



**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](#)

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Prep School Access:

<https://twitter.com/USAFAPrepSchool>

[www.facebook.com/AFPrepSchool](http://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 28 Feb 19)**

Class Year	Men	Women	Total
2018	3	0	3
2019	751	261	1012
2020	717	292	1009
2021	802	306	1108
2022	847	286	1133
<b>WING</b>	<b>3120</b>	<b>1145</b>	<b>4265</b>

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 Mar 19 19)**

Class year	Men	Women	Total
2018-2019	140	57	197

**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

**AF Wings of Blue wins big at collegiate championships**



*By Jennifer Spradlin, Jan. 28, 2019*

**U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo.** — Earlier this month the competitive parachute team from the Air Force Wings of Blue 37 medals at the National Collegiate Parachuting Championship in Eloy, Arizona.

Seventy-three skydivers from 13 universities, including other service academies, participated in the multi-day event.

The cadets said they look forward to the annual competition, which is the longest-running skydiving competition in the U.S., although their primary mission is training other cadets in the Airmanship program here.

“The experience is truly something to be cherished,” said Cadet 1st Class Daniel Zivney. “The competition members typically leave their families the day after Christmas, staying past New Year’s Day, falling through the sky together.”

During the competition, the Junior 6-Way team “AF Mastiff” set an Air Force record by completing a 6-person formation in the first 8.96 seconds of the dive.

“The ultimate goal of the competition team is to succeed at the USPA National Skydiving Championships in September, a level above the USPA Collegiate Championships, but training for any sort of competition places a heavy emphasis on consistency and performance under stress,” said Cadet 1st Class Sydney Heithoff. “This style of inner-competition

pushes the Wings of Blue Competition Team to new limits every year.”

To learn more about the cadets on the team, visit [wingsofblue.com/competition-team](http://wingsofblue.com/competition-team).

### **Air Force Academy senior leader and cadet candidate break innovation barriers**

*Story by Jennifer Spradlin, March 18, 2019*

**U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo.** — These days, you don’t have to be a science major or a faculty researcher to make a difference in the research arena and solve problems for the Air Force.

“When it comes to innovation, the Air Force Academy is ‘walking the walk,’” said Lt. Gen. Jay Silveria, the Academy’s superintendent.

Just ask Col. Houston Cantwell, the Air Force Academy’s vice superintendent, or Usama Bamieh, a cadet candidate at the Academy’s Prep School, Silveria said.

Cantwell took first place at the first Installation Management and Sustainment Command Innovation Rodeo for his “What’s Up” app last week at Joint Base-San Antonio, Texas. Bamieh was one of six finalists featured in the 2019 Spark Tank Competition during the Air Warfare Symposium in Orlando, Florida, Feb. 27-March 1.

The Rodeo awarded a total of \$650,000 to the top three teams from a field of more than 120 submissions. The Academy’s team was comprised of Cantwell and Cadet Second Class Yann Wollman and brought home \$250,000 by finishing at the top. They will partner with AFWERX, an Air Force program that fosters a culture of innovation, and the private sector.

The Academy’s app, a crowd-sourced event calendar, connects Airmen and their families to club activities and organizations around the installation. It breaks barriers between people, clubs and-or organizations by enabling clubs and-or organizations to easily add their activities to a comprehensive installation calendar while allowing easy review of the activities through an intuitive app.

“I wanted to answer the question, ‘how do I know what’s going on?’ for Airmen and their families and quite honestly, myself,” Cantwell. “For wing commanders, it can be hard to gauge or even be aware of the many events available across an entire installation.”

The colonel came up with the idea for the app while commanding the 49th Wing at Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, New Mexico, home to nearly 2,000 first-term Airmen. Cantwell said there were multiple opportunities for Airmen and their families to participate in recreational activities and events, but conventional advertising methods were spotty and ineffective.

“The idea was to bring two disparate groups together, the organizations and the Airmen, for a seamless transition of information in a ‘one-stop shop,’” he said.

