



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY



20 July 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: HQ USAFA/DSX

SUBJECT: United States Air Force Academy Board of Visitors (BoV AFA) Meeting Minutes

1. **Meeting:** Monday, 20 July 2026 at 1300 (EST). Board members attended virtually via TEAMS. Members of the public were also able to participate in the meeting as registered virtual attendees. As announced in the [Federal Register](#), a partially closed meeting was held with members of the public in attendance for the open session that began at 1340. Meeting minutes will cover only the open session of the Board of Visitors meeting.

2. **Agenda:**

20 Jul 26 - Board of Visitors Meeting: Agenda Summary	
Item	Description
1	Chairman's Remarks
2	New POTUS Appointed Member Swearing-In
3	Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affair's Remarks
4	Superintendent's Update
5	Update on the Cadet Chapel
6	Board Member Focus Group Update and Discussion
7	Public Comments
8	Action Item Review
9	Final Board Member Remarks
10	Chairman's Concluding Remarks

3. **Designated Federal Officer Action:** Dr. Raquel Rimpola, Designated Federal Officer of the U.S. Air Force Academy Board of Visitors (BoV AFA or Board), confirmed that a quorum of the Board was present for the meeting and provided administrative remarks.

4. **Chairman's Remarks:** Congressman August Pfluger welcomed the new members of the Board of Visitors (BoV), including Senator Rosen of Nevada, Senator Mike Rounds of South Dakota, Senator Chris Coons of Delaware, Ms. Erika Kirk, and Mr. Jon Hotaling, as well as the reappointment of Ms. Dina Powell McCormick. He then highlighted the key accomplishments of the Academy and thanked Lieutenant General Bauernfeind, USAFA Superintendent, for his dedicated service as he transitions into the next phase of his career. Additionally, Congressman Pfluger outlined the Board's recent focus areas, specifically addressing the Academy's infrastructure, budget, and athletics. He concluded by expressing concern regarding the

timeliness and comprehensiveness of the Academy's responses to BoV inquiries, reinforcing that the Board serves as USAFA's chief advocate in maintaining a world-class institution that produces the finest officers for the Air Force and Space Force.

5. New Member Swearing-In: Congressman Pfluger, serving as Chairman of the BoV AFA, administered the oath of office to swear in Ms. Erika Kirk and Mr. Jon Hotaling as new members of the Board.

6. Mr. Brian Scarlett: Mr. Brian Scarlett, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, thanked the Board for their work and emphasized that their partnership and recommendations are critical to advancing the Academy's mission. He thanked Lieutenant General Bauernfeind for his service and leadership, specifically highlighting his remarkable efforts in instilling a warrior ethos across the institution. Acknowledging the administrative challenges raised by Congressman Pfluger, Mr. Scarlett expressed confidence in resolving them. He then highlighted the ongoing Sources of Commissioning study being conducted at the direction of the Secretary of the Air Force (SECAF), with the final report due in August 2026. Additionally, he discussed the Department of the Air Force's (DAF) full mobilization of the USAFA 2050 initiative to strategically modernize the Academy's infrastructure. Mr. Scarlett concluded by celebrating the unique perspectives BoV members bring to the Board, noting that he looks forward to constructive dialogue to keep USAFA among the nation's premier institutions.

7. Superintendent's Update: Brigadier General Nicholas Evans, USAFA Vice Superintendent, presented the Superintendent's update on behalf of Lieutenant General Tony D. Bauernfeind. General Evans opened by acknowledging the Board's concerns regarding the timeliness of information. He committed to working closely with DAF leadership to ensure a seamless flow of data so the Board can execute its advisory mission. General Evans then introduced key new members of the USAFA leadership team, including Colonel Paul Brehm, Commander of the 306th Flying Training Group (306 FTG). He noted that the 306 FTG, which manages critical airmanship programs including jump, soaring, and powered flight, has transitioned from Air Education and Training Command (AETC) back under the direct authority of the Academy. This realignment aims to increase the unit's responsiveness to the USAFA syllabus and expand airmanship opportunities for cadets. Finally, he introduced the new Commandant of Cadets, Colonel Brandon Tellez, and the new Dean of the Faculty, Brigadier General James Valpiani.

8. Commandant of Cadets: Colonel Brandon Tellez provided an introduction and outlined his leadership vision for preparing cadets for the Department of the Air Force. He emphasized a training model that pushes cadets mentally, physically, and emotionally past their limits to develop them into resilient, highly capable, and lethal warfighters.

9. Dean of Faculty: Brigadier General James Valpiani provided an introduction and explained that the academic mission at the Air Force Academy is distinct from civilian institutions of higher learning because of its direct alignment with the Air and Space Force missions. He outlined that USAFA's academic curriculum is structured around three core educational elements. First, the academic curriculum provides a distinctive value proposition for the Department of the Air Force by developing excellence in the way graduates critically think. Second, it integrates design principles to ensure future officers can think across multiple

disciplines and domains simultaneously. Third, it maintains a strict military focus to develop officers capable of deterring conflict and winning decisively if called upon to fight. General Valpiani's primary goal is to lead the faculty in integrating these three elements into the Academy's core curriculum. Additionally, he explained the Academy's approach to Artificial Intelligence (AI), emphasizing the foundation that cadets must not become dependent on AI, but instead must master its use to effectively accelerate Air and Space Force missions. This mastery will be achieved through a newly established framework of tiered engagement, which provides guidance to cadets on how and when to use AI, ranging from prohibited to unrestricted use. Ultimately, this approach is designed to sharpen cadets' critical thinking and prepare them for the complex conditions of modern warfare.

Congressman Pfluger commented on the significant opportunities USAFA has to collaborate with industry partners on artificial intelligence. He highlighted that Ms. Dina Powell McCormick's extensive industry experience will greatly enhance the partnership between the Board of Visitors and the Academy as she leads the BoV's AI focus group.

10. Athletics Update: Ms. Jennifer Block, Executive Director of Athletics, explained the NCAA's new age-based eligibility model, commonly referred to as the "five for five" rule. This rule reduces competitive age disparities by limiting college athletes to five years of eligibility. Ms. Block explained that USAFA could benefit from this change by introducing a five-year program for select cadets. This extended timeline would allow participating cadets to compete in intercollegiate athletics while simultaneously completing a master's degree, a STEM or warfighting minor, or a portion of their initial flight training. However, implementing this model would require a legislative amendment, as the Academy is currently mandated by law to provide a strict four-year course of instruction under 10 U.S.C. ch. 953, § 9442.

Mr. Clark suggested implementing a structured, one-semester "stop-off" program to enable cadets to take advantage of the NCAA's rule change. He noted that this administrative pause would allow cadets to grow mentally, physically, and emotionally, while granting student-athletes a fifth competitive season without requiring a formal legislative amendment. Brigadier General Evans acknowledged the proposal, noting that the Academy currently permits "administrative turnbacks" of six months to a year, which are granted at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Senator Coons inquired if the Academy had any comments regarding the Protect College Sports Act. Brigadier General Evans responded that the NCAA is currently facing several lawsuits challenging its age-based eligibility rules. He noted that, if passed, the proposed legislation would establish a consistent national framework that would help shield the organization from these ongoing legal challenges.

11. USAFA Chapel Restoration Update: Brigadier General Patrick Miller, Commander of the Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC), stated that a strategic memorandum from the SECAF, scheduled for release on 30 October 2026, will strip away several bureaucratic constraints and empower project leaders to accelerate operations. The projected beneficial occupancy date of the Chapel to restore operational worship capability is 28 April 2027. The protective structure, commonly referred to as the "Big White Box," is projected to begin coming down in July 2027, with the target of having it completely removed by January 2028. Key

milestones recently accomplished include the restoration of the Protestant pews, the installation of the Catholic organ, the completion of the gutter system, and the beginning of the stained-glass reinstallation. Additionally, several steps have been taken to increase operational transparency. These include publishing progress updates and facts via the official AFCEC website, providing the USAFA Class of 2026 with a dedicated tour of the restoration site, and working through alumni outreach to distribute regular project updates. Finally, Brigadier General Miller noted that he is aware of the outdated signage on the facility and is currently coordinating to have it updated.

Mr. Nikolai commended the restoration team for accelerating the project's timeline. He proposed that they explore the possibility of opening the lower portion of the Cadet Chapel as an interfaith facility for cadets to utilize prior to the full completion and reopening of the main structure.

12. Focus Group Updates and Discussion: Congressman Pfluger invited USAFA Board of Visitors members to provide updates on their focus group work - accreditation, AI, athletics, infrastructure, disciplinary, and merit-based admissions.

12.1. Disciplinary: Mr. Nikolai provided an update stating that this focus group established a disciplinary task force and identified areas where the current adjudication process requires improvement, specifically referencing procedural limitations highlighted in the GAO report published in December 2025. To address these findings, the working group will submit formal inquiries and request meetings with USAFA leadership to ensure that all cadets receive a fair hearing and are afforded comprehensive due process.

12.2. Infrastructure: Congressman Crank provided an update on key provisions secured during the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) markup of the FY27 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). These provisions include public-private investment reforms designed to optimize how USAFA collaborates with nonprofit organizations. Additionally, the legislation establishes a dedicated Facilities Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (FSRM) funding line for USAFA, protecting the Academy from having to compete with operational warfighting installations for vital infrastructure resources. Congressman Pfluger concluded the update by echoing Mr. Nikolai's comments regarding the Cadet Chapel restoration, emphasizing that the Chapel has now been closed to six consecutive graduating classes. He then recognized the dedication of fellow Board member, Mr. Charlie Kirk, in advocating for the Chapel's completion, reiterating the vital importance of the spiritual tenet of cadet development during their time at USAFA.

13. Action Item Review: Captain Daniel Cassidy, Headquarters Air Force, Accessions, Recruiting, and Training Division, facilitated a review of the following action items. The Board voted to merge Action Item 1 on Space Education Center and Action Item 3 on Update on BOS-I-USAFA into a single line item called USAFA 2050.

Item	Recommendation	Status	Category	Brief Explanation
1	<u>Space Education Center</u> – 2022 Provide plans/funding update	Merged into USAFA 2050 Action	Resource	Item was merged with Update on BOS-I-USAFA to form new action item USAFA 2050.
2	<u>Military Professor Copyrights</u> – 2022 Provide status on securing copyrights by military professors	Open	Curriculum	Item was not included in FY27 NDAA.
3	<u>Update on BOS-I-USAFA</u> – 2024 Establish BOS-I-USAFA as a new framework to improve AF’s focus on USAFA’s focus on most important issues of health and safety	Merged into USAFA 2050 Action	Resource	Item was merged with Space Education Center to form new action item USAFA 2050
4	<u>USAFA 2050</u> – Infrastructure plan to modernize, maintain, and replace facilities on installation to strengthen Academy’s warfighting advantage.	Open	Resource	New action item formed from Space Education Center and Update on BOS-I-USAFA

14. Public Comments: Ten comments were submitted and these were categorized into four topics that align with the agenda items - curriculum, resources, climate, and General.

Designated Federal Officer (DFO) Administrative Note: Pursuant to 41 CFR 102-3.140d, and as stated in the Federal Register announcement for the 20 July 2026, the committee is not obligated to allow a member of the public to speak or otherwise address the committee during the meeting. Consistent with the BoV AFA Bylaws, the DFO and Chairman may, allotted a specific amount of time for members of the public to present their issue for BoV review and discussion. The Chairman and DFO deferred comments to USAFA for response, as needed, during the meeting.

- 14.1. Mr. Bentley Rayburn: Maj Gen (Ret.) Rayburn, a 1975 USAFA graduate, provided a position paper on “Academy Statutory Realignment” and stated the key difference between officers commissioning from the Academy versus OTS or ROTC is the distinct military culture of USAFA.
- 14.2. Mr. Ron Scott: Col (Ret.) Scott, a 1973 USAFA graduate, advocated that the Academy needs to balance accountability with rehabilitation to promote and preserve good order and discipline. He stressed that individuals should be allowed to learn and recover from their mistakes.

- 14.3. Mr. Mike Rose: Sen (Ret.) Rose, a 1969 USAFA graduate, raised concerns on due process at the Academy and that cadets can be disenrolled from USAFA without having a fair hearing. He advocated that punishments need to be about rehabilitation not retribution and based on facts determined with due process.
- 14.4. Mr. Larry Card: Mr. Larry Card provided a statement on a cadet case.
- 14.5. Mr. Zach Miller: Mr. Miller, a 2004 USAFA graduate, expressed concerns about the USAFA Chapel construction and provided the example of an outdated sign with the completion date removed. He stated the importance of the chapel and the impact that the closure has had on cadets and the community.
- 14.6. Dr. Kent Murphy: Dr. Murphy requested clarification on the 26 instructor slots added to the Academy and expressed concerns about the faculty composition ahead of the 2028 reaccreditation from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).
- 14.7. USAFA Response to Public Comments: Brigadier General Evans responded on behalf of USAFA, stating that the Academy is currently reviewing its curriculum to assess core academic and training requirements. He stressed the vital importance of character-based leadership, highlighting how the military culture of USAFA permeates the academics, athletics, and military training of the institution. General Evans concluded his response by addressing due process at the Academy, explaining that cadets are afforded multiple opportunities to present their side of the story before any final determination is made by Academy leadership.

