



**PHOTO ACCESS FOR PARENTS -**

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

[Official USAFA Facebook site](#)

[Official USAFA Twitter site](#)

[Official USAFA Instagram site](#)

[Official USAFA Flick'r site](#)

Prep School Access:

<https://twitter.com/USAFAPrepSchool>

[www.facebook.com/AFPrepSchool](http://www.facebook.com/AFPrepSchool)

<https://www.instagram.com/usafapreppofficial/>

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

**Cadet Class Statistics (as of 31 Oct 17)**

Class Year	Men	Women	Total
2017	3	1	4
2018	791	215	1006
2019	760	265	1025
2020	746	304	1050
2021	846	324	1170
<b>WING</b>	<b>3146</b>	<b>1109</b>	<b>4255</b>

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

**Prep School Class Statistics (as of 8 Nov 17)**

Class year	Men	Women	Total
2017-2018	168	55	223

**ACADEMY APP AVAILABLE –**

Do you have an iTunes or Android enabled device? Get the latest Academy news, photos, videos, and more with the Academy App.



Android app available on Google Play at:  
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.u360mobile.airforceacademy> .

Apple app available at the I-Tunes Store at:  
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/united-states-air-force-academy/id427133480?mt=8>

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



iTunes



Android

**Holiday Bus Schedules:** Holiday Bus Schedules can be found online on the USAFA Parent Webpage at the following link:

<https://www.usafa.edu/parents/holiday-shuttle-information/>



By Laurie Wilson, Nov. 3, 2017

**U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY** — At first handshake, his grin and the twinkle of genuine curiosity in his eyes grab you. He engages immediately and makes you his focus. You know you matter. His voice cadence invites you to simply chat with him. So you quickly relax. Don't let the casual nature fool you. You aren't just trading small-talk with the neighbor. You're hanging with a real thought leader.

Simon Sinek is regarded as an innovative visionary with unconventional intellectual views on cultures and human nature. An anthropologist, specifically ethnographer, he's devoted his life to sharing his ideas in order to help other leaders and organizations inspire beneficial action.

Sinek first spoke to the Air Force Academy at the 2015 National Character and Leadership Symposium where he connected with the audience through his spot-on description and explanation of the millennial generation.

This time, he came at the invite of Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein, to talk to Air Force senior leaders about building a cultural path to stronger leadership and long-term, lasting outcomes.

Sinek spent day two steeped in the Cadet Wing. It was here among the cadets that he demonstrated his passion for developing and inspiring leaders. He blew the planned itinerary schedule, patiently remaining on the stage wings afterwards, to personally speak with each waiting cadet. This spoke volumes about his commitment to inspire them to lead in great ways.

We had a few moments to visit in the green room after his Oct. 31 talk. I turned on my recorder and we simply chatted with each other, while Simon, as he prefers to be addressed, candidly let his thoughts flow.

***Q: What is the most important thing you believe tomorrow's generation of Air Force leaders need to remember as we move forward in this era of global and civil unrest?***

**A:** I think that we have to remember that we can't do anything significant alone. That goes for us as individuals as much as it does for the uniformed forces. You know, the uniform forces compete against each other for money and funding and yet they need each other. And we as a nation can't do anything alone. We need others. So I think, even for individuals, our jobs, our careers, our missions, as human beings we're just not good enough or strong enough to do things all by ourselves. We need help. I think we just need to get comfortable with asking for it and accepting it and recognizing when we need others. And *that* we need others.

***Q: What type of leadership example do you believe those in global power during the past 30 years have had on the perceptions of today's cadets?***

**A:** I think future leaders – millennials and such – have the right to be cynical because they've grown up in a world in which selfishness has been prioritized over selflessness, where putting one's self ahead of others has been taught to be most important, where money has been prioritized over people. So I think they are right to be cynical and I think they're right to question the leaders that we have in all facets of our society, in business and entertainment and politics and military, you name it.

