

USAFA Parents,

One week ago, we began the orderly dismissal of nearly three-quarters of our cadet population, sending most underclass cadets home in an effort to mitigate the risks of spreading the COVID-19 virus within our confined cadet area. You, and all our United States Air Force Academy community, played a great role in safeguarding the health and safety of our cadets as they practice social distancing at home and at USAFA while continuing to take their courses online.

This is a first in the history of our Academy, and as important members of the USAFA family we need your help to navigate this uncharted territory. We are expecting more individual responsibility of our cadets now than perhaps ever before. All cadets will resume their coursework via remote learning on Wednesday, 25 March. Courses will be taught synchronously (where all students “meet” on-line simultaneously with the instructor) and/or asynchronously (where the instructor posts course material and cadets complete work without being required to log in at a particular time). Faculty members have contacted the cadets to discuss the instruction format and requirements moving forward. Please encourage your cadet to establish a good study space and prepare for remote classes by sharing this helpful link: <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/d4894e0c-9a0e-4359-a0a5-f8344d8ea21e>

In every squadron the first class cadets, who have remained at the Academy, have each been assigned 4-5 underclass cadets to lead, mentor and coach through this process and they will check in with each cadet at least once per week. Underclass cadets will have the support of the firsties, their AOCs, and our entire USAFA leadership team, but our success will ultimately rely on them being proactive in their learning and staying engaged with USAFA. If cadets are unable to complete assigned tasks and meet our expectations remotely, they can be called back to the Academy. No cadets were forced to leave our campus, and anyone can return to USAFA if they need to for personal or connectivity reasons.

Each aspect of cadet development will continue at home to the fullest extent possible, including the maintenance of physical fitness. Our Athletic Department staff has developed suggested daily workouts that can be completed in any location, and will provide these to all cadets in the near future.

At present there have been no positive cases of COVID-19 among our cadet population, but we have plans to take swift action should any cases occur. For our firsties and the other cadets remaining at USAFA, I have prohibited their departure from the installation in order to mitigate the risks of exposure outside of our gates. For the cadets and cadet candidates who have returned home, travel continues to be limited per Department of Defense order to a 100 mile radius of their home of record. Despite this radius, I must reemphasize that everyone should do all they can to limit outings to food and essentials, and travel only when absolutely necessary. You can help us continue to protect our cadets by adhering to the social distancing and isolation measures recognized by the CDC as the best means to prevent exposure.

I encourage you to stay up to date with communications to cadets from our Superintendent, Commandant, Dean and Athletic Director at <https://www.usafa.edu/news/coronavirus/>.

This situation changes daily and even hourly, but we will continue to do what is right for the health and safety of our cadets, their education and training, and the execution of our mission. I am proud of the conduct I have seen from our cadets, who are proving that they are well on their way to becoming the

leaders our Air and Space Forces will soon need them to be. Once again, thank you for your support and partnership as we confront this challenge together.

Very Respectfully,

Jay Silveria