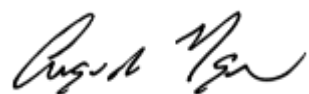
15. Board Member Final Comments:

- 15.1. Mr. Nikolai thanked the Academy and the BoV support staff for their efforts in coordinating the meeting. He reflected on the dawn of a new era at USAFA, noting the fresh leadership team transitioning into the institution. To further reinforce the Academy's distinct military culture, he strongly recommended that the next Director of Athletics be a USAFA graduate.
- 15.2. Congressman Crank stated that they successfully secured language in the FY27 NDAA to preserve the 70th Flying Training Squadron from being stood down, protecting the critical Reserve unit that supports the Air Force Academy's airfield operations. Additionally, he and Senator John Hickenlooper successfully advocated to Secretary Meink to reprogram funding to reinstate 26 civilian faculty positions, safeguarding academic continuity at the Academy. Congressman Crank concluded his remarks by emphasizing the strategic necessity of growing the Cadet Wing to 4,400 members to adequately support the expansion of both the Air Force and Space Force officer corps.
- 15.3. Mr. Clark expressed concerns regarding public and family access to USAFA, particularly for those wishing to visit the Academy Cemetery or attend intercollegiate athletic events. He cautioned that overly restrictive gate-access policies could create unnecessary barriers to community engagement.

16. Chairman's Concluding Remarks: Congressman Pfluger thanked the Board of Visitors support team and expressed his sincere gratitude to Lieutenant General Tony D. Bauernfeind for his exemplary service to the Academy. He explained that the Board has a vital opportunity to recapitalize and restructure how USAFA is funded, whether through leveraging public-private partnerships or establishing a direct, dedicated funding stream to the Academy. The Board's recommendations to the SECAF and SECWAR focus on improving institutional operations and optimizing the cadet experience, thereby ensuring that the Academy's graduates are fully prepared to defend the nation, its interests, and its values at home and abroad when called upon to lead. Congressman Pfluger reiterated that the Board remains committed to advocating for these future officers to ensure they are as prepared as possible. In closing, he expressed confidence in the incoming Air Force Academy leadership team as they transition into their new roles.

17. Adjournment: The DFO declared the meeting closed at 1523 (EST).

Certified by:



HONORABLE AUGUST L. PFLUGER
Chairman, USAFA Board of Visitors

Prepared by:



DANIEL B. CASSIDY, Capt, USAF
Executive Secretary, USAFA Board of Visitors

Attachment:

1. Board of Visitors Attendance Roster, 20 July 26
2. Public Comments
3. Board of Visitor Meeting Slides

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USAFA Board of Visitors Members
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SAF/MR
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Attachment 1: Board of Visitors Attendance Roster – 20 July 26

Title/Rank	Name	Position	Attendance
USAFA Board of Visitor Members			
Congressman	August Pfluger	Chairman, USAFA Board of Visitors U.S. House of Representatives - Texas, 11th District	Present
Senator	Ted Budd	U.S. Senate, North Carolina	Represented
Senator	Christopher Coons	U.S. Senate, Delaware	Present
Senator	Kevin Cramer	U.S. Senate, North Dakota	Not Present
Senator	John Hickenlooper	U.S. Senate, Colorado	Represented
Senator	Jacky Rosen	U.S. Senate, Nevada	Represented
Senator	Mike Rounds	U.S. Senate, South Dakota	Present
Congressman	Don Bacon	U.S. House of Representatives - Nebraska, 2nd District	Not Present
Congressman	Jeff Crank	U.S. House of Representatives - Colorado, 5th District	Present
Congressman	Donald Davis	U.S. House of Representatives – North Carolina, 1st District	Not Present
Congressman	Gabe Vasquez	U.S. House of Representatives – New Mexico, 2nd District	Not Present
Senator	Tommy Tuberville	U.S. Senate, Alabama, Presidential Appointee	Not Present
Colonel (Ret.)	Doug Nikolai	Vice-Chair, USAFA Board of Visitors, Presidential Appointee	Present
Mr.	Dan Clark	Board Member, Presidential Appointee	Present
Ms.	Erika Kirk	Board Member, Presidential Appointee	Present
Mr.	Jon Hotaling	Board Member, Presidential Appointee	Present
Ms.	Dina Powell McCormick	Board Member, Presidential Appointee	Present
Mr.	Dave Nugent	Staff, Congressman Pfluger's Office	Present
USAFA Board of Visitor Support Team			
Mr.	Brian Scarlett	Principal Deputy ASAF (SAF/MR)	Present
Dr.	Raquel Rimpola	USAFA BoV Designated Federal Officer (DFO) SAF/MR	Present
Ms.	Blaire Brush	USAFA BoV Alternate DFO, USAFA	Present
Captain	Daniel Cassidy	USAFA BoV Executive Secretary, HAF/A1	Present
Major	William Harris	SAF/LL	Present
Colonel	Kimberly Young	HAF/A1	Present
Lieutenant Colonel	Zachariah Gonyea	HAF/A1	Present
Captain	Lawrence Corum	HAF/A1	Present
Captain	Katherine Yatko	HAF/A1	Present
Mr.	Greg Jeffers	AFDW CS/SCOP	Present
Mr.	Jacob Neal	SAF/MR	Present
Ms.	Nancy Balkus	Deputy ASAF (SAF/IEE)	Present
Dr.	Wistaria Joseph	SAF/IE	Present
Lieutenant Colonel	Nambia Fagan	SAF/IEE	Present
Brigadier General	Patrick Miller	Commander, AFCEC	Present
Major	Kathryn Abbott	AFIMSC/AFCEC	Present
Major	Christopher Jankowski	AFCEC/CFS	Present
Mr.	Daniel Vega	AFCEC/CFS	Present
USAFA Senior Leadership			
Brigadier General	Nicholas Evans	Vice Superintendent, USAFA	Present

Brigadier General	James Valpiani	Dean of the Faculty	Present
Colonel	Brandon Tellez	Commandant of Cadets	Present
Colonel	Grant Mizell	Vice Commandant of Cadets	Present
Ms.	Leslie Forrester	Chief of Staff, USAFA	Present
Ms.	Jennifer Block	Executive Director of Athletics	Present
Dr.	Nancy Hixson	Acting Athletic Director	Present
Colonel	Ahave Brown	10 ABW, Commander	Present
Colonel	Paul Brehm	USAFA, 306 FTG	Present
Colonel	Brian Cooper	AFCEC, USAFA Chapel PMO	Present
Ms.	Tammy Schlichenmaier	USAFA, A1	Present
Ms.	Kate Russel	USAFA, A1	Present
Colonel	Eric Roehrkasse	USAFA, A8/9	Present
Colonel	Nathan Mayenschein	USAFA, JA	Present
Colonel	Candice Pipes	USAFA, RR	Present
Colonel	Matthew Husemann	USAFA, AD/ADV	Present
Ms.	Jenny Crider	USAFA, HO	Present
Lieutenant Colonel	Tara Holmes	Deputy Chief of Staff, USAFA	Present
Lieutenant Colonel	Courtney Padilla	USAFA, A1K	Present
Lieutenant Colonel	Joseph Pickenpaugh	USAFA, A4	Present
Lieutenant Colonel	Jessica Barnes	USAFA, PA	Present
Lieutenant Colonel	Jeremy Williams	USAFA, FM	Present
Lieutenant Colonel	Clark Smith	10 CES, Commander	Present
Ms.	Crystal Kelley	USAFA, CAG	Present
Mr.	Dixon Dykman	USAFA, A6D	Present
Mr.	Thomas Bleichert	USAFA, A6X	Present
Mr.	James Wilmer	USAFA, A8P	Present
Mr.	Anthony Mayne	USAFA, CMPO	Present
Major	Katherine Moorkamp	USAFA, CCQ	Present
Members of the Public			
Mr.	Zach Miller	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Bentley Rayburn	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Mike Rose	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Larry Card	Public Attendee	Present
Dr.	Kent Murphy	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Donald Bishop	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Richard Coe	Public Attendee	Present
Ms.	Hannah Campbell	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Braden	Public Attendee	Present
Ms.	Kelly Banet	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Mark Hille	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Mark Wells	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Alex Delimont	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Chris Russo	Public Attendee	Present
Ms.	Antoinette Davis	Public Attendee	Present
Major	Delvin Darien	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Ski Wagasky	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Bryan Grossman	Public Attendee	Present

Ms.	Keisha Dobney-Boykin	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Robert Waller	Public Attendee	Present
Ms.	Cindy	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Rich Haynie	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	CK	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Wyatt Hornsby	Public Attendee	Present
Ms.	Emily Snyder	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	W.C. Duesbury	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	V. Manning	Public Attendee	Present
Ms.	Mary Shinn	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Mark Clodfelter	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	AMS	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	David Seery	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	HT	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	S. Morell	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Joe Arbuckle	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Myles Caggins III	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Rob Waisanen	Public Attendee	Present
Ms.	Cami Lepire	Public Attendee	Present
Ms.	Calli Cooper	Public Attendee	Present
Ms.	Lyssa Bell	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Jim	Public Attendee	Present
Ms.	Kathryn Smith	Public Attendee	Present
Ms.	Molly Koerperich	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Lee Norton	Public Attendee	Present
Ms.	Rachel Grant	Public Attendee	Present
Mr.	Arne Anderson	Public Attendee	Present
Ms.	Camilla Vogt	Public Attendee	Present
Ms.	Laura Fetzer	Public Attendee	Present

PUBLIC COMMENT RESPONSES

20 July 2026 Committee Meeting

Board of Visitors Public Comment

Ten comments were submitted by the public. These were categorized into themes consistent with the meeting agenda.

A. Curriculum. On the subject of curriculum, the Board received 1 public comment.

Tab 1. Comment from Donald Bishop. Contains 1 document. Recommendation for Board consideration on curriculum.

Tab 2. Comments from Maj Gen (Ret) Bentley Rayburn. Contains 1 document. Recommendation for BOV support of character-based leadership.

Tab 3. Comments from Col (Ret) Kent Murphy. Contains 1 document. Consideration for an RFI on instructor slots.

B. Resources. On the subject of Resources, the Board received 2 public comments.

Tab 4. Comments from Mr. Zach Miller. Contains 1 document. Request for update on the USAFA cadet chapel.

Tab 5. Comment from Mr. Dennis Miller. Contains 1 document. Request for update on the USAFA cadet chapel.

C. Climate. On the subject of Climate, the Board received 4 public comments.

Tab 6. Comment from Col (Ret) Ron Scott, PhD. Contains 1 document. Statement regarding Disciple.

Tab 7. Comment from *Sen (Ret) Mike Rose* and Col (Ret) Mark Stoup. Contains 1 document. Recommendations for the Board related to conduct/honor/disenrollment systems at USAFA.

Tab 8. Comment from Mr. Larry Card. Contains 1 document with 8 exhibits. Statement on a cadet case.

D. General

Tab 9. Comments from Mr. Doug Traux: Contains 1 document. Recommendations for consideration on high quality education, admissions, and staff

Tab 10. Comment from Mr. Joseph Matchette. Contains 1 document. Statement on USAFA base access.

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703-967-3457 • donbishop99@hotmail.com

July 11, 2026

Members of the Board of Visitors:

I previously urged your Board to formally recommend that the USAFA core curriculum must include three history courses – American History, World History, and Military History. Since your last meeting, I have continued to follow the public discussion of the role of history and civics as part of secondary and higher American education. Here are a few updates.

- Recent measures of historical knowledge continue to provide evidence that American students know less about our nation's history, and this runs parallel to deficits in knowledge of civics. Looked at from today, dropping the core course in American History in 1986, forty years ago, was an error.
- Specialists increasingly conclude that use of AI is weakening students' power of reasoning and writing. I conclude the strong USAFA curriculum in the STEM disciplines must not overwhelm or shrink the courses in history and the humanities.
- Before I was the Foreign Policy Advisor to the USAF Chief of Staff, I held the same position for the Commandant of the Marine Corps. All Marine Corps warfighting rests on the premise that war is an armed contest of wills.

An adversary's will to fight, to challenge the United States, is not primarily about weapons, technology, lethality, or production. Rather, the origins of will are in religion, nationalism, inherited injuries, grudges kept alive in schools, memories of defeat and subjugation, concepts of racial origins, and so on. I submit that it is a World History course that best opens the door to this understanding. The same course lays initial foundations for strategy.

I again urge you all to recommend that the USAFA core curriculum include three history courses – American history, World history, and Military history.

Respectfully yours,

Donald M. Bishop

Minister-Counselor, Foreign Service of the U.S., Retired

4th Foreign Policy Advisor to the USAF Chief of Staff

Country Public Affairs Officer, American Embassies in Dhaka, Abuja, Beijing, and Kabul

Assistant Professor of History, USAFA

37th Security Police Squadron, Phu Cat AB, Vietnam

CUI

Position Paper

Academy Statutory Realignment

Problem: Cultural shifts over time have affected the U.S. Air Force Academy, resulting in the operating environment drifting from its statutory essence and purpose. All programs should be linked to character-based leadership development in support and defense of the Constitution.

