



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

1 June 2020

Dear Parents of the Class of 2024,

With the Class of 2024's In-processing Day (I-Day) just a few weeks away, we look forward to the arrival of our nearly 1,200 appointees! Rest assured, as we continue with our mission we are closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic, and the health and safety of the appointees, the Cadet Wing, and the entire USAFA community remains our top priority. As a critical accession source, we have an ongoing duty to train and grow leaders of character that will lead the next generation of Airmen and Space Professionals, despite the constraints of the pandemic. Through agility, ingenuity, and innovation, USAFA will continue to develop leaders for our Air and Space Forces.

Due to the current COVID environment, I-Day will not be like years past for either you or your appointee. The world is changing – your experiences will change with it, and we want to help you prepare for these new experiences. As I-Day nears, our Admission Office has asked your appointee to continue to check their portal a few times a week and review the information in the Appointee Kit. In particular, the Appointee Handbook has vital information on traveling to and preparing for I-Day. The handbook can also be found on our official Air Force Academy parent webpage at [http://www.usafa.edu/app/uploads/2024-Appointee-Handbook\\_Print.pdf](http://www.usafa.edu/app/uploads/2024-Appointee-Handbook_Print.pdf).

The Academy continues to follow CDC protocols for preventing the spread of COVID-19, outlined at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>. And, USAFA specific information is posted on our website at: <https://www.usafa.edu/news/coronavirus/>. Upon arrival, each appointee will be tested for COVID-19 and enter a 14-day period where they will have a roommate and be assigned to a cohort of 30 appointees. During these 14 days, they will undergo online training, in-processing and will have limited exposure to others outside of their cohort while we monitor their health. At the end of the 14-day period, they will be tested again before beginning more rigorous basic training activities within their 30-person flight.

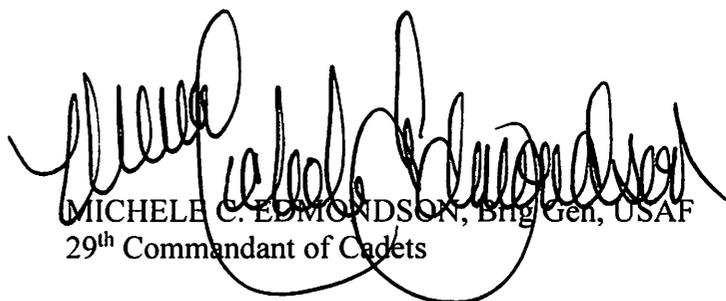
Your appointee should plan to arrive in the Colorado Springs area the day prior to I-Day and plan to enter the Academy at their specific slot time, as communicated in their reporting instructions on the portal about two weeks prior. All changes/updates made to specific reporting instructions will be communicated via the portal. Appointees are responsible for making their own hotel reservations and acquiring accommodations. Overnight lodging is not available on the Academy. For parents who choose to bring their son or daughter to the Academy, you will be allowed to drive on base to the drop-off point, and then be asked to immediately depart the area through the North Gate. Please be aware that appointees should plan to exit the vehicle alone while other passengers remain in the vehicle. Please say any lengthy goodbyes before arriving on base. If your appointee is traveling alone, please refer to the Appointee Handbook for taxi and lodging suggestions (including for underage appointees). Local taxi companies listed in the

handbook have been cleared by the Academy's Security Forces; however, Uber and Lyft drivers have not and will not be allowed on base this year.

No individual should travel if they are feeling sick, running a fever, or have any signs of illness. Travelers should follow good health practices before and during travel including social distancing, wearing face masks, washing their hands, and avoiding people and areas with known COVID-19 symptoms or infections. If your appointee is having any challenges due to COVID-19, please have them reach out to their admissions counselor as soon as possible.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, visitor facilities on the Academy are not open and we will not have a parent program this year. I-Day and Basic Cadet Training access will be strictly limited to USAFA leadership, cadre and staff members. This is for the protection of your appointee and the USAFA community. While we must postpone our welcome activities until a future date, we encourage you to monitor our social media channels and website for virtual welcomes from our Academy leadership team, virtual access to select I-Day activities, and photo/video opportunities. Also, we invite you to explore our Virtual Tour at <https://www.usafa.edu/virtualtour/>, and we suggest that you connect with your local USAFA Parent Club. You can find the local parent club's contact information at <https://www.usafa.edu/parents/parent-clubs-spirit-committees/>, and join the 2024 Parent Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/usafa2024parents/>. Finally, our Air Force Academy Parent Liaison, Ms. Rose (Marie) Nikovits, is available via email at [USAFA.Parent.Liaison@afacademy.af.edu](mailto:USAFA.Parent.Liaison@afacademy.af.edu).

Thank you all for your patience during these uncertain times – we will continue to send out updated information as we get closer to I-Day. We look forward to your appointee's arrival to the United States Air Force Academy and to supporting your family throughout their four-year journey to join the proud lineage of the Long Blue Line.



MICHELE C. EDMONDSON, Brig Gen, USAF  
29<sup>th</sup> Commandant of Cadets