***Q: Do those examples make it harder or easier for millennials to become the type of leaders that will benefit the planet and country?***

**A:** I mean, there are good leaders everywhere, of course there are. But I think overall there's been too much focus on the short-term over the long-term and the self over the group. And for sure that's been exemplified by the world leaders over the past 30 years. And by many things, everywhere.

***Q: Address narcissism. Is it increasing due to more self-centeredness?***

**A:** Well, narcissism is a personality disorder and I'm not qualified to diagnose whether people are narcissistic as a medical definition, but the excessive focus on self over others is a societal problem. And you know, we live in a world where social media is about promoting ourselves. There's a great documentary called "Teenage Paparazzo" by Adrian Grenier. His

entourage goes to try and explore fame and he says when people take pictures with him, it's not that they want it with him so much but that they want a picture of themselves to show off to others. It actually isn't really fandom as much as it is the opportunity to show off. And they want to make sure that they look good in the picture, not that he looks good in the picture. That's a very interesting dynamic happening.

**Q: It's been said one significant drawback to a rank and file system is the practice of automatically promoting people to levels of incompetence. How could the military system incorporate these points regarding leadership that you make to ensure we develop better leaders?**

**A:** I think the military is aware of it and I think they're trying slowly to address it. I think the Air Force is probably very forward thinking, more than the other branches, and they are attacking it head-on. They also recognize there are intangibles that go into leadership that are hard to quantify yet should be considered in the advancement of someone's career. It's an imperfect system but, um, yeah, I think they are aware of that. And, they are doing something about it. It's important. It's definitely important.

**Q: Of your three core theme messages (leaders eat last, find your "Why", together is better), which one would you want the cadets to hold on to the tightest and incorporate the deepest into their psyche?**

**A:** Together is better. *Together is better.*

**Q: You touched a little previously on cynicism. How do you avoid a culture of cynicism in an institution like a military academy?**

**A:** Well I think there's a narrative, right? Which is, if you focus on all of the things that give one cause to be cynical, then it's a culture of cynicism. But if you focus on the examples that give us cause to celebrate and be inspired, then you'll create a culture of inspiration. Yes! Of course, there are always poor examples, and they should be addressed and they should be called out, but to excessively focus on them makes us cynical of everything. It's why police are the most cynical people you'll ever meet because all they do is meet people who break the law. Well, you know, if that's your focus then that's how you see the world. So, I think there's a narrative, and we get to make our own narrative. So, perhaps some of the cynicism is well-founded, but some of it is also just a misdirected narrative.

**Q: What are the differences you take into account when you address a millennial or Gen Z audience versus older generations to make your points stick?**

**A:** My message is my message. It will strike those who agree with me and it will annoy those who disagree with me regardless of their age. To each their own.

*(Author's Note: Simon Sinek is best known for popularizing the concept of "Why" in his first Ted Talk in 2009, currently the third-most watched episode of all time on Ted.com. He's the author of four best-selling books outlining how to create more positive and beneficial organizational cultures. His writing has garnered international attention and earned him invites to meet with an array of global leaders and organizations including the U.N., Congress and senior leaders at the Defense Department. Sinek is an adjunct staff member at the policy think tank, RAND Corporation.)*



Jenn Kuster, USAFA Dean of Faculty research publicist, Oct. 31, 2017

**U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo.** — The idea of an endearing, interactive and witty robot companion may elicit nostalgic flashbacks of Rosie and the Jetsons, but this is not 2062 and the star of the show is not a two-dimensional robot maid.