Facts:

- Amended over time, the **United States Air Force Academy** was established by **10 U.S.C. § 9431** — *Establishment; Superintendent; faculty*. It remains the statutory basis for the U.S. Air Force Academy's creation and structure. See <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title10/subtitleD/part3/chapter953&edition=prelim>.
- **AFMD 12, 16 January 2025:** “1. Mission. The mission of the United States Air Force Academy is to forge leaders of character, motivated to a lifetime of service, and developed to lead our Air Force and Space Force as we fight and win our Nation’s wars. The Academy offers an elite college experience with developmental military, academic, and athletic programs that produce officers prepared to lead warfighters in technically complex combat environments. The Academy commissions cadets who are reflective of the best and brightest young Americans from across our great nation and who have demonstrated the character, aptitude, and intellectual rigor required to serve with distinction as officers in the United States Air Force and United States Space Force.” See https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af_a1/publication/afmd12/afmd12.pdf
- **USAFAI 36-3540, 10 August 2023:** “The Academy Board is an internal governing body of the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA). The Academy Board is a principal advisory board to the Superintendent and the decision-making body on all matters related to the USAFA Course of Instruction (COI) and on all policy matters related to admissions, cadet performance (military, athletic, academic, honor), eligibility, retention, and merit. As a Higher Learning Commission-accredited institute for higher learning, USAFA utilizes the Academy Board to autonomously make decisions and/or provide advice based on the best interest of the institution with inputs from subordinate advisory groups and committees, and **in compliance with** Department of the Air Force and **Board of Visitors (BOV) guidance**.” See <https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/usafa/publication/usafai36-3540/usafai36-3540.pdf> (Emphasis added.)
- **The Course of Instruction (COI) Handbook, AY2025-2026.** See <https://www.usafa.edu/app/uploads/COI.pdf>

Issues:

- Discipline: unclear standards of behavior; enforcement often not appropriate, timely, fair, and consistently applied; needed is a functional appeal process including feedback loops to those cadets who appeal.
- Insufficient due process, e.g., excessive punishments and insufficient time to adjudicate, nine seniors at AFA kept them from graduating and notified of intention to discharge/dis-

enroll untimely, as a “group” punishment.

- Residual resistance to the reduction of civilian faculty. How to increase military to civilian instructor ratio given current manpower pool?
- FOIAs lack responsiveness and transparency, grossly exceeding the 20-day response requirement. The failure to respond on a complete and timely basis to Freedom of Information Act requests conceals the truth from external constituencies. It is the antithesis of transparency and is indicative of a desire to cover up ongoing issues that would be found to be problematic to the public, the media, governing bodies, and higher echelons within the Department of War.
- Fully deploying Presidential Executive Orders and SECDEF Memoranda throughout the institution, countering bureaucratic agendas.
- Accreditation implications regarding the Academy Board composition and influence.

Reforms:

Admissions: Merit-based admissions policy.

- Eliminate all discriminatory lower admission standards for special identity groups based on race, gender, ethnicity, sex orientation, etc.
- Provide equal opportunity on a level playing field for all applicants to the academies.
- Using transparent admission criteria, select the best, to be future leaders of America’s sons and daughters.

Academics:

- Promote an Academic Board focused on warrior ethos/officership. An accreditation shift may better accommodate this focus by transferring from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) to the Commission for Public Higher Education (CPHE).
- Increase the military to civilian ratio with active duty or retired military instructors who have solid combat and/or field leadership experience.
- Revise the curriculum:
 - Eliminate all social engineering related topics
 - Concentrate on:
 - Military history and U.S. history including the Constitution.
 - Duty, Honor, Country, and all the associated values, and ethics:
 - Study Marxism vs a Constitutional Republic; socialism vs free market capitalism.
 - Above all, focus on character, leadership, and team building.

Athletics:

- Increase the number of military (active duty or retired) coaches or assistant

coaches in the Athletic Department to ensure proper warrior culture is cultivated.

- Ensure new civilian coaches are properly trained in the mission and culture of the Academy and their role in producing the best Lieutenants for the Air and Space Forces.
- Examine the impact of the NIL program and the NCAA Transfer Portal on Air Force Athletics and the impact these programs have on recruiting the best athletes that meet admission standards.
- The Director of Athletics should be an Air or Space Force officer—active duty or retired. Restrictions on fundraising by active duty officers can be accommodated as they have been in the past.

Character:

- Organizing principle: American creed, Constitution, Commissioning Oath of Office.
- Honor code provides a moral compass (augmented/boosted by spiritual grounding).
- Core values frame behavior, decision-making, inculcated by officership curriculum.
- Milestones: graduation and commitment to serve as career officers.

Recommendations:

- Include “to become a career officer” in the mission of the USAFA.
- Emphasize character development beginning before arrival as a Cadet Fourth Classmen—this could include an online introduction to the honor code, core values, conduct requirements, and the oath to the Constitution.
- Emphasize the importance of character-based leadership as an officer in the Air and Space Forces.
- Link all Academy experiences to character-based leadership in support and defense of the Constitution.
- Switch from HLC to CPHE accreditation organizations.

POC: Major General Bentley B. Rayburn, USAF, Retired, USAFA Class of 1975

BENTLEY B. RAYBURN, Maj General, USAF (Retired)
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USAFA BOV Comment

July 13, 2026

I'd like to know more information about the 26 new instructor slots that have been added to the Academy faculty. What we need to be thinking about is the accreditation cycle happening in 2028. According to the most recent DEOCS survey the Department of the Faculty lost 136 slots. How many of those were instructors versus Support staff?

Will the 26 instructor slots that we are supposed to be receiving from the Secretary of the Air Force be enough to replace the faculty losses that we sustained starting in 2025 from the DRP early retirement programs and voluntary faculty resignations? Finally, are we sure that these 26 slots are to gain civilian faculty, not more military faculty?

The Higher Learning Commission will also be extremely interested in documenting just how many senior Phd educators we have to evaluate and mentor our more junior instructors with Master's degrees. How many PhD's do we currently have on the faculty - percentage wise?

Kent Murphy, Colonel (ret), USAF

USAFA BOV Comment

July 13, 2026

USAFA Board of Visitors,

Thank you for your time and attention. My name is Zach "Samson" Miller and I am a proud graduate of the class of 2004.

I am actively monitoring the restoration of the USAFA Cadet Chapel. During the past 10 months, I have toured inside the Chapel and walked past this one sign (please refer to attached picture) repeatedly.

I contend that this sign sends two messages to every single cadet who walks past it:

First, that America is no longer exceptional. We can no longer post and hold to a completion date or the accurate cost of a project as evidenced by this sign. Whereas, we could once build a Liberty ship during World War 2 in 42 days, now 7 years later the Chapel is still closed to worship, weddings, and instead of being a beacon of light serves as an eyesore to the entire Colorado Springs community, especially those residing in Vandenburg and Sijan Hall.

Second, this sign shows that the Cadet Chapel is not really important to our nation. We value athletics (Falcon Stadium modernization 2023-2024) and we value technology (Madera Cyber Innovation Center 2021-2025). And while both athletics and technology are vital to the development of an officer, the moral foundation that comes from a cadet's faith seems to be lost. Has the Cadet Chapel become just an architectural relic?

Therefore, I pose two questions to the Board:

1. When will this sign be updated?

and

2. When will the Chapel actually be complete? I propose no later than May 2028.

Sincerely,

Zach Miller

Class of 2004



USAFA BOV Comment

July 13, 2026

Board Members,

I had the opportunity to visit the United States Air Force Academy Board of Visitors last February, and I came away impressed by the quality of leadership and the high standards of character that the Academy strives to instill in its cadets. As the father of a former cadet who has served 22 years as an officer, I care deeply about seeing those standards continue.

The USAFA Cadet Honor Code states: "We will not lie, steal, or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does." I believe this code reflects not only personal integrity but also the importance of the spiritual foundation that has long been part of developing character.

George Washington strongly advocated for military chaplains, viewing them as indispensable to maintaining morale, discipline, and the spiritual well-being of the troops. In 1775, he personally petitioned the Continental Congress to establish the Chaplain Corps because he recognized that spiritual support was an essential part of military leadership.

When my son entered the Academy, the Cadet Chapel stood as a visible reminder of that tradition. It was a spiritual landmark where cadets of many faiths gathered for worship, prayer, and reflection. My son, like many other cadets, had the privilege of being married there. The chapel represented the Academy's enduring commitment to the moral and spiritual development of its future officers.

It concerns me that the Cadet Chapel has now been closed more than seven years, and that the opportunity for cadets to gather there for worship and prayer has been absent for so long. While I understand that major renovations can be complex, such an extended closure raises questions about the priority being given to restoring this important part of Academy life. To me, it seems that the spiritual element that helps sustain morale, discipline, and character has taken a back seat.

I respectfully ask the Board to look into the reasons for the prolonged delay in completing the chapel restoration and to encourage every effort to reopen at the latest by May of 2028. Restoring regular worship services in this historic facility would reaffirm the Academy's longstanding commitment to developing officers of both strong character and strong moral conviction.

Thank you for your service and for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Dennis Miller

Father of Cadet Zachary Miller, Class of 2004

Discipline: Balancing Commander Discretion within Institutional Standards and Norms

By Colonel Ron Scott, PhD, USAF, Retired, Class of 1973

(Command experience at squadron, group, and wing levels)

Prompted by the recent soccer player incident and in support of the newly formed Air Force Academy Board of Visitors Cadet Discipline Task Force, I offer some food for thought for your consideration.

In adjudicating misbehavior (both criminal and non-criminal), commanders are empowered with discretion depending upon the egregiousness of the behavior within the context of a unit's culture. This is why there is a range of actions that can be exercised from verbal counseling to UCMJ action (Article 15 or court martial).

- The two parties that factor in this decision are the individual to be held accountable and the perception of other members of the unit, especially if the behavior is known to them. As a matter of discipline, the commander acts in a way that keeps the individual a productive member of the unit while ensuring accountability, fairness and professionalism among other members of the unit.
- Other factors that influence accountability include maturity, intent, and any harm caused by the behavior.
- The default goal is recoverable redemption through appropriate/scaled accountability because 1) the government has already invested in his/her performance and 2) the individual should be allowed to learn and recover from the misbehavior.
- The form of accountability then records the misbehavior while putting the individual on notice that it should not happen again. This places the burden on the individual.
- Shielding the individual from future misbehavior by controlling his/her behavior (such as excessive tours, confinements, other restrictions) puts the burden on the commander (and unit), not the individual. This practice promotes submissiveness to the individual imposing punishment, similar to the effect of a Mao struggle session, which is counter to forging character-based leadership.
- There is a difference between a mistake and mal-intent.
 - Good leaders learn from mistakes and use this experience in mentoring subordinates.
 - Mal-intent is more challenging. Accountability in this case should reflect legal accountability commensurate with the extent of harm resulting from it.

- Example: Yokota had a WAPS cheating scandal in the late 90s. Because it involved over 50 individuals across the wing with potential of inconsistent commander discretion, we elevated action to the wing level. In the end, Article 15s were issued, those promoted in the most recent promotion cycle were redlined, thereby moving others not promoted up into the promotion range. There are other details beyond the scope of this discussion to include an attempt to try it in the court of public opinion. Bottomline: there was mal-intent, it harmed others, accountability was imposed, and those harmed were remedied.
- The ideal institutional standard for imposing discipline should ensure accountability and due process and serve as a teaching moment for the individual in his development as a leader of good character.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO USAFA BOARD OF VISITORS

BY

**SENATOR (SC State ret) MIKE ROSE, JD/MBA, AFA '69
COLONEL (JAG USAF ret) MARK STOUP**

July 13, 2026

Senator (ret) Mike Rose and Colonel (ret) Mark Stoup urge the Air Force Academy Board of Visitors (BoV) to recommend that the Secretary of the Air Force order implementation of improvements to the Air Force Academy (USAFA) conduct/honor/disenrollment systems, as and for the reasons stated below.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Senator (ret) Mike Rose and Colonel (ret) Mark Stoup recommend USAFA improve fairness by ensuring fair hearings before disenrollment, minimizing Article 15 punishments, and aligning disciplinary practices with legal standards. They urge clearer communications, proportional sanctions, training, holding accountable officers and cadets, data tracking, and addressing coercion concerns. Emphasizing rehabilitation over retribution, they call for accountability and legal compliance to protect cadet rights and ensure integrity, fairness and perceived fairness.

This document urges the U.S. Air Force Academy Board of Visitors to recommend comprehensive reforms to the Academy's cadet conduct, honor, and disenrollment systems to ensure due process, fairness, transparency, and proportionality. Key recommendations include requiring fair hearings before disenrollment, minimizing the use of Article 15 punishments, ensuring punishments are reasonable and rehabilitative, improving advance notice and training for cadets and officers, enhancing data collection, and fostering a culture that values legal compliance, fairness and cadet development over punitive measures.

1. REQUIRE FAIR HEARING BEFORE INVOLUNTARY DISENROLLMENT FROM AFA

Receipt of a USAFA Bachelor of Science degree after having met USAFA's academic requirements, graduation from USAFA, commissioning as an officer

(with rank and pay above that of a cadet) and reputation are significant property interests protected by the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment of the US Constitution. Restrictions, walking tours and required labor are liberty interests protected by due process. Due process requires that the government do what is “fundamentally fair” under the circumstances.ⁱ

- On December 12, 2025, the United States General Accountability Office (GAO) published a Congressionally required 110-page report (GAO Report) comparing the conduct and honor systems at the five service academies.
- That GAO Reportⁱⁱ states “hearings are **not** typically required to adjudicate offenses (emphasis added)”ⁱⁱⁱ at USAFA.
- Multiple disenrolled cadets report they had no fair hearing before their disenrollment from USAFA, and they believe they likely would not have been disenrolled if they had had a fair hearing.
- Second Circuit Court of Appeals decisions identified by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) require a fair hearing before disenrollment from a service academy, and state a fair hearing consists of reasonable prior notice of allegations, evidence and punishments; a fair opportunity to rebut the allegations and evidence with a personal appearance, calling witnesses, the assistance of legal counsel, reasonable time to prepare for a hearing, impartial decision makers, etc. The hearing provided before disenrollment should be about whether (1) facts alleged to justify enrollment are accurate and (2) the facts that are accurate justify/warrant disenrollment versus a lesser punishment. See GAO Report (Dec. 2025), at 9-10, citing Wasson v. Trowbridge, 382 F.2d 807 (2d Cir. 1967)(due process requires that individuals facing expulsion from a military or quasi-military institution be given a fair hearing where they are informed of the charges and allowed to present a defense; cadet’s allegations regarding impartiality of the panel, denial of witnesses, and lack of full disclosure of evidence merited further examination); Hagopian v. Knowlton, 470 F.2d 201 (2nd Cir. 1972)(when an accumulation of awarded demerits renders the cadet subject to separation, he must be granted a fair hearing before being separated, including the right to personally appear and to present witnesses and other evidence in his behalf); Phillips v. Marsh, 687 F.2d 620 (2d Cir. 1982); Andrews v. Knowlton, 509 F.2d 898 (2d Cir. 1975) (due process requirements “not a rigid formula,” depends on balancing multiple factors, including military operational needs).

