



Falcon Family News

February 2017



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](#)

https://www.flickr.com/photos/af_academy/albums

Prep School Access:

<https://twitter.com/USAFAPrepSchool>

www.facebook.com/AFPrepSchool

<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.

You can also access free photos on the Academy's website site at:

<http://www.usafa.edu/cadetFocus/cadetPhotos/index.cfm>

Just select your cadet's class year!

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

CLASS STATISTICS (as of 31 Jan 17)

Class Year	Men	Women	Total
2017	764	229	993
2018	800	216	1016
2019	792	276	1068
2020	771	312	1083
WING	3127	1033	4160

61 International Cadets are counted in the Cadet Wing Strength, but do not count in the Fiscal year Strength.
Preparatory School Class Statistics (as of 18 Jan 17)

Class year	Men	Women	Total
2016-2017	159	50	159

2017-2018 Cadet Academic Calendar was approved on Dec. 14, 2016 and can be found at the following link: http://www.usafa.af.mil/Portals/21/documents/About_Us_Docs/Cadet_Information/2017_2018_Calander.pdf?ver=2016-12-27-160333-253. Please note that the 2018 Graduation is 23 May, 2018.

Cadet Taxes: Most cadets don't have many deductions and file an EZ form. USAFA has volunteers that can do their taxes for free to ensure they have used all the deductions they are entitled to and are done on an appointment basis. Income Tax assistance will be available through USAFA/JA, located in Harmon Hall, telephone 719-333-3940. If your cadets (C4Cs) need proof of attendance for you to claim part of the year, the cadet needs to go online to USAFA Registrar's website and request a letter. Then the cadet can pick up the letter from the Registrar's Office (Fairchild Hall). See below for more information on Federal Income Tax.

USAFA EDU Website Issues:

There have been calls in reference to accessing the USAFA Website. In most cases all that needs to be done is add an 's' on http, making it 'https'. Below are some instructions if parents get the message that the site is not secure depending on the browser version being used.

Firefox:

- 'Your connection is not secure'
- Click 'Advanced'
- Click 'Add Exception'
- A popup appears on the screen, Click 'Confirm Security Exception'
- The page will refresh

IE:

- click Continue to this website (not recommended). A red Address Bar and a certificate warning appear.
- Click the Certificate Error button to open the information window.
- Click View Certificates, and then click Install Certificate.
- On the warning message that appears, click Yes to install the certificate and place it in your trusted certificates authority.
- Exit Explorer then open the page again. Error should be gone.

Chrome:

- 'Your connection is not secure'
- click the 'Advanced' text on the screen
- click 'Proceed to website'
- This should take you to the site

Spring Break: Spring break for Cadets is 24 Mar – 2 Apr 17. The cadets will normally be able to leave after the last military duty (LMD). Prep School Spring Break is 24 Mar (LMD) - 2 Apr 17 by 7:00 pm. Cadets should land in Denver not later than 3 hours prior to Academy check-in time at 7:00 pm. No set time for Colorado Springs, but at least an hour is suggested.

Shuttle Rides to and from Airports: Tickets are now on sale for spring break. The 10th Force Support Squadron (10 FSS) Outdoor Recreation Office (719) 333-4602 has shuttle buses (for a cost) that will take cadets and cadet candidates (Prep School) to Colorado Springs and Denver Airports.

Shuttle Bus Schedule:

Cadets –

Denver - one way - \$30, round trip - \$45, standby (after March 10th, \$35 each way)

Dates and Times:

March 24 - 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 1600, 1700, 1800
March 25 - 0400, 0600
April 2 - 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 1600, 1700, 1800

Colorado Springs - one way \$20, round trip \$30, standby (after March 10th, \$25 each way)

Dates and Times:

March 24 - 1215, 1315, 1415, 1515, 1615
March 25 - 0415, 0615
April 2 - 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 1600, 1700, 1800

Preps - (prices, same as above)

March 24 - 1330 to Denver

March 24 - 1345 to Colorado Springs

April 2 – 1430

(will be able to get on any bus returning between noon and 6pm)



Cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy submitted their research Jan. 24 for the Revolutionary Aerospace Systems Concepts Academic Linkage -- or RASC-AL -- a National Institute of Aerospace competition supporting NASA's goal of expanding humanity's reach into space. (Courtesy graphic)

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. --

National Institute of Aerospace officials invited cadets to compete in the next round of the RASC-AL Space Habitat Competition's in March.

If the team makes it through the next cut, they'll compete in the competition's final round, May 31 - June 2 in Florida.

The cadets are designing a habitat module to use in low-Earth orbit after the International Space Station is no longer available.

To complete in round 1, cadet researchers submitted the required 5-page abstract and two-minute video.

Teams making it through the first round submit a mid-project review in March containing more design details and development analysis.