The year is 2017 and autonomous systems are penetrating societies around the world: from self-driving vehicles and robot waiters in restaurants to robot wingmen flying alongside human pilots. Indeed, the United States Air Force's vision is for humans and robots to partner as teammates for maximum success on the battlefield and enhanced safety for warfighters. Cadets studying in the Warfighter Effectiveness Research Center (WERC) are helping to make this

vision a reality. Their goal is to work with faculty mentors to transform human-computer interactions such that intelligent machines are seamlessly integrated with humans. In order to achieve this goal, cadets majoring in Behavioral Sciences, Human Factors, Systems Engineering, Computer Sciences, Philosophy and other disciplines are working together in design projects that will ultimately enhance real-world warfighter capabilities. Cadets benefit from a “learning by doing” model in projects that applies what they’ve learned in the classroom. Warfighters benefit by leveraging the results of these studies in current and future systems.

To further understand the interaction between humans and machines and also gain insight into the research of international universities, cadets travelled to South Korea and Japan for a two week visit funded by the Air Force Academy’s International Programs office and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research. The knowledge cadets obtained and brought back to the Academy, was used to kick start eight capstone projects that align with Department of Defense Research and Development activities.

Cadets and faculty saw firsthand the difference between how American society perceives robots with high potential for evil based on how they are portrayed in movies versus how Japanese society views robots as superheroes.

While visiting premier universities in South Korea and Japan to see the latest in human-machine teaming, cadets visited cultural landmarks, experienced how both cultures integrated robots in daily life and discovered how to study the human side of machine interaction from different perspectives. By exploring other cultures, the research can expand its ability to measure subjective factors such as facial expressions to determine emotions. Pairing subjective factors with objective elements, such as eye movement and heart rate, provides for more holistic data for human-machine teaming research analysis.

Cadet Wesley Jackman said he “was blown away by all the research taking place in the world.” “I got excited that I might one day be involved in it! The biggest stand out was the robot face that reflected its emotions using colors and digital facial expressions. Robots that can feel, or at least pretend to feel based off of the humans around them will make them so much more sympathetic as teammates” he said.



Within the WERC, cadets have executed human-machine teaming capstone research projects, demonstrating a deeper understanding of content within their disciplines into their projects.

Thus far, the WERC has focused on the effectiveness of the communication between humans and machines, assessing situational awareness, trust and overall mission performance. Additionally, they try to answer questions including; how does the interface and interaction change when machines have their own intelligence? What is necessary to enhance the trust between humans and autonomous systems in high stress situations, such as flying a fighter plane?

For instance, current human-machine teaming research is developing ways to measure the trustworthiness of robots. Design projects are focusing on developing systems for robots to detect human emotion by recognizing facial expressions and tone of voice. Robots, then sympathize with humans based on perceived emotion and respond appropriately depending on the context. Leveraging these sensing technologies for the design of next-generation human-robot systems helps the Air Force and the Academy advance research in cutting-edge technological systems.

For example, the loyal wingman project, an Air Force Research Laboratory initiative, put autonomous F-16s in the air with piloted F-35 aircraft.

Cadets Tyler Murray, Timothy Tyson and Kevin Yalung, all system engineering majors, are formulating effective design standards ensuring the communication between these agents are effective and the workload of F-35 pilots are at safe levels across a wide range of combat tasks. The research requires cadets to spend many hours on the flight simulator. This experience has proven essential in furthering their Air Force career.

“I am investigating things now that I will be studying after graduation in my career,” says Murray. The data cadets collect now fuels future Air Force research as well.

Cadets learn how human interactions with machines change based on cultural differences. By exploring other cultures, the research expands its ability to measure subjective factors such as facial expressions to determine emotions. Pairing subjective factors with objective elements, such as eye movement and heart rate, provides for more holistic data for human-machine teaming research analysis.

Maj. Chad Tossell, Director, WERC, says “Human-machine teaming provides the Air Force an advantage over adversaries and the potential to maximize mission performance in complex and contested environments.”



To this end, human-machine teaming research provides cadets unique opportunities to work with advanced machines and visit leading research institutions as undergraduate students, helping develop world-class leaders who can solve real-life problems and advance Air Force initiatives to continue striving towards air power excellence.