2. DISCONTINUE OR MINIMIZE GIVING ARTICLE 15s TO CADETS

- Article 15 legally can be applied to cadets because cadets are subject to UCMJ (United States v. Ellman, 9 U.S.C.M.A. 549, 26 C.M.R. 329, 332, 333 (1958)).
- STOP or MINIMIZE giving cadets an Art 15 because, e.g., (a) unnecessary –

not used at AFA until 2003; (b) punishments sometimes exceed limits of Art 15; (c) cadets may be unaware of consequences of getting an Art 15: e.g., cadets not informed Art 15 they accept can be used to disenroll them from AFA, resulting in having to repay as much as \$150,000+ or serve as much as three years in enlisted status, and can follow cadets after AFA graduation as unfavorable information, thereby misleading cadets about total quantity/nature/significance of punishments; (d) insufficient means/time for cadets to rebut allegations.

3. LIMIT QUANTITY AND NATURE OF CADET PUNISHMENTS TO WHAT IS RATIONAL, REASONABLE, PROPORTIONATE AND NEEDED FOR LEARNING, REHABILITATION AND DETERRENCE

- Punishments should be reasonable; rational; proportionate to the offense; not excessive or abusive; for rehabilitation and deterrence, not retribution
- Quantity of administrative punishments must not exceed limits in Article 15, UCMJ, promulgated by Congress
- Probation is a STATUS, not a punishment per se; placing a cadet on probation and giving punishments should be separate decisions, instead of automatically giving punishments based on the length of the probation, and thereby allow commanders discretion (e.g., maybe a cadet should get six months probation but only two months of restrictions)
- There is no rational and reasonable justification for humiliating and wasting the time of cadets by making them walk “tours,” i.e., walk back and forth for 50 minutes per “tour” in public view, for hours each week, instead of receiving more constructive punishments.
 - Restrictions, confinements, counseling, warnings and tours should be for the purposes of achieving deterrence and rehabilitation, if rehabilitation is possible, not retribution.
 - The initial reason the Air Force Academy adopted “tours” for cadet punishments is because West Point graduate officers who started the curriculum at the AFA imported from West Point “tours” as a punishment; consider whether “tours,” which are not imposed anywhere else in the Air/Space Force or ROTC for any purpose, continue as punishment for AFA cadets solely due to habit or because it serves a beneficial purpose not replaceable with something better, like administratively imposed constructive “extra duty” having an educational/socially/spiritually redeeming value.
 - Cadets should not be restricted for months to protect them from doing something else stupid that will require disenrollment. Rather, the amount and type of punishments should be limited to what is needed to teach how and why the misconduct was wrong and should not be repeated. Once sufficient punishment has been imposed to accomplish

that, cadets should be free of punishment as are other cadets so they can be tested to see if they can conduct themselves responsibly so as to justify graduation and commissioning. If, on the other hand, cadets are restricted/confined excessively to prevent them from having an opportunity to engage in misconduct – “screw up” – again, AFA leadership will not know before the time for graduation/commissioning if the cadet has learned lessons sufficient to cause the cadet to act responsibly as an officer.

4. ADVANCE NOTICE OF REQUIREMENTS AND PUNISHMENTS, ALLEGED MISCONDUCT, EVIDENCE AND CONSEQUENCES, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF NOT GRADUATING

- Give cadets prior notice of and training about conduct expected and possible punishments for misconduct, so they have opportunity to avoid inadvertent misconduct.
- Give cadets at least 30 days advance notice they may not graduate, before normal graduation date, to minimize inconvenience to cadet families/friends planning to attend graduation.

5. TIMING

- Punish misconduct within a reasonable time after the misconduct; delaying for months between the misconduct and the punishment for the misconduct is not reasonable.
- Give cadets a reasonable time to prepare to rebut allegations and evidence before a hearing about disenrollment; current three days allowed is not reasonable.

6. TRAINING CADETS

- Teach cadets nature and purpose of conduct expected and penalties for noncompliance (as done regarding cadet honor system).
- Test cadets’ knowledge of proscriptions of conduct and honor systems, as with other military knowledge.

7. TRAINING OFFICER LEADERSHIP

- Train and expect officers to lead cadets to avoid misconduct
- Train officers to know, understand and apply properly the conduct and honor systems; GAO Report states 64% of 3075 USAFA cadets polled by GAO identified “different understanding of rules and regulations among decision-

makers” as a “cause of unfair conduct offense findings.”

8. ATTITUDE/CULTURE CHANGES

- Purpose of punishments is rehabilitation and deterrence, not retribution
 - Consider cadets as valuable resources whose disenrollment should be rare and only when “clearly warranted” (not just by “preponderance of the evidence”)
- Officer leadership is responsible knowing, understanding and applying conduct/honor/disenrollment systems properly
- Officer leadership is responsible for training cadets to comply with conduct standards
- Officers rated as responsible for failures of leadership for excessive misconduct by cadets under their command
- Officer leaders are not infallible and therefore should not have unfettered discretion to impose unlimited, excessive punishments
- **RESULTS. Inconsistencies, lack of a fair hearing, *ex post facto* changes and other irregularities violating fair due process cause (1) careers and lives to be destroyed; (2) morale and respect to plummet; (3) cadets not to learn by example proper ways to administer discipline as officers; and (4) the Air and Space Forces, and our country, to lose good people unnecessarily and at great cost.**

9. ACCOUNTABILITY OF USAFA LEADERSHIP

- Judge USAFA commanders in part on rate and nature of cadet disciplinary problems; hold them responsible for failures of leadership evidenced by excessive deviations from misconduct norms under their command

10. REAPPOINTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AFTER DISENROLLMENT

- Allow selected disenrolled cadets to reapply to the AFA and be readmitted if they comply with criteria showing they have been rehabilitated and likely would be good officers; there may be no need to ruin a cadet’s life with permanent USAFA expulsion for a mistake in conduct, if warranted by the cadet’s overall record

11. STATUS CHECKS

- Officers should do periodic “status checks” to determine if lengthy punishments should be curtailed because of progress

12. IMPROVE CADET DISCIPLINE DATA COLLECTION

- AFA data collection/tracking very deficient according to GAO, which reported:
 - A. “At the Air Force Academy, conduct case data were not centrally collected and available for analysis.”^{iv} USAFA does not collect data on reports of conduct offenses,^v appeals,^{vi} the use of administrative sanctions or disenrollments resulting from a conduct offense.^{vii} **USAFA was the only one of the five academies that could not provide the GAO data about its conduct violation cases, including hearings and findings.**^{viii} (Emphasis added.)
 - B. “Air Force Academy officials told us that their use of a spreadsheet to track honor-related cases limits their ability to maintain visibility over required tasks related to processing an honor case and showing what stage it is in.”^{ix}
 - C. The availability of due process protections available to cadets needs to be better articulated to cadets;^x a better set of data collection for all stages of the honor and conduct systems needs to be maintained;^{xi} and the timely access to honor and conduct data needs to be implemented.^{xii}
- AFA should track, record and monitor the process and progress of all cadet discipline/honor/conduct cases at every stage.

13. COERCION. On 20 Jun 2025 cadets were given a written Letter of Notification that they were being recommended for disenrollment from USAFA. Subsequently, on 3 Jul 2025 those cadets were informed by the Superintendent they would not be disenrolled if they accepted five more months of probation and punishments. **The cadets had no effective option but to accept the additional probation and punishments.** The impact of this “Hobson’s choice” was expressed in writing by a cadet to USAFA as follows:

“In my eyes the environment and way we have been treated has been extremely, extremely coercive. I was given an offer and a probationary placement where the flipside to this would most certainly be disenrollment regardless of strides made during my time at the Academy. This has not felt like a fair or just arrangement in my eyes. The situation has felt like more of a pick your poison.”

A second cadet expressed his view of the unfairness of the cadets’ treatment as follows:

“I am accepting this [ten month] probation under duress, and only because I believe it is the sole remaining path to preserve my future in

the United States Air Force. The environment surrounding this decision has been, in my view, deeply coercive. I have been placed in a situation where refusal would almost certainly result in disenrollment, regardless of my performance, character, or contributions throughout my time at the Academy. I do not accept this arrangement as fair or just-only as the lesser of two unacceptable options.

At no point has this felt like a true choice. The message has been clear: comply or be removed. I believe that is fundamentally inconsistent with the ideals of leadership, trust, and development that the Academy is supposed to embody.”

14. GOALS OF CADET CONDUCT/HONOR/DISENROLLMENT SYSTEMS:

- **Strict Legal Compliance:** The Academy must bring its cadet disciplinary systems into full and rigorous compliance with the law, ensuring unequivocally that due process is provided.
- **Inherent and Perceived Fairness:** The disciplinary system must be implemented so that it is not only objectively fair but is perceived and respected by both the cadets and the American public as fundamentally fair.

Lt. Gen. John M. Schofield on Discipline in his address to West Point Corps of Cadets in 1879:

“The discipline which makes the soldiers of a free country reliable in battle is not to be gained by harsh or tyrannical treatment. On the contrary, such treatment is far more likely to destroy than to make an army. It is possible to impart instruction and give commands in such a manner and such a tone of voice as to inspire in the soldier no feeling but an intense desire to obey, while the opposite manner and tone of voice cannot fail to excite strong resentment and a desire to disobey. The one mode or the other in dealing with subordinates springs from a corresponding spirit in the breast of the commander. He who feels the respect which is due to others cannot fail to inspire in them respect for himself; while he who feels, and hence manifests, disrespect toward others, especially his subordinates, cannot fail to inspire hatred against himself.”

- **Modeling Exceptional Leadership:** The Academy must teach cadets by setting the highest standards of example. The system must demonstrate firsthand exactly how cadets are expected to administer discipline effectively, fairly, and legally when they become commissioned military officers.

- Teach Cadets to Modify Behavior Rather Than Disenroll Them Without Compelling Cause: Give cadets an opportunity to learn and rehabilitate from mistakes to improve character and officership. Every year the AFA admits over a thousand new cadets who are among the “cream of the crop” but also involuntarily disenrolls many cadets. Cadets should be considered valuable resources in whom the AFA has invested and who should be given the opportunity to learn and rehabilitate from mistakes, rather than disenrolling the cadets, when reasonable to do so.

15. DESIRED ATTITUDES TOWARD LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Legal requirements regarding cadet discipline (conduct/honor/disenrollment) at the AFA:

- A. Are not optional and must be obeyed, as part of the legal and moral duty to support and defend the Constitution;
- B. Have been violated at the academies on an ongoing basis, even when inadvertent and in good faith;
- C. Are “friends” that protect rights and prevent abuse/injustice/unfairness/excess, not just “legalisms” and “technicalities” that get guilty people “off the hook;”
- D. Should be viewed as beneficial, to ensure justice, prevent abuse and avoid litigation/appeals/adverse publicity, etc.;
- E. Would be complied with correctly if greater advance understanding and training were provided to officers and cadets;
- F. Should be and be perceived as “fundamentally fair,” to ensure legal compliance and cadet/officer/public respect;
- G. Change and evolve as legal principles/rules/interpretations/decisions change, but maintain certain foundational baseline principles, e.g., the requirement for due process;
- H. Are not always clear;
- I. Should teach and model how cadets must/should administer discipline/justice as officers and commanders;
- J. Are not the same as, and can and should differ in certain respects from, military administrative discipline systems in the “real” military outside of the service academy context, but within limits;
- K. Are technical and not always intuitive, and therefore must be taught, learned and tested to ensure understanding and compliance, resulting in less misconduct;
- L. Must be monitored constantly to ensure compliance and to avoid abuse; and
- M. Should not be assumed to be being implemented or understood correctly merely because of the longevity or approvals of the existing systems.



The Honorable Michael T. Rose, JD/MBA
USAFA 1969



Colonel Mark Stoup
JAG USAF, ret

ⁱ See, e.g., *Gagnon v. Scarpelli*, 411 U.S. 778, 790 (1973) (“fundamental fairness – the touchstone of due process”); *Walters v. National Ass’n of Radiation Survivors*, 473 U.S. 305, 312, 321 (1985) (due process violated when process “fundamentally unfair;” “fundamental fairness” required).

ⁱⁱ The GAO Report examines the extent to which each academy’s “honor and conduct systems . . . [1] provide common procedural due process protections [and the academies] [2] collect honor and conduct data;” and describes “[3] the perceptions and attitudes of students toward their respective academy’s honor and conduct systems.”ⁱⁱⁱ Importantly, this GAO Report fails to address the adequacy, fairness, and legality of the due process procedures the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) says its conduct and honor systems provide. Letter dated December 16, 2025, from U.S. Government Accountability Office to Congressional Committees, at 1.