Cantwell took advantage of the opportunities the Academy offers senior leaders to mentor cadets, and partnered with Wollman, president of the Academy’s Innovation Club, to refine his idea ahead of the competition. Wollman joined him during the app presentation in San Antonio and “brought energy and fresh ideas that only a cadet could bring –Yann did a fantastic job” according to Cantwell.

“We’re just following what General Silveria says about innovation: go out there and break barriers,” Wollman said. “We’re ready to get together at the Academy and start prototyping and testing out the idea.”

Cantwell said the importance of innovation cannot be overstated.

“I applaud the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center for emphasizing innovation and showing you can make a difference by thinking outside the box and bringing your ideas forward,” he said.

### **At the Prep School**

Prep School Cadet Candidate Usama Bamieh, an enlisted Airman admitted to the Prep School, pitched his weather aggregation software, “Lexi,” to a five-person panel that included Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson, Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David Goldfein, and Shark Tank personality and business mogul Mark Cuban.

“Our legacy method of forecasting, which takes about 45 minutes, doesn’t provide environmental intelligence quickly enough,” Bamieh said. “Lexi reduces that [initial] time to about 15 seconds, and operates off any communication system that we have available.”

Bamieh developed the software program to streamline the Mission Execution Forecast at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, Germany. The MEF is a snapshot of weather conditions in an area of responsibility and includes information like wind speed and temperature.

Spark Tank provides a high-profile, public forum to celebrate the innovations of Airmen, identifies avenues to increase lethality and cost-effective modernization, pushes boundaries to pursue future technologies, and recognizes problems and creative solutions. This year, out of 320 submissions, six finalists were selected to pitch their ideas.

Although Bamieh did not win, the Spark Tank panel recognized the potential for the software and pledged to connect Bamieh with the Kessel Run Project to help him further develop the idea.



*(U.S. Air Force photo by Cadet 1st Class Emily Graves)*

Freshmen cadets team up before taking on another challenge during Recognition at the U.S. Air Force Academy, March 7-9. Recognition is a military training assessment that measure how well the fourth-year cadets have performed as individuals and team members since arriving for Basic Cadet Training in June.



U.S. Air Force Academy Cadets 1st Ciera White (left) and Class Samantha Potter (Courtesy photo from Gina Iberri-Shea)

*By Ray Bowden, March 8, 2019*

**U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo.** — Two senior cadets have made a name for themselves and the Air Force Academy on the global forensics competition circuit.

Air Force Cadets 1st Class Samantha Potter and Ciera White have debated against students at Harvard and Stanford, the universities of Oxford and Cape Town, the London School of Economics and Political Science, and others in the last year.

“Forensics is not about dead bodies — it’s a debate program,” White said. “We compete against some of the best teams in the U.S. and the world.”

The Academy’s Forensics program is an inter-collegiate activity providing advanced leadership, critical thinking and communication opportunities for cadets, according to team’s website. It provides a nationally competitive opportunity for cadets to excel and contributes to positive human relations and outreach between the Academy and civilian institutions.

As freshmen, Potter and White ranked third in the National Parliamentary Debate Association. Since then, they’ve placed at least on the semi-finalists list at 12 major forensics competitions, and with the rest of the team have placed high in regional competitions and earned an international first-place title.

Their achievements as a debate team tend to grab extra notice on the forensics circuit because roughly 75 percent of all NPDA competitors are men.

“It’s not uncommon to be the only women’s team in a finals round,” White said.

Potter said she and White are not concerned about this gender ratio.

“We’ve learned to work that much harder to come up with better arguments where stereotypes or biases will not prevent us from winning,” she said.

Potter is an English and law major from Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts. She applied to the Academy to play tennis, she said, but her desire to become a lawyer drew her to forensics.

“I find a passion in arguing and defending others and found the forensics team to be a perfect avenue to hone my advocacy skills,” she said. “Debate pushes me in numerous ways another sport wouldn’t have. It forces me to think critically and consider multiple perspectives.”

