



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
COMMANDANT OF CADETS  
USAF ACADEMY COLORADO**

12 May 2024

Dear Parents,

Today, young adults face a myriad of challenges requiring guidance and leadership to overcome. I am writing to address an important topic that concerns the well-being and safety of your children: alcohol use and the negative impacts that can arise from poor decision-making.

While this is the time when your children undergo exploration and growth and will develop into young leaders and officers at the Academy, it is essential that we address these issues openly and honestly to ensure our cadets are equipped to make responsible decisions. As parents, you play a vital role in shaping your children's values and guiding them through life's challenges. We understand that discussing alcohol use with your children can be a difficult conversation, but it's one that is necessary for their safety and well-being.

We believe in fostering open lines of communication between cadets, parents, and Academy personnel. By working together, we can provide our cadets with the knowledge and resources they need to make informed decisions about alcohol use. It is important for cadets to understand that while alcohol may be a part of our culture and social norms, it should be consumed responsibly and in moderation.

We are committed to providing support and resources to students who may be struggling with adjusting to life at the Academy. We offer counseling services, educational programs, and other initiatives aimed at promoting a culture of responsible decision-making and healthy living here at the Academy. We ask for your support in reinforcing these messages at home and encouraging your children to make choices that align with our shared values of dignity and respect. Together, we can create a positive environment that promotes a healthy lifestyle, encourages accountability for one's actions, and fosters a sense of belonging and community among all cadets.

Thank you for your partnership in this important endeavor. Your involvement and support are invaluable as we work together to ensure the well-being and success of our cadets as they develop into Air Force and Space Force leaders.

GAVIN P. MARKS  
Brigadier General, USAF  
31st Commandant of Cadets

**WORLD CLASS IS OUR STANDARD**