ⁱⁱⁱ GO Report, at 25, 32.

^{iv} GAO Report, at 62.

^v GAO Report, at 38.

^{vi} GAO Report, at 37.

^{vii} GAO Report, at 39.

^{viii} GAO Report, at 74 (Table 24) – 79 (Table 30).

^{ix} GAO Report, at 41.

^x GAO Report, at 54-55.

^{xi} GAO Report, at 55.

^{xii} GAO Report, at 56.

MEMORANDUM FOR USAFA BOARD OF VISITORS

13 July 2026

FROM: Larry D. Card II, Col, USAF Retired
19630 N. Mitkof Loop
Eagle River, AK 99577
907-691-4679

SUBJECT: Issues Regarding the Disenrollment of Cadet [REDACTED]

My name is Larry Card, I am a 1993 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), a former Air Officer Commander, and a career A-10 pilot who commanded a fighter squadron and an operations group. On 5 May 2026, the Secretary of the Air Force authorized Cadet [REDACTED] to complete his USAF Academy commitment through a four-year Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program leading to appointment as a commissioned officer in the Air Force upon graduation (Exhibit #1, attached). This allowance is based on his strong performance as a USAFA cadet and several issues with his disenrollment that are currently being challenged. These **issues include not conducting a dismissal hearing as required by law (Exhibit #2, attached), issuing an Article 15 with inadequate supporting evidence of a crime, and removing a sworn exculpatory statement from evidence.**

Background

In July 2025 Cadet [REDACTED], while visiting a friend in Hawaii and after consuming alcoholic beverages to excess, left the house to go to a convenience store to get a Gatorade and accidentally walked into the wrong house upon his return. He was arrested, but charges were later dropped. This event took place in a neighborhood where several houses were undergoing renovations and were all very similar. When he realized he entered the wrong house, he left immediately.

In October 2025, after still not having received punishment for the July offense, Cadet [REDACTED] was with friends celebrating the life of a fellow USAFA cadet who committed suicide and who they thought had been treated as an insignificant event by USAFA leadership. He was mistakenly dropped off by the designated driver at the entrance to the neighborhood instead of at his girlfriend's house. While walking to his girlfriend's house he was stopped by a gentleman that identified himself as an **off-duty police officer** and **asked why he had walked in a yard**. He told him **he did not remember ever being in anyone's yard** and was walking to his girlfriend's house. He eventually got in touch with his girlfriend and was picked up by her. The girlfriend, also a cadet, gave a sworn statement to the chain of command that the off-duty police officer told her and her mother that he stayed with Cadet [REDACTED] because he had been drinking, and wanted to make sure he got home safely, but

there had been no complaints. The next day the **officer called the base security police.** The conversation lasted at least 9 minutes. The leadership was **only provided with an 8-sentence summary of the call** (Exhibit 3, attached). Transcripts or recording of the call were never provided or requested. The gentleman left a call back number which **no one ever called back. No sworn statement was provided by the gentleman, nor was his identity or profession verified.** At this point all that has been received by the leadership is an accusation with inadequate supporting evidence.

Cadet [REDACTED] was issued an Article 15 that included both incidents described above. The Article 15 as it pertains to the July incident was supported by evidence which included several sworn statements. **The only evidence for the October incident was the 8-sentence summary** of the call in which there is an accusation of trespassing into a backyard with no information to explain what evidence was being used to make the accusation. The off-duty policeman's **first encounter with Cadet [REDACTED] was 3 blocks from the yard** he accused him of trespassing, and the policeman admitted that his **knowledge was secondhand.** Additionally, the yard was not along the route of travel. The other evidence collected by the chain of command is the sworn exculpatory statement given by the cadet who picked up Cadet [REDACTED] (Exhibit 4, attached) which said that the **accuser told her that there had been no wrongdoing by Cadet [REDACTED]. The chain of command did not include this statement in evidence, and therefore it was never considered.** The statement, however, was included in Cadet [REDACTED]'s response to the Article 15 given to him so it was available for consideration when determining if they had proof based on the preponderance of the evidence.

This guilty determination was used, and not questioned, to disenroll Cadet [REDACTED] from the Air Force Academy. The reason for disenrollment was two alcohol related incidents involving two incidents of trespassing. Since the disenrollment hearing, required by law, did not take place there was not an opportunity to rebut the fact that there was inadequate supporting evidence, and a sworn exculpatory statement removed from evidence. **When confronted with the fact that there was no evidence and no attempt at an investigation, the Vice Superintendent stated that they did not need to investigate** since the accusation was made by an off-duty police officer (Exhibit #5, attached). **This implementation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and Cadet Disciplinary System and especially not conducting the legally required disenrollment hearings have resulted in failures to provide due process to USAFA cadets.** The Government Accountability Office has identified significant deficiencies with the implementation of the USAFA disciplinary system. **All Article 15s and disenrollments need to be investigated, and wrongs to cadet men and women who represent the best of this great nation need to be corrected.**

USAFA's Illusion of Evidence

I have mentioned the fact that evidence presented for the Article 15 consisted of an **8-sentence summary of the accuser's phone call**. It is debatable whether this should have been included in evidence at all since it is **not a first-hand account from the accuser and does not transcribe the call word for word**. What is not debatable is that the **last page in Exhibit 3 should not have been included as evidence**. That page is an email from the chain of command, MSgt Jackson, where he states that [REDACTED] climbed a fence into a backyard and that there is a potential for legal action. Neither of MSgt Jackson's statements were mentioned in the summary of the call. This is conjecture developed by verbally passing information from the call from person to person. The trespass accusation was passed to the accuser from his neighbor; the accuser called the base security forces desk, who called MSgt Filip who called MSgt Jackson, then MSgt Jackson authored the email. Despite **MSgt Jackson's information being 5th hand** and not matching the 3rd hand information in the summary, it was still included as evidence without further clarification.

[REDACTED] was raised as the son of a career Air Force officer and is fourth consecutive generation to serve the nation. He was instilled with values that always prove paramount to that service. **Honesty and being forthright are at the core of who he is as a person**. In his statement in response to the Article 15, **he admitted to drinking too much while celebrating the cadet who recently committed suicide**. He admitted that he drank to the point of not remembering much prior to being detained. This honesty led him to be able to **stop drinking for good only months after turning 21**. This ability to be honest with himself, and his chain of command is what **led to him to develop an Alcohol Awareness program that would prevent other cadets from making the same mistake**. These traits along with his extraordinary work ethic, and selflessness resulted in the Secretary of the Air Force allowing him to still be commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps. **Unfortunately, the path through ROTC is not viable** due to the Superintendent recommending that he not be considered for commissioning without weighing the needs of the Air Force against the reason for disenrollment (Exhibit 8, attached). Additionally, it is required that he complete the entire 4-year ROTC program and can only do undergraduate work (Exhibit 1, attached) and be commissioned upon completion of that degree. He only has 1-2 years remaining to complete an undergraduate degree, which would not allow him to complete the entire ROTC program.

Conclusion

Cadet [REDACTED] was an exceptional performer at USAFA, and this is reflected in his transcript (Exhibit 7, attached) this is reflected in his commander's statement below:

"Cadet [REDACTED] operates at an extraordinary level; I have rarely seen a cadet who possesses his initiative, ownership, and ability to execute complex logistical tasks under pressure...he displays the discipline and proficiency of a seasoned officer, representing a significant return on the Air Force's investment" (Exhibit 6, attached)

He was disenrolled from USAFA after being found guilty in **Article 15 proceedings that involved many errors and oversights resulting in a failure to provide due process**. He took full responsibility for all his actions, as previously discussed. [REDACTED] would have, and will, happily accept whatever probation or additional punishment is required based on his actual offenses. His commander also addressed this character trait:

“He has offered no excuses, sought no loopholes, and has faced his leadership with genuine remorse and a willingness to accept the consequences of his actions. This specific type of moral courage – the ability to admit fault without hesitation – is a trait we desperately need in our officer corps.” (Exhibit 6, attached)

According to Cadet [REDACTED]’s commander, the **Commandant of Cadet’s recommendation was for Cadet [REDACTED] to serve one year enlisted with the opportunity to return to USAFA afterwards**, rather than be disenrolled. Even though the Superintendent recommended disenrollment with no return, the **Secretary of the Air Force ruled that Cadet [REDACTED] could be allowed to be commissioned through ROTC**. These decisions were all made without addressing the serious due process issues. Brig Gen Marks, the Commandant, eliminated USAFA’s mandatory alcohol awareness program resulting in cadets turning 21 at the end of their third year and having no guidance and mentoring in this area. **Cadet [REDACTED] stopped drinking seven months after turning 21 for the rest of his life. He developed an alcohol awareness program that he volunteered to help implement at USAFA, as part of his payback**, to ensure that cadets have the tools needed to avoid getting in situations like he got himself in. **The Article 15 must be corrected to represent the actual evidence provided. Lesser punishment would be more appropriate and should result in Cadet [REDACTED] returning to USAFA to complete the one semester he has remaining.**

Exhibits

- 1 – Educational Deferment
- 2 – Legal Requirement for Dismissal Hearing
- 3 – 5 Oct NJP Evidence
- 4 – Sworn Exculpatory Statement Removed from Evidence
- 5 – USAFA Response to Senator Murkowski
- 6 – Commander’s Statement
- 7 – Cadet [REDACTED] Transcript
- 8 – DoD Form 785

Exhibit 1

Educational Deferment Package



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

5 May 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR [REDACTED]

FROM: USAFA/JAJC
2304 Cadet Drive, Ste 2100
US Air Force Academy, CO 80840

SUBJECT: Notification of Educational Delay Approval

1. The Secretary of the Air Force has reviewed the circumstances of your disenrollment and has approved your request for an educational delay. You will be separated from cadet status and granted an educational delay to pursue an AFROTC commission effective immediately. This educational delay will require that you are accepted in an AFROTC college undergraduate degree program leading to an appointment as a commissioned officer in the Air Force upon graduation.

2. Acknowledge receipt and understanding of this communication by signature below, returning the original letter to Cadet Disenrollments within 72 hours of receipt.

AARON T. HAASE, GS-13, USAF
Attorney Advisor, Cadet Actions

[REDACTED]
Date _____



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

MEMORANDUM FOR ADMISSIONS/COUNSELING OFFICIAL

FROM: HQ USAFA/JAJC
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 2100
USAF Academy CO 80840-5050

SUBJECT: Education Certification

1. [REDACTED] has departed from the United States Air Force Academy and incurred an active duty service commitment to the Air Force. This student may be eligible to enter your AFROTC program and granted an educational delay in serving this duty to allow completion of an undergraduate degree at your institution.

2. For the student to be eligible for this educational delay, we require you to certify that all the conditions listed below are true. Please complete the attached endorsement and return this letter with a raised seal to the student for forwarding to:

HQ USAFA/JAJC	HQ USAFA/A1A	HQ AFPC/DPPAES
2304 Cadet Dr, Ste 2200	Vandenberg Drive Ste 3C24	550 C St West Ste 10
USAF Academy CO 80840	USAF Academy CO 80840	Randolph AFB TX 78150

3. This former Academy cadet is required to complete all AFROTC requirements, graduate and be commissioned in the United States Air Force or he/she will be called to active duty to complete their service commitment to reimburse the government for their education at the Academy.

4. If you have any questions regarding this procedure, please contact Cadet Disenrollments at (719) 333-3979/0738 or Cadet Personnel at (719) 333-3244/2081.

Katharine R. Bicki

KATHARINE R. BICKI, GS-11, DAFC
Cadet Actions Paralegal

1st Ind, Admissions/Counseling Official

TO: HQ USAFA/IAJC

1. I certify _____ has been accepted and contracted as an AFROTC student at _____ (college or university) and all of the following conditions are true:

A. The student plans to complete an undergraduate degree in _____
(Specify major)

B. The earliest enrollment date (including summer sessions) is _____ and the projected graduation date is _____.
Month and Year

C. The member is enrolled and contracted as a full time AFROTC student.

Signature and Title of Certifying Official

University Seal

EDUCATIONAL DELAY STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

1. I have been advised by the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Cadet Disenrollments, that I may request a delay in my call to active duty to permit completion of my undergraduate degree requirements at a civilian college or university through the AFROTC program. If my request to be enrolled and contracted in AFROTC is approved, I understand active duty being either 30 days after the completion of the AFROTC program and commissioning into the United States Air Force, or upon termination of AFROTC student status, or failure to abide by the requirements established in paragraph 2 below, whichever occurs first. Failure to secure approval or complete the required application actions in the time allowed below will result in immediate active-duty service consistent with my obligation incurred for my Academy education.

2. I understand that I will be given **(150 days) – 2 October 2026** to secure enrollment and a contract in an AFROTC-sanctioned program. I further understand and agree with the following:

a. I must enroll and be contracted as a **full-time** student in an AFROTC college or university for the entire length of the educational delay.

b. If any enrollment or contract status changes occur that will affect completing an undergraduate degree within the terms of the approved educational delay plan, including early completion of undergraduate degree requirements, I must immediately notify HQ AFPC/DPPAES in writing at the following address:

HQ AFPC/DPPAES
550 C St West Ste 10
Randolph AFB TX 8150-4712
(210) 565-3152

c. I must keep a current mailing address on file with the Airman Accessions Branch, HQ AFPC/DPPAES.

d. I will not enter into any agreements with any other branches of service or other Air Force commissioning sources without obtaining prior approval from the Secretary of the Air Force. This request should be submitted to HQ AFPC/DPPAES at the above address. They will review your request and make an appropriate recommendation.

