

Frequently Asked Questions/answers for Cadets and Parents **(as of 18 Jun 2013)**

In-processing Day: As far as in-processing day. There will not be anything for parents to do before you drop off your cadet. You will show up, at the specified time for your cadet, and get a quick brief and then your cadet will be separated from family and friends and begin official in-processing. There is a small parents information fair right where you will drop your cadet off. After that you can check out the cadet chapel, visitors center, or other available Academy sites – such as the Heritage Trail at Doolittle Hall. On Friday (28 Jun- time to be determined) there is the Class of 2017 swearing in ceremony where you can watch the class searing-in. Just stand along the chapel wall overlooking the terrazzo. They will be below you. Some people make signs of encouragement etc... for their cadet. Advise you arrive early to get a good spot and for parking.

Bus time arrival from hotels and In-Process times: Appointees who are riding a bus from a hotel will in-process when they arrive (if arriving after their in-processing time) or wait until their flight in-processing time.

Communicating with Your Cadet During Basic Cadet Training (BCT): BCT consists of two parts – 1st BCT, which is conducted in the Cadet Area, and 2nd BCT, conducted in Jacks Valley. Mail is the only way to communicate during this time. Mail those letters and cards. Cadets won't be allowed phone calls and the letters from family and friends mean so much to them. Encourage them to hang in there. It gets better, and once the Fall semester starts they will have e-mail and can have their cell phones fulltime (if earned in some squadrons). Cadets will also have time to write letters as well, and are encouraged to do so by their trainers.

Jacks Valley: This is the location of second part of BCT. The cadets are sent on "Deployment" to a tent city where they learn combat skills, train on the obstacle course, confidence course, and assault course, and participate in team building exercises.

Parent Clubs: Are you a member of a parent club yet? If you wish to be I would be happy to give you the nearest parent club. Just send contact information. Parent Clubs are a wealth of information. They have been where you are and can help you adjust. Parent Clubs are also how the USAFA Parent Club Liaison gets the word out of changes or news fast to USAFA Parents.

Privacy Act Release: You will also be getting in the mail a letter from my office with a yellow letter and card referencing Parent Clubs. Even if I give you the parent club contact, please have your cadet fill out and sign as it allows me to release Privacy Act information (P.O. box) to the parent club. I will use this for the whole four years your cadet is here at the Academy. The parent clubs send goodie bags during finals, or care packages, graduation gifts etc... There is also a year-group POC that does coins etc...for the whole class. For example, I have POCs for each year group, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016. There will be one for 2017 as well.

Privacy Act Release of cadet information to Parents: Please know that unless your cadet gives the USAF Academy specific permission to release Privacy Act information, to include Academic or medical information, we will only be able to discuss the procedures. Your cadet is an adult and your first action should be to ask them. They can give permission to release Academic and not medical or vice versa. You can contact their Commander (AOC), but start with your cadet.

Family Emergencies: Feel free to contact your cadet's AOC or AMT in case of family emergencies. You can also contact me if you need their phone numbers or need me to contact them for you.

Parent Newsletters: You can go to the following website to have access to the monthly Parent Newsletters: <http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/cma/newsletters.cfm>.

Sponsor Family: You can get a sponsor for your cadet by e-mailing: Cadet.Sponsor@usafa.edu. This is a really good program. It is a home away from home where your cadet can get away from the campus and chill. Many sponsor families keep their cadets for their whole four years and many become lifelong friends.

Doolie Day Out (DDO) (20 Jul 13): The sponsor families pick the cadets up around 0930 or so and take them back to their house for the afternoon. This is the day your cadet will be able to call you during BCT. Only registered sponsor families with assignment letters will be permitted to enter the pick-up area. They must have their assignment letter and dash pass, to be exact. If for some reason someone makes it all the way in without these documents, the cadet will be reported and there will be serious consequences for the cadet upon return. The cadets will be briefed about being released only to the family they are assigned to for the day.

