



# Falcon Family News

August 2016



### 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](#)

We also want your Academy photos. Upload them to Instagram using #YourAcademy. 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!

**GOLD PROP AND WINGS** - The Cadet Site Picture states that Cadets will wear standard chrome plated prop and wings on flight caps upon recognition. Direct descendants of Army Air Corps, Women Air Force Service Pilots, or parent USAF Academy graduate are authorized to wear gold prop and wings.

### 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 July 2016)

Class Year	Men	Women	Total
2016	7	2	9
2017	768	233	1001
2018	805	221	1026
2019	806	281	1087
2020	799	327	1126
<b>WING</b>	<b>3186</b>	<b>1084</b>	<b>4248</b>

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

### WASHINGTON (AFNS) --

Individuals will no longer be able to access Air Force installations, including the Air Force Academy, with a state-issued identification card or driver's license from Minnesota, Missouri, Washington or American Samoa beginning Aug. 15.



This new change aligns the Air Force's installation access policy with requirements of the Real ID Act, passed by Congress in 2005. The Act enacted the 9/11 Commission's recommendation that the Federal Government "set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver's licenses." The Act established minimum security standards for license issuance and production.

While IDs that do not meet security and data-collection guidelines will not be accepted, alternate forms of identification will be allowed. Some of the more common alternatives include a valid U.S. or foreign government issued passport, an employment authorization document that contains a photograph, or ID cards issued by federal state or local government agencies that include a photo and biographic information.

"USAFA will no longer accept drivers licenses to obtain installation access passes or credentials from the noncompliant states; however, visitor access through the visitor and event cordons on the north side of the installation will not change," said Lt. Col. Ken Shirley, 10th Security Forces Squadron commander.

Minnesota and Washington give the option for enhanced IDs.

Those who do not have the accepted documentation for installation access will not be permitted access to the base outside of the visitor or event cordon without an approved escort.

The visitor cordon is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and includes the Cadet Chapel and Visitor Center.

"If an individual is escorted, the sponsor is required to be physically present with the individual for the duration of the visit to the base," said Lt. Col. Tony Castillo, the Branch Chief of Police Services. "Installation commanders may still deny access and issuance of access credentials if their background check determines the individual represents a threat or negatively impacts the safety or security of an installation's personnel or resources."

Come Oct. 10, state-issued IDs from 28 states and territories will not be compliant with the Real ID Act, and cannot be used for access to the Academy or other Air Force installations.

For a full list of Real ID Act compliant and non-complaint states, visit the [Department of Homeland Security's website](#).

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

An optional fee-for-service commercial wireless network provider launched Aug. 11 and is now available in all cadet facilities and the Air Force Academy Preparatory School.

Cadets who choose to use this service will be able to connect and install external hardware, equipment and programs, and access a variety of online media.

The change will drastically expand the bandwidth of the Academy's overwhelmed LAN by moving live streaming and most personal capabilities from that network, said Dr. Andy Laffely, the Academy's dean of educational technology.

"This should increase the network bandwidth available for mission-essential activities," Laffely said.

Cadets will have 30 days to make the transition to use the .edu network for homework and the commercial network for down time, said Col. Dale Holland, vice commandant of cadets.

"The current state of our [LAN] makes it impossible to meet our educational mission requirements and cyber security compliance," said Lt. Col. Susana Markin, the Academy's chief information officer and director of communications and information. "The cadet wireless solution is one of several major internet technology initiatives the Academy is aggressively pursuing to transform IT into an enabling capability of our core mission to develop the next generation of Air Force leaders."

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

A number of the Cadet Wing leaders traded in their enlisted careers for cadet life to become Air Force officers, and have used their prior military experience to help them succeed at the U.S. Air Force Academy.



Cadets 1st Class Leah Young, the Cadet Wing public affairs officer and summer Cadet Wing vice commander, and Tierra Franklin, the summer Basic Cadet Training cadet group commander, both joined the Air Force as enlisted members in 2009 and transitioned to the Academy through the Leaders Encouraging Airmen Development program in 2012.

As active-duty enlisted Airmen, Young was a public affairs specialist stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington; and Franklin was a materiel management specialist stationed at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, and also deployed to Southeast Asia.

“My enlisted experience has helped put everything in perspective and context to the active duty world,” Young explained. “I understand how things work at the wing, group and squadron levels, and I can try to mirror that system when applicable in leadership positions.”

Before attending Basic Cadet Training in 2013, both Young and Franklin attended the U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School in 2012.

“My Prep School experience was very eye opening,” Franklin said. “You go from being in an operational environment to being placed back in to a training environment. You learn to adjust to the ways that the Academy differs from operational units.”

Transitioning from active duty back to a training environment is not the only difficult aspect of being a cadet.

“The hardest part (of Academy life) for me was learning how to fail and move on,” Young said. “Most of us are used to having the time and resources to complete tasks to the best of our ability and succeed. Sometimes I've come short of my goal, and sometimes I've missed the mark completely. At first I got hung up on that and beat myself up for failing. It sounds cliché, but at the end of the day, all you can do is your best. Sometimes you have to accept that you don't have time to be as successful as you'd like in every aspect of your life.”

Young and Franklin are just two of many enlisted Airmen who have benefitted from the LEAD program. The program was initiated in 1995 to provide commanders the opportunity to identify outstanding Airmen, who are qualified to attend the USAFA and who exhibit officer potential for this commissioning program.