3. This delay is contingent upon approval by the Secretary of the Air Force. It is also contingent upon timely submission of the attached Educational Delay Certification Letter. Furthermore, all conditions on the attached educational delay letter must be certified by an admissions/counseling official to validate the educational delay.

4. I understand it is my responsibility to ensure the Educational Delay Certification Letter is completed and returned to the following agencies: HQ AFPC/DPPAES, HQ USAFA/DPYQS, and HQ USAFA/JAJC no later than **2 October 2026**. If I fail to meet any of these conditions outlined above or fail to return the educational delay letter by the above suspense date and **have not received an extension from HQ AFPC/DPPAES at (210) 565-3152**, I understand that the

educational delay will be voided, and I will be ordered **DIRECTLY** to active duty. Mail the Educational Delay Certification Letter to:

HQ USAFA/A1A

2360 Vandenberg Drive Ste 3C24

USAF Academy CO 80840-8720

HQ AFPC/DPPAES

550 C St West Ste 10

Randolph AFB TX 78150

HQ USAFA/JAJC

2304 Cadet Dr, Ste 2100

USAF Academy CO 80840

5. I understand that I have incurred an active-duty service commitment to serve in enlisted status for a period of **3 years**.

6. I understand that failure to adhere to the terms of this statement of understanding or complete my AFROTC commissioning program may cause reinstatement of any active-duty service commitment or financial recoupment of educational benefits provided by AFROTC and/or the Air Force Academy.

Printed Name/Social Security Number

Signature

Signature of Witness

Date



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

CUI
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC



ACTION

on behalf of the

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

It is directed that former Cadet First [REDACTED] be transferred to the Air Force Reserve in an enlisted status and ordered to active duty for completion of the active-duty service commitment incurred by attendance at the United States Air Force Academy in accordance with Section 9448 of Title 10, United States Code. Furthermore, an educational delay of former Cadet First Class [REDACTED] active-duty service commitment is approved. The educational delay is conditioned upon acceptance in a college undergraduate degree program and an Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) program leading to appointment as a commissioned officer in the Air Force upon graduation. If such acceptance is not secured within 150 days of receipt of this action, former Cadet First Class [REDACTED] shall be ordered to active duty in enlisted status in accordance with Sections 2005 and 9448 of Title 10, United States Code, unless granted an extension of his educational delay.

If accepted into a college undergraduate degree and ROTC program within the specified timeframe, former Cadet First Class [REDACTED] shall be ordered to active duty not later than 30 days after completion of undergraduate degree requirements, or termination of student or AFROTC cadet status, whichever occurs first. Unless sooner released by competent authority, former Cadet First Class [REDACTED] will serve the remaining active-duty service commitment resulting from his attendance at the United States Air Force Academy or the active duty service commitment, if any, incurred as a result of AFROTC participation and commissioning, whichever is longer.

This action is taken under the authority delegated by the Secretary of the Air Force.

MCINTOSH.TROY
X Y.J.1178088099

Digitally signed by
MCINTOSH.TROY.J.1178088099
Date: 2026.05.05 08:13:01
+04'00'

TROY J. MCINTOSH, SES
Director
Air Force Review Boards Agency

CUI

Controlled by: SAF/MRBP CUI Category(ies): PRVCY Limited Dissemination Control: FEDCON POC: saf.mrbp.workflow@us.af.mil
--

Exhibit 2

Requirement for Hearing

In December, 2025, the Government Accountability Office published a report about the cadet disciplinary systems at the five service academies. The GAO cited, on pages 9-19 of that report, the following Second Circuit Court of Appeals decisions ruling that a fair hearing is required before disenrolling a cadet from a service academy, and that a fair hearing consists of prior notice of allegations, evidence and possible punishments; and a fair opportunity to rebut the allegations and evidence, which includes the ability to make a personal appearance, call witnesses, present evidence, obtain the assistance of competent legal counsel and have a reasonable time to prepare for the hearing:

Wasson v. Trowbridge, 382 F.2d 807 (2d Cir. 1967)(due process requires that individuals facing expulsion from a military or quasi-military institution be given a fair hearing where they are informed of the charges and allowed to present a defense; cadet's allegations regarding impartiality of the panel, denial of witnesses, and lack of full disclosure of evidence merited further examination); Hagopian v. Knowlton, 470 F.2d 201 (2nd Cir. 1972)(when an accumulation of awarded demerits renders the cadet subject to separation, he must be granted a fair hearing before being separated, including the right to personally appear and to present witnesses and other evidence in his behalf); Phillips v. Marsh, 687 F.2d 620 (2d Cir. 1982). See Andrews v. Knowlton, 509 F.2d 898 (2d Cir. 1975) (due process requirements "not a rigid formula," depends on balancing multiple factors, including military operational needs).

Exhibit 3

5 Oct NJP Evidence

From:
To:

[REDACTED]

Subject: CUI\\Security Forces Official Blotter 4 OCT 2025
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 5:08:51 AM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

CUI

CUI//LEI

This e-mail contains Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)

Sir/Ma'am,

Please reference below for Security Forces Official Blotter dated 4 OCT 2025.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[illegible]

[REDACTED]

0239

INFORMATIONAL ENTRY:

LOCATION/GATE: 8172 Wheatland Dr. Colorado Springs, CO. 80908

LOCATION/GATE: 8602 Blue Feather Dr. Colorado Springs, CO. 80908

NATURE: ASSIST OUTSIDE AGENCY (Citizen Contact)

COMPLAINANT: Trooper MONTOYA/Colorado State Patrol

SUBJECT: C1C [REDACTED]

SYNOPSIS: At 0239 the BDOC received telephonic notification from COMPLAINANT about him making contact with SUBJECT that was in the backyard at LOCATION 1 approximately at 0100.

0244: COMPLAINANT relayed to the BDOC that he was off duty and was contacted by his neighbor about an intoxicated SUBJECT in his backyard.

0246: COMPLAINANT stated that he contacted El Paso County Sheriffs Office for an on duty deputy to respond. EPSO built a call however was unable to send a deputy due to the priority of other calls.

0247: COMPLAINANT made contact with SUBJECT and was able to identify SUBJECT as a Cadet. COMPLAINANT was able to make contact with SUBJECT's girlfriend. The Mother of the girlfriend picked the SUBJECT up and took him to LOCATION 2.

0248: COMPLAINANT requested that SUBJECT's leadership be notified.

0254: The BDOC contacted MSGT FILIP/AMT/CS-27 to inform him of the Citizen Contact with COMPLAINANT and SUBJECT.

TERMINATION: 0256

V/R,

[REDACTED]
Flight Sergeant, S3OC
10th Security Forces Squadron
USAF Academy
DSN: 333-2002

"The Defense Force Commander (DFC) determines who may receive the Security Forces blotter. Blotters are Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI), and it is prohibited to e-mail blotters out to personnel not listed on the 10 SFS Blotter distribution list."

Controlled by: 10 SFS
CUI Category: LEI
Distribution: FEDCON / PRVCY
POC: [REDACTED] 333-2030

CUI

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Johnson, Justin L MSgt USAF USAFA CW/CS27 <Justin.Johnson@afacademy.af.edu>

Sent: Sunday, October 5, 2025 3:53 AM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Subject: CCIR - ARI C1C [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

BLUF: This morning Sunday, October 5th, C1C [REDACTED] was detained by an off-duty trooper for being on the property of the trooper's neighbor.

UPDATES: At 0239 Sunday morning, October 5th, MSgt Filip was called by BDOC to inform him that C1C [REDACTED] jumped a fence into a local resident's backyard. MSgt Filip relayed the message to me at 0300. The resident's neighbor is a state trooper, last name Montoya, contact number 719-334-1469. The resident contacted the trooper for help. The trooper detained C1C [REDACTED], identified him, and assessed that he was highly intoxicated. Being off duty, the trooper contacted the El Paso County deputy office, but they were unable to respond due to manning constraints. He called BDOC informing them to pass the information to [REDACTED]'s command team. C1C [REDACTED] was released by the trooper to the mother of [REDACTED] girlfriend. At this time, no charges or tickets are being issued but it still can become a possibility. [REDACTED] is currently safe at his girlfriend's house, and we will be reaching out later in the morning. BDOC informed me that this will be on the blotter.

RECOMMENDATION: Keep this CCIR open until we receive further updates during the week. Standing by for questions or concerns.

V/R,

JUSTIN L. JOHNSON, MSgt, USAF
USAF Academy, CS-27
COMM: 719-333-9654
CELL: [REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Exhibit 4

Sworn Statement Omitted from Evidence

STATEMENT OF SUSPECT/WITNESS/COMPLAINANT				SUSPECT	
				WITNESS/COMPLAINANT	
PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT					
AUTHORITY: 10 U.S.C. 9013, Secretary of the Air Force, 44 U.S.C. 3101, and EO 9397					
PRINCIPAL PURPOSES: Used to record information and details of criminal activity which may require investigative action by commanders, supervisors, security police, AFOSI special agents, etc.; and to provide information to appropriate individuals within DoD organizations who ensure proper legal and administrative action is taken.					
ROUTINE USES: Information may be disclosed to local, county, state, and federal law enforcement/investigative authorities for investigation and possible criminal prosecution or civil court action. Information extracted from this form may be used in other related criminal and/or civil proceedings.					
DISCLOSURE IS VOLUNTARY: SSN is used to positively identify the individual making the statement					
I. STATEMENT INFORMATION					
DATE (YYYYMMDD)		TIME	LOCATION AND INSTALLATION (Bldg/Room No)	UNIT TAKING STATEMENT	REPEAT (If known)
20251008		14:20	USAF/ Sijan/5A45	CS-27	OFFENSE
					COMPLAINT
II. PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION(Print or Type)					
NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)			SSN	STATUS/GRADE	
				C2C	
LOCAL ADDRESS (Include Zip Code)			DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH (If required)	TELEPHONE	
				HOME	DUTY
					3105025778
PERMANENT ADDRESS OR HOME OF RECORD (Include Zip Code)			MILITARY ORGANIZATION/EMPLOYER		DEROS
			USAF		
SPONSOR INFORMATION					
NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		GRADE	SSN	ORGANIZATION	DUTY PHONE
III. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OFFENSES AND 5TH AMENDMENT/ARTICLE 31 RIGHTS ADVISEMENT (Suspect Only)					
I have been advised that I am suspected of the following offenses:					
ADVISED BY (Full Name and Rank)			INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFIED HIMSELF/HERSELF AS A (SF, special agent, etc.)		
SUSPECT INITIALS	and advised me that I have the following rights according to the 5th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution/Article 31 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.				
	I have the right to remain silent - that is to say nothing at all.				
	Any statement I make, oral or written, may be used as evidence against me in a trial or in other judicial, non-judicial, or administrative proceedings.				
	I have the right to consult with a lawyer.				
	I have the right to have a lawyer present during this interview.				
	I may obtain a civilian lawyer of my own choice at no expense to the government.				
	I may request a lawyer any time during this interview.				
	If I decide to answer questions with or without a lawyer present, I may stop the questioning at any time.				
	MILITARY ONLY: If I want a military lawyer, one will be appointed for me free of charge				
	CIVILIANS ONLY: If I cannot afford a lawyer and want one, a lawyer will be appointed for me by civilian authorities.				
SUSPECT INITIALS	I have read my rights as listed above and I fully understand my rights. No promises, threats, or inducements of any kind have been made to me. No pressure or coercion has been used against me. I make the following choice. (Initial One)				
	I do not want a lawyer. I am willing to answer questions or make a statement or both, about the offense(s) under investigation.				
	I do not want a lawyer and I do not wish to make a statement or answer any questions.				
	I want a lawyer. I will not make any statement or answer any questions until I talk to a lawyer.				
I fully understand my rights and that my signature does not constitute an admission of guilt.					
SIGNATURE OF SUSPECT			SIGNATURE OF WITNESS/INTERVIEWER		

SUSPECT

WITNESS/COMPLAINANT

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

AUTHORITY: 10 U.S.C. 9013, Secretary of the Air Force, 44 U.S.C. 3101, and EO 9397

PRINCIPAL PURPOSES: Used to record information and details of criminal activity which may require investigative action by commanders, supervisors, security police, AFOSI special agents, etc.; and to provide information to appropriate individuals within DoD organizations who ensure proper legal and administrative action is taken.

ROUTINE USES: Information may be disclosed to local, county, state, and federal law enforcement/investigative authorities for investigation and possible criminal prosecution or civil court action. Information extracted from this form may be used in other related criminal and/or civil proceedings.

