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

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 30 Sep 19)

Class Year	Men	Women	Total
2020	706	287	993
2021	769	297	1066
2022	810	282	1092
2023	809	316	1125
WING	3094	1182	4276

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



Air Force Academy launches new Airmanship Next program

Photo and story by Jennifer Spradlin, Oct. 7, 2019

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — The Air Force Academy recently redesigned its Airmanship program to give cadets more opportunities to experience the Air Force’s flying mission and produce the best pool of rated candidates.

Launched at the start of the fall semester, Airmanship Next augments live-flight at the airfield with virtual reality training to reach cadets who may have been excluded in the past by scheduling conflicts and infuses more aviation training into the four-year cadet developmental model.

“The reality is that less than half of the cadets from a typical class experience powered flight,” said Col. John Garver, Academy director of operations and analysis. “We want to inspire cadets to go into rated careers by eliminating situations where cadets are interested in rated operations but have limited opportunities to try them out.”

The Academy has purchased 16 immersive training devices and will add 12 more by early next year; the devices will be split between the cadet area and the airfield. The low cost per unit, ability to continue training when weather does not allow flying at the airfield, and 100% completion rate offered through the Cadet Aviation Lab creates a win-win situation for the Academy and its cadets – everyone has the opportunity to experience USAF operations via an immersive airmanship course, he said.

“[The program] will help us meet cadets where they are and tailor their experiences to get them where they need to go to make informed career choices, including whether to volunteer for rated positions,” Garver said.

Training on immersive training devices can be customized to benefit different learning styles and cadets can focus on getting multiple repetitions on key aviation skills. Confidence building in a low-threat environment helps boost the cadet’s confidence in their ability to succeed in aviation careers, he said.

“The amount of people who can go through this training and grow in their airmanship skills – I think it’s amazing, and I recommend it all the cadets in my squadron,” said Cadet 2nd Class Daniel Shemon. Shemon volunteered to be one of the first cadets to go through the virtual reality training. He is currently

enrolled in powered flight and intends on pursuing a rated career as a pilot.

“Sometimes I come to the lab in the evenings to get in some extra practice on certain skills – approaches, pattern work, you name it – it really helps me develop my muscle memory,” he said.

Initial feedback has shown a positive correlation between early participants in the virtual reality training and live-flight performance in powered flight. Powered flight solo flights and overall completion rates are higher than they have been in previous years.

“The cadets are showing up a lot more prepared and knowledgeable about radio calls and traffic patterns,” said Capt. Bryan Rhoades, powered flight program flight commander and 2012 graduate. “It’s the difference between training a cadet who is a blank slate and a cadet who would be appear to have a flight or two already under their belt.”

Cadets in powered flight typically complete 12 flights before solo and check ride flights. He said the ITDs allow him to maximize that training time to prepare cadets to be successful at post-graduate flight training.

As the Academy works closely with Air Education and Training Command to produce qualified pilot candidates, the program is also pursuing an Initial Flight Training equivalency option for top cadet performers from the class of 2021.

[Editors Note: The goal of the Airmanship program is to provide an operations-based experience utilizing current and immersing assets centered on one of the Air Force’s three core mission domains – Airpower – in order to develop Leaders of Character for today and tomorrow’s Air Force. The continued success of Airmanship Next is crucial to ensuring the Academy graduates and commissions the best-prepared rated candidates for the Air Force.]



5 research projects AF Academy cadets are working on today

By Janine Dreger, Oct. 15, 2019

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Ever wonder what cadet researchers are doing these days at the Air Force Academy? Here's five projects we think are very interesting.

Falcon Satellite Program

All systems are “go” for FalconSat-6, a 400-pound satellite designed and built by cadets. It's been in orbit for 10-months, receiving and transmitting information allowing cadets to track the progress of several space-technology projects.

New Dimensions

Cadets are developing technology to give pilots mission information during their “debriefs” in three dimensions. If cadets have their way, our pilots will eventually wear 3-D glasses to enhance their understanding of flight-mission goals, results and performance.

A Swarm of Aircraft

Cadets are designing and testing self-governing or “autonomous” unmanned aircraft that operate in swarms to cover military ground units. They'll be installed with high-bandwidth video stream allowing teams to link-up with command posts and medical experts.

An International Project

Cadet researchers are helping NASA and our European allies improve the capabilities of Orion, an international spacecraft designed to shuttle four astronauts into-and beyond a low-Earth orbit of 1,242 miles. Cadets are currently researching ways to improve the spacecraft's flight performance.

Man and Machine

Cadets are using artificial intelligence to maximize human performance. The project is in its nascent stage, but the goal is to form cooperative or “symbiotic” relationships between man and technology. Cadets have already used AI to calibrate aircraft trust in flight simulators at the Academy.



