

Class of 2020 Parents –

WOW! Recognition is finally here! In some ways it seems like it has taken forever and in other ways, the time has flown by.

Congratulations to your sons & daughters and to you - the parents - who have made it through those long 6 weeks of BCT, countless nights of little sleep, worrying over their grades, AFTs, PFTs, and Knowledge Tests. You are almost there!

Recognition begins on Thursday after classes and will go through Saturday evening when they will have their Recognition Dinner. At the conclusion of the Recognition Dinner, they will earn their prop and wings which means they are now on the same level with upperclassmen and can greet them by their first names and most importantly to them, wear civilian clothes on the weekends when they are going off base.

Recognition is not any sort of event a parent can observe or participate in. Many squadrons will confiscate their phones during recognition so don't be surprised if you do not hear from them. This is a very special time for the Doolies - one final time to prove themselves worthy. There will be very little sleep and a lot of activity during these next few days. Recognition is grueling (imagine 6 weeks of BCT crammed into 3 days!). When they do call home Saturday or Sunday, you will hear them smiling all the way through the phone from Colorado.

Your cadet will have a whole new attitude after recognition! They will feel like they are liberated and respected by the upper class cadets now. They will be able to go out on the weekends and not stick out wherever they go (unless the entire Wing is on restriction as happens from time to time), not to mention being a lot more comfortable in civilian clothes vs. service dress. They also are right around the corner from spring break so looking forward to that with great anticipation (and coming home on the plane in their civvies – no more sharp looking blues!

Again, no parents will be at the recognition dinner but WebGuy and his helpers will be taking lots of pictures of the event so it's time to remember that username and password so you can get up on the site and start the picture hunt again – and the smiles you see on these young men and women will be awesome!

Most squadrons will now use their newly recognized four degrees for CQ duties. This is a 3 degree job all year long but four degrees will start taking over shifts – the CQ is the desk in each squadron that is manned 24/7 and the check in/check out point for all cadets, and the point of contact for commanders to be able to locate any cadet at any time. So when your cadet now says he or she is working a CQ shift, you will know what they are doing. Most times they can get studying done, watch a movie if they're not busy, and the desk can also be the social center of the squadron.

And remind your cadets, it is still a violation if your freshman cadet starts dating an upperclassman after recognition – it will happen and many might say it is no big deal since they are recognized, but it is a violation until the cadets have completed their Doolie year and then there can be dating between 3 degrees to Firsties. Your cadet will become a 3 degree the minute the hats fly at graduation. So please caution your daughters/sons to continue to be mindful of the rules of USAFA and make smart decisions.

This information above is based on what has gone on the past several years at USAFA for Recognition – as you have learned, at USAFA things don't stay the same or remain constant – changes happen all the time and they may revamp recognition this year into something new and different. No matter what happens, your cadet will be recognized at the conclusion and feel a lot more settled at USAFA - and oh so proud of themselves!

Congratulations!