“The LEAD program is an on-going effort to give commanders the opportunity to identify and nominate outstanding and deserving (enlisted) Airmen who are qualified and show potential to attend our officer commissioning program,” said Col. Carolyn Benyshek, Academy admissions director. “They base their recommendations on performance and initiative, which has a direct correlation to success in our program and leads to the potential for an outstanding officer.”

Every year, enlisted Airmen come to the Academy, either through direct appointment or through the Academy Prep School.

“On average six percent of the entering class are enlisted Airmen,” Benyshek said. “Fourteen percent of the enlisted applicants end up being cadets, either through the Prep School or directly into the Academy. All Airmen have to meet the same entry requirements as all other candidates, the only difference is the nominating source, which for enlisted Airmen are their commanders.”

According to the USAFA command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Max Grindstaff, prior-enlisted cadets bring a diverse perspective to the Cadet Wing because they come from different career fields throughout the Air Force.

“We typically have just over 300 prior-enlisted cadets and the value of the combined experiences they bring to USAFA is immeasurable,” Grindstaff said. “They have hands-on experience tackling challenges and succeeding in our Air Force. Many of them have deployed overseas and bring an amazing situational awareness that enhances every interaction they have with non-prior cadets. Some of them have earned Purple Hearts and Bronze Stars, and their stories give a nuanced awareness of what the enlisted force does in our Air Force for those here who've not worn the stripes.”

Prior-enlisted Airmen interested in coming to the Academy through the LEAD program should know the experience is not for the faint of heart.

“Know what you're getting into before you apply,” Young said. “Sometimes priors get here and become a bit cynical because they tune out the lessons they've already been taught, like how to make a bed or do a facing movement in basic training. You're going to be treated just like everyone else, and you can't let that bother you. It will be frustrating, you will question your decision, and you will get annoyed. But if you focus on the good, and keep your eye on your goal, it will be completely worth it.”

In 10 months, Young and Franklin will be commissioned officers in the U.S. Air Force. Their experiences as enlisted Airmen and cadet leaders will help them in their operational career fields. Young hopes to be a pilot, while Franklin is hoping to be an aircraft maintenance officer.

“I have grown to understand that it is people who make the mission go,” Franklin said. “If you take care of them they will in turn take of you and execute the mission to the best of their ability.”

Prior-enlisted officers bring a different perspective to leading Airmen, because they have the first-hand knowledge of what it is like to be enlisted.

“Having the awareness of the path Airmen take from Basic Military Training to the operational Air Force is going to really enable these future lieutenants to lead more effectively,” Grindstaff said. “There is a ‘street cred’ bump these lieutenants will get when they graduate, being prior-enlisted, but more important is that ability to put themselves in one of their Airmen's shoes that really helps them lead with focus and a well-balanced perspective.”

Supervisors and commanders play an important role in finding the next generation of Air Force leaders.

“Every supervisor out there should keep an eye out for Airmen who are standing out and displaying leadership qualities,” Grindstaff said. “When you spot him or her, simply have a discussion about whether USAFA would be a good fit for them. We need those Airmen here to help lead our Air Force in the decades to come.”

For more information about the LEAD program or the Academy, visit [www.academyadmissions.com](http://www.academyadmissions.com).

## **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)

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](http://www.usafa.af.mil/Leadership/CadetDevelopment/ParentsClub.aspx)

### **Graduation Information Link:**

[www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation/index.cfm?catname=graduation](http://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](http://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/2016\\_2017\\_Final%20ApprovedMay252016.pdf?ver=2016-05-25-101000-790&timestamp=1464185360408](http://www.usafa.af.mil/Portals/21/documents/About_Us_Docs/2016_2017_Final%20ApprovedMay252016.pdf?ver=2016-05-25-101000-790&timestamp=1464185360408)

### **Curriculum Handbook:**

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

[www.usafa.edu/df/df/curriculum/CHB.pdf](http://www.usafa.edu/df/df/curriculum/CHB.pdf)

### **Cadet Clubs:**

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

[www.usafa.edu/cadetFocus/cadetClubs/](http://www.usafa.edu/cadetFocus/cadetClubs/)

### **Cadet Survival Guide:**

[www.usafasupport.com/home.html](http://www.usafasupport.com/home.html)

### **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

1 (800) 426-9533 extension 128 or 241

<http://lifetouch.com/>

## UPCOMING DATES:

2 - 5 Sep 16	<a href="#">Parents' Weekend 2016</a>
22 - 27 Nov 16	Cadet Thanksgiving Break (after LMD). Return by 7:00 pm on 27 Nov 16
23 - 27 Nov 16	Prep School Thanksgiving Break (released at 9:00 am)
12 -16 Dec 16	Cadet Winter Finals
17 Dec 16 - 2 Jan 17	Cadet Winter Break (Cadet Wing returns 7:00 pm on 2 Jan 17)
17 Dec - 2 Jan 17	Prep School Winter Break (released at 9:00 am/return by 7:00 pm on TBD)
22 - 24 Feb 17	Character & Leadership Symposium (NCLS)
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
22 May 17	Prep School Parade
23 May 17	Prep School Graduation
24 May 17	2017 Graduation

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

### **Marie**

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