DISCLOSURE IS VOLUNTARY: SSN is used to positively identify the individual making the statement

I. STATEMENT INFORMATION

DATE (YYYYMMDD)	TIME	LOCATION AND INSTALLATION (Bldg/Room No)	UNIT TAKING STATEMENT	REPEAT (If known)
20251008	14:20	USAFA/ Sijan/5A45	CS-27	OFFENSE
				COMPLAINT

II. PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION (Print or Type)

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) [REDACTED]	SSN [REDACTED]	STATUS/GRADE C2C	
LOCAL ADDRESS (Include Zip Code) [REDACTED]	DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH (If required) [REDACTED]	TELEPHONE	
		HOME	DUTY 3105025778
PERMANENT ADDRESS OR HOME OF RECORD (Include Zip Code) [REDACTED]	MILITARY ORGANIZATION/EMPLOYER USAFA		DEROS

SPONSOR INFORMATION

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)	GRADE	SSN	ORGANIZATION	DUTY PHONE

III. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OFFENSES AND 5TH AMENDMENT/ARTICLE 31 RIGHTS ADVISEMENT

(Suspect Only)

I have been advised that I am suspected of the following offenses:

ADVISED BY (Full Name and Rank)	INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFIED HIMSELF/HERSELF AS A (SF, special agent, etc.)
---------------------------------	--

SUSPECT INITIALS	and advised me that I have the following rights according to the 5th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution/Article 31 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.
	I have the right to remain silent - that is to say nothing at all.
	Any statement I make, oral or written, may be used as evidence against me in a trial or in other judicial, non-judicial, or administrative proceedings.
	I have the right to consult with a lawyer.
	I have the right to have a lawyer present during this interview.
	I may obtain a civilian lawyer of my own choice at no expense to the government.
	I may request a lawyer any time during this interview.
	If I decide to answer questions with or without a lawyer present, I may stop the questioning at any time.
	MILITARY ONLY: If I want a military lawyer, one will be appointed for me free of charge.
	CIVILIANS ONLY: If I cannot afford a lawyer and want one, a lawyer will be appointed for me by civilian authorities.

SUSPECT INITIALS	I have read my rights as listed above and I fully understand my rights. No promises, threats, or inducements of any kind have been made to me. No pressure or coercion has been used against me. I make the following choice. (Initial One)
	I do not want a lawyer. I am willing to answer questions or make a statement or both, about the offense(s) under investigation.
	I do not want a lawyer and I do not wish to make a statement or answer any questions.
	I want a lawyer. I will not make any statement or answer any questions until I talk to a lawyer.
	I fully understand my rights and that my signature does not constitute an admission of guilt.

SIGNATURE OF SUSPECT	SIGNATURE OF WITNESS/INTERVIEWER
----------------------	----------------------------------

IV. STATEMENT

Background: My parents moved to [REDACTED] December of 2024. Over the Summer of 2025, they moved to a new address, [REDACTED]. CIC [REDACTED] had been to the old address multiple times, but only to the new address once before the incident.

Event: In the evening of October 4, 2025 and morning of October 5, 2025, CIC [REDACTED] was out with friends in Downtown Colorado Springs. He was hoping to come to my house after and had another friend drive and drop him off at my new address, where my parents and I were. Because this address is a new housing development, google maps will take you to the neighborhood area, but not directly to my house (I got my wisdom teeth removed and I had to guide my AMT to the correct address as she was dropping me home). [REDACTED] was dropped off at the wrong address and with a low battery phone (I know this because when checking his Snapchat location, it informed me his battery was low. Additionally, his phone ran out of battery when he later arrived to my house). As he was walking around trying to find my address, he continued calling my phone. I was asleep and did not pick up his calls. By the time I answered, it was too late and an off-duty police officer found him and brought him aside. CIC [REDACTED] notified me of his location, where my mom and I then drove about 2 minutes away to pick up CIC [REDACTED] with the officer. The officer approached my mom and I and told us that he was just taking precaution around the area and that no reports of disturbance from CIC [REDACTED] were made. My mom and I then brought CIC [REDACTED] back to our house. CIC [REDACTED] was not a disturbance, he was merely trying to find my address after being incorrectly dropped off.

Character: CIC [REDACTED] has good character, excels as an astronautical engineering major, and very hard working. I've been mutuals with CIC [REDACTED] since High school (and now friends) and he has never showed signs of alcoholism. As someone who doesn't drink myself, CIC [REDACTED] has always been responsible. The two times he has drank more than usual just happened to be the two unlucky times that law enforcements have been involved. Until now, he has had a clean record. My dad has alzheimer's and CIC [REDACTED] has been there to help take care of him and complete tasks around the house such as painting and sealing the entire garage floor and patio.///END OF STATEMENT///

V. OATH/SIGNATURE

"I hereby voluntarily and of my own free will make this statement without having been subjected to any coercion, unlawful influence, or unlawful inducement. I swear (or affirm) I have read this statement, initialed all pages and corrections, and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS/INTERVIEWER

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 08 day of October, 2025 (year).

SIGNATURE OF PERSON ADMINISTERING OATH

VI. INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONTINUATION PAGE(S)

Use plain bond paper (both sides optional). At the top right of each page, print or type "(Last name of individual making the Statement) on (Date)." At the bottom of each page, print or type "Page ____ of ____ Pages." The individual must initial the top and bottom entries and sign his/her name at the bottom of each page.

Exhibit 5

USAFA Response to Senator Murkowski



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

MAR 10 2026

Brigadier General Nicholas B. Evans
Vice Superintendent, United States Air Force Academy
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3610
USAF Academy CO 80840-5001

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
510 L Street, Suite 600
Anchorage AK 99501



Dear Senator Murkowski:

This is in reply to your inquiry on behalf of Colonel (ret) Larry D. Card II regarding [REDACTED] Cadet First Class [REDACTED] and his disenrollment from the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA).

Cadet [REDACTED] was disenrolled due to a pattern of misconduct, specifically two instances of public intoxication within a 3-month period. The first incident occurred on July 20, 2025, when Cadet [REDACTED] was taken into custody for unlawfully entering the home of a family he misidentified as the house he was staying in due to heavy intoxication. The second incident occurred October 5, 2025, when he unlawfully entered the backyard of a homeowner, also while intoxicated. He was confronted by an off-duty Colorado State Patrolman at the scene who reported the details to USAFA Security Forces. Further investigation of the second incident was not conducted since the report originated from a law enforcement officer.

The Commandant of Cadets addressed both instances through nonjudicial punishment under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Cadet [REDACTED] had the opportunity to provide additional information for the chain of command to consider regarding either incident. In his response, Cadet [REDACTED] took responsibility for both incidents, and he admitted that he was too intoxicated to accurately recall the events in question. Such repeated behavior, especially from a First Class Cadet, is inconsistent with USAFA's values, standards, and expectations for future leaders in the Air Force and Space Force.

USAFA's alcohol education program begins prior to cadets arriving. In their USAFA admissions portal, appointees and parents are provided a toolkit for parent-based intervention to assist with alcohol related discussions. USAFA also maintains a menu of Alcohol Awareness and Misuse materials available for Commanders to conduct training targeted to their cadets' needs. In line with this policy, cadets are directed to mandatory counseling and treatment services for instances of substance or alcohol abuse, as was the case with Cadet [REDACTED]. He was directed to enroll in the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment (ADAPT) program which he completed on September 10, 2025, prior to his second alcohol related incident.

Regarding concerns of disparate treatment of cadets, USAFA consistently follows the Uniform Code of Military Justice and the Cadet Discipline System. Every case is unique, and commanders balance consistency with a thorough review of the facts in each individual case. Ultimately, Cadet [REDACTED] was disenrolled based on repeated behavior that demonstrated a lack of judgment and failure to adhere to disciplinary standards.

Warfighters - Leaders - Critical Thinkers

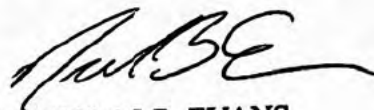
Exhibit 5

Cadet [REDACTED] was afforded a high level of due process to include timely notice, the opportunity to consult with a military legal counsel free-of-charge, an opportunity to submit statements on his behalf, an opportunity for appeal, and an opportunity for in-person meetings with the Commandant and Superintendent. He also had the opportunity to decline the nonjudicial punishment and demand trial by court martial. He elected to waive his right to a court martial.

Although the disenrollment decision is final, Cadet [REDACTED] may request relief from the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR). The governing instruction is Department of the Air Force Instruction 36-2603 which is available online at <http://www.e-publishing.af.mil>. Further, the instruction outlines who may apply for relief and outlines the required procedures and forms. The AFBCMR is an independent body with the authority to review cases and offer relief if warranted.

We trust this information was helpful.

Sincerely,



NICHOLAS B. EVANS
Brigadier General, USAF
Vice Superintendent

Exhibit 7

Commander's Statement



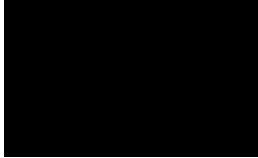
[REDACTED] Here is the statement I put on your O-299, sorry for not getting it to you sooner.



C1C [REDACTED] case is a complex dichotomy: he is simultaneously one of the most militarily capable cadets in his class but leaves me questioning his judgment when drinking. In terms of pure military performance, Cadet [REDACTED] operates at an extraordinary level; I have rarely seen a cadet who possesses his initiative, ownership, and ability to execute complex logistical tasks under pressure. When he is in uniform and focused on the mission, he displays the discipline and proficiency of a seasoned officer, representing a significant return on the Air Force's investment. However, I cannot in good conscience ignore the liability that currently threatens his future, which is his concerning relationship with alcohol and the subsequent lapses in judgment that accompany it.

Unlike many who attempt to deflect blame or minimize their actions, Cadet [REDACTED] has displayed remarkable integrity by fully owning his shortcomings. He has offered no excuses, sought no loopholes, and has faced his leadership with genuine remorse and a willingness to accept the consequences of his actions. This specific type of moral courage—the ability to admit fault without hesitation—is a trait we desperately need in the officer corps. I know the Force can help him bridge the gap between his professional excellence and his personal conduct, he possesses the capacity to be a truly exceptional officer. However, past performance and ownership after the fact cannot erase the severity of the misconduct he has displayed while under the influence.

Exhibit 7

Cadet  Transcript



Academic Program Summary

The information herein is FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO) information which must be protected under the freedom of information Act (5 U.S.C 552) and/or the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a). Unauthorized disclosure or misuse of this PERSONAL INFORMATION may result in disciplinary action, criminal and/or civil penalties.

Name: [REDACTED]
Core GPA:3.478
CUM GPA:3.354
OPA:2.966
Major 1 GPA:3.130
Major 2 GPA:0.000
Major 3 GPA:0.000

EMPLID: [REDACTED] **CL YR:** 2026
Major(s): Astronautical Engineering
Minors(s):
Advisor: Firth, Jordan
Program Status: Active in Program
Total Semester Hr (units) : 132.5

SQ: 27 **Sex:** Male **ESL:** **AcComp:**3779
State/Country: AK/USA
Mil Position: Squadron A3 Division Chief
AFSC: 92T0-Pilot Trainee
Academy Scholar: N
Intercollegiate Sport:

Probation
Start Date
End Date

2022 SUMMER				2023 SUMMER				2024 SUMMER				2025 SUMMER			
BEHSCI	110	V	3	ARMNSHP	490		0	MILTNG	201	P	0	ARMNSHP	302		0
CHEM	100	V	4	CYBER	256		0	MILTNG	444		0	MILTNG	400		0
ENGLISH	111	V	3	MILTNG	220	P	0	MILTNG	402		0	MILTNG	444		0
MATH	141	V	3	MILTNG	444		0	Total Sem/Cum: 0 / 82.5				Total Sem/Cum: 0 / 115.25			
MILTNG	100	P	0	Total Sem/Cum: 0 / 47.75				GPA	MPA	PEA		GPA	MPA	PEA	
PHYED	100		0	GPA	MPA	PEA		0/3.419	3.92/3.406	0/2.68		0/3.415	2.81/3.307	0/2.65	
Total Sem/Cum: 13 / 13				0/3.459	0/3.245	0/2.28									
GPA	MPA	PEA													
0/0	0/0	0/0													

2022 FALL				2023 FALL				2024 FALL				2025 FALL			
AVIATION	100A		P 0	ASTRENGR	201	F	P 1	ARMNSHP	201B		0	ASTRENGR	445	D	C+ 3
COMPSCI	110	A	A 3	CE	200		0	ASTRENGR	331	B+	B 3	ASTRENGR	436	B+	B 4
HISTORY	100S	B+	A- 3	ENGLISH	211	C	B 3	CLUBINTR	100		0	CLUBINTR	100		0
LDRSH	100C		B 0.75	LAW	220	A-	A- 3	ECE	315	A-	A 3	ENGR	443	A	B+ 3
MATH	152	B	B 3	LDRSH	200C		A 0.75	ENGR	341	C+	C+ 3	HISTORY	300	B	B 3
PHYED	110B		B 0.5	MATH	245	C	B 3	LDRSH	300A		A 0.75	LDRSH	400X		A 0.75
PHYSICS	110H	A	A 4	MECHENGR	220	A	A- 3	MATH	346	C	B 3	PHILOS	210	B+	B 3
RUSSIAN	131	A-	B+ 3	POLSCI	211	B-	B 3	PHYED	215C		B- 0.5	PHYED	343C	A-	0.5
Total Sem/Cum: 17.25 / 30.25				Total Sem/Cum: 16.75 / 64.5				PHYED	342A		B 0.5	Total Sem/Cum: 17.25 / 132.5			
GPA	MPA	PEA		GPA	MPA	PEA		PHYED	315D		B- 0.5	GPA	MPA	PEA	
3.58/3.58	3.41/3.41	2.35/2.35		3.314/3.414	3.29/3.26	0/2.33		SOCS	311	B	B+ 3	2.994/3.354	2.03/3.165	2.7/2.65	
Honors: DEAN				Honors: DEAN				Total Sem/Cum: 17.25 / 99.75							
								GPA	MPA	PEA					
								3.13/3.361	3.36/3.398	2.93/2.68					
								Honors: DEAN							