Encouraged to experiment: CCLD's Adventure Based Learning program promotes teamwork

Story and photos by Jennifer Spradlin, June 24, 2019

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Zeyon Lyons and his teammates, all Air Force Academy cadets, were hungry.

A simple miscommunication meant they missed the breakfast window at one of many checkpoints scattered across Academy grounds for the culminating exercise of Adventure Based Learning, an outdoor, multi-mile, 30-hour team challenge.

“On the whole, our team had a good attitude,” Lyons said. “We tried to stay positive and talk through

mistakes rather than placing blame on each other. [This situation] taught us the importance of having a plan and getting everyone on the same page.”

The challenge was developed and prototyped by a team from the Center for Character Leadership and Development. An academy-wide integrative program, ABL involves partnership with multiple agencies and augments other training offered during a cadet’s sophomore summer. The challenge features academics to teach interpersonal skills and leadership concepts, a ropes course to experiment with those ideas, and a team challenge to put them into practice. The lessons learned by cadets and CCLD staff during ABL are shared with Airmen across the installation.



“Research in how cadets learn best shows classroom lectures are very low in the effectiveness when compared to an on-the-job training model,” said Lt. Col. Robert Marshall, program lead. “[ABL] fits the cadet’s desire for more choice and risk versus reward in their training while also getting them outside in physical and mentally challenging scenarios.”

Marshall said ABL obstacles are designed to be completed in multiple ways and cadets are encouraged to experiment.

“If we are going to build innovative leaders, then we need to give them programs where there are many, many ways to solve a problem,” he said. “In ABL, there are multiple opportunities to fail and try again. Even when they succeed, we will change the rules and make the task more difficult to expose the cadets to the concept of process improvement.”

During the team challenge, cadets must reach five points and can complete 90 optional waypoints, with incentives ranging from better food to more points. All teams are required to finish in a set window or lose their earned points. Teams that finish first are not necessarily the winner, reflecting as Marshall described, the need to inspire the cadets to do more than the minimum.

“To be the best Air Force in the world, we can’t just do the status quo and the minimum,” he said. “By pushing yourself and finding a way to do that as team, that’s how greatness happens.”

Multiple cadets said the terrain, weather, and distance were their biggest challenges during the team race. The ABL is designed to build self-confidence and foster a team mentality course instructors hope cadets rely on during their careers as officers.



“There were times when I wanted to quit,” said Cadet 3rd Class Logan Mann. “But I wanted to be there for my team, be someone they could rely on and trust, so I just kept pushing through the pain.”

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, or phone (719) 333-2583

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

FACEBOOK:
<https://www.facebook.com/USAFAPrepSchool/>

Mail: HQ USAFA/PL
5229 Cedar Drive, Suite 117
USAF Academy, CO 80840-3100

Prep School 2019-2020 Academic Calendar:
https://www.usafa.edu/app/uploads/PL_2019-2020_Calendar.pdf

HELPFUL WEBSITES and POCs

Parent Information Link:
<https://www.usafa.edu/parents/>

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

AOG's Event Calendar Link:
www.usafa.org/Calendar/Events

Academic Calendars Link:
<https://www.usafa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/>

Cadet 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 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

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

Sports Schedules:
www.goairforcefalcons.com/calendar/events/

Base Cadet Treats (Flower Shop):
(719) 472-8589
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:

2 Nov 19	Football Game against ARMY (Home)
11 Nov 19	Veterans Day Holiday (no classes)
26 Nov – 1 Dec 19	Thanksgiving Break Leave after LMD; return by 7 pm on 1 Dec 19
9 – 13 Dec 19	Cadet Finals
16 Dec 19 – 5 Jan 20	Cadet Winter Break; Return by 7:00pm on 5 Jan 20
20 Jan 20	Martin Luther King Holiday (no classes)
17 Feb 20	Presidents Day Holiday (no classes)
19 – 21 Feb 20	National Character and Leadership Symposium (NCLS)
12 – 14 Mar 20	2023 Recognition
20 – 29 Mar 20	Cadet Spring Break, released LMD, Return by 7:00pm on 29 Mar 20
11 – 15 May 20	Cadet Finals
28 May 20	2020 Class Graduates
30 May 20	1st Summer Session Begins
20 Jun 20	1st Summer Session Ends/ 2nd Summer Session Begins
25 Jun 20	2024 Class In-Processes
26 Jun 20	2024 Swearing In Ceremony (time TBD)
4 Jul 20	4 th of July Holiday (2024 BCT training continues)
31 Jul 20	2024 BCT Graduation (not for parents) Cadet Wing only
1 Aug 20	3 rd Summer Session Ends/BCT Ends/Cadet Wing Returns by 7:00pm

Thank you for your support for the cadets and USAFA!

Parent Liaison Contact Info:

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