went to watch Abood play in 2014.

"No one wanted him because they thought he was too small, but we went to watch him play and he's taking on guys twice his size in the rink. I asked Joe, 'Give me one good reason why we shouldn't take him.' Joe said, 'I got nothing.'"

Abood was surprised by Serratore's offer to try out for the Academy team.

"He said, 'you want to talk to me?' He committed right then," Serratore said.

Serratore said Abood's doggedness was more than obvious when he didn't report an injury during his initial hockey training and Basic Cadet Training but was still recognized as his BCT squadron's Most Outstanding Basic Trainee.

A check-up after BCT showed the injury to be more severe than Martin-Abood thought, Serratore said.

"The Academy wasn't delinquent but he failed to report it until after BCT," he said. "How inspirational is that?"

The athlete said he'll miss hockey more than anything else at the Academy after he graduates.

"This game, and more importantly the people I've meet along the way, mean the world to me," Abood said. "My four years at the Academy have taught me that the willingness to set aside personal ambition and sacrifice for an ultimate team goal is the underlying key to any successful organization. There are no small roles in championship teams."

Abood grew up in Centennial, Colorado, and has been a lifelong Falcons hockey fan.

"It was always my dream to attend the Air Force Academy, play Division I Hockey, pursue a degree in engineering and serve in the Air Force," he said.

Abood said he could not have won the Hines Award without his hockey teammates and coaches, but his teammates singled him too with their unanimous vote for him to be team captain.

"All of his teammates voted for Dylan to be team captain. Every single one of them," Serratore said. "That's how much he's respected. The only person who didn't vote for him was Dylan. Dylan voted for another player."

Abood is scheduled to pursue an electrical engineering masters through the Air Force Acquisition Program and become a developmental engineer.

He's the second Falcon to win the award, following Mike Phillipich in 2009.

"I'll live everyday going forward in a way which honors what this award represents and to honor Derek's legacy," Abood said. "Receiving this award is an absolute honor, but it makes me think far less on my past accomplishments and more on the things I know I can do better."

PREP SCHOOL INFORMATION

Below is the Point of Contact for questions for our Preparatory School Candidate parents.

Central Email for Prep School Questions:
PrepInfo@usafa.edu, or phone (719) 333-2583

Website: <https://www.usafa.edu/prep-school/>

FACEBOOK:
<https://www.facebook.com/USAFAPrepSchool/>

Mail: HQ USAFA/PL
5229 Cedar Drive, Suite 117
USAF Academy, CO 80840-3100

Prep School 2017-2018 Academic Calendar:
https://www.usafa.edu/app/uploads/PL_Calendar_12Ju12017.pdf

HELPFUL WEBSITES and POCs –

Parent Information Link:

<https://www.usafa.edu/parents/>

Graduation Information Link:

<https://www.usafa.edu/about/traditions/graduation/>

USAFA's Public Calendar Link:

(Managed by the Association of Graduates)

www.usafa.org/Calendar/Events

2016 - 2017 Cadet Academic Calendar Link:

<https://www.usafa.edu/app/uploads/AY-2016-2017-Calendar-Approved-12-Jul-16-1.pdf>

2017 - 2018 Cadet Academic Calendar Link:

The Academic Calendar for 2017-2018 has been approved and you can find it at the following link:

<https://www.usafa.edu/app/uploads/AY2017-2018Calendar.pdf>

Curriculum Handbook:

(also outlines summer programs available for cadets in what year):

<https://www.usafa.edu/app/uploads/CHB.pdf>

Cadet Major listing:

<https://www.usafa.edu/academics/majors-minors/>

Cadet Clubs:

(just a listing of clubs and POCs, not a schedule of where they may be):

<https://www.usafa.edu/cadet-life/clubs/>

Cadet Survival Guide: Go to www.usafasupport.com and click Arnold Hall or go to the below link:

<http://nebula.wsimg.com/0c9d0bf12f8b6a1ca725ae69871b531b?AccessKeyId=C7760A2EE485D3702028&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

Cadet Media:

www.usafasupport.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media

Admissions:

(parents can help us recruit future cadets):

www.academyadmissions.com/

Sports Schedules:

www.goairforcefalcons.com/calendar/events/

Base Cadet Treats (Flower Shop):

(719) 472-8589

petalsnblooms.com

Gift Cards order phone numbers:

Cadet Store (Base Exchange) (719) 472-1953

10 FSS: (719) 472-7930

Hometown News Release (must have CAC card):

<https://jhns.release.dma.mil/public>

Life Touch photos:

POC: Sherri Peloso <http://lifetouch.com/>

1 (800) 426-9533 extension 128 or 241

UPCOMING DATES:

28 Apr – 2 May 18	Prep School Spring Finals
5 - 6 May 18	Dean's Weekend
9 - 12 May 18	Cadet Spring Finals
15 May 18	Prep School Baccalaureate Awards Ceremony
16 May 18	Prep School Parade & Awards Ceremony/Reception
17 May 18	Prep School Graduation
18 May 18	2019 Ring Dance
23 May 18	2018 Graduation
2 Jun 18	1 st Summer Session Begins
23 Jun 18	1 st Session Ends/2 nd Session Begins
28 Jun 18	2022 Class In-Processes
29 Jun 18	2022 Swearing In Ceremony (8:30 – 9:00 am on Stillman Parade Field)
4 Jul 18	4th of July Holiday (BCT is still ongoing though)
4 Jul 18	2022 Morale Call (they will only get a few minutes)
15 Jul 18	Prep School – Prior Service report (in-processing)
13 Jul 18	Field Day (parent viewing but no parent access)
14 Jul 18	Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo (No parent access)
14 Jul 18	2 nd Session Ends/3 rd Session Begins
21 Jul 18	Doolie Day Out (DDO) to meet sponsor families (Basics can have cell phones today)
18 Jul 18	Prep School - Direct Entry report (in-processing)
22 Jul 18	March out to Jacks Valley
1 Aug 18	March back from Jacks Valley
4 Aug 18	3 rd Session Ends/BCT Ends/Cadet Wing Returns by 7 pm/ BCT ends & 2022 should get cell phones back any day.
4 Aug 18	Prep School Basic Military Training (BMT) Graduation (not for Parents)
6 - 7 Aug 18	Cadet's Laptop Should be Issued
8 Aug 18	Cadet's should have e-mail
7 Aug 18	Acceptance Parade (Date and Time TBD) normally at 9:00am
Aug 18	Commitment Dinner (Mitchell Hall)
7 Aug 18	New Semester Classes Start
18 Aug 18	Scholarship Checks will be Accepted for the Class of 2022
31 Aug – 3 Sep 18	Parents Weekend https://www.usafa.edu/about/traditions/parents-weekend/
8 Oct 18	Columbus Day Holiday – No Classes
12 - 13 Oct 18	Commandants Cadet Training Day – No Classes on 12 Oct
12 Nov 18	Veterans Day Holiday (observed) – No Classes
20 – 25 Nov 18	Cadet Thanksgiving Break Release - Last Military Duty (LMD) Return by 7pm
20 – 25 Nov 18	Prep School Thanksgiving Break Release - Release at LMD. Return by 7pm
8 – 9 Dec 18	Dean's Weekend
12 – 15 Dec 18	Cadet Winter Finals
13 – 14 Dec 18	Prep School Winter Finals
16 Dec 17 – 3 Jan 19	Cadet Winter Break - Return by 7pm on 3 Jan 19
15 Dec 18 – 2 Jan 19	Prep School Winter Break - Released at 11:00 am. Return by 7pm on 2 Jan 19
21 Jan 19	Martin Luther King Holiday – No Classes
25 Jan 19	Prep School Exemplar Dinner
18 Feb 19	Presidents Day Holiday – No Classes
20 – 22 Feb 19	National Character & Leadership Symposium (NCLS) – No Classes
7 – 9 Mar 19	2022 Recognition (Begins LMD on 7 Mar until after formal Dinner 9 Mar)
8 Mar 19	Prep School Finals

12 Mar 19	Prep School Training Day – No Classes
22 – 31 Mar 18	Cadet Spring Break - Return by 7pm on 31 Mar 19
22 – 31 Mar 19	Prep School Spring Break – Release LMD. Return by 7pm on 31 Mar 19
1 – 3 May 19	Prep School Finals
11 – 12 May 19	Cadet Dean’s Weekend
13 – 17 May 19	Cadet Spring Finals
19 May 19	Prep School Baccalaureate
20 May 19	Prep School Graduation Parade/Award Ceremony
21 May 19	Prep School Graduation
27 May 19	Memorial Day Holiday – No Classes
May 19	Ring Dance
24 -30 May 19	2019 Graduation Week
30 May 19	2019 Graduation
1 Jun 19	1 st Summer Session Begins
22 Jun 19	1 st Session Ends/2 nd Session Begins
27 Jun 19	2023 Class In-Processes
14 Jul 19	2 nd Session Ends/3 rd Session Begins
14 Jul 19	Prep School Prior Enlisted In-Process
17 Jul 19	Prep School In- Processing (non-priors)
3 Aug 19	3 rd Session Ends/ BCT ends/Cadet Wing Returns by 7pm
6 Aug 19	Prep School Classes Begin
9 Aug 19	Cadet Classes Begin

Parent Liaison Contact Info:

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