Parents from out-of-state should NOT come to town in hopes of spending Doolie Day Out with their son/daughter on this day. Doolie Day Out is for sponsor families to get to know their sponsored cadets. The appropriate time for parents to come is on Parents' Weekend. They may then meet their son/daughter's sponsor families if they so desire.

Acceptance Day Parade (6 Aug, 1000 hours): If you are close you can spend 1 ½ to 2 hours with your cadet after the parade. You must stay on campus and suggest you bring a picnic lunch or you will spend all your time in line at Subway or Godfather's Pizza in Arnold Hall!

Parents' Weekend Website:

<http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/parentsweekend/?catname=Parents%27%20Weekend>. This has lots of information for your planning purposes. Also, make your hotel reservations now. Many parents make the reservations a year out for Parents weekend and Graduation. 4 Degrees must wear their uniforms during your visit. On Friday you can have lunch with your cadet and go to their classes and see their dorm rooms etc... Note: Cadets must sit with the other cadets during the football game on Saturday. After that they will be released to you for the weekend and must return on Monday. See schedule of events for times on the website for more information.

Printers or supplies: Many parents bring any supplies etc...during Parents' weekend. Please note that many squadrons view printers as a privilege and must be earned. So you may bring it, but the cadet may have to earn the right to put it in their room. They will get issued a laptop or tablet. As soon as I know that information I will put it in the parent newsletter.

Combat Boots: Combat boots must have the following characteristics or they will not be allowed to be worn: Sage Green color, Round Toe, Water Resistant, Rubber Sole, No Steel Toe. The boots normally cost \$150+ if you buy on your own, but costs only \$97 from USAFA. The boots issued are very easy to break in. The recommendation is for the cadet to get them here. If they don't meet the standards or are not uniform with the other cadets they will not be allowed to wear them here.

Bigger size feet (Tennis Shoes): Cadet Issue may not have an appointee's tennis shoe size (if they have bigger size feet) immediately on hand so therefore it would be a good idea for the appointee to even wear them to in-processing so that they don't need to pack them in their back pack.

Prep School Cadet Uniforms: Preppies who are accepted into the Academy can bring their ABUs, boot, and leather shoes but they will also be issued all new uniforms and items. With the exception of the ABUs, cadet uniforms are completely different from those issued at the Prep School.

Scholarships: Date USAFA can start to receive them is 19 August 2013. The checks would still be made payable to US Treasury and memo the student's full name and social security number. Mail checks to: HQ USAFA/FMF, 2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 2200, USAF Academy CO 80840-5035. Cadet pay's phone number is (719) 333-6994 if you have specific questions. (More specific information should be coming out within the next month or so)

POST OFFICE BOX, FEDERAL EXPRESS, UPS, and DHL INFORMATION

From the USAFA Postmaster:

The correct mailing address for your cadet is crucial. Mail not deliverable due to the incorrect address or insufficient information will be returned to the sender or sent to the Dead Letter Office (if there is no return address).

In addition to regular mail (envelopes) you may also send packages to the post office box and the cadets will receive a note in the boxes instructing them to pick up their packages at the counter. The address must be complete and correct. 2016 appointees were sent their P.O. Box number with their appointment package (on cover page). (Note that the zip code for cadets is 80841 rather than 80840.) The correct address for all cadets is below:

John Doe
PO Box xxxx (post office box number)
USAFA CO 80841-xxxx (post office box number)

(If you wish, you can also put the cadet rank (C4C, C3C, etc... before the name or as a basic cadet it should be "Basic Cadet John Doe"))

If you choose to send a package via Federal Express, UPS or DHL, you need a street address. They will not deliver to a post office box. The pickup location, called Pak Mail, is in the Cadet Book Store in Vandenberg Hall. Below is the correct mailing address:

John Doe (add the rank before the name if you wish)
Pak Mail
2360 Vandenberg Dr.
USAFA CO 80840-xxxx (*post office box number)

*The post office box number is added to this as a 4 digit zip+4 as a means of identification when the cadet picks up the package at Pak Mail.