White, a political science major from Smithfield, Utah, competed in forensics in high school and joined the Academy’s Forensics Club during her freshman year.

“Forensics has been the single most impactful program I have participated in at the Academy,” she said. “The Academy has so many fantastic programs, clubs and teams. I’m biased, but I would say forensics is the best program at the Academy.”

Potter said she and White share a “great dynamic.”

“We’re never afraid to say ‘no.’” she said. “If I think she is missing the point of the debate or vice versa, we say ‘no.’ No hard feelings.”

White said Potter is her “best friend.”

“I’m grateful for the opportunities I’ve had to travel and debate with her,” she said.

Potter and White also said they’re grateful for the faculty members who helped them get to the top of the debate charts.

“Dr. Gina Iberri-Shea [English professor and forensics coach] and the English department, our sponsor department, have provided me with so many opportunities to do amazing things,” White said. “Forensics helps me with public speaking, confidence and leadership.”

Forensics is not just an academic experience, Potter said.

“It has helped me think critically,” she said. “I have no anxiety about public speaking.”

The Academy’s Forensics program was founded in 1955 and competes in 14 events, including debate and drama.

Visit <https://www.usafa.edu/cadet-life/clubs/forensics-team> for more information.



### **Academy cadet patents sensors on “Freedom Cane,” an anti-fall device**

*By Jennifer Spradlin, March 8, 2019*

**U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo.** — The Population Reference Bureau estimates the number of Americans aged 65 and older will more than double by 2060, straining healthcare resources while creating a growing market for electronic healthcare aides.

Cadet 2nd Class Mary Hood started her journey to develop a technologically advanced anti-fall device, or “Freedom Cane,” while preparing for her high school science fair in 2015. A guest speaker at the fair left the

students with a bit of engineering advice: help one, help many. If the students could find a solution to help one person in their lives, the same solution might help others.

“My grandma was one person in my life that I thought could use some help,” Hood said. “I felt like the senior citizen population had really been left behind by technology.”

With her grandmother in mind, Hood designed the cane to be user friendly and researched features that would benefit her target clients.

She added a flashlight because many older people fall while trying to use the bathroom in the middle of the night and installed a heart rate monitor into the handle. Four sensors on the bottom of the cane respond to pressure and show a healthcare provider or relative how often the cane is used via an app. If the cane tips over, it reports a potential fall.

Hood won the Colorado State Science Fair in 2015 and entered that year’s International Science Fair. She took prize money from her state-level win to begin patent research and develop a practical prototype with the aid of a mechanical engineer.

Last month, Hood was finally awarded a patent for her sensor technology. She reengaged with the project after taking a mechatronic course here to improve her computer coding skills.

“The flexibility to do independent research here and access to the incredible mechanical engineering lab has really allowed me to push the project forward,” she said.

The native of Alamosa, Colorado, grew up wanting to attend the Academy. She recently completed her application for the Rhodes scholarship and seeks to earn master’s degrees in engineering and practical ethics in technology.

“Mary has tremendous intellectual curiosity,” said Lt. Col. Michael Anderson, an associate professor in the Department of Engineering and Mechanics. “She wants to understand how things work and when something doesn’t work, she won’t give up until she’s fixed it.”

Hood is currently working to improve how the cane is powered. It runs on a 9-volt battery, but her goal is to create a rechargeable stand. She'd also like to add to the functionality of the app by adding a heart rate log.