Further thinning of the field will occur at the forum in Florida, when the teams turn in a 15-page technical report and give a presentation.

Eleven cadets led by Cadet 2nd Class Jacob Lutz embarked on this extreme makeover after a lesson left Lutz wanting to do more with space.

"I was working on a rocketry project and I wanted to find a project that would expand my horizons," he said.

"Doing the model rocketry was fun, but we were basically repeating experiments that were done since the 1950s'. I wanted to find a competition that I could do something new and inventive."

Lutz's search turned up a collegiate competition run by the National Institute of Aerospace in conjunction with NASA, seeking innovative designs for systems and

subsystems to support NASA's goal of extending humanity's reach into space.

The Revolutionary Aerospace Systems Concepts Academic Linkage has several projects for graduate and undergraduate teams to tackle. Among these is the need for a habitat module that must be usable on Mars.

Lutz began the project by gathering a few fellow cadets majoring in the hard sciences. As different skill sets were needed, the team expanded its recruiting and grew to 11 in size: Cadets 2nd Class Connor Reilly, Daniel Arndt, Colin Zavislak, Rachel Golding and Lutz; Cadets 3rd Class Alex Danchi, Jeremy Schwartz, Wesley Jackson, Christopher Clark, and Phyleoh Castaneda; and Cadet 4th Class Eric Hembling.

Lutz's team started work late last fall, and continued their work over the holiday break. The project also ate into weekends and after-class this semester.

Among the talent brought in was Cadet 4th Class Eric Hembling of Cadet Squadron 26. He and Lutz had talked about their passion for the aerospace industry, which led to his eventual involvement in the RASC-AL project.

"I was invited to a meeting, stayed around and worked my way into a role on to the project," Hembling said. The freshman, now a double major in aeronautical engineering and applied mathematics, researched the commercial applications potential and constructed a business model supported by these activities.

The faculty mentor for this project is professor Gary Payton of the Department of Astronautics, the Bernard Schriever Chair for Astronautics, who was named last week as one of the Academy's Distinguished Graduates, and the only sitting faculty member to earn that distinction in the 21st Century.

"I am really impressed with the enthusiasm of the cadets," he said. "They are delving into an agency they know very little about -- NASA -- and they're delving into things we don't cover in their normal astro-curriculum, such as micro gravity habitats and they have to learn about deep space radiation environment. They also have to learn about the effects of long term micro gravity on humans, and that's stuff we don't cover in the normal academic curriculum," Payton said.

Payton is a former astronaut who has logged more than 73 hours in space.

"So, it's additive to what they teach, and it's also fun to watch them be so energized, all 11 of them," he said.

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: [www.usafa.edu/?catname=Prep School](http://www.usafa.edu/?catname=Prep%20School)

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

HELPFUL WEBSITES and POCs –

Parent Information Link:

www.usafa.af.mil/Leadership/CadetDevelopment/ParentsClub.aspx

Graduation Information Link:

<https://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation/index.cfm?catname=graduation>

USAFA's Public Calendar Link:

(Managed by the Association of Graduates)
www.usafa.org/Calendar/Events

2016 - 2017 Academic Calendar Link:

The Academic Calendar for 2016-2017 has been approved and you can find it at the following link:
http://www.usafa.af.mil/Portals/21/documents/About_Us_Docs/AY%202016-2017%20Calendar%20Approved%2012%20Jul%202016.pdf?ver=2016-07-15-094359-360×tamp=1468590250387

Curriculum Handbook:

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

www.usafa.edu/df/dfr/curriculum/CHB.pdf

Cadet Major listing:

<http://www.usafa.edu/df/dfr/curriculum/majors.cfm?catname=dfr2>

Cadet Clubs:

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

www.usafa.edu/cadetFocus/cadetClubs/

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
1 (800) 426-9533 extension 128 or 241
<http://lifetouch.com/>

UPCOMING DATES:

9 - 11 Mar 17	Recognition for Class of 2020
24 Mar 17 - 2 Apr 17	Cadet Spring Break (Cadet Wing returns 7:00 pm on 2 Apr 17)
24 Mar - 2 Apr 17	Prep School Spring Break (Returns 7:00 pm)
1 - 3 May 17	Prep School Finals
15 - 19 May 17	Cadet Spring Finals
18 May 17	Prep School Parade
18 May 17	Prep School Graduation
19 May 17	Ring Dance (C2Cs)
24 May 17	2017 Graduation
24 May 17	1 st Session Begins
24 Jun 17	1 st Session Ends/2 nd Session Begins
29 Jun 17	2021 Class In-Processes
30 Jun 17	2021 Class Swearing In Ceremony
15 Jul 17	2 nd Session Ends/3 rd Session Begins
5 Aug 17	3 rd Session Ends
5 Aug 17	Cadet Wing Returns by 7:00 pm

Parent Liaison Contact Info:

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