Cadet Contact: Don't be surprised when you can't talk with your cadet much or they don't get back to you quickly. They will have very limited time due to classes, studying, and military duties/classes. They have to learn to juggle and prioritize many things so be patient with them.

Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo : The Basic Cadets take time out of their busy summer schedule to attend the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo in Colorado Springs. This year it is the 73rd annual rodeo. The afternoon gives your cadet a chance to relax and enjoy one of the area's oldest western heritage traditions. This year they will

attend the matinee performance on Saturday 13 July. However, the cadets will not be allowed to interact with family or friends at the rodeo.

[Below is the upcoming dates for your reference. Most are just for parents information and you won't attend. Just so you know what your cadet is going through. Note: Jacks Valley is like a deployment so letters really help.](#)

1 Jun	Summer Session 1 begins
27 Jun	In-processing, Class of 2017 (0645 - 1200 dropoff Appointee at Designated time)
28 Jun	Swearing-In Ceremony (0830 hours)
10 Jul	<u>Prep School</u> - Prior Enlisted report (in-processing)
12 Jul	Field Day (0700 – 1100)
12 Jul	Summer Session 2 ends
13 Jul	Summer Session 3 begins
13 Jul	Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo
17 Jul	<u>Prep School</u> - Direct Entry report (in-processing)
20 Jul	Doolie Day Out (Sponsors pick up approx. 0930)
22 Jul	March out to Jacks Valley
2 Aug	March back from Jacks Valley
3 Aug	Session 3 ends. Cadet Wing returns 1900 hours

Future dates:

5 Aug	Laptops Issued
6 Aug	Freshman E-mail should be up
6 Aug	Acceptance Parade (1000 hours)
7 Aug	Commitment Dinner
8 Aug	New Semester Classes Start
19 Aug	USAFA/FMF will accept Scholarship Checks

30 Aug – 2 Sept Parents Weekend. See link for last year's info. Schedule is the same.
<http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/parentsweekend/?catname=Parents%27%20Weekend>

23 Nov -1 Dec	Thanksgiving Break LMD. Cadet Wing returns 1900 hours on 1 Dec
21 Dec – 2 Jan 14	Cadet Wing returns 1900 hours on 2 Jan 14
21 – 30 Mar 14	Spring Break (Last Military Duty [LMD]). Cadet Wing returns 1900 hours on 30 Mar 14
28 May 14	2014 Graduation

Hometown News Release: Your cadet can go to the following link and put in a Hometown News release for their achievements here at USAFA.

<https://hnforms.dma.mil/presentation/Ifserver/HometownLinkDD2266EMay2010V2>

Note: Your cadet will need the following information to send a Hometown News Release for the USAFA public affairs (PA) office. PA Code: W02 (zero not O), PA phone: (719) 333-7731, PA e-mail: media.pam@usafa.mil.

Association of Graduates (AOG): The AOG is the alumni association for the Air Force Academy. The AOG has a website worthy of periodic perusal for information about the Academy and the graduate community:

<http://www.usafa.org/>. Parents can become members of the AOG while your cadet is a cadet. The AOG also has a "WEBGUY" who takes pictures of the cadets during and after Basic Training, and for a fee you can access these photos. Each member whether a graduate, parent, or friend of the Academy, helps maintain and expand current programs as well as develop new ones. Call Don McCarthy, (719) 472-0300, ext. 139 or email at Don.McCarthy@aogusafa.org, if you have any questions.

1. Freshman parents can become members by going to the below link as a Club Member. Please note there is a monthly charge to become a member and WEBGUY is not part of USAFA Cadet Media (which is at no cost and can be accessed by internet also), but the AOG does take lots of pictures. Check out the site. WEBGUY is separate than my office as Parent Liaison –no charge. (Sometimes new parents think they have already signed up for a parent club during in-processing fair when they get to my table.)

<http://www.usafawebguy.com/aog-usafa-class-club>

2. Other class year parents can obtain regular memberships by signing up at the following website.

<http://www.usafa.org/Membership>

USAFA Endowment Fund Information

Each fall, parents receive a call from the USAFA Endowment and are asked to become Sabre Society level donors to the Air Force Academy Fund. Over the last three years, parents have contributed more than \$2.5 million to the Air Force Academy Fund.