We may have 48 years before we can live in the futuristic era laid out by the Jetsons of flying cars and robot maids but the Air Force Academy and cadets are finding new ways to capture human emotions in robots and gaining more than a maid, a friend. Cadets are advancing research and developing cutting-edge technology we never expected to see in 2017.

## **PREP SCHOOL INFORMATION**

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

Central Email for Prep School Questions:

[PrepInfo@usafa.edu](mailto:PrepInfo@usafa.edu), or phone (719) 333-2583

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

Mail: HQ USAFA/PL

5229 Cedar Drive, Suite 117

USAF Academy, CO 80840-3100

### **Prep School 2017-2018 Academic Calendar:**

[https://www.usafa.edu/app/uploads/PL\\_Calendar\\_12Jul2017.pdf](https://www.usafa.edu/app/uploads/PL_Calendar_12Jul2017.pdf)

## **HELPFUL WEBSITES and POCs –**

### **Parent Information Link:**

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

### **Graduation Information Link:**

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

### **USAFA's Public Calendar Link:**

(Managed by the Association of Graduates)

[www.usafa.org/Calendar/Events](http://www.usafa.org/Calendar/Events)

### **2016 - 2017 Cadet Academic Calendar Link:**

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

### **2017 - 2018 Cadet Academic Calendar Link:**

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

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

### **Curriculum Handbook:**

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

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

### **Cadet Major listing:**

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

### **Cadet Clubs:**

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

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

**Cadet Survival Guide:** Go to [www.usafasupport.com](http://www.usafasupport.com) and click Arnold Hall or go to the below link:

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

### **Cadet Media:**

[www.usafasupport.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media](http://www.usafasupport.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media)

### **Admissions:**

(parents can help us recruit future cadets):

[www.academyadmissions.com/](http://www.academyadmissions.com/)

### **Sports Schedules:**

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

### **Base Cadet Treats (Flower Shop):**

(719) 472-8589

[petalsnblooms.com](http://petalsnblooms.com)

### **Gift Cards order phone numbers:**

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

10 FSS: (719) 472-7930

### **Hometown News Release (must have CAC card):**

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

### **Life Touch photos:**

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

1 (800) 426-9533 extension 128 or 241

## UPCOMING DATES:

21 – 26 Nov 17	Cadet Thanksgiving Break (after LMD). Return by 7:00 pm on 26 Nov 17
22 – 26 Nov 17	Prep School Thanksgiving Break (released at 9:00 am) Return by 7:00 pm on 26 Nov 17
11 -15 Dec 17	Cadet Fall Finals
14-15 Dec 17	Prep School Fall Finals
16 Dec 17 – 2 Jan 18	Cadet Winter Break (Cadet Wing returns 7:00 pm on 2 Jan 18) Check w/cadet ... Cadets can leave after their last final
16 Dec 17 – 2 Jan 18	Prep School Winter Break (released at 0900/return by 7 pm on 2 Jan 18)
21 – 23 Feb 18	National Character & Leadership Symposium (NCLS)
8 – 10 Mar 18	Recognition for Class of 2021
23 Mar 18 – 1 Apr 18	Cadet Spring Break (Cadet Wing returns 7:00 pm on 1 Apr 18)
23 Mar – 1 Apr 18	Prep School Spring Break (Return by 7:00 pm on 1 Apr 18)
16 May 18	Prep School Baccalaureate Awards Ceremony
17 May 18	Prep School Parade & Graduation
23 May 18	2018 Graduation
28 Jun 18	2022 Class In-Processes
2 Jun 18	1 <sup>st</sup> Summer Session Begins
23 Jun 18	1 <sup>st</sup> Session Ends/2 <sup>nd</sup> Session Begins
28 Jun 18	2022 Class In-Processes
14 Jul 18	2 <sup>nd</sup> Session Ends/3 <sup>rd</sup> Session Begins
4 Aug 18	3 <sup>rd</sup> Session Ends
4 Aug 18	Cadet Wing Returns by 7pm

### Parent Liaison Contact Info:

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