



Contrails Dedication for the Class of 2025 from the Class of 1975

From the Class of 1975 to the Class of 2025: Greetings! We are honored to serve as your Legacy Class and wish you the best over the next four years.

Fifty years ago, we were in exactly the same place as you are now: proud about being accepted to the Academy but nervous over what lies ahead. While we were initially just worried about getting through BCT, we knew we had the rest of the fourth class year to overcome and were only vaguely aware of the tests we would face over our entire time as cadets.

Our class has the unique distinction of having the highest attrition of any class in USAFA's history – only 54% of us who went through that first day of in-processing walked across the stage at graduation four years later! While there were several reasons for that, it has left those of us who made it through those challenging cadet years with strong affections for our classmates. While we anticipate that many more of you will make it to graduation than did our class, we hope that you form the same deep friendships and life-long bonds that we, the Class of 1975, have with each other. That is our sincere, profound wish for you.

Interestingly much like your class, we entered the Academy at a time of widespread political and social unrest. Our nation's (and our generation's) issue was Viet Nam and the American military's geopolitical role in that war. While the country has moved beyond that then-seemingly impenetrable divide, we can grasp the challenges you face as you move toward service to our great land and the sacrifices you may be called upon to perform. The message from our Class to yours: Stay Strong, Support one Another, and Persevere.

Congratulations on being accepted to the finest undergraduate institution in the world (truly!) and good luck over your next four years and in the life-long adventures that await you!

75 – Illegitimi Non Carborundum!