The USAFA Endowment's Air Force Academy Fund is an annual, unrestricted fund that enables the Endowment and the Association of Graduates to fulfill their missions in support of the Academy. The primary purpose of the Air Force Academy Fund is to provide private, unrestricted funds in support of a variety of cadet and graduate programs, capital projects and key Academy priorities as identified by the Superintendent. Throughout the year, a variety of methods are used to raise these funds. If you have questions about these calls or experience any problems, please feel free to contact the USAFA Endowment at (719) 472-0300. Thank you for all you do for the Academy

Cadet Media: Cadet Media also takes lots of pictures and you can access them online at no costs. You will also order yearbooks class photos etc...through them. Cadet Media's website is:

<http://www.usafasupport.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media>

Approved Academic Calendar 2013/2014 (6 Feb 2013 Approval Date)

Attached is the approved Academic Calendar for the Academic Year 2013/2014.



Calendar AY
2013-2014.pdf

Ways to send your love to your Cadet: There are several ways to send gifts to your cadet.

CADET TREATS: Cadet Treats delivers all Valentine's Day gifts, care packages, gift baskets, balloons, flowers, and birthday cakes directly to your cadet's squadron Monday-Friday. Check out our website at

www.USAFAsupport.com/Cadet-Activities/Cadet-Treats. Call our staff at (719)333-3908 or toll free at (877) 9-CADETS (922-3387) and we'll create a personalized gift for your cadet with just one call. These gifts will be delivered to your cadet's Squadron Charge of Quarters (CQ).

NOTE: Other deliveries can be sent to Arnold Hall for your cadet to pick up. (online orders for example) Sorry it can't be a surprise. The address is 10 FSS/FSL, 2302 Cadet Dr., USAFA, 80840. Please ensure your cadet's name and Squadron is on the delivery receipt so they can contact your cadet for pickup.

Emergency Contact Form POC: Please contact the Cadet Personnel office at 719-333-3244,

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 their deductions they are entitled to. The Tax center sometimes moves around the base, but the phone number is (719) 333-3905 and are done on an appointment basis. This information is posted up in the cadet area so they should know already.

BCT Turnbacks In-processing: Cadets who were administratively turned back and are returning won't have access online to find out their Squadron until they in-process. Turnback cadets can in-process at any time on in-processing day. Cadet Personnel works squadron information and may or not be able get that information to the cadet before in-processing. If cadets have questions they must contact Cadet Personnel at (719) 333-1043.

High School Excusals: If you have a high school student (possible cadet or family member attending Graduation etc...) that will miss school to come out to USAFA Admissions can do an excusal letter for a College visit. You can contact 1-800-443-9266 or e-mail rr_webmail@usafa.edu. The admissions website is: <http://www.academyadmissions.com/>.

Helpful Websites:

Preparatory School Information: You can also contact Mark Winter at (719) 333-2583, mark.winter@usafa.edu

<http://www.usafa.edu> Look under Prep School link at top right (7th tab)

Academic Calendar website: (new 2013/2014 calendar hasn't been updated yet)

<http://www.usafa.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-111208-035.pdf>

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

<http://www.usafa.edu/df/data/CHB2012-2013.pdf>

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

<http://www.usafa.edu/cadetFocus/cadetClubs/>

Admissions: (parents can help us recruit future cadets):

<http://www.academyadmissions.com/>

Sports Schedules:

<http://www.goairforcefalcons.com/calendar/events/>

Hope the information provided helps you and your cadet understand what to expect and helps answers many of your questions. Please contact your local parent club or me at any time if you have questions or would like the parent club information for your area.

Marie

ROSE MARIE NIKOVITS

Parents' Liaison

U.S. Air Force Academy, CO

(719) 333-3828 Toll Free 877-268-3383

e-mail: rose.nikovits@usafa.edu

Parents tab of USAFA webpage: <http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/cma/parentsclub.cfm>