2023 SPRING				2024 SPRING				2025 SPRING				2026 SPRING			
ASTRENGR	310S	B	A- 3	AEROENGR	241	B	B 3	AEROENGR	315	A	A 3	ASTRENGR	332 (1)		3
CE	100		P 0	ASTRENGR	321	B	A- 3	ASTRENGR	351	A	A- 3	ASTRENGR	437 (2)		4
CHEM	200	B	B 4	CE	200		P 0	CE	300G		P 0	CE	400H (1)		0
MATH	243	B	B 3	ECON	201		A- 3.5	CLUBINTR	100		0	MSS	444 (1)		3
PHYED	112F		B- 0.5	MECHENGR	320	B+	B- 3	ENGR	342	B+	A- 3	PHYED	346G (2)		0.5
PHYSICS	215H	B+	A 4	MSS	251	A-	A- 4.5	MATH	356	A	A 3	Total Sem/Cum: 10.5 / 143			
RUSSIAN	132	B	B 3	PHYED	111F		A 0.5	MECHENGR	330	A-	B+ 3	GPA	MPA	PEA	
Total Sem/Cum: 17.5 / 47.75				PHYED	222G		A 0.5	PHYED	484G		B 0.5	0/3.354	0/0	0/0	
GPA	MPA	PEA		Total Sem/Cum: 18 / 82.5				Total Sem/Cum: 15.5 / 115.25							
3.34/3.459	3.08/3.245	2.2/2.28		GPA	MPA	PEA		GPA	MPA	PEA					
Honors: DEAN				3.433/3.419	3.33/3.278	0/2.68		3.716/3.415	3.256/3.378	0/2.65					
				Honors: DEAN				Honors: DEAN							

Current Term Activities

Exhibit 7

Exhibit 8

DoD Form 785

RECORD OF DISENROLLMENT FROM OFFICER CANDIDATE - TYPE TRAINING				DATE SUBMITTED 7 Jan 26	
TO: <i>(Appropriate agency of the service concerned (this includes Zip Code))</i> Air Force Academy Liaison Office USAF/CCL Washington D.C. 20330			FROM: <i>(Appropriate agency of the service concerned (this includes Zip Code))</i> Staff Judge Advocate US Air Force Academy CO 80840		
SECTION I - IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION ON STUDENT AT TIME DISENROLLED					
1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL [REDACTED]		2. RATE OR GRADE AF Cadet	3. BRANCH OF ARMED FORCES USAF	4. FILE OR SERVICE NUMBER [REDACTED]	5. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER [REDACTED]
6. BIRTH [REDACTED]	a. DATE [REDACTED]	b. PLACE [REDACTED]		7. SEX Male	
8. HOME OF RECORD ADDRESS [REDACTED]			9. OTHER None		
SECTION II - PROGRAM INFORMATION APPLICABLE AT TIME DISENROLLED					
10. TRAINING STATION ADDRESS USAF Academy Colorado Springs CO 80840		11. TYPE OF PROGRAM (OCS, ROTC, Academy, Non-Cad, etc.) Academy		12. SPECIFIC TYPE OF TRAINING (Supply, Pilot, Training, Bombardier, Infantry, Artillery, etc.) AF Cadet	
13. DATE ENTERED PROGRAM 23 Jun 22		14. DATE DISENROLLED 5 Jan 26		15. DATE SCHEDULED FOR COMMISSION (if training had been completed successfully) 30 May 26	
SECTION III - REASONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES FOR DISENROLLMENT					
At the time of his involuntary disenrollment, CIC [REDACTED] received an Article 15 for multiple incidents of being drunk and disorderly in a public place as well as multiple incidents of unlawfully entering the property others.					
SECTION IV - EVALUATION TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE FUTURE FOR DETERMINING ACCEPTABILITY FOR OTHER OFFICER TRAINING					
1. ☐ HIGHLY RECOMMENDED 2. ☐ RECOMMENDED AS AN AVERAGE CANDIDATE 3. ☒ SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED WITHOUT WEIGHING THE "NEEDS OF THE SERVICE" AGAINST THE REASONS FOR THIS DISENROLLMENT 4. ☐ RECOMMENDED IF PHYSICAL DEFECTS ARE CORRECTED OR IF SUCH DEFECTS ARE NOT DISQUALIFYING FOR OTHER PROGRAMS 5. ☐ DEFINITELY NOT RECOMMENDED 6. ☐ OTHER REMARKS					
REMARKS CIC [REDACTED] cumulative Grade Point Average was 3.41, cumulative Military Performance Average was 3.30, and his cumulative Physical Education Average was 2.65. CIC [REDACTED] has incurred a three-year Active Duty Service Commitment and he will receive an Honorable Discharge. CIC [REDACTED] was given and took advantage of an opportunity for a commission and an Air Force career and should not be given a second opportunity without weighing the needs of the service against the reason for disenrollment.					
TYPED NAME AND GRADE MICHAEL K. CRENSHAW, O-5, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate			SIGNATURE 		



July 20, 2026

U.S. Air Force Academy Board of Visitors
ATTN: Ms. Blaire Brush
Alternate Designated Federal Officer
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3200
USAF Academy, CO 80840-5025

Dear USAFA Board of Visitors,

I am Doug Truax, USMA 1992 graduate and CEO of Restoration of America Foundation/Restoration of America.

My organization continues to advocate for all our service academies to develop the best leaders of warfighters in the world. In past comments to the U.S. Air Force Academy's Board of Visitors, we have outlined our priorities and have again included them in this letter.

First, I want to commend the BOV for its hard work and commitment to strengthening the Academy. Under the leadership of Chairman August Pfluger, the USAFA BOV has taken a proactive approach to oversight that many service academy BOVs typically shy away from. True oversight is demanding, and holding top leadership accountable is never easy. I commend you for leaning into that challenge. My organization stands ready to assist the BOV in any way we can be of service.

We at Restoration are looking forward to the Academy's new leadership, most significantly with Maj. Gen. Paul D. Moga as the new Superintendent. Upon his Senate confirmation, we urge Maj. Gen. Moga to leverage this leadership transition for the betterment of the Academy and our country, ensuring a relentless focus on lethality, mission-readiness, and a strict capability-based framework – not corrosive political ideologies that divide the Corps of Cadets based on ethnicity, background, etc.

That being said, we are grateful that the former Commandant, Brig. Gen. Gavin Marks, has left his post. As we have chronicled, Marks subscribed to a toxic form of racial ideology that was corrosive to unit cohesion. He called for the Academy to reflect America's diversity (as opposed to being a meritocracy), gave the black power salute multiple times while in uniform, and emphasized DEI training. We remain hopeful that the new Commandant, Col. Brandon J. Tellez, will mark a stark departure from Brig. Gen. Marks' racial Marxism. My organization is standing by to assist him as needed.

Additionally, we are calling for the removal of the Director of Admissions, Col. Candice Pipes. Pipes has compromised the integrity of the Air Force Academy with her advocacy of institutionalized racism.

As the Director of Admissions, Pipes was named as a defendant in the lawsuit *Students for Fair Admissions v. United States Air Force Academy*. The plaintiff alleged that the Academy prioritized race over academic merit during the admissions process, under Pipes' leadership.



Furthermore, Colonel Pipes has noted how she pays a “diversity tax.” Her quote:

We underrepresented airmen often pay what I call a diversity tax. In my case, I pay a Black tax, a woman tax, and a Black woman tax. And while I believe we should all pay our fair share of taxes for the greater good — that's a lot of taxes and it becomes taxing.

In 2021, Colonel Pipes [authored an opinion piece](#) titled, "We need radical change to fix the racial disparity in our Air Force" that was published in *Air Force Times*. Her article argued that the Air Force should tackle "racial disparities" in their leadership by implementing reinforced, pro-DEI policies.

This kind of divisive racial ideology is totally unacceptable and is antithetical to the reforms that the Commander-in-Chief and the Secretary of War have implemented.

The purpose of the United States Air Force Academy is to train leaders of warriors. In combat, diversity is not our strength – unity is. In a foxhole, you want the best, most capable soldiers by your side, regardless of their ethnicity. When the stakes are life or death, the only metric that matters is lethality.

Let me be clear: social engineering has no place in our military or our service academies. We are calling for an immediate change at the top of the Office of Admissions.

One final area of concern we want to highlight is USAFA’s ongoing participation in the Rhodes Scholar program. Our researchers have outlined the concerns with this program in [this article](#). Even the United Arab Emirates removed funding for study abroad programs at British universities over concerns their students could be radicalized by the Muslim Brotherhood.

We are calling on the USAFA Board of Visitors to recommend the Academy cease participation in the Rhodes Scholar program immediately.

As a reminder, I’m including the items submitted in our previous letters to the BOV. We’re asking that these issues continue to be matters of importance.

High Quality Education:

1. Conduct an immediate, thorough, and independent review of curriculum and instruction to make sure cadets are receiving the highest quality education focused on creating the best leaders and warfighters for America.
2. Conduct a thorough assessment of all professors to make sure they align fully with the mission above and not with “social justice” agendas.
3. Eliminate the Rhodes Scholar program that seeks to indoctrinate students in Marxist ideals. Read our report on the topic [here](#).
4. Increase the percentage of professors who have a previous or current military background.
5. Evaluate and reconsider the use of the Higher Learning Commission as the accrediting agency of the Academy—specifically, examine whether the Commission’s requirements for accreditation violate civil rights laws and executive orders. Read our report on this topic [here](#).



Admissions:

1. Conduct a thorough review of the recruitment and admissions process to make sure employees are seeking candidates that align with USAFA's traditional mission without regard to non-merit factors such as race or gender.
2. Immediately remove all data tracking related to race and gender for admission and appointments.
3. Remove the requirement for photos to be submitted with applications.

Staff:

1. Remove any staff member with a political agenda, like Col. Pipes.

Last but not least, I am attaching to this letter one of Restoration of America Foundation's newest reports: *Restoring America's Service Academies and War Colleges*. The white paper notes that the primary purpose of our service academies – to produce officers capable of winning the nation's wars – has been diluted by institutional drift towards civilian academia. It prescribes reforms to four key pillars: admissions, curriculum, faculty, and governance. Each pillar is designed to restore a single animating principle: the relentless preparation of officers to close with and destroy the enemies of the United States. I encourage every BOV member, USAFA leadership and faculty member, alumni, and concerned citizen to read it and take its suggestions to heart.

It is our desire at Restoration of America Foundation/Restoration of America to be a resource and advocate for the U.S. Air Force Academy. Please reach out if we can assist in any way.

Very Respectfully,

Doug Truax
Founder and CEO
Restoration of America/Restoration of America Foundation

USAFA BOV Comment

July 13, 2026

Hello.

Bottom line - the base access protocols are inconsistent. Given its unique nature as both a USAF Base, local sports venue (both USAFA athletes, as well as local use of its fields), and world-renowned Service, this inconsistent nature harms parents, Cadets, and visitors to the United States Air Force Academy. A consistent protocol that allows multi-day/week access is sorely needed.

My name is Joe Matchette. I am a 1989 graduate and retired as an O-6, a parent of a First Lieutenant from the Class of 2024, a volunteer for the Cadet Honor System, and my wife and I have sponsored approximately 60 Cadets starting with the class of 2020.

My wife and I often attend various events at USAFA and regularly bring friends who are not DOD ID Card holders.

The process for athletic events has gotten much better with the introduction of the QR code system used by the Security Forces Squadron.

The process for major events, such as the recent Professional Bull Riders event/concert was mostly ok.

The biggest issue is "other times" access. I have pasted below an email received from a friend (Parent of a graduate from the Class of 2023) who lives in the State and is a professional photographer. Her services are used by parents of Cadets from across the country.

Here is a summary of the base access issues I have experienced since February 2026.

On February 4, 2026, I sent the following email to the 10th Security Forces Squadron:

Good morning,

I hope you can help with my request.

I am the mother of a USAFA Class of 2023 graduate and have visited the Academy many times since 2019. I am also a professional photographer and am hoping to offer Firstie photo sessions at the Honor Court during the upcoming winter and spring seasons.

My son's sponsor parents, Joe Matchette (USAFA Class of 1989) and his wife, Gen, are willing and able to vouch for and sponsor me if required.

I would be very grateful if you could advise me on the process for applying for a month pass, or any other access requirements necessary to conduct photography sessions on Academy grounds.

Thank you very much for your time and assistance. I truly appreciate any guidance you can provide.

Kind regards,

Debbie Allan

I received the following response:

Good afternoon,

If the sponsor parents have DoD IDs, they can come into the office here and sponsor you onto the installation. However, the maximum pass they can issue is five days.

V/R,

A1C Kubin Nethanel

10th Security Forces Squadron

I then explained that I knew of another business owner—a baker who provided services at the Academy—who had been issued a monthly pass. I was told that monthly passes were only issued for events and that I would need to return to the Pass and Registration Office each time I required access for a photography session.

The following week, Gen accompanied me to the South Gate Pass Office, where I was issued a five-day pass for my scheduled photography session on February 19, 2026.

When my next sessions were scheduled for Sunday, March 8, Gen and I again visited the South Gate Pass Office. This time, however, we were informed that because Gen did not reside on base, she was not permitted to sponsor me for installation access. Instead, I was told that each cadet I was photographing would need to email the 10th Security Forces Squadron requesting permission to sponsor me.

From March 8 through May 13, I photographed a total of 36 cadets. Each cadet submitted an individual sponsorship request via email to the 10th Security Forces Squadron on my behalf. For every session, I arrived at the Academy 60 to 90 minutes before the scheduled start time to allow sufficient time for processing by the Pass and Registration Office staff before I could enter the installation.

CUI

If you require any further details, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Joseph S Matchette

Cell - 602-312-7373

CUI