

USAFA,

First, a little encouragement to our Cadets as they take their final exams this week: Good luck--Beat the Dean!

We are days from the end of the Academic Year, and this summer will look bit different – you will likely notice that there will be more cadets on campus than in years past. Our CW team continues to do amazing work as we prepare for BCT and the return of the majority of the Cadet Wing. Even with their efforts, other elements around USAFA will be asked to assist as CW deals with this dynamic situation.

We finalized our plan for the return of BCT cadre and the cadets required to support summer programs. BCT cadet leadership, BCT cadre, and course cadre will return to USAFA throughout June utilizing a phased approach. To emphasize, there is no single date for return. Cadets need to speak with their AOC. As a reminder, no one can authorize travel other than the first General Officer in the chain.

The 10 MDG has laid the groundwork for a comprehensive reintegration plan: upon arrival to USAFA, cadets will begin a 14-day period of Restriction of Movement (ROM). They will be tested for COVID initially and again when they complete the full ROM period. Our staff continues to evolve the exact details of ROM and how we can use that time as productively as possible. We will continue these procedures as more of the Cadet Wing returns for summer academics and other programs.

The Dean will offer both in-person and distance-learning courses this summer. Classes will start on 22 June and will run for 3 to 6 weeks depending on the course. These academic summer periods will be open to approximately 1000 cadets and will coincide with what have been Summer Periods 2 (22 June - 10 July) and 3 (13 - 31 July). In-person summer academics will generally be 3 weeks in length and will be offered during summer periods 2 and 3. Distance-learning courses will generally be 6 weeks in length and will encompass both summer periods.

The pandemic has transformed every aspect the Academy, and summer programs are no exception. Remain flexible as the rosters for all summer programs are confirmed in the next two weeks. Details for the summer schedule and academic classes will be dependent on final grades; we should have more fidelity as our amazing faculty computes those grades following final exams.

Expect some aspects of remote learning to continue into the fall and even beyond. We may have been forced into distance-learning by the pandemic, but we have uncovered some amazing capabilities as a result. We do not have enough classroom space, as is, to maintain the appropriate physical distancing. We, therefore, continue to examine less traditional options for classes as we examine a hybrid of distance and in-person classes. As I noted last week, we are looking into using other options around the Cadet Area, to include other setting such as outdoor classrooms.

As a reminder, my next Live Event will take place on 4 June and we will continue with a bi-weekly rhythm into the summer.

Stay healthy, stay connected. JS