## 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](mailto: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\\_12Jul2017.pdf](https://www.usafa.edu/app/uploads/PL_Calendar_12Jul2017.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](http://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](http://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](http://www.usafasupport.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media)

Admissions:  
(parents can help us recruit future cadets):  
[www.academyadmissions.com/](http://www.academyadmissions.com/)

Sports Schedules:  
[www.goairforcefalcons.com/calendar/events/](http://www.goairforcefalcons.com/calendar/events/)

Base Cadet Treats (Flower Shop):  
(719) 472-8589  
[petalsnblooms.com](http://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:

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 (9:10 – 10:00 am)/Award Ceremony (2:00 – 3:30 pm)
20 May 19	Prep School Reception (4:00 – 5:30 pm)
27 May 19	Memorial Day Holiday – No Classes
24 May 19	Ring Dance, 5-8 pm (Class of 2020)
24 -30 May 19	2019 Graduation Week
30 May 19	2019 Graduation
1 Jun 19	1 <sup>st</sup> Summer Session Begins
22 Jun 19	1 <sup>st</sup> Session Ends/2 <sup>nd</sup> Session Begins
27 Jun 19	2023 Class In-Processes
28 Jun 19	2023 Swearing In Ceremony, 8:30 – 9:30 am, Parent Field
12 Jul 19	Field Day (2023 Class) (no parent contact, but parents can watch)
13 Jul 19	Rodeo (no parent contact)
14 Jul 19	2 <sup>nd</sup> Session Ends/3 <sup>rd</sup> Session Begins
14 Jul 19	Prep School Prior Enlisted In-Process
17 Jul 19	Prep School In- Processing (non-priors)
20 Jul 19	DDO (Doolie Day Out) Cadets can call home and will have cell phones
21 Jul 19	March out to Jack’s Valley (Parents can come to cheer C4Cs)
31 Jul 19	March back from Jack’s Valley (Parents can come to cheer C4Cs)
1 Aug 19	2023 Class should get laptops
2 Aug 19	2023 BCT Graduation (not for parents) Cadet Wing only
3 Aug 19	3 <sup>rd</sup> Session Ends/ BCT ends/Cadet Wing Returns by 7pm
6 Aug 19	Acceptance Day Parade, 9:00am, parade field
6 Aug 19	Prep School Classes Begin
8 Aug 19	Cadet Classes Begin
30 Aug – 2 Sep 19	2019 Parents Weekend <a href="https://www.usafa.edu/about/traditions/parents-weekend/">https://www.usafa.edu/about/traditions/parents-weekend/</a>
5 Oct 19	Football Game against NAVY (away)
14 Oct 19	Columbus Day Holiday (no classes)
2 Nov 19	Football Game against ARMY (Home)
11 Nov 19	Veterans Day Holiday (no classes)
26 Nov – 1 Dec 19	Thanksgiving Break Leave after LMD; return by 7 pm on 1 Dec 19
9 – 13 Dec 19	Cadet Finals
16 Dec 19 – 5 Jan 20	Cadet Winter Break; Return by 7:00pm on 5 Jan 20
20 Jan 20	Martin Luther King Holiday (no classes)
17 Feb 20	Presidents Day Holiday (no classes)
19 – 21 Feb 20	National Character and Leadership Symposium (NCLS)
12 – 14 Mar 20	2023 Recognition
20 – 29 Mar 20	Cadet Spring Break, released LMD, Return by 7:00pm on 29 Mar 20
11 – 15 May 20	Cadet Finals
28 May 20	2020 Class Graduates

30 May 20	1st Summer Session Begins
20 Jun 20	1st Summer Session Ends/ 2nd Summer Session Begins
25 Jun 20	2024 Class In-Processes
26 Jun 20	2024 Swearing In Ceremony (time TBD)
4 Jul 20	4 <sup>th</sup> of July Holiday (2024 BCT training continues)
31 Jul 20	2024 BCT Graduation (not for parents) Cadet Wing only
1 Aug 20	3 <sup>rd</sup> Summer Session Ends/BCT Ends/Cadet Wing Returns by 7:00pm

**Parent Liaison Contact Info:**

MARIE NIKOVITS

Parents' Liaison

Phone: (719) 333-3828,

Toll Free: (877) 268-3383

Fax: (719) 333-1433

E-mail: [USAFA.ParentLiaison@usafa.edu](mailto:USAFA.ParentLiaison@usafa.edu)